

Monterey Getaway: October 1-6, 2017

Nearly three dozen 49ers recently gathered in Monterey for our annual getaway to the town whose marvelous weather and mesmerizing ocean views seem to inspire and energize us.

Biking and hiking have long formed the backbone of our typical four to five day stay. And this year was no exception. But along with these and other activities of the past we were introduced to a new one: pickleball.

Special guest, Jay Z, a pickleball instructor from Monterey, spoke to our group and invited us to participate in afternoon lessons.



Monday- Pete led the biking group on a tour through Carmel's ocean vista trails and then on to Pt. Lobos. The hikers trekked from Whaler's Cove along the scenic wooded and ocean trails to Piney Woods where both groups met for a picnic lunch.

Unfortunately, on the hike, Judy slipped while sitting on a log and cut her hand on a nail. She had to have stitches to repair the cut and was unable to bike, but the injury didn't prevent her from enjoying other activities on the trip.

Pat, who was celebrating his birthday, received a surprise phone call from his 95-year-old mother while hiking that day.



That afternoon, two-thirds of those attending this year turned out for a pickle ball lesson from Jay. Paul, Mike and Christina are experienced players and they helped us as well. Most of us who were getting our first taste of the activity found it pretty sweet. So much so that two additional sessions were held during the rest of the week.



During Happy Hour Monday, Pat was surprised with a decadent chocolate cake, complete with candles, to help celebrate his special day.



Tuesday - We biked to the Gallery Café at Pebble Beach Golf Resort on the 17-mile drive which offered both ocean and forest views on a beautiful, sunny day. Many started from the hotel, others from the gate and some in cars. All enjoyed the many stops along the way and lunch at the café.



In the afternoon, a group returned to the park for another pickleball lesson and to thank Jay for helping us learn the game.

Later, many walked downtown to the street fair which is held on Tuesday evenings each year.

Wednesday- Activities ranged from nearly one end of the alphabet to the other: From visiting the aquarium to whale watching, and a lot more in between: kayaking, golfing, bird-watching and more on the Elkhorn Slough , and finally: strolling through history on Cannery Row.

Here are a few comments about those activities:

Bev: “Of all the whale watching trips, this was the best. We saw several whales, dolphins, and had a great time.

Sue: “The weather was perfect for kayaking and we had a wonderful day.”

Pat: “We learned a lot of California history on the Cannery Row tour.”

Donelle: “Golfing at Laguna Seca was really fun.”

Carole: “The jellyfish exhibit at the aquarium is really special.”

Jim: “Nine 49ers went sailing on the Elkhorn Slough and saw more birds than we could count, plus lots of water-loving creatures, too.”



Thursday- Pete led a biking group along the dunes to Marina. Wendy led others to Bird Rock. A memorable moment occurred when a Pacific Grove policewoman pulled into one of the vista stops behind us and asked if we would like her to take our picture. She did and then we took one of her with our group.

Both groups met for lunch at the London Pub on the wharf. It was also a time to say good-bye to some members who were departing that afternoon. After happy hour, those of us remaining until Friday went to the Lallapalooza Restaurant for a farewell dinner.



A special thanks to Bev for organizing the Happy Hour groups and to each night's leaders: Ann and Paul, Bob and Tanna, Carol Mc and Cari, Bev and John. Thanks, too, to all of you for bringing the good eats.

In conclusion, we are pleased to note that this year's edition of our annual sojourn to the little city by the bay once again demonstrated the spirit of the 49ers to embrace new challenges. Pickleball, anyone!

Carol and Jim