



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: September 2008

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

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Bay Area  
Trails  
Council  
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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

Our September EBATC meeting will mark a transition for many of us from a summer spent enjoying the trails to an autumn of defending and promoting them. Our speaker will be Mauricio Grazon from Yes On Parks, which is coordinating the campaign for the renewal of EBRPD's open space bond measure on the November ballot. Mauricio is the Bay Area Sierra Club's Environmental Community Organizer, and will bring to the meeting information and strategies that we can use to ensure that the Open Space measure is approved by the voters in our communities.

This bond measure not only renews 1988's Measure AA, but also is a great chance for East Bay voters to renew a 76-year tradition of supporting regional parks. When the newly formed EBMUD decided in the early 1930s that surplus East Bay hills land would be sold, Alameda County citizens voted to impose a new parcel tax on themselves, in 1932, at the height of the depression, to establish the East Bay Regional Park District, enabling the purchase of what is now Redwood and Tilden Regional Parks. On numerous occasions since then East Bay voters have had the foresight and wisdom to provided funding to enable EBRPD, the nation's first regional park district, to expand to its current size of 65 parks with nearly 100,000 acres.

Which has made possible many of the things that EBATC members have been up to this summer. I will mention just a couple. The second annual EBATC picnic and trails excursion on June 29<sup>th</sup> in Briones Park attracted over 70 hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, as well as a unicyclist and some other trail advocates. Together we headed up from Oak Grove to Mott Peak, enjoying the trails together and later had a barbecue produced by Glenn and Jamie with help from Steve Fiala. Lots of good information exchanged, events noted, comraderie shared, and barriers broken down in the course of the day, and all while everyone was having a great time.

Then, from August 26-September 1, the Tilden

## EBATC SEPTEMBER MEETING Wednesday, September 17, 2008 7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

## Agenda: September 17, 2008 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of June 2008 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation—Yes On Parks  
Mauricio Grazon, Sierra Club , on the  
EBRPD November bond measure  
and how EBATC can actively support it
3. Discussion/Planning  
Priorities/Speakers for October and  
November EBATC meetings
4. Reports/Updates  
EBATC Picnic and Excursion June 29th  
BARTC-East Bay Trails Benefit Ride/Hike  
Brushy Peak Ivan Dickson/V-O-Cal Trail  
Building September 13-14  
BARTC:Nov. 15 Trail Work Around the Bay
5. Reports from members-Round Robin

Wildcat Horsemen's Association, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, sponsored the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Ride, this year adding a 5-day Through-Hike of the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Castro Valley to Martinez. 26 hikers and 45 riders, supported by 93 volunteers, camped in Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland, and in Tilden Regional Park. The hike ended at Fernandez Ranch, which will open next year to the public when construction of the Ridge Trail there is completed. EBRPD provided dinner one of the nights, and evening speakers talked about Raptors of the East Bay, through-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, camping with horses and  
*continued on back page*

## EBATC Minutes for June 26,2008

Meeting attendees:

Judy Etheridge	San Ramon Valley Horsemen
Brent Englund	BTCEB
Michael Mejia	BTCEB
Larry Kolb	Sierra Club
Jean Murakami	BTCEB
John Gibb	BTCEB
Marilyn Terstegge	Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Joe Stadum	Rossmoor Trails Club
Rich Guarienti	HHC & PAC
Steve Eng	BTCEB
Bern Smith	BARTC
Glenn Kirby	BARTC
Morris Older	BARTC, Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Diane Offutt	CA State Horsemen's Association
Jamie Perkins	East Bay Regional Park District

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM by chair, Morris Older. The agenda was approved with the addition of two items by the chair. Minutes of the May 2008 meeting were approved. Since a vote will be taken at this meeting to choose trails to be evaluated for conversion to multi-use, those present who are not current EBATC members were encouraged to join immediately.

### **Nomination of Trails to be Evaluated for Multi-Use Conversion by the East Bay Regional Park District:**

1) **Briones access trail** (.6 mile) from the Alhambra staging area. Mountain bikes currently use a paved road parallel to the trail.

*Comments:*

CSHA representative, Diane Offutt, reported that Marie Grisham, chair of the CSHA trail riding program, TRAP, rode the trail and has no problem with the addition of mountain bikes. Equestrian Alice Philipson wrote a letter approving the addition of mountain bikes to the access trail.

Members of TRASH, a 40-member trail riding club who ride in Briones talked to equestrians who use the Alhambra entrance to Briones and found no concerns about adding mountain bikes to the access trail.

