

THE  
**AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY**

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco, April 8, 1980. Thousands of Bay Area hikers taking part in the American Hiking Society's HikaNation will greet the dawn on San Francisco's Fremont Street, Sunday morning, April 13th, waiting to be part of the first group of walkers to cross the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge since it was opened in 1936.

Bay Area Organizing Committee Chairman Mike McReynolds today stressed the importance of hikers making plans to be at the assembly area in downtown San Francisco on Fremont Street between Folsom and Howard no later than 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning to be assured of entrance onto the Bay Bridge. Since extremely large numbers of hikers are expected to take part in the event, and the entrance ramp is being opened only from 6:00 until 7:30 a.m., there is a strong possibility that participants coming later than 6:30 may not be able to take part in this historically unique event. A Bridge-crossing fee of \$2.00 will be charged for everyone crossing the Bridge, unless they have purchased the Weekend Registration Packet for \$3.00 which includes the Bridge crossing as well as many other items. All money raised in this manner will go to pay expenses of the HikaNation as it crosses the country to Washington, DC.

McReynolds assured hikers that CalTrans will allow enough time for them to cross the Bridge before reopening the hiking lane and buffer lane to traffic later that morning. He also emphasized that all hikers must be off the Bridge and on the CalTrans service road paralleling the Freeway on the Oakland side by 9:30.

Since there is virtually no public transportation in the pre-dawn Sunday hours, and BART will not be opening the BART system until 9 a.m., hikers are encouraged to take public transportation into San Francisco the night before and camp out in the guarded and secure fenced-in campsites underneath the Bay Bridge in front of Sunday morning's entrance ramp. Overnight campers should bring their own sleeping bags and pads. As the campsite area is asphalt, tents are not advised unless they are free-standing. Camping gear can be checked at the campsite on Saturday night if the campers wish to have dinner in downtown San Francisco. Breakfast items will be available Sunday morning through mobile catering units.

AC Transit will be provide shuttle buses from the area east of the Toll Plaza over to BART's Oakland West Station. Hikers will then be able to utilize BART to get back to San Francisco or to their normal AC Transit routes elsewhere in the East Bay. Marin, Peninsula and San Francisco residents can take BART back to downtown San Francisco to catch Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans and Muni. The normal AC Transit fare of 35 cents will be charged for the shuttle bus service, as well as normal BART fares. Both AC Transit and BART request that hikers have exact change to speed the ticket purchasing process.

The HikaNation begins the previous day, Saturday, April 12, with Opening Ceremonies at 10 a.m. in Golden Gate Park's Polo Grounds. Thousands of Bay Area hikers are also expected to attend these Opening Ceremonies and hike around the northern coastline of San Francisco before ending the day at the campsite underneath the Bay Bridge. A core group of 80 long-distance backpackers will attempt to hike across the nation to Washington, DC, in 14 months. The goal of the HikaNation, co-sponsored by the American Hiking Society and the U.S. Department of Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, is to show hiking and walking to be healthy non-polluting and non-energy consuming activities for the entire family. To make that point, the core group of 80 hikers is expected to range in age from 8 months to 68 years. Runners and joggers are asked to bring their hiking boots and to leave their running shoes at home for the Bridge crossing.

(For further information concerning the HikaNation and the Bridge Crossing, editors and news directors can consult the enclosed Fact Sheet or call Mike McReynolds at 981-0970. It would be appreciated if this telephone number is NOT referred to in your news stories.)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco, April 8, 1980. All hikers who plan to cross the Bay Bridge this Sunday, April 13th, should be in downtown San Francisco at the hiker's entrance to the Bridge no later than 6:00 a.m. This was stressed today by the American Hiking Society who is sponsoring the cross-Bay Bridge walk as part of the opening weekend activities of HikaNation. Mike McReynolds, Chairman of the Bay Area Organizing Committee of HikaNation, said CalTrans will close the entrance ramp onto the Bridge at 7:30, no matter how many people are still waiting to go onto the Bridge. Therefore, he continued, in order to be assured of getting on the Bridge, all hikers should plan on being on Fremont Street between Howard and Folsom Streets, at 6:00 Sunday morning. Hikers must be off the Bridge on the Oakland side by 9:30. At that time, CalTrans and the Highway Patrol will sweep the Bridge of hikers and re-open the hiking lanes to on-coming traffic. All joggers are requested to wear hiking boots and to leave their running shoes at home, as jogging will not be permitted. Rollerskates, bicycles, skateboards and pets will also not be allowed on the Bridge during the event.

AC Transit and BART will provide transportation service for those who do not wish to continue on to Berkeley and the East Bay Hills with the core group of hikers trekking across the country to the East Coast. AC Transit Shuttle service to BART's Oakland West station will cost riders 35 cents, and BART will be selling special return San Francisco tickets at tables outside Oakland West Station. Hikers are requested to have exact change for the fares. The American Hiking Society will charge \$2.00 for each individual person who crosses the bridge. All bridge crossing fees go to support HikaNation as it crosses the country from San Francisco to Washington, DC.

(For further information concerning the HikaNation and the Bridge Crossing, news directors can consult the enclosed Fact Sheet or call Mike McReynolds at (415) 981-0970. It would be appreciated if this telephone number is NOT referred to in your news stories.)