



Ventana Chapter ~ VentanaSierraClub.org Hikes and Outings for Monterey/Carmel & Santa Cruz November & December, 2016 ~ Contact leader to reserve a spot

This is a current listing of the Outings. Please refer to the website: VentanaSierraClub.org for any additions or changes, and contact the leader for a reservation as most outings are weather dependent. Note that some may require a small fee for transportation

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Hike: Toro County Park

Our 6-7 mile hike with about 800 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason Trail to oak dotted grasslands. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the dirt parking lot outside Toro Park at 9:30 am. Please let me know if you are coming. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Hike: Palo Corona Backcountry

Let's get in a good hike before daylight savings time kicks in. We'll hike somewhere in Palo Corona Regional Park, depending on trail conditions and availability. Tentatively, we'll shuttle our cars - entering through Garrapata State Park and exiting another trailhead. Expect 12+ miles and 3000' of elevation gain. We'll probably get to examine areas damaged by the Soberanes Fire. This will be a fairly strenuous hike, so come prepared. Call me for more info. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Senior Saunter: Pleasure Point

A pleasant 2+ mile walk along the cliffs at Pleasure Point to Lake Moran Park, returning by a route through the neighborhood. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. To go direct, park in the small surfers' parking lot at the bottom of 41st Ave or at the roadside on Opal Cliff Dr. Bring lunch, water. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 831-475-6188.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Hike: Falling Leaves at Maple Falls, Nisene Marks

Join Andy Werner and Lynn Bomberger on this 8 mile Nisene Marks hike with 700 feet elevation gain. Our path takes us through a lovely forest along beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. If our timing is right, we will enjoy gently falling maple leaves around us as we relax for lunch at the falls. Agility is required. Bring water, lunch and money for a park pass. Arrive early; we depart at 8:40am from the far end of the parking lot in front of REI in Marina or depart from the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30am. Limit of 8. Contact leader Lynn Bomberger at 375-7777 for a reservation.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Hike: Pt. Lobos Wildlife Saunter

We'll start this approximately 5 mile leisurely hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the highway, walk down to Whalers' Cove, go north to Moss Beach and back to the top of Whaler's Knoll, returning via south coast trails. There is usually wildlife and birds to observe/identify. Bring binoculars if you wish. We may not be done until 1:30 pm. Meet at the Rio Road "Park and Ride" just east of Hwy. 1 at 9:30 am. There will be a short carpool to the start of the outing. Bring \$1 walk-in fee, lunch, and water. Please let me know if you are coming. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Senior Hike: Fall Creek

Shady 3 mile hike in redwood forest partly along a creek. Some moderate uphill, rocky in places. Lunch at limestone kilns. After lunch, we'll do another mile or so. Alternative shorter walk available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. or before 9:40 am in the Gateway Shopping Mall by the levee, between Ross and Petsmart. To go direct, cross from Graham Hill Rd to Felton Empire Rd in the center of Felton and drive half a mile to the Fall Creek parking lot on the right. No restrooms. Bring water, lunch, repellent, \$3/\$2 carpool. Leaders: Bev Meschi, 831-359-9961; Brooke Ewoldsen, 831-475-6188.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hike: Elkhorn Slough

Our 5-6 mile loop with minimal elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us along the tidal marshes of the slough. We should see birds and other wildlife, so bring your binoculars. Also, bring water and lunch and a credit card for the entrance fee (last time it was \$4.12). Meet near REI near highway 1 and Imjin Pkwy at 9:30 am or at 10:00 at the Elkhorn Slough visitor center. Heavy rain cancels. Please let me know if you are coming. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Hike: PG Shoreline and Monarch Sanctuary

Have the Monarch Butterflies returned to Pacific Grove? Let's find out on this easy 6 mile coastal walk. Meet at 10 am outside the Fishwife restaurant, 1996 Sunset Drive. We'll walk around Spanish Bay and along the coast to Rocky Shores, looking for birds and sea mammals. Then we'll head up to the Butterfly Sanctuary, returning via the old railroad trail. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the leaders' back yard (or indoors if it's cool) near the end of the walk. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Hike: Ft Ord National Monument

