

JUNE  
2022

# SAN FRANCISCO

30 Ridge Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
(415) 388-9987  
www.touristclubsf.org  
Editor: Brianna Darlington



California Edition

# The Nature Friends

OUR BULLETIN

## HEIDELMANN LOCKER NOTICE

**Skiers and Boarders!! If you think you have skies or ski equipment stored at Heidelberg, but have not received or paid a "Ski Locker Bill" for 2021 or 2022, you should call or email Lucy Smiell. She has several ski lockers where she is storing some very nice equipment. Most for more than 3 years. This coming Labor Day Work Weekend, Sept 3-5, the time will have come to set it out to be claimed or discarded.**

**Lucy Smiell; Heidelberg Locker Handler  
510/832-6938; lucysmiell@att.net**

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

by Corresponding Secretary, Jack Owens,  
[info@touristclubsf.org](mailto:info@touristclubsf.org)

Have you ever dreamed of running your own restaurant? Now is your chance! Our interim Kitchen Chair, Jason Baron, is accepting (demanding) volunteers to help cook on the work-days. Email him at [jasonreedbaron@gmail.com](mailto:jasonreedbaron@gmail.com) to join the fun. In addition, we are still looking for a permanent kitchen chair. If you are interested, email the board at [board@touristclubsf.org](mailto:board@touristclubsf.org).

**Monthly Board Meeting Announcement.** The agenda for the June 12 Board Meeting can be found [here](#). It includes the Zoom information. Hope to see you there! Minutes from last month's meeting (and previous months!) can be found [here](#).

**Heidelberg Minutes.** We have started posting Heidelberg minutes online [here](#)! Currently, we have just the March 2022 minutes posted, but we plan to get additional

minutes added. Non San Francisco Club Members (e.g., Oakland and LA members) can read Heidelberg and Corporation Minutes by using USERNAME "Naturfreund" and PASSWORD "bergfrei".

## NEWS FROM THE FESTMEISTERS

by Molly Gilardi, [sffestmeister@gmail.com](mailto:sffestmeister@gmail.com)

After two long years we celebrated Maifest on May 15! Queen Robin Havens, likely the longest reigning



Tourist Club Queen, passed her crown to 2022 Queen Joyce Johnston. It was a beautiful ceremony. Thank you to all who

participated. The Gruber Family Band was a hit! Thank you to Elizabeth Bechtold for donating funds to contribute to the cost of

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the band. Volunteers, as you know, the fests are not possible without you. Thank you all for your help making this Maifest 2022 memorable! Although there are too many



volunteers to thank individually, we want to recognize our cooks and station captains - Elena O'Curry, Jason Baron, JoAnne McEachin, Horst Steinfels, and Jack Owens - who kept their stations

running smoothly under pressure. As you all noticed, we had to implement changes to maintain the proper balance of member versus

nonmember income so we can have fests in the future. This included requiring members and volunteers to pay, as well as a few extra steps at admissions.

Thank you all for working with us to support our Club! Please continue doing so. We need a lot

more member income to ensure we can throw a successful fest in September. We will also need more member attendance in September to keep the balance of member income in our favor.



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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Karoline Hatch-Berens, [membership@touristclubsf.org](mailto:membership@touristclubsf.org)

Membership dues have been due for some time, and there are still seventy people who have yet to pay their 2022 dues. If you suspect this is you, or if you are unsure, please email [membership@touristclubsf.org](mailto:membership@touristclubsf.org) to work out a payment arrangement. If you are planning to drop, you can let me know that too. We pay \$14 a year per member to the corporation and that spread over seventy people is almost a thousand bucks!

Last year, so many members stepped up as we reopened to plan the Saturday afternoon fundraisers and saved our bacon, so to speak.

We voted to allow one shift at these events to count toward the fest requirement. All other fest hours must have been completed at one of the traditional fests: Mai, Sommer, Kinder. Please ensure your sponsors understand this. Also, good to note is that if prospective members volunteer time beyond their scheduled shifts at the fests, they should notify the festmeister in charge, so someone has a record of their labor.

