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courtesy photo

A Parca greeter and a "ride" participant gear up for the day's activities at a previous Devil's Slide event.

Find your stride at the Devil's Slide ride

'ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME VALUE AND THE SAME HUMAN RIGHTS'

By Jean Bartlett

Tribune Writer

It's not just about riding your bike or running those trails, though there is plenty of that for plenty of fans in this year's 8th annual Devil's Slide Ride. There is also another option and that's the Devil's Slide "You're Remarkable Walk!" That's the stride of longtime Pacifican Scott Digre.

Also known as the "Pup Walk & Whale Talk," the walk takes participants along ADA-compliant beach trails with a length, out-and-back, of 1.9 miles from the Pacifica Community Center. (The Community Center is the check-in and start/finish location.) The walk is led by local marine naturalists who are at the ready to answer questions and even point out whales, should one swim by. The latter is not at all uncommon. Humpback whales migrate from June to November. The walk comes in two choices: dog-friendly or dog-free. As needed there are turn backs located at 0.5 miles, 0.7 miles or at Rockaway Beach, a distance of 0.9 miles. The event walk is free for children 12 and under. Through June 7 by noon, you can register for the walk online, www.devilsslidewalk.org, and the fee is \$20 for ages 13 and up. It's \$25 on the day of the event.

Just like the day's biking and running events (registration fees vary), the walk's proceeds directly benefit Parca (Partners and Advocates for Remarkable Children and Adults), to support programs which help people with developmental

disabilities lead satisfying, comfortable, safe, dignified, healthy and happy lives. Scott Digre – a 2000 Terra Nova High School graduate – became involved with Parca not long after he was born. The youngest of the four children of Erick and Sue Digre, at Scott's birth his parents were told he was very healthy but the doctor suspected he had Down syndrome. A blood test confirmed the diagnosis. As required by law, a month after Scott's birth a state agency arrived at the Digre's home and asked Scott's parents if they would like to hand Scott over to them. The answer was a resounding "no." The family's pediatrician introduced the Digres to Parca.

Founded in 1952, the nonprofit's philosophy is that "all people have the same value and the same human rights." Parca provides residential programs, support for those living independently, respite care, before- and after-school child care, information and family support and advocacy services. And, as Scott will tell you, they have some really fun things to do.



courtesy photo **Scott Digre at Rockaway Beach in Pacifica, during the 2018 Devil's Slide "You're Remarkable Walk!"**

Included among Scott's favorites are: the Parca Day at the San Mateo County Fair, the Parca Auxiliary Bowling Party (Pacifica's Sea Bowl is a popular destination), and the Special Needs Fire Safety Fair at South San Francisco Fire Station 61. Scott also thoroughly enjoys Parca's Halloween-themed nights and has attended in many disguises – as a bottle of Coke, Captain Hook, a fireman, and as his favorite "Star Wars" character Darth Maul.

"I've seen all the 'Star Wars' movies," Scott noted. "I also really like the Storm Troopers."

Other Scott huge Parca likes include: the sports-social parties at Notre Dame de Namur University and Stanford University, any karaoke events, and running into neighbors on the Pup Walk & Whale Talk. But bigger than all that for the 36 year old are the friends he has met through Parca, some whom he has known since early childhood. They include: Daniel, Miles, Alex and Cassie.

Besides participating in the June walk, Scott will work with Parca's Cedar House group (Cedar House is an assisted living residence for adults with developmental disabilities) to help make "swag" bags and cheer on the day's participants. He will additionally be at the ready with his digital camera. His friend

Miles gave it to him and Scott is now a dedicated daily photographer.

The Devil's Slide Ride and Pup Walk & Whale Talk events are Saturday, June 8. Check-in and start are at the Pacifica Community Center, 540 Crespi Drive. Close to a thousand cyclists are expected to participate. Their events are: the 101-mile "Century From Hell" for highly experienced/expert riders only, the 64-mile "Merciless Metric Century" for experienced advanced riders, and the 40-mile Fiendish Fortymile for intermediate/advanced cyclists. For trail runners, their events are: the 18.7 mile Devil's Dirty Thirty for expert trail runners, the 13-mile Hella' Hard Half for experienced trail runners, the 7-mile Evil 11K Run for intermediate or experienced runners, and the 2.5 mile Fiery 4K Run for runners or hikers of all experience levels. Visit www.devilsslideride.org for cycling and running event details.

The Pup Walk & Whale Talk runs from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Free snacks for kids and treats for dogs. Visit www.devilsslidewalk.org for details. To learn more about Parca, visit: www.parca.org.

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