



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 2008

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 conservationists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

Trail Notes from Morris

As a result of our decision last fall to increase the number of our meetings, 2008 is off to a flying start for EBATC, with larger groups showing up for interesting presentations by Jim Townsend in January and by Mount Diablo State Park in February, a tradition we hope to continue with our March meeting. In May meeting we will be considering multi-use requests for EBRPD trails, and in June we are holding our second annual EBATC picnic. With a plethora of hikes, bike rides, equestrian events and volunteer trail events abounding this spring, summer and fall, this should be a great year to be on the trails in the East Bay.

Our March meeting will focus on volunteer trail opportunities. This year more trail volunteer projects in the East Bay and the wider Bay Area will be available than ever before, and we are very pleased to have Cathy Moyer, the Executive Director of Volunteers for Outdoor California, and Terry Noonan, a chief organizer of the EBRPD's Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program, as speakers at our March meeting.

Last year V-O-Cal sponsored a half dozen weekend trail work projects around the bay, including the Joaquin Miller Trail Work Project in Oakland, and the construction of a new 2-mile trail at Sky Ranch in Martinez, each of which attracted over 200 volunteers. Mt Tam, Angel Island, Henry Cowell State Park and Harvey Bear County Park also benefited from the V-O-Cal surge of energy. This year projects are planned in Oakland, Alum Rock, Napa, Brushy Peak, Big Basin, Martinez, San Francisco, and Big Sur among others. V-O-Cal not only needs volunteers to make these projects happen, but has an active program of training crew leaders, a job that many EBATC members should be up to—subjects that I am sure Cathy will touch on in her presentation.

Since 1996, the EBRPD's Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program has sponsored 102 trail work projects in the East Bay,

EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: March 19, 2008 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Feb. 2008 Minutes: Action
2. Presentations: Trail Volunteering
Terry Noonan-Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program
Cathy Moyer-Volunteers for Outdoor California
3. Reports/Updates
Public Hearing Schedule-Measure AA Extension
Trail Use Checklist-Panorama Trail in Mission Peak
Trail Use Checklist-May EBATC meeting
BARTC-multi-use gaps in East Bay
4. New Business
BARTC East Bay Through Hike in Aug.
EBATC Picnic-June
5. Reports from members-Round Robin

and this year 9 projects are scheduled, including projects in collaboration with REI, V-O-Cal and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Terry Noonan has been coordinating many of these projects for years now and will show us the essentials of what is involved, how the projects work and how you can get more involved.

I hope you will join us for this exciting opportunity to learn about how volunteers can make a huge difference on the trails we love, and about how you can join in and involve your friends and the members of whatever groups you might belong to. With national, *continued on back page*

In attendance were:

Chris Barnhart	CMDTRA
Laurie Page	CMDTRA
John Eastman	Oak Nor. Hill Sibley- Temescal Trails Group
Larry Kolb	Sierra Club
Judy Etheridge	BARTC/SRVHA
Marilynn Terstegge	TWHA
Jim Townsend	EBRPD
Brian Douglas	EBBTC
Michael Kelley	BARTC/IMBA
Matthew Valdez	
Athena Kraus	
Morris Older	TWHA/BART
John Galvin	
Bruce Presser	
Will Clayerllic	
Steve Wrightson	
Lyndi Beal	BTCEB
Mike Lafferty	
Bill Surges	
Robert Moore	
Paul Branin	
Larissa Branin	
Howard Horning	Hayward Hiking Club
John Grigsby	
Joe Stadum	Rossmoor Trails Club
Brent Englund	BTCEB
Steve Biggs	BTCEB
Dan Levy	BTCEB
Tom Ward	IMBA CA
Erik Beer	
Adam Barry	

1. Call to order

Chair Michael Kelley (MK) called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. MK asked everyone present to introduce themselves. The meeting agenda and the January minutes were approved.

2. Presentation: Mt. Diablo Trail Unit Plan

Mt. Diablo State Park has just begun a Road and Trail Management Plan to survey the trails and roads to create a master trail database. Part of this task is to inventory existing trails and roads. State Park staffers, Wendy Martin and Lorrie Thomas-Dossett, showed a Power Point presentation to explain the process of gathering information to create a Trail Unit Plan (TUP); a component of the Unit General Plan's transportation plan. Previously Save Mt. Diablo and the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) had hosted Wendy and Lorrie's presentation. The TUP is initiating a public planning process to meet the recreational needs of diverse trail users taking into account natural resource protection, public safety and user compatibility. Trails and roads are being in-

ventoried and mapped by GPS/GIS. The location, signage, use, and condition of each trail is recorded in trail logs. A copy of the meeting sign up sheet was requested to put those interested in the TUP on a mailing list.

As part of the data gathering process public input regarding what kinds of trails are preferred is being sought at stakeholder meetings and by on-the-ground user surveys. Stakeholders include local agencies, user groups, adjacent property owners, and individual trail users. Goals are to ensure habitat preservation, maximize visitor use and experience, and to coordinate with regional trails. Data gathering will be completed by the fall and work will start on the TUP; the process is expected to take 2 years.

Mt. Diablo is the first State Park to do a TUP and when it is finished, it will provide hard information to regulatory agencies and will not be subject to park supervisor whims and user group influence. Karl Knapp, Roads and Trails Manager for the California State Parks, will be working on this process.

