



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 is on February 27 at Pacheco State Park

Pacheco State Park is a relatively young park which opened in 1997 and not yet well-known or frequently used. Although the total park area is 6,890 acres only the western 2,600 acres are open for public use at this time with 28 miles of trails. This is really rugged country and the trails are mostly fire roads with some limited single-track in the park. There are lots of ups and downs but not too much technical stuff. It will test your stamina.

This park has beautiful scenic vistas and displays of gorgeous spring wildflowers which include; miner's lettuce, goldfields, fiddleneck, popcorn flower, gilia, johnny-jump-ups, blue dicks, lomatia, santicle, and shooting star. Its home to tule elk, deer, bobcat, coyote, fox, several hawks, golden eagles. Cattle continue to graze on the ranch in the winter and spring months.

Pacheco State Park is the last remaining portion of the Mexican land grant, El Rancho San Luis Gonzaga. Francisco Pacheco and his son Juan were granted the property and built the first house in Merced County on this land in 1843. The land remained in the Pacheco family through five generations until Paula Fatjo, the great-great granddaughter of Francisco Pacheco, donated the land in 1992 to be a park.

This will be a memorable hike which you should definitely join. Call our hike leader Vivian at 408-238-3388 for more details, otherwise, we'll see you there!

Support Our Trail Maintenance Groups

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

Big Basin:	Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and Mar. 12	leader Jeff Bleam -	(831) 338-0774
Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail:	Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and Mar. 12	leader Al Lisin -	(408) 252-8106
Castle Rock:	Jan. 15, Feb. 19 and Mar. 19	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).
For trail maintenance: Wear long pants, boots, and long sleeved shirt and bring gloves, lunch and liquid.

January 2, Sunday: Marin Headlands— Meet at south end of Chrissy Field at 9:30. Hike across Bridge and take Coastal Trail Loop ... 10 miles give or take. Heavy rain will cancel. Todd Patterson (831) 239-6618. Carpool from Page Mill/280 at 8:30.

January 8, 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.

January 8, 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).

January 9, Sunday: Sam McDonald and Pescadero Creek County Parks— Meet at the ranger station at Sam McDonald Park at 9:30 AM or no-host carpool from Page Mill Park and 280 at 8:45 AM. For the optional overnight on Saturday we will meet at the Sam McDonald ranger station at 3:00 PM for a one and one-half mile backpack to the Hikers Hut. Call Mark Bowden at (408) 735-8736.

January 15, 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.

January 16, Sunday: Coyote Lake County Park— Down by the lake and up into Harvey Bear. Meet at 9:30 in lot between San Ysidro and Sandy Beach Picnic Areas (boat-launch) or carpool from Cottle/85 at 9:00. The hike starts from the Calaveras trailhead 0.2 miles northwest from parking. Hike will start northward along Calaveras, westward on Harvey Bear, down along Townsprings, and Savannah Trails (9.5 mile loop). Shorter itineraries in the event of inclement weather during the hike. Extreme muddy conditions

cancel; alternative hike to be provided, weather permitting. Valerie Chataignier(408) 292-2725/966-1598(cell)

Directions: Coyote Lake - From U.S. Highway 101 in Gilroy, take the Leavesley Road exit. Proceed east on Leavesley Road 2 miles to New Avenue. Proceed north on New Avenue .5 miles to Roop Road. Proceed 3.5 miles east on Roop Road into the foothills past the Mendoza Ranch entrance. Turn left into the park and proceed one mile north to the entrance station and visitor center.

January 23, Sunday: Sunol Regional Park— Great views. 10-12 miles, approx. 2500' elevation gain. Meet 8:45 A.M. at Middlefield and Rengstorff, at Meridian/Parkmoor by the Post Office at 8:45 or 9:30 at park headquarters. Moderate to strenuous. Rain will cancel. Mary Ellen Quinn (408) 885-0184. We could visit Bosco's afterwards.

January 30, Sunday: Big Basin Redwoods State Park— Hike up Middle Ridge returning by the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. We follow the Dool Trail to Middle Ridge Fire Trail, then Hollow Tree Trail to Basin Trail and back on Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. 9.67 miles and 1,800' elevation gain. Meet at BBRSP HQ at 9:30 or carpool from Saratoga (behind La Fondue) at 8:30. Leader is Ellen (408) 267-6456.

