

# Slow Mail: Pilot Ride

September 12-15th, 2012

## Routes and Rider Information

Updated: Wednesday, August 15, 2012

Contact: Sara Thacher, [slowmail@sslow.net](mailto:slowmail@sslow.net)

Website: <http://sslow.net>

Digital map: <http://goo.gl/maps/1d5N2>

Please contact Sara with any questions or to sign up to ride.



Help deliver letters on horseback through the backcountry trails of the Bay Area.

Celebrate California's dual frontiers of communication: the romantic western, pre-railroad era and the pioneering early days of the internet (originally called ARPANET).

## Choosing a Leg

The route is divided in four day-long rides. Please choose a section that is appropriate for you and your horse. Riders are welcome to ride as many sections as they wish.

## Saddle Bags

There will be no pack-horses on the Pilot Ride. This means that riders will need to help carry a portion of the mail. At least two riders on each leg should be prepared to carry canvas saddle bags secured to the back of the saddle.

## Trailiering

Riders should plan their own trailiering accommodations. If you would like to ride and do not have access to a trailer, get in touch and we may be able to help. Even better, invite a friend with a trailer to join you on the ride.

## Logistics

Sara Thacher will secure all permits and permissions necessary for the route. Some areas are not normally open to riders.

A shuttle will be available to help move your trailer to the end of the route for the day.

### Day 1

#### Stanford to Skyline

**Total distance:** 11.6 miles  
**Elevation change:** +1,600ft  
**Terrain:** half dirt, half paved trails

Ride to the ridge!

Depart from Stanford's Red Barn with an official Slow Mail sendoff.

Ride on the Stanford Dish trail (closed to horses without special permission).

Leave Menlo Park behind as you ride through dense forests and breathtaking hills. The view keeps getting better the further you go.

### Day 2

#### Skyline Ridge

**Total distance:** 9.6 miles  
**Elevation change:** 400ft (up and and down)  
**Terrain:** dirt

A classic ride along the Skyline Ridge through the Montebello and Long Ridge Open Space preserves.

Pass through a variety of ecosystems, including mixed evergreen forests, oak woodlands, chaparral, and grasslands. Great views to the coast along the ridges.

### Day 3

#### Sanborn & El Sereno

**Total distance:** 11.5 miles  
**Elevation change :** -2,400ft  
**Terrain:** mostly dirt, ~4 miles paved

Ride through the majestic, towering redwoods of Sanborn Skyline County Park. Shaded by the canopy, this is the best chance to see wildlife.

Emerge into the chaparral and descend along a dirt fire road and the paved backcountry Montevino Road.

Swing through St. Joseph's Open Space Preserve and emerge in Los Gatos.

### Day 4

#### Los Gatos to San Jose

**Total distance:** 12.5 miles  
**Elevation change:** none  
**Terrain:** mostly paved or small gravel

Be the hero, riding into town with the mail in-hand. Riders on this leg actually get to deliver the mail in person. Meet the people whose letter you've carried.

By special permission, ride along the Los Gatos Creek Trail as it wends it's way through Los Gatos and San Jose.

Ride ends at the ZERO1 Biennial festivities where you will be honored guests.

All riders are welcome to attend including those that did not ride on this leg.

# Day 1

## Stanford to Skyline

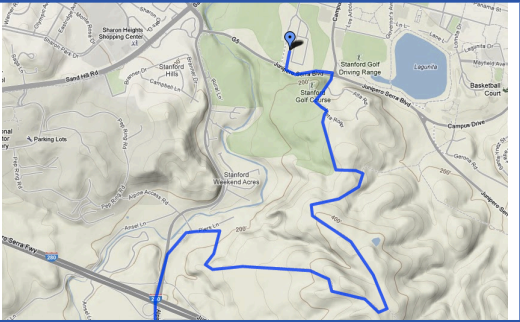
Ride Date: September 12, 2012

Total distance: 11.6 miles

Elevation Change: +1,600'



Stanford Dish Trail	
Begin	Stanford Red Barn (staging for the day). Follow Junipero Serra Road for one block before joining the trail.
Terrain	Paved trail, rolling grassy hills
Notes	Normally closed to horses. Access by special permission.Shared with joggers and hikers. Closed to cyclists and dogs.
End	Join with Alpine Trail



Alpine Trail	
Begin	Just before Junction of 280 and Alpine Rd.
Terrain	Compact dirt / gravel
Notes	Trail passes under 280. Mirrors Alpine Road. 200' elevation gain.
End	Trail turns away from Alpine Road. Forks with Old Spanish Trail.



