



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 2007

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.

Trail Notes from Glenn

Returning from a trip to Washington DC. I was reminded of how very fortunate we are to live in the East Bay. The steadfast support we receive from public officials for our advocacy of open-space protection and for public access is outstanding.

Shifting national policy drives many local issues that are of interest to the Trails Council. We have benefited over the years from federal transportation dollars that were used for non-motorized "enhancements" such as trails. Military base closures, such as the Presidio, provide opportunities for open-space and trails. The fate of the Concord Naval Weapons Station could be set during discussions that are taking place now.

Another national issue of significance is health and obesity. There is a growing debate over the connection between the costs of healthcare and the health of our citizens. One way to help control health care costs is through prevention and wellness programs. Of course, we already understand the importance of exercise for good health. But many people, including a high percentage of our children do not get enough exercise. One proposal advocates that everyone have a safe place to walk within a mile of home. Safe routes to school and safe routes to shopping are programs that we could weigh in on (so to speak).

Government agencies at all levels are looking for ways to improve non-auto dependent transportation. Cities and Counties have been dusting off their General Plans to update the recreational element or to create bicycle and pedestrian plans. CalTrans Deputy Directive 64 requires that bicycles and walking now be considered in the design of any roadway project. There is now a Regional Bicycle Plan that attempts to connect local plans into a useable transportation network for bicyclists. Many cities are separating their bicycle and pedestrian plans with the recognition of the differing, and often conflicting needs of these groups.

Citizen groups such as the East Bay Area Trails Council must take the opportunities to participate in the public process required for the adoption of these plans. I ac-

EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: March 21, 2007 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Jan. 2007 Minutes: Action
2. Honoring George Cardinet, Co-founder of East Bay Area Trails Council
3. Bay Area Ridge Trail Report
4. EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist Recommendation Action
5. Support for Award Nomination - Mr. Don DeFemery Action
6. EBATC event to commemorate California Trail Days-May 20, 2007
7. New Business: Where are we headed next? Action
8. Next EBATC meeting chair/agenda
9. Reports from members-Round Robin

tually see it as our obligation to review plans and to advocate for the implementation of the plans once adopted. We have supported the Bay Area Ridge Trail to close gaps in the trail. We can do a better job of supporting other efforts to provide more trails for people to enjoy.

With the recent loss of George Cardinet, I am reminded of the legacy left by the founders and early leaders of the Trails Council; leaders such as George, Hulet Hornbeck, Bob Walker. While they always paid close attention to the opportunities and challenges locally, they continued to keep an eye on the larger picture. Projects such as the *continued on inside right page*

EBATC Minutes for January 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman, Michael Kelley, at 7:20 p.m.

Present:

Jack Appleyard, Bay Area Ridge Trail
Judi Bank, Metropolitan Horsemen's Assn.
Judy Etheridge, S. Ramon V./Tilden Wildcat H'men
Steve Goetz, CC County Community Development
Howard Hornig, Hayward Hiking Club
Ed Mendelsohn, Mt. Diablo Sierra Club
Diane Offutt, V.P. Tri Valley Trailblazers
Morris Older, BARTC, Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Mike Sedlak, Pleasanton
Bern Smith, Bay Area Ridge Trail
Marilynn Terstegge, Tilden Wildcat Horsemen,
Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail
Chris Towles, Bike Trails Council of the East Bay
Jim Townsend, East Bay Regional Park District
Philip Webster, Walnut Creek

1. Agenda approved. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

2. Old Business:

Mt. Wanda/Ridge Trail Dedication will be held on April 21, as part of the Earth Day celebration at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, and celebration of John Muir's Birthday. The day kicks off with the dedication and hike, from 8-10 a.m. though events at the Muir home will continue all day. Congressman George Miller has been invited, he was instrumental in making it happen.

Earth Day: will be April 21, EBRPD will do a project. (At printing time, the California Statewide Trails Program has changed the dates for CA Trail Days to May 19-20, 2007). Their aim is to do a minimum of six between April & October, which is more than they have been doing the last couple of years. Jim would like to eventually increase the workdays back to the 10-12 projects per year that used to be done. Jim noted that the District may consider funding outside projects through the Ivan program. Volunteers must be supervised by district staff, an off duty ranger, or someone employed by the district.

