

Briones Valley to Seaborg Trail Loop Hard Hike Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Hike Description: A return to uncrowded Briones Regional Park for our first restart hard hike. A 5.6 mile, 1000 feet AEG (if cooler weather) or a 5 mile, 700 feet AEG (warmer weather) hike. Route is a loop that is exposed on the outbound leg and offers 40% shade on the return. Since it can be warm this time of year arrive by **9:30 AM**.

All trails are fire-road sized and allow for social distancing while passing other hikers. Face masks are required whenever a 6 foot social distance cannot be maintained, such as passing through gates and in the staging area. On the pre-hike, most people on most trails wore masks while passing us (and we them). The exception was the initial Old Briones Road Trail which has more casual walkers.

We head east 1.8 miles on Old Briones Road and Valley Trails, which are mostly level with limited shade. Shade arrives at the end of Valley Trail with a steep climb to a trail junction. If the weather is cool enough we'll turn left to include Table Top Trail's panoramic views. This will add 0.6 miles and 300 foot more climb to our hike (see route map below). If a warm day, we'll turn right for 0.5 mile and ascend to the crest in mostly shade.

We then head south 0.9 miles via Briones Crest Trail which offers Diablo and southern views, before descending on Seaborg Trail. This 1.6 mile trail is wooded for the descent, bordered by trees along Homestead Valley and heavily shaded at the end s-portion where we re-connect to the Old Briones Road very near our start.

Optional lunch: Not at this time.

Bring: Good walking shoes or hiking boots and plenty of water. Trekking poles are useful for the steep stretches. Assume restrooms are not available although one porta potty appeared open on our pre-hike.

Directions: Take Hwy 24 west from Walnut Creek to Orinda. Exit on Camino Pablo northward toward Orinda Village/Richmond. Proceed 2.5 miles then turn right at the light onto Bear Creek Road. Proceed 4.4 miles to the Briones entrance road on your right. Enter the park and after passing the entrance booth go straight ahead to the parking lot.

Car-pooling: No carpools as they do not allow for social distancing.

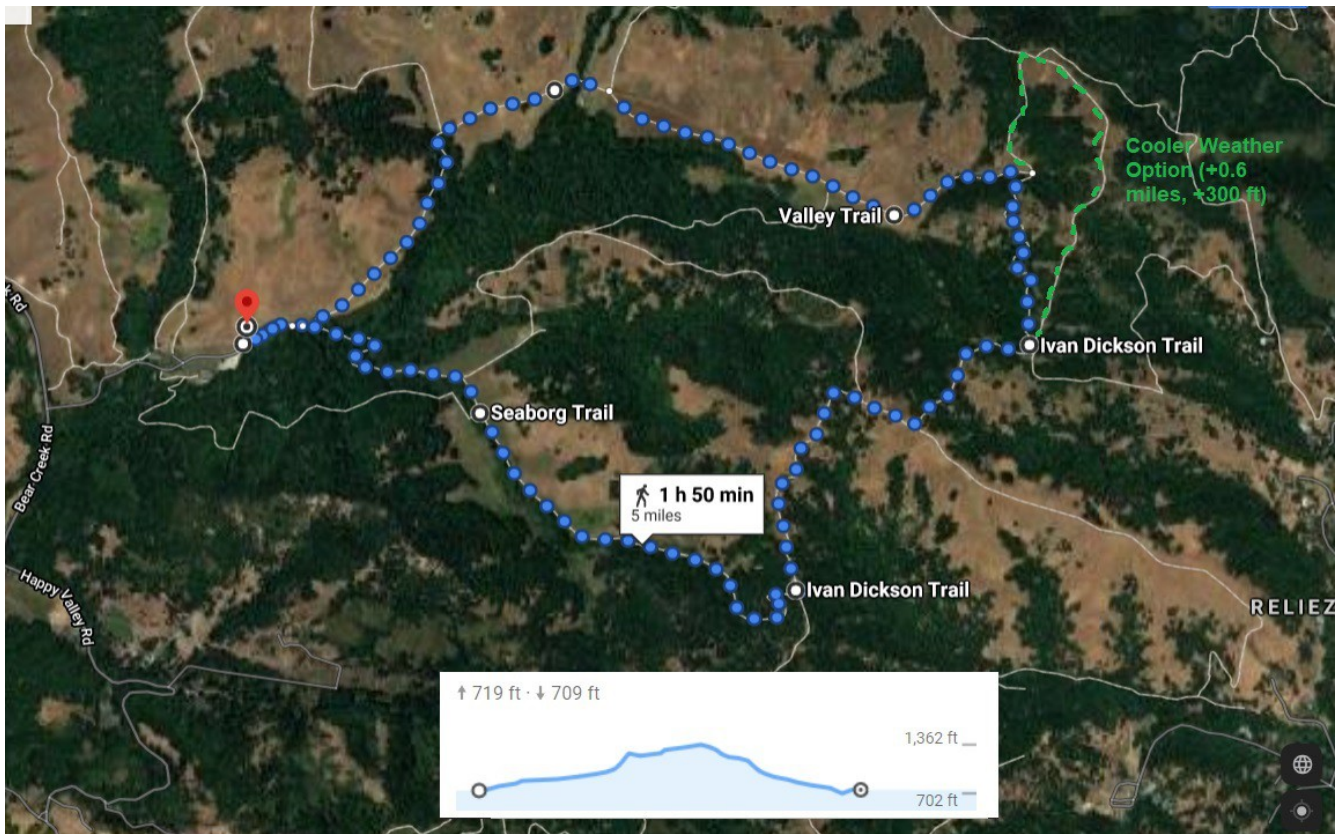
Hike Leader: Martin Simmons 925-586-2704 martin@infinitylane.com

Hike Chairman: Dave Davis H: 838-1753 dav.davis@comcast.net

Photos:

Trail map (includes cooler weather Table Top Trail option)

Diablo view from crest trail



Top of Seaborg Trail



Table Top Trail view (optional)

