



THE CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB
PO Box 2056, El Cerrito, CA 94530
Website: www.contracostahills.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Founded February 22nd, 1920
101 YEARS OF
CONSERVATION—COMPANIONSHIP—HIKING



FEBRUARY 2021



KNAPSACK

Co-Editors: Silvia Akinaga, Rosemary Johnson
Circulation: Grace MacNeill, Chair; Agnes Chen
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we continue to endure the COVID pandemic and watch the number of cases and deaths increase, while respecting the stay at home mandates, I hope that you understand why the Board canceled the February hikes. And it is more than likely that future CCHC hikes will be canceled. However, now that the state has moved to allow those of us who are 65 and older to get our vaccinations, maybe we will see each other sooner than later. Of course, we will have to be patient considering the limited supply of doses. It's hard to believe that this month a year ago, we celebrated our 100th Anniversary. Amazing timing when you consider that the virus was already in Vallejo, where we held our celebration. The Board will be making plans to have a virtual Annual Meeting this March 21. We will let you know the details regarding the event. The weather has been ridiculously warm for this time of year, so at the very least, get outdoors, be safe, and remain vigilant. For those of you who are able to get vaccinated or have done so already, best of luck. On a most positive note in light of what we witnessed on January 6, the man who will occupy the White House cares about the environmental issues and organizations we care about and to whom we make generous donations. Remember, we may be a non-political organization, but conservation is part of the Club's DNA. Stay well.

Stew Perlman

NOMINEES FOR 2021-2022 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee, composed of Cameron Mitchell (Chair), Reyanne Freeman, Lily Ho, Liz Howell, and Fran Leighty, proposes the following members for 2021-2022 officers. Nominations are also welcome from the membership, but be sure to have the proposed person's permission.

Officers will be voted on at the virtual Annual Meeting on March 21. Details will follow once arrangements have been finalized.

President: **Stew Perlman**

Vice President: **James Baranowski**

Treasurer: **Suzy Mark**

Recording Secretary: **Cameron Mitchell**

Corresponding Secretary: **Patricia Derickson**

Membership Secretary: **Connie Gee**

Directors: **Gino Bossetto**
Mike Branning
Chuck Browne
Anita Ford
Mindy Svorny-Moore

SAVE THESE DATES

- Sunday, March 21, 2021 virtual Annual Meeting, details to follow.
- October 10-14, 2021— Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. If all goes well, sign ups may start not later than April, 2021. Vaccination and/or testing may be required
- March 2022— Anza Borrego

Information on the above Overnight Outings will appear in future *Knapsacks*.

Was it just a year ago that we celebrated our club's 100th anniversary? What a happy, carefree gathering it was!

Here is a quick lookback at some of the smiling faces... (photos by Ed Osada)

OPEN HIKE DATES FOR MARCH to JUNE, 2021

All February hikes have been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we remain hopeful for Thursday hikes in March and, perhaps, resuming Sunday hikes in April.

There are many dates to choose from. *Please submit your hike as soon as possible*—detailed descriptions are optional as the times are so unsettled.

Open Thursday Hikes: March 4, 11, and 18; April 1, 8, and 29; May 6, 13, and 27; June 3, 10, and 24.

Open Sunday Hikes: April 4, 11, 18, and 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; June 6, 13, 20, and 27.

For Thursday hikes contact: Jim Baranowski, 925-577-1022, Brnw_th@yahoo.com

For Sunday hikes contact: Mary Ulrich, 925-937-2932, cchcsundays@gmail.com



Barbara Wightman & Liz Howell



Lucy Perdichizzi



Yean-Nan Hsieh, Bill Chen, Yvonne Chen, Lois Switzer



Ed Osada & Sue Elliott



Herb Yonge & Kathy O'Toole



Mary Huang, Lily Ho, Shirley Lo, Susie Huang



Lois Switzer



Pam Littlejohn, Denise, Diane Cannon, Sophia Garcia



Happy Valentines Day
To All!

***** CCHC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION *****

February Reminder * 2021 Membership Dues**

CCHC Membership requires that dues be paid each year by April 1 — the beginning of the CCHC fiscal year. You can send a check (payable to CCHC) to Connie Gee, 1121 Brighton Avenue, Albany, CA 94706 prior to April 1, 2021.

All members will receive the *Knapsack* and quarterly hiking schedule via email *EXCEPT* for those who request a print edition and add an additional \$8 to their annual dues to cover mailing costs.

