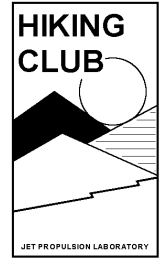


# JPL HIKING CLUB

[www.jplerc.org/hiking/hiking.html](http://www.jplerc.org/hiking/hiking.html)



## Crystal Lake to Windy Gap and the South Mt. Hawkins Fire Lookout

**Saturday, April 22, 2000**

Trip Limit: Open Rating: Moderate-Strenuous

Distance: 12 mile loop Elevation Gain: 3,300 ft.

Parking: \$5.00 or \$6.00

Leader: Diedre Engle (714) 525-5889 or email [dephoto@hotmail.com](mailto:dephoto@hotmail.com)

*Snow cancels this hike, if it rains, just come prepared*

**Description:** We begin hiking from Crystal Lake Recreation area up the Windy Gap trail. The trail starts through oak, pine and cedar trees but after a mile or so it breaks through the shade and offers stunning views of the San Gabriel valley and beyond to the south. At this point the trail climbs steeply for another 2.5 miles to Windy Gap.

From Windy Gap we get views of the high desert to the north and the Pacific Ocean (on a clear day) to the south. For a short time we head east along the Pacific Crest Trail through the pine forest to the Hawkins trail junction. The Hawkins trail descends gradually along the ridge formed by the peaks called "Middle Hawkins," "Sadie Hawkins" and "South Hawkins." Along this beautifully forested ridge the views are primarily of the mountains to the east and northeast and include Mt. Badden-Powell and Mt. Baldy.

Atop South Mount Hawkins (towards the end of the ridge) sits a newly restored fire lookout which, on most weekends, is open to visitors. After admiring the views and playing with the giant compass used to spot fires we leave the fire lookout via the dirt access road and hike back to our cars at Crystal Lake.

**Meet:** At 8 a.m. at the Windy Gap trail parking lot inside Crystal Lake recreation area (ask the person at the entrance for directions).

**Bring:** Money for parking. Water (2 or 3 quarts highly recommended), lunch, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, lug sole hiking boots or trail shoes. Trekking poles are nice if you have them. A jacket or windbreaker is recommended because the ridge trails are often windy and we will climb to an elevation of 8,000 ft. - often cold in the spring. Optional: camera, binoculars, hat and gloves.

**Directions:** Take the 210 and exit at Highway 39 in Azusa. Go north 25 miles and turn right into the Crystal Lake recreation area. The person collecting parking fees at the entrance can direct you to the Windy Gap trail head parking area.

If you have any questions, please call the trip leader.

Go to: <http://www.jplerc.org/hiking/crystallake00.pdf> for the pdf flyer