

areas. Expect a good hike, as our host is Tom D and the word "mount" in the name should warn you. Level 3, 700 vertical feet, 5½ miles. Allow an hour for the drive. There's a covered pavillion for the meeting in case of light rain, but because of the exposure of hilltop sites and backcountry road conditions, stormy weather will cancel the trip.

December 13, 2003

Portola Redwoods State Park

Neglected last year for some reason, Portola Redwoods is back. It is relatively close and easy at Level 2½, 500 vertical feet, and 5 miles, and offers pleasant, sheltered hiking by a rushing creek under the big trees. If you like car camping, this smaller and less-known park is a good place for it, and the drive over the skyline crest and down into the canyon is especially scenic. This is also a good staging area for hikes in several adjoining State and San Mateo County parks. Who knows where our host, Mike V., will take us. Take Hwy 17 south to Hwy 9, through the hard left in Saratoga and all the way up the hill. Turn right onto Skyline (Hwy 35) at the crest, go 8-9 miles and turn left on Alpine Rd. Fork left onto Portola State Park Rd., and meet at the Visitor Center.

December 27, 2003

Ano Nuevo State Reserve

The elephant seal nursery was interesting last year, and people said they enjoyed it even though we hiked right into the teeth of a Pacific storm. Turns out the State Reserve reservation system is very inflexible with very in-demand hikes like this. Oh well. The very next Saturday: blue skies, golden sunshine, and mild temperatures. So we'll try our luck again this year. Sunshine or storm, we're going. Level 1½, 300', 4 miles. It costs \$5, sign up in advance with Jennifer, check the forecast, and dress for the weather! Coffee at the bakery in Davenport, 10:00 meeting at Greyhound Rock a few miles before Ano Nuevo, on Hwy 1 north of Santa Cruz. Drive time is 75 minutes.

www.wildrecovery.org has pictures, maps, much more information, and any needed updates and corrections to our printed schedule. Check the website before you head out to a hike.

Contact Us

Secretary Anna J (408) 806-7675 annaj@wildrecovery.org

Call Anna if you would like to carpool to meetings.

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Wild Recovery

August - Dec 2003
Saturdays, 10:00 AM
www.wildrecovery.org



August 9, 2003

Castle Rock State Park

Castle Rock is adaptable enough for a successful visit in any season, and we've done them all. Winter snow, the fresh, green vitality of spring, the coolness of mountaintop summer air, and the crisp temperatures of autumn all suit this fairly long 5½ mile, 1200', Level 3 walk. Bring water and wear boots. Trekking poles, sunscreen, DEET, and a snack may help you. Take Hwy 17 south, Hwy 9 to the hard left in Saratoga, left at Skyline (Hwy 35) on the crest. The park is a few miles down on the right. Early birds can park free on the road, or else pay to park in the lot. Get a trail map so you don't go astray. Take Saratoga Gap Trail to the trail camp turnoff, return on Ridge Trail. Drive time is 45 minutes.

August 23-24, 2003

River Rafting Retreat, Valley of the Rogue

Oregon is far enough away to be special and different, and beautiful enough to be worth the effort. This very popular river float is like one the local Area sponsors every year. Drive time is 8 hours (take a day off and travel on the Friday), camping is at Valley of the Rogue State Park just past Medford. Early on the Saturday, we set out for 8 hours of floating down the Rogue River Gorge on 12-man rubber rafts, complete with life vests and dry bags. Optional hike on Sunday. Bring food and camping gear. Adults \$40, kids \$20, includes camping and rafting. Details are on www.wildrecovery.org. Sign up with our Treasurer, Jennifer, and call Anna if you want to carpool. Our only retreat ever with no hiking.

September 6, 2003

Sanborn-Skyline County Park

Secretary's Choice for 2003, this park in the lower reaches of the Santa Cruz Mountains is easy to get to and offers a pleasant hike in the forested hills. Wear boots, and be prepared to climb a bit. Take Hwy 17

south, Hwy 9 through the hard left in Saratoga, and drive a few miles up into the hills. The signed turnoff is to the left. Meet at the main parking lot, parking is \$4, and get the free trail map. (It's smart to always have a trail map on your person when you enter the backcountry). Drive time is 30 minutes. Our hosts are Anna J. and Susan D.

