

# PCT UPDATE - April 6, 2010

This document updates “Yogi’s PCT Handbook” November 2009 edition.

**Bob Riess** is not hosting hikers in 2010.

**Halfmile** says: My girlfriend and I will be hosting PCT hikers in our apartment in Chula Vista, eight miles south of San Diego.

We can offer hikers a deluxe air mattress in our spare room or a sofa to sleep on, help with last minute errands, and early morning rides to the PCT. Because of work schedules and rush hour gridlock we may not always be able to pick you up at the airport, but a \$5 bus/trolley ride goes from the airport or Amtrak station directly to our door. If you prefer the privacy of your own motel room, we can recommend nearby motels and help with errands and transportation to the trail.

Kickoff week we are going to try something different. We will be staying at the Lake Morena Campground April 18 - 22 and I will be commuting to Chula Vista for work. After work, I will take a carload of hikers back to the campground. After spending the night at the campground I can drop hikers at the start of the PCT on my way to work around sunrise.

We won't be able to do airport pickups Kickoff week, but a \$5 bus/trolley ride will take you from the airport or Amtrak station to the college campus where I work. A large grocery store and Rite Aid drugstore are across the street and we can swing by the Chula Vista REI on the way out of town. During kickoff week, I will return to Lake Morena Campground each day around 5 pm, so your flights will need to arrive in San Diego by early afternoon for this to be a good option.

Email [[halfmile@pctmap.net](mailto:halfmile@pctmap.net)] and let us know how we can help.

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**127.1 - Chihuahua Valley Road** - Mike (owner of house) said on March 22: “The stainless steel tank is full of water, the valve to the house is shut off because there is a leak between the tank and the house.”

**444.2 - Soledad Canyon Road** - Sadiq at the Acton KOA says that there is a reduced rate for hikers, plus laundry and showers. [[sadiq@gpmusa.net](mailto:sadiq@gpmusa.net)]

**652.0 - Lake Isabella CA** - Late Start (2009) says, “Last year we section hiked from Campo to Donner Pass. We split our trip at Lake Isabella, so we stayed there twice. I wanted to pass on my thoughts about Lake Isabella:

I think that people have a tendency to head toward the Kern Motel because of the proximity to Nelda's. Nelda's is a great place - we ate breakfast there. But the Kern Motel is awful (the words I really want to use are evil and hideous). Scout had warned us off of the Kern when we were in San Diego. He was correct. We tried to stay there on our first pass through Lake Isabella. The owner would not let us see the room though he allowed us to peer in through a grubby window. Then, because we wanted to check in at 9 AM, he said he would charge us for an extra half day. He had lots of rooms, but he would not budge on this. We walked away.

When we returned to Lake Isabella, we stayed at the Lake Isabella Motel. It is clean, the owners are friendly and helpful, and it has a swimming pool . . . which in the heat was very nice. It maybe seems like it is going to be inconvenient at the Lake Isabella Motel, but it is not. We came back in to town on the bus from Bakersfield. The bus stop is right down from the motel at the Senior Center. It is also close to the Post Office - which the Kern is not. There is a True Value Hardware at the same end of town as the Lake Isabella Motel that has denatured - no need to go to the far end of town. There is a surplus store also at the same end of town. We never bought anything at the surplus store, but the owners were extremely friendly, helped us find a ride back to Walker Pass, answered our questions every time we came in even though we never bought anything. They deserve a gold star. There is plenty of shopping and food available at the Lake Isabella Motel end of town. I don't remember about laundry . . . didn't do it in Lake Isabella.

Please, please, please . . . hikers should not be supporting the Kern Motel. It is awful and the owner is unpleasant and just trying to take advantage of us. There are plenty (maybe more) resources near the Lake Isabella Motel, and the owners are reasonable people.”

**744.8 - Lone Pine** - Warner Springs Monty says, “Showers at the Whitney Hostel with a big fluffy towel, shampoo, and soap included and really clean.... \$5. Really friendly people. I love this place. Still \$22 for a bed and \$60 for a 4 bed room with private bath. Computer to use. Laundry by arrangement included. Big community room and kind of a kitchen area with fridge and microwave.”

**906.6 - Mammoth Lakes** - Warner Springs Monty says, "The Quality Inn in Mammoth was much, much nicer than the Motel 6 and well worth the extra money. Big rooms with fridge and microwave included, two beds, big desk, table, and still lots of floor space, WiFi, hot eggs and sausage type breakfast, 24-hour coffee, a huge 24-hour jacuzzi on and on and on. No extra charge for number of people. Same location as Motel 6 across the street, near the PO, Mammoth Mountaineering, Perry's Restaurant with the salad bar, right next to John's Pizza (good), Schat's Bakery (way excellent sandwiches and other stuff), McDonald's, and still on the free trolley route that goes everywhere in town. They also have a computer to use in the lobby (with a posted 10 minute limit). If they don't have laundry on site, Motel 6 has it across the street."

