



# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

## JERK MERGE & ROAD RAGE

I first saw the term “jerk merge” in the San Francisco Chronicle, describing rude motorists who rush ahead to a merge point and then cut into the front of the line. Back in school we knew how to deal with this kind of boorish behavior, but that was then, this is now — the era of road rage and senseless violence. Locally, we see this jerk merge on southbound Highway 1 at about Taco Bell de Linda Mar. Drivers headed to Pedro Point and points south speed up in the left-turn lane to pass all the polite people who wait patiently in line to turn right via the bridge detour. At the very last possible second, these freaking idiots cut over into the right lane (usually right in front of YOU!), with or without signalling a lane change. I wish that all of us “victims” of jerk merge could safely close up the gaps and not allow jerks to merge in front of us. But I neither advocate nor practice aggression that might trigger road rage. I always try to drive defensively, especially when someone else drives offensively anywhere near me. Back off, chill out, avoid conflict. Thus, the only real constructive solution is to station a CHP or Pacifica Police car at the chokepoint to write multiple tickets to morons who crowd in front of the line. Let’s stop being wimps and stand up to these bullies. I don’t know about you, but I am sick of it. It’s time to do something about it. Today. Call the law and get traffic cops and cameras out there by Taco Bell. Traffic tickets generate revenue for the city, so you’ll be doing double civic duty.

## STRONG WINE

Sonoma County’s Rodney Strong Vineyards has the world’s largest winery solar energy system, supplying

all the winery’s power and saving tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to planting thousands of acres of trees, removing thousands of cars from the road, and not driving millions of miles on California highways. The vineyards and winery are certified sustainable, are carbon-neutral on the Climate Registry, and are listed as Fish Friendly Farmers. ([rodneystrong.com](http://rodneystrong.com))

## WHICH FISH

We know that eating fish and seafood is good for us, but we don’t know which ocean creatures are safe to eat and which are sustainable for the environment. Consult “Seafood Watch” at [MontereyBayAquarium.org](http://MontereyBayAquarium.org) for guidelines on smart, healthy shopping and eating.

## CLIMATE EXTREMES

Extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, have increased in number and frequency around the world over the past three decades, but the heat waves have been especially severe. Scientists point to this trend as a clear sign of global warming. ([Earthweek.com](http://Earthweek.com))

## WILD VISITORS

Scott McKellar seems to be quite popular with Pacifica’s wildlife. First, a band of coyotes serenaded Scott several nights in a row. Then a murder of crows circled over his house for several hours. I told Scott to go google “murmuration” and consider himself blessed. Such visitations are a good thing, no?

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

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