



# TRAIL NEWS

A publication of the

## Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association

...building...maintaining...hiking...riding

the trails of Santa Cruz Mountains parks

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Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association • P.O. Box 1141 • Los Altos, CA 94023 •

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## Getting Lost in the Woods with SCMTA.2013

A group (18) of us went car camping in the heart of Plumas Eureka State Park with awesome hikes every day. On the day that we went to Sierra Buttes to the Fire Lookout (starting at Packer Lake ending at Sand Pond Lake) there were a few amusing mishaps. A car shuttle was needed which can be tricky but we're smart and finally figured it out. With a little sidetrip of following the wrong lead car into a cemetery..oops. (maybe we aren't all that smart). Back on track, parked where we were supposed to, and at the trailhead, we started up an endless hill. Two decided to turn around and spend the day at Packer Lake Lodge where our cars were parked as the altitude was bothering them. The rest of us carried on, the trails weren't well marked so we occasional scratched our heads, deciding which way to go but as we all know when in doubt, go up. Finally we reached our destination and even climbed the 152 really scary stairs up to the Fire Lookout discovering we were on top of the world! The views were absolutely stunning. We could see Upper and Lower Tamarack Lakes, the Sardines Lakes and Sand Pond Lake our final destination. Worth the effort!

Lunch time and then we started down – one group took off (not enough food?) and the rest took a little time to get going (cookies, cookies and more cookies). The second group stayed on the right trail but could not find the junction for the last part of the hike to Sand Pond Lake, they finally gave up and walked down to the parking lot

deciding to drive to Sand Pond Lake...a little irritated with the first group for not waiting at the junction. The first group actually missed a turn and ended up on a lovely trail that lead them to a different parking lot but it was on the same road so they hitchhiked back to their car and drove down to Sand Pond Lake. This leaves the 2 hikers who stayed at the Lake Packer, in trying to find them a nice man (who had gotten to know them) said that he had to go get his daughters at Sand Pond Lake and would gladly give the ladies a ride. Hollering across the lake we found the two relaxed ladies, relayed the message about their ride and everyone went their merry ways.

No one ended up hiking the last leg to Sand Pond Lake, everyone drove. The two bathing beauties scurried to get their ride but the guy had already left, they talked somebody else into driving them to Sand Pond Lake where the second group was waiting and assuming the first group had found the illusive trailhead and would be hiking to Sand Pond Lake but what a surprise when a little later the first group showed up driving their car! Everyone had stories to tell and a big laugh.

The next day was the same we started out hiking as a tight group but soon people stopped at one lake or another, taking pictures, swimming or some simply walked down early...we are an impossible group to manage but very fun. Like walking with ping pong balls.... I can't wait for next year!

## Support Our Trail Maintenance Groups

If you enjoy hiking our trails, please help maintain them

Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail:	Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7 leader Al Lisin -	(408) 252-8106
Big Basin:	Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14 leader Jeff Bleam -	(831) 338-0774
Castle Rock:	Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21 leader Martin Donald -	(650) 966-1984

Our web site is <http://www.scmta-trails.org>

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For all hikes: Bring lunch, liquid and clothing appropriate for the season (summer fog, winter rain).

*Some hikes may be canceled or changed due to the weather*; please see statement in each hike description. Call the hike leader if you are not sure.

For trail maintenance: Wear long pants, boots, and long sleeved shirt and bring gloves, lunch and liquid.

## Trailhead parking lots are always busy — carpool if you can

**October 5, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail**— Al Lisin, (408) 252-8106, leads a group that maintains the Skyline to the Sea Trail. This group now meets on the first Saturday of the month. The group meets at 9:00 am. Please call Al for meeting place (which changes).

**October 6, Sunday: Huddart County Park**— Meet at for a no-host carpool at Page Mill and 280 at 9 am. The hike will start at the end of Runnymede Road at 9:20. This will be about a ten mile hike up Crystal Springs Trail to Dean, Chinquapin, Archery Fire Road, Dean and than back onto Crystal Springs Road. Debbie Rogers debrogers at earthlink dot net cell 650-854-3795. The hike will go with light rain but is canceled with heavy rain.