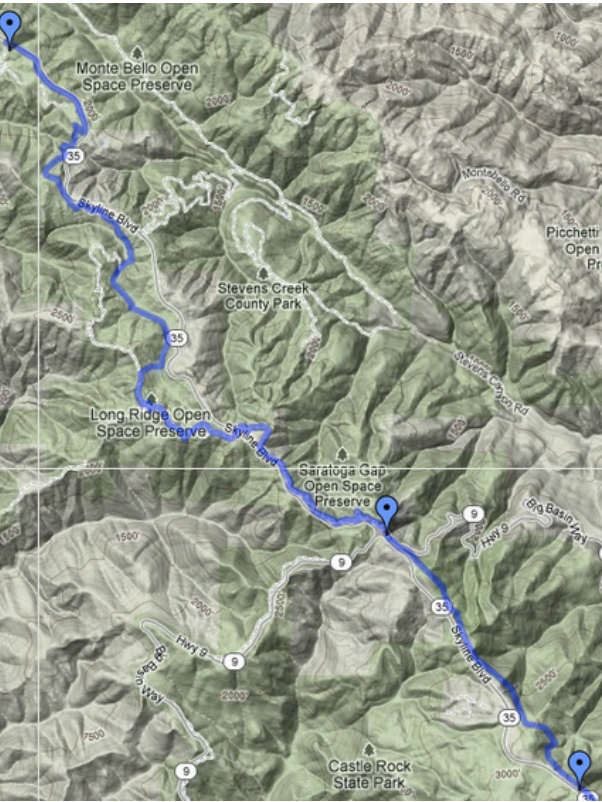
Los Trancos / Coal Creek Open Space	
Begin	At Junction with Alpine Trail.
Trail	Old Spanish Trail & Lake Trail
Terrain	Dirt trail
Notes	Lovely wooded trail. Mostly oak trees. Turn south onto Lake Trail. Elevation gain 600'
Transfer	Alpine Road (.5 mile)
Terrain	Paved backcountry road
Transfer	White Oak Trail
Terrain	Dirt trail
Notes	Mostly grassland. Great views. Becomes Skid Road trail for the final climb to skyline. Elevation gain 800'
End	Equestrian Parking, Montebello Open Space (off Skyline Blvd./35 just south of Page Mill Road intersection)





# Day 2

**Skyline Ridge**  
Ride Date: September 13, 2012  
Total distance: 9.6 miles  
Elevation Change: +/- 400'



Skyline Ridge Trail - Montebello, Long Ridge, Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserves, & Sanborn-Skyline County Park		
Begin	Equestrian Parking, Montebello Open Space (off Skyline Blvd./35 just south of Page Mill Road intersection)	
Terrain	Dirt trail, one small road crossing	
Notes	<p>Trail parallels Skyline Blvd./35. Wooded trail with some views. Follows the ridgeline so not much elevation gain/loss.</p> <p>The entire trail is known as the “Bay Area Ridge Trail”. This section of the trail also goes by the names: Tree Farm Trail, Chestnut Trail and Peter’s Creek Trail.</p>	
Transfer	Intersection with Ward Road. Trail becomes Saratoga Gap Trail (enter Saratoga Gap Open Space)	
Terrain	Dirt trail, two road crossings	
Notes	<p>Trail parallels Skyline Blvd./35. Wooded trail with some views. Follows the ridgeline so not much elevation gain/loss.</p> <p>The entire trail is known as the “Bay Area Ridge Trail”. This section of the trial also goes by the name Saratoga Gap Trail (south of Ward Road). Saratoga Gap trail crosses Skyline Blvd. and (smaller) Charcoal road.</p>	
Transfer	Cross Hwy 9. Entering Sanborn-Skyline County Park	
Terrain	Dirt trail	
End	Cross Skyline Blvd. to Castle Rock parking lot.	



# Day 3

## Sanborn & El Sereno

Ride Date: September 14, 2012

Total distance: 11.5 miles

Elevation Change: -2,400'