Dues:

- **\$25 per person (email version of *Knapsack* and quarterly hike schedule)**, or \$20 per person for two or more people at the same address. The cost for two members at the same address would be \$40.
- **\$33 per person (mailed print version of *Knapsack* and quarterly hike schedule)**, or \$20 per person for two or more people receiving one *Knapsack* and one hike schedule at the same address, plus \$8 to cover mailing expenses. For example, the cost of membership for two people at the same address would be \$48.

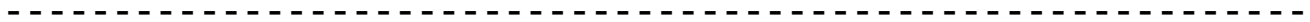
Many members enjoy making contributions to CCHC. Checks in excess of dues go into the CCHC General Fund (*Knapsack* mailing, meetings, CCHC luncheon subsidies, and miscellaneous expenses). If you wish to make a donation to Conservation, write a check out to CCHC with “Conservation” written in the memo portion of the check. The Board (upon advice from the Conservation Subcommittee) donates to various organizations that protect and improve places where we hike. A complete list of organizations supported by CCHC gifts in fiscal 2020 will be presented at our annual meeting. Any donations marked “Conservation” will be added to the amount we budget for CCHC gifts to those or other similar organizations.

NOTE: Dues checks will be deposited in April 2021

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Each year, the Board extends Honorary Life Memberships to our friends that have been members of CCHC for 40 or more years. Honorary Life Members pay no dues. Each month they are emailed or mailed the *Knapsack* as a tribute to their longevity!

David Armstrong 1950, Alice Brockman 1975, Dan Brockman 1980, Pat Croft 1956, Helen McGregor 1974, Emily Sabath 1974, Betty Thornally 1980; Honorary Membership James French (Harold’s grandson)



HAS YOUR ADDRESS OR E-MAIL CHANGED?

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Be sure to sign and submit the Contra Costa Hills Club MEMBERSHIP WAIVER AND RELEASE (page 4 of this *Knapsack* or on the CCHC website www.contracostahills.org under Membership Information) with your membership dues.

CHECK HERE FOR MAILED PRINT VERSION OF THE *KNAPSACK* AND HIKING SCHEDULE.
I have added \$8 to my membership dues.

Questions: Connie Gee—1121 Brighton Avenue, Albany, CA 94706, cbgee2014@yahoo.com or 510-528-3421

Contra Costa Hills Club MEMBERSHIP WAIVER AND RELEASE

I, the undersigned, understand that during my membership in the Contra Costa Hills Club (“Club”), and participation in Club activities, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, known and unknown, which are inherent in hiking activities. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of property damage, serious injury and death (“Injuries”) as a consequence of participation in the Club and its activities. I acknowledge that Injuries can occur from trail conditions and other natural causes, or activities of other Club members, hike leaders, animals or third parties.

I acknowledge that a hike description provided by the Club may not exactly describe the hiking conditions, environment, or level of difficulty of a hike, and understand that I may need to exercise extra care for my own person and others around me while participating in a hike or other Club activity. I warrant that I am qualified to participate safely in any Club hike or activity in which I participate.

I understand that during Club activities there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries to which I may be exposed. I further understand that while participating in Club activities I may be photographed for Club purposes and agree to allow my likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by the Club.

I acknowledge that the Club is not responsible to provide transportation to or from any Club activities. I further acknowledge that the Club does not verify the insurance or license of any Club member or other person who voluntarily provides transportation to or from Club activities, and that the Club shall have no responsibility for any risk associated with my travel to and from Club activities.

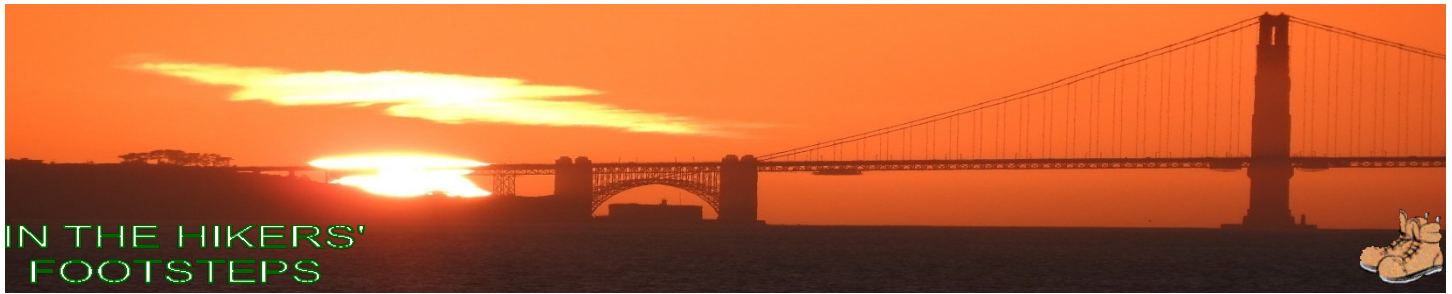
In consideration for my participation in Club activities, I (on behalf of myself and my successors, heirs and assigns) voluntarily release and agree to hold the Club, its officers, directors, volunteers and agents harmless from any and all liability, claims, damages, injuries or losses which in any way arise from or are connected with my participation in Club activities, except to the extent such Injuries are caused by the gross negligence of the Club, its officers, directors, volunteers or agents. I further agree to hold the Club, its officers, directors, volunteers and agents harmless from any liability claims, damages, injuries or losses caused by my own negligence while a participant in Club activities.

