



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: May 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

Come Join the Trails Council for a Spring BBQ, Hike and Ride in Briones on Sunday, May 20

May is one of the best months of the year to visit Briones Regional Park. The weather is mild and the hills are still green. This year the East Bay Area Trails Council and the East Bay Regional Park District will host a Spring event in the park for California Trail Days. This will be a gathering for all of our members and friends and will provide an opportunity for hikers and riders to get out on the trail together in the morning and then share a BBQ lunch.

The event will be in the Oak Grove Group Picnic site near the Bear Creek Staging Area. Plan on coming in time for a hike or ride starting at 10:00 am and be ready for lunch at about 1:00 pm.

Plan on coming for a sociable cruise along the trail. This day is not intended as a long distance marathon in this very large park, but instead will be an opportunity for the hikers, cyclists and equestrians to spend time on the trail together, to share what we all have in common, a love of the outdoors and of the trail.

After sharing the trail for a couple hours, we will return to the Oak Grove picnic area for a barbeque and to share a few brews.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out for part of the day. We don't need anyone to work for the whole day, just for part of the time. I will be setting up a table to showcase the newly printed EBATC T-shirts that Morris produced. These shirts will be available for a modest cost and should be very popular. Also, we could use some help with food and refreshments.

Please contact Michael Kelley at 510-528-2453 or imbamsk@musichael.com Or Diane Offutt at 925-525-1123 or dianeocr@sbcglobal.net to RSVP or to volunteer for the event.

EBATC MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: May 16, 2007 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of March Minutes: Action
2. Brief Presentation
Concord Community Reuse Project-
Process and Opportunities
Brian Holt, EBRPD Interagency Planner
3. Projects – Reports
Trails Day in the Park – Briones BBQ
Trails Council T-shirts
Bay Area Ridge Trail Report
4. New Business
National Trail Days in June
Projects for the Future
5. Next EBATC Meeting Chair/Agenda
6. Reports from members/Round Robin

Hopefully, among the things we talk about in the park is what the Trails Council will be doing for the coming year. Perhaps while out in one of the parks we will become inspired to take on a project or take up a cause that will result in more miles of trails, or more acres of open-space, or better signage or maps to guide our way.

Extension of Measure AA

One of the best ways to ensure that the parks and trails in the East Bay continue to grow is to support of the extension of the parcel tax passed by the voters in 1988 as Measure AA. It was nearly 20 years ago that the voters in
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EBATC Minutes for March 21, 2007

The meeting at EBRPD Headquarters was called to order by Acting Chairman, Glenn Kirby, at 7:15 p.m.

In attendance were:

Glenn Kirby, BARTC
Jewell Spaulding
Brent Englund, BTCEB
Joe Stadum, Muir Heritage Land Trust
Ed Mendelsohn, Sierra Club
Judith Etheridge, SRUHA
Marilyn Terstegge, Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Michael Kelley, BARTC, IMBA
Bern Smith, BARTC
John Fazel, American Discovery Trail
Eric Muhler, BTCEB
Diane Offutt, CSHA Region 5 Trail Rep,
Rich Guarienti, PAC
Jim Townsend, EBRPD
Terry Noonan, EBRPD
Morris Older, BARTC, TWHA
Jack Appleyard, BARTC
Judi Bank, Metropolitan Horsemen's Association
Howard Hornig, Hayward Hiking Club
Michael Caton
Cathy Moyer, Volunteers for Outdoor California

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

George Cardinet

The group spoke of George Cardinet, who was a great trail advocate. George participated in EBATC in the earliest days. He had a vision of what the organization should be, and was tireless in his efforts to promote trails. His accomplishments are too numerous to list, but included trails of national stature, such as the De Anza Trail, and the Tahoe Rim Trail, as well as countless local trails. Compatibility of users was one of the main themes of his trail work. He will be missed by all.