Sanborn-Skyline County Park & El Sereno		
Begin	Castle Rock parking lot. cross Skyline Blvd. and follow the Ridge Trail south	
Terrain	Dirt trail	
Notes	Trail parallels Skyline Blvd./35. Wooded trail with some views. Follows the ridgeline so not much elevation gain/loss.	
Transfer	Turn north (away from Skyline Blvd) at Sanborn Trail.	
Terrain	Dirt trail	
Notes	Trail goes through oak forests and redwoods. Moderate	
Transfer	San Andreas Trail (keep left at the fork).	
Terrain	Dirt trail	
Notes	More redwoods. Many switchbacks.	
Transfer	Walden West Center. Follow Sanborn road south (1.5 miles)	
Terrain	Paved backcountry road	
Transfer	At the Lake Ranch Reservoir, take the trail/fire road branching to the left.	
Terrain	Dirt trail	
Transfer	Montevina Road. Turn right (downhill 3 miles)	
Terrain	Paved backcountry road	
Notes	Road winds down out of the hills. Takes a sharp right and parallels Hwy 17. Generally plenty of grassy shoulder to ride. Go past Black road and take the Bear Creek road overpass to cross Hwy 17.	
Transfer	Turn left and take the dirt trail that parallels the reservoir.	
Transfer	The trail dead-ends into Alma Bridge Road. Turn right and follow to Jones Trail.	
Transfer	Jones Trail. (becomes Flume Trail at Jones Rd.)	
Terrain	Dirt trail	
End	History Museum of Los Gatos	



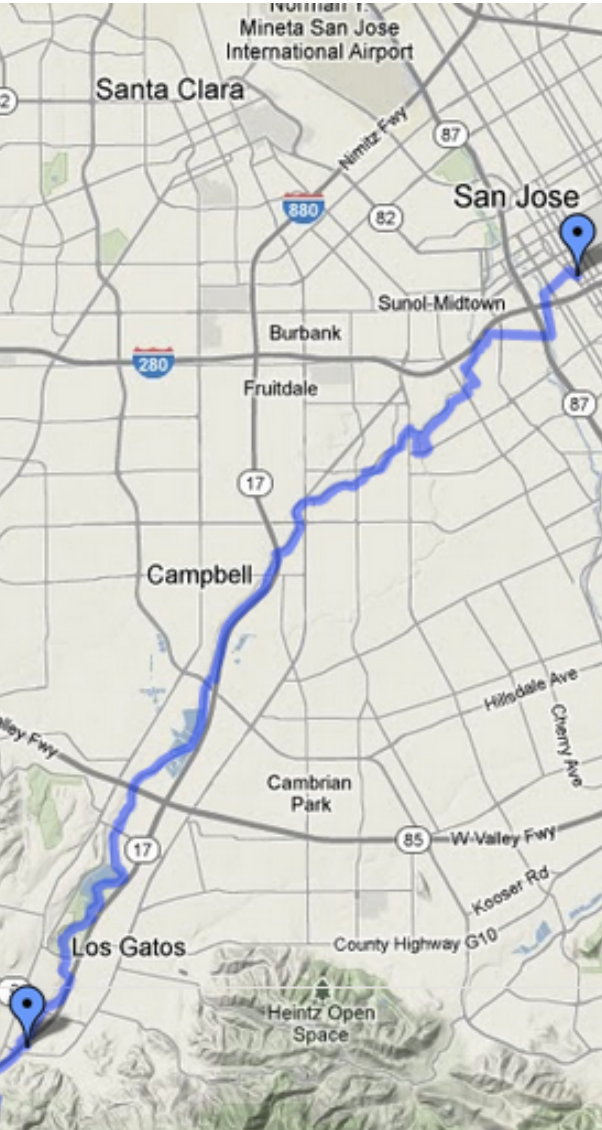
# Day 4

## San Jose, Mail delivery!

Ride Date: September 15, 2012

Total distance: 12.5 miles

Elevation Change: none



Los Gatos Creek Trail - Los Gatos, Campbell, & San Jose		
Begin	History Museum of Los Gatos	
Terrain	Paved trail	
Notes	Normally closed to horses. Access by special permission. This is a unique opportunity to ride through Los Gatos, Campbell, and San Jose without setting foot on a road.  Trail parallels the creek and travels through Vasonas Park.	
End	Meridian Ave (San Jose)	

San Jose		
Begin	Cross Meridian Avenue	
Terrain	Paved residential road	
Notes	Follow Westwood Drive. Turn left on Willow Street (1 block). Left on Glen Eyrie (.5 mile)	
Transfer	Coe Avenue (1 block)	
Terrain	Paved neighborhood road	
Transfer	Left on Three Creeks Trail / Los Gatos Creek Trail	
Terrain	Paved Trail	
Notes	Cross over Los Gatos Creek. Take a sharp right to continue on trail.	
Transfer	Footbridge over creek. Left on Gregory Street (1 block)	
Terrain	Paved Residential road	
Notes	Right on Helen Street (1 block). Left on Drake Street (1 Block). Drake curves and becomes West Virginia street. Travel 7 blocks on West Virginia (volunteers will help escort the horses and direct traffic) and cross over Hwy 87 overpass. This portion has been cleared with SJ PD.	
Transfer	Immediately after overpass, make a left on Guadalupe River Trail.	
End	Woz Way. Deliver the letters at the Mail Call Event.	