



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 2006

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

East  
Bay Area  
Trails  
Council  
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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 from Chris

I've been mountain biking around the Bay Area since I was 13 when my Dad took me riding to Lake Chabot, Mt. Diablo, and Tilden Park. He always taught me to stay off the trails that were off-limit to bikes, and that people who broke the rules could result in ALL trails being closed to bikes.

As a result, even at a young age, I was well aware of the conflicts, closures, restrictions, and politics involved with trails. I wanted to show my support to the group that was helping to protect bike access. So, less than a year ago, I dropped in on my first Bicycle Trails Council East Bay (BTCEB) meeting.

Today, I find myself feeling the same kind of gratitude towards your East Bay Area Trail Council for representing the entire trail use community at the EBRPD, and promoting harmony and cooperation among different trail users. All trail users are represented well, and they help protect and expand our access. I am new to the group, so I can only guess at all that has been involved with the explosion of regional trails, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail (BART). I enjoy one of the Canal Trails several times a month as I ride to work in Walnut Creek. . . what great additions to our communities.

The March meeting should have some interesting debate and discussion, as a few relatively controversial subjects are on the agenda. The future of the Albany waterfront will be discussed as developers and local activists brace for a classic Bay Area clash over development.

Geo-Caching is a new outdoor activity that looks to challenge the conventional park rules and regulations. . . should it be allowed? . . . what kind of regulations? It is a known trend, more people than ever before are engaging in physical outdoor activities (especially in the Bay Area). More people are aware of their health, and exercise is now the norm as oppose to the exception. As a result, 'fringe' physical outdoor activities will become the

## EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

## Agenda: March 15, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of Jan. 2006 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation  
"Connecting Equestrian Communities on Ridge Trail"--slide show by Morris Older
3. Ordinance 38 Checklist  
EBRPD staff recommendation on Zeile Creek Trail  
Discussion and Letter on 2006 use change trails
4. New Business/Updates  
State Trails/Greenway Conference in May  
EBRPD updates: Iron Horse Trail, misc.  
Albany Waterfront development and Bay Trail  
Geo-Caching Discussion  
Los Vaqueros reservoir expansion
5. Reports from members

norm, and new things will be invented, it is the nature of our society. . . have you seen those kite surfers?!! Geo-caching is good for people, can we make it good for our parks? That is for our community to help figure out.

We will discuss the 2006 Trails and Greenways Conference coming up in May. Speaking of physical activities. The keynote speaker at the Conference is Dr. Richard Jackson, former director for the National Center for Environmental Health and former public health officer for California. He will share his research and insight relating to the importance of physical activity. Dr. Jackson is a nationally  
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## EBATC Minutes for January 18, 2006

The meeting was attended by:

Michael Kelley IMBA  
Glenn Kirby BARTC  
Bob Power BARTC  
Judy Etheridge BARTC, TWHA  
Morris Older TWHA,  
Brent Englund BTCEB  
Dan Levy BTCEB  
Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club  
Jamie Perkins EBRPD

Glenn Kirby called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The minutes of the November meeting were approved. Recent developments at Los Vaqueros and Sibley were added to the agenda.

### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Update**

Bob Power reported on the new EBRPD Crockett Hills Regional Park Dedication that is scheduled to open June 3. EBRPD's Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program, the Ridge Trail, and REI will have a workday on March 4. Folks were asked to register with the Concord REI store, and they will receive a flier and a map. The project will involve removing debris from the former C&H land use and other improvements. REI will market the project and the Trail through its stores. The company has provided a grant, and the Ridge Trail is also using funds it has raised. This will be called the 300th Mile Dedication. EBATC will announce the dedication in its May newsletter.

The Ridge Trail will collaborate with the Muir Heritage Land Trust to do a trail plan for Fernandez Ranch. This will make regional connections, and involve a connection to Christi Road. We will aim for a loop that connects to Feeder Trail #1. The simplest solution leaves one property owner between the Ridge Trail and Feeder Trail #1.

### **Alameda Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans development underway**

It has been 5 years since the last Countywide Bike Plan. The County is also undertaking a new Countywide Pedestrian Plan and Bike and Ped Plans for unincorporated Alameda County. EBRPD continues to advocate for the inclusion of regional trails. Separated from roadways, Regional Trails are distinct from internal park trails in that they provide pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians non-motorized recreation and transportation opportunities on separated right of ways which link parklands, residential areas, business parks, schools, and multi-modal transportation centers.

Right of ways utilized for these trails can include canal maintenance roads, levee systems, utility corridors, and abandoned railroad rights of ways. EBRPD constructs either modified Class I (Caltrans standard is 8 feet paved min.) trails with a minimum ten feet of pavement with two foot soft gravel shoulders on either side or 10-12 foot trails of compacted native soil or rock surfacing. Regional trails are built to carry maintenance and public safety (police and fire) vehicles as well. The entire Alameda County SF Bay Trail has its alignment in the plan as well. Glenn is on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). It will choose 25 projects to fund. The amount of possible projects is "constrained" because available funding needs to be spread over 15 years. Measure B funds (transportation sales tax revenue) is the primary source of funding for the Bike Plan. EBRPD has successfully applied and received granting for projects via Measure B. The City of Livermore and EBRPD are interested in applying for a grant in the future to fund a feasibility study to continue the Iron Horse Trail through Livermore under this program. Grants can fund feasibility studies and construction. Feasibility studies are needed in order to analyze a variety of issues (preliminary engineering, land tenure, environmental permitting required, operation and maintenance issues, funding requirements, etc.) Then Construction grants can be awarded once a proposed project is "ready" to be built. See [www.acma.ca.gov](http://www.acma.ca.gov) for more info.