Bay Area Ridge Trail

Bern Smith spoke of several projects that BARTC has been involved in. They included a report on the Vargas Plateau effort. At present, the project is being held up by the City of Fremont over CEQA issues, dealing with access to the park. The Mount Wanda Dedication will be on April 21. Volunteers are needed. (If interested, contact Bern at the Ridge Trail, (415) 561-2595.) It is hoped that the Mt. Wanda trail will one day connect to Feeder Trail #1. There has been a breakthrough regarding the Pinole Watershed. EBMUD is facilitating eventual dedication of a new 7.5-mile segment of the Ridge Trail. It will be limited use, because bicycles will not be permitted, and permits will be required of

those who do use it. EBMUD recently waived its prior requirement that BARTC maintain the trail, which is tremendous news. On June 2, there will be a trail project on this trail, and 50 volunteers will be needed. REI will co-sponsor the event with EBMUD.

On April 28, BARTC will hold its annual Bridge To Ridge ride in Marin County. Tour de Fat will take place July 21 in Golden Gate Park. It will benefit the Ridge Trail. On September 29, BARTC will host its Second Annual Ridge Trail Cruz ride/hike in Santa Clara.

EBRPD Trails Checklist

Over a number of years, the EBRPD has had a process where it will consider 2 changes in trail use each year. Thus far, it has been used to consider bicycle access to a few trails, but it can be used for any proposed trail change. The Planning Department handles the matter. As part of the process, EBATC can propose up to 4 checklist matters, which the District will reduce to 2. The process of considering the proposals is extensive, and involves substantial staff time. It also includes a public hearing, consideration by the Operations Committee, PAC, and other groups, and finally goes to the full board for approval.

Eric Muhler was President of BTCEB when the Checklist was developed years ago, and has become its President again. On behalf of BTCEB, he gave a presentation proposing that 4 trails be opened to bikes. These included:

- The Selby Trail, in Tilden Park. The proposed segment extends from the Brazil Room, to the west parallel to Wildcat Canyon, ending near the Spruce Street Reservoir. It totals 1.9 miles. The trail has a large bed, and good site lines. There is plenty of room to pass. Eric estimated that grades were moderate, less than 10%. He noted that use of this trail would reduce traffic on Nimitz Way, and keep cyclists off of Wildcat Canyon, which can be dangerous. Eric displayed many pictures of the trail in a Power Point presentation.
- Stream Trail, in Redwood Park, (uphill only.) This is one of the 3 main fire roads in the park. It is very wide, and has plenty of room for passing, as well as good sight lines. It is frequently used by service vehicles. Eric pointed out that this trail would provide a very important opportunity for cyclists to get to Redwood Gate, without having to climb other, substantially steeper routes. It would be a much needed alternative to Canyon Trail. He indicated that use by cyclists is very unlikely to disrupt the sensitive environment along the creek, since they would be less likely to step into the area than other users. Since it is proposed that it be for uphill use only, there would be no safety risk. Bike patrol could help ease any prob-

lems that do exist. Eric displayed numerous photos of the Stream Trail.

- BTCEB proposed 2 trails in Mission Peak. The first is the 1.7 mile Panorama Trail, which goes along the north boundary of the park. It is extremely open, with great lines of site. It is not used much, and has a lot of cattle. Eric displayed pictures.
- The Horse Heaven Trail totals 1.6 miles, and connects bike legal trails. It has incredible views, and is open along its length. A couple of places are very steep, and it is likely that many cyclists would walk these. These parts are challenging, but not dangerous, according to Eric. Photos were shown.

For a detailed discussion of these Checklist Proposals, go to:

www.btceb.org/2007_checklist_trails/Horse_Heaven_Tr_BTCEB_Checklist_proposal.pdf
www.btceb.org/2007_checklist_trails/Panorama_Tr_BTCEB_Checklist_proposal.pdf
www.btceb.org/2007_checklist_trails/Stream_Tr_BTCEB_Checklist_proposal.pdf
http://www.btceb.org/2007_checklist_trails/Selbey_Trail_Checklist_proposal.pdf

After the presentation, each of the proposals was discussed extensively, and voted upon separately.

