

# IT'S ON!! Perseid Party @ Stew's!

I love camping and I want to get a bunch of good friends up to my property for a good time and the *Perseid Meteor Shower* is due to peak in a couple weeks! There's no light pollution up in the mountains and the ranch's ridge has about 180 degrees of sky! Perfect for stargazing!

More info on [Perseid Showers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perseid) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perseid>

**Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2007**

No moon! The moon will be dark (a new moon).

Let's grill it up! Everyone's invited!

We'll start grilling food around 6pm. Marshmallows and Smores around the campfire to follow!

People who want to visit just for Saturday evening's main event or can't overnight are certainly welcome to drop by for something to eat!

Where, you ask?

Why, at **Stew's Happy Place Ranch!**

The gate is located on the west side of Mines Road, about six miles past the Santa Clara County line (if you're headed south) and about 2 miles past the restaurant called 'The Junction' (if you're headed north). That's actually behind Mount Hamilton, which is east of San Jose (see map).

The 'ranch' is over 100 acres of wild hills with fantastic views of the San Antonio Valley and Mount Hamilton. The only man-made things on it are a 3/4 mile long dirt road, a small redwood picnic deck with two picnic tables, and a 16ft. travel trailer.

I'll bring up some 5gal. jugs of general purpose water.

I'll also have most of the food and BEvERages for everyone.

I'll bring up the grills and briquettes.

The trailer has a functional bathroom for your convenience.

Scrambled eggs, corned beef hash, OJ and coffee are on the breakfast menu.

The country roads in any of three directions are FANTASTIC drives (be careful not to fall off the edge and 'go missing' or 'meet the wildlife').

Access:

From the North: Livermore (Tesla Rd to Mines Rd) \*easiest\* (even from San Jose!)

From the East: Patterson (I-5 to Del Puerto Canyon Rd)

From the South: San Jose (I-680-Alum Rock exit to Hwy 130 aka Mt. Hamilton Rd)

Things to think about bringing:

camp chairs

football/frisbee/kites

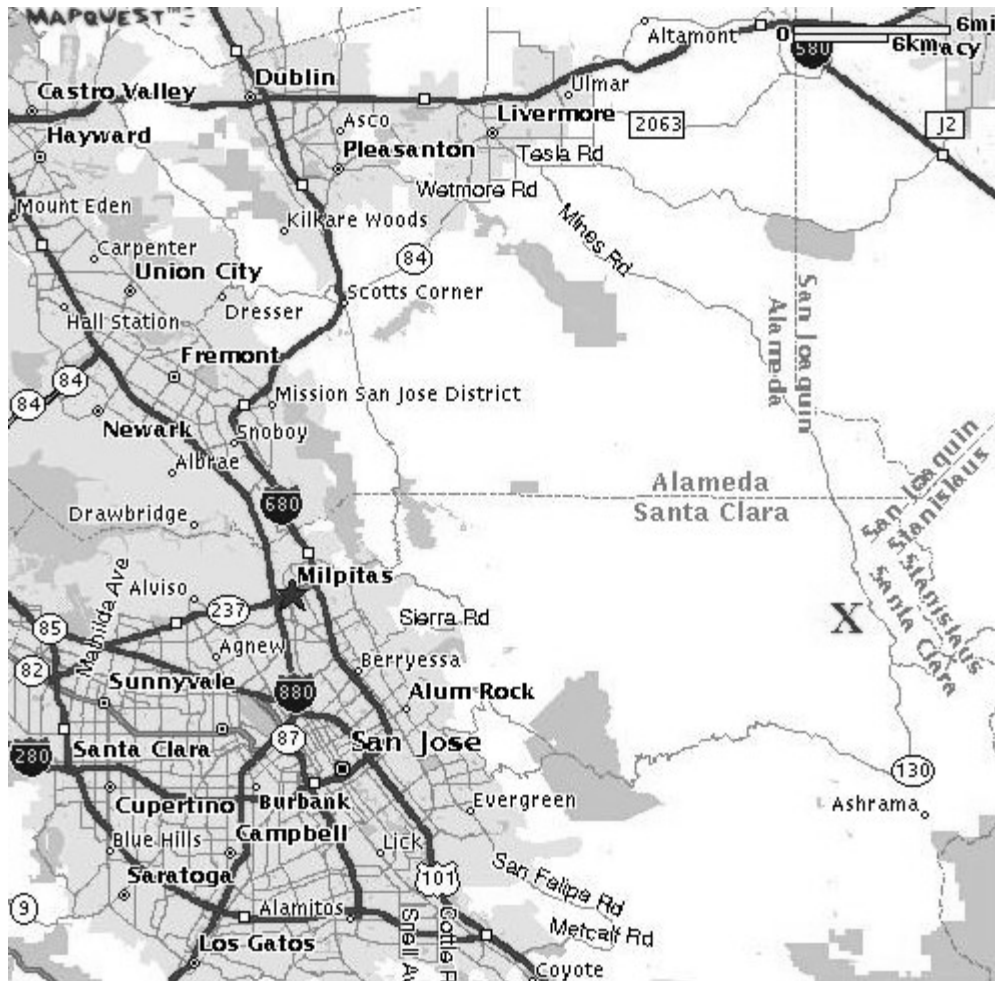
dogs or kids

boots

telescope or binoculars

camping gear - if you're gonna rough it

Here's a rough map of the location (X marks the spot):



Location (specific):

The gate at Mines Road is 6 miles from the Alameda/Santa Clara county line when headed south. The gate is 2 miles from the restaurant known as 'The Junction' (at the junction of Mines Rd, Del Puerto Canyon Rd, and San Antonio Valley Rd) when headed north.

It is on the west side of Mines Rd half-way between the mile markers 21 and 22 (painted on roadway).

*Easiest* access is through Livermore- Mines Rd heading south (26 miles starting at base of Mines Rd from Tesla Rd). Approximate drive time on Mines Rd is slightly less than one hour. Be sure to turn left and stay on Mines road instead of going straight towards Del Valle Recreation Area. (the turn is in the first 5 miles of Mines Road)

Watch the mile markers increase as you leave Livermore. They get to '20' at the Santa Clara County line and then begin counting backwards from about 28.

Other access:

**California Central Valley-** I5 exit Sperry Ave at Patterson, head west on Diablo Grande Parkway, then turn right onto Del Puerto Canyon Rd, then turning north (right) on Mines at the Junction (27 miles starting at I5).

**San Jose-** Hwy 132 (Mt Hamilton Rd) from Alum Rock up and over Mt. Hamilton, into San Antonio Valley, finally heading north on Mines Rd (40 miles starting at Alum Rock ~90minutes?).

The gate is a simple bent tube farm gate, rusty-yellow/orange color. When headed south (as from Livermore), the gate is hidden by hillside until you have just reached it. Keep an eye on your odometer and drive slowly as you get nearer.

One of the gateposts has a small sign that says "Brown".

GPS:

37° 24' 54.52"

121° 29' 55.66"

Once through the gate, the meeting area is about 3/4 mile up the dirt drive.

Be careful to stay on the road- there are a couple of tricky (especially in the dark) turns.

Be especially careful of the wildlife you might encounter while driving on the county roads!

There is a good population of deer and occasionally you'll meet with some cows, too.

