



# The Trail Companion

Summer 2000

## Theme: Long Hikes for Long Summer Days

A 20-Mile Hike through the South Skyline Region

Six Open Space Preserves and One County Park

By Tom Davids

*"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."*  
John Muir, 1913

The South Skyline Region is about as close to the ultimate "Hiker's Paradise" as you will ever find. Grassy hillsides, wildflowers, expansive views, dense forests, deep canyons, streams, and lakes are within easy reach of a number of trailheads and parking lots. But for the hiker, the ultimate draw is a system of interconnecting trails that form a loop through six open



These hikes originally appeared in Tom Davids' "Weekly Walker" column, which is carried by seven SF Peninsula newspapers published by the Independent Newspaper Group. Reprinted by permission. Many of Tom's hikes can be found on hisWeekly Walker website.

A Mid-Summer Experience The San Francisco to Sausalito Loop

By Tom Davids

*"The civilized man has built a couch, but he has lost the use of his feet."* Ralph Waldo Emerson

Looking for a special outing during July? This walk will take you to some of the Bay Area's most interesting historical sites, over the world's most famous bridge, through a former military base, and the list goes on. Enjoy a good walk, great views, a ferry boat ride, food and drink as you please, and all the sights and sounds of San Francisco. From the Peninsula, we often use CalTrain to get to the City, then walk along the Embarcadero, through Fisherman's Wharf, across Crissy Field, over the Golden Gate Bridge, through Sau-

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The Trail Center

The Trail Center is a non-profit volunteer organization formed in 1983 to provide and promote quality non-motorized trail opportunities for all people in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Alameda and San Francisco counties. The Trail Center works with government agencies, outdoor enthusiasts and other interested parties to create and manage an interconnected network of trails for the five-county region. The Trail Center publishes The Trail Companion and organizes trail building, repair and mapping projects.

The Board of Directors meets every month on the third Thursday at 6:30 at the Peninsula Conservation Center

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# From the Editor

by Scott Heeschen

Tom Davids, our hiking guide for this issue, writes the "Weekly Walker" column, which appears in seven SF Peninsula newspapers published by the Independent Newspaper Group. His walks range from strolls to strenuous treks (such as the entire Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail in a single day). Tom is a San Carlos resident and his hikes focus on the Peninsula and Santa Cruz Mountains, but he walks and writes about the greater the Bay Area...and beyond. Many of his walks can be found on his Weekly Walker website. He welcomes comments and suggestions Your comments and hiking suggestions. Fax to the Independent at (650) 692-7587, or e-mail to: trekertom@aol.com .

And coming up in The Trail Companion...

## Fall 2000

Exploring the Past: All of our public lands have stories to tell. From one-time San Francisco Mayor and California Governor "Sunny Jim" Rolph's spread along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains (now Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve) to the grizzly bears that once roamed the hills, discover the history of our parks - both human and natural.

## Winter 2001

Giving Back to the Parks: Trail building is only one of the many ways we can give back to the parks. We look at docent programs and other volunteer activities in Bay Area parks and open spaces.

## Spring 2001

Natural History: The Santa Cruz Mountains are home to a rich community of flora and fauna. Learn about our unusual plants, rare habitats and the geology underfoot. ...as well as news of Trail Center events, park news, and new literary works. "Along the Trail" will return in the next issue.

We're always looking for contributions to the newsletter-trail and park issues, hike/bike/ride descriptions, book reviews, volunteer opportunities, and literary works (poetry or prose) on wilderness, the outdoors and human-powered outdoor recreation (and you needn't be restricted by the issue theme). Articles may be up to 250 words in length (feature articles may be longer). We may also be interested in reprinting or adapting articles published elsewhere in print or linking to articles published electronically.

Deadlines for upcoming issues: Fall 2000: Friday, Sept. 8 Winter 2001: Friday, Dec. 9 Spring 2001: Friday, March 9.

Submit literary works or questions to Geoffrey Skinner, Literary Editor, c/o of the Trail Center or by email ; all others, to Scott Heeschen, Trail Companion Editor, c/o the Trail Center or by email.



# Trail Center Notes

## Trail Construction and Maintenance

Arastradero Preserve, Apr. 22,  
May 13, June 3 and July 12

We successfully completed our 1,400-foot reroute a section of the Acorn Trail over the course of three great workdays in partnership with Bay Area Action's Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project. Any Mountain Ltd., Hobee's California Restaurants, and Crystal Geyser Mountain Spring Water sponsored both our California Trail Days/ Earth Day 2000 and National Trails Day events with donations of merchandise and refreshments; California State Parks Foundation provided an \$800 tool grant for California Trail Days (new loppers, mattocks, McLeods and gloves); and Izzy's Brooklyn Bagels donated a great selection of bagels for our May workday.



*The California Trail Days/  
Earth Day 2000 crew*

*photo by Cindy Russell*

Over 85 volunteers came out on for California Trail Days. We built over

900 feet of trail in short order. Then in May, with nearly 40 more volunteers, we installed two of three culverts, built more new tread, and repaired the section of Acorn Trail just to the west. We wrapped up the project with another good turnout in June, building the remaining sections at either end, and laid down filter cloth and gravel on two sections of vulnerable soil.



*The big culvert on Acorn Trail*

*photo by Geoffrey Skinner*

We met no fewer than three rattlesnakes on the project - a record for us. The first, on Apr. 22, was a baby rattler that clung to a piece of loose bark in an adjacent tree all afternoon. We didn't come too close and it seemed content to supervise. The second, also on Apr. 22, left the area as quickly as possible, but not without a few good buzzes. Our third, on June 3, however, hid in a pile of concrete chunks we were using for culvert reinforcement. Crew Leader Trainee Katherine Thomas said she'd never before seen five guys jump backward so fast as when Crew Leader Scott Heesch heard the buzz as he started to pick up a piece of concrete. Volunteer Todd Belt later managed to safely move



the snake across the road and out of the way.

On July 12, seven volunteers, including most of the regular BAA Wednesday night crew, put finishing touches on the two puncheons built to protect the trail during wet weather. As soon as the final shovelfull of gravel was in place, we took down the barricades and officially opened the trail to all users. We declared it a job well done over refreshments at the nearby Alpine Inn (Zots).

Greg Betts, Superintendent of Open Space for Palo Alto, visited the project and praised the new trail as "the nicest trail in the Preserve" and especially liked the way the trail passes through a mix of woods and grasslands.

