

April 2010



Dear Members,

Please join us for:

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## **Mt Diablo Hike – Summit Trail**

### **Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **Start at 9am sharp**

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#### **Sign-up:**

email [caroline@bcnc.com](mailto:caroline@bcnc.com) by April 14th if you want to participate.

Weather and trail conditions permitting, to be verified and confirmed 1 or 2 days beforehand.

#### **Where, when, practical info:**

We will meet at the 'Rock City' parking lot and campground at 8.45am. The hike will start at 9am sharp. Please be on time. There is no reliable cell coverage at the starting point (which means you may not be able to let us know you are running late) and on the hike; there usually is coverage at the summit.

It will take between 2.5 to 3 hours to get to the summit and about the same amount of time to get back down to the parking lot. Expected time back at the cars: between 3 and 4pm. This is a generous estimate.

We picnic close to the summit; tables cannot be guaranteed so keep the picnic practical (pre-made sandwiches are a good option; no alcohol allowed).

This hike requires a 'reasonable level of fitness' and guide books often rate it as 'strenuous'. It's all up, up, up till the summit. It's impossible for strollers and not recommended with/for kids. No dogs allowed.

The trailhead is 0.5m / 0.8km from the car park.

Elevation at start of hike: 1620 ft / 493m

Diablo summit: 3849 ft / 1173m Elevation gain: 2229 ft / 680m

There may be toilets and drinking water at the trailhead (it's not clear yet when they will re-open – due to the budget cuts) and at the summit. In addition there is drinking water at 1 spot en route and toilets at 2 spots en route.

## **What to bring:**

- Sturdy hiking / walking shoes (and light shoes to change into after the hike – your feet will thank you!)
- Sunscreen and hat/cap
- Waterbottle
- Picnic
- Hiking poles (optional, but recommended)
- Layered clothing: some parts of the hike can be exposed to the wind and it can be very windy and hence chilly to cold at the summit.

## **Directions:**

**West Bay:** Cross the Bay Bridge, proceed to Highway 24. Exit Highway 680 south to Danville-Diablo Road exit. Go east on Diablo Road following signs to park. After 3 miles on Diablo Road, turn north on Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd, which becomes South Gate Road and twists 3 1/2 miles to the South Entrance.

**East Bay:** North on Highway 880 or Highway 580 or Warren Freeway (Highway 13) to Highway 24, then as above. East on Highway 580 to Highway 680, then north to the Danville-Mt. Diablo exit, then as above.

**South Bay:** North on Highway 680 to Danville-Mt. Diablo exit.

From Interstate 680 in Contra Costa County, exit Diablo Road (exit 39). Follow the green "parks" signs: drive east on Diablo Road (turn right to continue on Diablo Road at El Cerro), then turn left at the (stop sign) junction with Blackhawk onto Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. Drive north on Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which morphs into South Gate Road at the park boundary.

South Gate Entrance is the boundary of the Park (no parking spots) where the 'Welcome to Diablo State Park' sign and a metal barrier are. Keep driving on the very windy road (and please be aware of bicyclists and walkers) till the Kiosk.

## **Entrance / Registration Fee:**

\$10 per car – to be paid at the Kiosk (bring exact change in case of self- registration – notes are best).

Rock City/Live Oak is the first parking lot after the Kiosk, just under a mile past it. There are a few parking lots there, all reasonably close together, just find Caroline's purple Mini Cooper!

## Thank You:

The Belgian beer / waffle / friet happening was a great success.

This undertaking was a big event in terms of organization and attendance, and it certainly would not have been possible to pull this day off without the help of so many volunteers.

A huge thank you to Marleen Van Steenberge, Bieke and Paul Lauwers, Ann Van Thielen, Tim Van Herck and Nadine De Leeuw, John Lindon, Gitta Turelinckx, Noel Verbiest, Sophie Chantrenne, Lieve Maes, Lena De Kesel, Koen Van Rompaey, Geert Knapen, Pierre Smit, Luc Poppe and Jan Vanhoutte.

Thanks to most generous donations by the breweries and distributors listed below, the beer kept flowing:

- Ommegang (Dan Frengs), Chrissa (Art Gralapp), and DBI Beverage (Rich Evans) for Duvel, Leffe, Hennepin, and Three Philosophers

- Matagrano (Dick Unsinn) for Stella and Hoegaarden

You gave our fundraiser a real boost!!!

We ran a successful auction thanks to items donated by the following businesses:

Callebaut Chocolate (Richard Callebaut), Checkster (Claudine Descheemaeker),

Coupa Cafe (Nancy Coupal), CVS Endives, Gourmet Center (Gary Payne), Worldchefs (Suzanne Van Dyck) and Cacao Alchemy (Lisa Molaro).

And finally, we would like to thank YOU for attending, for your donations to the auction, and for the generous contributions you included with your registration!

Financial results of the beer / friet / waffle fundraiser will be announced in the next newsletter.

## Future events:

**May 15th:** Hike / Wine Tasting / Picnic at Picchetti Winery in Cupertino.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>:** Live broadcast of the final day of the Queen Elizabeth Competition, Stanford

**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** Guided Tour of the Hanna House, Stanford, 11:15am.

The board.