

Fellow Adventurers! What a wonderful day it is!

And what makes today sooo special? Adventuring!

Riding the Cleveland National Forest; Heaven In My Own Back Yard!

Here's the link... <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/>

And here's a pictorial...



...and what we will discover is that the C.N.F. Cleveland National Forest (lower right in the above pic) has way more "rideable area" than the much-larger Angeles National Forest! Better still, the entrance to the C.N.F. is just 25 miles (a half-hour drive) from Glider Girl's home (where -ahem- I am currently a guest).

My day started as I attempted to take Louie to the Laguna Beach bark-park... Oh no! Closed Wednesday! Louie had ducked-the-chain, was waiting at the gate!



Louie is bumped!



Oh well. We played "fetch" for a half-hour, and Louie decided *Nap time!* Which was OK with me, as I had Adventuring to do!



Motoring down CA route S-18 took me to Silverado Canyon, gateway to the C.N.F. and hmmm "expensive homes" (really a high-percentage, I thought, for sale). The below home was \$1.2-million...



...and Yikes these canyon areas are hot... The temp at 10am was 94F, and at 4pm the temp was 100F! Here's the road-in...



Up I go, into the Forest, and in no-time-at-all I was waaay up there...



Here's another panoramic-view...



...and note the trail on the below ridgeline... All rideable! What views!



Fabulous view eh?



I was on dirt-roads like this, all day...



Interestingly, although the highest point is *Trabuco Peak* at "only" 3,650' the "base" is sea-level, which makes for stunning views!

And regarding "rideable terrain" my biggest problem was remembering all the same-looking junctions (more on this later ☹)...

The below pic shows multiple-mountains of trails...



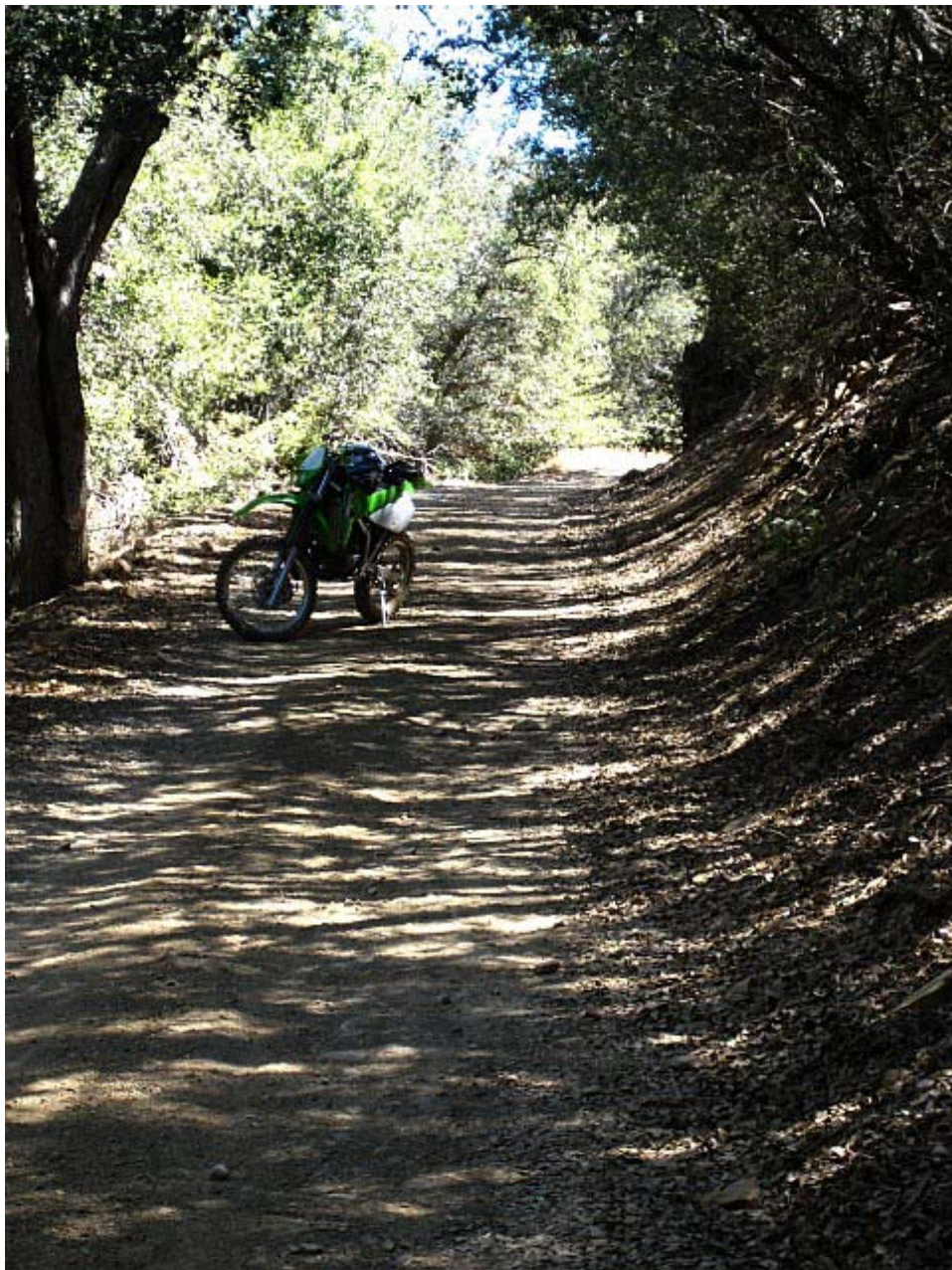
Looking closely at the upper-right, you can see the road-network extending to the next-range-over... One continuous route!