May 12 Workday: Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Assn. is doing a trail workday on Mt. Diablo in conjunction with Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Assn.

EBRPD's Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Workdays: There is money in the account to pay for staff and provide food, usually REI or some other co-sponsor provides giveaways, like t-shirts for volunteers. They will listen to any suggestions for projects, but they will need a staging area for parking, and room for cyclists who would like to ride there. Ed suggested building footbridges on the Ridge Trail where the creek divides between

Huckleberry & Sibley.

Feeder Trail #1: The Park District and the County have reached accord on how to transfer the trail to EBRPD. (trail from Franklin Canyon Road to Briones)

EBMUD Trail: They plan on opening their trail in Pinole this summer. The subcommittee has approved it. It still needs to go to full Board. They need property available for mitigation of some of their own large projects, and have just entered into agreement with Wildlife for two endangered species.

Presentation: Pleasant Hill BART Shortcut Path
Steve Goetz, Engineer, (Deputy Director, Transportation Planning Division, Contra Costa County Development Department told us about the trail/Shortcut Path going from Pleasant Hill BART along the north side of the tracks to Bancroft Road. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has provided grant funding. There are about 4,000 households in the area. Some surface parking is going into garage expansion; there are 1,500 spaces with more being added. BART owns the property. The trail will go behind homes and through the City of Walnut Creek. It also goes across county Flood Control property, along the Flood Control Channel. We will have to get the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers. Developers are required to put in a bike garage, self-serve type like at El Cerrito Plaza. There are 7 houses on Tennyson Court that will be affected by the trail. Bern suggested removable bollards to block vehicular traffic. They would like to have a letter written to the Municipal Advisory Council in favor of the trail. *It was moved by Bern Smith, seconded by Marilyn Terstegge to write a letter from EBATC in support of the trail/Shortcut Path from Bancroft Road to the Pleasant Hill BART station. Motion passed.* Jim Townsend will write a few paragraphs and send it to Michael for approval and mailing.

4. New Business:

Celebrate EBATC:

- How do we monitor who uses trails? Mike Sedlak mentioned areas that have power lines buried underneath, tree roots get into the lines, etc. There ought to be a handbook for those who want to improve the appearance of certain areas.
- How can EBATC help mobilize volunteers? We can be a force in opening trails to all user groups. The more people using trails, the more volunteers there will be.
- T-Shirts: Debby Young did a design for a t-shirt once before. Morris could scan it, although a silk screen may still exist.

2007 Trail Use Change Checklist proposals under Ordinance 38:

- Pine Tree Trail in Briones – After EBATC review, it went to Round Table for further discussion, then staff came up with the idea of including the gate for cyclists to exit the trail before the area that is unsafe for multi-use. Now the full board has to discuss it. At the second public hearing, members of Sierra Club and Native Plant Society were new speakers they did not participate in the first meetings. Morris suggested we get lists of potentially interested parties so we can notify them in advance next time. According to Jim it is illegal to make people sign in at public meetings. However, if we can keep track of some of these people we could try to contact them prior to our next meeting and invite them to the discussion earlier on in the process.

- Trail Use Checklist for 2007 – Bike Trail Council is requesting EBATC consider opening the following trails through the Checklist process for multi-use.

1. Mission Peak Panorama Trail. Half is open to multi-use, half is not. This appears to be an under-utilized trail.

2. Mission Peak Horse Heaven Trail (about 1 – miles) extends from near the peak to the meadow. More interesting to cyclists, good visuals, but steeper – also an under-utilized trail.

3. Redwood Regional Park Stream Trail from Skyline Gate Staging Area to Trail's End. Interested in access in the uphill direction only. It's a popular trail, wide, easier route to ridges, heavily used.

4. Selby Trail in Tilden Park. Most likely to involve user conflict, but the cyclists don't want access to the whole thing, not all two miles, just a portion.

Per Chris, there are about 200 miles of non fire-road trails out there, but cyclists only have access to about four of those. We need to go out and evaluate these trails so that we can make a recommendation by the March meeting.

