



MOUNTAIN CYCLIST

LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

MARCH — APRIL 2005

Sea Otter ROMP

By Kari Olson

The Sea Otter Classic is the premier Mountain Bike Festival outside of Europe. It has been an annual event for the past 15 years and has grown to festival proportions, featuring 20 different cycling events, camping, food, and vendor specials you can't find anywhere else. This year the number of cyclists participating will be over 10,000, with an estimated 50,000 fans. The Sea Otter runs April 14-17, and is held at Laguna Seca in Monterey California.

ROMP is expanding its participation at Sea Otter, from volunteer support on the dual slalom, that the Jain and Michael Light coordinate, to partnering beginning this year, on the new Epic/Marathon, and the traditional Fun Ride. The new Epic features 50 miles of some of the sweetest single track that has just opened up. The Epic will be on Thursday April 14. ROMP will be marking the Epic race course, course marshalling and greeting riders with prizes. The Fun Ride is on Saturday, April 16th, and will include a 10 mile ride, with an additional 10, for 20 miles for the more ambitious.

That's right, volunteer with ROMP at the Sea Otter Classic and free race entry for the event of your choice.

ROMP's partnership with Sea Otter runs deeper this year than in years past. ROMP volunteer activity at the Sea Otter is the largest fund raising event for our organization because the Sea Otter makes donations to ROMP for each volunteer day. This year, with ROMP's undertaking as the champions of the Epic and Fun Ride, this fundraising opportunity is enormous. Sea Otter will be giving us a free 30 person campsite, free admission to the entire festival, and every volunteer will be given a free race entry to the event of their



John Tomac on the dual slalom, an event marshaled by ROMP volunteers.

choice. Not bad, free racing, camping, eating, shopping, and money for ROMP. Definitely check-out the Sea Otter website at seaotterclassic.com. The classic XC race on Sunday is now legendary, and yours for the racing. What a great way to begin the season. ROMP will also have its annual booth, and Paul is planning some cool things for that.

We need volunteers for the Thursday Epic. If you can come earlier great, we will be prepping and marking the course on Wednesday. Thursday night ROMP will be having a barbeque and party at the campsite to kick off the Festival. Friday we will work on preparing the Fun Ride, which is on Saturday. If you can't make it on Thursday, the Fun Ride will be a gas, as many ROMP volunteers will be docent riders encouraging and assisting the Fun Ride participants. The Fun Ride is suitable for families, so come one, come all. After the Fun Ride there will be a barbeque and raffle. Last, but not least is the dual slalom that Michael and Jain Light coordinate with ROMP volunteers on. If you have volunteered under them in the past, you know the ropes.

Any questions on volunteering, camping, or the sea otter in general, please email Kari Olson at karijolson@yahoo.com. Michael and Jain Light for the dual slalom can be reached at malight@pacbell.net.

2005: Pivotal Year

By Paul Nam, President

For over two years it has been my privilege to have been pushing pedals, trail tools, and papers from the President's saddle in the ROMP peloton. Like real mountain bike riding, most of the time with advocacy is spent slogging away up the metaphorical hills against gravity. However such brief downhill interludes, as the IMBA Summit, IMBA Epic, Trail Care Crew visits, races, and parties, are rewarding. Yep, I see things from a cross-country rider's point of view. From my perch the downhills are the leading reasons for why I ride.

Peering out from under my visor, 2005 looks like the biggest and baddest hill climb I've ever seen on this course. As we go to press, we've already negotiated some tough terrain, manualing up over some grass-roots opposition in Nisene Marks, tilting through some tricky trail work projects, and finding a tractable line of progress and communication with our local agencies. This will be my last major climb as President of ROMP. As I look ahead to the epic climb to the summit, I instinctively reach for more food and water - sustenance to make it all the way.

You are the fuel of advocacy. Mountain bikers who maintain their standing as members of the only local group that looks out for their trail interests are the ones who make a positive contribution to the continuation of our recreation. IMBA puts it this way: "Where would we be without trails?" I need your help to keep local mountain biking on the trail.

The outcomes of 2005 are going to have a huge impact on the future of riding in our area including multiple master planning activities, expanded ROMP presence at the Sea Otter Classic, and monumental trail work commitments.

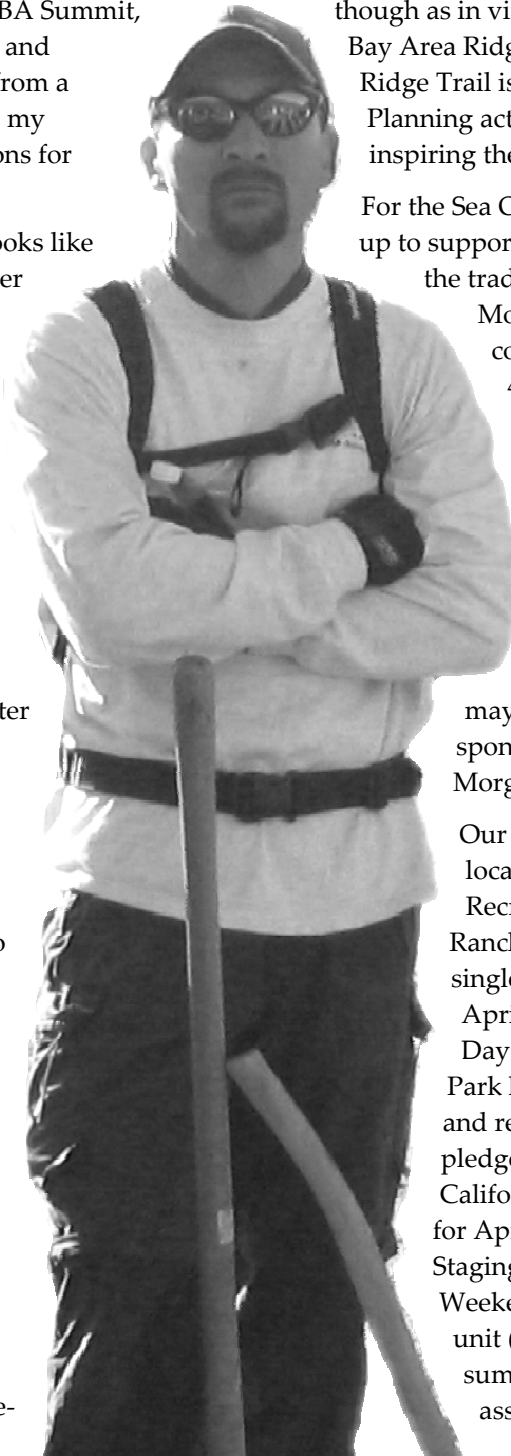
MROSD's La Honda, Bear Creek, and Sierra Azul, Santa Clara County's Skyline-Sanborn and Calero, and San Mateo

