

YMCA of GREATER WHITTIER CAMP ARBOLADO OUTCAMPING TRIPTIK BOOK

**TRIP #4 INFO: Fish Creek Trailhead to Fish Creek Trail
Camp**

(NOTE: This book is to be used in conjunction with the TripTik Baseline Manual



*We build strong kids, strong families,
strong communities.*



9/2004

AUTHOR: Tim Tenopir

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Food For Thought/Reflection | Page ii |
| Trip #4 (Fish Creek Trailhead to Fish Creek Trail Camp) Info | Pages 1 to 6 |

FOOD FOR THOUGHT/REFLECTION

You may think, my dear, when you grow quite old
You have left camp days behind.
But I know the scent of wood-smoke
Will always call to mind
Little fires at twilight
And trails you used to find.

You may think some day that you have quite grown up,
And feel so worldly wise.
But suddenly from out of the past
A vision will arise,
Of merry folk with brown, bare knees
And laughter in their eyes.

You may live in a house built to your taste
In the nicest part of town.
But some day for you old camp toys
You'd change your latest gown
And trade it all for a balsam bed
Where the stars all night look down.

You may find yourself grown wealthy
- have all that gold can buy.
But you'd toss aside a fortune
For days 'neath an open sky
With sunlight on blue water
And white clouds sailing by.

For once you have been a camper,
Then something has come to stay
Deep in your heart forever,
Which nothing can take away.
And heaven can only be heaven
With a camp in which to play.

TRIP #4
Fish Creek Trailhead to Fish Creek Trail Camp

TRIP #4

MAIN STATISTICS: **3.4 miles** round trip from Fish Creek
 500 feet elevation gain
 Classification: **Easy** (2 days)
 Season: **June - October**

FEATURES

This new trail trip enters the "back door" of the San Gorgonio Wilderness, climbing up Fish Creek and over Fish Creek Divide into the northeastern corner of the wild area. Because the trail is new and driving access is difficult, few hikers use this route. But the forest of pine and fir is rich and green, the waters of Fish Creek are cold and sweet, and the high mountain air is thin and invigorating.

At the lower end of Fish Creek Meadow there is a 9-foot waterfall, hidden in a lush meadow of vegetation.

DESCRIPTION

Exit the Camp Arbolado main road onto Highway 38, turning left toward Big Bear Lake. Continue on Highway 38 and turn right at the entrance road (IN02) to Heart Bar Campground. IN02 is a maintained dirt road. Continue on 1N02, passing Heart Bar Campground entrance, to a junction in 1.2 miles. Go right, up 1N05, bearing right at all road forks, to the signed *Fish Creek Trail* parking area, 7.4 miles from highway 38.

Walk westward on the well-defined trail (avoiding several other less defined paths that lead in other directions), gradually ascending, to a new junction: right leads to the upper terminus of the Aspen Grove Trail; straight ahead leads to Fish Creek. Continue straight ahead as your trail curves southwest into Upper Fish Creek. Down to your right, as you near the creek, you will come to Fish Creek Meadows. Verdant grasses, ferns, trees and shrubs blanket the meadow in a rich carpet of nature's unspoiled splendor. Fish Creek splits into many small streams as it travels through Fish Creek Meadow, then recombines at the end of the meadow. The trail follows one side of Fish Creek Meadow then soon veers left as it makes a short, gentle climb up the mountain to a small, inviting trail camp shaded by Jeffrey pine and white fir. The trail camp is approx. 1.7 miles from the Fish Creek trailhead.

There are two choices for camping: 1) at the established trail camp above Fish Creek Meadows, or 2) at some old, abandoned sites across Fish Creek Meadows. For the Fish Creek Meadow sites, turn right off the trail and cross the meadow just before the trail veers up the hillside. Camp at least 200 feet from the edge of the meadow.

Important note: water supply at the established Fish Creek Trail Camp is usually not suitable for use (water flow is usually next to nil). Therefore, fill all water containers with filtered water from Fish Creek as it splits and meanders through Fish Creek Meadows before proceeding up the mountain to Fish Creek Trail Camp. Fish Creek Meadows offers an ample water supply year-round.

GROUP GEAR LISTS, PERSONAL GEAR LISTS, MENUS, OUTCAMPING POLICIES, EQUIPMENT OPERATING/TROUBLESHOOTING/REPAIR/MAINTENANCE, BEAR BAGS, POISONOUS PLANTS, OUTDOOR FIRST AID/EMERGENCIES, HORSESHOE PACK, and FINDING YOUR WAY

Information on the above subjects is provided in the Camp Arbolado TripTik Baseline Manual.



FIGURE 1: Trail junction before Fish Creek Meadow as travel from Aspen Grove to Fish Creek Meadow. Looking northwest. Trail on right (left photo) will take you to Fish Creek trailhead. Trail on left (left photo) will take you to Aspen Grove. August 1997.



FIGURE 2: Fish Creek Meadow. August 1997.



FIGURE 3: Fish Creek camp

FIGURE 4: Trip #4 Elevation Gain (One-Way)