In addition to this Membership Waiver and Release, I warrant that I have read and understand the rules, regulations and guidelines (the “Rules”) of the Club and agree to abide by the Rules at all times during my participation in Club activities.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Sunset over Fort Point and Golden Gate Bridge—
Noel Siver, November 30, 2020 from Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley

More Photos from Noël Siver

**Monday, November 23, 2020
Almond Ranch**

Being a former docent hike leader for John Muir Land Trust, I was interested in their Fall opening of a new property they had recently purchased, called Almond Ranch. It is located along Franklin Ridge (which runs from Martinez to Hercules) between Mt. Wanda and their Sky Ranch property. Since I have led CCHC hikes at both Mt. Wanda and Sky Ranch, I was interested at how Almond Ranch connected the two.

Consulting maps on the Muir website (jmlt.org), I planned a hike starting at the Mt. Wanda staging area in Martinez (Franklin Canyon Rd. and Alhambra Ave.). I followed the Mt. Wanda fire road and then the Nature Trail onto Almond Ranch, then the ranch road along the ridge to a new single-track trail (Almond Trail) over to the Tina Batt Trail on Sky Ranch. The Tina Batt connects you to Feeder Trail #1, bringing you back down to Franklin Canyon Rd. for a walk back to the staging area. Total trip of 5 miles and about 1000 ft. elevation gain.

Pluses: Great views of Suisun Bay and Mt. Diablo; some pretty single-track trails

Minuses: Not much tree cover along parts of the ridge; walk along Franklin Canyon Rd. requires single file

I may try to lead this hike for CCHC in the future if I can figure out how to limit the number of hikers or otherwise solve the Franklin Canyon Rd. experience. Until then, if anyone would like a "docent led" hike on the properties, contact me and I would be glad to lead you.

Mike Branning



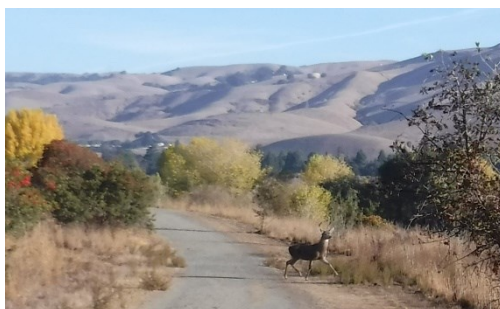
Moonrise on November 30, 2020
Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley



Ladybugs, December 18, 2020
Reinhart Redwoods Reg. Park



Tennessee Valley
Beach, Marin Cty —
December 24, 2020



Buck at Quarry Lakes
Reg. Park, Nov. 2020
— Rita Poppenk



Ocean Beach, San
Francisco —
December 24, 2020

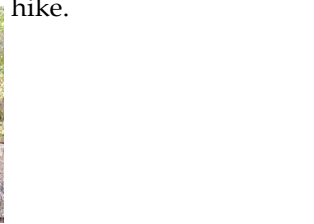
Castles in El Cerrito by Lois Switzer

I've been taking hikes in El Cerrito going up Motorcycle Hill and coming down through the Hillside Natural Area. I get a little lost in the Hillside Natural Area since there are no trail markers. I've tried to do the same route on the way down, but sometimes I take a wrong turn and end up getting out



at a different street in El Cerrito. I've finally found a route I like that gets me out on Douglas Drive, just off Potrero Avenue. I like this route because the house on the corner of Douglas and Potrero has castles around its property. They are all different colors and add just a bit of whimsy to end my hike.