2022 is my last year holding this position and we are actively looking for a replacement. It is a rewarding job where you do get to know the breadth of the membership, and while there is a substantial amount of work, you are supporting the club in the most tangible way. Dues payments are the largest source of income the club has, and this function is vital. The job consists of maintaining the member database (Civi-CRM, cloud-based), communicating with, and assisting prospect members along the path to membership, mailing out dues notices (can usually get this done in a workday or two at the end of the year), and processing dues payments (made easier with the online dues payments). There are a few other responsibilities, but these are the main ones, and, you do get to know the membership in a deeper way, and we have a very interesting membership! I would be happy to help anyone who is interested, as Amy Hobbs did for me. Please contact me if you would like to shadow me the end of this year and find out what the job entails firsthand. Or if you are interested and have any questions about it!

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**TC HIKING CLUB** by Janet Miller,  
[hiking@touristclubsf.org](mailto:hiking@touristclubsf.org)

**Saturday, June 18, First Annual Founder's Hike.** The History Committee and the Hiking Committee are jointly sponsoring the First Annual Founder's Hike! We will approximate the route our founders took on their inaugural hike in 1912 from Fairfax to Lagunitas. We hope this will become an annual summertime hike like the one we traditionally take to the East Peak of Mt. Tam on January 1 every year.

Our founders decided to form our club in 1912 immediately after hiking from Fairfax to the Lagunitas home of John Stammer, a fellow artist, to help him hang a giant painting he'd made. The History Committee has reconstructed the route they took. A photo of the painting and the minutes of their hike are re-

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produced on page 82 of our history book, Histories of Nature Friends in California.

We'll start on the Pine Mountain Fire Road (west from the Azalia Hill parking lot) and continue to Lagunitas via the San Geronimo Fire Road. The distance is 7.7 miles. The elevation change is less than 500 ft over the first 5 miles, and the trail gently drops over the last 2 miles to the Leo Cronin Fish Viewing Area. You'll see unusual and spectacular views of Pine Mountain, Kent Lake, Woodacre, Elephant Mountain, Mt. Tam, Bolinas Ridge, and much, much more!

The hike is also a fundraiser for our club! Your friends can sponsor you with a donation to the club based on the number of miles you walk. For example, at \$5.00 per mile, the club would net \$38.50 for each person who sponsors you. Set your rate at \$10.00/mile and the club nets \$77.00 for each sponsor! And you can also sponsor yourself!

We will meet in front of Arti Cafe, an Indian restaurant in Lagunitas, at 9 am June 18, parking along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. We'll drop a couple of cars at the Leo Cronin Fish Viewing Area to shuttle us back to our cars when we're done. Then we'll double up and drive to Azalia Hill for the hike.

There will be an optional dinner after the hike at Arti Cafe, then we'll drive back to Azalia Hill to pick up the cars we left there.

**Sunday June 26, San Anselmo Hike, 9 am - 2 pm, 20 Veterans Place.** Distance 8 miles and estimated duration 5 hours which includes breaks - pack a lunch! Meet in the American Legion Log Cabin parking lot in Memorial Park off San Francisco Boulevard in San Anselmo at 9 am. From there we organize carpooling to the trailhead above White Hill School in Fairfax. The hike is a ridge walk through the Open Space lands of Fairfax and San Anselmo. We begin with a stiff climb to the top of Loma Alta, then take the 680 trail to fire roads above San Anselmo and back to Memorial Park. With the exception of the wooded 680 stretch, the hike is open and offers lovely views of San Francisco, Mount Tamalpais, White's Hill and West Marin. From Memorial Park we would drive back to the trailhead in Fairfax to collect our vehicles, then stop for a beer in Fairfax on the way back (Splitrock Tap and Wheel possible option). Dogs are welcome on this hike but should be leashed on the 680 trail; off leash

is fine on the fire roads. Questions and to RSVP [hiking@touristclubsf.org](mailto:hiking@touristclubsf.org).

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## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE COMMITTEE

by [Scott Stanley, oac@touristclubsf.org](mailto:Scott.Stanley@touristclubsf.org)

**Saturday, June 11, at 7 pm meet in downtown Mill Valley, location TBD. Dinner, a Hike and Overnight at the Club.** An email with more details will follow soon. From there we'll hike up to the Tourist Club to hang out in the bar and relax around the fire. Camp in the meadow or get a bed and join for the WORKDAY the following morning. Be certain to RSVP to the Club for the workday! RSVP just for the dinner/hike to Scott Stanley by June 10.

