

Santa Rosa Plateau April 9 2008

Vernal pools, oak woodlands, bunchgrass prairie, coastal sage, chaparral, flowering plants.

Hike Leader: Sally Spotts

DRIVE TO TRAILHEAD: South on I-15, past Lake Elsinore, to exit named Clinton-Keith. Turn right on Clinton-Keith. After about two miles, stop at the Visitor Center to pay \$2 fee per person to Nature Conservancy custodians and use bathrooms.

ACTUAL TRAILHEAD: Then continue up past Hidden Valley parking to the Vernal Spring Trail entrance. Parking is along the road and there is a portapotty. I chose this trailhead so that short hikers could linger around the vernal pool while waiting for the others.

I will hand out trail maps, as there are options starting at 3-4 miles. You can hike all the trails for exercise and casually observe, or wander slowly and focus up close on shrubberies (remember that scene in Monty Python and the Holy Grail?). Development has grown up so keep eyes to the interior. Flowers should still be good in 2 ½ weeks; they are reported wonderful now.

As stated in Alice's write up when she did hike, there has been a cougar in the park. Therefore bring stick, whistle and stay together in groups. Egad.

The website <http://tchester.org/srp/trails/index.html> has preliminary GPS mapping, but without trail names, etc. I will bring copies. It is greek to me.

Option: drive early and eat at Denny's in Lake Elsinore which is about 4 miles before Clinton-Keith exit, on the left. Take the Diamond Drive exit off of I-15.