



Ventana Chapter ~ VentanaSierraClub.org Hikes and Outings for Monterey/Carmel & Santa Cruz January & February, 2017 ~ 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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Walk: Asilomar-Pebble Beach Forest & Coast Loop

4 mile hike loop through Pebble Beach neighborhood, sand dunes and then to the coast trail. We go out and back to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk to Asilomar Blvd. Possible wildlife and/or migrating gray whales. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove at 9:30 a.m. Back about noon, bring snack and water. Call leader, Martha Saylor, 831-372-9215 to let her know you are coming.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Senior Saunter: Antonelli Pond

We will start our approx. 3 mile walk along the west side of Antonelli Pond to Terrace Point and then visit the Seymour Center. The walkers will stop for lunch at the picnic tables at the Center while the others continue on, stopping for lunch at the De Anza gazebo or back at Natural Bridges State Park. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. or on Delaware Ave. by entrance to Natural Bridges State Park by 9:50 am. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Jean Harrison 831-425-5447; Brooke Ewoldsen 831-475-6188.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Hike: Del Monte Forest

Our 4-5 mile loop with about 600 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us along quiet forested trails that are even pretty in fog. Trails can be muddy. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the parking area along highway 68 at the Haul Road between Skyline Forest and Forest Hill at 9:30 am. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650. Please let me know if you are coming.

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>

FRIDAY JANUARY 13

Hike: Buzzards Roost and Molera Headland

Starting outside Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, we'll hike up through redwood forest to Buzzards Roost viewpoint, 5 miles round trip and 700 ft elevation gain. The trees and plants on this trail suffered badly during the Dec 2013 Pfeiffer fire, and it is fascinating to observe the regeneration. After a picnic lunch by the Big Sur river we'll drive a few miles back up the road to Andrew Molera State Park. Here we'll walk the easy trail through the campground and out to the headland, 2 miles round trip. Bring lunch, water and \$ for your share of the park entrance fee. Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride at 9 am. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton 831-372-7427.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Hike: Henry Coe Loop

This 6.5 mile, 1600 foot elevation gain hike traverses the western ridges where beautiful old stands of ponderosa pine dominate along with gray (Digger) pine, giant Live oaks, blue, coast and canyon oaks plus huge, over 20 foot tall, big berry manzanita bushes. Also plentiful are pacific madrone, western sycamore, California bay laurel and California buckeye. Since we've been having early rains, it might be spring-ish green with a dash of wild flowers. Bring water, snacks, lunch, for a hike lasting 5 hours and carpool/park fee driver reimbursement money. Monterey Peninsula hikers meet at 9 AM at Marina Dunes Shopping Center (REI). Santa Cruz area hikers show up at the main park entrance off 101 at East Dunn. Please RSVP. Leader: Steve Jackson, 831-320-4561.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Hike: Fremont Older MidPen Park

This is a Sunnyvale open space preserve owned by MidPen. It is adjacent to Stevens Creek County Park. Fremont Older was an early 20th century journalist/ newspaper owner whose home is located on the property. Expect mostly sun and probably some mud if early January is wet. 5+ miles with 900 ft elevation gain. 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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Easy Hike: Fort Ord National Monument

The ides of January-will they bring us a sunny day with bright prospects? Let's check out the view from a mesa above Engineer Canyon and the Salinas River. This hike has moderate grades with minor elevation gain and not more than 3-5 miles. We'll meet at 10, mosey up to the mesa, enjoy our snacks up at the scenic view point and be back at our cars early afternoon. For more information and meeting point, call leader: Mary Gale, 831-626-3565.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Hike: Simas Peak (Toro Park) via Black Mountain Trail

Enjoy expansive views toward Skinner Ridge, Salinas Valley and Chalona Peaks on this 6-7 hour strenuous hike of about 12 miles and 3000'. Meet at the dirt parking area outside Toro Park at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, 2-3 liters water, rain/wind gear and headlamp. Heavy rain cancels. Limit 12 hikers, so please reply to CarolAndRandyHike@yahoo.com with your name and phone number, and we will call you. Leaders: Randy May & Carol Greenstreet.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Senior Saunter: Pinto Lake

