



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: July 2004

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

East  
Bay Area  
Trails  
Council



2950  
Peralta  
Oaks  
Court



Oakland,  
California



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.

## Personal Thoughts on Trails

I am a relative newcomer to EBATC. I first became involved with the group last summer when I gave the group a pitch to open trails at Lake Del Valle to bicycles. Having recently moved to the area, I was very disappointed to find out that bikes were excluded from the use of trails in our park district. I was disappointed at this outdated and exclusionary policy, but decided to try to do something about it. That is what brought me to EBATC.

What I have found is a group that has its ideals in the right place. . . very supportive of multi-use, but which seems to lack clout with the EBRPD. From what I gather, EBATC has been pushing for multi-use trails for several years, but with little or no success. They appear to be united in this principle, but the review process has been very slow.

Not that I haven't seen any turf wars at EBATC meetings. Horses vs. bikes, hikers versus horses, bikes versus hikers, dogs versus horses, hikers versus cows, cows versus cowboys. . . everyone has their reasons why their group should be allowed on the trails while others should be excluded.

EBATC seems to be a good forum for groups to vent their problems with other users; however, the problems don't seem to be going away. While there may be solutions within the current framework of trails such as alternate day usage, the bigger solution would be to build more trails within the regional parks and other open spaces.

I am a firm believer that trails are a beautiful thing. I see a well designed and built trail as an aesthetic complement to the landscape as well as a path to the backcountry. In contrast to this, when I see a fire or service road cutting across an open space I think of it as a scar on the landscape. Our goal should be to push for a policy of more trails within our parks rather than seeing whom we can exclude from the existing trails.

Of course, there is always the argument that trails take money, and money for parks is in short supply these days. However, I say that we can add a serious network of trails with a minimum of cost to the district. There are ways to do this, and I would like to

## EBATC JULY MEETING

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

## Agenda: July 21, 2004 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of May 2004 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation/Discussion  
Acquisition of 700 acre Fernandez Ranch  
Tina Batt, executive director of the Muir Heritage Land Trust
3. Reports and Updates  
Status of review of trails: Chabot and Del Valle multiuse  
Discussion of trails for next year's multiuse review  
National Trails Day report  
Contra Costa County Open Space Measure report
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda  
Reports from members

get the EBRPD moving in that direction.

The bottom line is that with more trails, you will get more people using the parks. The more folks that use the parks, the more revenue will be created and the better chance that bonds for expansion and funding for maintenance will be passed.

Hope to see you at the meeting and on the trails.

Bob Ward

## Minutes for the Meeting of May 19, 2004

The meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom. (note: there was no meeting in June.)

### Attendance:

Morris Older	TWA
Amelia S. Marshall	MHA
Jaye Winkler	MHA
Marilynn Terstegge	CSHA
Eric Johnson	BTCEB
Scott Hill	EBMUD
Gary Fend	Morga Horsemen
Terry Noonan	EBRPD
Howard Horning	Hayward Hiking Club
Bob Power	BARTC
Ed Mendelsohn	Sierra Club
Nancy Rieser	O'Dog
Judi Bank	MHA
Bob Ward	BTCEB
Jack Appleyard	

The evening started with an update from Bob Power on various Ridge Trail projects around the East Bay, including supporting the planning process for landbanked parcels which will advance the Ridge Trail in Hayward & Fremont. Bob also let everyone know how negotiations for Feeder Trail #1 have moved this important trail towards completion and that the Ridge Trail Council is working with EBMUD on an alternatives analysis for the Ridge Trail in the Pinole Watershed.

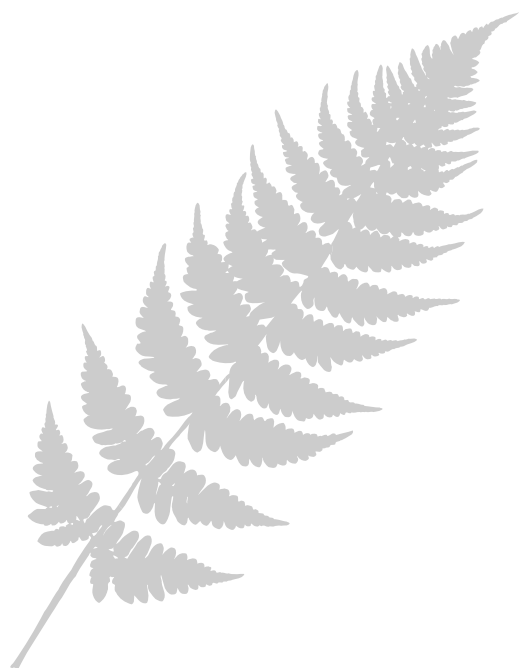
Amelia Marshall presented to the group her opinions about how dogs pose a risk to equestrians on the trail. A discussion on this topic included several others in attendance sharing stories about experiences with dogs while riding on trails. Nancy Rieser introduced her group O'DOG to the trails council, they work with responsible dog owners to educate and help train dog owners about proper trail etiquette. It was reported that the Park District would be conducting surveys this summer to help assist with any future decisions about trail use in the parks. EBATC will stay informed on this issue and will consider future comments or action when any change in current policies comes forward.

A report on the EBRPD staff evaluation of the proposal to open the Brandon Trail at Lake Chabot and the East Shore Trail at Del Valle was made by Terry Noonan. The staff committee completed the site reviews of these trails that morning and were generally supportive of the proposals. The com-

pleted checklist, staff recommendations and exhibits will need to be completed and presented to the EBRPD Parklands/Operations group.

Morris Older, representing Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association (TWHA), outlined a major event co-sponsored by TWHA and the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association scheduled for September 1-6, 2004. The event is a 6-day, 100-mile ride, benefiting the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and builds on 2002's 4-day ride and 2003's 5-day ride. Riders are allowed to ride as few or as many days as they wish. Riders will spend two days at each of three campsites: ES Anderson Equestrian Camp in Tilden, Sequoia Arena in Joaquin Miller, and Bort Meadow in Anthony Chabot. Direct questions and inquiries to Morris Older at 925-254-8943 or [morrisolder@earthlink.net](mailto:morrisolder@earthlink.net), or to Martha Mikesell at 925.833.9279 or [Martha.Mikesell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Martha.Mikesell@sbcglobal.net).

Bob Ward agreed to chair the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



# East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2004

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With the warmth of summer, it's past 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 2004:      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

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*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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**EBATC**  
**2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381**  
**Oakland, CA 94605-5369**