



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 •

Pinnacles National Park

Is a 26,000-acre expanse featuring rocky spires, caves and California condors that was first set aside as a monument in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt (2,060 acres). President Barack Obama just signed legislation upgrading the area to full national park status. Pinnacles National Park is the 59th full national park in the United States, joining Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, the Everglades.

Rising out of the chaparral-covered Gabilan Mountains, east of central California's Salinas Valley, are the spectacular remains of an ancient volcanic field. Massive monoliths, spires, sheer-walled canyons and talus passages define millions of years of erosion, faulting and tectonic plate movement.

There are two talus caves. One is the Bear Gulch cave is home to a sensitive colony of Townsend's Big-Eared Bats. The bats are listed as a species of special concern, and they use the cave as a maternal sanctuary in the summer and as a place to hibernate in the winter. Pinnacles is actually home to 14 of the 24 bat species in California.

Since 2003 Pinnacles has been a part of the California Condor Recovery Program, one of three current release sites in the United States for the California condor, which last flew over the Monument in the 1980's before becoming endangered. The park now manages 32 free-flying condors. Each bird is monitored carefully after its release to increase its chances of survival. Management by park biologists helps newly released condors choose safe roosting sites and avoid hazards such as power lines, buildings, roads or trails, and lead-contaminated food.

This is a great place to visit...particularly in the spring when the wildflowers are profuse.

Support Our Trail Maintenance Groups

If you enjoy hiking our trails, please help maintain them

Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail:	Apr. 6, May 4 and June 1	leader Al Lisin -	(408) 252-8106
Big Basin:	Apr. 13, May 11 and June 18	leader Jeff Bleam -	(831) 338-0774
Castle Rock:	Apr. 20, May 18 and June 15	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

April 6, 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).

April 7, Sunday: Wunderlich County Park— Meet at 9 a.m. at PageMill/280 park and ride for a no host carpool. Meet at 9:20 for a second carpool at the parking lot in Woodside by the Town Hall, address is 2955 Woodside Road. Turn into the parking lot off of Whiskey Hill Road, close to the intersection of Woodside Road and Whiskey Hill, Park in the first parking lot. Parking is limited at Wunderlich so please car pool. Meet at 9:30 at the Parking lot of Wunderlich Country Park. Today's hike will be around ten miles, up to Skyline and back. Bring layers, lunch and water. Heavy rains cancels. Leader, Nancy Davidson walkernan1 at att dot net, cell 650 575-5889.

April 13, 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.

April 14, Sunday: Edgewood County Park— Moderate 10 miles of loops through serpentine grasslands of wildflowers, outcroppings of the geological past, relics of neotropical forest, diverse flora and fauna. Meet at Page Mill & 280 at 09:10. Rain or shine. Questions: Valerie C (408) 966-1598 cell.

April 20, 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.

April 21, Sunday: Hidden Villa to Rancho San Antonio and Back— Approx. 12 miles, 1400ft. moderately strenuous hike out and back. We will take the Ewing Hill Trail in Hidden Villa up to Black Mountain Trail and continue on the Chamise Trail to the Rancho San Antonio farm, where we will stop for lunch. We will then retrace our route back, but instead of Ewing Hill, we will return via the Hostel Trail. Carpool from Page Mill/280 at 9:10 or meet at Hidden Villa parking (\$5 fee) at 9:30. Leader Mary Ellen Quinn (408) 885-0184.

April 27, 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 28, Sunday: Mount 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. Kathleen Nichols will be co-leader. Bring a lunch and plenty of water.

May 4, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lisin at (408) 252-8106 for more information.

May 5, Sunday: Portola Redwoods State Park— Portola State Park and Pescadero Creek County Park-- Carpool from Page Mill & 280 at 8:45 or meet at the Park Headquarters at 9:30 for an 11 mile hike along the Coyote Ridge, Tarwater, Canyon, Bear Ridge and Pomponio Trails. Heavy rain cancels. Leader is Mark Bowden (408) 735-8736.

May 11, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Join Jeff Bleam again for some more enjoyable trail

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maintenance at Big Basin. *See April 13* entry for details.

May 12, San Bruno Mountain— Beautiful panoramas and (hopefully) lovely late spring wildflowers highlight this figure-eight hike on the Summit Loop and Saddle Trails. Meet at Page Mill/280 at 8:40 a.m. to car pool, or at 9:30 at the picnic area parking lot by the restrooms off of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. This hike will be followed by drinks and snacks in the park (leader's treat) and planning our summer hikes. Please bring your July-August-September calendar and hike ideas! Cathy Howard (650) 966-1850 or email me at my last name first initial 414 at gmail dot com.

May 18, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. *See April 20* entry.

May 19, Sunday: Windy Hill— 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 had side of the road. Jane Matheson (650) 530-2196.

May 26, Sunday: Almaden Quicksilver County Park— Meet at Mockingbird Hill entrance at 9:30 for a hike of about 9 miles. Car pool at Meridian/Parkmoor at 9:00. Vivian Jung (408) 238-3388.

June 1, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lisin (408) 252-8106 for more information.

June 2, 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 8, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Meet Jeff Blead (831) 338-0774 at park headquarters at 9:00. *See April 13* entry.

June 9, Sunday: Tennessee Valley— Leader Esther Ludena cell (650) 508-8372.

June 15, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. *See April 20* entry.

June 16, Sunday: El Corte de Madera Creek OSP— A counterclockwise 6.6 mile loop hike along the El Corte de Madera Creek, Methuselah, and Fir Trails leaving from the Skeggs Point trailhead at 9:30 am. This is a hilly, down and up hike, with a chance to view a Tafoni rock formation 0.2 miles off the trail route for those desiring extra credit. Rain cancels. Car-pool is from the Page Mill park and ride at 8:45 am. Rich Rowland (650) 965-0938.

June 23, Sunday: Berkeley Hills Staircase Hike— Approximately a 9-mile hike from the Berkeley Rose Garden to Tilden Park with a loop back. A lot of steps in residential areas with good views of the bay. Meet at the Berkeley Rose Garden on Euclid at 9:30 am or carpool from the Savers at Parkmoor & Meridian at 8:15 AM. For more info, call Carolyn at 408-379-1853.

June 30, Sunday: Sierra-Azul OSP - Bald Mountain— Ranjana Sharma, (408) 252-0393 leads this 11-mile out-and-back hike, with elevation gain of 1,500 feet, from Hicks Road up to Bald Mountain. The hike follows the Woods Trail then climbs up Barlow Road to Mt. Umunhum Road finally taking the Bald Mountain Trail to the top. Meet at trailhead, at junction of Hicks Road and Mt. Umunhum Road, at 9:30 or at Camden and 85 P&R at 9:10.

Save these dates:

Nights of Aug. 4-9: Camping at Pinewood Cove Campground on Trinity Lakewith Mark and Carolyn.

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: _____ 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, 2013

