



MOUNTAIN CYCLIST

LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2006

Meet the New President

By Josh Moore, ROMP President

I was reluctant to become the next President of ROMP. Paul Nam provided outstanding leadership and insight over the last three years. His passion for the outdoors and familiarity with San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties gave him the knowledge and motivation to take ROMP to a new level of participation in the trail users' community. I was comfortable doing newsletter layout and being webmaster. I have only lived in the bay area five years, and am still learning the area. So why did my colleagues vote me into this office, and why did I accept? Following is a little bit about me, and the opportunities I see for ROMP in the near future.

I was living in Northampton, MA when I bought my first mountain bike. It was 1991, and the bike was a fully rigid Mongoose IBOC. We rode year round on muddy, often frozen trails in small parks and on private lands. Trails were there to be ridden, with no concern for sustainability, and the idea that there were people who managed the land never entered my mind.

After riding for a few years in Cracow State Forest on a Trek 800, to the Zoo and beyond, and teaching English in between rides, I moved to the bay area to become a programmer. That was 2000. I bought my third bike, a



Schwinn Mesa with a front shock. Despite having given up smoking more than a year prior, I was still in bad shape. Riding up from the dam in Steven's Canyon into Fremont Older required me to stop three times. It was a big deal when I made it all the way up without stopping, and rode my first Wednesday Night Fremont Older with the Wegners. I had progressed to become an intermediate rider!

Five years, a 12K (vertical feet) ride, and two more bikes later (road bikes don't count), I still feel I owe a lot to ROMP. I still don't smoke. I have ridden a lot of trails, and hiked many in between. I've made countless

friends. I have learned a great deal about salmonoid species, geology, and tools named after Scots and Poles. I want to make sure that ROMP is around for others to find, learn, and grow. My colleagues recognize my dedication to ROMP and believe I can lead it in positive directions.

During my tenure as ROMP President, I want more people to have the kind of experience I have had. On one hand, we need to attract more cyclists to support ROMP. On the other, we need to create more opportunities to mountain bike in the bay area. More active cyclists and more riding opportunities are the two major goals of my presidency.

We need to attract more members, and increase the contribution of those members, ROMP is going to do more outreach to disseminate information to the mountain bike community. Our community needs to know what we have accomplished, and what challenges we face in the future. We need to raise awareness of who manages which lands. We need to have more, easier group rides that are attractive to beginning riders. The benefits of ROMP membership need to be more clear. In order to do that, I hope to develop better relationships with industry sponsors. We need them to participate in ROMP's leadership, and provide big incentives

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MROSD Trail Use Guidelines

By Josh Moore, ROMP President

I recently attended a Use and Management meeting at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) to discuss interim trail closures in four preserves. All of the trails are of interest to cyclists. Soda Gulch in Purisima Creek would provide an off road loop. A section of trail in Skyline Open Space Preserve (OSP) is an alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and is a great alternative to the wide, steep fire road that is currently open to bikes. Black Mountain Trail would provide a regional connector to the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Los Altos. The Zinfandel Trail in Picchetti Ranch OSP would provide an alternative to Steven's Canyon Road, as well as rare, relatively flat trail appropriate for beginners.

Unfortunately, none of the temporary closures were changed to permit cycling. Within the first fifteen minutes of the meeting, I had a fairly good understanding why. MROSD has well-defined trail use guidelines that they do a good job of following. Although many in the mountain biking community would disagree with these guidelines, I thought it would be informative to print excerpts courtesy of MROSD here.

What are trail use guidelines?

Trail use guidelines are quantitative and qualitative factors considered in determining trail use designations. Quantitative factors include physical characteristics of a trail such as trail width and grade, line-of-sight and side slopes. Qualitative factors are more subjective in nature and address existing trail use conflicts, other

preserve activities, trail use on adjacent lands, and past, present and future trail use.

Trail use guidelines are designed to assist the District staff and Board of Directors in implementing adopted trail use policies. The guidelines are meant to be principles that direct the judgment and decision making process. They are intended to provide flexibility in the planning and management of the District's trail system.

The District is currently developing accessibility plans that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the process, trail access for visitor's having disabilities is being addressed. When completed, trail use considerations contained in the ADA Plan will be incorporated into the trail use guidelines.

