

Hiking Mammoth!

Well hello gym-rats and mountaineering wanna-be's...

Yes yes today I promised "mountain bicycle day". I fibbed.

Shirley (upstairs landlord) said "Lets go for a hike".

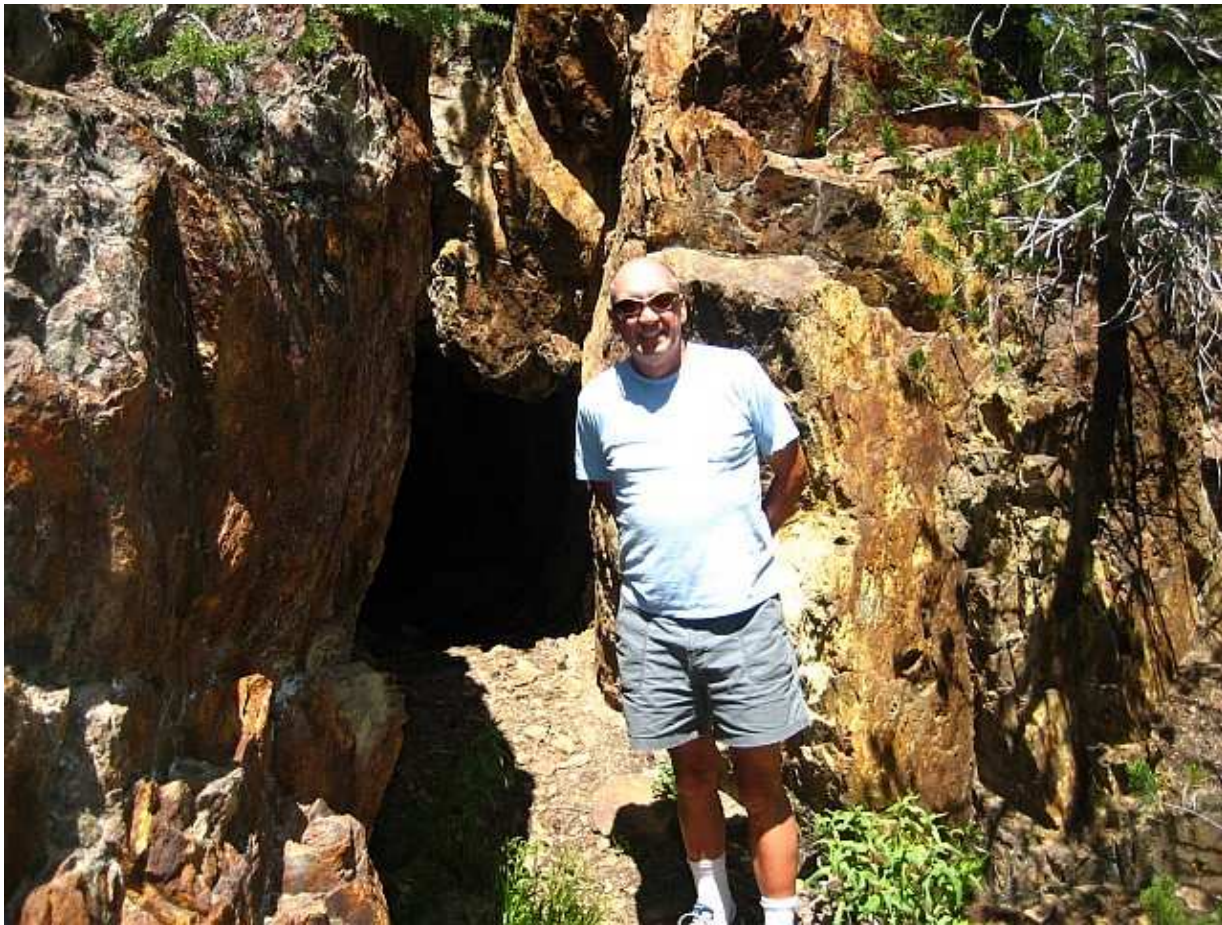
What she said: **Hike**

What I heard: **Walk-in-woods**

Shirley was lots more accurate! Here she is...



First pic, still “just walking” (little did I know). We come to an old gold mine...



Yes, I **know** that I “look fat”. Which is, incidentally, absolutely no different from “actually being fat”.

The goal was to follow the stream to its’ source “high-up”...

Pretty awesome, and zero turista’s...



As you can see, the terrain is now rising steeply.

So is my heart-rate 😞

And “relatively healthy” doesn’t cut it; you either “make it” to the summit or you don’t (this “ain’t the gym”).

Another stream-pic...



And yes, “getting ever-steeper”.

Looking back down the hill, wow what a view. Note the little-shack, a tapped-out gold mine.



One last rest before pushing to the top (it took an hour-up, half-hour down)...

...and yes Shirley is waiting-for-me.



This girl **never stops smiling** 😊

I put on my game-face, said “20 minutes, no-talking”...

...Victory!



No hikers, campers, fisherman, kids, ***nobody but us!***

Kids do come up often, to cliff-dive from the rocks in the above pic (the other side of the lake, a loooong hike).

Here's a tele-shot...



Water temp? Hey last month the whole place was ice!

To the locals, this is a “back-country” hike. Meaning there is no possible way to get here other than hiking (and in some cases climbing) in. As to the physical condition of Shirley, yesterday (while I proclaimed myself **Superhero** for dirt-biking 61 miles), ***Shirley pedaled her bicycle 81 miles!***

In the below pic, me, “humbled”....



More lake...



The water in the feeder-streams was crystal-clear, and the fish were jumping...



This is a great place to “contemplate”... Once above the stream and waterfalls, “quiet”. Amazingly quiet...



Heading back, I took a shot of the steepness...



But wow what-a-day. That a “local” took me to a little-known but beautiful spot... Awesome!

This afternoon is packing and housecleaning, Wed early I head back to Los Angeles...

Enjoy the day!

Paul P.