



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: June 2005

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.

View from the ridge

EBATC Participation

We have a huge mailing list for this newsletter, but our meetings are not well attended. I would understand if our meetings were on Thursday nights. I would hate to compete with "Survivor." But, we're not on Thursdays, we're on Wednesdays! This month we'll get a long overdue update from the Bay Trail staff (not their fault; our fault for not inviting them). I'll be giving a brief update on Ridge Trail projects. I may even bring in a picture of the harpists! This will be a light agenda with plenty of opportunity for everyone to speak up about what's important to you and your organization (under the umbrella of east bay trails). You make EBATC meaningful. Put us on the calendar. Show up!

TWHA rides again

Another June is upon us.... It must be time to help the Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association put on another outstanding multi-day event. If volunteering for State and National Trail day events have given you a sense of community and accomplishment, think about adding this annual fundraiser to your list of "events I love to volunteer for." In recent years the beneficiary has been the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Regardless of who receives the proceeds from this event, east bay trails are the beneficiaries. And having done the simplest kind of volunteering in the past for this event (scooping potato salad and tying up garbage bags), I can tell you that it is a very rewarding experience to be around the equestrian community and their phenomenal horses. Like a scene straight out of Lord of the Rings, the White Horse Harpers will entertain at one of the evening cookouts again this year. Consider volunteering this year. Equestrian, mountain biker, trail runner, or hiker, you'll be welcome and you'll be glad you did! Contact Morris Older, at 925-254-8943 or at morrisolder@earthlink.net, or Martha Mikesell at 925.833.9279 or at martha.mikesell@sbcglobal.net if you would like to volunteer or have any questions about this year's ride.

EBATC JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: June 15, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Mar. 2005 Minutes: Action
2. New Business
Bay Trail Update: Lee Huo, Bay Trail Planner for the East Bay Report
Bay Area Ridge Trail: Bob Power Report
Hiking Perspectives for Trail Conversions:
Ed Mendelsohn Discussion
EBATC representation on the Ridge Trail Board – Glenn Kirby
Status of Designated Directors for Contra Costa and Alameda Counties Discussion
District Updates: District staff Report
3. Old Business
Frequency of EBATC meetings: Bob Power
Proposal for EBATC to meet quarterly instead of monthly.
4. Next meeting date and chair
5. Reports from members; Future Agenda

Crockett Hills

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is in the middle of our "year of the 300th mile." As of May 14th, there are 274 dedicated miles of Ridge Trail, and we have three significant trail openings scheduled between now and December 31st:

- Samuel P. Taylor to Loma Alta in Marin County
- Mount Hood in Sonoma County
- ... and my favorite ...
- Crockett Hills Regional Park in Contra Costa County.

continued on back page

Minutes from May 18th, 2005

The meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom, and was called to order by Michael Kelley, meeting chair and Treasurer.

Attendance:

Jack Appleyard
Rich Guarianti
Howard Hornig
Michael Kelley
Ed Mendelsohn
Terry Noonan
Bob Power
Harry Silcocks
Jim Townsend

Approval of agenda:

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Discussion ensued regarding what to put in the minutes and what to leave out of the minutes. The general consensus was to make the minutes as consistent as possible.

The minutes were moved for approval, seconded and passed with the following amendments:

- The opinion of the Supervisor in Garin Park regarding bikes was removed.
- The correct spelling of the recommended trail in Garin Regional Park is Zeile. ("i before e except after Z".)
- The Coyote Trails in Morgan Territory are included in the recommended trails in the last paragraph.

Report on status of 2005 Checklist trails

Terry Noonan reported that the Park District's screening committee had visited and reviewed the nominees for use change submitted by EBATC. Based on the committee's review, the Zeile Creek Trail will move forward through the process for further evaluation and potential recommendation to the appropriate EBRPD committees. Discussion revolved around:

- concerns to make this a more streamlined process,
- concerns regarding the amount of work that went into the proposals where available information might have helped in our deliberations, and
- a recommendation that future land use plans incorporate the narrow gauge trail experience for all users, as that desire is represented by the trail segments that are being recommended.

Trail Days

California Trail Days was reported on by Terry Noonan. The Trail Days project at Del Valle had 78 volunteers who performed some maintenance tasks, some trail improvement tasks, and some significant beach weeding. Great food was served and it was another excellent EBRPD Trail Days event.

National Trails Day This year's event, hosted by the Park District at Tilden Park, will be co-sponsored by REI and Backpacker Magazine, on June 4th, 2005. Registration is with REI at 510.527.4140 x259. The work will be concentrated on the Selby and Memory trails.

Discussion of Klehs Bill, AB 672

Michael Kelley gave us background information on AB 672. This bill would require government agencies owning reservoirs greater in size than 3500 cubic feet, to produce a recreation plan by 2008. If the agency has a master plan that was produced after 1998, that agency would not have to produce a recreation plan until 2011. This bill was introduced to the state assembly in February, and has been amended twice. The bill will need to be passed by the assembly and then will go through a similar process with the state senate. It was moved, seconded, and passed that EBATC send a letter to Assemblymember Klehs in support of this bill.

