

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### May Peak

3,948'

Location: Placerita Canyon State Park

Maps: Angeles National Forest

Topo: San Fernando 7.5' Series

Lat/Long. 34° 21.140' N / 118° 25.770' W

**Primary Route:** 4.2 miles o/w, 2,100' gain

#### Driving Instructions

From Highway 14, exit at Placerita Canyon Road and go east 3.2 miles, past the entrance to Placerita Canyon State Park. At the 3.2 mile mark there is a turn out with parking off the road for 6-8 cars. Do not park in front of the locked gate.

#### Hiking Instructions

Walk around the gate and start on the Los Pinetos Trail for 2.35 miles (1910'). The trail drops down about 50 feet and comes to a campground area. Continue on the Los Pinetos Trail. Shortly you will come to a junction. You can go either way: the trails will meet in a short distance. Stay on the main trail at all junctions. Continue up to the Wilson Canyon Saddle (3099); turn left (east) on Forest Service Road 3N17. Continue on this road for about 1 ½ miles to a junction with 3N54 which is coming in from the right. May Peak is straight ahead. Follow the single track use trail about 3/10 of a mile to the peak.

#### Alternate Route

An alternate route would be to leave from the Nature Center in Placerita Canyon State Park. There is a day use parking fee for the state park (run by the county). Leave from the nature center and follow the main trail east 1.4 miles until you reach the Los Pinetos Trail. Then follow the Los Pinetos Trail to the peak as listed above.

A loop can be made on the return by continuing past the Wilson Saddle and Los Pinetos junction to the Manzanita Trail and back to the nature center.

#### Notes

The following is information about the Walker Ranch and Placerita Canyon. Frank Walker homesteaded the canyon in 1905. He and his wife and 12 children made money by farming and placer mining for gold. The site of the first documented gold discovery in California in 1842 was here on Walker Ranch; later the area took the name Placerita Canyon. Walker sold the western most 40 acres to the state in 1949 and the remaining 288 acres in 1959 thus we have a state park administered by LA County. The remains of ranch buildings and various homesteads are visible throughout the park.

Good information on the area can be found at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center website: <http://www.placerita.org/maps-brochures.html>

Submitted by Mike Albanese, Dave Comerzan, and Ron Schrantz 2015