We'll do something off Inter Garrison Rd that will be 6-7 miles. The route isn't fixed yet, but maybe we'll visit the grave of the last ever cavalry horse (Comanche?). It should be sandy instead of muddy plus sun in case our rainy weather continues. Bring water and food. Meet on Main St in Soquel at 9:30 am to carpool and call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, (831) 462-3101.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Hike: Del Mesa Carmel to Jacks Peak Park

Join me in a new hike that begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From Del Mesa we'll hike into a seldom visited area, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. About 5 miles with ± 600 ft. elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. from Del Mesa. Call for a reservation and directions to the meeting location—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Senior Saunter: Pogonip Spring St

A 3.5 mile mostly level walk in Pogonip. We will take the Spring Trail to the lime kilns and back, visiting some unique stone labyrinths along the way. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. or at the top of Spring St. in Santa Cruz before 9:50 am. No Restrooms. No lunch arrangements. \$2 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 831-425-3845.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Hike: Old Coach Road to San Juan Bautista

We'll start on Crazy Horse Road, drive for a while on the Old Coast Road, park, and finally hike all the way over the hills and down to San Juan Bautista. After lunch and exploring the Mission and old town, back the same way. With about 12 miles and 1,000 feet elevation gain/loss at a leisurely pace, this is a good work-out. Bring a hat, water and lunch, or \$ for a sit down in a café, wear good shoes and bring your hiking poles. Meet at Home Depot in Seaside near the gas station at 9:00. Heavy rain cancels. Let me know if you are coming. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Hike: Henry Coe/ Hunting Hollow Entrance

This entrance is near Gilroy Hot Springs and is accessible from Leavesley Road off 101. We quickly ascend the steep Steer Ridge Trail to gain views of the area, then follow Steer Ridge (fire) Road. We make a short detour up to Wilson Peak, then follow the road to Wilson trail camp before we descend back to Hunting Hollow. Moderate hike with some steep sections, 1800' gain and 7 miles. Meet at Home Depot in Seaside, near the gas station on the left side, at 7:45 am; or at the Hunting Hollow parking lot by 9:00 am. Bring lunch, 2-3+ liters water, and a rain/wind jacket. Limited to 12 hikers, so please reply to CarolAndRandyHike@yahoo.com with your name and phone number, and we will call you. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Carol Greenstreet & Randy May.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Hike: Garzas Creek Complex

Let's make some room for that Thanksgiving turkey. We'll do those portions of East Garland Ranch in and around Garzas Creek. That includes Terrace Trail, Veeder, Garzas Creek, Redwood Canyon, and part of the East Ridge Trail. 7-8 miles with 2500' elevation gain. Great for newcomers to this area or those looking for a good workout. Shorter and longer versions possible. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9 am but call for a meeting place. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Senior Hike: Cowell Observation Deck

Hikers will have a 4 mile hike over the rolling hills of the Henry Cowell campground area to the observation deck to enjoy its commanding views. A shorter walk, about 2+ miles, will also be available. Meet before 9:30 am. at Sears on 41st Ave. or by the levee near Ross in the Gateway Mall at River St before 9:40 am. To go direct, hikers will meet the group in the parking area on Graham Hill Rd on the left side of the road going uphill, just past Sims Road, by 9:50 am. (This is about a mile before the campground entrance.) Walkers will meet inside the Main entrance on Graham Hill Rd. also by 9.50 am. They will use State Park passes and meet near the amphitheater. Bring snack, lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leaders: Perry Brohmer, 650-793-3987; Brooke Ewoldsen, 831-475-6188.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Hike: Mt. Defiance, Pinnacles Nat. Park

This is a moderate to strenuous out-and-back hike of about six miles beginning at 1707' elevation and rising to 2657' at the summit. Beginning at the Peaks View parking area (on the east side of the park), we hike briefly along the well-maintained South Wilderness Trail to our departure point. Then we proceed on an unmarked, unnamed, and unmaintained trail upward through mixed forest, chaparral, and bare rock to the summit. Expect panoramic views not usually seen elsewhere in the park and maybe a few condors soaring overhead. Bring 2-3 liters of water, sturdy boots, trekking poles, sun hat, sunscreen, and lunch. Meet at the Nob Hill Foods parking lot on the corner of Hwy 68 and Blanco Road at 8:00 AM to carpool to the east entrance of the park. Rain cancels. RSVP Leader: Stanley Dudek, sdudek829@gmail.com or call or text: 831-726-6200.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Senior Saunter: Wilder Cove Walk

