

Mountain Trail Fun Runs – 2011

Enjoy the trails of the Angeles National Forest

2011 marks the 25th year for the Mountain Trail Fun Run Series established by Bob Kimmerly and John Swallow in 1987. This year's series is organized by the High Desert Runners club with assistance from members of the Santa Clarita Runners. Scott Zierman (661-951-9454) is series coordinator this year.

The runs are of varying distances on moderately strenuous forest trails and dirt roads. Most are out-and-back runs, so shorter distances can be run by those who are not up to doing the full course. Joggers and walkers are welcome, as these are fun runs, not races. Minimal course markings will generally be only at critical intersections. **You must carry water**, although water will be provided on-course on the longer runs. All runs start promptly at 8 a.m. except as noted. Newcomers are strongly encouraged to run with someone who is familiar with the course, as we don't want anyone to get lost (as has happened in the past).

There is no entry fee, no awards, no T-shirts, but we do encourage runners to bring healthful munchies to share for the post-run tailgate party.

The U.S. Forest Service requires display of an Adventure Pass for parking in some high-impact areas of the Angeles Forest as noted in the schedule below.

Due to damage from the 2009 Station Fire, some routes changed in 2010 remain on the 2011 schedule.

Saturday, Jan. 1, 8:30 a.m. – New Year's Day "Hangover Run," Vasquez Rocks County Park, Agua Dulce (7.4 miles). Meet at lower parking area inside park, located on Escondido Canyon Road near Agua Dulce Canyon Road. Ed Burke, host, 661-251-5670.

Sunday, Feb. 13 –Sierra Pelona Ridge, Pacific Crest & Five Deers Trails (12.5 miles). Fairly steep route, but doable. Trailhead is on Bouquet Canyon Road, about four miles southwest of Elizabeth Lakes Road west of Palmdale. Bruce Smith (661-263-9828) and Phil Howard, (661-263-2876) are hosts.

Sunday, March 13 –San Fransisquito to Lake Hughes on the PCT (15.5 miles). Out & back route on the Pacific Crest Trail from the PCT trailhead on San Fransisquito Canyon Road about two miles south of Elizabeth Lakes Road to Lake Hughes Road over the Leona Divide. **Host TBD.**

Sunday, April 10 –Pacific Crest Trail, Soledad Canyon (about 7 miles). Moderately steep uphill outbound, downhill on return. Trailhead has a restroom, picnic shelter and paved parking. Take Soledad Canyon Road about 15 miles from Canyon Country, 10 miles from Palmdale to trailhead at Indian Canyon forest road turnoff. David Weary, host, 661-714-9440.

Sunday, May 15 – Pacific Crest Trail, Agua Dulce to Sierra Pelona Ridge and back (11 miles). Out & back route entirely on the PCT. Meet at trailhead on Petersen Road just off Sierra Highway in Agua Dulce. Parking is very limited. Ed Burke and Mervat Tawfik, hosts, abby96@sbcglobal.net, 661-251-5670.

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30pm start – Billy Goat Hill Climb (1 mile up, 4 down). Meet at turnout along Bouquet Canyon Rd., one mile northeast of the dam. Climb 1,120 feet in one mile. Winner is whoever comes closest to their predicted time – no watches allowed! Joe and Kathy Diorio, hosts, 661-256-9373

Sunday, June 19 – MTRF: Father's Day on the Burkhart Trail (10 miles). Out-and-back on the Burkhart Trail from Devil's Punchbowl County Park near Juniper Hills. Take Hwy. 138 to Littlerock, turn south on either 82nd or 87th Streets East, east on Ft. Tejon Road for about six miles, south on Longview Road for three or four miles, left on Tumbleweed Road into park. Several steep grades. Alan Brown, host, 661-949-8197.

Sunday, July 10 – Pacific Crest Trail, San Fransisquito Canyon to Spunky Edison Road (13 miles). Meet at PCT trailhead on San Fransisquito Canyon Road. Hilly out-and-back course. Tony Teske, host, 661-948-0369.

Saturday, Aug. 13, 7 a.m. start – Pacific Crest Trail, Bouquet Canyon to Spunky Edison Road. (14 miles). Meet at the Bouquet Canyon Road PCT trailhead, about six miles southwest of Elizabeth Lakes Road. Note early start time!!!! Scott Zierman, host, 661-951-9454.

Sunday, Sept. 11 – Lake Hughes Rd. to Sawmill Mountain (14 miles). Route entirely on the PCT. Duplicates 14 miles of Leona Divide 50 course, first two miles steep uphill, next five rolling. Meet at PCT trailhead turnout about two miles south of Elizabeth Lakes Road. **Host TBD.**

Sunday, Oct. 2 – San Fransisquito to Spunky Edison loop (13 miles). Meet at same spot as March run. We will run up San Fransisquito Canyon Road to the Leona Truck Trail forest road, over to Spunky Edison Road and return on the Pacific Crest Trail. **Host TBD.**

Sunday, Nov. 13 – Bouquet Canyon to Sierra Pelona Ridge on the PCT (8 miles). Meet at PCT trailhead on Bouquet Canyon Rd., about six miles south of Leona Valley. Runners desiring longer distance can continue on forest road atop ridge. Jesse Williams, host, 661-945-4716.

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