

OTP HIKE FOR DEC. 7, 2005. 9:30 Start

HIKE LEADER: Jim Spotts

HIKE: Switzer Picnic Area to Switzer Trail Camp, Arroyo Seco, Bear Canyon, Bear Canyon Trail Camp (an old favorite). Approximately 8 miles round trip and 1000 feet loss and gain.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway 10.5 miles from La Canada and go through the (hopefully open) gate on the right and drive down to the Switzer Picnic Area parking lot. The turnoff to the gate is approximately 1/2 mile past the junction of Angeles Crest Highway with Angeles Forest Highway.

DETAILS OF THE HIKE: Cross the wooden bridge out of the parking lot and go downstream 1 mile to the Commodore Switzer Trail Camp. We cross the creek and climb the hill along the west slope above Switzer Falls. We go left at the fork and proceed down the trail and rejoin the Arroyo Seco. We turn right (downstream) for approximately 3/4 mile to the point where Bear Creek flows into the Arroyo Seco. We then turn left and go up Bear Creek Canyon. About 2 miles up Bear Creek, the trail climbs onto a forested "bench" on the right side of the Creek where the Bear Canyon Trail Camp is located. This is our lunch spot. After lunch, we return by the same route. If one wants to shorten the hike, there are several nice spots for lunch along the route.