



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: November 2005

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council
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2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court
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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.

Honoring Hulet

The District held a big party to celebrate the birthday of our very own Hulet Hornbeck, and to dedicate the new Hulet Hornbeck Trail, a portion of the California Riding and Hiking Trail between Nejedly Staging Area and the John Muir Historic Site.

Hulet's history is mind-boggling. It ranges from 1942, when he was navigator on a B-17E that was forced down by the weather, and broke out of the clouds into the flaming guns of a Japanese warship. He and his buds were inducted into the American Combat Airman Hall Of Fame for that caper.

More recently, (1965-1985,) Hulet was in charge of Land Acquisitions for the District. Under his stewardship, the District added nearly 50,000 acres, and 150 miles of trails. New parks included Briones, Las Trampas, and Morgan Territory, to name just a few. Hulet's team established the framework for the Skyline Regional Trail, and was among the first to connect communities by rail trail. Their list is long.

It goes without saying that Hulet was instrumental in the formation of EBATC, and over the years has inspired us all at zillions of meetings. He was one of the first to envision an urban area interwoven with open space. Hulet has always been all about creating bonds between people and nature, and between communities.

At the dedication, John Steere summed it up nicely:

"If you were to ask Hulet if he were spiritual he'd deny it. He claims to be agnostic. His remarks indeed are often challenging, gruff, and irreverent...and if you didn't really know him, you might agree. But the truth is, he's profoundly spiritual. His religion has been his passion for nature next to cities for connecting us with it through trails...others preach about their message, the importance of their path from rostrums and pulpits. Like Johnny Appleseed, Hulet has planted that vital mission in our midst and beneath our feet - to create refuges for the body and spirit from the world of pavement that are close at hand. And he's quietly created paths that let others talk a walk or a make a walkabout."

EBATC NOVEMBER MEETING Wednesday, November 16, 2005 7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: November 16, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of June 2005 Minutes: Action
2. Project Reports
EBRPD Trails Planning: Jim Townsend
Brushy Peak Opening
Del Valle progress report
3. Ordinance 38 Checklist
Zeile Creek Public Meeting Report
New Checklist Provisions Discussion
Schedule for 2006 Checklist review
New Checklist Proposals Discussion
4. New Business
December EBATC party Discussion
Email Newsletter Distribution
5. January EBATC meeting chair/agenda.
6. Reports from members

Under Hulet's benevolent (and perhaps crusty) eye, we can take a gander at what we've accomplished, what we want to do in 2006, and maybe what the next decade holds in store. Obviously we've done a lot. When Hulet started with the District, we had some 13,000 acres. By the time he retired in 1985, it was up to 62,000 acres, including 38 new parks for habitat and recreation. Over the next 20 years, we managed to grow another 29,000 acres, for a total of 90,000. The District is sitting pretty, but remember, that's only about 8% of the total land in our two counties. We don't need to get greedy, but hey, a lot of it's just sitting there...

Hulet's gang added 150 miles of trails, and we continue to get more. At the *continued on back page*

EBATC Minutes – September 21, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by meeting chair, Bob Power, at the East Bay Regional Park District boardroom. The agenda was approved unanimously. The minutes were approved as written.

In attendance:

Ricardo Bressanutti	EBRPD Planner
Brent Englund	BTCEB
Judy Etheridge	San Ramon Valley Horsemen
Kevin Flory	BTCEB
Erik Johnson	BTCEB
Ed Mendelsohn	Mt. Diablo Chapter, Sierra Club
Terry Noonan	EBRPD
Morris Older	Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Assn.
Bob Power	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Harry Silcocks	East Bay Trail Dogs
Ted Stroll	BTCEB
Marilynn Terstegge	Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Penny Wells	Bay Area Water Trail
Jan Willis	Redwood Rangers

New Business

San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Presentation

Penny Wells was introduced, representing the Bay Area Water Trail. The idea for the trail came about as sea kayakers and other water enthusiasts began noticing that access sites around the bay shoreline were disappearing. As there were fewer and fewer places to get a small boat into the water, the idea of an official Bay Access Trail for human powered boats came into being to protect and identify entry sites. It can be a trail providing access from point A to point B, but is envisioned more like a spider web, linking various water routes with anchor points around the bay.

