



TRAIL NEWS

A publication of the

Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association

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

the trails of Santa Cruz Mountains parks

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

Featured Hike

Pinnacles April 3rd with Robert and Steve

The rolling chaparral and dramatic rock faces of Pinnacles National Monument inspire loyalty in visitors, from picnickers to rock-climbers, and from stargazers to cave explorers. Pinnacles is visually stunning, as anyone who has seen the smooth orb of the moon glide from behind the crags of the High Peaks can attest, or who has watched the flashing black and white wings of acorn woodpeckers as they tuck acorns into the thick bark of gray pines. This striking beauty is attributable, in part, to the Monument's geologic formations, showcase chaparral habitat, finely intergrated ecosystems, and protected native plant and animal diversity. Established in 1908 to preserve the incongruent and beautiful rock formations for which Pinnacles is named, the Monument originally protected only 2,060 acres. It now encompasses about 26,000 acres in the southern portion of the Gabilan Mountains, one of a series of parallel northwest-trending ridges and valleys that make up the Central Coast Range. Pinnacles National Monument, located near the San Andreas Fault along the boundary of the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate, is an excellent example of tectonic plate movement. The Pinnacles Rocks are believed to be part of the Neenach Volcano that occurred 23 million years ago near present-day Lancaster, California, some 195 miles (314 km) southeast. The giant San Andreas Fault split the

volcano and the Pacific Plate crept north, carrying the Pinnacles. The work of water and wind on these erodible volcanic rocks has formed the unusual rock structures seen today.

Fault action and earthquakes also account for the talus caves. Deep, narrow gorges or shear fractures were transformed into caves when huge boulders toppled from above, and wedged in the fractures before reaching the ground. These boulders became the ceilings of the talus caves that now entice not only people, but also several kinds of bats.

Along with chaparral, there are woodland, riparian, grassland, and rock and scree habitats here, all also subtly intergrated. It is the variability of Pinnacles' topography, weather and microclimate, and the location of the Monument at the edge of intersecting ecosystem zones, that allows for the diverse vegetation and intricate mix of habitats found here. These diverse habitats in turn support a rich fauna – especially of birds, reptiles and bees. According to Western scientific knowledge, Pinnacles' 400 bee species represent the highest bee diversity per unit area of any place on earth.

The Pinnacles National Monument is one of three current release sites in the United States for the California condor, which last flew over the Monument in the 1980's.

Support Our Trail Maintenance Groups

If you enjoy hiking our trails, please help maintain them.

Big Basin:	Apr. 9, May 14 and June 11	leader Jeff Bleam -	(831) 338-0774
Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail:	Apr. 9, May 14 and June 11	leader Al Lisin -	(408) 252-8106
Castle Rock:	Apr. 16, May 21 and June 18	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.

April 3, Sunday: Pinnacles National Monument— Our annual outing to the Pinnacles is always spectacular. Camping on Sat. night 4/2/11 — Hike 9:30 4/3/10. not sure of the route but it will be good — For camping and carpool info. call Robert Spicher (408) 238-9821. Hike Leader Steve Braley (408) 981-9753.

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

April 9, 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 also meets on the second Saturday of the month. The group meets at 9:00 AM. Please call Al for meeting place (which changes).

April 10, Sunday: Mt. Diablo State Park— On the Clayton side, a 10-to 12-mile moderate to strenuous hike. We will hike the rugged back side, see lots of small waterfalls and wildflowers, and hike in and out of several canyons. Carpool from Rengstorff and Middlefield at 8:00. Call Cathy Howard for details (650) 966-1850. Bring a lunch and plenty of water.

April 16, 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 AM. Call Martin at (650) 966-1984. Bring boots and gloves, lunch and liquid. Tools are supplied but bring your own favorites if you prefer.

April 17, Sunday: April 3, Sunday: San Francisco Stairway Hike— A strenuous all day hike of the stairways of Pacific Heights, both sides of Telegraph Hill, and Russian Hill. Great views, cozy neighborhoods, and lots of stairs. Hike begins/ends in Japan Town, lunch at Levi Plaza (bring your own). Howard and Joan (408) 378-1638
From 280 in San Francisco, take 101 North.
Take the left exit: 434A US-101 N/MISSION ST

Go to the end and proceed on Octavia Blvd.
Turn left onto Fell St
Turn right onto Webster
Cross Geary Blvd and take the next right onto Post Right on Laguna.
Park on Laguna or on Geary Blvd (the next right).
Meet at the Peace Plaza in Japan Town at the Post St crosswalk.

April 23, Saturday: TRAIL DAYS— Reserve this date for the annual Trail Days. Each year on the fourth Saturday in April Trail Association members give a little back by helping with trail building or trail maintenance. Please, let's have a good turnout today. Meet at Saratoga Gap parking at 9 AM.

April 24, Sunday: Raindate for TRAIL DAYS— An opportunity for those who could not make it to Saturday's Trail Day, or for those who like to do two day's of trail work.

April 24, Sunday: Mt Tamalpais State Park— Marin hike from Pantoll Ranger Station. Hike the Matt Davis Trail down to Stinson Beach and return on Steep Ravine Trail with our lunch at the beach-about 8 miles. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Page Mill & 280 at 8:15 or Pantoll Ranger Station at 9:30. Mark Bowden (408) 735-8736.