Thank you, Acorn Trail Volunteers! Harley Adams, Sarah Albee, Matt Albee, Ed Alderman, Rich Allsop, Chris Auber, Paul Bacchetti, Candace Bain, Bart Balacki, Adam Barrett, Priya Bathija, Ryan Belcher, Steve Bell, Todd Belt, Jeff Bridges, Bill Brune, Chris Bui, Andrew Buysse, Matt Carr, Lindsey Christensen, Kim Christie-Wise, Patty Ciesla, Peter Colby, Karen Cotter, Dave Croker, Sara Poggi Davis, Emily de Schweinitz, Caleb DeFrees, Doug DeFrees, Jackie Leonard Demmick, Erin Duerichin, Anne Ellison, Thomas Engquist, Mark Eshbaugh, Beverly Fang, Julio Garcia, Kinshuk Govil, Michelle Ha, Lennard Hachmann, Jon Haight, Jerry Hearn, Scott Heesch, Bill Henzel, Bill Henzel, Linda Herrera, Samantha Hewer, Miles Hopkins, Grace Hopper, Ariadne Horstman, Tex Houston, Jay Isaacson, John Isaacson, Kent Jenkins, Taino Johnston, Ed Jones, Oded Kafka, Rajesh Kamah, Renette Kelso, Justin Knowles, Nicholas Kolaitis, Pete Krause, Rajesh F. Krishnan, Adam Lee, Greg Lee, Dan

Livingston, Saul Lopez, Chris Magnusson, Melisa Mahoney, Wendy McCarthy, Aaron McKenzie, Michael Miller, John O. Miller, Cheri Mingst, Karen Niemeier, Laura Noss, Tim Oren, Pat Oren, Linette Park, Matt Peak, Bryon Perry, Ulrike Porat, Darwin Poulos, Lisa Rampton, Charles Read, Alan Ross, Frank Rowand, Madelyn Ruiz, Cindy Russell, Veronica Sam, Mike Sandy, Sam Sandy, Shilpi Saran, K. Sato, Greg Schaffer, Joan Schwan, Jason M. Selznick, Cathy Sewell, Gireesh Shrimali, Geoffrey Skinner, David Smernoff, John Stanley, Mason Starbird, Andy Steele, Julie Stevens, Thevi Sundaralingam, George Taylor, Katherine Thomas, Karie Thomson, David Thomson, Paul Thomson, Michelle Townsend, Matt Trinidad, Tom Vick, Andrew Volkert, Ian Watterson, Greg Werner, Harry White, Boyd Wise, and Dawn Woo.

Special thanks to Karen Cotter of Bay Area Action, for a great deal of behind the scenes organizing; to all the Crew Leaders and Trainees for providing superb leadership; to Shilpi Saran for helping with registration on CA Trail Days; and to Pat Oren, for updating our First Aid kits.



*Ribbon cutting, June 3 (Geoffrey Skinner, Scott Heeschen, Karen Cotter)*

*photo by Bill Henzel*

## Portola Redwoods State Park, July 15

We held the first of two days of trail maintenance projects in Portola Redwoods SP, both with camping available on the preceding night. On July 15, a small crew worked to clear brush and repair trail tread on the Coyote Ridge and Upper Coyote Ridge Trails. Near the south end of Coyote Ridge Trail, a steep outslope combined with a narrow tread had made the trail difficult to travel, while brush had overtaken Upper Coyote Ridge Trail in several locations; the tread had broken down in those same locations.

## Bay Area Ridge Trail, Sanborn-Skyline County Park

Members of the Projects Committee met with SC County Parks staff and Bob Powers, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's South and East Bay Trails Director, and began the survey for the Ridge Trail segment between the current end of the Skyline Trail two miles south of Summit Rock and the Lake Ranch in Sanborn-Skyline County Park. We expect to complete the survey by the end of August.

## Maps

Peninsula Parklands, 3rd ed. has finally hit the shelves. Wilderness Press now has the new revision of our popular map in stock and it is also available from many area retailers. Publication of our new Trail Map of the Central Peninsula has unfortunately been delayed until fall, with no firm date yet.

## Trail Center Website

We have updated several of our guides to Bay Area recreation and

have made them available on our website. You can now access the following guides from our Guides section, as well as a number of hikes and rides from past issues of the Trail Companion:

- Trails for You and Your Dog
- Disabilities-Accessible Trails and Parks on the San Francisco Peninsula and in the South Bay
- Where Can I Ride My Horse?
- Let's Go Horseback Riding! Where to Hire a Horse for Trail Riding
- Where to Camp on the San Francisco Peninsula and in the South Bay Area
- Mountain Biking on the San Francisco Peninsula and in the South Bay Area

Thanks to volunteer Bernadette Yap, we are slowly expanding our catalogue of useful links, including links to parks and open spaces, other trails organizations, and a plethora of trail- and park-related resources.

## Trail Center Office

It's official - Committee for Green Foothills will share the Trail Center office through December, with a possible extension. Denice Dade, Executive Director of CGF, has taken up residence in our underutilized office to make room in their own crowded office. The CGF staff has expanded with help from a grant from the Packard Foundation.

## Trail Companion

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado is reprinting our article on the National Outdoor Volunteer Network (originally published in our Winter issue) in their upcoming newsletter. As a result of the article, we are enjoying reinvigorated ties with our old NOVN affiliates.

# Along the Trail

## Member and Volunteer Notes

I forwarded an announcement about a Tahoe Rim Trail Crew Leader training workshop in mid-June to former TC Crew Leader Trainee David Crosby. He immediately wrote back, saying, "Damn you! Now I'm booked for this weekend for trail bashing!!"

I got back a report the following Monday. He reported that "they have LOTS of volunteers, seemingly a big problem managing them; for example: 40 scouts, 50 from this, and so on. As usual at the meeting, most middle aged, middle class men; of 30+ there, only five women and one African American. Most were representing groups, so perhaps that is why no real training given.

"Hard hats are mandatory, as officially Forest Service employees during the work. Volunteers can get workman's comp if they fall down, break legs, etc. Long sleeves/pants also mandatory.

"Tahoe Trails allow mountain bikes, a talk given showed little damage to the trail, only a couple of switchbacks. Problems are downed trees, and the basic message was that the danger to the trail was water, water, water. Still snow on high parts.

"No training on tools at all on Sat. Trail is to be 24 in wide, only four ft clearance, 10 ft high for horses.

"Three full time paid types, the biggest time spent with government types making sure they don't go near archeological sites, wild flowers, etc. Some approvals take several years to get. Forest Service type finally does the flagging. Rock

drills used to break up rocks -- power tools are allowed in much of the area.

"No mountain bikers on the PCT or wilderness areas. They have been brought in to work, so perhaps they'll learn not to ruin the trail.

