

Subject: Montana de Oro Horse Camping, June 17-20, 2010.

As presented at the January TVT meeting, Marilyn Russell has reserved Oak campsite at Montana de Oro (Near San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay) for June 17-20.

This site holds 50 people with 25 vehicles. There are pit toilets (cleaned daily), but no hook ups and no showers.....bring your own potable water. There is water for the horses but we need to remember to bring hoses to make it easy to fill your own buckets in the pipe stalls. There is a minimum of 7 horses and a maximum of 25. After seven horses, we will need to pay an extra \$2.00 per night for each horse (this is already included in the fee listed below). I have also run color maps for the first 10 to sign up so you can plan your rides ahead of time:>). Complete descriptive maps can be purchased from the ranger for \$1.00 or \$2.00, if you are in camp when he comes by to clean. There are picnic tables (do not use for mounting your horse, ask Diane Offutt!!!) and fire pits.

Bring a bit of firewood or charcoal, too.

There are nice pipe paddocks for each horse (probably 12' X 12'). Keen and Quincy are big guys and they had enough room.

We have to haul out our own trash and muck out the stalls (wheelbarrow and shovels are provided). I recommend bringing a bag or two of shavings.

It is about a 5 hour drive from Livermore, but fairly easy down 101 if you miss the commute traffic in San Jose! There is a rest area about 3 hours from here(175miles) near Camp Roberts. I have purchased gas or diesel in Atascadero (there is a big Chevron Station on Santa Rosa Road). Specific directions are below.

We can check in after 2pm on Thursday, June 17, so I will leave Livermore at 9am. We can arrange a caravan closer to the date if you would like.

Check out is 12 noon on Sunday, June 20.

COST \$50 for 3 nights, 4days. Pay to Marilyn Russell by April 14 TVT meeting. If I do not have 7 paid participants at that time, I will have to cancel the reservation, but I am confident we will have at least 10!!

There is a great diversity of trails from the beach to challenging mountains and lots of choices in between. Most trails are well-signed, well-maintained and with beautiful views. The longest loop may take up to 8 hours and is quite technical.

There are no cattle grazing, but you might see a pod of dolphins in the waves!!!! There are hikers and bicycles. I have been there every fall for the past 3 years.

I really love the area, and am excited to share it with TVT.

DIRECTIONS TO MONTANA DE ORO HORSE CAMP.

Take Highway 101 South from San Jose.

From Highway 101 go through San Luis Obispo (4 hours if you do not stop along the way). Take the LOS OSOS VALLEY ROAD exit.
Go WEST (you will pass car dealerships, a large shopping center on your left with a Costco). (((Just past the intersection of Los Osos Valley Road and Madonna Road there is a Shell station which has diesel--though it is cheaper in Atascadero!)))

Stay on Los Osos Valley Road through the town of Los Osos (8-10 miles from the freeway turnoff).
Continue on this road, staying left (it changes names at the curve and will narrow and become two lanes as you proceed uphill. There are signs to the park.
The ocean will be on your right and Morro Rock is visible (if it is not foggy).

Once you enter the park at the top of the hill, the entrance to the horse camp is on your left, almost immediately after you enter the park. I will hang some pink ribbon on the shrubs and I think there is a sign that says "equestrian camp or horse camp."

The entry road is a single lane and not paved (gravel). Drive slowly and carefully. At the bottom of the hill (I will put up ribbons), turn RIGHT and Oak camp is right there (actually you turn right and then a little left;>).

We will organize evening pot lucks later. You are on your own for breakfast and lunch, altho I can provide hot water and perhaps coffee in the morning.

This is going to be a grand annual event!!!

any questions:

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