What are trail class designations?

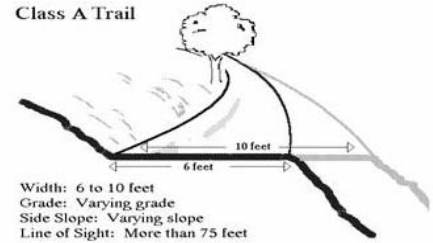
The District's trail system is characterized by a wide variety of physical trail conditions. The majority of trails fall into three classes which are described, herein, as Class A, B and C. Together, these three classes are believed to represent approximately 75% of the District's trail system.

The District's Trail use policies state, "This set of policies is intended as a guide in establishing trail use designations throughout the District which will promote safe and enjoyable experiences for all who use the District lands. These policies are not intended to restrict who may use the District trails, but they may restrict how, or under what conditions, the trails are to be used."

Of particular interest are policies 2.5

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Class A Trail



Width: 6 to 10 feet
Grade: Varying grade
Side Slope: Varying slope
Line of Sight: More than 75 feet

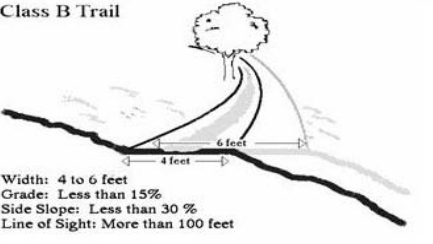
Trail Use Suitability
Hiking, Equestrian, Running, Bicycling

Examples
Monte Bello - Upper & Lower Canyon Trail
Russian Ridge - Ridge Trail

Statistics
approximately 60% of District trails

Significant Problems
Speed increases on wide trails and roads

Class B Trail



Width: 4 to 6 feet
Grade: Less than 15%
Side Slope: Less than 30 %
Line of Sight: More than 100 feet

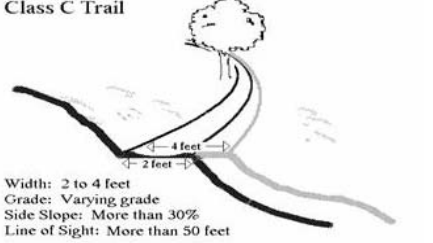
Trail Use Suitability
Hiking, Equestrian, Running, Bicycling

Examples
Long Ridge - Parking to Peters Creek
Monte Bello - Parking lot to Skyline

Statistics
approximately 10% of District trails

Significant Problems
Passing often requires moving off trail

Class C Trail



Width: 2 to 4 feet
Grade: Varying grade
Side Slope: More than 30%
Line of Sight: More than 50 feet

Trail Use Suitability
Hiking, Running

Examples
Purisima Creek Redwoods - Soda Gulch Trail
St. Joseph's Hill - Jones Trail

Statistics
Represents approximately 5% of District trails

Significant Problems
Speed is alarming on blind turns

A Call To Action

The Importance of Supporting the Ridge Trail

By Paul Nam

This is a call for renewed support for the Bay Area Ridge Trail (BART, Ridge Trail). The ear-shaped blue and white Ridge Trail marker logo is regarded as a herald of bike legal trails and the promise of a continuous 500 mile trail around the San Francisco Bay Region. We enjoy and benefit from the regional trail connections that the Ridge Trail provides. As of this writing, approximately 289 miles of Ridge Trail have been dedicated. ROMP wants you to know how and why we can support the Ridge Trail. This is a call to action.

According to Ridge Trail Executive Director, Holly Van Houten:

“While not all of the 289 miles dedicated are open to cyclists, about 80% of the trail is open to bikes. Since 2000, when the Ridge Trail became a funded project of the Coastal Conservancy, the track record on opening new bike trails - including new singletrack - has been good. Of the last 85 miles of trail opened, only 1/4 of one mile was not opened to bicycles.” [And one mile not open to equestrians.]

This is evidence why cyclists should support the Ridge Trail. Attention needs to be paid to future challenges to the Ridge Trail. Incorporated in 1991, the non-profit 501(c)(3) BART Council (BARTC) has goals to



dedicate 300 miles of trail by the end of 2005, and 400 miles in 2010. With approximately 4,500 members, a variety of funding sources including the California Coastal Conservancy, and established cooperative relationships

with local agencies and governments, you might think that the Ridge Trail is a done deal and a slam-dunk. But it isn't. Many of the remaining miles are more difficult to come by.