"I learned about saws. Other than that, no mention of ticks, hantavirus, French drains. Rock walls are a specialty; mainly forest service types do the heavy lifting, many hundred-pound rocks used.

"Sara, the TRCA volunteer coordinator, gave a talk on leadership. Data handouts, really.

Although the workshop continued on Sunday, David decided they had enough people and returned home to Quincy to go out and hike or work on the Pacific Crest Trail, which passes near his house.

Castle Rock Trail reroute volunteer Harley Adams recently departed for Durham, North Carolina to pursue an MBA at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. I asked him for details and he wrote, "For the next couple of months I'll be studying up on calculus and other fun stuff in between great hikes throughout the Rockies (zig-zag journey back to the old man's place in Montana, with stops in Idaho, Utah, and Colorado). Before I left, I was proud to take my mom on a tour of the Castle Rock trail while she was out visiting. I really enjoyed the backbreaking work this past year, as well as the extremely pleasant fellow trail-builders."

Former TC President Bern Smith was appointed to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission, giving the San Mateo coastside its first representative in more than a decade. Since leaving

the Trail Center a few years ago to pursue a new career as a park ranger with the City of San Jose, Bern has live in El Granada and is also proprietor for Landsmiths, a land management consulting firm that is providing interim management for the Coast Dairies Project for the Trust for Public Land. The 7,000-acre property south of Davenport, which includes seven miles of undeveloped coastline, hundreds of acres of grasslands and forest, and nearly 800 acres of cultivated land, will eventually be transferred to public ownership. Bern also founded Midcoast Park Lands, which purchased and manages Quarry Park in El Granada.

Finally, I got in touch with former Trail Center Executive Director David Sutton, who left the TC many years ago for an MBA in non-profit management. After a stint in New Mexico, David returned to the Bay Area and has been with the Trust for Public Land's San Francisco office for most of the past decade. He is currently directing TPL's Sierra Nevada Program, focusing on the Tahoe Basin and northern Sierra, including the Sierra foothills. One of his areas of concern is preservation and management of the blue-oak woodlands in the foothills, particularly in areas such the Grass Valley/Nevada City region of Nevada County, where nearly all such woodland is under private ownership and facing development pressures. He is also addressing the checkerboard of public and private ownership within the Tahoe National Forest.

Along the Trail focuses on our members' and volunteers' activities both inside and outside the Trail Center. If you have interesting tales to tell or have created a website that may be of interest to our membership, we'd like to hear about it.

## Wild Lit

## Meeting with Pan at Midnight

### Apogee

Brian Kunde

Sweat streaks carve rivers  
down dusty cheeks.  
Ears burn a fierce red  
beneath the wide-brimmed hat,  
straining to cool the body's oven.  
Legs move mechanically up  
the narrow band of beaten earth,  
the effort all, the why discarded  
six miles back, a thousand feet below.  
Dirt-rimmed eyes scan without seeing  
the dull gold of sandstone,  
the shimmer of blue ceanothus,  
thick-clustered curls of oak leaves.  
Bunchgrass whips his wet calves  
as they beat on, folding him  
about the bends, ever nearer  
the tall piled cloudbank  
starting to crest the ridge above.  
Then, a sharp turn around a stand  
of young redwoods — the path  
falls away to a broad meadow —  
flowers blaze across the sodden mat,  
a clap of new life to his eyes.  
A hoarse shout leaves his throat —  
the petals explode — butterflies,  
shocked aloft by the invasion.  
He laughs — clouds of bright wings  
blink and swirl about him,  
a soft breath of heaven  
to tease away the stain of the day.

Brian Kunde is a native Californian who writes fiction, nonfiction, poetry and plays. Most of his poetry has appeared in in-house and small press publications. He is a member of the Spilt Ink writers' group and proprietor of Fleabonnet Press.

Rachel Oliver

By the Pacific Crest Trail  
Teddy Bear warms his flanks  
by the campfire while a full moon sings  
through dark needles edgesparkled  
Frisled horns swept back gleam  
brushstroked by moongold  
his cud shifts side to side  
Midnight bliss!

Wakened by a big cat yowl  
I burst from the sleeping bag  
stumble toward embers  
where Buck and Macaroni are nested  
within their goat dreams:  
Fields of daisies Uninterrupted chow time  
No Tecate to tote No tents to lug

But...what if their pleasure is to work?  
To be links in a pack train?  
What if their pleasure is to pleasure?  
To be healers?

Mac finds my tired thighs  
rubs first gently then bears down  
neck muscles thick from carrying  
those groovy horns atop his handsome head  
Deep tissue goat massage!  
Can you believe it?  
'A little more here! Yes! Yes!  
Now on this side...oh that's so good!'

After my bestial rubdown Mac's celestial gift  
I snuggle down cocooned by love  
from sources not before considered  
to drift along on my own  
tahini dreams

Rachel Oliver writes, "I'm a psychologist, wildlife enthusiast, inveterate hiker/backpacker who has in the last few years discovered the pleasures of writing poetry. I often compose poems while I'm hiking. I take along a mini-recorder. I've been published in In the Grove, ¡ZamBomba! and Taproot.

# Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads

A guide for planning, designing, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining and closing wildland roads. Prepared by William E. Weaver, Ph.D. and Danny K. Hagans, Pacific Watershed Associates for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, June 1994. \$20. (Available from the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, 405 Orchard Ave., Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 468-9223.)

Reviewed by Geoffrey Skinner

While a handbook on roads may seem out of place on the trail building reference shelf, this guide is loaded with useful information easily adapted to the world of trails. Bern Smith, former Trail Center President and Crew Leader, recommended this book to me and I recently ordered a copy from the Mendocino RCD. The authors emphasize low-impact construction, particularly as it applies to streams and watersheds. Anyone who hikes, bikes or rides has probably encountered poorly designed and constructed roads which have eroded or collapsed into watercourses, whether in the National Forests or in the old ranches which make up many of our regional parks. Unfortunately, the poorly designed trail will cause the same damage—trails can be regarded as very small roads, with all same issues of drainage and proper design. As anyone who has worked on trails knows, water can be a great force for destruction, particularly in heavy water years such 1997/1998. The better our understanding of why roads (and trails) fail, the better we can avoid making

the same mistakes in future construction.

Although much of the language will be familiar to anyone who has built trails, the many technical terms could make the handbook a difficult read for the layperson. Fortunately, the authors provide a fairly comprehensive glossary and numerous illustrations.

