



FIRST CLASS MAIL

KNAPSACK CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB OCTOBER 2026 NEWS

Greetings CCHC members! Here are the October *Knapsack* and the latest fall hike schedule.

We recommend you consult the club website at <https://contracostahills.org/index.html> for updates and additional information. Also visit our safe section in groups.io for announcements, late updates, as well as pictures and write-ups from past hikes.

Thank you for your support of the club, and see you on the trails.



September 17 – JoAnne's 90th Birthday Celebration. Many more great pictures in groups.io

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE As October begins, I want to first reflect on recent end-of-September events. We celebrated Jo Anne's 90th birthday at Quarry Lakes, Fremont, where some 60 of us gathered to enjoy an incredible amount of food, friendship and recognition of a valuable CCHC member. Thank

you to those of you who contributed to the variety of food. And a shout out to Sue Elliott and Jan Lecklikner for arranging the event. Furthermore, we want to thank Jan for the ice cream social and inviting us into her newly remodeled home. Of course, thank you to the leaders who led us on our

CCHC KNAPSACK – OCTOBER 2026

Thursday and Sunday hikes. There are a variety of hikes in October including a hike through Redwood Park in Oakland, walks across the Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge, viewing the Blue Angels, a hike through Piedmont, a visit to the Angel Island Immigration Station, a hike in Wildcat Canyon, and a hike exploring Jingtown in Oakland. As for the administration of the Club, we want to express our gratitude to Lois Switzer, who has been our excellent Extracurricular Coordinator the past several years. And to welcome Beth Johnke, who has generously accepted the role as our new Extracurricular Coordinator. Lastly, I want to thank the Overnight Hiking Committee for arranging the trip to Minden, Nevada, and wish them a safe and enjoyable time.

Stay well and good hiking, Stew

P.S. Yes, we still need a worthy soul to join the Website Committee.

NEWS AND EVENTS

ROSE SUSOEFF, a dear member and friend of ours, died on September 11. Her son Allan is coming to California to inter her ashes at the Italian Cemetery in Colma on October 23, 2026 at 10 a.m. There will be no ceremony; anyone is welcome to attend to say goodbye and share stories about Rose.

Allan's address: Allan Susoeff
206 Colonial Court
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Please forward this on to other friends of Rose.

CONSERVATION CORNER The CCHC Conservation Committee meets monthly to distribute gifts marked for conservation from our members. This month we received a thank you note from Earthjustice for our contribution of \$300 on June 30. Earthjustice is a nonprofit, public interest environmental law organization. Their purpose is to protect people's health, to preserve wild lands and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change. In their thank you note, the organization expressed their gratitude to CCHC especially in this time of attacks by President Trump on the environment. This month we have given \$100 to Friends of Sausal Creek. Many of us remember our hikes along Sausal Creek that began at Dimond Park. We have also given \$200 to National Parks Conservation Association and \$200 to Solano Land Trust. The Conservation Committee did not meet in September. At our next meeting in October, we will consider gifts to Berkeley Partners for Parks, the California State Parks Foundation, and Save Mt. Diablo.

HELP NEEDED! We are looking for a fourth person to handle updating of the website for part of the year. Specific technical experience is not needed, the program we use is user-friendly

and Liz, Fred, and Lewis can get you up to speed and help you out. Contact Liz Howell: liz_howell@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING OUTINGS

MINDEN/GARDNERVILLE, NV, October 4-8. Good luck to the hikers! For more info, see the [website](#) or groups.io.

PALM SPRINGS AND JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

February 21–25, 2027, Sign-ups October 2026. Escape the Bay Area winter cold and enjoy hiking in the desert. See the [website](#), groups.io, or the September Knapsack for details!

WELCOME to our new members

Irene Dunn, Jin Kim, Cathy Russo

OPEN HIKES: Thursday 12/17, 12/24, and Sunday 10/4, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/20, and 12/27 are open. We need Sunday and December leaders!! If you have an idea, please contact Marilyn Vihman 510-708-3853

m.vihman@berkeley.edu or Jim Baranowski 925-577-1022
brnw_th@yahoo.com.

IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS: Here are some of our hikes over the past month. A full set of write-ups and pictures can be found under CCHChikers on groups.io. Contact Rosemary Johnson with questions.



August 30 – Dry Creek to Tolman Peak hike

DRY CREEK TO TOLMAN PEAK, August 30. Leaders: Isabel Rogne and Darlene Choy. California has still been burning. But AQI ~ 30 at Union City with patchy blue sky. The air was good. We began to hike earlier to beat the possible heat. Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer regional parks are two adjoining parks from former 19th-century ranches and the west of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The Dry Creek Garden is right next to the parking lot; it's open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 to 4 with no Sunday retreat after the hike.