Directions: From the south, from 280 make left onto 84 Woodside Road, turn right onto Canada Road and left onto Runnymede Road ( just before you go under the freeway). From the north, 280 to Edgewood Road, turn right onto Edgewood Road, left onto Canada Road and right onto Runnymede Road, (just after you go under the freeway) park at the end of the road before it turns left into Runnymede Drive.

### **October 12, Saturday: Big Basin Trail**

**Maintenance**— Meet Jeff Bleam at park headquarters at 9:00 for some hands-on trail work. This group meets the second Saturday of each month. Call (831) 338-0774.

### **October 13, Sunday: Windy Hill Open Space**

**Preserve**— A loop of about 10 miles and 1,800 feet elevation climbing up the Razorback trail and returning down Hamms Gulch. Meet at 9:30 at the parking lot on Portola Road or car pool from Page Mill P&R at 9:15. From I-280, exit at Page Mill Road towards the west (or south) and turn right at Arastradero. After a couple of miles, turn left onto Alpine road and right onto Portola Road at the stop sign. The parking lot is 0.8 miles on the left hand side of the road. Jane Matheson (650) 530-2196.

### **October 19, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail**

**Maintenance**— The third Saturday of every month Martin Donald leads trail work in the Castle Rock area. Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00. Call Martin at (650) 966-1984. Bring boots and gloves, lunch and liquid. Tools are supplied but bring your own favorites if you prefer.

**October 20, Sunday: Ed R. Levin County Park**— Hike up to Monument Park on the Agua Caliente trail. Approx 9 miles with an elevation gain of 1800 feet. Returning on the Monument Peak trail. Carpool near the Savers at Parkmoor and Meridian at 9:00 AM or meet at the dog park at 9:30 after parking at Sandy Wool Lake (north entrance of the park). Heavy rain cancels. Call Carolyn with questions at 408-379-1853.

**October 27, Sunday: Sunol Regional Wilderness**— We will start at the Indian Joe Creek Trail, leading to the High Valley road then to Eagle View Trail, onto Rocks Road, to Cerro Este road, to McCorkle Trail, Back Pack Road to Camp Ohlone road, visit Little Yosemite, then to Cerro Este road, for 200 yards, onto Canyon View Trail, returning to Sunol hdq. Meet at Parkmoor and 280 at 8:40 for car pool or meet at park entrance at 9:30. A moderate to strenuous hike of about 10 miles. Leader: Mary Ellen Quinn, 408-885-0184.

**November 2, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail**— Call Al Lisin at (408) 252-8106 for more information.

**November 3, Sunday: Palo Alto Foothills Park**— A moderate 7.5 mile loop along the Los Trancos trail. Reservations required, as we are limited to three cars/16 people. Email Candace Simpson cjsimpson1008 at gmail dot com to reserve. Meet at Page Mill/280 at 9 a.m. to carpool. Heavy rain cancels.

### **November 9, Saturday: Big Basin Trail**

**Maintenance**— Join Jeff Bleam again for some more enjoyable trail maintenance at Big Basin. *See October 12 entry for details.*

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**November 10, Sunday: Russian Ridge OSP**— Eat and drink, hike and plan future hikes, and enjoy the views on our annual potluck winery picnic! This eight-mile hike is part loop, part out-and-back along the Ancient Oaks, Hawk Ridge, and Bay Area Ridge trails to Thomas Fogarty Winery. Anyone who is interested is invited to participate in a potluck picnic - just bring your choice of finger food or picnic food to share! Also bring money if you would like to join in the wine tasting and/or share a bottle of wine over lunch. We will plan the winter hike schedule over lunch, so please bring your calendar and your ideas for January, February, or March hikes. Carpool at 9:05 from Page Mill/280. Call Cathy Howard (650) 966-1850. Rain cancels.