Joint trail event/barbecue involving all users

Michael Kelley led this discussion in recommending a sub-committee of EBATC plan for a BBQ and ride/hike/outing for all user groups. Michael shared his past experience with events of this nature and the positive impact these events have on the participants.

A second component to this event, a possible discussion group focused on EBATC's potential, was also discussed. Jack Appleyard suggested the focus be a reflection on EBATC's mission, and are we meeting the needs of our membership. As equestrians and bicyclists were under-represented at this meeting, it was decided to save the discussion and any decisions on this item for an upcoming EBATC meeting.

Pending Land Use Plans

Terry Noonan reported that the District's web-site will show the last completed Land Use Plan and what Land Use Plan is coming up next. In brief, Coyote Hills and Brooks Island are coming up and Sibley's draft plan is out for review and comment. The most recently approved Land Use Plan is for

Sycamore Valley. Both Brushy Peak Regional Park and Crockett Hills Regional Park are planned to open this fall.

Frequency of EBATC meetings

This item was moved to the June agenda.

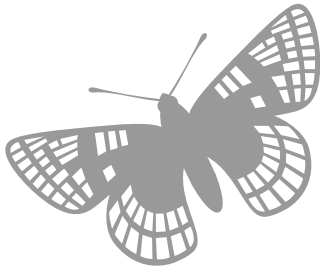
Next meeting date and chair

June 15th, 2005 Bob Power

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Power

2005 TRAILS CHALLENGE

Join EBRPD for this extremely popular, self-guided hiking program! Thousands of people have participated over the last ten years - almost two thousand last year alone! With your registration you will receive the 2005 Guidebook filled with 20 of the best hikes at EBRPD. This year, Trails Challenge invites you to hike 5 of the 20 trails by December. Participants receive the 2005 commemorative pin, the Trails Challenge T-shirt and special gift! These programs are a great way to see new parks, get outside, be active and get healthy. Go to www.ebparks.org to register on-line.



Spring wildflowers carpet the parklands

Winter rains on the East Bay hills offer a period of growth, germination and an explosion of vibrant greens. The saturating rains are followed by one of the most spectacular examples of nature's talent at displaying colors. Spring wildflowers start to blanket the landscapes with yellows, pinks, blues and whites. The California poppy flashes its showy orange petals against the hillsides while thousands of tiny yellow Johnny jump-ups stretch for miles.

While the peak of the wildflower season is mid to late April, a variety of flowers and shrubs bloom through June and July. Favorite haunts of local botanists are the expansive ridges of the Sunol and Ohlone Wilderness Preserves. The Wauhab Ridge in Sunol, Rocky Ridge above Lake Del Valle, and some of the interior highlands off the Ohlone Trail are particularly spectacular. Thin soils and serpentine rock give the native plants an edge. Interior grasslands grazed by cattle tend to have more diversity and a longer viewing season due to the reduced build up of annual grasses and thatch. Las Trampas and Black Diamond Mines offer additional locations to view the flowers.

Spring is the busiest time of year for the Stewardship staff with botanists counting rare plant populations during their brief blooming period, wildlife biologists chasing after chorusing frogs and songbirds, and other staff getting a jump on weed management. Feel free to call the office or stop a passing staff person to ask directions to the latest wildflower hot spot. The season is brief, so don't hesitate.

Joe DiDonato, EBRPD Wildlife Program Manager



View from Ridge: continued from front page

Two years ago, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council worked closely with Park District staff and Park District Director Ted Radke to identify the projects and funding that would open up this new park just south of the Carquinez Bridge. Construction is now underway to open another beautiful park for multi-use recreational trail enjoyment. Sweeping vistas and secluded valleys will greet visitors to this new park. Shorter trails and longer multi-use loop opportunities are being planned and developed to complement the new 4-mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is very proud to be a partner with the District and the Coastal Conservancy in bringing the funding together to get these projects completed and get this park open. The dedication date is tentative for Sept./Oct., and as soon as the planning and construction staff give us a completion date, we'll settle on a fall date for a grand celebration.

Fernandez Ranch

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is also very proud to be able to continue to support the Muir Heritage Land Trust in their efforts to protect and preserve historic properties along the Franklin Ridge corridor. Once this property is acquired, the Bay

Area Ridge Trail Council will coordinate the trail planning process for identifying the connections into, within, and out of the property to Crockett Hills in the north and Feeder Trail #1 to the south. A typically stunning Franklin Ridge habitat of open grassland and oak woodland will be preserved in this project.

Get outdoors,

Bob Power

South and East Bay Trail Director

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

EBATC

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381

Oakland, CA 94605-5369