

May 2011



Dear Members,

There are three events we would like to invite you to:

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**In Cooperation with the Belgian students of Stanford:  
Lecture by Professor Christophe Crombez  
"A Year of Political Paralysis in Belgium"**

**Wednesday, May 18  
Stanford University, 7 pm**

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**What:**

Over the last couple of years, Professor Crombez has given several talks about Belgian politics for the BCNC. This talk will describe the current political situation in Belgium and what it all means. This is a free event and it will include snacks and drinks. It will last approximately one hour.

It is a cooperation between BCNC and Belgica, the organization of Belgian students at Stanford so it also is a great opportunity to meet our newest Belgians in the Bay Area!

**Where:**

Conference Room in Bechtel International Center  
584 Capistrano Way  
Stanford University

**Directions:**

From 280: take Alpine Rd exit, go north towards Stanford  
After 1 mile, turn right onto Junipero Serra Blvd  
After 1 mile, turn left onto Campus Drive  
After .5 mile, turn left onto Mayfield Avenue  
Take 1st left to stay on Mayfield Avenue  
Go past Lagunita Drive, then go into the parking lot on the right. Bechtel International Center is at the end of the parking lot (western side)

From 101: take University Avenue exit, go south towards Palo Alto

**Belgian Club of Northern California, [www.bcnc.com](http://www.bcnc.com)  
c/o Caroline Diericx 139 Welsh St, Apt 12, San Francisco, CA 94107**

Cross El Camino and continue on Palm Drive

After .5 mile, turn right onto Campus Drive West

After 1 mile, turn left onto Santa Teresa St

After .5 mile, turn right onto Lomita Drive

Take the second left onto Mayfield Drive and turn into the parking on the left

**Sign-up:**

Email [dirk@bcnc.com](mailto:dirk@bcnc.com) by May 15th if you want to participate. Call Dirk at (408) 910 7541 for more info if needed.

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# Mt Diablo Hike - Post Hike Dinner

## Saturday, May 21

### Start at 9 am sharp

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#### **Sign-up:**

Email [sophie@bcnc.com](mailto:sophie@bcnc.com) as early as you can and by May 18th if you want to participate. After the hike, there will be an optional dinner at Sophie's house in Pleasanton. In the event of a bad rainstorm, the hike would be cancelled. More details will be sent through email to those who register for the hike.

#### **Where, when, practical info:**

We will meet at the 'Rock City' parking lot and campground at 8:45 am. The hike will start at 9:00 am sharp. Please be on time. There is no reliable cell coverage at the starting point and on the hike, which means you may not be able to let us know you are running late. There is usually coverage at the summit.

It will take between 2.5 to 3 hours to get to the summit and about the same amount of time to get back down to the parking lot. The expected time back at the cars is between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. We picnic close to the summit; tables cannot be guaranteed so keep the picnic practical (pre-made sandwiches are a good option; no alcohol allowed, Belgian chocolate is very welcome). This hike requires a 'reasonable level of fitness' and guide books often rate it as 'strenuous'. It's all up, up, up till the summit. This event is not for strollers or kids under 12 years. No dogs allowed. The trailhead is 0.5m / 0.8km from the parking.

Elevation at start of hike: 1620 ft / 493m

Diablo summit: 3849 ft / 1173m

Elevation gain: 2229 ft / 680m

There are toilets and drinking water at the trailhead and at the summit.

#### **What to bring:**

- Sturdy hiking / walking shoes (and light shoes to change into after the hike and to be allowed in Sophie's house)
- Sunscreen and hat/cap
- Water (min 2 liters)
- Picnic
- Hiking poles (optional, but recommended)
- Layered clothing: some parts of the hike can be exposed to the wind and it can be very windy and hence chilly to cold at the summit.
- Wine and/or (Belgian) beer for the after hike party. Dinner will be provided

#### **Directions:**

**West Bay:** Cross the Bay Bridge, proceed to Highway 24. Exit Highway 680 south to Danville-Diablo Road exit. Go east on Diablo Road following signs to park. After 3 miles on Diablo Road,

turn north onto Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd, which becomes South Gate Road and twists 3 1/2 miles to the South Entrance.

**East Bay:** North on Highway 880 or Highway 580 or Warren Freeway (Highway 13) to Highway 24, then as above. Proceed East on Highway 580 to Highway 680, then north to the Danville- Mt. Diablo exit, then as above.

**South Bay:** North on Highway 680 to Danville-Mt. Diablo exit. From Interstate 680 in Contra Costa County, exit Diablo Road (exit 39). Follow the green "parks" signs: drive east on Diablo Road (turn right to continue on Diablo Road at El Cerro), then turn left at the (stop sign) junction with Blackhawk onto Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. Drive north on Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which morphs into South Gate Road at the park boundary. South Gate Entrance is the boundary of the Park (no parking spots) where the 'Welcome to Diablo State Park' sign and a metal barrier are. Keep driving on the very winding road and please be aware of bicyclists and walkers till the Kiosk.

**Entrance / Registration Fee:**

\$10 per car – to be paid at the Kiosk (bring exact change in case of self- registration – notes are best). Rock City/Live Oak is the first parking lot after the Kiosk, just under a mile past it. There are a few parking lots there.

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## Family Camping and Hiking

### Carmel Valley, Friday-Sunday June 10-12

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**Hiking:** will be in Garrapata State Park along the coast. This time of the year, the wildflowers can be spectacular!

**Camping:** we reserved a couple of adjacent camping spots with room for 15 people in the Saddle Mountain campground in Carmel Valley. The campground has a large heated swimming pool and free hot showers. It's a couple of miles inland from the beach so there is less chance of fog. In addition to the hiking and swimming, several state beaches are just a couple of miles away. All ages are

welcome. Generally, people arrive Friday late afternoon or evening. Arrival on Saturday morning is also a possibility.

**Food:** Participants host all meals. Traditionally the quality has beaten all standards of gourmet outdoor cooking! An arrangement about who brings what and any other logistics, will be made through email the week before departure. Hikers bring their own trail snacks & drinks.

**Cost:** \$20/person for the campsite. Food and drink expenses will be divided among the participants.

**RSVP** by May 31 by sending an email to [dirk@bcnc.com](mailto:dirk@bcnc.com) with the following information:

- Name of people attending and age of kids
- Cell phone number
- Would like to carpool or are looking for a ride
- Would like to arrive on Friday evening or Saturday morning

Reservations will be on a first come, first serve basis, with priority given to BCNC members. For any questions, please email Dirk or call him at (408) 910 7541.

### Thank You:

-The BCNC Easter Egg Hunt was a big success, 43 children signed up for this event! We'd like to thank all the people who helped organizing this event:

Auriane (registration), Sofie & Ward (hosting & food), Trui (set-up and hiding eggs), Lieve, Katja (hiding eggs), Ines (hiding eggs & game set-up), Bieke (bringing eggs from Belgium), Lieve & Benedicte (contacting Lotus for Speculoos), Leslie & Janny (buying goodies and making easter bags).

- Our board member Nicolas Braems and his family have decided to move back to Belgium. We would like to thank him for his dedication and hard work on making our website state-of-the-art. Without him there would be no on-line payments, no on-line event sign-ups and no forums!

The board.