The course schedule listed below is tentative, and will be based on the background and interests of class participants. There are no prerequisites for this class, other than my assumption of interest in the topic. The basic approach to this course will be that understanding increases appreciation; I believe we come to love that which we understand more deeply. We will approach the study of Western Parks through a study of the processes that formed them, and the features they display. Topics may vary depending on your interests and participation.

Some of you may be working for a grade or credit. Based on your background and interests, you will be expected to prepare a field trip guide to a “personal park,” a geologic area of personal interest about which you want to learn more. It can be anywhere that is not within an existing National Park, and can be of any size or configuration. You will be expected to research the setting (within reasonable limits), take photographs of appropriate features and processes, explain the basic geology and why the area is of interest. Once I learn of your selection, a more detailed outline will be provided. I do not expect a professional detailed study, but your report should reflect your interest and attempt to learn about your site.

(Admittedly Ambitious) Tentative Schedule

June 25 – The essence of a geologic perspective, time & change, tectonics, earth materials, Pt. Reyes – Cape Cod contrast.

July 2 – Parks of the Southwest – time, weathering, rivers, wind – Grand Canyon, Arches, Bryce, Zion

July 9 – Southwest Parks continued – Death Valley, Joshua Tree + … caves and caverns

July 16 – Glaciers, Alaska, Sequoia/Kings Canyon and Yosemite

July 23 – Volcanic Parks, Hawaii, Lassen, Crater Lake, Craters of the Moon, Yellowstone

July 25 – Field Trip to …

July 30 – Volcanic Parks continued, + local geology (Pt. Lobos, Pinnacles, Mt. Diablo, + …)