County's Huddart and Wunderlich units undergo new plans in 05. Master plans are created in conjunction with community input. You are part of that community. This process is the only and best chance we'll ever have to achieve mountain bike access to trails in these units for many many years to come. Our participation in the process will make a difference. Access is not guaranteed, even though as in virtually all of these plans, the multiple-use Bay Area Ridge Trail figures prominently. In fact, the Ridge Trail is the catalytic component in these Master Planning activities, having liberated funding and inspiring the need to address planning.

For the Sea Otter Classic, ROMP has pledged to step up to support the Epic and Fun rides, in addition to the traditional support at the Dual Slalom/Mountain Cross events at America's largest combined mountain bike race and expo. 48,000 folks participate in this premier event. ROMP will receive excellent exposure and will contribute to this incredible event. Our expectation is to make participation at this level a tradition. We will be partnering with many other service volunteer groups and volunteering at other activities as well. For example, ROMP volunteers may be needed at a special Road Criterium sponsored by Specialized and held in the Morgan Hill area.

Our trail work commitments include various local areas. Santa Clara County Park and Recreation's Coyote Lake/Harvey Bear Ranch (aka the Bear) will be laying out new single track with our first trail days set for April 2 and 3, and a possible California Trail Days dedication ceremony. Henry Coe State Park has an endless backlog of maintenance and realignment projects for which ROMP has pledged support for. Tentatively, a special California Trail Days volunteer project is slated for April 23 up at the new Dowdy Ranch Staging Area as part of the Back Country Weekend. The MROSD's El Corte de Madera unit (aka Skeggs), will be our focus during the summer and fall, with ROMP volunteers assisting staff with singletrack erosion

(Continued on page 4)



Paul Nam is serious about trail work

Land Manager Directory

Acterra (Arastradero Preserve) 3921 E. Bayshore Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94303, 650-962-9876, fax 650-962-8234; www.arastradero.org, www.acterra.org/info@acterra.org (general), www.participation.com/arastradero

California Recreational Trails Committee
Ken McKowen, Trails Coordinator, PO Box 942896, Sacramento 916-653-6501

Castle Rock State Park Bob Culbertson, 408-429-2869; Dave Keck, 916-322-2997

City of Palo Alto (Arastradero) Recreation Open Space and Sciences, 650-329-2423

East Bay Regional Park District 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 94619, 415-531-9300

Henry W. Coe State Park 9000 East Dunne Ave, Morgan Hill 95037. 408-779-2728 Gavilan Sector Supervising Ranger Mike Ferry mferry@parks.ca.gov; Coe Senior Ranger Barry Breckling barryb@coepark.org; www.coepark.parks.ca.gov

Monterey District California State Parks, Gavilan Sector; Henry W. Coe State Park.
P.O. Box 787; 19 Franklin Street; San Juan Bautista, CA 95045. 831-623-1659. Monterey District Superintendent C.L. Price

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos 94022; 650-691-1200; mrostd@openspace.org, www.openspace.org

Mt. Diablo State Park District Office 96 Mitchell Canyon Rd., Clayton 94517; 510-673-2891; Larry Ferri, Park Superintendent

Santa Clara County Parks & Rec. Dept. 298 Garden Hill Dr., Los Gatos, 95030; Mark Frederick, Capital Projects Mgr., 408-358-3741 x143; fax 408-358-3245; mark.frederick@mail.prk.co.santa-clara.ca.us, claraweb.co.santa-clara.ca.us/parks/

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors 70 W. Hedding, San Jose, 95110; 408-299-2323

Santa Cruz District 600 Ocean St., Santa Cruz 95060; 408-429-2850; David Vincent, District Superintendent

The Trail Center 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto 94303; 650-968-7065, www.trailcenter.org

Master Planning

By Paul Nam, President

Please step back and see the big picture in both time and space of the conservation work of agencies like the Coastal Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, and the Bay Area Open Space Council, and how lands come into public access. These non-profit groups are seriously engaged in securing Conservation Easements to protect private lands from development. A Conservation Easement is a restriction placed on real estate that limits or prohibits development and, thus, lowers the property's value. Conservation easements are often used by land

provide an incredible boon as enormously effective tax shelters.

Looked at in a certain way, this modern method of conservation can be seen as a subsidy for the wealthy. Ordinary folks cannot escape taxes, and their property and income tax pay for most all of the services and land acquisitions. In effect, when a large land owner obtains a major discount on taxes, the rest of tax paying humanity fills in for the loss. Then if a public land management agency purchases the land, the public once again, through taxes, pays for the land. This situation may seem worth the cost to many, but some believe this a costly and misguided method to conservation. For now, I will pass on making a judgement. Once in the public domain, taxpayers continue to bear the burden of administering the lands.