They set up a conference, invited various sporting enthusiasts and governmental officials to toss around ideas of ways to protect and maintain small boat access around the bay. At the time there were 50 existing water trails around the states, now, five years later, there are 450, so the idea is catching on elsewhere as well.

Loni Hancock submitted legislation for them, (Bill AB 1296) which has gone through the Assembly and the Senate and is now on the Governor's desk for signing. It directs the BCDC to develop a plan, with the Coastal Conservancy to implement it. The BCDC realized their policies were so old they needed to revise them to reflect the need for public access. The BCDC has already applied to NOAA in Washington D.C. for a NOAA fellow to start doing the planning, which began as of August 1st.

The purpose of establishing this Trail is not just to identify launching sites where you can get into the water, but also it will provide educational opportunities by informing water enthusiasts of areas of environmental sensitivity and provide in-

formation to a variety of water access users. There is a radically diverse group of users, numbering around 10,000, among those who use sea kayaks, canoes, pedal boats, dragon boats, outrigger canoes, windsurfers and other non-motorized water conveyances.

The basic purpose will be for access, for education, and for stewardship of the access areas to the bay. As sites are identified and become part of the Trail, the combined users will be providing a presence to help clean up some of these areas, which have become run down. One such area was used for making drug deals until a neighborhood association and the port got funding from the Coastal Conservancy to turn it into a park. They traded some otherwise unused public land for a storage facility that the outrigger canoe people can use in return for stewardship of the area.

They have inventoried more than 150 places where people could possibly put boats in, mostly ones currently in use, but urban renewal in some areas, such as the So. S.F. Shoreline, Hunter's Point, and India Basin have opened up new possibilities.

Vargas Plateau to Garin/Dry Creek

Ricardo Bressanutti, Planner for EBRPD, was introduced to provide a report on the Vargas Plateau Feasibility Study, which has just now been completed. The purpose of the study was to analyze and recommend preferred alternatives for the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Vargas Plateau to Garin / Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park. Using the results of the Study, the District will start on the Land Use Plan this fall.

There were 27 different possible trail segments and eight different possible staging area locations that were reviewed in the area going from Vargas Plateau through Niles Canyon and up to Garin/Dry Creek. They were evaluated in regard to constraint factors such as difficulties of access / right of way, construction difficulty (crossing highways, creeks, the railway, etc.), and environmental issues.

The end result, which has not yet gone to the District for approval, would be done in four phases. Phase 1 would include a staging area at an old unused barn on the southern end of Vargas Plateau and a minimum amount of work that would be needed on a main trail within the park that mostly is on existing fire / service roads. Phase 2 would implement the segments of trail currently land-banked east of Garin / Dry Creek, the segment of trail that will come to the District as part of the Stonebrae requirements, and the connector trail to Garin Ave. main entrance to the park. Phase 3 would connect phase 1 and Phase 2, crossing Niles Canyon at the pedestrian walkway at Mission Blvd. Phase 4 represents a long-term vision of crossing

Niles Canyon via the Niles Canyon Railway right of way, and moving on-street segments of the trail onto newly acquired off-street segments.

Ricardo's recommendations will go to the District on October 10, then will go through the lengthy review process before being approved.

Hiking Perspectives for Trail Conversions

Ed Mendelsohn made a presentation regarding some of the suggested trails which biking groups have requested to be opened to multi-use. He expressed concerns from a hiking perspective regarding safety of hikers and damage to trails, as well as the difficulty of the time constraints we are operating under in order for EBATC to provide a proper review of the trails before recommending them to EBRPD for possible changes via the checklist process. He suggested that the trails must be walked by members, looking closely at areas of potential difficulty between users and we need to get an idea of costs involved in making such changes in trail usage, as well as possible enforcement problems. (i.e. keeping bikers to the posted speed of 15 mph.) Ed found Zeile Creek virtually unpassable in one area due to overgrowth of brush.

Report on Ridge Trail

Crockett Hills is expected to finish trail construction the first week of October, then there will be several months needed to implement infrastructure, such as gates and restrooms, etc. so we're looking at an April or May dedication for the Park. It will complete 4 plus miles of trail for the Ridge Trail.

Muir Heritage Land Trust has completed purchase of the 720-acre Fernandez Ranch east of Franklin Canyon Golf Course. When Crockett Hills Regional Park is completed, there will be Highway 4 to cross, then 1/2 mile on Christie Road to enter Fernandez Ranch. From there, the plan is for the trail to connect to Feeder Trail #1 going to Martinez, and to the Pinole Watershed on the other end. Progress on those two trails is still very slow. EBMUD is still **working** on their habitat conservation study in Pinole Watershed, and Feeder Trail #1 has been sitting dormant. The county supervisor liaison group has asked to bring back discussion on the trail in November.