Approx. 3 miles through an oak and madrone forest, mostly on level ground with some low rolling hills. A shorter walk will be available. We'll lunch in picnic grounds. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy 1 south to Airport Blvd exit. Continue on Airport Blvd, crossing Freedom Blvd to 2nd traffic light, Green Valley. Go left and continue on Green Valley past Pinto Lake City Park to Pinto Lake COUNTY Park on the left. Park at the end near the Gazebo. Rain cancels. Bring water, lunch, \$3 carpool. Leaders: Denise Lucy 831-728-6552; Brooke Ewoldsen 831-475-6188.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Mount Madonna Fetid Adder's Tongue Hike

It's a stinky little flower but an exciting one since it's one of the first of the new year! Let's see if the intriguing Fetid Adder's Tongue is blooming at Mount Madonna. If not, we'll have a nice hike in a lovely forest. We'll do about a 4 mile loop with approximately 800 ft. elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. from the far end of the parking lot in front of REI in Marina or from Sprig Recreation Area at 10:35am. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger at 831-375-7777 with wildflower enthusiast Andy Werner.

THURSDAY, JAN 19

Hike: Fort Ord West

Our 5-6 mile loop with about 600 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us uphill on one of the many trails to a bench with an overlook. The area has some shade, but also wide open trails, so bring a hat as well as water and a snack. Many of the trails have deep water channels, so good shoes are recommended. Meet at the parking lot for the Jerry Smith Access Corridor on Inter-Garrison Rd, near Schoonover Rd. at 9:30 am. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650. Please let me you if you are coming.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21,

Hike: Andrew Molera State Park

This is a loop hike of 7.5 miles and a total elevation gain of 1300 ft. with one steep stretch and otherwise moderate to nearly level hiking at an easy pace. We will cross open grassland into shady redwoods and oaks out into sunny chaparral and panoramic vistas, including our first ocean views (& maybe Condors). Bring 2 liters of water, sturdy boots, trekking poles, sun hat, sun screen, and lunch. Also bring \$5.00 carpool gas contribution and plan to pay a share of the \$10.00 per car entrance fee. Meet at Rio Road Park and Ride in Carmel at 9:00 AM. Rain cancels. RSVP Leader: Stanley Dudek, sdudek829@gmail.com or 831-726-6200.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Hike: Huckleberry Hill (Point Lobos East)

A short but interesting jaunt up to Huckleberry Hill on the east side of Point Lobos. 5 miles with 600' of elevation gain, through a variety of coastal ecosystems. Bring water, lunch, and optional camera for unique views of Point Lobos. Maybe we'll spot a Gowan Cypress or two along the way. Meet at 10:00 AM near the Bagel Bakery near Lucky in Carmel Rancho. Leader: Larry Parrish 831-622-7455.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Senior Hike: Wilder, Bike Path and Hill

Approx. 3 mile walk to Wilder ranch buildings and then up the hill beyond. Return to horse corral, cowboy cabin and lunch at the orchard before returning on the bike path. A shorter, level walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. or before 9:50 am at the trailhead just off of Hwy. 1 at Shaffer (last left turn as you leave Santa Cruz, just after Natural Bridges/Western Drive.) Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Perry Brohmer 650-793-3987; Jean Harrison 831-425-5447.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Hike: Jacks Peak

We'll walk around Jacks Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near Monterey airport). A moderate hike of about 7 miles with less than 1,000' elevation gain/loss but with some beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, dribble doesn't count. Wear clothes for the winter weather. Confirm by calling a few days before. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 831-624-1467.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Hike: 5 miles at Pinnacles National Park (West Entrance via Soledad)

The hike starts at the Chaparral Picnic Area up Juniper Canyon Tr. to High Peaks Tr. From there we cross on the High Peaks Tr. over to Tunnel Tr. (If you have problems with hight, this is not your hike!) On Tunnel Tr. we hike to Juniper Canyon Tr. and then back to the Chaparral Picnic Area. Meeting place: 9:00 AM Pinnacles Natl. Park (West Entrance). As you enter the park you will see the new Chaparral Ranger Station. There is an entrance fee at that point. However you most likely will need to pay after the hike. Continue on for 2 miles to the Chaparral parking area. Bring 2 liters of water! Difficulty: Moderate for distance and elevation gain. Total elevation 1400 ft. Mileage: 5.0 miles. Time: 3-4 hours. For RSVP please call Burkhard Siedhoff at 831-920-1803.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