September 20, 2003

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park Day Trip

Big Sur is just at the limit of what we consider a reasonable drive time for a day trip, at 2 hours. With its perfect September weather, mist-shrouded redwoods (you'll recognize the place from books and posters), beach waterfall, ocean cliffs and dramatic views it is well worth the effort, and a lovely drive besides. Be sure to go to the right park: Julia Pfeiffer Burns is about 15 miles past Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Take Hwy 17 south to Hwy 1 south, and go about 35 miles past Carmel. The McWay Creek entrance is on the left, parking is \$2. It's the big parking lot overlooking the waterfall. Take Ewoldsen Trail uphill, go right at the fork (it's a loop). The ridgetop meeting site offers sweeping Pacific views. Boots, water, trekking poles, lunch, camera, no dogs in the State Parks. 5½ miles, 1300 vertical feet, Level 3½. Our hosts are John and Diane from Santa Cruz fellowship.

October 3-5, 2003

Sunset-Manressa Retreat Weekend

This is an easy retreat weekend that won't break the bank or wear out the car. Camping Friday and Saturday at the environmental sites of Manressa Uplands (park in the lot and walk in about 200 feet), a 10:00 AM hike Saturday at Forest of Nisene Marks State Park (Level 2, 400', 4½ miles), a sunset beach bonfire meeting at Sunset State Beach, open to the fellowship. Details at wildrecovery.org. Adults \$20, kids \$10, bring food, camping gear, dry firewood. **Manressa Uplands:** Take Hwy 17 south, go south on Hwy 1, exit at Freedom Dr., cross freeway, go left (south) on San Andreas/Bonita Dr. to Manressa State Beach. Get map/ windshield tag, continue to Manressa Uplands campground. **Nisene Marks:** Take Hwy 17 south to Summit Rd. exit, cross the freeway, go south and turn right on Soquel-San Jose Rd. At Soquel Dr. turn left to the signed Nisene park entrance, at Aptos Creek Rd. on the left. **Sunset State Beach:** Same directions as Manressa, except pass Manressa turnoff and continue to right turn onto Sunset Beach Rd. Call our retreat host, Jennifer N., to sign up.

October 18, 2003

Grant Ranch

Take Capitol Expressway to Quimby and go east. Once the strip malls and suburbs are behind you, views are spectacular, though you will need to keep your eyes on the rather narrow road. Turn right at Mt. Hamilton Blvd., and go several miles until you see the Twin Gates parking area on your

left. The brown sign is prominent, you won't miss it. Allow an hour for the drive on the mountain roads. We'll take Canada de Pala Trail to our meeting spot at Antler Point, 8 miles roundtrip, 1100', Level 3½. The climb is gradual, the views are expansive, big sky, clean air, an outstanding trip overall, right under the telescopes. Bring water and a snack, wear boots and dress in layers, and you may want sunscreen. Light showers are ok (dress for it), but stormy or very windy weather will cancel this trip. Use your low gears to slow down on the drive down the hill and avoid overusing your brakes, so they don't burn up.

November 1, 2003

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

"Beautiful mountain," pretty much says it. People loved this trip last year. 4 miles, 800', level 2½, the walk is over the ridge, down into a pretty canyon, and back up. Parking is free at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve parking lot. Take Hwy 17 south to Hwy 9, through the hard left in Saratoga and all the way up the hill. Turn right onto Skyline (Hwy 35) at the crest, and go 8-9 miles. Look for the Skyline Ridge MROSD sign on the left. The very pleasant drive takes 50 minutes. Trail maps are free, so take one with you. An easy backpack trip at Monte Bello Trail Camp is an overnight option if you want, with the lights of the Valley at your feet and a hike on the easy, gorgeous and secluded Black Mountain Trail the next morning.

November 15, 2003

Hidden Villa

Tucked into the steep hills behind Rancho San Antonio, this private preserve is not well known. Yet it is very wild and lovely once the ranch and hostel buildings are left behind, and our host Susan D. has picked a nice hike for us. This kind of sheltered canyon is the sort of place we prefer for the cool season anyway, since summertime gets very warm here indeed, and the exposed hilltop trails are, well, too exposed. Take 280 south to El Monte, cross the freeway and proceed to Moody Road (El Monte's new name once it passes Foothill College). The signed entrance is on the left, a few miles down. The property adjoins Monte Bello Open Space, so it may be more familiar than you think.

November 29, 2003

Mt. Madonna County Park

Has your turkey coma worn off yet? Good, time to walk off some of that holiday overindulgence. Fresh and virginal as far as the Wild Recovery list goes, Mt. Madonna is a hilltop park in the Santa Cruz Mountains west of Gilroy. The easiest route may be to take Hwy 101 south to Gilroy and go west on Hwy 152 to the signed entrance on the first crest. It is an unsurprising, but very pleasant, kind of place with very nice woods, open meadows, some pretty good trails, reasonable campgrounds and picnic