## From the Introduction:

If you work in a wildland area, own forest or ranch land, or are concerned about our natural resources, this book is for you. It contains guidelines for developing and maintaining a single forest or ranch road or an entire wildland road-access system. It describes how to plan and design a stable road or road network in mountainous lands or gentle valley bottoms, and avoid many of the common pitfalls and environmental/pollution problems for which rural and forest roads are noted. Nearly everything discussed in this manual is aimed at producing efficient, low-cost, low-impact roads that have a minimal effect on the streams of a watershed.

## From Chapter VI: Construction, Compacted cut-and-fill and benching construction:

Multi-benching construction employs a technique called "bottom-up compaction" which adds stability to fill material placed along the outside of the road prism. Multi-benching is not often used, but it is a good way to develop a stable footing with a minimum of sidecasting [dumping excess material over the side of the bench]. First a bench is cut at the proposed base of the fill, about 30 feet below the elevation of the proposed road grade (its exact location depends on the slope of the hillside and the width

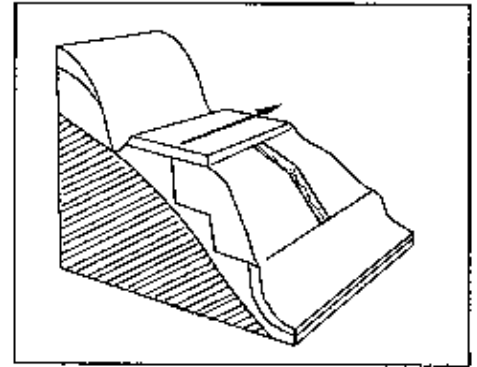


Fig. 55: Multi-bench road construction

of the final road). It may be necessary to excavate and endhaul material from this first cut so it is not sidecast downslope. Next, the operator moves slightly upslope to create another bench, casting the spoil material onto the first bench downslope where it is then compacted. After the second bench is completed, the process is repeated upslope to the final road elevation. The result is a fill that is keyed into the hillslope on multiple, small benches, with little sidecast.

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## Note from the Literary Editor

by Geoffrey Skinner

As literary editor, I am seeking submissions of poetry on themes of trails, parks, wilderness and the outdoors or human-powered recreation in the outdoors—hiking, horses, biking, climbing, camping, etc. Geographic settings should focus on the Bay Area, but other areas of California and the West are acceptable. Poems should be no more than a 30 lines. No compensation is available, but we will send two paper copies of the issue in which the poem(s) appear. Copyright reverts to the author upon publication (pieces included in the online version by permission of their respective authors).

Short prose pieces on the same themes are also welcome.

# Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to Limit Bicycle Access

The MROSD Board of Directors voted unanimously to close seven preserves to bike use, beginning in September, despite great opposition from the mountain biking community. The new policy will close Foothills, La Honda Creek, Los Trancos, Picchetti Ranch, Pulgas Ridge, Teague Hill, and Thornewood Open Space Preserves, with a total of 13.6 miles of trail currently open to bicycles. In addition, the new policy would aim toward a long-range ratio of 60-65% multi-use -- including bicycles (down from roughly 78%) and 35-40% hiking or hiking/equestrian use only. This goal could be met by closing new preserves to bicycle use, at least during a lengthy planning process.

Beginning in 1996, Director Nanette Hanko urged the Board to increase the number of trails limited to hikers only on behalf of her constituents, who complained of feeling unsafe in many of the preserves. Currently, the only major network of trails closed to bicycles are located in Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve above Deer Hollow Farm; while a number of other trails are also closed, they are scattered throughout the District's preserves. MROSD cites numerous letters describing hikers forced off trails by speeding bicycles, startled horses, and near misses. At the same time, they have received

many letters from bicyclists urging greater access.

An Ad Hoc Committee met in March to discuss the proposed policy in a public meeting, with members of ROMP (Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers) and others in the bicycle community attending in great numbers. When members of the bicycle community questioned the Committee about the numbers of incidents and the need for trail closure, Committee members admitted they had limited solid data on bicycle/hiker/equestrian conflicts or even bicycle use in the preserves, but were relying on the letters and anecdotal evidence.

ROMP has noted that when bicyclists followed the rules and were courteous to other trail users, other users generally supported bicyclists sharing the trails, including a number of non-bicyclists attending the meeting. The problems have come about in large part because of the relatively small number of bicyclists who do speed and ignore the concerns of other trail users.

While most of the seven preserves have fairly light bicycle use at present and most of La Honda Creek is open to very limited public use (with the lower portion completely closed), bicyclists particularly objected to closure of Los Trancos Preserve, which provides a parallel off-road route for two miles of the busy Page Mill Road, and the possibility that bicycles would be excluded from the Bay Area Ridge Trail where it passes through Dis-



trict lands. In addition, they fear new preserves will remain completely off-limits to bicycles. Although the policy states that regional connections will be considered, new trails will not necessarily be opened to bicycles if the particular preserve is otherwise closed. MROSD argues that actual usage of Los Trancos as an alternate route has been quite low and that the only accidents along that stretch of Page Mill during the study time have been solo accidents in which a bicyclist lost control. Furthermore, they argue that Alpine Road already provides bicycle access to the South Skyline preserves and serves as a regional connector.

A number of compromises to the policy were proposed, including increased bicycle patrols, but the Committee voted to recommend the new policy to the full Board essentially unchanged. The only possible compromise that the Committee did recommend at the bicycle community's urging - grudgingly - was to include the option of allowing weekday bicycle access in the seven preserves, while designating them as hiker- and equestrian-only on weekends.

The Board, however, rejected the compromise (deemed unworkable by staff due to difficulty in enforcing partial closure without greatly increasing patrols), and approved the policy as written at their July 12th meeting, with one amendment to possibly add some bicycle-only trails. ROMP and others had hoped to influence the Board's vote, but with the unanimous preliminary vote, change was unlikely.

The approved proposal and background information is available on the MROSD website.

# Park News

## California State Parks

### State Park Fees Drop July 1

Beginning July 1, fees for day use at most State Parks will drop by 50% or more. Day use parking drops from \$5 to \$2, with entrance to historic parks and museums cut by half (children 16 and under free). Fees for camping will be reduced beginning Jan. 1, 2001, as well as reduce day use fees in the remaining parks (mostly urban beaches and busy reservoirs). See details on the State Parks website.

### Big Basin State Park/Ano Nuevo State Reserve

Sempervirens Fund announced they are hoping to acquire the 580-acre Cascade Creek property, which lies directly between Big Basin and Ano Nuevo, with help from Prop. 12 funds. The property would serve as a wildlife and trail corridor between the two parks, and includes a significant stands of old-growth redwood that serve as nesting areas for the endangered marbled murrelet. If Sempervirens is successful, they plan to eventually transfer the property to one of the state parks.

