There is nothing quite like staying at the Hacienda at Fort Hunter Liggett. It’s like entering several time warps. For starters, it was near here that the Anza Expedition camped in 1776, en route to founding San Francisco, at nearby Mission San Antonio de Padua.
Before the days of the padres and Anza, the Salinan tribe flourished here. In the early 20th century, it was on a bluff overlooking the mission and surrounding valley that newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst built his imposing white Spanish hacienda for what was then his vast Milpitas Ranch. Hearst sold the ranch and hacienda to the U.S. government in 1940, and today they are part of Fort Hunter Liggett.

The Hacienda, a robust example of Mission Revival architecture designed in 1929 by Julia Morgan, oozes character. Hearst did not visit the hacienda very often, but when he did, it was quite festive. He would bring large parties over from his ranch at San Simeon. They would ride horseback to the summit of the western mountains and then be driven over from another Hearst ranch on the eastern side. Hollywood royalty numbered among the guests: William Powell, Charlie Chaplin, Jean Harlow, Errol Flynn, and Will Rogers, to name a few.

Flanked by two towers — one bearing a golden Moorish dome — the Hacienda is so imposing that many people mistake it for the mission when they come upon the valley.

Twelve guest rooms range from small “cowboy” rooms with shared baths to suites of two or more bedrooms. The best are the tower rooms where I stayed. Sporting Morganesque touches, such as wall niches, Moorish woodwork and bathroom stenciling, these expansive rooms also feature a sofa, TV, fridge and microwave, all at a reasonable rate. The place is a little funky but charming.

The former garrison commander’s quarters are also now available for group rentals, with two bedrooms in the upstairs suite with a view of the mission, and three bedrooms downstairs.

Two attractive murals, adorn the walls of the Hacienda’s lounge and restaurant. They depict the history of the valley: on one side, the mission era, on the other the military era.

A continental breakfast is served in the restaurant, but dinner is on your own. The dining room hosts events most weekends, like wine dinners and a recent murder mystery dinner theater. Hacienda guests are always invited; be sure to ask when making reservations.

I spent several hours exploring Mission San Antonio, which boasts a charming courtyard and sanctuary, and an unusual music room intended for the mission neophytes. San Antonio — California’s third and one of its most successful missions — was founded by Father Junipero Serra in 1771. It is one of only two missions in California that are not surrounded by modern towns or cities (the other is nearby La Soledad). San Antonio now serves as a parish church.

During my stay I took the winding Nacimiento-Fergusson Highway to the coast, driving through pristine oak-studded valleys and the twisty mountain passes of Los Padres National Forest (the 25-mile drive takes about an hour). At the summit I glimpsed jaw-dropping views of the Pacific and the fog-shrouded Big Sur Coast. The road ends at Lucia on Highway 1, just south of Big Sur.

Low-key Fort Hunter Liggett
Elizabeth Stewart has volunteered with the Anza Trail in many capacities and currently serves as the trail’s representative on the leadership council of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS). In 2009, she was a recipient of the National Park Service’s George and Helen Hartzog Award for outstanding individual volunteer service.

Why is the Anza Trail important to you? It’s really important to know the history of the places where you live and who you live with. I do a lot of hiking, and I find people don’t want to simply go someplace; they want to go someplace important culturally or historically. It makes it more meaningful.

Last fall you organized an Anza Trail hike through the Sonoran Desert National Monument. How did it go? I’ve been working for years to get people in the Gila Bend and Phoenix metro areas interested in the trail. We did a hike on the train through the Butterfield Pass, one of the most scenic parts of the trail you can hike on. We partnered with BLM and the Friends of the Sonoran Desert National Monument. We had more than 40 people. It was a great outreach event for people to learn the importance of the trail and the monument.