3 mile walk on the Old Cove Landing Trail. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. or at Shen's Gallery at King & Mission St. before 9:50 am. To go direct, meet group in the parking lot for Wilder Ranch State Park one mile north of Santa Cruz on Hwy.1. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool and share of parking fee. Leader: Janet Schwind, 831-425-3845.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Hike: South Chalone Peak

Exploring the Pinnacles National Park from a different angle! This hike starts at Peaks View Parking lot and follows the South Wilderness Trail to the Pig Fence. From there up a steep climb along the Pig Fence to South Chalone Peak. We will be hiking on unmaintained trails and also off trail. Long pants, sturdy shoes, work gloves, 3 liter of water (minimum) and food are a must. The Sierra Club Hike Rating is: S 12 D. From Hollister drive south on CA 25 to the Pinnacles Park Entrance. Continue past the Visitor Center (toilets!!) and after another 1.5 miles you arrive at the Peaks View parking lot (on your left), where we meet at 8:00 am. Rain Cancels! RSVP: Hike Leader: Burkhard Siedhoff, 831-920-1803, burkhardsiedhoff@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Hike: Garland Park

An easy outing of 4-5 miles. We'll hike up to the Mesa via foothill trails, Buckeye and Waterfall, come back via Fern, Mesa, and Lupine Loop trails. Nice valley views, some steps, may be muddy. Meet at the Park & Ride on Rio Rd at 9 am for carpooling. Please call leader to reserve space, or if wanting to meet at Garland Park. Bring snack/ lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leader: Martha Saylor, 831-372-9215.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Hike: Jacks Peak

Our 6 mile loop with 700 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us along the quiet forested trails with some views of Carmel and Monterey Bay. Bring water and lunch. Meet near the Whole Foods store at 9:40 am for carpooling or at the West Parking Lot at Jacks Peak at 10 am. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Please let me know if you are coming. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Hike: Fort Ord Ramble

We'll explore some of the trails in the northern section of Fort Ord National Monument. Meet at 9:30 am in REI parking lot, Marina, for a short carpool to the Jerry Smith access point on Intergarrison Road. We'll walk at a leisurely pace for around 5 miles through hilly oak chaparral terrain. Bring water and a snack, we should be done by 1:30 pm. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Hike: Pogonip, Emma McCrary Trail

Let's see how this local trail does in the winter. I believe that it is 6 miles or so with 600 ft of elevation gain. And it may be muddy! Bring water and food. Meet at the Santa Cruz Gov't Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, (831) 462-3101.

All our hikes are offered FREE to the community. What better way to advocate for the natural world than to show it to you. Breathe in the salty pine scented air and take in the grand landscapes, and know there is no other place like this on earth. Sign up for one or more of our hikes and we'll show you our surrounding wilderness up close and make it personal. After you've enjoyed one of our hikes, please consider becoming a member and joining your 6000+ Monterey Bay neighbors in protecting these natural wonders for generations to enjoy.

Go to www.VentanaSierraClub.org and join for as little as \$15 a year.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Hike: Arroyo Seco

A winter hike, not a swim hike. We'll walk from the gate to Horse Bridge on a side trail high up with a view. Then back to the Arroyo Seco Road and eventually down to the old suspension bridge, cross and walk mildly uphill, to a wonderful rock formation high above the Horse Trail for our lunch break. Same way back. About 10 miles and 800' elevation gain/loss on a moderate pace. Bring lunch and water, wear good shoes and dress for all kind of weathers. Meet at Mid Valley Safeway opposite Chase bank at 9:00 a.m. for the one hour drive up Carmel Valley to the trailhead. People from Salinas and Santa Cruz could drive to the Park Entrance of Arroyo Seco and meet us there by 10:15. Confirm if you want to come and have more questions for directions. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Senior Saunter: San Juan Bautista

