

**This is the second segment of the Backbone trail in segments as laid out in the LA Times on 3/23/04**

Hike number 731 October 13, 2004 Hike leader: Dick Battin

This hike will complete the second 7.9 miles of the 60 mile Backbone Trail from Circle X Ranch to Danielson Ranch. (and an additional 3.1 mile access to parking). Estimated meeting time for refreshments is 1 PM at the parking lot at the north end of Sycamore Canyon.

	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	
		<b>Sandstone peak</b>	<b>Fern Grotto</b>
Distance	11.0 miles	3 miles	3.5 miles
Elevation gain	1500 ft. (2400 ft. down)	1100 ft.	(Start from
Starting time	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	Circle X)

**Drop off point for Primary hikers:** Mishe Mokwa Trailhead on Yerba Buena Road. **From the 101** turn south on 23 and go 6 miles and turn right on Mulholland, go 2.2 miles, turn right on Little Sycamore which becomes Yerba Buena. Park at the 1<sup>st</sup> parking lot on the right at 3.9 miles. The Primary hikers will start here. The alternate hikers have several good alternate hikes shown below and then will proceed to **the north end of Sycamore Canyon** where they will meet up with the Primary hikers and **refreshments**. This distance is 16 miles and takes 35 minutes. Reverse your path on Little Sycamore, Mulholland, and 23 to Potrero and turn left. Turn right on Reino for a few blocks then left on Lynn and go left on Via Goleta to the Park. **From PCH** go north on Yerba Buena past Circle X Ranch (5.3 miles) to the second parking lot on the left

**Cookies will be handed out between 8:30 and 9:00.**

**Primary Hike: Backbone Trail.** Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to Danielson Ranch. "This may be the least-traveled section of the Backbone because the trailhead is remote and not well signed. Here, the trail meanders through meadows of shoulder-high grass, climbs toward Sandstone Peak, the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains, and traverses Boney Ridge, offering wide views of the ocean and the Oxnard Plain. But the towering rocks and dramatic crags really define this landscape." We leave the Backbone trail at Danielson Ranch and go north 3.1 miles to the parking lot at Rancho Sierra Vista.

**Alternate Hikes: Sandstone Peak via Mishe Mokwa Trail. 3 miles, 1500 ft or Circle X Ranch to Fern Grotto 3.5 miles.** Following are descriptions:

**Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock 3.5 miles round trip, moderate**—This trail begins 1/3 mile up the Backbone Trail from the Backbone Trailhead. Traversing the riparian, coastal sage scrub and chaparral ecosystems, the trail offers wonderful views of Carlisle Canyon and Balanced Rock. The oak grove at Split Rock provides a shaded picnic spot.

**Backbone Trail to Sandstone Peak 3 miles round trip, strenuous**—Starting at the Backbone Trailhead at an elevation of 2,050 feet, this trail provides views of the Conejo and San Fernando valleys, as well as the Pacific Coast. *Note: The Backbone Trail continues west to Sycamore Canyon and other trails in Point Mugu State Park. Obtain maps before entering the Boney Mountain Wilderness Area.*

