

## LOWER RUSTIC CANYON

Elevation gain and loss: 900 feet  
Distance: 5 miles total round trip  
Starting gate time: 0930  
September 22, 2004  
LEADER: ALICE WEISS

For those coming from the South Bay:

Take Pacific Coast Highway; after going thru the tunnel, the 2nd light will be CHAUTAUQUA. Turn right up the hill, at the top of hill (about a mile or so) turn right on SUNSET. In approximately 1 mile watch for the sign on the left for Will Rogers State Park. Enter and park near the picnic area.

I don't know what the parking fee will be, but best to bring money.

Hike: We will take the eucalyptus-lined trail 0.8 mile to a signed junction with the Backbone Trail just north of Inspiration Point; the trail starts climbing and skips up, and over cobbled sandstone "vertebrae" a stretch known as Chicken Ridge. At 1.5 miles you cross a bridge overlooking a knife-edge saddle between Rivas Canyon on the west and Rustic Canyon on the east. Just ahead at another saddle (1.8 miles) you turn RIGHT on a trail that wastes no time descending into Rustic Canyon. At the Bottom, (2.5 miles) is an old barn.

Upstream lies the Boy Scout Camp Josepho. We will go up to the camp area. The return trip will take us downstream past an old flood-control dam (3.6 miles) then the canyon narrows and the trail becomes merely a track through a tight constriction in the canyon, impassable during floods. At 4.1 miles the canyon widens. On the right a wide trail curves uphill toward the polo field across from Will Rogers home. Light refreshment and games will be served.

Those coming from the Valley:

Take the 405 freeway, get off on SUNSET and head south (toward the ocean) go approximately 5 to 6 miles on Sunset.

Will Rogers State Park will be on your right.