I hope you can join us when we go...

Camping in Big Sur

Labor Day Weekend
August 31st -- September 3rd

*Pfeiffer Beach, where we'll do sunset appetizers one evening.
(I don't think these people will still be there.)*

Those of you who have been to been to Big Sur know it has some of the most spectacular coastline in the country. Set against a backdrop of mountains freckled with coastal redwoods, it's easy to imagine that the Indians called this land God's Country. They didn't . . . but you can imagine that they might have.

We'll be camping in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Our campsites are along the Big Sur River, which runs through the campground, and eventually empties into the Pacific at a point we'll see along one of our hikes. The campground is in a very pretty, wooded setting. Conveniently, there are showers right in the campground, walking distance from our campsites.

We'll be treated to a full moon over Labor Day weekend, making the evenings in Big Sur particularly pretty. The weather is usually quite good there at this time of year. The days should be pleasantly warm, and the evenings cool but not cold (he said, jinxing the group to endure a typhoon).

The drive there is beautiful during the day, and if you can get away from work on Friday, I encourage you to enjoy the drive in sunlight. A number of us will be leaving Friday morning, and you're welcome to join us. You don't need to caravan together. But if you decide to come up then, after arriving in Big Sur and setting up camp, those interested will be driving a couple miles to the Ventana Inn for cocktails in their outside seating area. This is a gorgeously located resort hotel with beautiful views of both the mountains and ocean. We'll then return to camp for dinner.

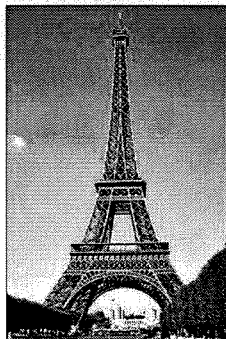*Soberanes Point, where we may have sunset appetizers.*
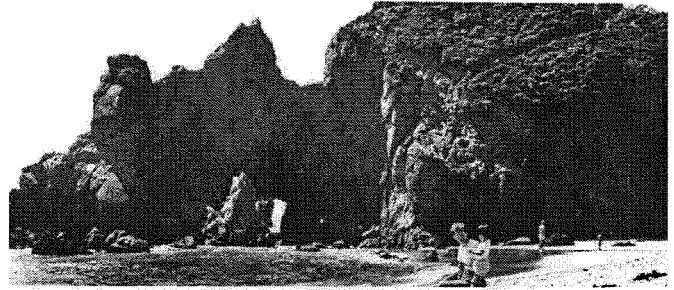

Ridge Trail, where we'll have lunch one day.

There are a variety of short and medium hikes we can do, including two hikes to gorgeous viewpoints where we'll have lunch Sat. and Sun. We'll see three waterfalls on these hikes. As usual, we'll enjoy sunset appetizers at a couple particularly pretty viewpoints.

For those of you who joined us on our trip to Big Sur in 1998, we'll be doing some new hikes, as well as doing portions of one or two of the best hikes from that trip. A few photos from that trip are at: www.mcganty.com/page8.html

For those interested, one evening we'll take a short moonlight hike from our campsite over a bridge crossing the Big Sur River to the Homestead Cabin. No flashlights, lots of wine...should be fun!
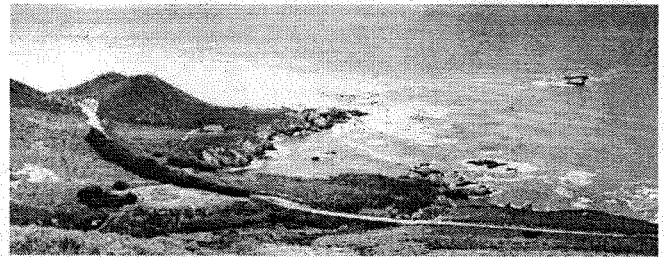

Eiffel Tower, which we won't get to see on this trip.

The trip will cost $35, including the campsites, firewood, common supplies, a couple cases of wine, beer for the weekend, etc. Everyone will be asked to help prepare one meal, and will be served by the group for the other meals. On this trip, all meals from dinner Friday through breakfast Monday will be served to the group, including lunches.

We can only take 25 people on this trip. First preference will be given to everyone who'll be joining us for the whole weekend, through breakfast on Monday. I'll only be able to hold your spot once I receive your check, which as usual will be non-refundable. You can mail your check to:
John McGanty, 432 Eleventh St., #7, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

On Tuesday morning, August 28, I'll send out by e-mail meal assignments, any remaining details for the trip, directions, etc. Kids beyond a crying age are very welcome, and at least a few will be joining us, including April. Pets and babies will have to be left at the kennel.

IMPORTANT: When you send your check, be sure to include the following:

1.) Any preference on whether you prepare a breakfast, lunch or dinner. No guarantees, but usually most people get their first choice.

2.) Roughly when you plan to arrive and leave, for meal assignments and a count for dinner on Friday.

3.) Your phone number and e-mail address if I don't have either.

Let me know if you have any questions about the trip (310-379-6961 or mcganty@mindspring.com). I think we're going to have a great time. I hope you can join us!