

Tierra Bella Henry Coe Reststop Report 2022

This was the 13th year with a reststop at Henry Coe Headquarters (since 2008)

Volunteers – Don Axtell (chair), Peggy Beard, Anna Huynh, Jay Orbon, Ahmed Masood, Stephanie Metz, Gary Schaps, and Jeff Robertson, (8 total), plus Megan Nguyen helping at the church on Friday, and plus Joan Freed coming very early Saturday to help make the line on the road.

Campsite reservations need to be reserved 6 months in advance. This year I could only reserve 2 sites online (19 and 18), while the other sites (1, 2, and 20) were not available for online reservation, so they needed to be a part of the permit process.

The three porta potties were already in place by Friday morning. Larry Edson had continued his plan of placing the toilets one day earlier. That is a good plan.

I used my new Honda Odyssey van to haul all of the reststop supplies. This took two trips. On Thursday I went to the ACTC shed and loaded most of the reststop gear. Then I went home and loaded the signs, chairs, and camping gear. The van was now totally filled.

On Friday morning I went to the ACTC shed and met Dzung and the big truck at 7:00. Together with 3 other helpers we loaded everything into the big truck, and were finished by 9:00. I then drove my van up to Henry Coe. It was raining while driving up to Henry Coe and the rain just finished as I pulled into the campsites. We were very lucky that Tierra Bella was not until the next day. Saturday's weather was perfect. I met all of the reststop campsites were marked correctly, and everything was in order. I unloaded all the gear into site 19, checked in, then headed for the church.

Friday at 12:20 I arrived at the church. Everything seemed organized. Reststop supplies were grouped in separate parking spaces, food was all sorted. Ice was already in the igloos and coolers. Megan met me and together we double-checked the list and then loaded everything. I think assisted some of the other reststops to load their supplies. By 3:00 everything at the church was finished.

Friday at 4:30 I again arrived at Henry Coe. I unloaded the 6 tables, 4 ice chests, and 5 igloos, but kept the food inside the van. I then loaded the signs back in. I then drove back down the hill, stopped 30+ times to place a sign. I was back in camp just before sunset, about 7:30.

I set up the big pot and cooker and practiced heating some water to make sure it was working.

Saturday morning I awoke at 4:00 AM and decided to get up and get to work. I put up the 20x20 canopy and then started on the 10x10 popup. I moved tables and gear to their correct positions. This year all of the 13 canopies were assigned. Henry Coe had the 3rd 20x20 canopy, but it had a 10x20 tarp. This worked ok for shade, leaving one side of the 20x20 uncovered.

I then prepared for the line marking. I had purchased a 25# bag of sugar and a 25# bag of flour at Costco. I used a 5-gal bucket to mix the two bags together. I then had two pitchers to place the flour/sugar mixture on the road. Swing the pitcher to make a line, then walk 9 steps and do it again. Joan was to meet me at 6:30 to help with the line, but she came at 5:30 so we got a head start. We were finished by 7:30. During the line marking we found a fox that came down and was eating our line.

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Back at the reststop, I met our radio guy already set up. Soon all of the volunteers arrived about the same time. In total we had 10 cars and they all fit in the campsites. #1 was reserved for bike parking. #2 had 3 cars, #18 had 2 cars, #19 had 2 cars, #20 had 3 cars. There was still room for 2 more cars in #19, so really site #18 was not needed, as long as we get sites 1,2,19,20.

All of the volunteers were ready and eager to help. I am not used to delegating, but when they asked what they can do, I tried to let them take on new assignments. We put up the bike racks, filled the igloos, got the soda put into the big tub, got the food prep tent up with walls. And got all the snacks into the 4 dispensers and 8 bins. It was then 9:30 and we were ready for our first rider.

First rider arrived at 9:52. He was on the Pink route, that comes up Henry Coe directly. There were just over 1000 riders signed up for Tierra Bella, and about 350 riders would be climbing Henry Coe. No count was taken but it felt like we got our usual amount, so close to the 350 riders. I cannot imagine how the other reststops handle their much greater amounts of riders.

All of the food dispensers and food bins were self-serve. For the other items (grapes, PBJ sandwiches, wraps, potatoes, and mini-bagels) we had our volunteers with gloves on hand them what they wanted. New this year, I wrote the name of each item directly onto the table cloth, which worked well.

Anna turned out to be our only wrap cutter, PBJ maker, mini-bagel spreader, top chef. She was able to keep up with the demand, often keeping prepared items in the coolers until they were needed. Others offered to help but Anna said she had it covered. And she did.

Jeff took on the task of doing the hot soups. After adding the hot water he brought them over to the serving table next to the mini-bagels, so that the riders could see them. We used both cases (48 total soups).

We had the hot water going all day. We had a smaller pot that we would dip in to get hot water to take to the hand wash station in the food prep tent. We also had a hand wash station near to the water faucet.

Food order changes for next year – (based on 350 riders)

- Gatorade – reduce from 4 to 3 big containers – try to get Orange flavor
- Sodas and V8s – keep the same
- Wraps (Turkey/Ham/Veggie) – reduce from (40/25/15) to (30/20/10), cut in thirds
- Potatoes – reduce from 6 to 4 bags
- Bananas – reduce from 1 case to half a case
- Cuties – reduce from 3 bags to 2 bags
- Soups – keep the same at 2 cases of 24
- Snack items – keep the same

This year the County Food permit did not get issued until almost too late for some, but too late for me up at Henry Coe. The county was still asking questions on Thursday and the permit was not issued until Friday afternoon. This permit really needed to be issued at least a week beforehand. As this was not our first rodeo, all of the reststops had a food prep station with procedures on how to set it up, and how to store the food, and how to serve the food. Getting a food permit means that each reststop also gets

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a county food inspector. Our county food inspector first checked on how we were serving our wraps and PBJ sandwiches. Our method was correct, which was for our volunteer with gloves on, to hand the rider what they asked for, being sure to keep the remainder of the wraps covered. And to not add any new wraps until the current batch has been handed out. She did not seem at all concerned that we had food bins and food dispensers that were self-serve for the riders.

Inside the food prep tent, our inspector checked the temperature of the hand wash container, and wrote us up for being 90F instead of 100F. I added more hot water on the spot. She also wrote us up for having too-weak of a bleach rinse, so I added more bleach until it had enough. The inspector said we should not have too much bleach either. I should try to get a small supply of test strips. The inspector also suggested that we should have ice between each layer of wraps and not just top and bottom. I did point out the thermometer in our ice chest.

I did not hear of any accidents on Henry Coe this year, and I think there was only one or so falls on the whole Tierra Bella, where a rider got scraped up.

The road up to Henry Coe has been repaired and chip-sealed, all the way except for near the beginning which is part of Morgan Hill. While putting the line on the road we noticed that when they chip-sealed the road, it also created a black line down the middle, and so that line was a part of our marking. I was afraid that with this new pavement that some riders might get carried away on their downhills, but no accidents occurred, so I guess the riders took note of the signs that read "Control Your Speed".

We had the reststop all packed up by 3:00 PM. I dropped the gear off at Gavilan College and then headed back up to Henry Coe. Along the way I picked up all of the signs. This year none of the signs had been messed with, not trashed or stolen as happened in past years. When I got back up to the water stop, my metal stand was still there but the 6 gallons of water were gone. They were still there when I was heading to Gavilan College, but were now missing.

When I arrived back at the campsites, I was met by two turkeys with feathers spread wide strutting their stuff. By 8:00 PM I was all packed up for the final time, and headed home.



-Donny Axtell