Senior Saunter: Asilomar North

A 3 mile loop from Asilomar, north along the coast to Pt. Pinos Lighthouse and return on the grassy 'dog run' near the residential area. Possible diversion to Monarch butterfly preserve. Walkers group will follow a similar route. Bring lunch to eat at Asilomar. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy 1 south and exit at 68 West off ramp and meet at Fishwife Restaurant by 10:30 am. Bring lunch, \$6 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Irene Lennox 831-457-2690; Brooke Ewoldsen 831-475-6188.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Hike: Garzas Creek of Garland Ranch

Escape your daily grind; slip into serene oak and redwood forests. Unwind with a few other happy hikers and some very quiet woodrats along the Garzas Canyon and Terrace trails. 4 miles, 800 ft. elevation gain with flora & fauna stops and possibly four creek crossings (depending on water level). Bring a lunch and water. Arrive early; we depart from Garland's main parking lot at 10am. We should return around 2pm. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 831-375-7777.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Walk: Point Lobos

We'll start this 5 mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the highway, walk down to Whaler's Cove, go north to Moss Beach, back to visit the Whalers' Cabin, then on to the top of Whaler's Knoll and return via south coast trails. There may be migrating whales and other wildlife to look for. Meet at the Rio Road, Carmel "Park and Ride" just east of Hwy 1 at 9:30 am. Back about 1:30 pm. There will be a short carpool to start of the outing. Bring snack, water, and binoculars if you like for close-ups of the animal life. Call leader, Martha Saylor, 831-372-9215 to let her know you are coming.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Senior Hike: New Brighton Beach

This walk is along the beach in front of New Brighton State Park to Sea Cliff State Park. We'll return to New Brighton, go up the cliff, steep but not too long, then back to New Brighton Park for lunch. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 exit at Park Ave. go right to Kennedy Ave. and turn right for parking along the street to meet before 9:45 am. Bring water, lunch, \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Irene Lennox 831-457-2690; Brooke Ewoldsen 831-475-6188.

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, FEBRUARY 12

Hike: Pinnacles Nat. Park, North & South Chalone Peaks

Amazing views and rock formations are the visual rewards for this hike made moderately strenuous by a strong pace required due to winter's short daylight. The map says only 3.8 miles from Moses Springs Trailhead parking lot to North Chalone Pk, but it seemed further to me. North Pk to South Pk is about .8 mi down 700 ft and about 1 mi steeply up 675 ft along the park perimeter pig fence requiring leather work gloves to assist pulling oneself up along the barbed wire. This is the strenuous part. Total distance out & back is 11.6 to 12 miles with an elevation gain of 2600 to 2700 feet. Bring lunch and minimum of 2 liters of water, and a head light or flashlight. Monterey Peninsula hikers meet at 8 AM at Marina Dunes Shopping Center (REI); Others, meet at the Moses Springs Trailhead by 9:15 AM. Use the east park entrance off Hwy 25 about 30 miles south of Hollister. RSVP Leader: Steve Jackson, 831-320-4561. Usual driver gas and park fee reimbursements apply if car pooling.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Senior Hike: Manzanita Park

This is a moderately hilly 3.25 mile hike in North Monterey County. See ocean and Fremont Peak on a clear day. Lunch at picnic tables in park. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave., or at Manzanita Park. Call leader for directions. Restrooms. Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bev Meschi 831-475-4185; Brooke Ewoldsen 831-475-6188.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Hike: Toro County Park

Our 6-7 mile hike with about 800 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace takes us through an 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. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650. Please let me you if you are coming.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Hike: Pinnacles Juniper Canyon Loop

This spectacular but steep trail climbs along switchbacks to the heart of the High Peaks. At the top, we'll circle through rock formations along the steep and narrow section of the High Peaks Trail and return via the Tunnel Trail. We'll look for condors and early wildflowers. 4.3 miles with 1215 feet elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 9 am (one row up from where the farmers market is, small fee) or at Pinnacles Chaparral day use area, west side, at 1030. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton 831-372-7427.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Hike: Ewoldsen Trail, Big Sur

This is a moderate to challenging "lollipop" loop of 5+ miles with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. through redwoods and mixed hardwoods to the loop junction. Then we hike the loop in the easier clockwise direction to a spur and our highest elevation (& lunch), with fine views of the Big Sur coast. Our return descends steeply through oaks and old growth redwoods back into the gorge to rejoin the lollipop stem back to the trailhead. Bring 2 liters of water, sturdy boots, trekking poles, sun hat, sunscreen, and lunch. Also bring \$5.00 carpool gas contribution and plan to pay a share of the \$10.00 per car entrance fee. Meet at Rio Road Park and Ride in Carmel at 9:00 AM. Rain cancels. RSVP Leader: Stanley Dudek, sdudek829@gmail.com or 831-726-6200.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Hike: Elkhorn Slough

This old standby is kind of local with maybe lots of sun, which we will appreciate mid-February. I believe that it is 5 or so miles with very little elevation gain. Meet on Main St in Soquel at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 831-462-3101.