EBATC member, Marilynn Terstegge, who boards her horse nearby said that it is logical to get the mountain bikes off the road and recommended that the start of the trail be moved to the beginning of the road; it now begins past a culvert.

A hiking member of EBATC expressed misgivings about putting mountain bikes on the trail because the road is safe and that the trail should be left for horses and hikers.

Marilynn stated that since the road has some curves it would be better to keep bikes off.

Rich Guarienti (non-voting attendee) said that adding mountain bikes to the trail is reasonable.

Joe Stadum thinks that the addition of mountain bikes to the trail is natural but that it needs signage because the trail appears to some to be on private property so the paved road is often used by hikers and equestrians.

Steve Eng reported that he wants to use the trail but thought it might be off limits to any trail user. Glenn Kirby said that signage should be added if the trail is approved for mountain bikes.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to request that EBRPD consider making this trail available to mountain bikes. Jamie Perkins said that the approved proposal be forwarded in writing to Raphael Brienes soon.

**The Vollmer Peak trail cutoff in Tilden.** Opening this trail to mountain bikes will enable them to ride from the Seaview Trail to the Vollmer Peak trail without going on to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and South Park Drive.

*Comments:*

Trail needs to be brushed in a couple of places.

Trail is steep and rocky in places and is not safe for mountain bikes.

A new trail should be constructed.

Mountain bikes should walk their bikes on that section of trail.

Urge the District to change their rules to enable mountain bikes to avoid the roads.

Downhill on trail is bad and major improvement is necessary which might trigger CEQA.

Small area of trail need improvement which should not trigger CEQA.

Bern Smith asked if adding a use change would trigger CEQA. Jamie replied that it does not and a use change is determined by the EBRPD rules and regulations, adding that a reroute or a new trail will trigger a full review which takes 1-2 years.

Glenn stated that some of the concerns could be addressed by routine maintenance which can be done without a review. Rerouting the trail to a new piece of land would trigger an environmental review. Main purpose of a realignment would be to eliminate blind spots.

Has had two recent bad encounters with mountain bikes; one was rude to hiking group. Mountain bikers were well-equipped, not renegades.

Concern about whether or not mountain bikes or equestrians could pass each other safely on the trail.

Concern about muddy trail conditions in winter. Morris remarked that he was disappointed by the lack of response and participation by hiking groups to the proposed trail use change. He did talk to members of his hiking groups; some did not think mountain bikes should be on this trail. He reported that the trail does have problems in the winter and

that it would be wonderful if EBRPD would improve the trail as a result of this process. Brent E. pointed out that the trail in question is only about 400 yards long, that the sight lines are good and there is not much difference between this section and other parts of the trail. He reminded the attendees that this is a multi-use group.

Marilynn and Judy read 7 written comments from TWHHA members, who use this trail to access much of Tilden Park on horseback on a regular basis, and who have hosted numerous trail work days on this trail. In addition to repeating many of the comments made by attendees at the meeting, they variously noted that: there are sharp turns, lack of passing room, poor sightlines on the trail as it splits at the top from Vollmer Peak trail going towards Seaview, a real possibility for an unfortunate bike/horse close encounter, that EBRPD should consider the safety of all trail uses, including equestrians, while making this decision, that cyclists will have trouble going slow on the steeper section of this trail, but that if they keep to 5 mph it could be safe. They suggested that a reroute to improve sightlines would be necessary to make this safe, that tree trimming and removal would be necessary, and asked if the mountain bikers would be willing to join in the work needed to make this trail safe.

Rich G.-concerned about trail movement due to increased erosion and is concerned that mountain bikers are getting out of control.

Brent E— mountain bike outlaws shouldn't drive this process. We can't ignore the needs of cyclists as they're not going away, and unless you make appropriate opportunities available it's impossible to police these users. He also suggested the trail did not have to be altered for cyclists, pointing out that mountain bikers often get off their bikes.

Steve E.—he never had any run ins with any trail user. The mountain bikers police themselves on the trails. Hikers are not at the EBATC meeting because they have access to all the trails.

Bern—Bay area parks weren't built for playgrounds.

Jamie— acknowledged that properly maintaining the trail will increase the visibility. Staff will take a good look at the original trail tread and make an evaluation.

Morris asked for a motion. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to request that EBRPD consider making this trail available to mountain bikes. Seven in favor, 1 opposed. Brent will write a letter to Raphael Brienes forwarding EBATC's request.

