



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: September 2007

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 conservation-ists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

Trail Notes from Morris

2007 has been an exceptional year on the trails of the East Bay, with still more to come: National Public Lands Day, on September 29 coupled with the 100th Ivan Dickson Trail Work Day scheduled in the East Bay, a massive volunteer transformation of Joaquin Miller Park trails on October 6-7, and the November 3 opening of 7.5 miles of new Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Pinole Watershed.

Follow me on a quick trip through the high points of my year on the EB trails. At the end of January we closed an earlier chapter in East Bay Trails history with the memorial service for George Cardinet, the father of California trails, who personally helped plan and design 200 miles of East Bay trails.

April brought the dedication of a fully multi-use section of Ridge Trail at Mt Wanda in Martinez, and I led a 13-mile hike on the Ridge To Bridge event in Marin. Where I huffed and puffed the previous 2 years, I flew through this one, thanks to multiple long hikes with an East Bay hiking club.

In May volunteers from the Student Conservation Association, celebrating their 50th anniversary of working on trails, and from Tilden and Mt. Diablo equestrian groups were joined by a state park volunteer work crew for a weekend working on trails near Clayton, a weekend was paid for by last year's East Bay Hills Trail ride, and this year's ride, used many of the trails we worked on.

May also was a high point for EBATC with our multi-use event in Briones Park. Hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians were even joined by a couple of mountain unicyclists as we headed up the Abrigo Valley Trail and split into groups for various length hikes and rides back to our barbecue. The new/old EBATC t-shirt made its debut at our event, and all agreed that this was an event worth repeating.

On National Trail Days, 60 volunteers at the Pinole Watershed built fences, planted trees and spruced up trails in preparation for the upcoming dedication. That weekend also saw the East Bay debut of Volunteers for Outdoor California, which mobilized 250 volunteers, who constructed 2 miles of brand new multi-use trail at MHLT's Sky Ranch in

EBATC SEPTEMBER MEETING Wednesday, September 19, 2007 7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: September 19, 2007 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of May Minutes: Action
2. Project Reports
District Bond Renewal for 2008 Report
Briones Trails Council BBQ Report
Bay Area Ridge Trail: Report
Pinole Watershed Trail Dedication
Multi-use Upgrade Program
Challenging Trail Crossings, Highway 4 & Crockett streets
Local Connections for trail in Hayward
3. New Business
Future Projects Discussion
CA Recreational Trails Comm.vacancy
4. Information Items
National Public Lands Day
Projects for the Future
5. Next EBATC Meeting Chair/Agenda
6. Reports from members/Round Robin

Martinez. Several EBATC members trained to become V-O-Cal crew leaders or assisted on the project.

Later that month, we reopened the Corral Camp in Las Trampas Regional Wilderness to horse camping for the first time in many years. The 1950s water system had failed, so funds raised by last year's East Bay Hills ride were used to purchase a water tank large enough to enable horse camping there.

At the beginning of August, the Ivan Dickson Project at Cull Canyon linked up with two web-based volunteer groups,
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EBATC Minutes for May16, 2007

The meeting at EBRPD Headquarters was called to order by Morris Older, at 7:15 p.m.

In attendance were:

Glenn Kirby, BARTC
Michael Kelley IMBA/BARTC
Judy Etheridge SRVHA / TWHA
Marilynn Terstegge TWHA
Diane Offutt, Tri-Valley Trailblazers
Joe Stadum MHLT
Morris Older, BARTC TWHA
Bern Smith, BARTC
Howard Hornig, HHC
Judy Bank, MHA
Jamie Perkins, EBRPD staff
Brian Holt, EBRPD staff

The agenda was amended by Michael Kelley to add a report on the CA Trails Conference in Folsom. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Presentations: Concord Community Reuse Project, Process and Opportunities: BRAC and CEQA process for the Concord Naval Weapons Station by Brian Holt, Senior Planner Land Division, EBRPD

The US Navy has identified the inland portion of the Concord Naval Weapons Station property for base closure and reuse. The Federal process is called BRAC or Base Reuse and Closure process. The City of Concord will be the lead agency. There is a Community Advisory Committee. Director Beverley Lane is on the committee as well as John Mercurio, a past active member and supporter of EBATC.