With a flying chorus above the morning trail, a rather flat introduction towards the summit, it was cool enough even under the sun. Imagining the sound of a creek, we crossed several creek beds. A man on horseback, a lonely cow, many turkeys, and not many flowers. Probably > 100 years old shedding eucalyptuses leaning towards each other, and awesome naked sycamore. South Fork Trail by the creek bed was nicely shaded but there was a lot of slippery fine gravel on the single-track steep uphill.

CCHC KNAPSACK – OCTOBER 2026

Luckily no rattlesnake greeted us today. Stunning juxtaposition of green forest and brown bare hills. At the summit we didn't feel like we were at ~ 80°F with its sweeping view of Hayward, Union City, and the San Francisco Bay.

Hike leaders reserved the only bench at the summit, a nice green one. We were blessed by a cool breeze all the way along Tolman Peak Trail to the end of our hike. Wide downhill trail, in and out of shade. Several trees were quietly finishing their lives and several had completely finished them. Absolutely unnoticeable but still beautiful white Hayfield tarweeds among the dry grassland and in the far distance, Quarry Lake. We encountered many family hikers who just began their hike expecting cooler weather (?) in the afternoon. Very popular route. It was a surprisingly pleasant hike on a hot day.

Thank you, Isabel and Darlene for this lovely summer hike and Isabel for the treats. 5.3 miles with 1000' elevation gain. – Sophia Garcia



September 3 – Yvonne Chen on the Alameda Historic Walk

ALAMEDA HISTORIC WALK, September 3. Leader: Roberta O'Grady. Given that Alameda had a long history since the early days of California, it was only fitting to have a nice day hike along its historical landmarks, thanks to Roberta. We started the hike by walking east from AC Bus 51A stop on Atlantic and Webster in Alameda to Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. The park displayed various large sculptures and was named in honor of Jean Sweeney who was instrumental in discovering the contract that California Supreme Court rendered to be valid in allowing Alameda to reclaim the land from Alameda Belt Line Railroad for \$1 million rather than \$20 million! Speaking about the Little Engine that Could!

We then walked to the North Shore of Alameda where former Alaska Packers, sailing schooners transported salmon from Alaska and anchored its shipbuilding from 1891 to 1982. One of the last "tall ships" *Balclutha* is now at the Hyde Street Pier, Maritime Park in SF.

At the eastern end of the North Shore stands the apartment building retaining the original brick outer wall of Del Monte Foods. In 1916, the Alaska Packers and the California Fruit Cannery Association formed the California Packing Corporation, which then became Del Monte Foods. One can now only imagine the bustling dockside activities of cannery and packing traffic bursting at the seams in those days.

The adjacent Alameda Works Shipyard dates from 1900s. The only remaining building is the Union Iron Works Powerhouse. Union Iron Works became Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation. Read more on the photo of Encinal Terminal attached in the CCHC website album.

Westward, after seeing across the water to Jack London Square, Oakland foothills, and downtown, we came upon a nice set of Wind River Buildings apartments having its own water edging their backyards with seashore birds serenading, which was a good enough reason to stop by Waterfront Deli for a leisurely lunch in Oakland & Encinal Yacht Club & Marina.

Further west lie a few blocks of colorful and artistic houseboats. Many have gardens and superstructures as they have been there for years. It was impressive as the free spirit of the '60s continues here forever!

Then there were those luxe cruise ships that cruise the SF Bay for wedding receptions and anniversary celebrations. Amazing to see such a large fleet suited for different occasions. For hikers only, we were also treated to know which restaurant on the dock was Roberta's favorite. Currently there is a free water shuttle from this Alameda Gateway Ferry Terminal to Jack London Square. If you are a tourist or resident of Alameda, it couldn't be easier to go across the channel for a cup of coffee or lunch in just 10 minutes and free!

The best is yet laying west: the wetlands that were filled and became an airport in 1927 (100 years ago!) as well the terminal of the Transcontinental Railroad. The airport was used by the Army Air Corps in 1930. Pan American World Airways used the yacht harbor as the California Terminal for the China Clippers in 1935 before shifting to Treasure Island in 1939 for the Golden Gate International Exposition. In 1938 the Naval Air Station was established. In 1942 USS Hornet loaded 16 B-25 aircrafts in the Doolittle Raid on Japan.

From 1949 to 1953, the Lockheed R6V Constitution, the largest airplane ever listed on the Navy inventory, was based here. During the Viet Nam War, four aircraft carriers, Coral Sea, Hancock, Enterprise, & Carl Vinson, were based here. Unfortunately, the air base was closed in 1997 although USS Hornet gained a permanent home here as a museum. The property was deeded to Alameda but due to toxic waste issues, the development has been slow. This is a Superfund Cleanup Site.

