

WINTER 2008 EC 9226 Tuesdays

Meandering in Marin

JANUARY 29 SKY TRAIL, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

This loop has spectacular views of the estero and the ocean! (Yes, we do have to hike uphill to earn this reward.) We'll look for late mushrooms and early wildflowers. Lunch at a scenic spot on Mt. Wittenberg. Level and downhill after lunch.

*Take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west to Olema. Turn right on Rt.1, then make an immediate left onto Bear Valley Rd. Continue past Park Headquarters (stop here if you need a restroom) and go left on Limantour Rd. Trailhead is 3.3 miles from this turn. The parking lot is on your left.

50 minutes from College of Marin. No restrooms at trailhead. We'll pass some at Sky Camp about 10:30.

FEBRUARY 5 MOUNTAIN HOME MT TAMALPAIS

Another different route from an old favorite trailhead. Our loop today will land us at West Point Inn for lunch. Bring hiking poles for going down Hogback.

*Take the Stinson Beach/Hwy 1 exit off Hwy 101. Go west through Tam Valley and up onto the ridge. Turn right onto Panoramic Hwy and follow signs to Mt. Tamalpais. Drive about 4 miles. When you reach Mountain Home Inn on your right, park on your left in the parking lot across the road.

50 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead and West Point Inn.

FEBRUARY 12 INDIAN TREE OPEN SPACE, NOVATO

Today we hike pretty loop trail with views and then lunch in a redwood grove. We should see the first Indian warriors, California saxifrage, and cut-leaf sanicle.

*Take 101 north. Exit at San Marin Drive and go west. San Marin becomes Sutro Ave after it crosses Novato Blvd. Turn right (west) on Vineyard Ave. The trail starts where the paved road turns into a dirt road. 35 minutes from College of Marin. No restrooms at trailhead.

FEBRUARY 19 ROCKY POINT, MT TAM

Spectacular ocean views! We start out with a climb through a formerly grazed area with grassland and coyote bushes, and descend into the lush, creekside habitat of Steep Ravine. This could be a 7 lily day! .

* Take the Stinson Beach/Hwy 1 exit off Hwy 101. Go through Tam Junction, stay on Rt. 1 and follow signs to Muir Beach. Pass Muir Beach staying on Rt.1 (towards Stinson Beach) and look for sign post 10.67 and a parking turnout. There's no good lunch spot at noon, so plan on a snack around 11 and a late lunch around 1. No restrooms at trailhead (but you can turn in at Muir Beach en route and use the ones in the parking lot). *Time: 1 hour 5 minutes from COM.*

FEBRUARY 26 DEER PARK TO PHOENIX LAKE

Yes, there's some uphill on this loop, but it's gradual and mostly in the shade. We can expect scarlet larkspur, mule's ears, and mission bells.

* Go west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to Fairfax. As you enter Fairfax, turn left at the IGS gas station, and make an immediate right in front of the movie theater. This puts you on Broadway. Make the first left onto Bolinas Ave. Just after it veers left, turn left on Porteous Ave. Follow it to the parking lot at Deer Park. *15 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead.*

MARCH 4 BLITHEDALE CANYON, MILL VALLEY

A loop with great views of Mt. Tamalpais! March We should see star lilies, Indian paintbrush, and huckleberry in bloom. Probably a 9 fern day!

*Take East Blithedale exit from 101. Where you cross Throckmorton it becomes West Blithedale. Go .9 miles and look for parking at Marsh and West Blithedale on both the left and the right sides of the street. No restrooms at trailhead.

Time: 30 minutes from COM.

MARCH 11 FINAL EXAM LAKE LAGUNITAS

This is a lovely, level lakeside loop! Remember to bring your contribution to our gourmet feast, a plate, cup, and utensils. Think green and bring re-usables not disposables.

*As you enter Fairfax on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. jog left when you see the movie theater and make an immediate right. This puts you on the street that parallels SF Drake but is on the other side of the parkade. Make the first left which is Bolinas Ave. Follow the Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. for about 1 mile. Turn left onto Sky Oaks Rd. You'll need to pay at the kiosk. Follow the paved road on to Lake Lagunitas. We'll have lunch at the picnic area at Lake Lagunitas so you don't need to carry the food for the potluck. Lunch at my house if there are late rains.

Time: 30 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead, portables en route.