

TVT Wildflower Ride & St Jude Fundraiser

Saturday, April 7, 2018 - Rain Date: Sunday 4/15/18

MITCHELL CANYON/MT DIABLO STATE PARK

Ride out at 10:30 am

Length of Ride: approx. 3 ½ hours

Difficulty level: Easy.

Trail Boss: Penny Marris 925.980.6563 or email: pennymarris@gmail.com

Due to recent Winter/Spring rains, the Mt Diablo trails we normally ride for the Wildflower event are both too damaged, and likely too strenuous for many of our horses. Marilyn and I decided that something less strenuous, but usually just as beautiful would make a better and safer trail ride this year. For those of you who have little experience with Mitchell Canyon, it is basically a wide road with a running creek alongside, and hillsides full of wildflowers! You often see cascades of flowers that you find nowhere else. Timing is everything in this search for beauty and we hope that April 8 will be the day for profusion and explosive color! If you don't go, you won't know!

“Please remember that this ride is the annual BENEFIT RIDE for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Tennessee, founded by Danny Thomas. We have contributed generously in the past for this worthy organization. Please bring your donations or sponsorships to the May meeting. JoAnn Swift will be collecting your donations and sending them in for the prizes to be distributed at the June meeting. You do not have to ride in order to participate and of course, the donations are purely voluntary and tax deductible.

Please make your checks payable to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.”

- *Ride out at 10:30am from Mitchell Canyon **OVERFLOW** parking area.*

(We must park on the outside of the park on weekends) so the FIRST GATE before the Kiosk you will make a left turn into a graveled parking area. A very large pile of gravel is the landmark. If you have a large gooseneck, or larger trailer, call Penny and she will tell you some options for parking. (925.980.6563) I will be at the parking lot at 9:30 am to assist with parking if necessary.

- *Parking fees: \$6.00, \$5.00 for those over 62. Or use an annual State Park pass.*
- *Bring a lunch and water.*

We will eat back at the parking lot after the ride. There is a nice picnic area in the parking lot where we can share our stories.

- *Ride Synopsis:*

We will ride down to the end of Mitchell Canyon but not going up the long steep main hill. There will be many opportunities to view magical wildflowers along the way. Turning around, we will continue back towards the Visitor Center and up the trail towards Donnor and wander through out the grass lands, looking for Mariposa Lilly and lots of other hidden gems. There will only be a couple of very short uphill, mostly wandering wide open trails in the grasslands, and then back to parking lot. Mitchell Canyon is a high use park area, so we will likely encounter bikes, dogs, kids, families, and strollers.

Directions on second page....

Directions to Mitchell Canyon, Clayton, CA

From Walnut Creek from 680,

Ygnacio Valley Road East approximately 7.2 mi

Right on Clayton Rd, continue 1.0 mile

Right on Mitchell Canyon Rd continue about 1.5 mi to the FIRST GATE before the Kiosk...left into outer parking lot. Large pile of crushed rock inside the gate. You are there!

From Brentwood via Marsh Creek Road:

Marsh Creek Road to Clayton approximately 20.2 miles. Do NOT turn onto Old Marsh Creek Road...stay on the 4 lane...till you reach Mitchell Canyon Road

Left Mitchell Canyon Road continue about 1.5 mi to the FIRST GATE before the Kiosk...left into outer parking lot. Large pile of crushed rock inside the gate. You are there!

From Brentwood via CA-4/Kirker Pass:

CA-4 to California Avenue in Pittsburg, take exit 24

Follow Loveridge Rd and Buchanan Rd to Kirker Pass Rd about 2.5 miles

Use the left 2 lanes to turn left on Kirker Pass Rd continue 5.3 miles

Turn left onto Clayton Road about 1.5 miles to Mitchell Canyon Road

Turn Right onto Mitchell Canyon Road for approximately 1.5 miles to the FIRST GATE before the Kiosk...left into outer parking lot. Large pile of crushed rock inside the gate. You are there!

If you miss the gate, pay your money at the kiosk, continue into the inner parking lot, turn around and come back towards the kiosk...there is a right turn into the outer parking lot just by the kiosk, but it is too sharp to make a left turn....if you have questions, call me, Penny Marrs, 925.980.6563