**Sunday and Monday, June 19 & 20, Father's Day/Juneteenth Weekend at the Heidelmann Lodge & Mountain Biking.** An email with more details will follow soon. Email Scott Stanley if you are interested in joining.

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## SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE EVENTS

**Saturday, June 11, 7 pm, Dinner, a Hike and Overnight at the Club,** see OAC section for details.

**Sunday, June 12, Workday and Board Meeting.** Please RSVP for the workday by using the form provided on the member's page, or by using the following link: <https://forms.gle/Po2hmM2b4mbedjTR6>

**Saturday, June 18, 9 am, First Annual Founder's Hike,** see TC Hiking Club section for details.

**Sunday and Monday, June 19 & 20, Father's Day/Juneteenth Weekend at the Heidelmann Lodge,** see OAC section for details.



**Sunday, June 26, San Anselmo Hike, 9 am-2 pm,** see TC Hiking Club section for details.

# OAKLAND

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Editor: David Cole

## HEIDELMANN LOCKER NOTICE

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**Lucy Smiell; Heidelmann Locker Handler  
510/832-6938; lucysmiell@att.net**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who made our Maifest such a fun event! It was wonderful to be able to gather at the club and celebrate spring after such a long hiatus. We will repeat what worked and make improvements as necessary so that the Oktoberfest is even better. If you have any comments about the Maifest, please send them to [oaklandnaturefriends@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandnaturefriends@gmail.com).

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have a virtual Quarterly Member Meeting along with the Board meeting. Please put this on your calendar – we will be voting in some wonderful new members and voting on insurance for Heidelmann. (Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88945522498>)

Finally, just a heads up that on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a German Day in Golden Gate Park sponsored by the United German-American Societies of San Francisco (UGAS), the Deutscher Musikverein of San Francisco (DMV), and the Excelsior German Center at the Altenheim in Oakland (EGC). We will include a link with more information once it is available.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KARL LEBHERZ

Friends and family came together on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the club to share their memories of accordion player, band leader and 40-year ONF member, Karl Lebherz. The afternoon began as attendees sat at the tables under the oak trees and shared a potluck meal. Following the meal, the Oakland Turnverein and Freundschaft Liederkrantz choirs joined together in a special choral presentation to honor Karl. Karl's favorite tune, 'Kufstein', was played by accordion players Thomas Seiter and Joe Domitrovich. The mic was passed around and many stories about

Karl were shared. A group sing-along that lasted well over an hour, led by Thomas and Joe, ended a very memorable afternoon. Thank you all who were able to attend.

Karl Lebherz's Life Story: Karl, one of five children, was born in Schaffhausen, Switzerland on March 7, 1934. His mother was a stay-at-home mom, his father a store clerk. When he was a child the family moved to Aachen, Germany where he grew up.

Karl's love and fascination for the accordion began even as a child. The story goes that with a small toy accordion, neighbor kids would pull his little red wagon as he sat in it, creating musical sounds. A real accordion and lessons were beyond the financial reach of his family, and it would be decades before a devastating event would become the mixed blessing that allowed him to be a professional musician.

Karl married and began his family of six children (four sons and two daughters) in Aachen, Germany, where he worked in a coal mine. In



1955, after his first two children were born, Karl moved to San Francisco, staying first with relatives, and then finding work at a steel company.

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Not until 1957, did Karl buy his first accordion. He played his first gig in 1967 at the old Mustache's Pizza Parlor in San Bruno. Along the way, Karl remarried, became a stepfather, and forged a special relationship with his stepdaughter. He was the only grandfather that his stepdaughter's children ever knew. He later raised another son, after his six other children were grown.

