



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

POT OF GOLD

During the first month of its new regulating ordinance on pot clubs, the City of San Jose collected almost \$300,000 in revenue, even after restricting the number of such clubs. If ever there were an argument in favor of taxing the sale of medical marijuana, this would be it. (Source: San Jose Mercury News, May 14)

DOG DAZED

Thanks to POOCH President Beverly Kingsbury for inviting me back to judge the Dog Daze contests again this year. I had a blast seeing all the cutest, best-costumed, best-kissing, and most-lookalike dogs and owners. (We won't talk about little Chachi, who apparently didn't like my cologne, and snapped at me. Oh well, you can't win 'em all.) Anyway, Dog Daze had another nice turnout at Frontierland Park, with agility exercises, K-9 police dog demonstrations, canine product and service booths, barbecue, and a general air of friendliness—lots of sniffing, a little barking, and no fighting.

WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

Ocean Shore Railroad (OSRR) Car 1409 work parties are the first and third Saturday each month throughout spring and summer. Next BBQ and get-together of old and new friends of OSRR, Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Shamrock Ranch. To receive OSRR announcements, sign up at pacificahistory.org/osrr-car-1409/. Project manager Scott Lindner writes: "We've had a local company custom-mill siding and window sill material and it's stocked on site ready to install. Also, weed abatement, site cleaning, painting and organizing of materials, and repair of the last section of clerestory all need attention. A new picture file has been opened to show our progress and we welcome downloads of your pictures. We have completed the floor carriage with truss rods now under tension. The side-wall framing and sheathing are complete, ready for the siding and sills. Most of the clerestory rafters are installed, but we still have a section requiring some

surgery. Car 1409 is really taking shape and now more than ever shows her real promise. We look forward to seeing you all again. Please keep your comments and questions coming in."

SITSEER

- Create word clouds: wordle.net
- Create word pictures: visuwords.com
- Diagram sentences: Sendraw.ucf.edu (PC only, no Mac app)
- Just what it says: movieclips.com
- Test new BART cars: bart.gov/cars
- Everything about riding trains: trainweb.com, seat61.com

BOOK OF THE WEEK

"Democracy Inc." by Sheldon Wolin (order from Florey's Books or Pacifica Library)

BAY NATURE ON TV

Now in its fifth year on public television, Bay Nature's short video series Bay Nature on the Air has enlightened audiences around the region with its entertaining and insightful glimpses of the natural world of Northern California. These new spots celebrate several common but often misunderstood inhabitants of the Bay Area's parklands and open spaces: tarantulas, western fence lizards, western rattlesnakes, and turkey vultures. Each of the new videos is hosted by beloved Bay Area naturalist Michael Ellis, and offers a fascinating snapshot of these local

creatures' habits and habitats. A frequent contributor to KQED-FM's Perspectives series and proprietor of international tour company Footloose Forays, host Ellis combines irreverent humor with encyclopedic knowledge to give us insight into the lives of these wild "next door neighbors." The series was inspired by award-winning, Berkeley-based quarterly magazine Bay Nature, which recently celebrated a successful first decade of publication. All the videos are also available for viewing anytime on Bay Nature's nature portal website (baynature.org) and on You-

Tube. The website also features listings of nature-related events around the region and hundreds of articles on local nature and environment.

SWAMI SEZ

"The future ain't what it used to be." (Yogi Berra)

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PHOTO BY MITCH REID

'Dream Big' at Pacific Coast Dream Machines, Half Moon Bay Airport, May 1, 2011.