

Tierra Bella Henry Coe Reststop Report 2025

This was the 16th year with a reststop at Henry Coe Headquarters (since 2008)

Volunteers – Holly Wong (chair), Don Axtell (co-chair), Lou Galbiati, Fran Bryan, Tiffany Young, Ken Holloway, Karl Doll, Dan and Althea Freitas (9 total), plus Zoey (Holly's dog). We also had 2 ham radio people.

Campsite reservations need to be reserved 6 months in advance. Only site #19 can be reserved online. Paul Vlasveld handled the Henry Coe permit, so he included all four needed sites, # 1, 2, 19, and 20.

To help cut expenses, the usual two porta potties were eliminated, with the plan to have the riders use the 4 campsite perma-potties. An extra 8 rolls of toilet paper should be included in the reststop supplies.

To go along with the no-porta potties, we created a hand wash station, using a small table, a hot water dispenser, a waste water bucket and some hand soap and paper towels.

I used my Honda Odyssey van to haul all the reststop supplies. This took two trips. On Thursday I went to the ACTC shed and loaded most of the reststop gear. Then I went home and loaded the signs and my camping gear. The van was now totally filled.

On Friday morning I went to the ACTC shed at 7:30 and met Dzung and the big truck at 8:00. Dzung had put out an email asking for help, so we got about 6 helpers. We loaded everything into the big truck, and were finished by 9:10. I then drove my van up to Henry Coe.

I met all of the reststop campsites were marked correctly, and everything was in order. I unloaded all the gear into site #1. On the way back down the hill I placed my signs. Originally I used to place 34 signs, but last year I reduced that to 16 signs, and for this year I reduced the sign count even further, to only 7 signs.

I then went to pick up Holly and Zoey. From there we went to the church to collect the tables and food, arriving about 1:15. Reststop supplies were grouped in separate parking spaces, food was all sorted. Ice was already in the igloos and coolers. This year I had brought 3 personal ice chests so we used them, leaving the ACTC ice chests for the other reststops. I assisted some of the other reststops to make sure that gear was distributed correctly. By 2:30 everything at the church was finished.

We headed up to Henry Coe, arriving about 4:00. I unloaded the 6 tables, 3 ice chests, and 5 igloos, but we kept the food inside the van.

I set up the big pot and cooker and practiced heating some water to make sure it was working.

New last year, and continuing this year, our reststop was going to have a theme. Holly had purchased lots of Hawaiian theme decorations. We had leis to give out, flamingos to place, and parrots to line up..

We were joined Friday evening by Fran and Jeff Bryan and their 2 dogs. Holly and Zoey slept in my van while I slept in my tent

I usually put a line down the middle of the road for the last two miles, using a mixture of flour and salt. But last year we never added the line, so I had about 40 pounds of flour/salt mixture available for this

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year. I decided that we only needed a line for about the last one-half mile, extending from park headquarters down to just beyond the bottom of the steep hill. This year I walked and marked the line, while Holly drove slowly behind me so that I could refill when needed. We did this early Saturday morning.

By 8:00 Am all of our volunteers had arrived,

Our first rider arrived at 10:00 am. Our peak crowd was around 11:00 am, and by 12:30 pm it really thinned out. Last rider was at 2:00 pm. It seemed like we had our full allotment of riders.

It was windy and chilly, so the cup-o-noodles were very popular. We ran out at 11:30. 48 servings (2 cases).

We brought ponchos to give out for the downhill. We gave out about 20.

Dan was our bike mechanic. I think he only did one repair, so instead he and his wife were reststop volunteers.

The mini bagels with cream cheese was not popular. Peanut butter ran out at 12:30. We had one bag of cuties left over. We only used half of the bananas. The potatoes did not go well. I think they were too small, and people were asking what they were. We finished all (2 bags) of the Fritos corn chips. We only used a little of the Goldfish. Instead of a big box with 3 packs, we only need to have just one pack.

The wraps came out ok. We cut them into thirds. We had 4 wraps left over at the end.

I always put a water station at the summit of the first hill. This year it was not used at all, because of the cool temperatures. But it is needed during a hot day.

-Donny Axtell