Every year you attend Hike the Hill. What is that? Every February the Partnership for the National Trails System holds a meeting in Washington, DC, along with the American Hiking Society. The purpose is to make our Congressional delegation aware of trails. Just a small amount of money going to trail administration enables volunteers like me to spend thousands of hours contributing to trail restoration and community events. Members of Congress are always impressed to learn that and see the number of volunteer hours.

What potential is there for more volunteers to get involved? It’s so important to get people out on the trail. Then they will adopt the trail themselves. It’s important for volunteers to touch base with local and state officials to share the trail’s importance for the people in their area.

And I’m reminded every year in DC how important it is to track and report our volunteer hours. We would rather spend our time doing something than keeping track of what we did. We think it’s just busy work, but it makes a difference.

You may contact the Hacienda at 831-386-2900 or http://www.liggett.army.mil/sites/mwr/hacienda.asp

Editor’s note: Thanks to Susan Clizbe, Fort Hunter Liggett Public Affairs, for additional information about Hacienda.
In its public debut, the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona Color Guard shared top honors at the 88th annual Tucson Rodeo Parade on February 21, 2013.

La Fiesta de los Vaqueros, as the event is known, bills itself as the world’s largest non-motorized parade. The celebration is a cultural fixture in Tucson; local schools are closed for the event, and it is broadcast live on local television.

The parade committee awarded its Chairman’s Award to the Anza Trail volunteers for exemplifying the spirit and theme of Western heritage. For this, the color guard’s first public event, William Islas depicted Lt. Col. Juan Bautista de Anza, leading a contingent of Spanish colonial soldiers and settlers through the streets of Tucson. Islas traces his family lineage to a member of the Anza expedition.

The non-profit Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona developed the color guard to educate the public about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The color guard portrays men, women, and children in authentic clothing of the expedition. While primarily designed to be a mounted unit, the guard also includes participants on foot.

The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona provides horses, transportation, and support to the color guard members, many of whom also participate at their own expense in practice drills to maintain their horsemanship skills.

Other trophy winners at this year’s Fiesta de los Vaqueros included the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center and the League of Mexican-American Women.

For more information about La Fiesta de los Vaqueros, visit www.tucsonrodeoparade.com. For more information about the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, visit www.anzatrail.com.
We were awarded a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will keep us busy for the next year and a half. This grant has allowed us to purchase a container, which is really wonderful as it allows us safe, dry and secure storage for equipment, tools, educational supplies, event supplies, tables, chairs, and more.

Our amazing and fantastic volunteer Don Clemans has installed electricity for the storage facility, and we will also incorporate wildlife-friendly fencing, additional native plants to benefit birds and wildlife, trail improvements, erosion control, and education.

Our Science Club and the Anza Ambassadors are putting on nature and history quests for 3rd, 4th, and 5th-graders. This spring, we have already scheduled five fieldtrips for several hundred children, their parents, and teachers to come for the quests.

Through the grant we will also purchase two bulletin cases for evolving pieces, which may include rules and regulations, upcoming events, partner information, artwork, posters, etc. One will be placed in our entrance ramada next to the historical signage, and the other will be in our Discovery Garden to highlight the heritage plants, native plants, and the kids who work in the garden with us!

Our outdoor classroom now features beautiful carvings of a jackrabbit and a horned toad. This area is called Mesquite Grove.

We are now a part of the Cross Border Tours led by the Santa Cruz Community Foundation. They lead tours across the border to increase awareness and understanding of our border communities. The first stop on their tour is Las Lagunas de Anza. We give an interpretive tour and hand out the Anza brochures and our Las Lagunas brochures. This has been very well received and has resulted in other tours coming to Las Lagunas.
Carlos III ascended the Spanish throne in the midst of the Seven Years’ War in 1759, the same year that Juan Bautista de Anza was promoted to presidio commander at Tubac at age 23. France emerged on the losing side of that conflict and relinquished vast land holdings in America to Spain and Great Britain.

But Spain, like all the major powers at the end of the war, was out of money.

Still, by 1768, Carlos III was worried enough about the British threat to his holdings that he authorized some 10,000 infantry and 6,000 cavalry to beef up defenses in New Spain, at considerable expense to the crown.

Conveniently, Carlos III had recently ordered the arrest and expulsion of the Jesuits from New Spain. whose holdings represented a good deal of wealth. A group of Spanish officers was selected to carry out this mission in secret.

Anza was assigned to arrest Jesuits on the Sonoran northern frontier, including modern-day Arizona. Being a criollo (born in New Spain with Spanish ancestry), it is likely Anza learned to read and write in Spanish from the Jesuits. Basque was surely his native tongue. Writing must have always been a chore for him, and it had to be difficult emotionally to round up his former friends and mentors.

Arrests and seizures were to be made at dawn June 25, 1767 – hardly a month after the orders arrived in the capital. Each officer moved in advance to the area to be ready. Anza had been on an expedition against the Apache, and probably slept in the saddle getting to his assigned spot on time. Following the arrests, many areas in Mexico had uprisings that had to be trampled by force.

After the Jesuit expulsion of 1767, Anza spent the next seven years in relative obscurity, though he did distinguish himself as a good military leader during this period.

Fearing English and Russian designs on Alta California, in 1769 Spain sent two expeditions by land and three ships by sea to begin settlement of its northernmost territory. Franciscan Father Junipero Serra was part of this expedition, in charge of the 15 padres assigned to set up new missions in California.

In 1774, Anza received orders from the viceroy to determine if a land route from Tubac to Alta California was possible.
Father Serra met Anza while he was on this exploratory expedition. Serra had already advised the viceroy about the benefit of a land route through Arizona to supply the needs of Alta California, so he was surely impressed by what he had heard of Anza.

His views changed with time, however. On the coast, Serra loaned Anza an arrobe (about 25 pounds) of chocolate. A few years later, he wrote to the Rev. Father Guardian, who had inquired about the status of mules, cows and horses supposedly left by Anza at each mission:

“He left absolutely nothing anywhere. He even forgot to speak to me again about the arrobe of chocolate which cost me 50 pesos and which I ceded to him to get him out a difficulty in 1774. And if I speak of it again to you, it is that there may be no more talk about my having kept for myself everything Anza brought us!”

“Excerpted and adapted from “A Tale of Four Governors”, presented at the 18th annual Anza Society Conference. For more on the politics and personalities of New Spain, read the full article at anzasociety.org.

Questions for Reflection.

What do you think compelled the families who journeyed with Anza on his 1775-76 Anza Expedition: personal motivations, geopolitical forces, or both? Which do you think was more important to them?

In 1767, Anza carried out orders from the crown to arrest Jesuits, including, presumably, former mentors and friends. If you were in Anza’s position, how would you have felt?

Anza and company left Carmelo on April 14 and arrived at San Gabriel April 29, so that was 16 days in travel, and on arrival the animals must have been very happy gatos. This is another interesting aspect of the Anza Expedition.

Read more on this interesting subject on Web de Anza (search “cats”), Bolton’s translations, or Brown’s 2011 publication of Font’s diary (page 346).
Raising Community Awareness of the Anza Trail

In Riverside County, Gordon Sisk developed a new Anza Trail display for the Hemet Museum, where he serves as a volunteer. The museum hosts field trips for third graders. Hemet is also home to the Romana Pageant, the longest running outdoor play in the U.S. and the official state play of California.

On California’s Central Coast, Anza Trail Volunteer Neil Havlik visits Mission San Luis Obispo twice a week to make sure a brochure holder is always stocked with trail maps. He recently had a second brochure rack installed to distribute the latest trail publication, Discovering Early California Afro-Latino Presence.

Mission San Antonio de Padua’s Annual Mission Days

Mission San Antonio’s Mission Days takes place Saturday April 6, 2013, from 11AM to 3PM. Enjoy a step backward in time with re-enactors portraying soldiers, artisans, vaqueros on horseback, and neophytes. Demonstrations will include adobe brick making, acorn grinding, tortilla making, weaving, bead making, face painting, rope making, bell ringing, and more. In the historic church, the New Baroque Orchestra will play original music composed for Mission San Antonio.

Michael Muir will join in the festivities. Michael, grandson of famed naturalist John Muir, leads a wonderful group, Access Adventure, that makes the only wheelchair-accessible horse drawn carriages in the nation. Come see the workmanship, enjoy a ride, meet the staff, and engage in the vision.

Parking/Admission fee is $10. Mission era food will be offered for $10/plate with water and soft drinks also available. Mission Days is an alcohol-free family event.

End of Mission Road, Jolon, CA  93928
831-385-4478, office@missionsanantonio.net
El Paso de los Robles translates as “Pass of the Oaks.” This central coast community, known simply as “Paso” by locals, is situated midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The Anza Expedition passed by on March 6, 1776, on their way to Mission San Antonio de Padua, and the abundance of oaks is referenced in Father Font’s diary.

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS AND ROUTE:

The Anza Trail follows the Salinas River Trail in Paso Robles. The southern end of the trail is at Lawrence Moore Park, where Riverbank Lane connects with the new Charolais Trail. The park includes a small developed area with restrooms, playground and tables, as well as more natural landscaping. The 1.6 mile dirt trail meanders adjacent to the Salinas River, under the Niblick Road bridge, and currently ends at Navajo Avenue. A new half-mile extension of the trail is currently under construction from Navajo Avenue to 13th Street (below S. River Road), and will be completed in the spring of 2013. A stroll along the trail offers an opportunity to connect with the natural habitat and wildlife of the Salinas River, and environmental interpretive signs provide lessons for curious visitors. The new trail segment will also feature Anza Trail interpretive signs funded by a National Park Service grant.

TRAIL CONDITIONS/HAZARDS:

This segment of trail is fully developed and accessible to pedestrians, but the trail is not open to equestrians. The new trail segment along South River Road will be designed with bicyclists in mind. It will offer a safe and scenic alternative route for cyclists and pedestrians parallel to the busy and narrow road.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS:

The City hosts its annual Festival of the Arts in its beautiful central park on Memorial Day weekend. Proceeds from the festival support conservation, recreation and other enhancements along the Salinas River, including construction of the Anza Trail. A major planning effort is currently underway for the Salinas River through northern San Luis Obispo County. For more information, go to www.salinasrivertrail.com.

Use the Anza Trail MapCollaborator to create printable maps of this and other segments of the Anza Trail.

Visit www.mapsportal.org/mapcollab_anza
Subscribe to the Anza Trail’s e-News for a monthly update on trail news and events: www.nps.gov/JUBA

April

Anza Trail Traveling Exhibit at CSU Monterey Bay Student Center

Fri 5 - Sun 7  **Mission Play (San Gabriel, CA):** San Gabriel Playhouse updates the classic play. Anza Trail volunteers are attending and distributing trail information Friday, April 5; www.missionplay.org, 626-308-2868

Fri 5  **Cary Ranch Presentation/Tour (Borrego Springs, CA):** See article on page 11

Sat 6  **Mission Day at San Antonio de Padua (Jolon, CA):** See article on page 8

Sun 7  **“Trailing the Anza Expedition” (Bay Area):** Anza-related events with the East Bay Regional Park District, with Ohlone food, auto tour & more; www.ebparks.org/activities/naturalists/anzahistoric

Thu 11  **Anza Trail Lecture, Oakland Heritage Alliance:** 7PM, Chapel of the Chimes, 510-763-9218

Sat 13  **Tucson Presidio Living History Day:** www.tucsonpresidiotrust.org, 520-837-8119

Sun 14  **Los Angeles Heritage Day:** 11AM-4PM, Olvera Street; www.laheritagealliance.org

Sun 14  **Trails International Symposium comes to Arizona, April 14-17:** www.americantrails.org

Sat 20  **Earth Day Birthday (Martinez, CA):** At the John Muir NHS Anza Trail exhibit; www.nps.gov/JOMU

Sun 21  **Santa Barbara Presidio Founders’ Day:** 12PM - 3PM, www.sbthp.org, 805-965-0093

Fri 26  **Anza Ambassadors Closing Ceremony at Las Lagunas (Nogales, AZ)**

Fri 26  **Los Californianos Meeting (San Gabriel, CA):** April 26-28, www.loscalifornianos.org

Sat 27  **Anza Trail Presentation to Gilroy (CA) Historical Society:** 10:30AM, Gilroy Public Library

Sat 27  **Walk with Anza (SF Presidio):** 1PM-3PM; www.presidio.gov (repeats **Saturday, May 18**)

May

Anza Trail Traveling Exhibit at the Gilroy (CA) Public Library

Thu 2 - Sun 5  **Santa Cruz Nature and Heritage Festival (Rio Rico, AZ):** Featuring an Anza Trail presentation on May 4 at 3PM; www.santacruznatureheritage.org, 520-988-5425

Sun 5  **Tucson Presidio 2nd Annual Cinco de Maya Fiesta:** www.tucsonpresidiotrust.org, 520-837-8119

Wed 8  **California Trails and Greenways Conference, May 8-10 (Lake Tahoe):** www.parks.ca.gov

Sat 11  **Open Space Authority Farm Fest (Morgan Hill, CA):** 11AM-4PM, Coyote Valley Preserve, 408-224-7476

Sat 11  **National Train Day at Union Station (Los Angeles):** Meet the Trails and Rails docents

Sat 25  **Paso Robles Festival of the Arts:** www.prcity.com/fota
Rare Chance to Explore Cary Ranch this April

Privately owned Cary Ranch atop Coyote Canyon in Anza, Calif., is not normally open to the public. Three epochs of regional history converge at this 160-acre site: a former native Cahuilla village, the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail, and former home of pioneer cattleman Fred Clark for whom Borrego’s Clark (Dry) Lake was named.

This April, the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (ABDNHA) provides two opportunities to discover Cary Ranch:

**Friday, April 5: Slideshow on Cary Ranch history with presenter Reena Deutsch,** 7PM–8:30PM
ABDNHA Library, 652 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs (Fee $12)

**Saturday, April 6: Guided Tour of Cary Ranch,** 8AM–4PM
Guides Reena Deutsch and Dick Cary will fill the day with Dick’s spirited accounts about growing up on the ranch and about his father Art Cary’s contributions to La Puerta’s ranching history. See the famous “horse-and-rider” pictographs. Leaves from the Borrego Nature Center at 8AM or meet at the Cahuilla Creek Casino parking lot at 9:15AM. (Fee $27)

Information and reservations for both events: www.abdnha.org or 760-767-3098

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**June**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 1</td>
<td>National Trails Day 2013: <a href="http://www.americanhiking.org">www.americanhiking.org</a></td>
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<td>Sat 15</td>
<td>Urban Outing: Before El Camino Real (San Mateo, CA): 10:30AM-12:30PM, history walk with the Anza Trail, Grand Boulevard Initiative and the Greenbelt Alliance; <a href="http://www.greenbelt.org">www.greenbelt.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 27 - Sun 30</td>
<td>Pasados del Presidio (San Francisco): Annual events commemorating the arrival of the Anza expedition, featuring a Los Californianos ceremony on June 27, Presidio Friday Kids’ Events, weekend fandangos with El Coro Hispano and more; <a href="http://www.loscalifornianos.org">www.loscalifornianos.org</a>, <a href="http://www.presidio.gov">www.presidio.gov</a></td>
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Participants at the 18th Annual Conference of the Anza Society hike along a segment of Anza Recreation Trail through Fort Ord National Monument on March 11, 2013 (photo credit: Jack Carlson)