### **EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist Trails considered for nomination**

Glenn remarked that the progress on last year's checklist trails indicates this is really a 14-month process. The Zeile Creek Trail, approved for the Checklist last year, will be on the Board Operations Committee agenda on February 23. We will put a notice of this on the EBATC email list. The matter will go before the full board March 21.

The EBRPD planning department will need a tentative list of 2006 trails before the March EBATC meeting. BTCEB previously proposed three trails for consideration in 2006. Dan summarized each:

1. The Pine Tree Trail is in Briones Park and is .51 miles in length. It was surveyed by cyclists, and by Morris Older. If approved, this trail will enable cyclists to stay off a dangerous road and would complete a loop. Morris indicated that in his view, the trail is generally wide open and relatively safe. He was concerned about one curve with bad sight lines. He indicated he would have no problems at all if it were "uphill only." Jamie stated that EBRPD does not have one-way directional trail use. Per-

haps signs would help. It was moved, seconded and passed that this trail be recommended for consideration under the checklist, but that in that process, staff be encouraged to look into ways to mitigate the possible problem at the curve in question.

2. The Towhee Trail is in Anthony Chabot Park and follows around the campground. It is in a eucalyptus grove and has excellent sight lines. While the actual trail seems narrow, it is on a wide bed. If approved, it will provide a way down to the lake that will avoid the brutally steep Live Oak Trail. Several people commented that it was a good choice. It was moved, seconded and passed that this trail be recommended for consideration under the Checklist procedure. Howard Hornig abstained, since he had not seen the trail.

3. The Sobrante Ridge Trail is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail system as well as EBRPD. It is located between the Carriage Hills development and the existing fire road on top of the Ridge. There was extensive discussion about the trail and some challenges to opening it for bikes. There are good sight lines, and the trail would complete a loop. It would provide access into Pinole Valley via the Pinole Valley Trail. Significantly, it connects to a multi use section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and would close a multi use gap on that trail. That is important, since the goal of the Ridge Trail is multi use. It is about 2/3 mile long. It was pointed out that part of the trail is steeper than current standards, and would be a classic trail for management techniques to slow traffic. Glenn suggested that, although the Checklist is intended for trails that don't require extensive changes, if upon closer examination, this trail requires changes, EBATC should ask for such modifications so as to make this a multi use segment of the Ridge Trail. Morris indicated that although the trail was wide enough to provide lines of sight, the steepness could lead to injury. It was pointed out that the trail is on an old roadbed, and there is ample room to pass. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Sobrante Ridge Trail be recommended for consideration under the checklist, with the proviso that staff considers ways to mitigate the steep section.

Morris and Judy discussed a small section of a trail that passes behind Lake Anza in Tilden Park. They think it should not be opened to horses. Although the maps suggest that it is open to equestrians, it may be that this is a mistake. Morris will speak with staff at Tilden to see if this is the case.

### Next Meeting Chair

It was suggested that Chris Towles chair the March EBATC meeting.

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### Los Vaqueros Expansion

There will be a scoping meeting soon regarding plans to expand the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Michael will attempt to draft a letter, after speaking with Seth Adams, John Steere, Glenn Kirby and Bob Power. Talking points in a letter to the Contra Costa Water District could include: loss or habitat; loss of recreational opportunities; and loss of trail.

### Trail Volunteers

Jamie discussed the 2006 EBRPD Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program. CA State Trail Days/Earth Day will be April 22 at Las Trampas Regional Wilderness and National Trail Days with REI will be June 3 at Tilden Regional Park/Nature Area. See [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org), "trail volunteers", for more info and dates.

### California State Trails and Greenways Conference

The California State Trails and Greenways Conference will be May 5-7, and will take place in Agoura Hills, CA. This conference brings trail managers, trail users, and public advocacy groups together from all over the State to exchange ideas on trails planning, design, construction, maintenance, fundraising, trail user conflict resolution, and advocacy. Conference information is available on [www.parks.ca.gov/trails](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails), including conference and lodging facilities at the Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel and camping at Malibu Creek State Park. Early registration discounts by April 4.

Submitted by  
*Michael Kelley, Acting Secretary*

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renowned speaker on the topic of designing our communities to encourage a healthy population. What kind of delegation can EBATC send?

There will be a interesting slide presentation on the Bay Area Ridge Trail — "Connecting Equestrian Communities". Updates will be given on the 2005 and 2006 trail use change checklist processes.

Please join us.

*Chris Towles*

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# East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2006

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With the first hints 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 2006:      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**