

Telescope Peak

This hike was not part of our plans for the April 2012 (Spring Break) trip; we decided to do it to avoid the 100 degree weather down in the main part of Death Valley. Since Telescope Peak is one of the highest mountains in the area, at 11,049 feet, the weather was definitely cooler (and windier) at the higher elevation. Having not acclimatized to the elevation (we drove up from Stovepipe early in the morning), I was worried I would be affected by the altitude, but we all made it to the top just fine. The views were incredible!!

The trail starts out by wrapping around the east side of Roger's Peak. We encountered another group which chose to hike up the service road to the top of Rogers Peak, then back down the other side; we decided to follow the trail so that we did not have too much elevation change. Looking up the trail as it gets steeper on the way around Roger's Peak:



A little ways further, the meadow comes into view:



Looking down towards the road in Hanaupah Canyon; you can see it ascending the ridge in the middle of the photo:



View of Telescope just before the trail enters the meadows:



Looking down into Jail Canyon:



Looking back at the meadows we have just crossed and Rogers Peak in the background:



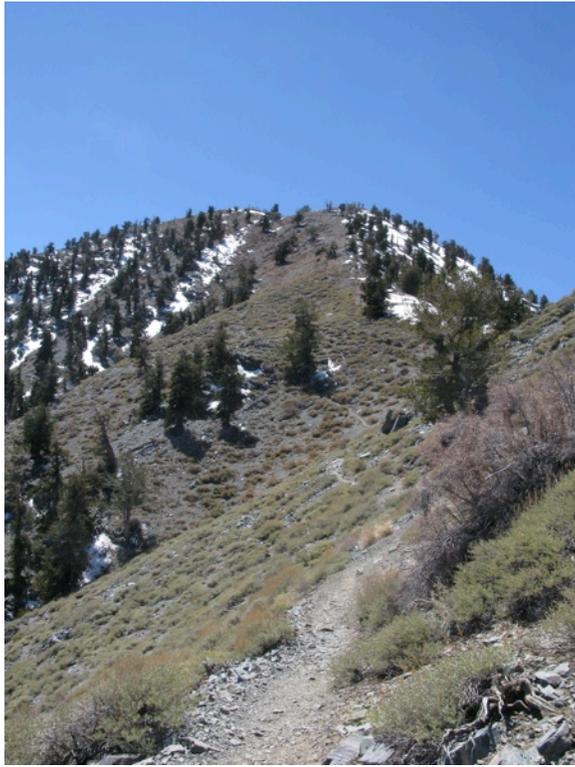
The trail gets steep again as it continues towards the peak:



And we keep climbing:



The last set of switchbacks; the peak is finally starting to look closer! This last stretch actually wasn't as long as I had expected:



Finally, we reached the top! Here's a photo of the benchmark:



Uncropped panorama from the top of Telescope Peak (I wish I could have had a tripod up here for taking the photos!):



Close-up panorama looking into Death Valley:



Panamint Valley:

