



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 2009

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 Morris

With a long winter break since our last EBATC meeting, when we meet on March 18 we will have lots to talk about, both about EBATC program and goals specifically and recent developments on trail issues more generally.

This coming year promises both great opportunities and challenges. As usual the Ivan Dickson program has a full slate of Saturday volunteer trail work opportunities and the Volunteers for Outdoor California will also have a couple of full weekend trail projects in the East Bay on their schedule. In fact both groups are sponsoring the National Trail Day project at Fernandez Ranch June 6, where a whole new section of Bay Area Ridge Trail is being built. And of course there will be trail work days organized by user groups such as the Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association and the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay that we can help with.

The passage of Measure WW last November holds out the promise of additions to the regional parks, the first of which, the 153 acre Schwartz property near Morgan Territory, has just been announced. Although a last minute groundswell of support has saved the California Conservation Corps from the chopping block and we may need to raise our voices again as the constraints of the new state budget will hit state, regional and local parks hard. Our volunteer efforts will be more needed than ever before.

All work and no play would be quite boring indeed, however, so I expect all of us in EBATC will be out enjoying the trails throughout 2009. Whether out on our own or at a BTCEB Weekly East of the Hills Ride rides or Monthly Gala Ride, at the Diablo Vista (equestrian) Endurance Ride in June, the annual East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Ride and Hike in early September, the Fire Trails 50 ultra marathon in October, or a myriad of smaller camping, hiking, biking or equestrian events, we will all be out enjoying the amazing trail system that graces the East Bay we live in.

EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: March 18, 2009 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Sept. 2008 Minutes: Action
2. EBATC Events 2009
Speakers for Meetings/Trails Workshop?
EBATC Picnic and Trails Excursion-
set date
3. Discussion/Planning
Trail Use Checklist Process 2009
EBATC 2009 Meeting Calendar
EBATC Newsletter Editor Replacement
4. Bay Are Ridge Trail Reports/Updates
East Bay multi-use gaps on the RT—
report and discussion
April 18- Muir Earth Day/Birthday need
tablers & hike/ride leaders
April 25-Ridge To Bridge- Hike and Bike
May 2 Annual Luncheon—EBATC table?
June 6-7- Fernandez Ranch Trail Weekend
September 2-7- EB Hills Ride and Hike
October—Dedication Benicia-Martinez
Bridge path
6. Reports from members-Round Robin

EBATC has some challenges as well too, which we will be discussing at this meeting. What is the future of the Trails Use Checklist, and EBATC's role in that process? How can EBATC build solidarity among the various user groups to advocate for trails? What can we do to increase our active membership and our effectiveness? How can we fulfill our mission as the de-facto East Bay Counties Committee of the Bay Area Ridge Trail? How

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EBATC Minutes for September 17, 2008

Meeting attendees:

Joan R. Murakami	BTCEB
Mauricio Garzon	Sierra Club, Measure WW organizer
Morris Older	BARTC, Tilden Wildcat Horsemen Assoc.
Jim Townsend	EBRPD
Rich Guarienti	Park Advisory Committee
Howard Hornig	Hayward Hiking Club
Judi Bank	Metropolitan Horsemen's Assn.
Jewell Spalding	Fairview (Hayward) resident
Judy Etheridge	TWHA, San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by acting Chair, Morris Older. Those present introduced themselves. Tonight's meeting agenda and the minutes from the June 2008 meeting were approved.

Presentation

Mauricio Garzon and Jim made a Power Point presentation describing Measure WW and how its passage will affect the EBRPD, and they distributed brochures summarizing planned projects. Mauricio's services were partly paid for by the Yes on Measure WW campaign.

A summary of the presentation follows: The Measure provides for the extension of the Regional Open Space, Wildlife, Shoreline and Parks bond passed in 1988.

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors voted to place a \$500 million park bond measure on the November 4, 2008 ballot. This measure is an extension of Measure AA, passed by East Bay voters 20 years ago, that helped preserve 34,000 acres of open space, develop over 100 miles of new trails, and fund hundreds of local parks and recreation projects. While much has been accomplished, the growing East Bay population further increases the need for acquiring new parklands, protecting and restoring natural habitat, and helping communities with their local park and recreation facilities.

If approved by the voters, Measure WW will be used to restore urban creeks; protect wildlife; purchase and save open space, wetlands, and bay shoreline; and to acquire, develop, and improve local and regional parks, trails, and recreational facilities for East Bay residents.

Quick Facts:

- \$500 million bond extension must be approved by two-thirds of voters in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

- This extension will not increase the tax rate above the present maximum rate of \$10 per year per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (i.e. a home assessed at \$400,000 will pay \$40 per year).
- \$375 million (75%) of revenue will fund Regional Park acquisitions and capital projects, with \$26.2 million (7%) of that amount held in reserve for unanticipated future needs and opportunities. \$125 million (25%) of proceeds will go to cities, special park and recreation districts, county service areas, and the Oakland Zoo for much-needed local park and recreation projects. Livermore area voters are not part of this extension tax because Murray Township where Livermore is located was not within the East Bay Regional Park District's jurisdiction in 1988 when the initial bond measure was passed.