The portion of the base to be closed is entirely within the City of Concord. The northern portion of the base, near the tidal lands will be kept by the Navy. There are 5,200 acres south of Highway 4 in the project area. The land is close to the North Concord BART, Kirker Pass, Willow Pass and could provide connections to Mt Diablo, Pittsburg and Morgan Territory. The Contra Costa Canal Trail, the Delta De Anza Trail and the Iron Horse Trail are all nearby. Mt Diablo creek runs through property. There is a Concord Trails Master Plan adopted in 2003 providing for connections to the Iron Horse, Contra Costa Canal and Delta De Anza Trails.

The BRAC process has been used in different ways around the country, and even in the Bay Area for past closures. A number of bases have already been closed including the Alameda Naval Station and the Oak Knoll base in Oakland. The Navy proposes that this closure convey property

directly to a Master Developer rather than to the City of Concord, as has happened to other closures in the past. East Bay Regional Park District has been in discussions with the City of Concord and has raised questions regarding the value of the land within the Master Developer Agreement. The land is now in public ownership and the District has maintained that the public should not be required pay twice for open-space. Additionally, the District goal is the preservation of minimum of 50% of the property as open space. September 26 is the deadline for letter requesting a Public Benefit Conveyance with support from the National Park Service. The City will be required to complete the CEQA (CA Environmental Quality Act) process prior to the conveyance. Concord was in discussion with Shaw Development for an exclusive development agreement, but those talks have ended. The City of Concord is now establishing Technical Advisory Groups. EBATC could be included in that process.

Four workshops have been scheduled: April will focus on guiding principals, May preliminary proposals for uses on land, and June will focus on more specific land use proposals.

Among the planning concepts being discussed: The triangle near BART is the prime area for dense housing, the area to the south could be lower density, some want development at the south end of the property between Bailey Road and Kirker Pass.

The Park District will attempt to work with the National Park Service to get a Public Benefit Conveyance.

We encourage EBATC supporters to become involved in the workshops to establish the uses. They will be held at the Concord Senior Center. More information can be found at <http://concordreuseproject.org/>

CA Trails Day Hike-Ride-BBQ in Briones Regional Park Sunday, May 20

The Trails Division of the East Bay Regional Park District has generously agreed to provide the location for the event, waiving the parking fees for the attendees as well as the venue fee for the group picnic area. Additionally, Jim Townsend has allocated funds from his department budget for food and drinks. Jamie Perkins and Glenn Kirby will procure the provisions on Friday, May 18. The Trails Council will provide beerverages and serve the lunch BBQ. Also EBATC and BTCEB volunteers will lead the rides.

We will plan for 50 people. Temperatures could be in 90's. Glenn and Jamie will get supplies on Friday. Jim Townsend will kick in \$500.00 from the Trails Dept for the event and the District will waive the fees for parking and the picnic area. Special thanks for the support of the District

Morris has picked up the new T-shirts. They will be available at the event: \$10.00 Short Sleeve and \$15.00 Long Sleeve

Bay Area Ridge Trail Report

Bern Smith reported on the Mt Wanda dedication, which was successful. The National Park Service provided great support for the event. There were about 45 people at the dedication, the event attracted about 2000 during the day.

Pinole watershed is progressing. EBMUD expects to open 7.5 miles of trail. Date is not decided yet. Staff will be working with the board regarding a dedication event and the management agreement for the trail.

Staff from the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Bay Trail and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy have planned a combined hike and lunch. This will be a collaborative effort between the staff for the three organizations to discuss common interests and goals.

State Parks is considering a segment of Ridge Trail in Castle Rock to include multi-use. This segment of trail is included in the Santa Clara County Trails Master Plan.

CA Trails Conference – Folsom

Michael Kelley reported on the recently held 22nd Annual California Trails and Greenways Conference, which was held May 10-12 in Folsom. He had been participating in this conference for 19 years, and was gratified to learn that this was probably the largest one ever. It was a great opportunity to reunite with old friends, and become acquainted with new ones. The sessions included a wide variety of topics, including: trails in wet areas; trail mapping with GPS, accessible trail planning and construction, boating trails, cost of trails, working with elected officials, the Salt Pond trails, successful Trail Coalitions, social trail strategies; working with volunteers; trails and health-and the list went on. There was something for everybody. There was an emphasis on water trails, including a kayak and raft trip down the American River. Participants were treated to a water trail that passed through a very scenic area, with plenty of wild life, but which was also a highly urbanized area. There was one session on GPS training, which for the first time at such a conference, included hands on work with a GPS unit on a route around the conference. This was a pleasure after the several prior conferences that featured much more technical discussions of GPS technology. On a related topic, there was a marvelous session showing how we could use Google Earth technology to visualize and work with our trails in 3 dimensions. This will provide great inspiration to us as we continue our work. Of particular interest was a session entitled "Common Ground", which was an effort to bring different user groups together to