May 1, Sunday: San Francisco— Mutals, Stairs and Slide. Wind around the Mission viewing murals and climbing some stairs, lunch at Dolores Park. Bring \$\$ for BART and ice cream. Meet 8:15 at Page Mill Park & Drive or outside the 24th Street BART Station, corner of Mission and 24th at 9:30. For questions call Toni 650-948-7344.

May 8, Sunday: 4 Open Space Preserves — "Carpool from Page Mill and 280 at 9:00. We will begin hiking from the Montebello Parking Lot at 9:30. We'll start at Montebello cross over to Skyline Ridge Open Space, connect with Russian Ridge cross back over Skyline to Coal Creek and end back at Montebello. 8 - 10 miles bring water, lunch.
http://www.openspace.org/preserves/maps/pr_monte_be

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llo.pdf. Leader; Cathy Howard (650) 966-1850. After the hike we will plan next quarter's hikes over refreshments at the Alpine Inn, so please bring your calendar for July/August/September and your ideas for hikes you would like to lead.

May 14, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Join Jeff Bleam again for some more enjoyable trail maintenance at Big Basin. *See April 9 entry for details.*

May 14, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lisin at (408) 252-8106 for more information.

May 15, Sunday: Sweeney Ridge starting at Sheldance Nursery— Mori Ridge & Baquiano Loop 7.0 mile round trip with 1400 foot gain to Portola Discovery site and west to Cattle Hill and back. Visit the orchid gardens or do an alternate hike to Mori Point on way back, 3.0 miles RT. Carpool at Meridian & Parkmoor Post Office at 08:30 or 280/Page Mill Park & Ride at 08:45; or meet at trailhead: Sheldance Nursery Parking Lot at 09:30. Valerie Chataignier (408) 292-2725/966-1598 cell.

May 21, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00 AM. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. *See April 16 entry.*

May 22, Sunday: Alum Rock, Boccardo Trail— We will hike up to the Northern peak of Boccardo Trail off the Todd Quick Trail, then continue to North Rim Trail to South Rim Trail. Distance around 10 miles. Meet at the parking lot at Eagle Rock Picnic Area at 9.30. No-host car-pool in front of the Post Office corner of Meridian and Parkmoor next to Food Max supermarket at 9.00. The leader will be at the Eagle Rock parking area. Rain will cancel the hike. Mary Ellen Quinn (408) 885-0184.

May 29, Sunday: Long Ridge Open Space Preserve— A loop of about 10 miles through Stevens Creek Canyon, along Hickory Oak Ridge and Long Ridge with beautiful vistas to the West. Meet at Grizzly Flat parking area at 9:30 AM or at Page Mill & 280 at 8:45. Leader is Martin Donald (650) 966-1984.

June 5, Sunday: SCMTA Annual Picnic— The picnic

will start at 12:30 and be held at Mark Bowden's house at 376 South Fernwood Circle in Sunnyvale. Please bring a salad or desert to share, your own beverage, and \$3.00. Please RSVP by email (markbowden10@gmail.com) or phone (408) 735-8736.

June 11, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Meet Jeff Bleam (831) 338-0774 at park headquarters at 9:00 AM. *See April 9 entry.*

June 11, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lisin (408) 252-8106 for more information.

June 12, Huddart County Park/Phleger Estate— Meeting and starting at Zwierlein Picnic Area at 9.30 AM. It'll be around 10 miles, hike up to the Fire station on Skyline Blvd where there'll be picnic tables to eat lunch. Carpool at Page Mill/280 at 9.00 AM. Vivian Jung (408) 238-3388.

June 18, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00 AM. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. *See April 16 entry.*

June 19, Sunday: Portola Redwoods State Park and Pescadero Creek County Park— An 11-mile hike along the Coyote Ridge, Tarwater, Canyon, Bear Ridge and Pomponio Trails. Meet at Portola Redwoods SP headquarters at 9:30 or Hwy 280 and Page Mill Park and Ride at 8:45 for "no host" carpool. Leader is Mark Bowden (408) 735-8736. For camping at Portola Fri/Sat 17/18 email Mark at markbowden10@gmail.com.

June 26, Sunday: Rancho Cañada del Oro— A 7 to 8 mile hike into the territory of the Santa Clara Open Space Authority. This park is located south of the Almaden Valley area. Meet at Cottle/85 Park and Ride at 9:00 or at the staging area on Casa Loma Road at 9:30, or call leader, Ellen at (408) 267-6456 for further carpool information. Directions to park at <http://www.openspaceauthority.org/trails/rancho.html>.

Save these dates:

July 18-24: Camping with Mark and Carolyn at Donner Memorial State Park July 18-24.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS TRAIL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

	New	Renew		
Regular member	\$10.00	_____	_____	_____
Couples at same address	\$15.50	_____	_____	_____
Sponsor	\$40.00	_____	_____	_____

Name: _____ Home phone: _____

Street Address: _____ Work phone: _____

City: _____ Organization: _____

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

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 2011