### Castle Rock State Park CRSP General Plan

The California Commission on Parks and Recreation approved the preliminary General Plan for Castle Rock State Park in March, including the development of the Partridge Farm area. The Friends of Castle Rock State Park and the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club have, however, filed suit against the Commission, charging them with violat-

ing the State Open Meetings Law, known as the Bagley-Keene Act. The Sierra Club charges that, on March 8th, the Commission acted illegally when it went into closed session and made decisions regarding the general plan for the park. In addition, the Chapter has asked Gov. Davis to rescind the decisions made during the closed session. The FoCSP, Sierra Club, Santa Clara Audubon Society, in coalition with a number of other environmental groups, hope to force a review of the Preliminary General Plan and change key elements, including no development at Partridge Farm, defining most or all of the park as wilderness (only a portion would be wilderness under the current plan), and that planning for the park be tied into a regional planning process including Big Basin and other nearby public lands. For more information, contact Bruce Bettencourt or visit the FoCRSP website

CRSP Climbing Management Plan  
The Castle Rock Climbing Committee (CRCC) is nearly halfway through the first draft of a CRSP Climbing Management Plan (the General Plan for the park does not include either the climbing or trails element). In writing the management plan, the CRCC surveyed climbers' attitudes and preferences for the park. The Access Fund, a national, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and to conserving the climbing environment, has membership in the Committee and is helping to engage the climbing community in the issue the CRCC faces. Climbing access trails is one of those issues - the CRCC is considering whether to recommend a separate system of official access trails similar to the network established in Pinnacles National Monument (an issue which the Trails Management Committee is also considering). The

CRCC has also formulated a set of climbing practices which are considered to result in "low impact climbing;" these practices will be incorporated into the upcoming new CRSP map.

### Negotiations Underway to Purchase San Lorenzo Watershed Lands

Sempervirens Fund announced they are negotiating purchase of San Lorenzo Water District property below Castle Rock State Park with help from Prop. 12 funds. The 1,340-acre property, encompassing much of the upper San Lorenzo River watershed, contains a significant second-growth redwood forest with over 46 million board feet. The property already includes trail easements for the Saratoga Toll Road and the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. If negotiations are successful, the property will likely be added to Castle Rock, thereby increasing the size of the park by a third.

## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

### Coal Creek Open Space Preserve/ Alpine Road/Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

The date for construction of the Alpine Road bypass trail reroute reported earlier has been delayed because of staffing shortages in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. In addition, MROSD hasn't yet decided whether the rerouted trail should be singletrack or a service road, although the new trail will likely be only a singletrack since Alpine Road would need additional work above the bypass to allow vehicular traffic - which would only occur if San Mateo County were also involved.

## The Trail Companion

As reported in our Spring issue, Alpine Road will be closed between Willowbrook and the Portola town limits, 1/4 mi. below Joaquin Rd. for July-November for a major road regarding and resurfacing project on Alpine, as well as driveway construction for a new house under construction in the inholding below the Spring Ridge Trail. As a result, there will be no access to Windy Hill from any of the Alpine Road trailheads, including Razorback Ridge.

### Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Due to a slide, horses are not allowed on the Skid Road Trail between the White Oak Trail and the Canyon Trail. Bikes are allowed, but must be walked past slide.

### Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

The MROSD Board of Directors approved purchase of 73 acres of oak-covered canyon and grassy hillsides to the north of Pulgas Ridge OSP. The parcel is the last large undeveloped tract of land in the area and could eventually provide trail links to the San Francisco watershed lands to the north and west. The property is especially valuable because it largely free of the many invasive exotic plants that plague Pulgas Ridge. MROSD had been discussing purchase for years and was able to get the property for a bargain price of \$1.27 million. The property would have been sold for development long ago had potential developers been able to approval for annexation to San Carlos, critical to hooking up sewer and water lines.

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve  
The MROSD Board also approved purchase of a 95-acre parcel adjacent to Russian Ridge that will be

incorporated into the Preserve. The parcel includes steep, forested slopes into the Mindego Creek canyon with some old-growth Douglas fir and a view of Mindego Hill, an ancient volcano. A house, barn, other outbuildings, and a small orchard are located on the parcel; MROSD plans to rent out the house.

### Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

An updated Master Plan is in progress at Sierra Azul OSP. The preserve is home to a wide variety of natural resources, including lush riparian habitat, redwoods, serpentine grasslands, and steep chaparral. A team of staff and consultants is mapping and evaluating the preserve's natural and cultural resources, encompassing flora and fauna; geology, hydrology and soils; historic and archeological sites; and the existing road and trail system. The completed plan will help guide development of trails and other potential recreational facilities within the preserve, as well as the important regional trails - most notably the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which connects the preserve to Almaden Quicksilver County Park and Soquel Demonstration Forest. MROSD will hold a series of public planning meetings this fall, with some informational meetings scheduled for the next few months. Contact MROSD at (650) 691-1200 or visit the MROSD website for more information.

## Santa Clara County Parks

### Coyote Lake County Park

The San Jose Mercury News reported on June 16, 2000, that Coyote Lake County Park - currently less than 100 acres, but popular for camping, picnicking,

fishing, and boating - will become one of the larger parks in the system with an added 3,679 acres of adjacent ranchland recently purchased for \$14 million. The Bear and Mendoza ranches adjoin Henry Coe State Park, and form part of a major acquisition - 9,234 acre -- by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and the Nature Conservancy aimed at preventing development across valuable blue oak habitat at the eastern edge of the Silicon Valley conurbation. Planning is underway for the expanded park and may include a golf course on 200 mostly flat acres at Foothill and San Martin Aves., although Lisa Killough of SC County Parks noted that the process has just begun and will include a series of public meetings on land use, probably beginning in October.

The new properties are not currently open to the public and no formal trails yet exist, but up to \$500,000 of Proposition 12 funds are earmarked to construct trails, trailheads, and parking, and to provide non-vehicular public access between the Bear and Mendoza Ranch open space and adjacent Henry Coe State Park. Included in the trail plans will be a new Bay Area Ridge Trail link between Coyote Lake and Henry Coe State Park. The Nature Conservancy is working to resell the remaining 6,100+ acres of the 1999 purchase to California State Parks for annexation by Henry Coe State Park. See the Nature Conservancy's project page for more information on the Conservancy's Mount Hamilton Project, which will protect around Mt. Hamilton and throughout the Hamilton Range.