solve problems. The idea was to take a different approach from the past. Folks were asked to leave prejudices and negative feelings behind, and to participate with the sole idea of proactively and positively working together to find solutions, and areas of common interest; hence the name "Common Ground." In large part, it was successful, as different users presented ideas to facilitate sharing of trails by different users. In the end, it was decided to establish an Ad Hoc committee to work on a set of trail guidelines, and to create 2 trails. One was to be a shared use single track trail, and the other was to be an alternate trail for bikes of equivalent value and experience, in a situation where multi-use wouldn't work on one trail.

New Business

National Trails Day in June

REI project in Sunol, Ivan Dickson, continuing a 15 year partnership with REI
Muir Heritage – Tina Batt Trail 2-Day event
American Hiking .org is resource for Trails Day

Trails Use Change Checklist

The 2 nominations for 2007 need to be formally submitted by EBATC to Raphael.

2006 Pine Tree trail still under consideration, Board to walk trail in June. On May 7 Norman LaForce made a presentation to the Environmental Round Table representing the Sierra Club Public Lands Sub-committee in which he asked for a moratorium for future checklist nominations. Glenn will check with Sierra Club contacts to determine if he was accurately representing the Sierra Club in this letter.

Projects for future discussion and planning:

Strategic Planning

- Incorporation of the Trails Council
- Get more players to the table

Projects – Revise project list

- Carriage Riding
- Multi-use gaps
- Camping
- Regional trails
- Volunteering
- Ridge Trail
- Multi-day events when the east bay gaps are closed
- Checklist process
- Other parks, local, state, national, special district, EBMUD

Next EBATC Meeting Chair / Agenda

Bond Renewal will be featured agenda item for the September meeting. Morris to chair Sept meeting. Sunday picnic report. Report on the Conference.

Trail Notes: continued from front page

resulting in 35 volunteers who worked all morning clearing brush on the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

And now, as I write this on September 5th, I can look back at the week leading up to Labor Day, when we had our 6th Annual East Bay Hills Trails Ride, 6 days of camping, celebrating the trails of the East Bay, with 65 equestrians riding up to 100 miles of EB trails. Not to mention numerous other trail openings, trail workdays, hikes, rides and horse camping throughout the year.

EBATC has a key role to play in all this, promoting trails and encouraging multi-use. Our May 20th Briones event was one example of how EBATC can break down the barriers between trail users. But to become a more vital trail coalition reflecting the needs of all trail users, we need to attract more hikers and dog-walkers and trail runners, in short a broader constituency, to reflect the myriad of trail issues so that the trails community can speak with a unified and strong voice as Master Plans and trails are developed, as opportunities for new trails and camp sites unfold, as conflict between various user groups plays out and as volunteers seek to remedy the effects of budget cuts and deferred maintenance. The V-O-Cal project in Joaquin Miller and the Pinole dedication are opportunities that we should embrace with relish. Happy trails, *Morris Older*

EBATC

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Oakland, CA 94605-5369**

Minutes: continued from inside page

Reports from members / Round Robin

Judy Etheridge asked about the process to create a new trail in East Bay Regional Park District lands. Jamie will report this in the future

Bern reported that the Coastal Conservancy Board would be meeting this week. The work of the conservancy is on their website.

Morris is looking forward to the EBMUD Pinole Watershed and SkyRanch projects.

Morris was at Mt. Diablo last week to organize several groups to work on trail, 28 people contributed. Glenn reported that he is now a member of the Sierra Club ExCom and will be attending their monthly meetings. This should be particularly helpful in light of the recent challenge to the Checklist process by another member of the Sierra Club, Norman LaForce.

Jamie expressed appreciation to the Trails Council and is happy to contribute toward our event this weekend.

Acting Secretary, Glenn Kirby