It is a fact, however, that without the instrument of conservation easements we wouldn't benefit from the far ranging network of trails that already exist in our area. Without these trails our riding scene would be small. However the public is not welcome on conservation easement lands. The deed must first be passed into the hands of a land management agency by sale. Then the land manager must make a resource inventory and devise a management plan through a public master planning process.

Another way that private lands can pass into the public domain is through a gift deed. Acts of gift deeds are not uncommon and are usually great examples of philanthropy. Many of the trails we ride on are gifts. The value of the gift may be deducted from taxes. Currently the gift deed of 9,000 acres in



The Bay Area Ridge Trail (will pass through Castle Rock State Park).

owners to lower estate taxes on real estate and retain ownership of ranches, farms, or hunting grounds when they might otherwise be forced to sell to cover the tax bill.

Occasionally land may be made available for sale to Parks and Open Space Districts, like the MROSD, where perchance mountain biking might take place on trails. But it's a long way to go from an easement to a beautiful singletrack. As conservation easements lower the value of the property by removing the potential of development they are made more affordable to land management agencies. For wealthy family estates and corporate land holdings conservation easements

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mitigation and realignments focusing this year on the immense challenge of the Giant Salamander Trail. Of course our new trail construction continues at the City of Burlingame's Waterdog Park, and other ongoing Adopt-a-trail activity.

Despite all the good ROMP does, ROMP is only as strong as its membership. Clearly, our membership roll does not reflect the depth of the trail cycling community. Our membership numbers ought to be ever increasing and our the number of active core members should grow proportionally. The reality, however, is that ROMP has been at a membership level plateau for quite a while. New members are incredibly valuable. ROMP's officers would like to provide more services and social events than we are currently able. We place top priority on access issues. As President I have focused what volunteer time I and the active members have on trail work, agency partnerships, and activism. I am thankful for all the assistance and participation we are blessed with. The next ROMP President who succeeds me should focus on increasing our membership and promoting positive social events. When I step down in October, I will continue to maintain my self-defined role in trail leadership and as a liaison to area agencies.

IMBA has crafted a component called "social sustainability" in its trail program. The meaning is implicit. Just as we strive to maintain a system of environmentally sustainable trails which do not silt up streams, negatively impact sensitive habitat and wildlife, respects private property, etc. etc., we also strive to maintain the highest levels of civility, tact, and discretion as we share these trails. The intent is not to pull hydraulic brakes on the simple fun of riding a trail at speed. The reason is so that we can ride again tomorrow; to ensure that the next rider will have the same opportunity you did. It is the right thing to do anyway. Obviously not all cyclists are on board with this program judging from the tiny number of sporadic yet spectacular reports of ludicrous behavior I receive from time to time. I do not ride around with a halo over my head, and I have my share of conflicts out there, but I'm not kidding around. Every rider out there is an ambassador for our particular recreation and our peers. Please use that brain you so carefully ensconce in an approved helmet and think about your actions and the possible reactions before actually going out there and riding like a dream. Mountain bike zombies make trail riding dead as a Dodo Bird.

To sum up, the course is set and it is a tough one. I need you to help this year more than ever. If we all play our roles right, the coming years will see a wonderful increase in real trail mileage for cyclists.

That depends on you.



This single track should be familiar.. It connects Saratoga Gap and Long Ridge.

(Continued from page 3)

the Forest of Nisene Marks is a bone of contention. Our trail access is challenged by a deed restriction which was observed and interpreted by the Judge as prohibiting mountain bikes. However, ROMP and IMBA believe that the Judge is wrong, and that the Judge ignored the law and evidence to the contrary.

"A land owner who depends upon deed restrictions to protect property will probably be disappointed. The most serious disadvantage to deed restrictions is that no third party can be designated to assume monitoring and enforcement responsibility. The law limits who can enforce the restrictions and for how long. Restrictions inserted into a deed that is sold or given away without retaining land nearby, are not enforceable by the seller or it's successors!"

landtrust.org/ProtectingLand/LandAcquisition.htm

The Judge overturned the recently crafted new Master Plan for the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. If this judgment resists appeal, it sets a bad precedent. For one thing, it would demonstrate that Master Plans are ripe for court challenges. One example could be that a group charges an agency with mismanagement over an erosion concern. This in turn could affect the Master Planning processes of other agencies. It could have the effect of chilling new Master Plans in State Parks, already frozen due to budget constraints.

Getting involved with new master planning processes is almost the only way to get agencies to designate more trails as open to bicycling. We are faced with the creation of new management plans for quite a few large and very significant public properties this year.

As in the case of the original Nisene Marks master planning process, the participation of large numbers of people from the community helps authenticate the final product for the agency. When large numbers of cyclists turn up and represent their interests and negotiate appropriate access, the numbers of participants are recorded. If, in the future, the Master Plans are challenged, it will help ensure that the interests of cycling enthusiasts are retained if the record shows that a significant or majority of master plan opinions came from and favored trail access for bikes.

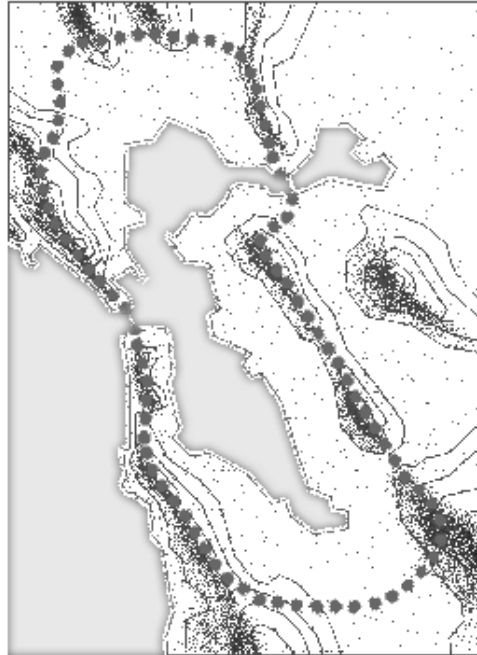
We cannot simply depend on a handful of ROMP officers to represent the mountain bike community. The trail riding community needs to represent itself.

