

MONTARA MOUNTAIN GUIDEBOOK

“Montara Mountain” is back in print! Barbara VanderWerf’s guidebook to the trails, plants, and fascinating historical lore of Montara Mountain, including San Pedro Valley Park, is available at the Visitor Center Trailside Store inside the park. Originally published in 1995, “Montara Mountain” was reprinted in 2010 with a foreword by Pacifica biologist Mike Vasey. As this is still a great reference book for hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders, the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park (SPVP)—working with Barbara—have facilitated a third printing. Trailside Store hours are Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The park entrance is at 600 Oddstad Boulevard (just south of the Oddstad/Rosita/Linda Mar intersection). The Friends of SPVP have informative nature programs, and are always looking for new members to support volunteer work they do in the park. Website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org

PET PEEVES

“Please RSVP” is redundant, complains Tribune proofreader Jean Headley-Darmody, because RSVP is a French acronym for “repondez s’il vous plait” (“please reply”). Jean also hates bloviations like “general consensus of opinion.” I second that! And let’s not forget the Lincoln MKC, which the carmaker describes as a “luxury small utility compact crossover SUV.” Talk about overkill! Jeff Bagshaw nominates “get a grip” and “awesome.” Chris Vance nominates “organic” and “drink the Kool-Aid” and “is that even a thing?” One final pet peeve of mine: You are

already in a really bad mood because of a banking or credit card error or problem, you call the customer service line, and the person who answers invariably says something like, “Hi, how’s your day going so far?” Don’t you hate that? Aren’t you tempted to snap back something truthful like, “Lousy, how about yours?” But of course, you never do that rude thing. You just suffer in silence or mumble a little white lie: “Fine, thanks.” Grrr! Here at Wandering & Wondering, we always try not to be hoist on our own petard.

DO YOU FEEL SAFER NOW?

According to a recent Associated Press story, the coalition bombing of ISIS (ISIL, Daesh, whatever) in Syria and Iraq has been wearing down the caliphate so badly that they are cutting back on salaries and benefits to their fighters and “constituents.” They are charging now for utilities, and making everyone pay in black-market U.S. dollars. That’s gotta leave a mark! Pay cuts of up to 50 percent are now common. Honeymoon and baby bonuses are cancelled. Meal allowances are going down from three a day to two. And to top it all off, adding insult to injury, these head-chopping, plane-bombing terrorists will no longer receive free energy drinks and Snickers bars. (True story!) Maybe we ought to drop some Three Musketeers on them! (Reminds me of the witty proposal during the Vietnam War that we could win by dropping refrigerators and other home appliances instead of bombs.)

SWAMI SEZ

“I’m addicted to placebos. I’d give them up, but it wouldn’t make any difference.” (Jay Leno)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email: Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com
- Blog: PacificaRiptide.com
- Copy Editor: Goofbuster.com