

ALTERNATE HIKE: Due to boat schedule changes, Catalina Island Hike has been cancelled.

Departure times from Catalina Express are either 6:15am or 10:00am returning time 3:45pm or 7:30pm. Catalina Island Adventure has been cancelled for this week. I talked to Jim Carlin, he suggested an alternate hike, I talked to Mike Gessner to let him know, since he, Kathy, Alice and Ally had made hotel reservations.

Directions; we reach the roadhead by driving Pacific Coast Highway to Corral Canyon Road, a little over 2 miles west of Malibu Canyon Road, turn right at the Union Station and drive up to the first bend in the road where you will see the entrance to Solstice Canyon Park on your left. Enter and follow the (new) road to the parking lot.

The hike: The trail drops south into Solstice canyon meeting Old Solstice Road where we turn right continuing up-canyon. Soon we'll pass the 1865 Matthew Keller house, believed to be the oldest house in the Santa Monica Mountains. After a few more minutes, we will pass through the Fern Grotto, ending at the ruins of the Robert's Ranch House which burned in 1982.

At the grotto/waterfalls/Robert's Ranch house, there are 3 options:

- a. Return via the Old Solstice Road trail (the way we came)
- b. Continue on the Rising Sun Trail along the east rim of Solstice Canyon back to the parking lot via the TRW building.
- c. Continue on the Sostomo Trail which does the Deer Valley Loop, then return via Old Solstice Road.

Option c. was VERY overgrown during Ron Obert's hike, and is probably even worse now. It is not recommended.

Subject: Re: 2006 hike summary

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2006 2:57 PM

From: Jim Carlin <jcarlin@socal.rr.com>

To: Ron Forbess <hikeraf@verizon.net>

Category: OTP

Ron,

Carlin's recap on Vicky's 10/25/06 Hike

Got it and read it. I sure didn't remember all of that stuff. Great job!

Will get back to you ASAP.

Yesterday's hike was very nice, cool, clear. I did Sostomo up you the gate to private property - just before it goes down to Deer Creek. Jack, Jim Spotts and Vicky went down, but stopped at the creek and came back. The trail had been completely cleared (at least as far as the creek), and even graded in places. We passed the large brick chimney structure noting that the land had probably slid away from it probably along with the house. The only signs of people were an old rusted bed frame and of all things the metal part of a piano that holds the strings. Amazing! How did they get a piano up there?

Jim Spotts and I then went back from the Roberts ruin via the Sunrise trail. WE were the only two that did this, and it was rough! I was really feeling good, and I don't think that I slowed Jim down too much. I sure feel it today.

Two comments on the awards: I agree with Mike about not giving awards for recovery from serious illnesses or surgeries. The Bob DeWolf award could be called the Pied Piper award since he led us rats to a safe return.

More later.

Jim