



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: April 2003

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council
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2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court
•
Oakland,
California
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94605

The EBATC
is composed
of public
agencies,
equestrians,
hikers,
bicyclists,
and
conservation
-ists who are
committed
to furthering
the
protection of
the scenic
and
recreational
resources of
the East Bay.

Trail Notes

A few years ago, I was privileged to work with friends in Mexico on a wonderful rail conversion project, called "Parque Lineal." The trail is along an abandoned railway from Mexico to south of Cuernavaca, for a total of about 75 miles. The high point is at about 9350 feet, and the low at just below 4500'. The population along the route ranges from the intensity of Mexico City to the simple beauty of the rural lands on top. Within this short distance, there lie tremendous differences in the eco system. At the top are conifers, while Cuernavaca is tropical.

There are several advocacy groups involved in this effort, including some involved in community building, urban cycling, mountain biking, the University, neighborhood groups and language schools. Other interests are becoming involved all of the time.

The project goals are similar to those we might find in a first world country. They want to promote bicycle use for transportation and recreation, and to open up new urban areas while improving the quality of life. They want to optimize the plentiful natural values of the area, and encourage eco tourism from Mexico City.

This project faces huge challenges, which might be familiar to many of you. These include among others, endemic poverty, little tradition of donating money, little history of trail use, significantly less environmental awareness than we are used to, a small (but developing) environmental community, small history of community involvement, a corrupt political structure, and aggressive encroachment on the right of way, just to mention a few.

The rewards could be great, as we begin to take on these challenges. In a sense, this is a first opportunity for Mexican citizens to build a movement for trails, the environment, and for open spaces.

At the April 16 EBATC meeting, I will present a slide show that we originally showed in 1999 at the RTC Trails Conference in Pittsburgh. Some of the material will be a bit out of date, but I hope it will be an interesting part of the evening.

EBATC APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

7:15 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District
Headquarters: Board Room
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland
Telephone (510) 635-0135

Agenda: April 16, 2003 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Mar. 2003 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation: Michael Kelley
Parque Lineal Trail slide show
3. New Business
Tri Valley Trail Issues
Iron Horse Trail Day
State Trail Days
Communications, email, website
Sunol/Ohlone Land Use Plan
4. Reports and Updates
Los Vaqueros Expansion Report
Ridge Trail Report
Trail Issues Report
5. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

We have great hopes that EBATC will have a very productive spring and summer. This will be helped considerably by the new email list that is being developed, and which will enable us to keep in close touch. The agenda will be full, and we hope to see you there.

Happy trails,

Michael Kelley
imbamsk@musichael.com

MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2003, EBRPD Headquarters

Attendees:

Bob Power BARTC ridgebp@aol.com
Gary Finn Moraga Horseman's'
Rich Guarienti Hayward Hiking Club
guari@earthlink.net
Dick Quigley- Tri Valley Trail Blazers
quigley1@ltnl.gov
Joseph Jones Trail Council of Livermore
Valley josephjones@attbi.com
Michael Kelley
Terry Noonan EBRPD
Jean Tarabec MCCTC
Jerry Dischler BTCEB jerry@dishler.net
Rebecca Thomas Metropolitan Horsemen's Assoc.
John Steere
Erik Johnsen

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

After a round of introductions there was a request for any additions or corrections to the minutes or agenda. There were none.

Bob opened with a discussion of the EBATC meeting schedule for 2003, format, remote scheduling possibilities and requests for suggestions. He reminded all that EBATC meets the third Wednesday of every month skipping the month of Aug. and having a dinner gathering traditionally at a restaurant in Oakland in December. Dick suggested that a meeting in the Tri-Valley area was a possibility. Terry reminded the group that field trips have been done successfully in the past, and suggested possible site trips to C & H property, or Sunol. The Sunol Land Use Plan is currently being developed by EBRPD.

Bob suggested we generate a list of topics and issues and made a request for leadership to chair EBATC meetings. The Ridge Trail is a key topic March, June and Sept. Michael has agreed to Chair the April meeting. Dick has offered to Chair May. Some one suggested a monthly checklist of trails, issues, closures, etc. Dick suggested that he would like to see an increase in trail miles on the ground as a key goal and possibly a measure of new or repaired trails. How are we progressing on the Trail Master plan and completing gaps? What can EBATC do to move things along? Rich suggested an update on trails other than EBRPD parks, trails at City level which are regional in scope like Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore might be good for EBATC to track and move along. Howard suggested EBATC might not be spending enough time on existing trails and in particular trails needing maintenance. He suggested spending 5% of our time on existing trails that don't go any place or don't have good connections. We all seemed to agree that the politics is exciting. All were encour-

aged to bring an action list in to the EBATC forum and have an action program to initiate. No promises but at least ears and ideas. Someone felt that consideration should be given to using EBATC to do trail work with the highest impact in the shortest time. Howard mentioned the trail dogs for trail improvement as a model. They have three people and could use three hundred. Bob suggested reviewing existing trails and opportunities, and recommended that folks bring back a list of potential projects to the next meeting. Sounds like an agenda item, so be ready.