The extant 289 miles of Ridge Trail fall short of the 300 mile goal for 2005. The wet spring of 2005 delayed trailbuilding activity, and the remaining miles are under construction for dedication next spring. But many

other reasons, beyond weather, conspire against the completion of the Ridge Trail. Much of the remaining Ridge Trail expansion incurs costly land acquisition, litigious easement procurement, creative trail planning, laborious construction, and integration into public parks and preserves that hinge on future master planning processes and negotiations. These formidable obstacles will be overcome expediently if popular opinion and the evident support and assistance of the bicycle community can be brought to bear upon the situation. That means us. We need to be more involved.

Let's look at the origins and history of the Ridge Trail. The conclusions from an important Congressional Commission Report ordered by President Ronald Reagan in 1985 may be one of the key origins of the Ridge Trail. This document is known as the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors or PCAO. The commission

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to make ROMP more attractive to cyclists. Similarly, we need local shops to recognize the importance of ROMP and advocacy in creating and maintaining areas where you can ride those bikes.

I have high expectations for what we can achieve with land managers. Generally, ROMP would like to see more regional trails and regional trail connectors. These trails should be narrow, single track with technical trail features, such as steps or drop offs, twists, grade reversals, water bars, and occasional obstacles in the trail bed. The biggest regional trail in the area is the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which is intended to be a multiuse trail that circumnavigates the entire bay area, approximately 500 miles in total. ROMP is working to ensure that the multiuse goal is achieved. Part of the Ridge Trail's concept involves regional trail connectors from urban areas, which ROMP also supports. We are also interested in Bay Area to the ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and from the ridge to the sea. I hope to work with other user groups to help reach these goals.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area includes parks that have great potential for regional trails. On the peninsula, these include Phleger and Sweeney Ridge. Proximity to El Corte de Madera and Purissima Creek Open Space Preserves (OSP) in the Midpeninsula Open Space District (MROSD) make Phleger and Sweeney Ridge especially attractive opportunities for cyclists, and regional trail connectors. In San Francisco, the Presidio is an important section of the Ridge Trail.

On MROSD lands, we will work for more fire road to single track conversions, and more narrow single track open to cyclists, even though this may require a revision of trail use guidelines. We will work for multiuse access in new lands such as La Honda Creek OSP, and Driscoll and Big Dipper Ranches. We will continue to be active in the master planning process for Sierra Azul, where new single track and fire road conversions would be highly desirable. We are working for regional trail connectors from Los Gatos to Soquel Demonstration Forest.

For San Mateo County Parks, 2005

was a watershed year. San Mateo Parks Commissioners recommended a bike trail through Huddart to Skyline in their Master Plan for Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. We will work to get the directors to adopt this policy, as well as get new and existing sections of the Bay Area Ridge Trail open to cyclists.

Santa Clara County Parks is beginning a Master Plan for Sanborn Skyline Park. This is a critical section of trail that could connect Saratoga Gap with the cities of Los Gatos and Saratoga by multiuse dirt trails. We continue to have opportunities to build new single track in Coyote Bear, in Gilroy, which could provide dirt access from Gilroy into Henry Coe. Future years could also see Master Plans for Mount Madonna and Calero Parks, which would provide more opportunities for cyclists.

There are great opportunities in State Parks as well. Henry Coe has acquired new property, and there is potential for new trails in the Gilroy Hot Springs area. Towards the coast, Big Basin, Butano, Coastal Diaries and Portola State Parks could become part of a huge network of trails from the bay area to the sea. These connectors are currently closed to cyclists, but the remote trails are ideal for mountain biking. To the North, McNee, Montara State Beach and the Devil's slide bypass all present great opportunities for cycling that we will need to protect in the future.

The importance of regional creek trails such as Stevens Creek and Los Gatos Creek, and city parks such as Water Dog in Belmont, Arastradero in Palo Alto and Calabazas in San Jose should not be underestimated. While these parks are small, they provide some great riding for before or after work and often have some technical features. ROMP will continue to work with cities to protect our access to these trails.