### Alum Rock Park (City of San Jose) Additions to the Park

The Trust for Public Land, recently purchased a 534-acre property adjacent to Alum Rock and intends to transfer ownership to the SC County Open Space Authority for addition to the park. The new property, which is part of the Penitencia Creek watershed, will provide an important link for the Bay Area Ridge Trail and provides sweeping views of the Santa Clara Valley.

#### Alum Rock Trail Restoration Program.

Over 200 volunteers came out for the Alum Rock Trail Restoration Program's first big event on National Trails Day, June 3rd. Many years ago, the park had a dedicated group of volunteers maintaining trails, but the program fell into a lull for many years, partly due to major damage in the park in the El Nino storms. Volunteer Ken Ford (who worked on our Todd Quick Trail project in 1993) and enthusiastic parks staff have reinvigorated the program and are holding monthly work sessions, generally on the last Saturday of each month. For NTD, over 200 young people from San Jose's City Year program joined eighteen community volunteers for creek cleanup and trail maintenance. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council will join park volunteers this summer in maintenance and construction on a new segment of the Ridge Trail, which will be dedicated in October. For more information, contact Park staff at 277-4539 or email Ken Ford or Bob Powers (BARTC).

#### Arastradero Preserve (City of Palo Alto)

##### Trails Master Planning

Amphion Environmental, an environmental consulting firm based in Oakland, has begun to create a Trails Master Plan for Arastradero

Preserve and intends to have a finished recommendation by October. Concurrently, Thomas Reed & Associates is creating a comprehensive map of the preserve, based on data collected by Bay Area Action and others, which will include all existing trails (both official and unofficial), soils and plant communities.

Amphion held a workshop on the Preserve on June 15 for all interested trail users, featuring three separate self-guided tours (one each for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians) that visited representative trails throughout the lower Preserve. Participants answered a series of questions regarding access, trail design, maintenance, and general Preserve conditions. They also made additional written comments about favorite areas, as well about as barriers to enjoying the Preserve. Amphion will compile the answers and present them in a second public workshop on Wednesday, July 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road. For more details and a survey questionnaire, see the announcement on the City's website.

#### Wednesday Evenings at the Preserve

Bay Area Action's Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project sponsors weekly restoration sessions at Arastradero through the summer. Meet at the parking lot at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings to help reduce the infestations of yellow starthistle and other noxious weeds, as well as collect native grass seeds and maintain first-year plantings.

## Access to the Popular Stanford "Dish" Area Restricted Under Conservation Plan

Access to the popular "Dish" area of the Stanford University campus will be restricted beginning Sept. 1, 2000. Stanford announced in early May that it would institute a three-part conservation and use plan for the Stanford Foothills area to protect and enhance native species habitat. Several hundred acres on the northeast (campus) side of the Dish will be designated as a preserve for long-term habitat conservation, although current and new academic uses may be permitted. Habitat restoration will be carried out in the preserve, including removal of unapproved structures, re-vegetation of compacted ground, and restoration of native biological communities. The third aspect will have the greatest impact on visitors - hiking and jogging will be limited to the service roads, picnics and other social events prohibited, dogs banned, and access limited from dawn until half an hour before sunset. At Stanford's request, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors agreed to limit parking along Stanford Avenue and increase enforcement on streets leading to the Dish, although the Board rejected a request to eliminate parking altogether from the upper end of Stanford Ave.

Dog owners have protested the plan most loudly - a large number of more than 1800 visitors each weekend come to walk or run with their

## The Trail Companion

dog, but Stanford argues that banning dogs is necessary to protect



wildlife and habitat. Although few studies have been published on the impact of dogs on wildlife, the ban conforms to a general practice of excluding dogs from areas designated for biological conservation. As with any introduced species, dogs set off a cascade of effects in the ecosystem. Dogs at the Dish, especially when off leash (many dog owners have ignored leash requirements), can commonly be seen chasing birds (from ground-nesting species to great blue herons), amphibians, and reptiles, disrupting and discouraging sensitive species even when they don't actually catch them. And because dogs are in the same genus as coyotes, they may bring many shared pathogens which coyotes are not resistant to. Both dogs and coyotes are also highly territorial; the abundance of dogs leaving their scent around the Dish loop discourages our native canines. Anecdotal evidence shows a marked decrease in the number of large mammals in the Dish over the past two decades as the number of visitors has exploded. Fewer coyotes means, in turn, many more rodents (coyotes' main prey); more rodents mean fewer native oaks (pocket gophers eat their roots, voles girdle their trunks). The ban will also likely halve the number of human visitors - a major goal of the conservation plan.

The plan does not, however, address the issue of cattle grazing on the remainder of the preserve, nor the fact that Stanford is facing severe restrictions on land use from US Fish & Wildlife due to the endangered California tiger salamander; one of the plan's unstated goals is to persuade the tiger salamander to breed in newly-created

vernal pools rather than cross Junipero Serra Boulevard to breed in Lake

Lagunita and surrounding areas in which Stanford hopes to construct new housing and other structures.

Many miles of informal trails currently crisscross the area in addition to the four-mile service road loop - estimated at over 1.5 miles per 100 acres - well over a preferred ratio of half to one mile per 100 acres. The great number of trails has caused habitat fragmentation, soil compaction and the trampling of plants. Erosion is a serious problem on a number of these trails, most visibly on the steep trail leading up to the service road from the Stanford Avenue gate, which has grown as wide as thirty-five feet in places. Since none of the trails were formally laid out and much of the soil in the Dish area consists of heavy clays that become impassible in winter, trail users have tended to make ever-wider bypasses around boggy areas. The University hopes to close the informal trail network and restore the damaged areas, although they have not yet said whether any formal trails for researchers and others will be built except for a paved access trail from the Stanford Ave. gate to the service road loop. The access trail and service road loop will be fenced to prevent off-trail travel.

The statement released in May gives little detail about how Stanford will address other land management challenges. Will cattle grazing continue? Can grazing be done in a way that enhances, rather than harms, native flora and fauna? (The use of cattle and other grazers to help native plants recover has become an increasingly accepted practice across the West - if they are very carefully

managed; grazing is also seen as a way to reduce fire risk to nearby houses and other structures.) How will they protect the tiger salamander to meet stringent US Fish & Wildlife standards? Will they be able to persuade the tiger salamander to breed in newly-created vernal pools rather than cross Junipero Serra Boulevard to breed in Lake Lagunita and surrounding areas in which Stanford hopes to construct new housing?