Here's the (literal) high-point, Trabuco Peak... Serious antenna's!!



Note this is perhaps 30% of the antenna-farm. No fence, no security of any sort. Heading for home, things got *really interesting*... **I got lost!!**

I came through this tree-tunnel, saying uh-oh "not familiar"...



...and so I returned to Trabuco Peak where I had seen a work-truck, and asked-directions. *Easy! Left ("uphill") at the fork, head downhill, do not go through the White Gate!* This last bit "do not go through the white gate" was crucial. I re-confirmed **do not** go through the White Gate and went on-my way (after all, I was "just" re-tracing my route)...

Well, I came to the road-fork (5 miles down the road), I was already way-into-reserve (on fuel), did not go through the White Gate and another 5 miles down the road it was clear **I was screwed!** This is a

Total Bummer, because I had seen this truck coming up the mountain, and they remembered seeing me in Silverado Canyon.

What to do? Hmmm... I had "cut a deal" that if I got lost (again) I'd block-the-road w/my bike, and when they were returning from Trabuco Peak, either pick-me-up or guide-me-down. Simple, eh?

So I back-tracked to the "last known location", blocked the road w/my bike, found shade (I had plenty of water). "Got cool" as best I could.



An hour later (and, trust me, time goes very slowly when you look at your watch every 2 minutes) a truck comes creeping up the mountain, through the White Gate. I flagged him down (a guy "out cruising w/his girlfriend") and asked directions...

Hmmm *they weren't exactly sure* they'd come up Silverado Canyon ☺ or Santiago canyon, but assured me "about 5 miles down the road are houses, and there are no-turnoff's along the way". Good enough!

"Houses" meant people etc and once there, I'd be OK. The truck-couple added water to my CamelBak, and we cut another deal, the same as the first-deal "If you see me on the way down, I'd like a ride!"

No-problemo said they (heading up to Trabuco Peak) and I headed down, *and yes it was the road to Silverado Canyon!!* And so I pushed-off, "downhill-all-the-way" where I saw...

...the helicopter below, it had made many "practice approaches" and finally landed on the next hill-top from me (about a half-mile away)...



...with this being a max (digital) telephoto shot.

But what a day it was! A fabulous ride, and I'll be going back tomorrow as "building riding stamina" is what I need ☺

I passed-through another tree-tunnel... Neato!