**877.2 - Vermilion Valley Resort** - As of April 6, the 2010 prices are the same as the 2009 prices listed in the Handbook.

**1018.3 - (Northern) Kennedy Meadows** - Good Spot (2009) says, "This was a great and easily accessible resupply for us. The general store/restaurant were newly rebuilt after the fire and very nice. We had a box shipped here but could have done a limited resupply at the general store. We ate breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the restaurant, all of which were larger portions, cheaper prices, and better food than VVR. The owner even let us camp for free next to the river (I don't think this is a normal thing, but it worked out great). They also have laundry and showers available for a small fee."

**1093.0 - Highway 50** - Miner (2009) says, "It's probably better to look for a ride at to South Lake Tahoe the Echo Lake (mile 1094.5) rather than Highway 50. I got hassled by two young deputies for hitchhiking on the highway. They had no knowledge or interest in the trail and had no idea what I was doing there and didn't care. After they ran an ID check, I was told to get off the "major" highway. Being from Los Angeles, I almost said 'What major highway?', but I smartly stayed quiet and moved on to Echo Lake where I found a ride."

**1094.5 - South Lake Tahoe** - Bruiser (2009) says, "Bus costs \$6 for all-day use." Miner (2009) says, "O'Dark discovered the Budget Inn across the street from the Best Western and just up the street from the Safeway and a satellite PO. It had onsite laundry (need quarters) and free WiFi. Though the place was old, it was well maintained and clean. There was a bus stop right in front with several restaurants next door. They offered several of us hikers the same discount that they give AAA customers (\$45). It was cheaper than the Motel 6 with a better location. The AYCE buffet at Harrah's Casino was excellent."

**1155.8 - Pooh Corner** - 530-563-6867 rings both cell and house phone. Pooh Corner is open in 2010 from the last part of June through July 23. Bill says, "It would be wise for folks arriving in June to call a couple of days before they arrive to check with us."

**1197.6 - Sierra City** - Miner (2009) says, "I could have easily resupplied here, why didn't I? There was a big bear problem at the Church lawn. He took some hiker's food bags."

**1265.4 - Bucks Lake Lodge** - The Lodge building (restaurant/store) was destroyed by fire in January 2010.

**1289.3 - The Braatens of Little Haven** - The Braatens have discontinued their land line. Laurie says, "We can still be reached at the same number, which is now Brenda's cell. We have a second cell number in case that is busy: 530-616-0136. The main impact this will have on the hikers is that we no longer have a phone in the house that they can use with a phone card. The only options are the phones at Belden and at Caribou Crossroads, or a Verizon cell."

**1303.7 - Spring** - Bruiser (2009) says, "The un-named spring is Frog Spring."

**1506.5 - Castella** - Good Spot (2009) says, "This place was pretty picked over and looked like they didn't update their stock very often. The restaurant was also closed and was being used as storage. Not sure if this was temporary or permanent."

**HEET in Oregon/Washington** - Miner (2009) says, "HEET was available at every town/resort I visited from N.Cal to Baring/Skykomish. All those warnings about you may not find it in Oregon and other places were wrong and I often carried extra."

**1726.6 - Ashland** - Good Spot (2009) says, "Knight's Inn gave us a hiker discount and had a pool and hot tub. Golden Goose restaurant (in same parking lot as Knight's Inn) had excellent food and was reasonably priced. No HEET at Safeway. HEET at Bi-Mart."

**1852.6 - Diamond Lake (alternate route)** - Good Spot (2009) says, "South Shore Pizza opens at 11 am and has amazing pizza and good beer on draft."

**1958.3 - Elk Lake Resort** - Good Spot (2009) says, "I think you already said it's very expensive, but I noticed there were candy bars for \$2, just thought that might drive the point home. Also the breakfast wasn't really that great." Miner (2009) says, "The breakfast was OK, but the Huckleberry and Blackberry flavored ice cream was well worth the walk over here. The restaurant didn't open til 10am so we had to wait an hour longer than we had been told."

**1882.9 - Windigo Pass** - Lloyd Gust stocks a water cache here.

**1989.5 - Sisters OR** - Thanks to Lloyd Gust, the Sisters Inn now accepts hiker packages: 525 W. Hwy 20, Sisters OR 97759. Be sure to label your box as a hiker package, including ETA. The Inn also has a hiker discount. Call Brian 541-549-2551.