In July 1968, while working as a mason and house painter in the Bay Area, Karl was involved in a serious car accident. One of his legs was so severely damaged that he was confined to wearing a full-length cast for two years. He finally had the time to concentrate on his



Will Uher, Joe Domitrovich and Vija, Karl's band mate and long time companion

accordion skills. In essence, he became a professional 'by accident.' Still wearing his full-length cast, he started playing for Peter Alioto's Hofbrau on Fisherman's Wharf. Just a short time later, Karl and his band were gigging at German festivals and other cultural events all over Northern California. Karl's childhood love and fascination for the accordion – and the joy that it allowed him to share with polka dancers or even someone just keeping time to the music was the driving force that propelled Karl for the rest of his life.

## HIKING NEWS

On a warm Saturday on May 14th, nine Oakland Nature Friends met at a lovely Marin County trailhead. Our group started at Deer Park School in Fairfax and made an approx. 5.5-mile loop that led us to Phoenix Lake and back. We



unanimously decided to picnic in the shade of the redwoods by a creek flowing into the lake. Some la-

dies enjoyed wading in the cool creek. Someone spotted a newt (not a nude) in the creek. Hikers were glad to have packed plenty of water when we headed back on a gentle winding uphill in 75 -degree weather. Our reward was gorgeous panoramic views of the northern wooded, green slopes of Mount Tamalpais. During the hike we reminisced about our recent ONF Maifest and all the fun we had finally dancing, eating, drinking, and socializing again.

## NEXT WORKDAY

Our regular July workday is being moved to Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, so as not to conflict with the Fourth of July weekend. It will start at 9:00 a.m. as usual. Lunch will be available at noon for the workers, so please let Loren Worm know if you plan on attending. ([lnworm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lnworm@sbcglobal.net)).

## WORKDAY COOKS

What would our workdays be without our awesome cooks! Below is the current list of volunteers. If you would like to help out, please let us know at [oaklandnaturefriends@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandnaturefriends@gmail.com).

- July: ?
- August: Anke Riesner
- September: ?
- October: ?
- November: Shelley Kelly
- December: ?

## COVID SAFETY

ONF will continue to follow Alameda County Covid guidelines. Just last Friday, a new requirement to wear masks indoors (unless you are eating/drinking) was reinstated and they are recommending them outdoors at crowded events. It is up to individual members and guests to make their own personal choices.

## UPCOMING HIKE AND EVENTS

### Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> – Redwood Park (Oakland). Led by Jina Saikia

We will do a moderately challenging (but accessible) 3.8-mile loop trail in Oakland. It takes just under 2 hours to complete. This is a very popular area for hiking, mountain biking, and dog walking, so we will likely encounter other people while exploring. Most trails are wide but some narrow spots. Note dogs can be off leash in some areas. We will get great views and some shade and sun. This is a family favorite hike. We will meet at the

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ONF clubhouse at 8:45am and then take a short drive to the Trudeau conference center at 11500 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619. Parking in the lot or on Skyline. We take the Dunn trail from the start. Lunch location to be determined.

### **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> – Oakland Zoo adjacent hike**

We will enjoy a leisurely hike in Knowland Park, around the Oakland Zoo. We may have a glimpse of one of the bison or bears that live in the enclosures, but the real treat is the views of the Bay. This will be a 2-mile hike with about two hundred feet of elevation. We will meet at 9:00 at the ONF clubhouse and then carpool over to the trailhead. After the hike we will carpool to Loren's house for an early lunch – bring your own lunch! Questions, contact Beth Greene at [chezgreene@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chezgreene@sbcglobal.net).

### **Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Hiking and Relaxing at the Heidelmann Lodge**

A few people in Oakland got together and decided to spend some days up at the Heidelmann Lodge. If any of our Oakland or San Francisco members are interested, please come. We will play games, take some walks, and enjoy each other's company. It is good for all of us to get out, meet people and get some fresh air. You will have to bring your own food; the cook is on vacation – somewhere. Some of your favorite "old timers" will share stories and memories while we continue to create new ones. Looking forward to seeing you, please feel free to bring any like-minded friends.

