

Maple Springs/Santiago Canyon June 13, 2025

First, I should start by starting and finishing my trip report to Santiago Peak from June 13, 2025. Ed Terwilliger joined me and my family. I was thankful for Ed joining us and traveling up to the peak. Nothing but a great ride in each of our vehicles and just a struggle with all the rigs we had to squeeze by as it seemed all the off roaders of Orange County were up there that summer evening. Good trip!

Maple Springs/Santiago Canyon October 25, 2025

As for this weekend of October 25, 2025 was a great time too. My family and I were joined by Gary Alexander, Eric Paule, Gierhard Liebel and his wife and son, my friend Becky Cordero, Kevin Williams, and Doug Francisco. We met in the Albertsons' parking lot on Chapman and Jamboree at John's Place just outside. Doug, Gierhard and family, Kevin and I met inside and we all had some dinner. At our driver's meeting we all greeted and went over the plan as glow sticks were distributed for the rigs. By about 6:45, we headed to the trailhead. All vehicles such as Jeeps, Ford Broncos, and the Toyotas were represented.

As we got through the entrance gate into the forest we pulled over to a wide open spot for parking that is for a hiking trail to air down. Here we talked some more and got ready to go. Just before we met another person who seemed of interest by himself who I invited to join us. I would like to say that we are a club that tries our best to look out for those members and guests in our club and to encourage looking out for those who are interested in being part of the group with safe choices.

Traveling through the pavement to the dirt, we passed some vehicles and continued through the mountain. The views were great and just before going up the Main Divide and up Modjeska Peaks gate, we took a break for a 10-100 and some more talking on the side of the trail. Onward we went. Strangely part of the group missed the gate up the Main Divide and we waited to regroup. Doug taking the tail and reported back when all was good. Doug was also excellent with letting us know that a few times we had to stop.

The Main Divide is still rocky and from the recent fire, trees show their signs of the flames. Gierhard had marked on his GPS where a truck had been spotted from years ago off the ledge and was clear after the fire and of course during the day. Eventually we made the peak and looked over the cities below and even spotted fireworks most likely from Disneyland as it was around 9:45. After, we headed down the mountain.

We stopped a few more times along the way and made sure we headed all the right direction. Due to the spookiness of Halloween and the night run, I insisted we air up back at the Albertsons' parking lot near and at the Chevron. The group all decided that was best. The evening was interesting and everyone had fun. I will say, I am glad we lookout for each other as friends and as a club. Thank you everyone! Thank you Dirt Devils!