Staff Report

Terry reported that there will be a dedication and naming of a portion of the California Riding and Hiking trail for Hewlett Hornbeck, who helped found EBATC. It will be at Nejedley Staging Area on Friday, Oct. 14. Since the newsletter will be after the fact, he asked for people to spread the word to those who might know him and be interested in attending. Call Brenda Montano at the Park District office for information.

Terry also mentioned that there is a potential of grant funds being available for acquisition of property at Pleasanton Ridge Park, a northern connection to the park. He requested that EBATC and any other interested groups should write letters stating their interest in and approval of acquisition of this property.

We authorized the treasurer to release funds for Jack Appleyard to obtain at least two reams of EBATC stationary so that we can write said letter.

Old Business

Trail change checklist process – 2006 discussion.

From November to January any proposals should be presented, for review from January through March. Ted Stroll presented a proposal from Dan Levy of BTCEB for two potential trails in Briones to be reviewed for possible upgrade to multi-use trails. The map he provided shows an unnamed section of trail from Tree Trail at the northern border, going south to Old Briones Road. A second possible trail goes from Old Briones Road Trail south to Spengler Trail, part of which is an old abandoned fire road that fell into disuse except for occasional hikers. Both of these potential trails are of interest to bikers because they complete loops and the second is relatively flat as well as shaded and cool during the summer. These would have to become official trails firstly, but he would like them evaluated for multi-use.

Next meeting date and chair.

Next meeting date will be **November 16**. Michael Kelley was nominated to be chair.

Round Robin

Morris Older reported that the TWH 5-day ride had a total of 84 riders this year, with a maximum of 70 on two days. They camped at Tilden, Joaquin Miller and Chabot. Final earnings haven't been determined but he estimates it might be more than last year's contribution of \$13,000 for the Ridge Trail.

Ed came across a Sibley Girls Camp and wondered if it was ever used.

Marilynn Terstegge reported that the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail council will be having a fundraising event at the Turkey Hill Campsite at Lake Camanche. Al Ward will conduct his SOS (Safety and Outdoor Survival) course from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on October 15. \$50/person.

Terry announced that there will be an official opening sometime in November for Brushy Peak.

Jan Willis asked what could be done about low growing trees on Willow Tree Trail out of Chabot Staging Area. The trail is so narrow and
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Honoring Hulet: continued from front page

EBATC meeting, Trail Boss Jim Townsend will give an overview of trail projects completed in the last few years. I'm hopeful that this, taken together with Hulet's example, can help inspire us for 2006.

EBATC's potential is huge. We are in the middle of paradise. A lot of our region remains open space. We are in a position to help steward that land for the benefit of future generations. And it's not just EBRPD's lands. This potential includes partnerships with the many entities and parks that surround us, such as Joaquin Miller, Mt. Diablo, Walnut Creek Open Space, EBMUD, East Shore Park, LARPD, not to mention many other small communities that can give us access to land. It will be a big job to guarantee we can be in enough open space to service our souls.

How do we rise to this task? Over the next meetings, EBATC can update its list of projects, and prioritize some for action. In my view, we need to emphasize volunteer opportunities, which involve collaboration between our land managers and our communities. I think that, along with recreation, preservation, and the host of other tasks, agencies also have a responsibility to provide volunteer opportunities. We can help make that happen.

Maybe it's time for EBATC to engage in some serious strategic planning. Who are we? Where do we want to go? How will we inspire our

community to help us get there? For the latter question, we can consult with Hulet.

By the way, during trail naming discussions, folks wondered if it was OK to name a trail after a living person. I'm glad it went the way it did. We needed the inspiration of honoring Hulet. I'd hate to think we would have had to shove him off a cliff just to name a trail after him.

Congrats Hulet. You're our hero.

Michael Kelley

Minutes: continued from inside page

steep that an equestrian can't even dismount to walk under the tree. It was noted that the individual park supervisor's responsibility to evaluate what should be done. Sue Ferreira is the supervisor for Anthony Chabot Park.

Meeting adjourned, 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilynn Terstegge

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