### **Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Angel Island Excursion and Hike**

Join us on a trip to Angel Island! The island has beautiful views and lots of history, as well as activities for hikers and non-hikers. For the hikers, the plan is to hike to the top of Mount Caroline Livermore, then walk around the perimeter past Fort McDowell. We will spend some time at the immigration station before coming back to the harbor. This will be a 6-mile hike with just over 1,000 feet of elevation, and we will stop to have lunch along the hike. For those who would prefer a more relaxed outing, there are picnic tables at the harbor that are perfect for playing games and enjoying the views. There is also a tram tour of the island which costs between \$11 and \$17, depending on the age of the rider. And

for those who like history, the Immigration Station Museum is a one mile, relatively flat walk from the harbor. Everyone should plan on having lunch at the island, which you can bring or buy on the island. Both groups will meet back at the harbor to enjoy some goodies together before we get on the ferry.

We will meet at 8:15 a.m. at the Oakland clubhouse, leaving no later than 8:30. We will take the 10:00 ferry to the island, and plan on leaving the island on the 3:20 p.m. ferry. If you plan on coming, you are responsible for buying your ferry ticket at least a few days before the trip, as weekend ferries tend to fill up

(<https://angelislandferry.com/schedule/> or (415) 435-2131. Please RSVP to Beth Greene ([chezgreene@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chezgreene@sbcglobal.net)) so that we know who to expect. Please contact Beth if you have any questions.

### **Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00 – Annual Members' Barbecue**

Yes, the Annual Members' Barbecue is back, all members are invited.

Renee Miller Morgenthaler and Inge Schnars have agreed to organize the Barbecue.

ONF will provide the items for the grill, beverages, and side dishes. We ask our members to contribute to the dessert table.

We will be celebrating the members who have special anniversaries so please join us in presenting anniversary pins and honoring these members.

Come and enjoy our Biergarten, good food, friends, and music!

If you have an instrument, please bring it so we can have music and enjoy a sing-a-long.

Non-member guests are welcome at a \$25.00 per person fee.

**Please RSVP to:**

**Renee Morgenthaler at  
(cell) 408-499-7328,**

**Or**

**[reneemorgen@comcast.net](mailto:reneemorgen@comcast.net)**

**Be sure to include the names of all members and the number of guests, plus their food choice of either chicken or steak. Hot Dogs will be available for children.**

Remember you must RSVP and pay for guests by July 19th!

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You may make payments for guests by any of the following methods:

Credit Card

Venmo to @Herbert-Schmidt and write in "ONF BBQ"; the last four digits of his phone number are: 6856

Send check to Oakland Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland, CA 94602, Attn: Renee / Members' BBQ

## OAKLAND CALENDAR

**Saturday**, June 11<sup>th</sup> – Redwood Park hike (Oakland)

**Tuesday**, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. – ONF Board meeting and Quarterly Member Meeting (Zoom)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88945522498>

**Saturday**, June 25<sup>th</sup> – Oakland Zoo adjacent hike

**Tuesday**, July 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Hiking and Relaxing at the Heidelmann Lodge

**Saturday**, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Workday

**Saturday**, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. – Angel Island hike

**Sunday**, July 24<sup>th</sup> – Member Picnic/BBQ

**Sunday**, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Oktoberfest

**Sunday**, October 16<sup>th</sup> – German Day in Golden Gate Park 2022



# LOS ANGELES

423 Yucca Trails  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
(626) 355-0117  
www.naturefriendsla.org  
Editor: Ken Symington

## FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

The use of masks and proper distancing are still required in LA County and California for groups using public facilities, and verifying that visitors have actually been vaccinated and "boosted" is required, so, stay aware of changing requirements, by consulting newspapers and e mails. They change almost every day, depending on the COVID status.

We have received a number of reservations for the weeks ahead, and our schedule is getting pretty full, so, if you plan to use the club facilities, don't wait, make a reservation now. With diminishing COVID problems, our facilities are being thankfully used frequently by members and guests.

As in any other similar organization, we welcome new members, so if you have any friends who might be interested in becoming members, please let us know, and we will send them application forms and arrange for a tour of our location.

## IMPROVEMENTS

More hillside plantings on spots that were denuded have been made with cacti and succulent plants that need comparatively limited water supplies.

New window shades were installed in several of the overnight sleeping rooms.

A special mounting was bought and installed in the library room, so that the TV set could be installed there, or when needed, set up in the main meeting room.