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Friday, January 1, 2021 Ocean Beach

I like to connect with my San Francisco roots on New Year's Day, so I decided to drive to Ocean Beach. Gorgeous weather and lots of folks had the same idea. I

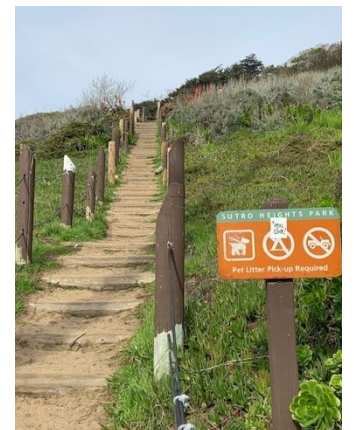


had forgotten that the Great Highway is still closed so folks can walk and bicycle along it. It was getting a lot of use! Saw some good souls picking up trash as I walked toward the Cliff House. Such a shame

that it is closed. A workman was painting over graffiti on its walls. Had lunch at Sutro Heights Park which has wonderful trees for youngsters to climb. A lovely fountain conveys a sense of its past glories. I found a staircase shortcut to reach Balboa Street and noticed that folks were BBQing on the sidewalk as there are no fires allowed on the beach. A lovely walk that renewed my spirit for 2021!



Next year I hope to do this walk with my hiking buddies!
Patricia Derickson



Tuesday, January 5, 2021
A Surprise Visitor at a Santa Cruz County Beach

For more than ten years, Audrey and I have been surveying two Santa Cruz County beaches for the Monterey Bay National Sanctuary, now under the authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We are part of a group known as beachCOMBERS. When we arrived at Scott Creek Beach, in the distance I noticed sand being flung into the air. At first, I thought it was a California sea lion. However, as we traversed the beach looking for dead sea birds and sea mammals (which is our task), we came upon a huge adult male elephant seal relaxing in the sun. A very unusual encounter considering that the beach is several miles south of Año Nuevo, which will most likely be his destination. For those of you who have not seen elephant seals up close, you can make reservations to observe them at Año Nuevo State Park or stop along Highway 1 at Piedras Blancas, San Simeon, near Hearst Castle. You can also see them from farther away near Chimney Rock at Point Reyes National Seashore. However, the road to get to them in Point Reyes is closed right now and as for Año Nuevo, it may be closed due to the pandemic.

Stew Perlman



View northeast from Briones Crest Trail in Briones Reg. Park, Jan. 9, 2021; Patricia Derickson & Karen Arntzen — photos by Karen



New Year's Well-wisher (with mask) seen on Ygnacio Canal Trail, January 14, 2021 by Fran Leighty, Dorothy Bradt, Linda Malm, Karen Arntzen Patricia Derickson, & photo by Rosemary Johnson

NOTE: The Board and Conservation Committee are currently not physically meeting due to COVID-19 shelter in place orders. CCHC members should contact Stew Perlman with any concerns so they can be discussed at the meetings. Conservation issues should be addressed to Beryl Vonderheid.

Please submit your hike write-ups of up to 300 words as soon as possible after each hike to Rosemary Johnson at compasros@comcast.net. All other submissions should reach Silvia Akinaga at sakinec@aol.com by the middle of the month to appear in the following month's issue.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES 2020—2021

President

•Stew Perlman

Vice-President

•James Baranowski

Treasurer

•Suzy Mark

Recording Secretary

•Cameron Mitchell

Membership Secretary

•Connie Gee

Corresponding Secretary

•Patricia Derickson

Board of Directors

•Gino Bossetto

•Mike Branning

•Chuck Browne

•Anita Ford

•Lois Switzer

Hiking Schedule

•Mary Ulrich, **Sunday Chair**

•Jim Baranowski, **Thursday Chair**

Hiking Schedule Editor

•Noël Siver

Knapsack Editors

•Silvia Akinaga

•Rosemary Johnson

Knapsack Mailing

•Grace MacNeill, Chair

•Agnes Chen

Knapsack Printing

•Fred Mock

Extracurricular Coordinator

•Lois Switzer

Nominating Committee

•Cameron Mitchell, Chair

•Reyanne Freeman

•Lily Ho

•Liz Howell

•Fran Leighty

Social Committee

•Lucy Perdichizzi, Chair

•Patricia Derickson

•Reyanne Freeman

Overnight Outings Committee

•Ed Osada, Chair

•Bill Chen

•Helen Wong Johe

•Rosemary Johnson, minutes

•Mindy Svorny-Moore

•Lynne Vogensen

•James Watson

Conservation Committee

•Beryl Vonderheid, Chair

•Barbara Mow

•Sylvia Saunders

•Jo Anne Schultz

•Kate Steinel

•Nancy Stout

Audit Committee

•April McMahon

•Linda Margossian

•Herb Yonge

Historian

•Yvonne Moss

Website Group

•Gino Bossetto

•Chuck Browne

•JJ Libbon

•Fred Mock