Magic, Inc., a Palo Alto based non-profit, has been contracting with Stanford to plant oak trees in the Dish area over the past fifteen years and has more recently expanded their efforts to include native grass plantings and invasive weed management. They will take part in the general habitat restoration program led by the University's Center for Population Biology and will provide an avenue for public access to the new preserve beyond the roads through regular volunteer opportunities.

Selected additional information about the California tiger salamander

Amphibians of the Santa Cruz Mountains (Fred McPherson. Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregion Electronic Almanac: Rich Seymour and Mike Westphal, presentation to the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregional Council, Aug. 1, 1996) Listing and brief description of SC Mountains amphibians; no photos.

California tiger salamander photos (CalPhotos: Amphibians, UC Berkeley Digital Library Project) Photos of salamanders.



(South Skyline - from page 1)

space districts and one county park. Add to this a beautiful spring day and an eager group of family and friends, and you have the ingredients for a perfect hiking experience. We scheduled our adventure a few weeks ago on a splendid Saturday between rainstorms. Our hike began at 9:30 a.m. at the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve off Skyline Boulevard, from the parking lot north of Horseshoe Lake. From the trail sign, we climbed the Bay Area Ridge Trail up a grassy hillside, through a pocket of oak and bay trees, and over to the west side of the ridge.

On a clear day, the westerly view is quite grand, as your line of sight passes over a series of ridges to the distant Pacific Ocean. But this morning, the ridge was shrouded in fog with visibility limited to a few hundred feet in all directions. For the next two miles, we continued along the Ridge Trail, passing by Alpine Pond, through the large culvert under Alpine Road, into and out of the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve parking lot, and up into the grassy hillside of Russian Ridge, which is well known for its display of wildflowers in the spring. Fog continued to blanket the ridge as we hiked on to Gate RR01 next to Skyline Boulevard.

We continued north along Skyline Boulevard for a block or so, then crossed the highway and turned southeast on the short access road to Coal Creek Open Space Preserve. In .4 miles, we passed by two large homes under construction and through Gate CC03, continuing a short distance to the intersection with Meadow Trail. Here we turned left and descended rather steeply .5 miles and some 400 feet with views to the east, including

Foothills Park and Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. At Gate CC02, we connected with Alpine Road (closed to vehicles), turned right, and climbed through the heavily forested canyon for one mile, gradually regaining our elevation at the intersection with Page Mill Road. After crossing the road, we turned left and hiked up and over a grassy hill and caught our first views of Monte Bello Open Space Preserve and Stevens Creek Canyon below. In another hour, we would be hiking into the canyon, but first, we diverted to the Monte Bello parking lot and the welcome chemical toilet facility. Then we crossed back over Page Mill Road, crossed the Los Trancos Open Space Preserve parking lot, and quickly plunged into the Los Trancos Creek Canyon via the Lost Creek Loop Trail. This is a scenic, cool trail any time of the year, but it is especially nice in the spring when the creek is full, the trail is damp, the ferns are pushing out new growth, and fresh tree moss is adding a vibrant green tone throughout the forest. Breaking away from Los Trancos Creek, we hiked parallel to Lost Creek, which was also running high until it suddenly disappeared from view--hence the name: Lost Creek. We crossed the now dry creek bed and climbed out of the forest onto a clear hillside. We continued .2 miles to Gate LT01, another access point from Page Mill Road. Here we turned back along the grassy hillside and continued our intermittent climb for 1.1 miles to Gate LT02, where we again crossed Page Mill Road into Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.

It was now about 12:30 p.m., and we had been hiking for three hours. After a half-hour lunch stop, we started our 3.5-mile hike down the Canyon Trail, with an elevation loss of 700 feet. Along the way, we saw a number of old fruit or nut trees in

bloom, a sign that this was once an active ranch. We also passed by several sag ponds, a reminder that we were hiking along the San Andreas Fault Line. As the earth shifts, benches are formed, natural water courses are interrupted, and small sag ponds develop. As our route steadily dropped to the level of Stevens Creek, our view up to the west and Skyline Ridge was a constant reminder that this downhill interlude would soon be replaced by a sustained uphill climb. Passing by the Grizzly Flat Trail, we arrived at Stevens Creek in .4 miles. Over the creek, we could see Table Mountain Trail [Upper Stevens Creek County Park], our ticket out of the canyon, but first, how to cross the swollen creek and stay dry. Fortunately, we found a log over the water a few hundred feet upstream, and one by one, we scooted on the log to the opposite shore.

The climb back to Skyline is 3.1 miles, mostly along the alternate trail, which is for hikers only. The hiking is always up, but a pleasant mixture of firs, madrones, bays, and oaks with intermittent grassy areas and distant views. The trail actually crosses a "table" or level area about halfway up. Nearing Skyline Boulevard (listen for traffic noise) is a junction with the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Turn right on the Ridge Trail, and continue for .3 mile to Skyline Boulevard and Gate LR01 [Long Ridge Open Space Preserve].

After a short climb to the ridge, we turned right and began to enjoy the distant views to the west. We skirted around stone outcroppings, an ideal place for a picnic with views and only a short distance from the highway, doubled back through forest, and then hiked back

(cont'd on page 14)

(South Skyline - from page 13)

onto the Ridge Trail, which traverses the hillside. We passed the intersection with Hickory Oaks Trail and continued .2 miles to the intersection with Ward Road. In another .1 mile, the Ridge Trail turns right (Ward Road left), but we continued straight along the hillside to a stone bench built to the memory of Wallace Stegner, the award-winning novelist and environmentalist.

From there, the trail moves down into Peters Creek drainage basin for 1.5 miles before intersecting with the Ridge Trail. Turning left, we hiked along the grassy hillside into Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, past the Christmas tree farm and on to the parking lot.

A fitting close to this adventure would have been a hike around Horseshoe Lake, but it was 6:30 p.m. and growing dark, so this tired team of hikers were in no mood to extend the day for any reason. And so it ended--20 miles--nine hours--and enough memories to last until we visit this "Hiking Paradise" again.

Directions: Take Page Mill Road west to the intersection with Skyline Boulevard. Or take Highway 92 west to Skyline Boulevard, then south 20 miles to the intersection with Page Mill and Alpine roads. Continue on Skyline another mile, and turn right into the Skyline Ridge parking lot. Turn right and park in farthest lot north, at the base of the hill. Grade: Strenuous. Cumulative elevation gain is 2,000 feet plus. Distance: 20 miles. Time: Eight to 10 hours. Special Conditions: This is a long hike. The trails are good, but sometimes steep and sometimes muddy. There is one difficult stream-crossing (Stevens

Creek). There is no potable water, so carry a good supply and a purifier or safe water tablets for use if necessary. Take a flashlight in case your hike lasts longer than expected. Maps: Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula (Trail Center), South Skyline Region (MROSD); USGS 7.5'quad Mindego Hill.