FEBRUARY 19

Easy Hike: Soberanes Point (Ocean side)

Whale Peak towers over this easy walk; we'll see if the whale sightings are numerous enough to tempt us to climb to the top. A snack up there is fun if the wind doesn't carry our bites away! An early start from town is crucial to finding parking so call for time and meeting place before the hike date. For more information, call leader: Mary Gale, 831-626-3565.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Senior Saunter: Carmel Circle

3 mile loop in Carmel. We begin at the Carmel Mission, walk on the Mission Preserve Trail, to the historical Flanders House. Restrooms at Sunset Center and lunch on benches there. Return via Scenic Tour near beach & 13th Ave. and back to Mission. A shorter walk will be available. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy 1 South to Carmel Crossroads, turn right on Rio Rd., go one mile to park at Carmel Mission. Bring water, lunch, \$6 carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bev Meschi, 831-475-4185; Brooke Ewoldsen, 831-475-6188.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Toro Park Early Wildflowers

This 5 mile hike with 600 ft. elevation gain has a delightful variety of wildflowers: Indian warriors, footsteps of spring, shooting stars are just a few. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:45 from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 831-375-7777.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Walk: Asilomar to Bird Rock

Our 4-5 miles out and back with minimal elevation gain at a moderate pace take us along the board walk and trail along Spanish Bay and the Ocean to Bird Rock with lots of views of the ocean. Bring water and a snack. Meet near the Fish Wife restaurant at 9:30 am. Leader: Gisela Nobinger, onegisela@aol.com or 408-406-9650. Please let me you if you are coming.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Hike: Jacks Peak, Another Way

Let's approach Jacks Peak from Carmel Valley. A short but interesting hike of 6 miles and 1000' of elevation gain. Through a meadow and up a fairly steep trail through the pines and oaks. Possible poison oak, so come prepared. Meet at Lucky/Bagel Bakery area at 10:00. Rain cancels. Leader: Larry Parrish, 831-622-7455.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Hike: Fort Ord Dunes

An easy hike through the Dunes and along the ocean, about 4 miles. We'll go first to the new parking lot and the look out where in former times the Military clubhouse was. You remember, it had been taken down before it would fall into the ocean. We might find a few blooming sand flowers and will watch birds and high waves. Bring water and a sandwich, hiking sticks, binoculars and wear layers; it may be windy from the ocean. Meet in Seaside at Home Depot near the gas station at 10 a.m. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 831-624-1467.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Hike: 9.2 miles at Pinnacles National Park (Soledad Entrance)

The hike starts from the Chaparral Picnic Area and leads along the North Wilderness Trail crossing frequently the Chalone Creek until it merges into the Old Pinnacles Trail. We follow that trail to the Balconies Trail back to the Chaparral Picnic Area. Meeting place: 9:00 AM Pinnacles Natl. Park (West Entrance). As you enter the park you will see the new Chaparral Ranger Station. There is an entrance fee at that point. However you most likely will need to pay after the hike. Continue on for 2 miles to the Chaparral parking area. If the winter season brought a lot of precipitation the North Wilderness Trail could be washed out in certain places and consequently it could be challenging to find the trail and cross the swollen Chalone Creek. Nevertheless it would be a fun challenge! Bring 2 liters of water! Difficulty: Strenuous for distance. Total elevation around 800 ft. Mileage: 9.2 miles. Time: 5 - 7 hours. For RSVP please call Burkhard Siedhoff at 831-920-1803.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Senior Hike:

Henry Cowell Sand Hills

We'll explore Sandhill/Upper Henry Cowell area. This is a rolling hills semi wilderness hike. A shorter walk will be available. We will have lunch at the baseball park near the parking area. Meet before 9:30 am at Sears on 41st Ave or beside the levee in the Gateway Center on River St, between Ross and Petsmart before 9:40 am. We will be parking at the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Facilities, 3650 Graham Hill Road, Felton, CA 95018. Bring water, lunch, \$3 carpool. Leaders: Perry Brohmer 650-793-3987; Helena Cantin 831-438-4523.

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