

# Calendar of Events (cont'd)

## Saturday, May 22

Meeting Place: Mitchell Canyon Staging Area at 8:30 a.m.  
Event Coordinator: Stephen Elliott (925) 362-8697

Trail Adoption Program! This is our first workday on the Globe Lily Trail. No experience is necessary and tools will be provided. Wear work clothes and bring water and lunch. If it rains, we will reschedule the work party for June 5th.

## Saturday, May 22

Meeting Place: Lower Summit Parking Lot at 7:45 p.m.  
Event Leaders: Mount Diablo Astronomical Society. For information call (925) 376-7701

Transit of Venus! What is a transit? Why isn't Venus visible in the sky right now? How are scientists using transits to find planets around other stars?

## Sunday, May 23

Meeting Place: Mitchell Canyon Staging Area at 1:00 p.m.  
Hike Leader: Ranger Cameron Morrison (925) 672-4266

Why Does That Hill Look Like It Has Been Torn Down? Explore the past and present mining activities of the Mount Diablo area. Moderately strenuous hike to Mitchell Rock, weather permitting.

## JUNE

### Thursday, June 3 and Thursday, June 17

Meeting Place: To be determined.  
Event Leaders: Burt Bogardus (925) 820-2347 & Rich McDrew (925) 932-7511

Trash Removal Project! Clean up and debris removal from past land uses. The meeting location and time will vary, depending upon the location and type of Trash Removal Project. Please call Burt or Rich for more information or to RSVP to work.

### Saturday, June 5

Meeting Place: Mitchell Canyon at 8:00 a.m.  
Event Coordinator: Pacific Coast Trail Run

Pacific Coast Trail Run! 8K, 25K, and 50K runs starting at Mitchell Canyon, going to the Summit.

### Saturday, June 12

Meeting Place: Live Oak Campground after 2:00 p.m.  
Event Coordinator: Linda Sanford (510) 848-4813

MDIA Campout! Bring your family and friends for a bar-b-cue and overnight on the mountain. MDIA has reserved spaces at the Live Oak campground. Fees are \$20 per space. You must pay in advance, provide your own accommodations, either tent or small trailer, and a contribution to the potluck dinner. MDIA will provide beverages and entertainment, storytelling and hikes.

### Saturday, June 12

Meeting Place: Lower Summit Parking Lot at 8:00 p.m.  
Event Leaders: Mount Diablo Astronomical Society. For information call (925) 376-7701

Tour of the Universe! Tour the universe through the telescopes. What's in our Solar System? What's in our Galaxy? What's outside our Galaxy? Get a free souvenir of your adventure!

### Saturday, June 12

Meeting Place: To be determined.  
Event Coordinator: Sue Schwartz (925) 837-6122

Volunteer Trail Work! The Volunteer Trail Crew meets the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. In case of rain, the workday is postponed to the following Saturday. If it rains again, the workday is cancelled for the month. No experience is necessary. Leave your name and contact information with Sue so that she can confirm the location and time.

# Clayton Quarry

Article furnished courtesy of RMC Pacific Materials

George Allen, Plant Manager

Two partners, Harrison and Birdwell, developed mining for construction aggregates on Mt. Zion in 1947. However, this



was not the first mining activity to occur in the area. The discovery of coal in approximately the 1850's brought about the first commercial mining and the subsequent settlement of coal mining towns such as Stewartville, Somersville, and Nortonville. The discovery of coal also led to additional prospecting wherein mercury and copper were discovered. It has been written that a "copper rush" occurred in the 1860's around Mt. Diablo. Copper was never found in significant quantity to make commercial mining worthwhile but the Mt. Diablo mine did produce mercury until the 1950's. Gold and silver were also reported in various assays but, again, none was ever found in significant quantity to make commercial mining worthwhile.