The six preserves are managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (650-691-1200). Upper Stevens Creek County Park is operated by Santa Clara County (408-358-3741).



(Midsummer - from page 1)

salito, and return by ferry. You can reduce the mileage by driving to Crissy Field and taking the loop from that point.

From Crissy Field, walk west along the Bay Trail. This is a world-class wind-surfing area with nice sandy beaches. In the 1920s Crissy Field was an airfield for the Army and was the West Coast base for the first daylight transcontinental flight.

At the end of the Promenade, under the south anchorage of the Golden Gate Bridge, is Fort Point. You will want to spend some time here or come back later. Wide brick arches, spiral stairs, and views of the Golden Gate, plus the tools of war--mid 1800s style--make this a fascinating place for photographers and historians.

The trail to the bridge is opposite the U.S. Park Service administrative office for Fort Point. A sign points to the bridge and to Fort Point, and a stairway leads up to a series of paths and to the bridge. The uphill slope along the stairway features beautiful, wild nasturtiums in brilliant color from yellow to deep orange. Along the path to the bridge overlooking the Bay is Battery East, a three-quarter mile of earth berm with masonry enforcement built to guard the Bay in 1870.

The 1.2-mile walk on the Golden Gate Bridge can be a bone-chilling experience or a warm stroll in the afternoon sun. We've had it both ways, but it's always interesting. The tourists, views, rumbling traffic, and the fog-shrouded towers produce an atmosphere like none other. We've watched hundreds of fishing boats and windsurfers near the south tower, waved good-bye to our son leaving on a Coast Guard cutter from the center span, and never fail to enjoy the views in any weather. Don't try to predict the bridge: it's a place to experience moment by moment.

Beyond the north tower parking lot is the Bay Trail down to East Fort Baker. We doubled under the north anchorage of the bridge, which resembles a giant erector set. The

(cont'd on page 15)

(Midsummer - from page 14)

trail soon levels out at water's edge and skirts the southern edge of this old Army post. This part of the walk is filled with splendid views, but some of the best are from the water's edge in front of the Coast Guard Station Golden Gate.

Continue on the road next to the small boat dock area between two small buildings to a sign that reads "Presidio Yacht Club." Turn left and continue a short distance to the San Francisco Bay Children's Discovery Center. At the entrance, turn right up a gravel road, and follow this path up a stairway to East Road. Continue on East Road--with great views of Angel Island and Tiberon), and walk into Sausalito via Alexander Street, Second Street, and Bridgeway. Once in Sausalito, check the ferry departure times for the Red and White Ferry to Pier 43 1/2 [Note: As of July 2000, there is no Red and White

Ferry service to San Francisco from Sausalito. The Blue and Gold Fleet offers ferry service between Sausalito and Pier 41 in San Francisco — Ed.]. The Golden Gate Ferry also serves Sausalito, but it docks at the Ferry Building. As time permits, enjoy the Sausalito scene of food, drink, shopping, or just people-watching.

If you drove in and parked at Crissy Field or Fisherman's Wharf, return on the Red and White Ferry to Pier 43 1/2. If you took the train, return on either ferry, but we suggest the Golden Gate Ferry, which docks at the Ferry Building if you don't intend to spend more time in the City. This will cut a mile or so from your walk back to the train.

Of all our city walks, we enjoy this one the most. So much to see and so much to do.

Directions: By car: Park at Crissy Field or anywhere in the Fisherman's Wharf area. From the Penin-

sula, take Highway 280 to 19th Avenue. Continue on 19th through Golden Gate Park, through the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Tunnel, and exit the next right turn. Stay in the right lane and follow signs to Crissy Field parking. By train: Board CalTrain anywhere along the Peninsula. At the end of the line, continue along King Street two blocks to the Embarcadero. Grade: Easy to moderate. Distance: By car, nine miles; by train, 14 miles. Time: Plan to spend a full day. Five hours minimum, depending on the ferry schedule. Special Conditions: Be ready for cool, foggy, windy weather near the bay and on the bridge. Maps: Any detailed map of San Francisco ; NPS San Francisco Presidio, Fort Mason, Marin Headlands; NUSGS 7.5'quad San Francisco North.

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## Become a Member and Support Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area:

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### I Would Like To Volunteer:

Trail Building     Trail Advocacy  
 Map Making     Newsletter  
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 Office Assistance     Fundraising  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

check if you want email notification of Trail Center events (1-3 times a month)

### Here is my Annual Membership Fee:

\$25 Individual     \$100 Sustaining  
 \$35 Family     \$250 Patron  
 \$50 Contributing     \$1000 Benefactor

Please return to:

Trail Center  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

# Upcoming Trail Center Events

august 19 - Slate  
Creek Trail, Portola  
Redwoods State Park

We're planning the second of two days of trail maintenance projects in Portola Redwoods SP, with camping available on the preceding night. On August 19, Community Impact will join us for a day of repair on the Slate Creek Trail as we clean up debris, repair pig damage, rehabilitate retaining walls and improve drainage.

Entrance and camping will be free for participants, but reservations with the Trail Center four days before the event will be required for camping. If you are interested in working on this project, please register with Community Impact (650) 965-0242.

september 23 - Sky-  
line Trail (Bay Area  
Ridge Trail), Sanborn-  
Skyline County Park

Join us on September 23 for a day of maintenance on the south end of the Skyline Trail, between the Sanborn Trail junction and Sunnyvale Mountain Picnic Area in Sanborn-Skyline County Park. We'll be cutting back brush, improving trail tread and repair erosion damage. Meet at Sunnyvale Mountain parking on Skyline Boulevard (Hwy 35) (approx. 7 miles south of Hwy 9 junction). If we finish early, we'll take an optional hike on our new Castle Rock Trail reroute at Castle Rock State Park.

TBD - Wilbur's Watch  
Trail, Cloverdale Coastal  
Ranch

Peninsula Open Space Trust expects to receive final approval for the Wilbur's Watch Trail and small trailhead parking lot in the Cloverdale Coastal Ranch by early October. The 3/4 mile trail will climb a coastal terrace overlooking Pigeon Point from the lot located just off Hwy 1, and will end at a vista point with a grand view of the point and the northern Santa Cruz coastline. POST, Community Impact and the Trail Center will construct the trail on October 21 or November 4 (date to be determined), with camping or other accommodations for the preceding night provided nearby.

Call (650) 968-7065 for more information  
or email [info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org)



The Trail Center  
3921 E. Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

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