A common thread linking all of the units undergoing master plans is the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Creating a master plan is expensive. Funding for the facilitation comes from grants from the Ridge Trail Council and funds from the agencies themselves and other grantors.

Because the Ridge Trail is philosophically committed to sharing the trail with cyclists we are specifically named and respected stake holders. Now that we have gotten the preliminaries out of the way, what follows is a summary of the units undergoing the development of new management plans.

First is an important summary of the Sanborn Skyline County Park plans extracted from a Coastal Conservancy document. The document speaks for itself. Carefully note the very specific recommendations which implicate other agency holdings and landmarks.

Illegal trail building, closed trail riding, and rude behavior by a small number of mountain bikers are the two things that can eject innocent cyclists from the trails. In the not too distant future these activities will still not only be intolerable, they will be highly controlled, and regulations will be vigorously enforced.



Bay Area Ridge Trail



Fog rolls in to create a dramatic landscape in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

I strongly argue that our land managers need to recognize the need for technically challenging trails and provide opportunities where appropriate. For example, in Sierra Azul, I am asking that the Rattlesnake Trail not be closed and restored, but hardened and designated as a technical mountain bike trail. At the same time, more casual riders who enjoy easier trails should not be penalized either. ROMP must lead the way to educate cyclists to the highest standards of trail etiquette and land stewardship.

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Rocking with IMBA

By Paul Nam

Because this was a great happening with lot's of good people, as a way of saying thanks to Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, Team Wrongway, IMBA, Fox, ROMP and volunteers.

Here's a little bit about my impressions of the IMBA Trail Care Crew visit we had the honor of hosting at Santa Clara County Park and Recreation's beautiful Santa Teresa Park.

The last thing we did was ride up, down and over stuff we worked on. We loved it. Going up and down was a blast. The trail itself is still a fine technical challenge. Our work changed it for good.



I am sure everyone who worked on the trail had sore arms. I do. Much of the trail work dealt with working with rock. We picked up rocks, pried up rocks, picked at rocks, sized up rocks, rolled rocks, examined rock for life, piled rocks in wheelbarrows and pushed them up the rugged trail, dug up rocks, buried rocks, and shaped rocks. We rocked.

Our work focused on the Stile Ranch Trail facing west above Fortini Road, and specifically ended up concentrating on the upper half of the switchbacks up to the top of the climb [or the downhill, depending on how you look at it].

At the direction of the Nat and Rachel Lopes and County Trail Crew Lead Greg Bringelson, and Co. Parks Eric and Lionel, Saturday afternoon and all of Sunday, we built a series of drainage features, rolling grade dips, nicks, de-berming, and rock armoring.



Santa Clara's Resource Supervisor Don Rocha was on hand on Saturday to make sure we respected habitat concerns, especially of the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly.

On the previous Thursday evening, we met for a presentation by the IMBA crew in the Almaden Mining Museum. Nat opened it up with an exciting compilation of helmet cam video-clips, set to a killer techno soundtrack, filmed over the course of the TCC's visits of last year. Nat and Rachael kept up a nice patter of anecdotal riding stories in the background, while naming trails, riders, issues, and clubs featured. After the IMBA presentation a number of us

bellied up to the well down the street at the Almaden Feed and Fuel. It had begun to rain hard.

On Friday it kept raining. And while most of us were at our jobs, the TCC, a few volunteers, and Greg Bringelson, went out to the site for an assessment. They knew this was going to be tough. There was little soil to work with, on a trail so rugged and entrenched. They decided to armor an ephemeral stream ford, de-berm sections, install knicks, and more prevalently somehow scrape together a series of something resembling rolling grade dips out of the rough landscape, and marked these sections with bright orange wire flags.

Before we set to work though, we dutifully underwent the IMBA Trail School, ver. 05. And Saturday arrived dry and sun shiny. Everyone assembled again at the Mining Museum. Trail hounds old and new all learned new tricks. The presentation is updated and includes new modules such as "socially sustainable" concepts, and a look at trail head signage issues.

Then we went out to the trail, assembled for the safety talk and picked our tools to carry from the awesome rig known as the County Parks tool trailer.

The tasks were ambitious and labor intensive. To do something, anything, and even do it half-right was tough. There was little soil to work with, and it even helped that we weren't allowed to broadcast soil down slope (as this could compromise habitat). But what soil we had was perfectly moist and tacky. The weather was perfect.

We are confident that the trail will not turn into a creek during rainstorms for a long time to come. Drainage can still

A Trail Care Crew

be improved and installed on some of the lower switchbacks where we didn't do any work. Two weeks ago there was some good work performed before. The section to the east has received no maintenance. My hope is that someone (Dave, Scott and Bob maybe) from Team Wrongway can get County Crew Lead training so that they can conduct the necessary improvements. [Team Wrongway has Adopted Trails in Santa Teresa Park].

We strove to keep an eye out on the overall flow of the trail and how the work we did could work in harmony with riders, hikers, equestrians and the landscape.

At the top we forced riders through a tight rock chicane and directed them out to the popular smoother outside line of the left sweeping turn. The eroded inside lines were closed by rock barriers. The hope is that this area will be restored and eventually fill with some soil and grass. .

Going downhill, the next right hand switchback was a major job on Sunday. It really needed a proper inslope drain, but the task of filling in the tread to achieve a functional inslope was huge.