5. **Round Robin** – Marilyn Terstegge reported that EBMUD in the Lake Camanche area is in the middle of a Master Plan process and it has been suggested that cyclists interested in riding EBMUD trails in that area make a pitch for it now while they are considering plans for the next few years. Their decision makers might be less against cyclists on EBMUD trails than those down here in the Bay Area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilynn Terstegge, acting secretary

CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS

May 19-20, 2007 has been identified as California Trail Days (CTD). Please join volunteers by participating in Trail Days Activities throughout the State of California. Trail Days provides an opportunity for you to be involved in improving your parks and trails, while enjoying the outdoor environment. Trail Days is an annual event that brings volunteers together with park officials, land managers and other trail users to work on access, advocacy, education, fundraising, maintenance and repair. This year EBATC is considering having a trail fiesta gathering of sorts on either May 19 or 20th!

Starting this year, California Trails and Greenways Foundation will be coordinating CTD in honor of the late Tony Look, founding father of the event and the foundation, CTGF will be dedicating all activities this year to him. You may request a Trail Days Brochure, order your 2007 Patches and Register your event at californiatrailandays@sierratel.com or by calling the State's information center at (661) 867-2506. Check out www.parks.ca.gov/trails for more information.

TRAILS & GREENWAYS CONFERENCE

The 2007 Trails and Greenways Conference will be held Thursday May 10th, through Saturday May 12th, at the Lake Natoma Inn located in Folsom, California amongst one of the greatest urban success stories: the American River Parkway. This year's theme, "Building Knowledge, Building Trails", will emphasize management of and resources for both urban and backcountry trails by hosting several workshops and sessions. The conference provides an opportunity for land and recreation program planners, trail administrators and managers; trail advocacy groups; trail builders; and other trail enthusiasts to network and advocate for trails in their community as well as learn about new techniques and opportunities. Get Involved!

Are you interested in contributing to the conference? Maybe sponsor an activity or donate some promotional items? Supporting the conference is a great opportunity to promote your business/agency to trail professionals and advocates. Check out www.parks.ca.gov/trails to see how you can get involved! Registration is underway

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Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the California Riding & Hiking Trail, and the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail require commitment for the long run.

I would like to encourage more discussion on how we can become more visionary in our trails advocacy. Happy trails, Glenn Kirby

Honoring George H. Cardinet, Jr., April, 1909 – January, 2007

An avid equestrian and nationally recognized advocate for the preservation of open-space and trails, and Founder of the East Bay Area Trails Council, George Cardinet died in January while visiting friends in Mexico City. Services were held at Saint Bonaventure Catholic Church in Concord.

George's trail advocacy extends back more than 70 years to at least the late 1930's when the East Bay Regional Park District was just becoming established. He and Hulet Hornbeck, another founding member, traveled to Sacramento to help establish the District's ability to acquire land and establish trails. In 1945 he encouraged then California Governor Earl Warren to pass the California Riding and Hiking Act. He was well known to many in Sacramento and Washington DC. He was a leader in establishing the National Trails Act in 1968 leading to the National Trails System and the National Trails Council/American Trails. In the 1970's he also shepherded significant legislation establishing the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail as a National Historic Trail. George's dedication and advocacy also led to the creation of the American Trails Net-

work, the Tahoe Rim Trail and the Pony Express trail as well as the protection of backcountry access for equestrians in Yosemite National Park.

George played a role in the expansion of the East Bay Regional Park District into Contra Costa County in the 1960's and established many of the trails around Mt Diablo. The City of Clayton honored him with by naming the George Cardinet Trail. He received the highest honor the State Parks have ever bestowed for volunteer service; the Bronze Medal for Superior Achievement Award and was awarded the position of Honorary Park Ranger by the National Park Service.

George Cardinet has been an inspiration to all of us involved in trail and open-space issues. Through his persistence and dedication, through his ability to overcome obstacles and to continue moving forward until the mission was completed, whether it was legislation, preserving access or cutting trail, he has been our guide and our leader.

We will miss you, George.

EBATC

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