**1989.5 - Bend OR** - Warner Springs Monty says, "I said lodging was expensive in Bend except the Mill Inn. Update: There are less expensive motels up and down 3rd Street, the same street that has the Albertson's and Safeway grocery stores. I would rather encourage people to go to Bend than to be scared away. Also the brew pub restaurants are pretty cool especially McMenamins Pub which also has a \$3 current movie and a really cheap happy hour menu. Bend Area Transit (BAT) goes everywhere in Bend cheap and often. Little busses. Very easy hitch 30 miles to town."

**1989.8 - Northbound Trailhead at McKenzie Pass** - Lloyd Gust stocks a water cache here.

**2000.9 - Big Lake Youth Camp** - After mid-August, the camp is not staffed full time.

**2053.1 - Olallie Lake Resort** - As of April 3 (according to the website), the resort will be open early summer to September. They are not accepting PCT hiker packages.

**2155.0 - Cascade Locks** - Good Spot (2009) says, "HEET at grocery store and gas station. Do not need to carry all HEET for Washington from here. We did and found HEET at a lot of places in Washington. Bridge of the Gods Motel had rates that varied quite a bit depending on weekday, weekend, or holiday, and whether you paid cash or credit." Miner (2009) says, "PCT Day was interesting and if you are going to be in town around then, its worth staying an extra day or two for it. However, it wasn't worth the hassle of getting a ride from another point on trail like I did (Sisters). The Pacific Crest Pub and Hostel will hold hiker packages."

**2237.9 - Trout Lake** - Good Spot (2009) says, "The grocery here is a great stop. We got a room for \$20 (I think others may have paid \$25) and were able to do a 3-day resupply pretty easily after our box was lost in the mail. The room had a TV with satellite and its own bathroom and private entrance. It also had access to a free washer and dryer right next to the bathroom. Had HEET at the gas station. Café (attached to gas station) is open 6-9. Also had an espresso/smoothie place attached to the gas station and Café."

**2299.2 - Chairlift Trail near White Pass** - Good Spot (2009) says, "I thought this shortcut was not that bad, but my girlfriend thought otherwise. I think it's important for people to realize that this is a trail to the chairlift only and not all the way down the slope. Once you get to the slopes it's what any ski slope would be in the summer: steep and overgrown. It's more of a choose your own adventure down the hill, you can bushwhack straight down or wind your way down the ski trails and jeep roads that interlace the hill."

**2302.8 - White Pass** - Good Spot (2009) says, "HEET at Kracker Barrel."

**2401.7 - Snoqualmie Pass** - The Howard Johnson holds USPS boxes at this address: PO Box 163, Snoqualmie Pass WA 98068. Be sure to label your box as a hiker package, including ETA. Good Spot (2009) says, "Chevron had HEET. Web's (new restaurant at ski lodge) had great food and it was pretty inexpensive. They had all-you-can-eat tacos when we were there."

**2476.3 - Dinsmore's** - Good Spot (2009) says, "Split locations until new house is finished. Shower and laundry at old house; sleeping, package pick-up, and eating at new place in Baring. HEET at Baring Café."

**2506.4 - Ridgecrest Campsite** - Good Spot (2009) says, "Had water accessible from a newly added PVC pipe."

**2508.9 - Glacier Peak Detour** - Miner (2009) says, "Most of the bridges have been rebuilt with the one big exception being the Suiattle River, which still had a log across it. It was only the last 3 miles before the Suiattle River that we encountered numerous blowdowns. There were only 2 large diameter trees (6ft or more) on the trail. All the blowdowns had well defined trails around or under them. It wasn't a big deal hiking through here and all the hype seemed overblown. Rockstar and I had no problem maintaining a 2mph pace through here."

**2522.0 - Sitkum Creek** - Good Spot (2009) says, "Had a bridge and the creek before it had one too."

**2534.8 - Milk Creek** - Good Spot (2009) says, "South of creek trail was rebuilt and in great shape. New bridge was installed and trail routed slightly differently on north side of creek. If you follow the new portion of trail you go west and downhill along the creek so you have to climb more in addition to the still overgrown switchbacks you have to ascend. A few hikers said they were able to follow the old trail after crossing the bridge (to the right) and although it was overgrown it saved a little mileage and some climbing."

**2574.1 - Stehekin** - Good Spot (2009) says, "The restaurant at the Landing is now managed by someone else and they had excellent food and was very hiker friendly. The Ranch is only open for dining to guests after a certain date. Bakery takes credit cards for purchases over \$20. There was a farm near the Bakery that sold fresh veggies and goat cheese." Bruiser (2009) says, "The restaurant at the Stehekin Landing has great food and they take credit cards!"