A walking tour of the historic town of San Juan Bautista, the Plaza and the old Mission buildings. A shorter walk is available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. Bring water, \$5 carpool, lunch, sit upon (or plan ahead to lunch at one of the local restaurants in San Juan Bautista.) Leaders: Irene Lennox, 831-457-2690; Brooke Ewoldsen, 831-475-6188.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Hike: Fairytale Fly Agarics of Del Monte Forest

Some years we get skunked and some years we're awestruck by the beauty of these amazing giant red mushrooms with white polka dots. Let's go see what's out there. Either way, we'll have a nice walk in a beautiful forest. Bring water; lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich. 5 miles, 750 ft. elevation gain. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am from the 'Haul Road' gate on Highway 68 in Pebble Beach. Call leader Lynn Bomberger for a reservation at 375-7777.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Hike: Fort Ord

Our 6 mile loop with about 700 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us uphill on Oilwell Road and back to the parking lot in a big loop down Guidotti Road. The area is wide open with minimal shade, so bring a hat as well as water and lunch. Meet at the new Fort Ord National Monument parking lot on highway 68, across the street from the Café on Hwy 68, at 9:30 am. Heavy rain cancels. Please let me know if you are coming. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Hike: Harper Canyon to Ollason Ranch (Toro Park)

We'll start at Harper Canyon gate, at the southern end of Toro Park and hike 9 miles with 2000+ feet elevation gain up the Harper Cyn. trail to Coyote Spring. From there we return via Redtail Canyon, the Roller Coaster, and stop at the Ollason Ranch site and down the Harper Hill trail to the trailhead gate. Expect wonderful back country views. Maybe a side trip to the airplane crash site. We'll meet at 8:30 am. For reservations, call me. Leader: Larry Parrish, 831-622-7455.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Senior Saunter: Carmel City Walk

This walk will start at the Carmel Mission and go through the Preserve to the Central Park on Ocean Ave for lunch and a look at the shops and holiday decorations, and then return by the same route. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. Bring lunch, water, \$6 carpool. Leaders: Bev Meschi, 831-475-4185; Brooke Ewoldsen, 831-475-6188.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Walk: Monterey History and Holiday walk

Our walk with little elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us through town with stops at the Royal Chapel, Colton Hall, the Custom House, and several of the old Adobes. Bring water and snack. Meet at the Monterey City Hall near the corner of Pacific and Madison at 9:30 am. Heavy rain cancels. Please let me know if you are coming. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Hike: Del Mesa Carmel to Jacks Peak Park

Join me in a new hike that begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From Del Mesa we'll hike into a seldom visited area, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. About 5 miles with ± 600 ft. elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. from Del Mesa. Call for a reservation and directions to the meeting location—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Senior Saunter: West Cliff

Three and a half mile roundtrip walk from Lighthouse Field to Natural Bridges. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. or by 9.50 am in the parking lot on West Cliff just left of the bathrooms. Bring water, \$2 carpool. Bring lunch or buy lunch at the new lunch counter next to the restrooms. Leader: Jean Harrison, 831-425-5447.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

New Year's Day Hike: Holt Road/Garland to my Place

Our traditional New Year's Hike takes us from the parking lot at Safeway's Mid Valley, carpooling to Garland Ranch, climb up to Snively's Ridge, although at a very moderate pace, and still a little higher to a sunny spot for lunch. Then we'll turn west all the way high up through Carmel Valley, down to Holt Road and back to most of our cars. But wait a minute, you are all invited to "Kaffee und Kuchen" at my place, Mid Valley Garden Homes #53, to celebrate the New Year. About 8 miles and 1,500' elevation gain/loss. Bring water and a light lunch, hiking sticks and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Mid Valley parking lot opposite Chase Bank at 10 a.m. Call to confirm. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Sierra Club Ventana Chapter's Trail Guide and Map to the Northern Los Padres Forest is available on line at REI for \$14.95 plus shipping at the link below. All proceeds from sales go to our Conservation work: <http://www.rei.com/product/616587/trail-guide-to-the-los-padre-national-forest-northern-section-trail-map-7th-edition>

The Chapter wants to thank all our Outings and Hike leaders for their years of service to the Club. Through them, our members are able to enjoy and explore our many parks and wilderness areas. In order to allow us to keep members updated on outings and hikes and attract new members, please send your email address to: chapter@VentanaSierraClub.org