### 3. Discussion/Planning EBATC Picnic at Briones Park—Sunday, June 29.

Jamie reported that there are 70 signups so far. She encouraged everyone present to sign up if they haven't already. One feature of the event is to help trail users understand trail etiquette. The District will waive parking and picnic site fees and will provide the food and drink. Coffee, juice and muffins will be available at the sign in table and lunch will include barbecued chicken, sausages, veggie burgers with all the fixings, drinks and dessert. Compostable picnic ware will be used and green trash bags will be available. She asked for volunteers for food service, clean up and hike, mountain bike and trail ride leaders. Glenn will spearhead the cooking and bring tables and chairs. Volunteers are needed for the signup table and to sell t-shirts, and to bring extra coolers. Dogs should be on leash.

#### 4. Updates

A) **Multi-use on the Panorama Trail in the Ohlone College part of Mission Peak Regional Park** has been approved and the trail will be opened to all users once a fence is repaired. Morris asked if EBATC could follow the process to determine when the trail will actually be opened for multi-use. Opening the trail to all users will follow the Ordinance 38 process.

B) **EBRPD Bond Measure AA Extension**—on July 1 the EBRPD Board will decide if the measure will go on the November ballot. Creek restoration, the Bay Trail and resource protection are high priority items with the public. If the measure is on the ballot, EBATC can help by getting out the word.

C) July 12: the next **Ivan Dickson trail project**.

D) **CA Trails and Greenways Conference, Mission Bay, San Diego**—Glenn reported that the Ruth Coleman, Director of State Parks, is hoping for a \$10 addition to the vehicle license fee to fund State Parks which would provide a steady source of revenue. Next year's conference will be near Yosemite. Diane Offutt noted that EBRPD is way ahead of most other park districts in volunteerism, preserving trails and incorporating multi-use.

Jamie and Jim Townsend also attended the conference. Jamie reported on efforts to reach out to youth and the multi-cultural public. The State Parks is encouraging leadership to get kids outdoors and out on the trails.

E) **Ridge Trail**—Bern reported that the survey of Feeder Trail #1 is 50% completed. The survey has revealed that the current trail is 400 yards off the historic right of way in one place. After the survey is done EBRPD and Costa Contra County will know what belongs to whom.

EBRPD is interested in establishing more campsites and Bern encouraged the District to put some on the Ridge Trail. Currently the Presidio has the only camping facility on the Ridge Trail.

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*Trail Notes: continued from front page*

the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The food and ambience was spectacular, the raffle prolific and everyone had a wonderful time. With this event, and with the help of the EBRPD, the Ridge Trail is moving into a new phase, with long distance multi-day adventures and camping becoming possible on the longer trail segments.

Finally I will mention the volunteer trail work projects coming up, the first of which, a 300 volunteer project at EBRPD's Brushy Peak near Livermore on September 13-14<sup>th</sup>, may already have happened by the time you read this. Several active EBATC members are signed on as Volunteers for Outdoor California crew leaders for this event, which is co-sponsored by EBRPD. Two weeks later, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, EBRPD will be hosting a volunteer trail maintenance day at Round Valley, and on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Cull Canyon Regional Preserve EBRPD, REI and BARTC are co-sponsoring another trail work day, one or eight being held around the bay that day on the Ridge Trail. In the past 2 years more and more people have gotten involved in these trail volunteer opportunities, and the groups sponsoring them have been working in coordination with each other to get more and more work done.

## **EBATC**

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

All of which has been made possible by a far-sighted public that back in the Depression started preserving open space in the Bay Area and that continues to do so today. I hope that all EBATC members will be able to participate in some of these upcoming events, and in the campaign to extend funding for the continued growth of open space in the East Bay.

*Morris Older, this month's acting chair*

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*Minutes: continued from inside page*

### **Announcement**

Jamie announced that she is moving to the EBRPD Recreation Unit as an Office Assistant and will no longer serve as the EBRPD liaison to the Trails Council. Jim Townsend will take over as liaison. The Trails Council thanked her for her service. Jamie reported that she volunteers for a Mexican sea turtle rescue operation and passed out information flyers about the program.

### **Round Robin**

Morris reported that Bay Area Barns and Trails donated 5K in matching funds to the Save Mount Diablo endurance ride in June. .

Ales and Trails mountain bike event at China Camp was mentioned.

*Minutes prepared by Judy Etheridge*