

IT'S ON!!

Let's grill it up! Everyone's invited!

Saturday, August 16th

The gate will be open around 1pm.

We'll start grilling food around 6pm. Marshmallows and Smores around the campfire to follow!

People who want to visit just for Saturday evening's main event or can't overnight are certainly welcome to drop by for something to eat!

Where?

Stew's Happy Place Ranch!

The 'ranch' is over 100 acres of wild hills with fantastic views of the San Antonio Valley and Mount Hamilton. The only man-made things on it are a 3/4 mile long dirt road, a small redwood picnic deck with two picnic tables, and a 16ft. travel trailer. The pond is dried up, so no real 'plunge' option.

I'll bring up some 5gal. jugs of general purpose water.

I'll also have most of the food and BEvERages for everyone.

I'll bring up the grills.

The trailer has a functional bathroom for your convenience.

Scrambled eggs, corned beef hash, OJ and coffee are on the breakfast menu.

The gate is located on the west side of Mines Road, about six miles from the Santa Clara County line (if you're headed south) and about 2 miles from the restaurant called 'The Junction' (if you're headed north). That's actually behind Mount Hamilton, which is east of San Jose.

The country roads in any of three directions are FANTASTIC drives (be careful not to fall off the edge and 'go missing' or 'meet the wildlife').

Access:

From the North: Livermore (Tesla Rd to Mines Rd) *easiest* (even from San Jose!)

From the East: Patterson (I-5 to Del Puerto Canyon Rd)

From the South: San Jose (I-680-Alum Rock exit to Hwy 130 aka Mt. Hamilton Rd)

Things to think about bringing:

camp chairs

football/frisbee/kites

dogs or kids

boots

telescope or binoculars

camping gear - if you're gonna rough it

Here's a rough map of the location (X marks the spot):



Location (specific):

The gate at Mines Road is 6 miles from the Alameda/Santa Clara county line when headed south. The gate is 2 miles from the restaurant known as 'The Junction' (at the junction of Mines Rd, Del Puerto Canyon Rd, and San Antonio Valley Rd) when headed north.

It is on the west side of Mines Rd half-way between the mile markers 21 and 22 (painted on roadway).

Easiest access is through Livermore- Mines Rd heading south (26 miles starting at base of Mines Rd from Tesla Rd). Approximate drive time on Mines Rd is slightly less than one hour. Be sure to turn left and stay on Mines road instead of going straight towards Del Valle Recreation Area. (the turn is after the first 3.5 miles of Mines Road)

Watch the mile markers increase as you leave Livermore. They get to '20' at the Santa Clara County line and then start backwards from about 28.

Other access:

California Central Valley- I5 exit Sperry Ave at Patterson, head west on Diablo Grande Parkway, then turn right onto Del Puerto Canyon Rd, then turning north (right) on Mines at the Junction (27 miles starting at I5).

San Jose- Hwy 132 (Mt Hamilton Rd) from Alum Rock up and over Mt. Hamilton, into San Antonio Valley, finally heading north on Mines Rd (40 miles starting at Alum Rock ~90minutes?).

The gate is a simple bent tube farm gate, rusty-yellow/orange color. When headed south (as from Livermore) the gate is hidden by hillside until you have just reached it. Keep an eye on your odometer and drive slowly as you get nearer. One of the gateposts has a small sign that says "Brown".

GPS:

37° 24' 54.52"

121° 29' 55.66"

Once through the gate, the meeting area is about 3/4 mile up the dirt drive.

Be careful to stay on the road- there are a couple of tricky (especially in the dark) turns.

Be especially careful of the wildlife you might encounter while driving on the county roads! There is a good population of deer and occasionally you'll meet with some cows, too.