We then walked to the 51A bus stop on Webster for a total of ~4 miles. The group thanked Roberta so much for allowing us to share so many landmarks and witness these exciting historical changes in this wonderful community of Alameda! – William Chen



September 5 – Tamales Point hike, Tule elk

TOMALES POINT, September 5. Leader: Marsha Maslan. On a Saturday four hikers met up for a fabulous day at Tamales Point in

CCHC KNAPSACK – OCTOBER 2026

the Point Reyes National Seashore. Led by Marsha Maslan, we were greeted by sunshine and clear skies. Being rutting season for the tule elk, we saw several clusters of them and heard the males' high-pitched mating calls, or "bugling," as it's known. Tule elk, though large, are the smallest of the elk species and are endemic to California. Humpback whales were migrating and we spotted several spouts. Also seen were coyotes, pelicans, turkey vultures, cormorants, seagulls and a lone blue heron. And, of course, breathtaking views of the Pacific and Tomales Bay. It was a heavily trafficked trail but with only a handful of elders besides us. We were happy to complete this long nine-mile trek! – Jan Proudfoot



September 9 – Devil's Gulch to Barnabe Peak hike

DEVIL'S GULCH TO BARNABE PEAK LOOP, MARIN, September 20.

Leaders: Jo Anne Schultz and Marilyn Langlois. Barnabe Peak is situated in Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Named after Samuel P. Taylor who made a fortune during the California Gold Rush and was best known for building the Pioneer Paper Mill recycling old paper products. He served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He and his wife helped stop the importation of Chinese slave girls into San Francisco. Barnabe Peak was named after the retired army mule that became the Taylor children's pet. Another legacy of Mr. Taylor was the Camp Taylor Resort with a hotel, tent camps, boating, fishing, and a dance pavilion. Built from the 1870s to the 1880s, it was California's first recreational camping site. Unlike many pioneering nature conservationists like our founder, Harold French, Mr. Taylor was not an environmentalist or a nature conservationist at all. Please look further into his history if you are curious.

Chilly weather with a blanket of cloud above, neither cold nor hot and no precipitation reported, making this a day for a good hike. There are several great routes to reach the summit, but today we took Devil's Gorge Trail and Bill's Trail to Barnabe Peak, a very gentle hike up to 1466' elevation. Spring brings the joy of wildflowers here, but we are in autumn with its different joys. The hike began through a forest of California bay, redwood, live oak, tanoak, fir, big leaf maple, hazelnut, and more.

Recent precipitation trapped "petrichor"* (see its meaning below) in the air on the trail. Smell of "middle earth" carried the familiar scent of California bay along with us. Forgotten late bloomers, forget-me-not, poppy, monkeyflower popped out from nowhere. We crossed 8 bridges on Bill's Trail. After the 8th one, the summit is almost there. Some of our hikers sat at the viewpoint facing Black Mountain and Tomales Bay. Hawks soaring above including a beautiful falcon, American kestrel, nicknamed sparrow hawk.

From the peak we observed Mt. Diablo through the clouds. The sun visited occasionally, dappling us with its smile. Hike back along the Barnabe Fire Road which was rather steep. We detoured to visit the

grave of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor which used to be facing the old mill site but nowadays is guarded by overgrown bushes and forest trees. Our hike finished nicely, 7 miles with 1354' elevation gain.

Thank you, Jo Anne and Marilyn for leading the hike, and thank you Marilyn for the homemade trail mix. We all appreciated each other sharing a pleasant hike together. – Sophia Garcia

**petrichor: the pleasant smell, earthy scent that fills the air when rain falls on dry soil or rock. This word was introduced in 1964 by Australian researchers Isabel Joy Bear and Richard Grenfell Thomas.*

NEIGHBORHOOD HIKE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL, September 24.

Leaders: Noël Siver, Jan Lecklikner, Diane Cannon. Although the weather was unusually hot for Berkeley, the promise of a great hike plus ice cream at Jan's house afterward was quite a draw. Forty-one people showed up. Noël and her team managed the large group well. The hikers saw things other people might just pass by without thinking, including more than 35 sites and landmarks.

There were two special surprises during the hike. When the hikers came to the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club, a nice woman invited them to sit on benches and watch the game being played on an immaculately groomed lawn. Next, when the hikers came to the residence called the "Fish House" two men were touching up the paint. One man came over to inquire about the large group of hikers standing in front of the house. He turned out to be both the owner and the famous architect of the house -- Eugene Tssui. He gave an impromptu talk about the history and construction of the house. When someone asked him if he would like to join our club, he politely said he was more into martial arts and other kinds of exercise. Little did they know he was a prizewinning athlete as well as a world-renowned architect.

Lunch was at San Pablo Park. Then the hikers headed for what might now be called by some the famous "Lecklikner House." Jan's classic shingled two-story home has been meticulously renovated. Jan took people in smaller groups to tour the house and explained the renovations. To end a perfect day, several kinds of ice cream were served, allowing each hiker to put their own favorite toppings on them. What a wonderful treat to serve hikers after a warm day and a fascinating historic hike. – Linda Malm



September 1 – Diane visits Fran Leighty in Salt Lake City and gets cleaned out at Scrabble. Good going, Fran!

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