

**KNICKERBOCKER CREEK LINEAMENT GEOLOGY HIKE**  
**(Bear Mountains Fault Zone)**

**Wednesday May 28, 2025**

**Excessive heat may cancel hike. Check website the night before.**

**DIFFICULTY (Rating):** Moderate due to the watercourse crossings and off-trail explorations.

**HIKE DISTANCE:** Four-mile loop

**ELEVATION/GAIN:** 430 feet of cumulative elevation gain. Trail map is available in **ALLTrails**:  
<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/knickerbocker-lineament-traverse-831c2f8>

**PACE:** Relaxed with pauses for discussions.

**TRAIL CONDITIONS:** Several watercourse crossings (muddy) and a few short off-trail segments through grass and trees that require minor bushwhacking and dodging of poison oak stems and vines. Ticks are also a possibility. **Wear long pants and a long-sleeve shirt**; and trekking-poles are recommended.

**DESCRIPTION:** Hike continues the investigation of the Bear Mountains fault zone in the Auburn Dam area and is a traverse through the Knickerbocker Creek Lineament that includes a: prominent shear zone, headless creek, and sag pond. Pack a snack or lunch for a break alongside the creek that is favorable for wading.

**FACILITIES:** Porta potty at Olmstead Loop Trailhead

**DRIVE TIME/MILES:** 40 minutes and 25 miles

**DONATION:** \$5.00

**LEADER/SWEEP:** Mark Smelser (707.298.0102)/Gay Mackintosh (916.209.3628)

**MEET/LEAVE TIME:** Meet 7:00 AM at Orchard Creek parking lot behind the fitness center; and Leave 7:15 AM

**PREPARATION FOR HIKE:**

- Being prepared physically as well as having the right equipment makes for a better experience, not only for you, but for your fellow hikers.
- **If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking.**

**What to Bring:**

- **PLENTY OF WATER!** Recommend 50 oz. /1.5 liters minimum for 5-mile hike – more if longer. Electrolytes suggested.
- Hiking boots/shoes, hat, sun protection, insect repellent, small first aid kit. Trekking poles recommended.
- ID (driver's license), health insurance card, emergency contact / phone number.
- Extra pair of shoes to change into after hike and a plastic bag for muddy/dusty hiking boots to keep your driver's car clean.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Take I-80 East through Auburn and exit at Elm Street (i.e., Hwy 49 to Placerville); follow Hwy 49 south to Cool. After the stop sign in Cool, continue south on Hwy 49, travel 1.5 miles to the Catecroft Lane Trailhead, and park along the tree-lined unimproved dirt parking area that resembles a frontage road. Parking is free. If you get to the actual Catecroft Lane that is a paved residential roadway you have gone too far.