Also, this turn had an wonderful berm to bank off, which we wanted to preserve. Then there was an outside drain below which was poorly armored. Hours of work by a half dozen pick swingers and hole diggers transformed this turn, below a nice rugged piece of track, into a fine tight well drained switchback berm turn. We'll keep an eye on this. One concern is whether or not the big rocks we set in will hold up against braking forces.

After that the trail headed downhill at 10% straight line to the final stack of switchbacks. Along here groups built a



series of dips and knicks, which unit Ranger Phil sarcastically remarked resembled some pretty awesome jumps. These features definitely add some action. I can attest from my one speedy test descent (on my hard tail) that while going all out is possible, the strategic corraling rocks help to keep

you in the trail and not wanting to screw up. We wanted to slow riders down a bit, but extreme types will rumble on through anyway. Someone quipped that the rocks will give hikers a place to stand behind as we come down.

Before the switchbacks a large group worked on the stream ford using an incredible array of rock, including a central giant hyperbolically estimated at 500lbs. This construction is very cool and blends right in. It's really amazingly smooth to ride over, like cobblestones. The upside is that this will not be a muddy crossing again. We installed a trail yield triangle sign here.

Then as you dive into the switchbacks there is an amazing series of close set rolling dips which make your handlebars quite a handful as you juke, jab and steer over them. These were definitely not here before, and you will notice them. This takes you to the most rugged sections of the trail where we are going to let nature take its course (now that the water from above is diverted) and eventually to the milder final reaches to the bottom.

Trail work followed by a ride is an amazing bi-athlon event and all-body workout. Maybe we could turn this into a new sporting event:

The Build and Ride.

That this was a very successful event being the biggest gesture of cooperation between ROMP and SC Parks and Recreation in a long time. The key involvement of Team Wrongway in a park they have adopted is invaluable. Everyone, from staff and TCC to volunteer all learned a lot, worked hard, and had fun.

Monthly Rides

Sunday, March 06 2005

10:00 AM First Sunday Social Ride at Saratoga Gap (3:00) B/EASY/11/1500 Meet at 10am at Grizzly Flat on Skyline Blvd (inbetween Junction 9 and Page Mill Road). This is a social ride so there are plenty of breaks, and we wait for everyone. Bring a helmet, water and some power bars. After the ride we will go for lunch in Saratoga. Location: Start at Grizzly Flat Contact Information: Dave Tripier (408) 255-3464 tripier@aol.com

Saturday, March 12 2005

02:30 PM Arastradero Second Saturday Social (2:00) B/EASY/7/900 This friendly, introductory ride covers most major trails in the preserve, including some moderate hills, jumps, tight switchbacks and single track. More skilled riders are encouraged to join us, socialize and provide support. Directions and MapTake Oregon Expressway / Page Mill Rd south past hwy 280. Turn right on Arastradero, and right into the parking lot. Bring your helmet, a snack and water. Rain cancels. Location: Arastradero Open Space Preserve Parking lot near gate A Arastradero Rd. Palo Alto CA Contact Information: Josh Moore (408) 420 7342 josh_moore@comcast.net

Sunday, March 13 2005

10:00 AM Sea Otter Classic Epic Pre - Ride (4:00) There are two planned ROMP rides at Ford Ord, riding some new single track, as we gear up for the Sea Otter Festival. This year ROMP will be supporting the Fun Ride on Saturday, as well as the Epic ride on Thursday during the Sea Otter Classic. Come out for this ride to get familiar with the terrain and enjoy the landscape. Contact Kari or Alex for more details. Location: Leguna Seca Contact Information: Kari Olson, Alex Wassman kariolson@yahoo.com, wassmann2@sbcglobal.net

10:00 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 Meet at 10am at the entrance to SDF on Highland Way. From hwy 17, take the Summit Rd exit and head SE. Go 5 1/2 miles to the first stop sign, turn right and then bear left onto Highland Way. Go another 4 miles to the entrance. More info on SDF at www.mtb.live.com/rides/SoquelDemo.html. Rides will vary covering singletrack such as Ridge, Braille, Tractor, or Sawpit; Double loop option if you didn't have enough fun the first time down. Contact Information: Rich Andrews 408-738-1384 randrews@arc.nasa.gov mtb.live.com/rides/SoquelDemo.html

Tuesday, March 15 2005

05:00 PM 3rd Tuesday Alpine Road (3:00) This year round ride has a couple options on where to meet up. 1st chance is the California ave Caltrain station in Palo Alto @ 5:05 pm, meeting the Northbound#79 and the Southbound#66 trains @

5:05 pm. From here we pedal through Stanford's "Professorville" on lightly travelled streets, over Old Page Mill rd, through Arastradero Preserve to The Portola Valley ranch. The 2nd chance to meet up occurs here @ 6:15, corner of Alpine rd. - Willowbrook in Portola Valley, please park on Willowbrook. The ride then meanders up Alpine rd, following El Corte De Madera creek, all the way to Page Mill rd x Skyline. This 3 hour ride requires the use of lights in the fall- winter months, loaner sets are available, and rear flashing lights are highly recommended. Please contact Jim beforehand for any equipment questions. This complete ride is for intermediate level riders, however, many of our participants show up and ride a portion of the distance just to stretch the legs after work. The main concept of this ride is FUN, any hammeheads are summarily ditched and left to prove something somewhere else Location: California ave Caltrain station in Palo Alto Palo Alto CA Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Saturday, March 19 2005

10:00 AM 3rd Sat NMBP ride (0:00) This is a ride for the NMBP and all those who wish to ride with us and just have fun. I will change the ride location from time to time. But Half the rides will be in Soquel Demo Forest. Be ready to ride at 10:00am. Riding trails and duration will be determined by who the riders are and what there abilities are. This is a social ride for intermediate riders and above. But, know one gets left behind (but me). Location: ride changes monthly Contact Information: Dave Wieland 408 371-2729 trail-dog@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, March 20 2005