Los Vaqueros Watershed

Bob welcomed and introduced our friend John Steere as our guest presenter with insight on Los Vacqueros. John shared copies of an article titled "Drowning Los Vaqueros Again". He mentioned that 12 miles of multi use trail would be devastated as well as 1,800 – 4,000 acres of lovely canyons, landscape. He recently led a 30-person walk on some of this ground. Beautiful restored, relocated or installed habitat of 400 acres would also be wiped out. This would occur through quadrupling or quintupling the size of the watershed. John passed out maps of the proposed increased sized of Los Vaqueros. He pointed out that Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is holding workshops on the issue. The web site is www.lvstudy.org or <http://www.ccwater.com/>. John suggested CCWD might dangle carrots of land acquisition and easements during the process. Rich asked what about Hetch Hetchy? Michael suggested that environmental groups needed to get involved with commenting on the Los Vacqueros project. Bob thanked John for presenting, and the group agreed to keep Los Vaqueros as an agenda bullet item on our radar screen.

Ridge Trail

Bob talked about the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) trail and presented a slide show presentation of the Pinole Watershed trail opportunity, which the Ridge Trail Council is requesting EBMUD open for public use. Wonderful pictures of the landscape, which would make a significant impact by increasing Ridge Trail miles.

EBRPD is evaluating what projects will be necessary to open the C&H parcel in Crockett, this would include approximately 4 new miles of the Ridge Trail. Terry discussed some of the improvements needed including a bridge, culverts, gates etc. The proposed staging area will be on the Crockett side of the park. A staging area proposed off Cummings Skyway will probably not be developed for some time. Michael offered that volunteer involvement in this project might be something to think about. The Feeder Trail Number 1 liaison committee meets with the County Supervisors on

how the process of changing the road status to a permanent trail might work (a possible Trail easement first?).

On the EBMUD issue: Tilden Wild Cat Horseman's, IMBA and BTCEB have sent committee letters to the EBMUD board in support of multi use trails. This Bob said is a real success! Bob concluded his Ridge Trail report.

Round Robin

Dick described how the Alameda County Zone & Flood Control Stream Management Master Plan process is under way and shared informational maps showing 120 miles of Flood Control and arroyo channels in the Tri- Valley area. The 5.1 miles of trail recently opened along the Alamo and Laguna and the Mocho in Pleasanton may be the start of a larger multiuse system. Rich shared that he has taken his Trail Trekker hiking group from Dublin on the new trail and that it is full of birds, flowers and habitat, and adds a great trail resource. He also mentioned that from Dublin to Pleasanton the 580/680 flyover has a connector in process as an Iron horse feeder. The current Iron Horse Trail at the Dublin Pleasanton junction goes through the Bart Station. The 580/680 under crossing along the Alamo canal will provide an alternative route avoiding the Bart Station. Dick also shared that the Zone 7 board and staff seemed very willing to place a high value on trails during the SMMP study process. The TCLAC group is staying close to this issue and will make regular reports on the status.

Terry shared an important public meeting concerning the Final Draft and Environmental Scoping Meeting for the Land Use Plan for Sunol and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserves. The meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2003 - 7:00 pm.. at Sunol Glen School - 11601 Main St. (off Niles Canyon Rd.), Sunol.

Rebecca from MHA shared stories of loose dogs and fast bike encounters that her group was experiencing. She discussed the idea of carrying a camera to take pictures of incident. There seemed to be unanimous recommendations from the group discouraging taking pictures of trail encounter incidents as could be viewed as a threat. It was brought to our attention that the R.I.D. card has been replaced with the Park Watch Report program. Brochures are available at many parks or directly from the Public Safety Dept., anyone interested could also go to the website ebparks.org go to Police Dept.-"Report Incidents" The recommendation seemed to be to push education to user groups.

Jean from MCCT noted that April 26th is the opening of the Camanche Horse Camp and

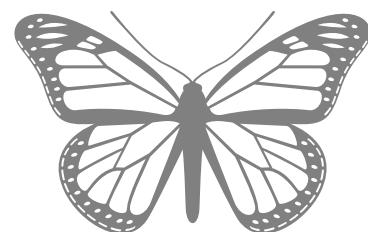
staging area, grand opening and dedication, and offered an invitation.

Gary thanked the district for doing a nice job of trail work on the Old Moraga Ranch Trail close to Valley Vista staging area.

Contra Costa Measure B was discussed and a motion was made and carried for EBATC to support.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted- Dick Quigley, *secretary*



East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2003

With the arrival of spring wildflowers, it's time to renew your membership in the East Bay Area Trails Council. Your participation is important in our ongoing efforts to preserve and expand the East Bay trail system.

Membership Dues for 2002: Check enclosed:
Individuals \$15
Organizations \$30
Make checks payable to:
East Bay Area Trails Council

Please list below your name, address, phone number and if applicable, the name of the organization that you represent on the Trails Council.

Send check and completed form below to:
East Bay Area Trails Council
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

Please print

Name: _____

Organization Represented: _____ *(if applicable)*

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____
(hiker, cyclist, equestrian, skater, etc.)

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