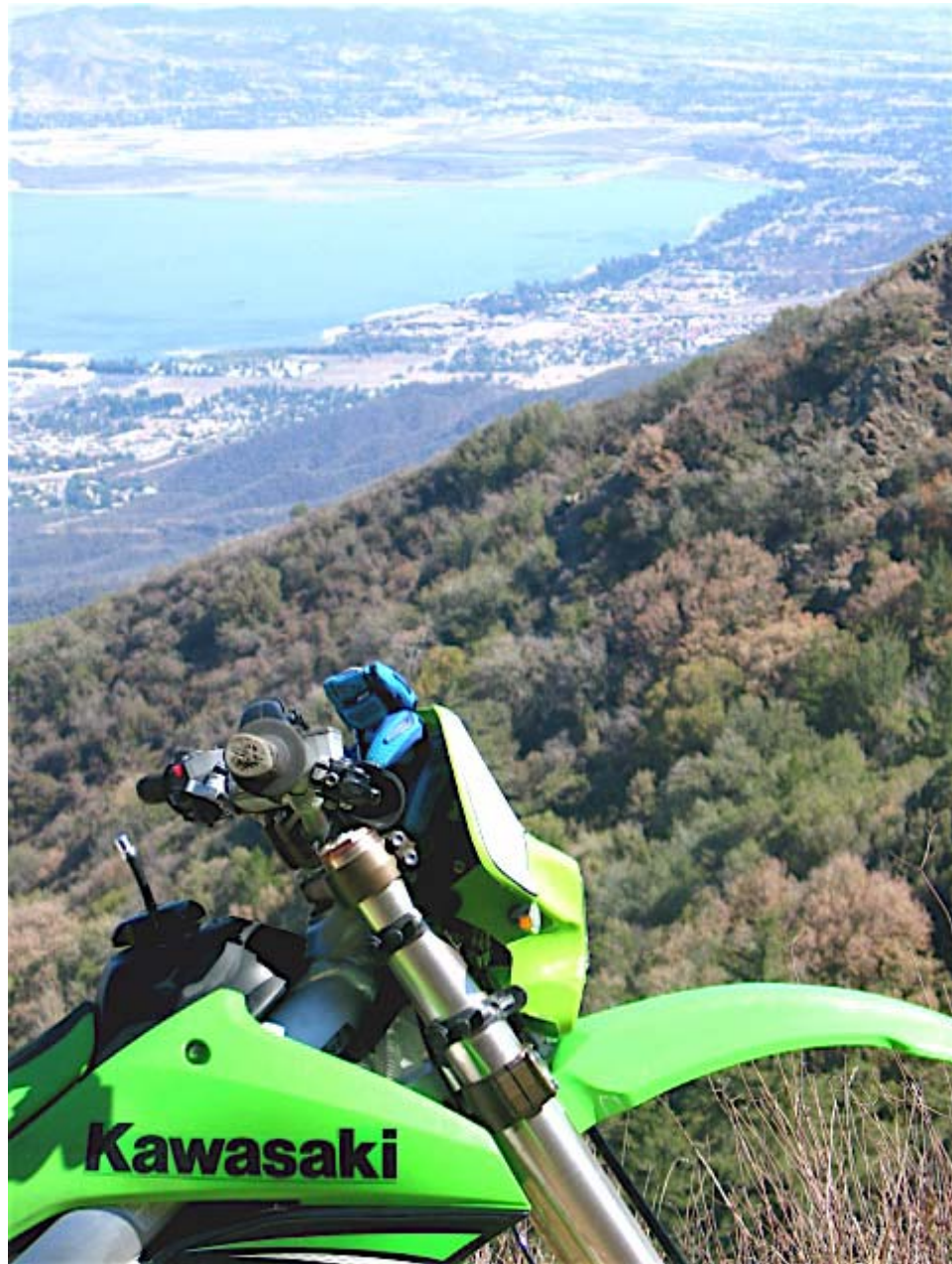


Better-yet, from Trabuco Peak (easy to get to) I now know "all the ways down" WooHoo! Check out my "way down" from the top...



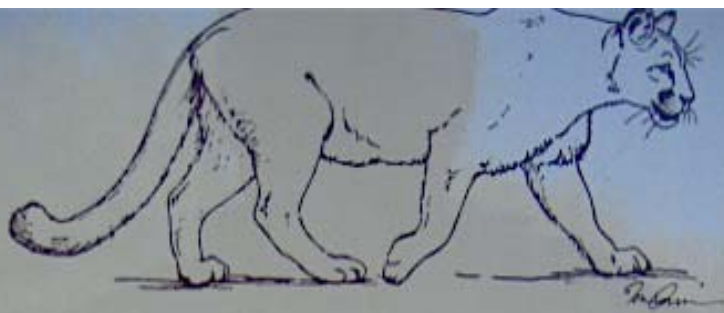
Note: I identified over 100 miles of rideable dirt roads. **Awesome!**

From one of the eastward-overlooks I could see Lake Elsinore, the flat-spot above the lake is the runway used for the gliders and parachute-jumper planes...



Coming down the mountain, I passed through a series of campgrounds warning of... Uh-oh... **Mountain-lion attacks!**

No "empty warning" either... This summer recorded a number of mountain-lion attacks, one fatal...



MOUNTAIN LION

Mountain lions are important members of the natural community and may be found in this area. Although these animals are seldom seen, they are unpredictable and have been known to attack without warning.

If you should encounter a lion:

- Do not approach lion
- Do not crouch down
- Do not run or make sudden moves
- Stand tall, make yourself look as big as possible
- Pick children up so you appear to be one, large person
- If attacked, fight back

**Please protect them by
protecting yourself!**

Sobering, eh? It is worth reminding myself that yes, "this is suburbia" but nonetheless the Cleveland National Forest is *true wilderness* and contains significant numbers of wild animals.

Then, of course, "heading home" via suburbia... Ugh!



Thank you for reading along!

Paul P.