February 6, Sunday: Baylands and Stevens Creek Trail—This will be a true flatlander's hike, the highest elevation being the pedestrian bridge over Central Expressway and the Caltrain tracks. Meet behind the Tied House pub in Mountain View at 9:15 for a car shuttle to Byxbee Park by the old Palo Alto dump. We will hike Palo Alto Baylands, Mountain View Shoreline Park and the Stevens Creek Trail. The distance is about 10 miles and the leader is Martin Donald (650) 966-1984. Rain will cancel. After the hike we will plan next quarter's hikes over lunch at the Tied House, so please bring your calendar for April/May/June and your ideas for hikes you would like to lead.

February 12, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Join Jeff Bleam again for some more enjoyable

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trail maintenance at Big Basin. *See January 8 entry for details.*

February 12, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lisin at (408) 252-8106 for more information.

February 13, Sunday: Hidden Villa Farm and Wilderness Preserve— Hike 8 miles of creek-side trails with a loop through Duveneck Windmill Pasture. Heavy rain cancels. Carpool from Page Mill & 280 at 9:10 or meet at Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills (fee for parking), ready to hike at 9:30. Leader is Cathy Howard (650) 966-1850.

February 19, 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 January 15 entry.*

February 20, Sunday: Butano State Park— This is a moderate 9-mile loop up Jackson Flats & Canyon Trails to the BLLS. Meet at park entrance kiosk at 9:30 or Page Mill & 280 Park & Ride at 8:15. Call Butano State Park— This is a moderate 9-mile loop up Jackson Flats & Canyon Trails to the BLLS. Meet at park entrance kiosk at 9:30 or Page Mill & 280 Park & Ride at 8:15. Call Carolyn Courtney (408) 379-1853. Don't forget that there's artichoke garlic herb bread at the Pescadero Market afterwards.

February 27, Sunday: Pacheco State Park— A moderate 10 mile hike. Expect to see spectacular wildflower displays. We will take the Dinosaur Lake Trail to Canyon Loop to South Boundary Loop and return on the Spikes Peak Trail. Meet at the parking lot near the park entrance off Dinosaur Point Road at 9:30 AM or carpool from the Park and Ride Lot at Cottle Road and Hwy 85 at 8:30 AM. Rain cancels. Call Vivian Jung at (408) 238-3388 for more information.

March 6, Sunday: Russian Ridge— An easy 8 mile hike in Russian Ridge and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserves with early wildflower viewing. Rain cancels. Carpool from Page Mill and 280 Park and Ride at 9:00 AM or meet at the Russian Ridge Parking lot at Skyline and Alpine Road at 9:30 AM. Call Janet McCarron at (408)245-1519 for more information.

March 12, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Meet Jeff Bleam (831) 338-0774 at park headquarters at 9:00 AM. *See January 8 entry.*

March 12, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lisin (408) 252-8106 for more information.

March 13, Sunday: Uvas Canyon— A moderate 10 mile hike. Meet at the main parking lot at the park at 9:30 AM or carpool from the Park and Ride at Highway 85 and Cottle Road at 8:40 AM. Heavy rain cancels. Call Mark Bowden at (408) 735-8736 or Ed La Pointe at (408) 243-7194.

March 19, 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 January 15 entry.*

March 20, Sunday: Sprig Lake/Mt. Madonna County Park— a moderate 9 mile hike with approx 1,800ft elevation gain. Meet at the at the Sprig Lake parking lot, just off highway 152, at 9:30 A.M. or carpool from the Park and Ride at Highway 85 and Cottle Road at 8:45 A.M. Heavy rain cancels. Call Ed La Pointe at (408) 243-7194.

March 27, Sunday: Pleasanton Ridge Regional park— Climb 1200' past giant oak, bay and sycamore groves to the ridge, viewing Livermore Valley and Altamont Pass to the east, Diablo and Sunol Parks to north and south, and a hidden canyon to the west. Continue north on the ridge and loop back for 10 miles total. Meet at 9:30 at the parking lot west of Fwy 680: Go 1/2 mi. W. from Castlewood Dr. exit, then 1/2 mi. S. on Foothill Rd or meet for carpooling at Rengstorff & Middlefield at 8:45. Led by Martin Donald, (650) 966-1984.

Save these dates:

April 2-3: Please mark your calendars for a weekend of casmping and hiking at the Pinnacles!

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS TRAIL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 2011