10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at SDF (Demo Forest) (3:00) C-D/DIFF/15/3000 -- C-D/16-18/3000-4000

The third Sunday ride is now changing to SDF! Meet at 10am at the entrance to SDF on Highland Way. From hwy 17, take the Summit Rd exit and head SE. Go 5 1/2 miles to the first stop sign, turn right and then bear left onto Highland Way. Go another 4 miles to the entrance. We are going to be lot's of fun with 2 loops of super action :) Location: SDF (Demo Forest) Contact Information: Dave Tripier (408) 255-3464 tripier@aol.com

Saturday, March 26 2005

01:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic (3:00) On the 4th Saturday of each month, meet at 1pm at the Arastradero Preserve, at the main parking area on Arastradero Road. We'll cover the basics of mountain biking while riding a combination of fireroads and singletrack. Be sure to bring a helmet, water, and something to eat. Please RSVP to Jim at 650-493-8774 or ssulljm@juno.com. RSVP is a must, as the meeting spot at the Preserve can vary with

class focus. Map Location: Arastradero Preserve Arastradero Road Palo Alto CA Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Sunday, March 27 2005

10:00 AM Fourth Sunday Ride to Skyline (4:00) C/30/4000 Meet at the corner of Stevens Canyon Rd and Mount Eden Rd at 10:00am for a nice long ride. The route will vary from month to month depending on interest. The general plan is to head up Table Mountain or Monte Bello and explore the many parks and trails off Skyline. Location: Corner of Mt. Eden and Stenvens Canyon rd Cupertino Contact Information: Josh Moore (408) 420 7342 josh_moore@comcast.net

ROMP Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are where the vast majority of ROMP business is conducted. They occur at 7 PM on the fourth Monday of each month (except December) at the Round Table Pizza, Sunnyvale Town and Country (408) 736-2242

Sunday, April 03 2005

10:00 AM First Sunday Social Ride at Saratoga Gap (3:00) B/EASY/11/1500 See March 6 for details.

Saturday, April 09 2005

02:30 PM Arastradero Second Saturday Social (2:00) B/EASY/7/900 See March 12 for details.

Sunday, April 10 2005

10:00 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 See March 13 for details.

Thursday, April 14 2005

11:30 AM MTB Marathon-Sea Otter Classic (7:00) This MTB Marathon is a first for the Sea Otter Classic, which is the largest cycling festival in the world. 11:30am-6pm is the duration of the race. All amateur +pro categories. VOLUNTEERS WANTED to help before and during event!!! Please contact Kari to sign up to volunteer or for more info. Location: Laguna Seca/ Fort Ord Contact Information: Kari Olson kariolson@yahoo.com seaotterclassic.com

Saturday, April 16 2005

10:00 AM 3rd Sat NMBP ride See March 19

Sunday, April 17 2005

10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at SDF (Demo Forest) (3:00) C-D/DIFF/15/3000 -- C-D/16-18/3000-4000 See March 20

Tuesday, April 19 2005

05:00 PM 3rd Tuesday Alpine Road See March 15

Saturday, April 23 2005

01:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic See March 26 for details.

Sunday, April 24 2005

10:00 AM Fourth Sunday Ride to Skyline See March 27

General Ride Info

Ratings code

Pace / Technical difficulty / Mileage / Approximate elevation gain

Pace

A – Slow; social or introductory ride. Riders need not be experienced or fit.

B – Moderate; recreational ride.

C – Quick; fun and fitness ride with multiple hours of strong riding.

D – Sustained, fast; sweaty, intense ride.

E – Hammerfest; riders should have their heads and knees examined!

Pace generally reflects climbing speed; downhill speed in most local areas is limited to 15 mph. A, B, and C rides are “no drop” rides with regroupings as needed and rest breaks appropriate for weather, terrain and pace. D and E rides may drop riders who cannot maintain the pace; the drop policy may be stated in the ride listing, or ask the ride leader.

Technical Difficulty

EASY – Smooth singletrack or fire road; obstacles such as rocks and roots might exist but are not numerous.

INTERmediate – Steep, rutted fire road; singletrack with extended sections that can include medium or large rocks and roots; stream crossings; exposure; long singletrack descents.

DIFFicult – Singletrack with very steep and/or rocky sections; narrow trails; exposed sideslopes; downhill-side-sloped sections.

EXTreme – Singletrack with extended steep climbs or descents over rough terrain; many tight switchbacks and turns. Portions may require portage.

Notes

For your first ROMP ride, try one of our monthly A, B, or C rides to get an idea of pace and technical difficulty.

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL ROMP RIDES. Please be prepared for the ride (make sure your bike is in working order, bring appropriate tools, food, water, clothing, etc.). All riders will need to sign a waiver before every ride; minors will need a parent or guardian to sign their release.

In general, rain at the area of the ride within 48 hours of the ride cancels. But, because different trails can withstand the weather differently, we allow the ride leader to make the final decision. If you are unsure about whether a particular ride will go on, contact the ride leader.