As a result of the search for the precious metals, mines and/or claims with names such as Great Republic, Superior, Pioneer, Horse Shoe, Rising Sun, San Carlos, Rough and Ready, and numerous others were developed. Today, the diggings of the

Mt. Zion Copper Company, Summit of Zion, San Pedro, and a few other mines can still be seen.

In 1947, Harrison and Birdwell developed the Clayton quarry. The first excavation was behind the current shop building, but it was shortly moved to the east and south because of better rock on that side. In 1954, Harrison and Birdwell sold out to Pacific Coast Aggregates (later named Pacific Cement and Aggregates), who in turn sold out to Lonestar Industries in 1965.



In 1988, Lonestar partnered with RMC of London, England. Today the quarry is owned by RMC Pacific Materials, a wholly owned company of RMC Ltd. of England.

The quarry is located on Mt. Zion and the material mined is diabase, a hard, durable rock used in the construction of roads, buildings, rail lines, dams, and levees. Over 25 different products are made to supply construction needs.

The State of California has designated Mt. Zion as a mineral reserve to be used to supply the construction needs of Contra Costa County. Of all the rock shipped out of the quarry, typically 72% of it goes to public sector projects. Some of the specific pro-

jects we have been involved in are B.A.R.T. (50% of all the rail ballast came from Clayton), Interstate 580 & Interstate 680 freeways, Highway 4, Highway 24, the new Giants Stadium, the Los Vaqueros Dam, Concord Naval Weapons Station, Delta levees, and many other projects.

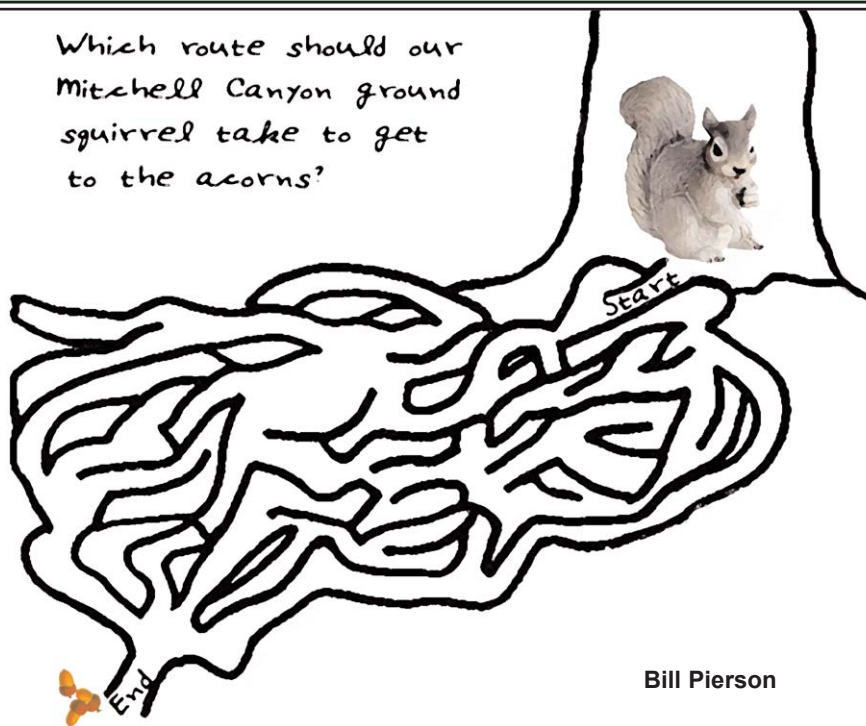
The Clayton Quarry has been in continuous production for over 50 years, and expects to be producing for many years to come.

### Interesting Facts:

1. Mt. Zion was also known as "Pyramid Hill".
2. Elevation of Mt. Zion is 1635 Feet.
3. Minerals found in the quarry are malachite, azurite, iron pyrite, magnetite and calcite.

## Children's Corner

Which route should our Mitchell Canyon ground squirrel take to get to the acorns?



Bill Pierson