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urged Congress to provide at least \$1 billion per year on outdoor recreation for sixty specific recommendations. These included, education, public services, and volunteers to protect, restore, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities with corridors of private and public lands to provide people with access to open spaces close to where they live. It also found that cooperation between government agencies and the private sector is needed. [Sound familiar? These are also essential functions of ROMP.]

According to National Park Service web resources:

“In March 1987, William Penn Mott, Jr., then director of the NPS, articulated the vision of a ridge trail at a state parks and recreation conference in San Francisco. In May 1987, Mark Evanoff of Greenbelt Alliance convened a strategy meeting on how to persuade the San Francisco Water Department to



report be carried out in the Bay Area.”

The Ridge Trail Council founders procured funds through this instrument, navigated the complex multi-agency and municipality bureaucratic landscape, and forged the backbone of the Ridge Trail System. By the end of 1995 the first 200 miles of the Ridge Trail were dedicated. The majority of miles were made possible by incorporating existing trail corridors into the trail system. These initial miles were the easiest ones to get.

The foundation of the Ridge Trail is based upon a grand vision borne from a long process of rigorous analysis legitimized by our government. National Trail Days are also part of that legacy. It is our prerogative, as the private sector, to continue to support these values and help our local agencies meet

objectives and finish the Ridge Trail.

Locally the Ridge Trail alignment is implicated in virtually all master planning processes on public lands. Sometimes the Ridge Trail is the catalyst for a new master plan. Because the Ridge Trail espouses multi-use, cyclists ought to be backing

the Ridge Trail, big time. Do not confuse the reluctance of land managers to grant bicycle access with the attitude of the Ridge trail Council. We must partner with the Ridge Trail Council as volunteers, advocates, and advisors to champion multi-use access.

How? There are many ways. You can attend trail dedications. You can join. You can write. You can volunteer. Currently there remains a critical need for a bicycling representative on the San Mateo County Ridge Trail Committee. It is untenable to keep this post vacant because exciting new alternatives are now being brought to the table in San Mateo that in previous years seemed unthinkable. In general these are potential new alignments and new trails through lands where bikes are currently prohibited, in some cases where no public use has ever been entertained before, and bear critically upon the sort of regional trail connections ROMP strongly advocates for.

As a way of conveying how important it is for cyclists to be involved at all stages, especially the early ones, we can look at the results of the MROSD's Land Use and Management Committee meetings of Nov. 1 and Nov. 30, 2005. These meetings were ultimately to ban bikes permanently from 4 particular trail sections by changing their use status definition

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open their watershed lands to the public given their high recreational value. At the meeting, Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), proposed that the spirit of the recently-released President's Commission on Americans Outdoors

Monthly Rides

Sundays

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 (in between 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. Contact Information: Dave Tripiet (408) 255-3464 tripiet@aol.com

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 .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

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 :) Contact Information: Dave Tripiet (408) 255-3464 tripiet@aol.com

10:00 AM Fourth Sunday Ride to Skyline (4:00) C/30/4000 New Starting place. Meet at the corner of Stevens Canyon Rd and Redwood Gulch 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. Contact Information: Josh Moore (408) 420 7342 josh_moore@comcast.net

10:00 AM Last Sunday - Wilder Ranch Ride (4:30) Enjoy 14 miles of single track along with breath-taking views of Monterey Bay. 1800' of elevation gain, Intermediate/Advanced ride... Regroup at each trailhead. Good food after. Meet in the parking lot near the restrooms. For more info, please email or call... M & J Location: Wilder Ranch State Park Santa Cruz CA Contact Information: Michael & Jain Light 831-662-9744 malight@pacbell.net

3rd Tuesdays

04:30 PM Alpine Road (3:00) This year round ride has a couple options on where to meet up. First chance meets the #262southbound@ 4:33 pm, + #169 northbound also @4:33 at the California Ave. caltrain station. RSVP a must if you plan on attending this ride, as the meeting places will vary depending on weather. From here we pedal through Stanford's "Professorville" on lightly traveled streets, over Old Page Mill rd, through Arastradero Preserve to The Portola Valley ranch . The 2nd chance to meet up occurs here @ 5:45, 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

