

**San Gabriel Peak Shuttle –**

May 23, 2005

Leader: Norm MacLean

Distance: 4.1 miles

Elevation Change: Net loss 450 ft consisting of 1071 ft gain and 1521 ft loss.

Store up gravitational energy for next week's hike.

**Driving:** Drive up Calif. Highway 2 to Red Box Junction, about 13.95 miles up from La Canada. Toilet facilities are available at Red Box. We meet at 9:20am to decide whose cars will be involved in the shuttle. At 9:30am, we shuttle to Eaton Saddle, the hike trailhead, about 2 miles towards Mt. Wilson. Adventure passes required to park.

**Hike Description:** We start at Eaton Saddle (5090 ft), hike west along a graded road through a tunnel built in 1942 to Markham Saddle (5270 ft and 0.5 miles). Those craving a little extra excitement can take the airy old Cliff Trail that once joined Mt. Lowe Tavern with Mt. Wilson before the tunnel was built. Vestiges of the cables along the cliff can be seen from the East end of the tunnel.

From North side of Markham Saddle, take the trail leading northwest up the slope. After many switchbacks, the trail arrives at the saddle (5760 ft and 0.7 miles) between Mt. Disappointment and San Gabriel Peak. San Gabriel Peak (6161 ft and 0.4 miles) is reached along a trail leading east from the saddle. Mt. Disappointment (5994 ft and 0.4 miles) is reached along a road that goes up Northwest from the saddle.

After climbing the peaks of your choice, follow the road north from the saddle about 0.3 miles to the upper end of the San Gabriel Peak Trail (5750 ft). This trail was built in 1988 by the JPL Hiking Club and a photo of the lower end is featured on the Welcome page of the OTP website. Hike to the lower end of the San Gabriel Peak Trail (4750 ft and 1.3 miles) where it meets the Mt. Wilson road. Follow the paved road 0.5 miles to Red Box (4640 ft) where the survivors will have snacks.

**Hike Profile (with cumulative miles):**

Eaton Saddle (0.0 miles, 5090 ft)

Markham Saddle (0.5 miles, 5270 ft)

Between Peaks Saddle (1.2 miles, 5760 ft)

San Gabriel Peak (1.6 miles, 6161 ft)

Between Peaks Saddle (2.0 miles, 5760 ft)

Upper End SGP trail (2.3 miles 5750 ft)

Lower End SGP trail (3.6 miles 4750 ft)

Red Box Junction (4.1 miles, 4640 ft)

Ref: Tom Harrison's Mt. Wilson Trail Map