**November 16, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance**— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. See October 19 entry.

**November 17, Sunday: Sprig Lake/Mount Madonna County Park**— A moderate 9-mile hike with approx 1,800ft elevation gain. Meet at the Sprig Lake parking lot, just off highway 152, at 9:30 or carpool from the Park and Ride at Highway 85 and Cottle Road at 8:45. Heavy rain cancels. Call Ed La Pointe at (408) 243-7194.

**November 24, Sunday: Rancho San Antonio**— Strenuous, long, and fast hike rain or shine, heavy rain regardless. Possible moderate trail option depending on interest and weather (if nicer). Itinerary (ies) to follow. SJ Carpool at Meridian & Parkmoor at 08:45 or at other meeting places up the peninsula. Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space in Cupertino off of 280. (Directions to follow.) Hike starts at 09:30. Get back early to prepare for the holidays!--Leader Valerie C 408.292.2725.

**December 1, Sunday: Upper Stevens Creek County Park and Long Ridge Open Space Preserve**— Hike about 10 miles. Meet at Grizzly Flat trail head off Skyline Blvd. at 9.30am. Car-pool behind "La Fondue" at Saratoga at 9.00am. Heavy rain cancels but not light rain. Vivian Jung, (408) 238-3388.

**December 7, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail**— Call Al Lisin (408) 252-8106 for more information.

**December 8, Sunday: Stanford Campus**— Meet at 9:10 at the Page Mill Park and Ride for a no host carpool. Meeting at 9:30 at the parking lot off the south side of Quarry Road and Welch Road. Across from the Stanford Barn and close to the Cactus Garden. A ten-mile walk thru the Stanford Campus and around the Dish. Bring a lunch or purchase at Tressider Union to eat later. Heavy rain cancels: Nancy Davidson cell 650 575-5889.

**December 14, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance**— Meet Jeff Bleam (831) 338-0774 at park headquarters at 9:00. *See October 12 entry.*

**December 15, Sunday: Joseph D. Grant County Park**— 10-12 mile hike. Meet at parking lot near the ranch house at 9:30 or carpool from the parking lot behind Hobie's at 8:45. (From 101 take Mathilda South and make an immediate U-turn onto Ahwahnee Frontage Road). Also, no-host carpool at Meridian/Parkmoor off 280 in parking lot in front of motorcycle shop. If heavy rain, call Mark Bowden (408) 735-8736.

**December 21, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance**— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. See October 19 entry.

**December 22, Sunday: Fort Mason to Sausalito**— A leisurely and flat 9 mile hike from Fort Mason to Sausalito, passing thru Marina, Crissy Fields, the Golden Gate Bridge, Fort Baker, Bay Area Discovery Museum. There should be some time for Ice Cream or Coffee. We will catch the 3:05pm ferry back to Fishermen Wharf. Fare is \$11.00 regulars, and \$6.75 for seniors (65+ with valid ID). We will start hike at 9:30am at parking lot outside Fort Mason and across from Safeway, or car pool from Page Mill parking lot at 8:30am. Peter Tsui (650-521-4165, my cell).

**December 29, Sunday: Henry Coe State Park**— This will be the easier-than-usual Coe hike. We take the Fish Trail, climb Middle Ridge, then down to Frog Lake for lunch, returning on the Flat Frog Trail: perhaps leaving time for a visit to El Toro brew pub. Distance is only 8 miles. Meet at park HQ at 9:30 or at Rengstorff and Middlefield at 8:00 or Cottle and 85 at 8:30. Call Martin Donald (650) 966-1984.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS TRAIL ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

	New	Renew	
	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$40.00
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

Regular member \_\_\_\_\_  
 Couples at same address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State and zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Assn., P.O. Box 1141, Los Altos, CA 94023-1141

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## FIRST CLASS

*The SCMTA membership year runs from July 1 - June 30. The date above your name and address indicates when your dues need to be paid. Thank you!!*

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 2013