Trail Work

Saturday, March 05 2005

09:00 AM Water Dog Lake new trail construction (5:00) New trail construction. We work 'till 2PM, with a break for lunch, but any time contribution is welcome. E-mail Berry Stevens to sign up & get meet time & place details. Location: Water Dog Lake End of Carlmont Dr Belmont CA Contact Information: Berry Stevens 650-364-6785 bt3mtbiker@earthlink.net

Sunday, March 06 2005

09:00 AM Wilder Ranch Trailwork (4:00) First Sunday Every Month

Monday, March 07 2005

10:00 AM Sea Otter Trail Work (4:00) Trail work in preparation for the Sea Otter Classic. Please contact Berry or Kari for exact details. Location: Leguna Seca Contact Information: Berry Stevens, Kari Olson bt3mtbiker@earthlink.net, karijolson@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 12 2005

09:00 AM Coe TAC Trailwork (4:00) Trailwork in Henry Coe State Park sponsored by the Trail Advisory Council. RSVP to Paul Nam is required. Location and times are subject to change. Generally meet at 9am in Hunting Hollow parking area. Volunteers will not be charged for parking. Duration can vary. Tools provided. Best to bring work gloves, long pants, and long sleeve shirt. Remember water. There may be poison oak - be forewarned. Location: Henry Coe State Park Hunting Hollow Parking area Morgan Hill CA Contact Information: Paul Nam vocinam@yahoo.com

Sunday, March 13 2005

09:00 AM Patrollers Trailwork in Demo (5:00) Join the National Mt Bike Patrollers to do trailwork in the Demo. Contact Dave Weiland for specific time, meeting place and other info. Location: Soquel Demo Forest Contact Information: Dave Weiland 408-371-2729 nmbp@romp.org

Saturday, March 19 2005

09:00 AM Water Dog Lake New Trail Construction See March 5 for details.

Saturday & Sunday, April 2-3 2005

The Bear Pre Dedication Trailwork The Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department is dedicating the new Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park on Saturday, May 14, 2005. Prior to the dedication, we are having trail days on April 2 and 3 in the Bear.

Location: Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park 10840 Coyote Lake Rd Gilroy CA 95020 Contact Information: Paul Nam 408-446-3745 president@romp.org

IMBA Rules of the Trail

ROMP, an IMBA-affiliated organization, supports and practices the IMBA Rules of the Trail. Following these rules is not only key to responsible riding, but essential to keep trails open to cycling.

1. Ride on open trails only.
2. Leave no trace.
3. Control your bicycle.
4. Always yield trail.
5. Never spook animals.
6. Plan ahead.

Newsletter Mailing Party

This fun is repeated bi-monthly. If you would like to help next time (and eat some pizza and talk bikes at the same time), contact Glenn Wegner 408-257-8284 newsmailing@romp.org

Land Manager Meetings

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) oversees many open space preserves throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Board of director's meetings are open to the public on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM in the district offices at 330 Distel Circle (off El Camino Real north of Rengstorff), Los Altos. The MROSD also holds Trail Policy Committee meetings which develop and implement trail use policy.

Los Gatos Trails Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6 to 7 PM at 41 Miles Avenue, Los Gatos.

Santa Clara County Group of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Committee (BARTC) meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Greenbelt Alliance, 1922 The Alameda, Santa Clara (may change – call before attending). Call Judy Etheridge at 408-248-3900.

San Mateo County Group of the BARTC meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM to 12 noon at Coyote Point Museum (odd months) and other locations (even months). Call Bill Smith at 650-873-0415 for meeting locations and other information.

Mountain Cyclist

The Mountain Cyclist is the monthly newsletter of the Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers

Send general newsletter material directly to the editor (not to the club PO box):

◇ newsletter@romp.org

Send ride listings to the club web master

◇ Josh Moore (408) 420 7342

webmaster@romp.org

In the March 2005 issue of Mountain Bike Action, Richard Cunningham's editorial confirms my position: "Clearly we need to act quickly and work with federal and state land managers to develop sustainable black-diamond trails near population areas...IMBA has all the pieces in place: written guidelines, trained advisors, and the Subaru Trail Crew, but they need a focused and committed effort on the local level to make it happen. This means cyclists who have a working relationship with area land managers, volunteers to dig and clear, and solid funding." - page 10, Mountain Bike Action, March 2005 issue.

ROMP needs your help. At this time the precise schedule for meetings is unavailable. Please check agency web sites and ROMP's email list and website for updates.

Romp Directory

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National Mtn Bike Patrol	Dave Wieland	408-371-2729	nmbp@romp.org
Web Master	Josh Moore	408-420-7342	webmaster@romp.org

Coastal Conservancy on the Bay Area Ridge Trail

Excerpts from www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scccb/0412bb/0412Board20I_Sanborn_County_Park.pdf

The Trail Master Plan will identify the route and design parameters for a new 6-mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail through Sanborn County Park. This new trail segment will connect to lengthy existing segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail at Castle Rock State Park to the north and to Lexington Reservoir County Park, St. Joseph Hill Open Space Preserve, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, and Almaden Quicksilver County Park to the south.

The plan will identify improvements to existing trails as well as designate park trail uses. Currently the park does not allow for multiple uses on its trails. This plan will allow for the development of a multi-use Ridge Trail segment and adoption of that use in the Master Plan. Trail widths will vary from between five and ten feet, with two-foot shoulders, to be sensitive to environmental conditions and terrain and to promote trail safety by limiting the speed of bicyclists in some areas.

Site Description: The project is located in the Santa Cruz Mountain Range in western Santa Clara County. The project will focus on trail planning for a major gap of the Ridge Trail between Highways 35 and 17 (Exhibit 1) within Sanborn County Park. The County will develop plans for the Bay Area Ridge Trail as a multi-use trail connecting Sunnyvale Mountain to Lexington Reservoir through Lyndon Canyon. This project will be an integral part of the Sanborn Park Trail Master Plan necessary for implementing multi-use access to this park where multi-use is currently not allowed. Sanborn County Park is a lushly wooded park of over 3,688 acres nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains between Saratoga and Skyline Boulevard. This mountain park of Redwoods, Douglas Fir, and Tan Bark Oak, offers hiking, camping, and picnicking opportunities year round and serves a diverse regional community. . .

