

SUGARLOAF PEAK, SAN JUAN TRAIL

September 29, 2019

DIRECTIONS: Take Interstate 5 to Highway 74 – Ortega Highway. Take the Ortega Highway east toward Lake Elsinore past the Ortega Oaks Store (also called the “candy store”) about 2 ½ to 3 miles to Long Canyon Road. Turn left (this turnoff is not well marked) and take Long Canyon Road past the Orange County Conservation Camp to the entrance to Blue Jay Campground. Turn in to the Blue Jay Campground entrance and follow the campground road west past the last campsite to the trailhead restroom just before the park road makes a hairpin turn to the right. Park in the trailhead parking area off the campground road near the trailhead restroom. U. S. Forest Service Adventure Passes are required to park your car at the trailhead or you can pay the self-service campground fee at the pay station at the campground entrance.

We want to start hiking at 8:00 am so we need to meet at 7:45!!!! Come early because parking is very limited. We want to get a space before all the mountain bikers. Carpool!

TOPO MAP: Alberhill and Sitton Peak

DESCRIPTION: (*Afoot and Afield in Orange County, Jerry Schad*) A portion of Trip 3 San Juan Trail in area M2. Average elevation is 3000 ft. This hike starts by going downhill and then rises 470 feet to reach the top of Sugarloaf Peak. The hike is 6 ½ miles long round trip and the last 200 feet to the peak is almost a scramble. A portion of the trail is through trees and grass meadows but some of the trail is through chaparral and on exposed sunny ridges which are hot in warm weather.

MEALS: Bring a sack lunch to eat on top of the peak.

DURATION: We should be back to the cars no later than 3:00 pm.

EQUIPMENT: We will practice map and compass skills so be sure to bring the Alberhill and Sitton Peak topo map and your compass together with the rest of your 10 essentials and your lunch. Prepare your map by connecting the latitude and longitude tick marks as explained in class. Using a protractor measure the azimuth on the map from Sugarloaf to Sitton peak. Wear hiking boots and clothes suitable for the weather and wear sunscreen. There is no water on the trail and this trail can be hot so bring at least 2 liters of water.

You **MUST** bring your blue card!

We are looking forward to a great hike!

Eric Jones
Clark Adams