Calendar

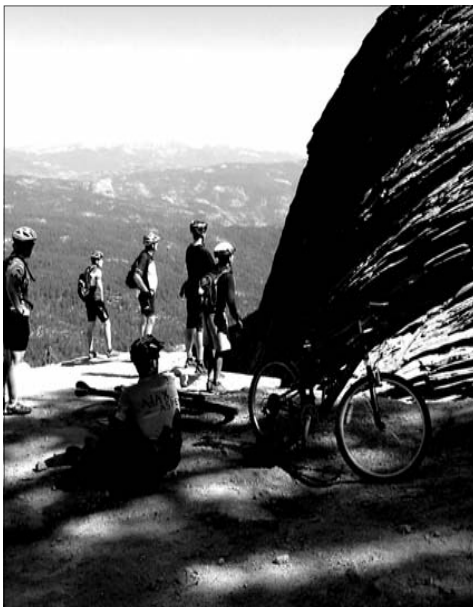
a portion of the distance just to stretch the legs after work. The main concept of this ride is FUN, any hammeheads are summarily ditched and left to prove something somewhere else. Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Saturdays

2:30PM 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 Map. Take 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

10:00 AM 3rd Sat NMBP ride (4:00) 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 their 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 traildog@sbcglobal.net

01:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic (3:00) 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. Location: Arastradero Preserve Arastradero Road Palo Alto CA Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com



Special Events

IMBA/Subaru Trail Care Crew

IMBA / Subaru Trail Care Crew is Coming to work with ROMP January 27 - 30. This is a terrific opportunity to break into the art of trail work, and give back to the land. If you are already a trailworker, this is a great opportunity to learn more and hone your skills with the experts. More details to come about location.

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@mboosc.org mboosc.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

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 regroup 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

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

Tom Oshima
webmaster@romp.org

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



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.

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 bar-
ryb@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. Mon-
terey District Superintendent C.L. Price

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space
District 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos 94022;
650-691-1200; info@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

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.

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and 3.1. Policy 2.5 stresses the MROSD's commitment to keeping the bay Area Ridge Trail a multiuse trail, as well as providing regional connectors to the Ridge Trail. The permanent closure of a section of Ridge Trail in Skyline OSP, and the closure of Black Mountain Trail seem to contradict this guideline. On the other hand, short sections of these trails are narrow and would be classified as Class C trail, which is reserved for hikers. In addition, currently over 65% of MROSD trails are open to cyclists.



Ultimately, it is up to each of us to decide whether our MROSD cup is two thirds full or one third empty. Then again, I tend to prefer quality over quantity. To me a quality trail is narrow, winding and rolling, with roots and rocks in the trail bed. With a few exceptions such as Saratoga Gap and El Corte de Madera OSPs, cyclists may need to go to other land managers to enjoy the kind of trail experience we prefer.

POLICIES

1.0 The District will endeavor to provide a variety of satisfying trail use opportunities on open space preserves throughout the District. More specifically, the District will endeavor to:

1.1 Provide multiple use on individual trails where such use is consistent with the balance of these policies.

1.2 Protect the opportunity for tranquil nature study and observation, especially in those areas identified as providing a unique wilderness experience.

2.0 The District will designate appropriate use (s) for each trail. Uses will be allowed that are consistent with District's objectives for sound resource management and safe and compatible use. More specifically, the District will:

2.1 Allow trail use appropriate to the nature of the land and consistent with the protection of the natural, scenic and aesthetic values of open space.

2.2 Within budgetary and staffing constraints, make reasonable efforts to provide safe conditions for trail users.

2.3 Evaluate trail user needs, concerns, quality of experience, impacts, and the compatibility of various uses. Those uses creating the least conflict among trail users and the least environmental impact will be given greatest preference in trail use planning.

2.4 Ensure that all District trails will be accessible to hiking. When consistent with this policy, if a non-hiking use adversely impacts user safety, the use may be restricted or redirected. The intention is not to restrict access by any individual, but rather to limit incompatible uses and means of travel.

2.5 The District will strive to provide multi-use trail access (including bicycles) to dedicated sections of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and other regional trails by allowing exceptions to preserve bicycle closures for

the Ridge Trail. The District will also strive to provide multi use trail access to regional trails connecting urban areas to the Ridge Trail. Access to such regional connecting trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, including consideration of availability of suitable regional trailhead staging, the availability of other alternative multi-use trail connections in the same region, and the completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The district will encourage other agencies to provide Ridge Trail and regional trail connections on the same basis.