3. Support of the public: This project is supported by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to completing the Ridge Trail. **The Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers**, representing a diverse coalition of mountain biking enthusiasts, has expressed a strong support for this planning project. State Senator McPherson and Assembly member Simitian, as well as the City of Saratoga, Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County, California's Department of State Parks, and all local cities and county jurisdictions are supportive of developing this trail plan for the future enjoyment of this park.

Future Planned Regional Trail System in Project Vicinity

As described in Section I. F.(2) Local Plans and Policies (Countywide Trails Master Plan Update), there are several planned, but not yet constructed, segments of regional trail routes in the immediate vicinity of the existing haul truck route to SR17. These trail segments are part of the designated regional trail routes for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail) Northern Recreation Retracement Route (as designated by the National Park Service) and the Bay Area Ridge Trail route.

In the project vicinity, the future Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment is proposed to travel from the currently dedicated trail segment at the juncture of Priest Rock Trail and Banjo Point at the eastern shoreline of Lexington Reservoir to Alma Bridge Road, across Lenihan Dam and along the west side of Lexington Reservoir to the unpaved trail within the SR 17 right-of-way. The unpaved trail along SR17 between the Old Santa Cruz Highway Bear Creek Road intersection and the Alma Bridge Road/SR17 intersection provides a continuation of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and Anza Trail routes to Lyndon Canyon, west of SR17, and eventually to Sanborn-Skyline County Park.

Other Cycling Organizations

Access 4 Bikes access4bikes.com
PO Box 526, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

Bay Area Velo Girls

650-347-9752 velogirls.com

Bicycle Trails Council of Marin (BTCM)

PO Box 494, Fairfax CA 94978

415-456-7512 btcmarin.org

Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB)

PO Box 9583, Berkeley CA 94709

415-528-BIKE btceastbay.org

Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition

916-663-4626 fatrac.org

International Mt. Biking Association (IMBA)

PO Box 7578, Boulder CO 80306

303-545-9011 imba.com

Monterey Mt. Bike Association (MoMBA)

PO Box 51928, Pacific Grove CA 93590

408-372-2134

Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBoSC)

president@mbosc.org mbosc.org

Northern California Mountain Biking Association (NorCaMBA)

norcamba.org suefry@norcamba.org

Sonoma County Trails Council (SCTC)

sonomatrails.org/sctc/

San Jose Inner City Outings (San Jose ICO)

sierraclub.org/ico/sanjose/

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

svbcbikes.org

Western Wheelers Bicycle Club

westernwheelers.org

Women's Mt. Biking and Tea Soc (WoMBATS)

wombats.org

ROMP Membership Application, Renewal, Change of Address, and Donation Form

ROMP is a group of local, energetic mountain bikers who have discovered the need for an active representation for the mountain biking public, and for an organized, responsible attitude in the practices of off-road bicyclists. ROMP needs YOUR support to help these changes come about.

Fill in all information whether you are a new or renewing member. Failure to include all information will delay your membership. Please print legibly.

Name**Additional Family members****Address****City****State****Zip****Phone****email****Membership Type Individual (\$20.00) Family (\$25.00) Student (\$10.00)**

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Send Newsletter

Via US postal service Just send me an email when the news is online

Club Directory — please list my

Name Address phone email Do not list me in the directory

I'd like to help with

Education Trail work Fundraising Letter writing

Event coordination Newsletter articles Ride leadership Social events

Release of Liability Agreement

Upon acceptance of my membership in Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (ROMP), and while participating in any group event sanctioned, sponsored or organized by ROMP, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, assigns, successors and administrators, release, waive and discharge any and all claims for liability or damages resulting from death, personal injury or damage to any property which may occur, or which may later become accountable to me as a result, directly or indirectly of my participation in ROMP events (group rides). I fully understand this release is intended to unconditionally release, in advance, ROMP from any and all liability pursuant to or arising from my participation in club event, EVEN WHEN SUCH LIABILITY ARISES OUT OF NEGLIGENCE OR CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF ROMP, its members, officers, and representatives.

Signature Date

Parent signature (if under 18) Date

Send this form with check payable to:

ROMP - Attention: Membership, PO Box 1723, Campbell CA 95009-1723

Did you complete all information, sign your name, and enclose your check?

Thank you, and welcome to ROMP!

Jersey Sale!

Jerseys: \$55 + \$2 shipping

The new, green, light blue, and yellow Jerseys have arrived! These Voler Jerseys run a little small so we suggest ordering one size larger than normal.

To order, fill out the following:

(or pick them up at a club meeting or by arrangement at a club ride)

Size	Color (olive or forest)	Qty.	Subtotal

Order total : _____

Shipping \$2 ea.: _____

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Address _____

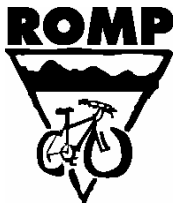
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Light&Motion, 300 Cannery Row, Monterey, 831.645-1538 bikelights.com



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Palo Alto Bicycles 170 University Ave. Palo Alto 650-328-7411
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Zanotti Cycles 4396 Enterprise Place, Suite A; Fremont, CA 94538. 510-490-4030. info@zanotticycles.com



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BikeMapDude: bikemapdude.com



Walt's Cycle and Fitness Walt's Cycle and Fitness. 116 Carroll Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 408-736-2630

Calabazas Cyclery 6140 Bollinger Rd., San Jose 408-366-2453 calabazas.com



Crossroads Bicycles 217 N Santa Cruz Ave # C, Los Gatos, CA 408-354-0555

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Chain Reaction 1451 El Camino Real, Redwood City 650-366-6620; 2310 Homestead (at Foothill Plaza), Los Altos 408-735-8735

Posture Pros Personal Training 955 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024 650.224.4354 al@posturepros.net