## NF IDYLLWILD CABIN

Cabin Chair Jonathan Woodside has announced that the NF-LA Cabin at Idyllwild will be open for members and friends to visit and stay overnight if they wish on the following dates in 2022:

May 28-30

July 1-5

Either July 29-August 1 or August 5-7

September 2-5

October 7-9.

## MEMBERSHIP

All membership meetings take place at our Sierra Madre clubhouse, and specific details about them will appear in the NF Bulletins every month, sent to all members.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- 1.- Ann-Marie Tierney
- 2.- Nina Tillery
- 3.- Daniel Ribinson and Anu Athanikar
- 4.- Paige Rogowski

Also, the following EXISTING members have paid their dues during May:

- 1.- Thomas Woodside.

Thanks to the CURRENT members who have renewed their membership for 2022 during the last few months. We appreciate very much continuing to have them aboard.

We encourage all current members who have not yet paid your 2022 dues to please do so now.

The Club really needs your contribution to help it continue to exist and grow.



# Heidelmann Lodge

Norden, on Donner Summit near Sugar Bowl  
(530) 482-1048  
www.heidelmannlodge.org  
Editor: Ed Boscacci

## HEIDELMANN LOCKER NOTICE

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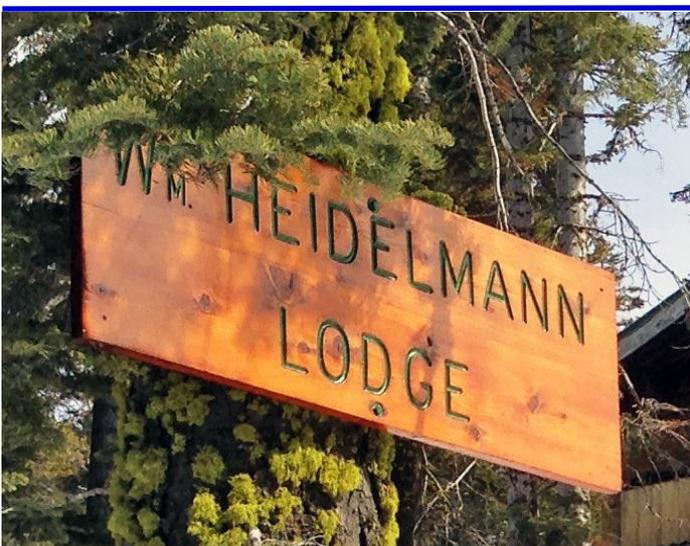
**Lucy Smiell; Heidelmann Locker Handler  
510/832-6938; lucysmiell@att.net**

The Lodge is open to members and their guests during the COVID-19 period. Key things to know about staying at the Lodge are posted on our web site, [Heidelmannlodge.org](http://Heidelmannlodge.org). Our web site includes a calendar for making reservations. We have no organized events. Reservations are required to stay at the Lodge. To make a reservation, contact Nancy Briemle at [nbriemle@comcast.net](mailto:nbriemle@comcast.net). (Note that this is a new email address for Nancy. Do not reply to her old e-mail address.)

Anyone making a reservation must send proof of vaccination. Also, members and their guests must show proof of vaccination at the Lodge. If there is unreserved space available indoors, drop-in visitors may sleep in the Lodge (respecting the space of those who made reservations).

Otherwise, drop-in visitors can sleep outside either in tents or under the stars.

Visitors sleeping outdoors pay the same rates as those sleeping indoors.



### **Bulletin Available Electronically**

E-mail is the best way to receive the monthly Bulletin. Not only will you get it earlier, but also the photographs can be fully appreciated in color. Not to mention the whole save a tree thing. Sign up today: Send your name and e-mail to Amy Hobbs-Sutter at [ahbbs2@aol.com](mailto:ahbbs2@aol.com) for SF; to Inge Schnars at [ingeschnars@gmail.com](mailto:ingeschnars@gmail.com) for Oakland

## **THE NATURE FRIENDS BULLETIN** California Edition

"Our Bulletin" is a private publication of the Nature Friends, Inc., intended solely for the information, use, pleasure, and benefit of its members. Views expressed in articles appearing in "Our Bulletin" are those of the article's author and not necessarily those of the Nature Friends, Inc. We welcome and encourage your comments.

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**Deadline for next Issue**

**Monday, July 4, 2022**



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