After the Power Point presentation trail interest surveys were distributed to meeting attendees. Questions, answers and comments: Some attendees would like to see questions about vegetation and wildlife included in the survey. What will happen to volunteer trails? If a volunteer trail provides a better trail opportunity, it might become a trail; other volunteer trails will be closed. Some trails are currently signed by users. The goal of the TUP is to have all trails correctly signed and designated by use to ensure inclusion in the trails maintenance budget. Is any funding available to implement the TUP—\$500,000 is available but not funded.

A Wings of Rogallo (hang gliders) representative asked what would be necessary to reopen the Lower Juniper launch area. The area has been designated an endangered species (Alameda whip snake) habitat. Some areas can be made available to the public by platforms or raised walks and others are off-limits.

How can the trail inventory, logging and survey process be speeded up? Once park staff is familiar with the data gathering procedure, they will call for volunteers from the MDIA and other groups. MK said that EBATC should be involved and offered the EBATC mailing list.

Concern was expressed that a sufficient number of all user groups won't be represented in the survey due to relative inability to use the Park fully which could cause bias. Could more information be put on the survey and could user groups have a more detailed survey? The same survey will be used for all users and it will be filled out at the time it is given. MK thanked Wendy and Lorrie for the presentation and their time.

3. New Business

California budget crisis and state parks.

MK proposed that EBATC write a letter asking the governor and local legislators to keep funding levels for the parks and that each EBATC member should request the groups they represent to write letters from the group and from individual members. Larry Kolb volunteered to create a model letter with some assistance from MK and EBATC member, Morris Older.

Draft Measure AA spending plan

MK introduced EBRPD trails specialist, Jim Townsend, who presented a brief history and update of the Measure AA assessment. Measure AA (passed in 1988) is soon to expire and at the November election the District may ask the voters for a 30 year extension. Twenty-five per cent of the assessment goes to local communities and the remainder to EBRPD for acquisition and development of park land. Jim emphasized that no Measure AA funds are to be used for maintenance. He distributed a draft of the projects to be funded if Measure AA is renewed. Polling shows strong support from voters. He explained the need to balance the desires of the urban residents with the importance of preserving rural lands. Of interest to EBATC is that Measure AA funds would be used to help complete regional trails. Board members are soliciting input for Measure AA and can be contacted on the EBRPD website. A series of public input workshops are being planned.

4. Reports and Updates

Vargas Plateau

Funding for park development is in the process of being approved by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC). In March or April, BARTC is expected to recommend that the Coastal Conservancy approve \$225,000 for the staging area and some trail construction. A four feet wide multi-use trail is planned; the first newly-constructed narrow trail open to mountain biking in the District in many years. Another planned single track will be available to equestrians as well as hikers. A member of the mountain bike community opined that the full multi-use trail is too short for real recreation. Mountain bikers had hoped for a more extensive trail system. Jim stated that the plan for the park is to go to the Board soon and changes may delay the approval process. A question was asked if any trail planners are avid mountain bikers. Jim replied a few are and that he is interested in increasing the number of trails accessible to mountain biking. MK mentioned that Ordinance 38 which restricts mountain bike trails may be changed.

Feeder Trail #1

The District is in the process of acquiring the deteriorated county road from Contra Costa County, which runs from Pinole Watershed nearly to Franklin Canyon Road. Legal surveys of old easements will create a single piece of property. A survey of the trail conditions has been prepared showing what is needed to make it a safe trail. The trail will be repaired and rebuilt and signage put in place.

Fernandez Ranch

Muir Heritage Land Trust owns this 700-acre property, which connects the Pinole Watershed with Crockett Hills. The BARTC Trails Committee has approved \$150,000 for trail planning and construction. 1.4 miles of Ridge Trail will open there in 2009. All trails in Fernandez Ranch are being designed by BARTC and will be fully multi-use. MK would like to see an alternate mountain bike route around Pinole Watershed. Jim said that the District owns a few properties adjacent to Highway 4 and Cummings Skyway and that it would be a challenge to use them as trails.

Del Valle

There is interest in building a trail on the west side of the reservoir. A trail around the reservoir was planned in the past and approved by CEQA. Much of the land, however, is in private ownership, the rest is public.

EBATC Annual Picnic and Group Trail Excursion

After some consideration, we decided on June 29 in Briones as our primary option, which was later confirmed by EBRPD. At the next meeting, planning will be solidified, and Jim said that EBRPD would provide lunch.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19. Having chaired the 3 previous meetings, MK asked for another EBATC member to take over for a while. Morris volunteered and solicited input for agenda items. A Measure AA update, Ridge Trail multi-use gap closure and finalizing the multi-use trail event were suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Minutes prepared by Judy Etheridge

Trail Notes: continued from front page

state and local cutbacks in funding for parks and recreation, volunteer energy is needed more than ever before to support our trails.

Our March meeting will also discuss and plan for the second annual EBATC picnic, scheduled for Saturday, June 29th. Last year's event was a pleasure for all, and EBRPD is supporting us again this year with a barbecue. Some serious unicyclists joined the hikers, horses and bikes on the trail in Briones last years; maybe this year, we will add skateboards, wheelies, stilts, recumbent bikes, dogs, mules, and Segways to the mix. Multi-use can mean so many things...

There will be lots of opportunities in the East Bay and around the Bay this year to work for new trails, for improved and better trails, and to promote a shared community of trail users to familiarize more people with the precious resources surrounding us in our trails network. EBATC has an important role to play in keeping us all focused on our common goals, in supporting volunteer efforts to improve our trails, and in developing a common sense of purpose amongst trails advocates of all stripes.

Happy trails, Morris Older

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