3.0 The Board of Directors will adopt qualitative and quantitative trail use guidelines to aid the Board and staff in determining trail use designations in the implementation of these policies.

3.1 As a planning tool to aid the Board and staff in determining future trail use designations, the District will consider, along with the Trail Use Guidelines and these Policies, a guideline target trail use designation

ratio of 60% to 65% multi-use trails (including bicycles) to 35% to 40% hiking or hiking-and-equestrian trails (excluding bicycles). This will not be a quantitative restriction, but a flexible planning tool to consider. Actual use designation of trails and preserves will only be established after the Use and Management Planning Process and CEQA process have been completed.

4.0 Specific trail use designations will be established and reviewed periodically through the Use and Management Planning Process, and will be subject to adopted Public Notification Procedures. Trail use designations may change if use patterns develop that are in conflict with these policies.

4.1 In extreme cases where there is not sufficient time to comply with the Use and Management Planning Process, the Board of Directors or General Manager may make an interim decision to limit use while providing an evaluation process and timeline for final determination of the designated use.

5.0 The District will endeavor to provide trail access for a variety of physical capabilities and user needs (including persons with physical limitations) in a manner consistent with resource protection goals, budgetary constraints, and state and federal regulations.

6.0 The District will carry out management programs necessary for the implementation of these trail use policies. The designation of appropriate trail use as a method of minimizing trail use conflicts and environmental impacts will require a significant increase in trail use measures such as education, physical improvements to trails, and enforcement of trail use regulations. More specifically, the District will:

6.1 Support trail use actions with a strong educational program. The District recognizes that education in proper trail etiquette and low-impact use is a key measure towards the reduction of negative trail use impacts.

6.2 Monitor trail use conditions on a regular basis. The purpose of a monitoring program will be to evaluate current conditions and to determine whether or not trail management programs, including maintenance, reconstruction, education, and use regulations, are effective in addressing user conflicts and environmental impacts, and to recommend changes if necessary.

6.3 Include implementation costs in determining the feasibility of trail use designations and regulations.

7.0 The District will work with other agencies, interest groups, and private landowners in an effort to promote an interconnecting trail system throughout the region. The District recognizes that connections should be compatible with other jurisdiction designations and land owner objectives as well as these policies and trail use guidelines.

