

LOCATION: Kern County, 5 mi. S of the town of Weldon.
175 mi. from L.A.

PRIMARY ROUTE HIKING, GAIN: 3 miles cross-country, 3600' gain,
strenuous, 4-1/2 hours

MAPS: Auto Club of So. Cal. - Kern County
Forest Service - Sequoia National Forest
Topos - Weldon, Woolstalf Creek
- or -
HPS REGIONAL MAP - SSR-3, ALONG AND S OF HWY 178
HPS TOPO - SST-4, SST-4A

DRIVING ROUTE DIRECTIONS: Drive on Kelso Valley Rd. 4.0 mi. S of its intersection with Hwy 178 at Weldon, to a dirt road entering from the W, just S of a cattle guard. Drive in the dirt road. At 0.3 mi. there is a fork; go left. At 1.1 mi. there is a wire gate; close it after passing through. If the wash just past the gate is not passable, park here (ample parking). If the wash is passable, continue up the dirt road, keeping right at forks, another 0.5 mi. (1.7 mi. from the pavement). Parking for 3 cars here. (3300') With a 4WD you can drive another 0.8 mi. to the mine, at elevation 4000'.

HIKING ROUTE DIRECTIONS: Hike up the road to the mine (at 4000'), where two canyons meet. Ascend the right side of the left (S) canyon to the ridge at 5500'+, then turn left and continue along the ridge, passing over a false peak, to the wooded summit.

ROUTE 2 (5 miles. 3500' gain, strenuous): From the junction of Hwy 178 and the Kelso Valley Road at Weldon, drive W on Hwy 178 for 3/4 mile past a KOA campground on the N to a road on the S with signs: 'Hillview Acres' and 'El Rancho Poco'. Turn S on this road, and then turn E immediately across a cattle guard. The road which continued S had a wire gate across it. Drive E for about 1/4 mile, then S for about 1/4 mile, then E for about 1/4 mile, then S. You will pass a trailer park on this southbound road; continue S for about 2-1/2 miles.

From about 2.5 miles, there are a maze of roads. You want to continue due S. Try these:

- 2.7 Fork; go right, then immediately left
- 3.0 and 3.1 Forks; go right
- 3.4 Several forks, one of which goes down into a prominent wash and disappears, reappearing on the other side of the wash. Park here (3412', ample parking).

Hike across the wash and pick up the road on the other side. Hike up it 1/3 mile to a gate marking the National Forest Boundary. Continue up the road 400' farther to the junction with trail 34E15 to the right, at a sign "Dry Meadow - 4". Follow the trail about 3 miles to elev. 6500', on the ridge SW from Heald. Leave the trail here and go E, contouring around the N side of elev. 6850'+ to get on the ridge going to the E from elev. 6850'. Continue E along the ridge to the saddle at 6160'+; then hike NW and N along the ridge to the peak.

NEARBY PEAKS: NICOLLS PEAK (2C)

HISTORICAL NOTES: The peak is named for the founder of the Hundred Peaks Section, Weldon F. Heald. A dedication climb was led 27 April 1974, at which time the plaque was placed just below the summit boulder.

WRITE-UP:

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