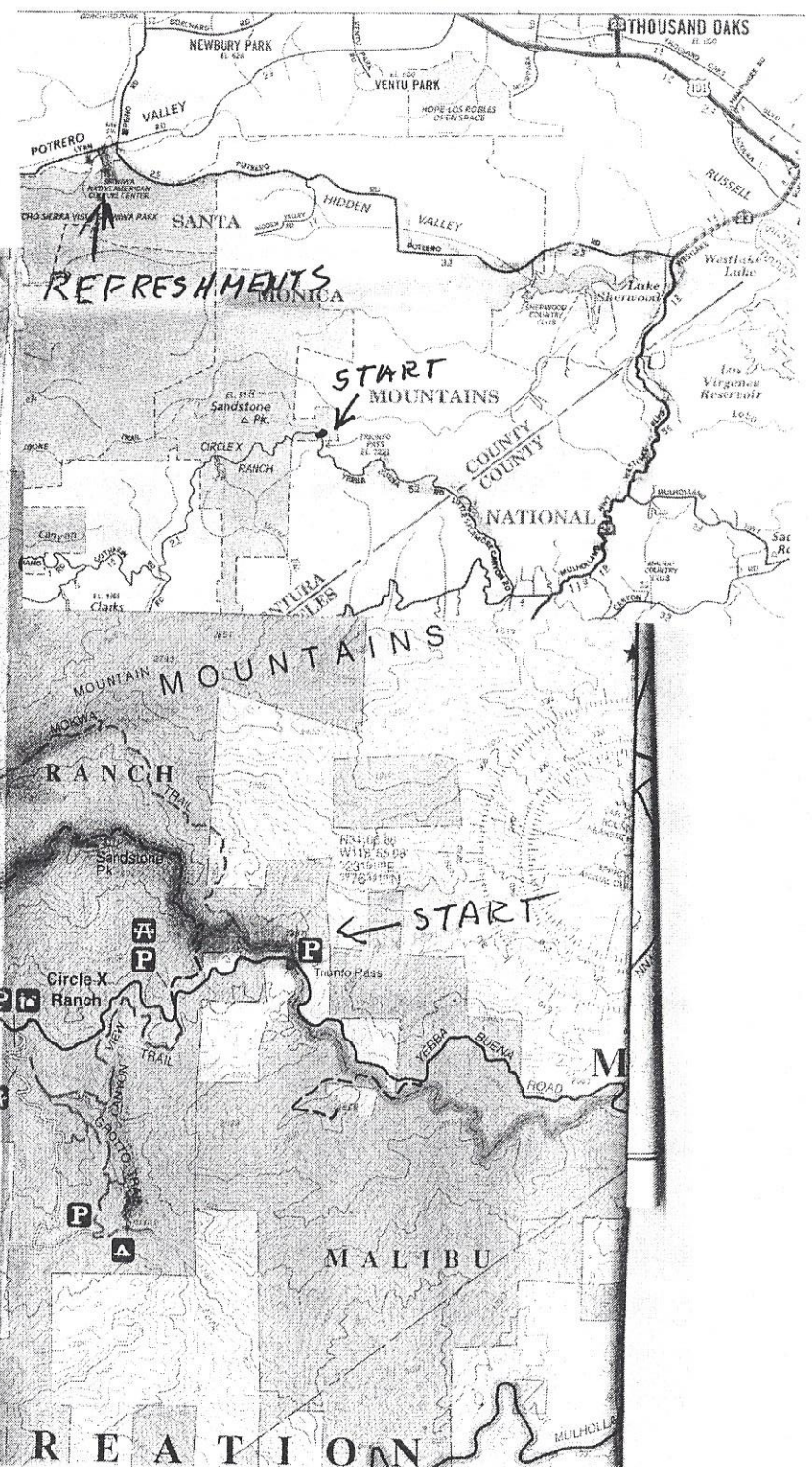
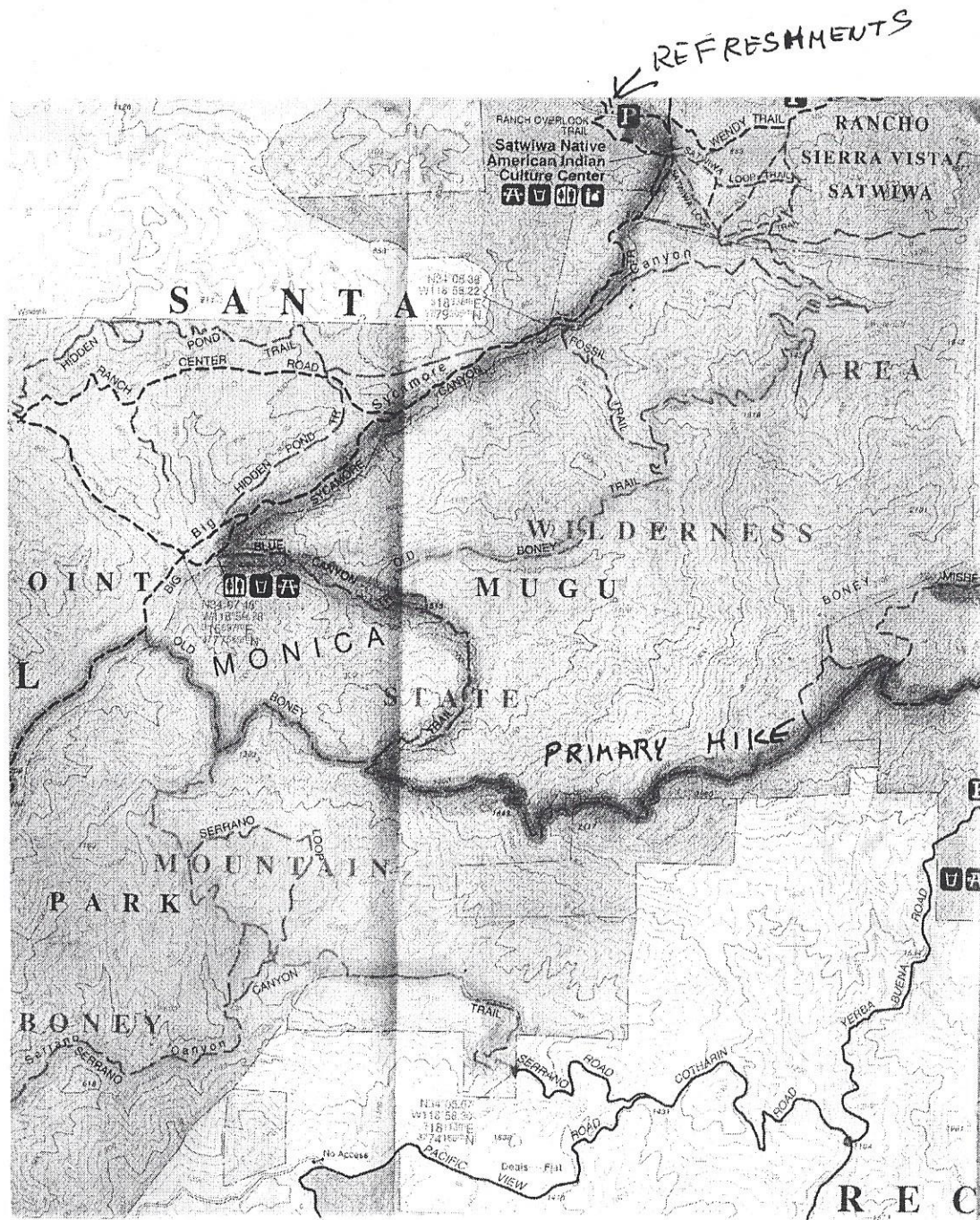
**Mishe Mokwa Trail to Sandstone Peak 6 miles round trip, strenuous**—Begin at the Backbone Trailhead and take the Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock. Continue along the fire road and travel along the

ridge on the Backbone Trail to Sandstone Peak. Return to trailhead via the Backbone Trail.

**Canyon View Trail 1.9 miles, easy to moderate**—This trail can be accessed from three points: the Group Campground via the Grotto Trail, the trailhead 0.3 mile east of the Ranger Station on Yerba Buena Road, or the Backbone Trailhead. Enjoy views in every direction.

**Grotto Trail 3.5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous**—Suitable for foot traffic only. From the Ranger Station, walk down Happy Hollow Road to the Group Campground where the Grotto Trail begins. This trail traverses the hillsides and the West Fork of the Arroyo Sequit and leads to Happy Hollow Campground just north of the Grotto area. The trail is downhill from the Ranger Station which means an uphill return. The Grotto area is rugged terrain; be careful and wear appropriate hiking attire.





RECREATION