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Mount Williamson plus Pleasant View Ridge

June 24.2009

Leader: Shirley Feinblatt

Directions: Follow Angeles Crest Hwy beyond Buckhorn Campground to Islip Saddle where the old Hwy 39 meets the Angeles Crest Hwy; Mile Marker 64.1 at 6660' Topo Map Crystal Lake. I'm not sure if there are any restroom facilities. Refreshments will be in the parking lot.

Basic Hike: 5 miles round trip 1600 feet elevation gain. For a shorter hike just turn around sooner. For a longer hike from the summit, head out NW & hike along Pleasant View Ridge. To the "Bumps 1 and 2" it adds approximately 1 mile RT and 200ft. The next ½ mile is a steep 300 feet down & then 160 feet up to an 8160 foot bump. Next is a 200 foot drop, then the trail takes a sharp bend to the west. This adds approximately 660 feet. Retrace steps to return. Pleasant View Ridge trail is not a "kept up" trail, so stay together.

From the summit of Mt. Williamson, you get an eagle's eye view of the twisted and folded rocks of the Devil's Punchbowl. If you walk a short distance north from the summit and look down, the San Andreas Fault line can be seen extending along the entire northern base of the San Gabriels, from northwest to southeast. Only from Mount Williamson or from high points along Pleasant View Ridge immediately to the northwest do you get this perspective.

The mountain is named for Lieutenant Robert Stockton Williamson of the US. Army, who lead a reconnaissance of the north slopes of the San Gabriels for the Pacific Railroad Survey in 1853. He was looking for a railway route across the mountains.