There were many comments regarding the Selby Trail. One runner indicated his group was opposed for safety reasons. Another person was concerned that cyclists would ignore signs, and continue onto illegal trail, though it was suggested that would be unfair to deny access simply because the trail in question led to an illegal trail, since a great many good trails do that. Some equestrians and hikers felt that contrary to the presentation the trail does contain narrow sections, steep sections, and poor lines of sight in some areas, and concern was expressed about the stability of the trail in regards to erosion. Some felt that this is a perfect trail for beginning mountain bikers, because of the gentle grade, and smooth trail. After this discussion, the group voted not to propose the Selby Trail for consideration under the Checklist.

The proposal to open the Stream Trail to bikes in an uphill direction only, received support from equestrians, hikers, and cyclists. It was pointed out that there is a sensitive environment that must be considered. Some felt that bike use on that trail could be dangerous, but others thought those dangers would be minimal, given the restriction to uphill use. It was mentioned that this is the perfect trail for one-way use, and that if cyclists abuse this, they would lose the privilege. It was noted that circulation for cyclists within the park would be dramatically improved with the addition of this trail. After discussion, it was decided to recommend that the Stream Trail be considered

for bike access under the Checklist procedure.

The Panorama Trail was discussed. There was little opposition, and it was decided to recommend that the Panorama Trail be considered for bike access under the Checklist.

The final trail discussed was Horse Heaven. Several folks felt that the short steep sections were dangerous, and could cause bike accidents. In reply, it was noted that it is not at all unusual for a cyclist to walk some sections of trail, and that this should not be a reason to forbid bikes, particularly in remote locations. After discussion, it was decided by a narrow vote, not to recommend that the Horse Heaven Trail go forward.

The coming **California Trails and Greenways Conference** in Folsom was discussed. It was decided to provide support to Michael Kelley to attend the conference on behalf of EBATC, in the sum of \$150.

It was decided that EBATC would write a strong letter in support of the **nomination of Don Defremery** for the Sierra Club's Oliver Hehrlein Award, which is intended to honor outings leaders who have made great contributions to the trail community. Glenn Kirby agreed to write such a letter.

Morris Older discussed his proposal to bring back the old **EBATC T-shirt**. A subcommittee consisting of Michael Kelley, Glenn Kirby, and Morris Older was given authority to explore the idea, and if it appears to be reasonable, order a number of shirts that makes economic sense.

Jim Townsend proposed that **EBATC host a ride/hike barbecue party** on Sunday, May 20. He has already reserved a spot at Briones. Folks were enthused about this idea. Some felt that it has a special appeal, because it will bring different users together in a fun event. It was suggested that we look at the well-known "ROMP & Stomp" events for ideas. Those involved bringing horses and bikes together for good adventures. It was decided that a subcommittee consisting of Jim Townsend, Michael Kelley, Glenn Kirby, Eric Muhler and Dianne Offutt begin working on details.

Morris Older will chair the next EBATC meeting, with help from Glenn Kirby.

John Fazel proposed a future agenda item dealing with **carriage riding on trails**. He discussed groups that take underserved kids on trails.

Michael Kelley, Acting Secretary

Trail Notes: continued from front page

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties passed the parcel tax that would fund the issuance of millions in bonds for park and trail acquisition. Now, the voters will be asked to once again support the continued expansion of our parks through the extension of the parcel tax at the same rate. The measure is expected to be placed on the 2008 ballot and will require all of us to spread the word about the importance of passing this extension. There will be materials at the Briones event that you can take with you when you talk to your friends and family during the coming months.

I look forward to seeing you out on the trail Sunday, May 20th.

Happy trails, *Glenn Kirby*

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Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Project May 12

Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance project this Saturday, May 12 at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. Backcountry trail maintenance from 8:30-1:30 p.m. Meeting at Contra Loma Regional Park in Antioch and shuttling to work site. Tools, instruction, lunch provided. For more information on Volunteering with East Bay Regional Park District, see www.ebparks.org, "volunteers".

Pre-registration required at (510) 544-2631.