Mauricio reported that stake holder meetings revealed several priorities for allocating the funds:

1) creek side trail restoration 2) access to land-banked properties 3) completing regional trails. He asked for email addresses to keep EBATC members informed about the progress of Measure WW and passed out information cards for members to distribute. He encouraged EBATC members to participate in outreach by person-to-person contact, phone banks, distribution of flyers, email campaigns and precinct walking. A campaign to write letters to newspaper editors will start soon and any negative response letters should be followed up by members of the local community. He asked for names of local political candidates who could be asked for endorsements.

Jim suggested outreach to east Contra Costa County through Friends of Marsh Creek and at upcoming trail projects. Trails are a principal part of the Measure.

Discussion followed regarding a small group of mtn. bikers who are actively opposing the Measure due to the desire for more single-track trails. Major opposition could come from taxpayer groups and some rural agricultural interests. Jim was puzzled by the opposition from rural land owners because Park acquisitions are a way for agricultural land owners to sell their land thus keeping it from development and EBRPD has a grazer-friendly policy.

Discussion/Planning for topics for future EBATC meetings

Ideas for topics for future meetings were discussed. Jim reported that the District is interested in exploring ways to make the construction of new trails more feasible. He proposed that a panel discussion including representatives from other agencies (EBMUD, City of Oakland, Califor-

nia Fish and Wildlife) take place in the spring of 2009 to consider constraints and opportunities to build new trails.

The November meeting will be a celebration of retiring EBATC member Michael Kelley's contributions to EBATC and to trails in general.

Reports-Updates

EBATC Picnic and excursion at Briones, June 29.

The number of participants doubled from 2007—all trail user groups were well-represented and even a unicyclist enjoyed the trails and barbeque. Hulet Hornbeck and Steve Fiala, former EBRPD employees and trails enthusiasts attended and their efforts were recognized.

BARTC/East Bay Trail Benefit Ride/Hike

The event included hikers for the first time and was deemed to have been a success raising about \$19,000 for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the Ivan Dickson Program, Volunteers for Outdoor California, Sequoia Arena, and TWHA. Judi Bank reported that the City of Oakland closed the trails in Joaquin Miller City Park due to fire danger at the time when the event camped there but did allow the camping. The City of Oakland is coordinating with EBRPD to establish consistent trail signage and trail closure information between the parks.

Ivan Dickson/V-O-Cal Trail building event at Brushy Peak, Sept. 13-14.

EBATC members, Joan Murakami and Morris Older served as some of the trail building leaders. The trail is open to the public and a little more trail work and signage will be completed soon.

Panorama Trail in Mission Peak—in October there will be a work day in held in conjunction with the Bicycle Trails Council to prepare the trail for the addition of mountain biking.

BARTC/REI—November 15 Trail Work Around the Bay events. There will a trail work event on parts of each of the nine Bay Area county Ridge Trail segments. REI will provide a bbq for each project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Judy Etheridge

Trail Notes: continued from front page

can we encourage people to support the creation of new trails and the best uses of old ones?

Everyone agrees that we will have our Annual picnic and trail excursion with as many user groups as we can lasso into the same event—hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, how about dog-walkers and unicyclists and geocachers as well? What other events can EBATC promote this year? We had talked about a workshop / conference to discuss the constraints on and potential for new trails in the East Bay—is that still a priority? And what issues will pop up during the year that require trail users to raise their voices loud and clear?

So indeed there will be lots to discuss at our March 18 meeting—I hope to see you there,

Morris Older, this month's acting chair

RON BROWN, TRAIL CHAMPION

The Bay Area trail community is mourning the loss - and celebrating the life and many contributions - of a great trail champion, Ron Brown. Ron passed away in February. Ron's legacy includes decades of advocacy on behalf of trails including active involvement with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the California Trails and Greenways Foundation, the Orinda Hiking Club and EBATC. Ron was a super volunteer – informed, organized, dedicated, energetic, passionate, and creative. He was a keen observer, a great storyteller and a good friend. He organized and helped run numerous trail events, dedications and outings including last year's week-long Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association East Bay Hills Ride and Through-Hike. He championed support for many projects and programs including the EBRPD's Ivan Dickson volunteer program. Even after complications from a severe heart attack in 2007 made it difficult for him to hike, Ron continued to explore and enjoy beloved trails on his Segway. He was an inspiration and we miss him greatly.

PLEASANTON RIDGE TRAIL SYSTEM

You are invited to an informational meeting regarding the management and operation of the Pleasanton Ridge Trail System and preview the upcoming land use planning process. This is an opportunity to discuss issues of concern with park district staff and learn more about Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

March 25, 2009, 7:00pm., Veterans Hall,
301 Main Street, Pleasanton.
Park Office: 925-862-2963

NEWSLETTER SHIFTING TO EMAIL

You are currently on the mailing list to receive the East Bay Area Trails Council Newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, please respond to confirm your address and provide your phone number and your email address to:

510-544-2611 or to sdougan@ebparks.org

In an effort to save paper, we would like to distribute this newsletter electronically in the future. Please request a hard copy by mail if necessary. No response will cancel delivery.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PAGE COMPOSITOR NEEDED

After ten years of service, the current editor, Jack Appleyard, is stepping down to pursue other community projects. We need someone with basic skills in page composition to take on the role of putting the newsletter together. The text is drafted by others in Word, so the task is page layout only, within an existing template. Pagemaker or InDesign can be used. Now that the newsletter is shifting to email distribution, the current limitations on length, color and photography are gone, so there is an opportunity for greater creativity. Please contact, Jack Appleyard, at 510.841.7738 or jackappleyard@sbcglobal.net.

EBATC

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