

Briones Abrigo Valley Easy/Medium Hike Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Hike Description: A little something for everyone who'd like a nature fix after our 2 month hiatus. For those that want an easy hike, a 3 mile 300 feet elevation gain out and back, about 50% shaded. For those that would like a little more with expansive views, the full hike option is a moderate 4.3 miles 650 feet elevation gain, with some short steep stretches. To lessen the impact of the group, full hikers should arrive by **9:30 AM** and will head out first. Easy hikers arrive by **9:45 AM**.

All trails are fire-road sized and allow for social distancing while passing other hikers. On the pre-hike, almost everyone we encountered wore masks while passing us (and we them). Face masks are required whenever a 6 foot social distance cannot be maintained, such as passing through gates and in the staging area. Head out in groups of 3-4 people to allow others to pass our group more easily (a tip from Branch 146).

We start with ample parking at the foot of the Abrigo Valley trail in Briones Regional Park. No fees are being collected. Wear face masks while at the staging area. We head north 0.94 miles on the wide Abrigo Valley trail (see route map below) to the junction with Mott trail. We bear left for a half mile open stretch followed by more shade at the Wee-Ta-Chi campground area. This is the turnaround point for the easy hikers.

Moderate hikers then climb 300 feet in a short distance to Briones Crest trail and enjoy expansive views west to the Bay. Continue eastward ½ mile in the open along the crest trail to the Mott trail junction. This adds views of Suisun Bay, central county and Mount Diablo. Return downhill on Mott trail which has 3 steeper stretches and ends in a wonderful shaded stretch before re-connecting to the Abrigo Valley Trail for the return leg.

Note: If a very hot day, we can modify the route to reduce the unshaded portions of the hike.

Optional lunch: Not at this time.

Bring: Good walking shoes or hiking boots and 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 make an immediate left into the parking lot.

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

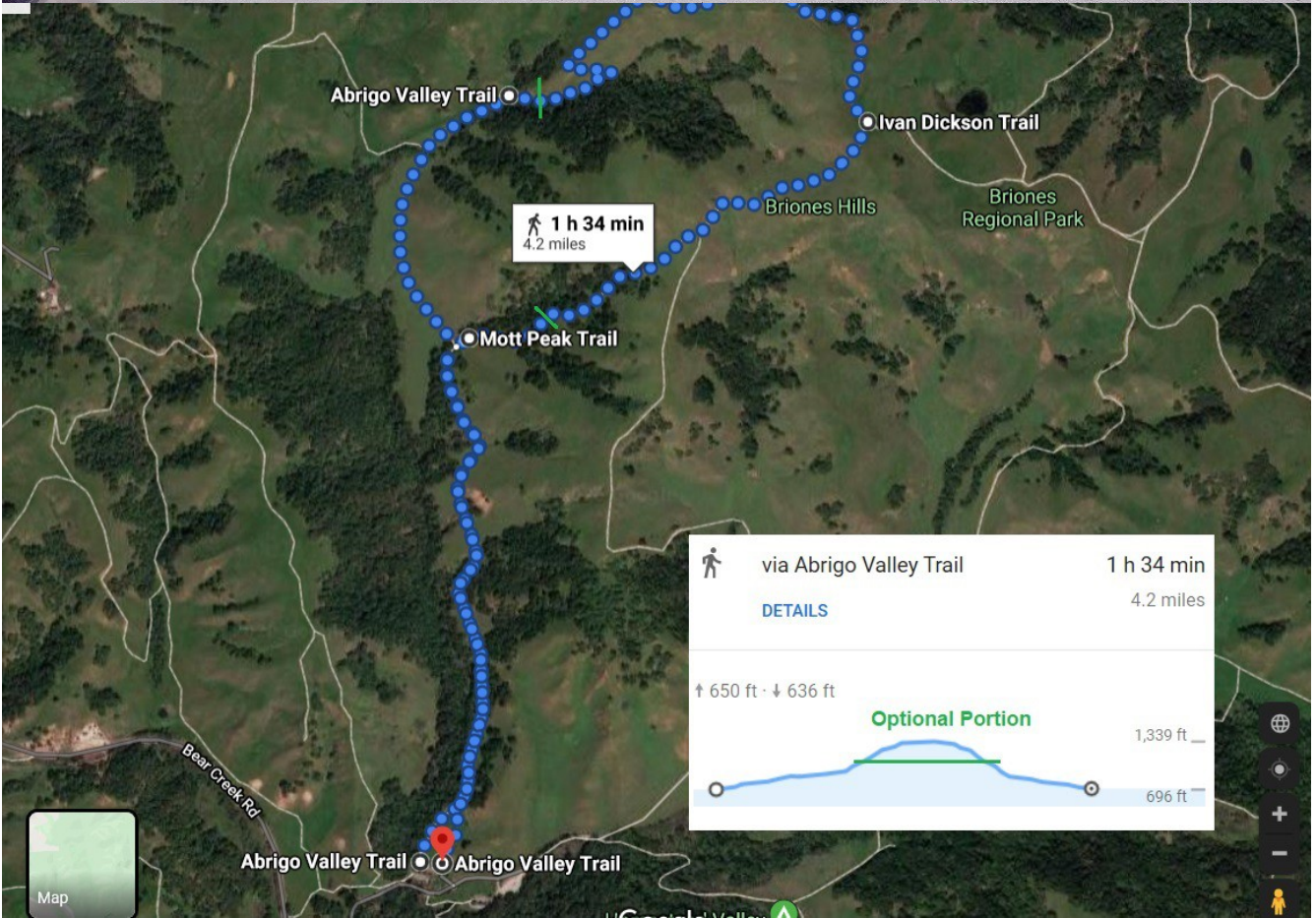
Hike Coordinator: Martin Simmons 925-586-2704 martin@infinitylane.com

Hike Co-Leader: Mike Spink 317-815-0385 mikespink@sbcglobal.net

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

Photos:

Abrigo Valley Staging Area
Route Map (green lines mark optional moderate portion):



Bay View – top of Abrigo Valley Trail which comes up from the left:



Suisun Bay – top of Mott Trail:

