

Jim and Shirley's secret spot #9-French Meadows/Robison's Flat

May 23 Posted by [Jim White](#) in [Jim & Shirley's Secret Places](#)

Tinker Knob,Lyon"s Peak and Needle Peak



Lyons Peak, Needle Peak and Granite Chief

Jim and Shirley's Secret Spot #9: French Meadows-Robison's Flat

By Jim White- Photos by Jim and Shirley

Upper Placer County , east of Foresthill, is a land where fishermen, hunters, campers, boaters, horsemen and hikers roam the mountains, rivers and lakes. What about the serious photographer?Seldom do you see anyone with a camera. Maybe a fisherman taking a cell phone pic of fish they have caught. I think most people are overwhelmed by all the trees! What about all the mountainmeadows with wildflowers, sunrises with the boat on the lake, or the lofty craigs of Mt. Mildred, Lyons Peak, Needle Peak and Granite Chief?We think the huge Ponderosa trees with their beautiful bark are worth the trip alone. And so we did this trip last Saturday. It was wonderful, with a touch of snow here and there, and the smell of the trees everywhere. This is really Placer County backcountry. Here is how to follow our route.

Going into Foresthill from Auburn, turn right at the bank and follow the paved French Meadows road (maybe 25 miles) all the way to the French Meadows dam. This is an all day trip. We try to top off the jeep's gas tank in Foresthill by 9 am and have a picnic lunch at Ahart campground on the Middle Fork of the American river, east of the reservoir at 12 noon. This three hours of travel includes all our photography stops along the way. We stop to shoot flowers along the road east of

Foresthill, more photographs at the dam, boat ramp and campgrounds. Turn left at the dam and you will pass the boat ramp, campgrounds, and when you cross the river bridge, stay on the dirt road to the right and drive to the Ahart campground along the river on your right. You are in a Fish and Game Refuge now, so bring no **guns. Many people have lost their firearms by bringing them along on this trip. That and a hefty fine** too! After lunch we continued up the river and turned left on the signed Foresthill-Soda Springs road. This road is where you will get the great views of the peaks mentioned earlier. We like the hairpin turns up high to shoot from the road at the snow-caped peaks. The lower part of this road is graveled, but a high clearance all wheeled drive is needed on this part of the trip this year. Any SUV should do just fine. No low slung sedans or you will bottom out in a couple of places. . No services for at least 30 miles from this road. Turn left again when you reach the next junction and it is 6 miles to Robison's Flat campground. The views off to your right of the North Fork canyon are breath taking. We rest and potty at Robinson's and then follow the pavement west to Foresthill. A long , tiring day, but a day you will remember. Maybe you will get lucky and photograph a bear or two, like we did last year?



French Meadows Reservoir at the dam



Middle Fork American River above the reservoir



Shirley at Ahart Camground



Middle Fork american river at ahart camp



Jeep on the road heading to the soda springs rd-Mt. lincoln in background



Lyons Peak



Mt. Mildred



Lyon's Peak-Squaw Peak photo by Shirley White



From left:Lyon's Peak,Needle Peak, Granite Chief,Squaw Peak, Little Needle,flank of Mt. Mildred

[PRINT](#)