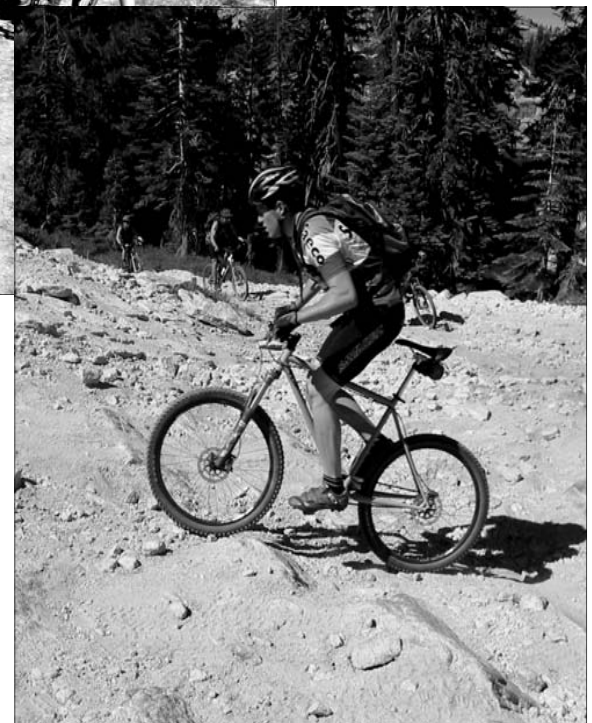
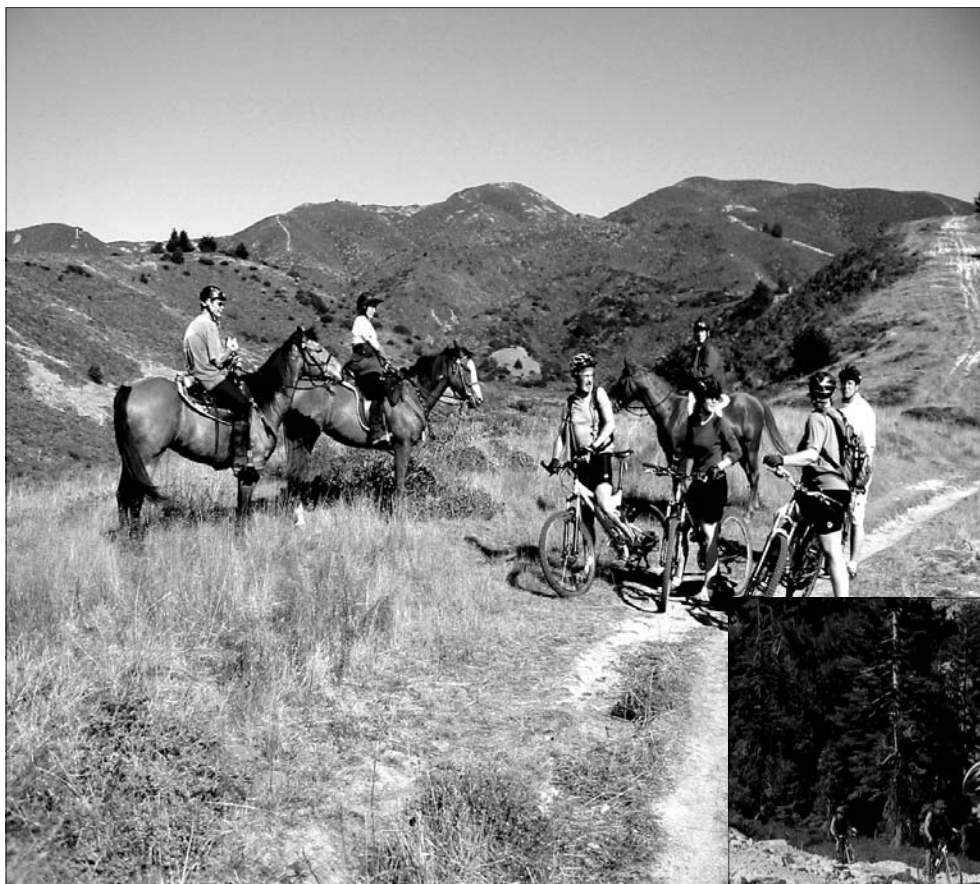
8.0 The District recognizes that existing trail use characteristics such as the types of use, conflicts, and impacts may change over time so that certain policies may no longer be appropriate or a new policy may be required. Hence, these policies will be subject to review and revision as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, following adopted Public Notification procedures.

(Continued from page 5)

from interim closure, to permanently restricted. The trails in question were: Zinfandel, Picchetti Ranch OSP; Black Mtn, Rancho San Antonio OSP; Ridge section, Skyline OSP; and Soda Gulch, Purisima OSP. The Ridge Trail was implicated in all of them except the Zinfandel

Trail. We'll never know in retrospect whether things could have ended up otherwise, but one can't help but wonder if more cycling advocates were around at the inception of these trails insisting that the Ridge Trail and it's regional connector trails be multi-use, campaigned for better trail design, and advocated responsibly, we wouldn't have so many Ridge Trail sections that occasionally braid with detours for cyclists and equestrians through Mid-Pen lands as we currently do. Where the Ridge Trail goes next, and who gets to use it, is in part up to us. You need to get involved to make sure that we do not get elbowed out again. Don't just sit on your bike saddle and complain. I'll give you no respect for that. Get off your ass and do something for the future. Instant gratification has its shortcomings.

This article is written with the intention to beat the bushes for cycling advocates, old and new, to come forward and help the Ridge Trail prosper in their community. In future issues we'll explore the details of specific challenges and opportunities, past, current, and



(Continued from page 4)

I am excited about being ROMP President. Opportunities abound to improve mountain biking in the bay area. ROMP is a fantastic organization and I want it to stay that way. ROMP exists to advocate for the mountain bike community. Let me know what you would

future, to the Ridge Trail. As a way to conclude this, let's leave it to Ridge Trail Executive Director, Holly Van Houten to sum it up:

“In our own area, Ridge Trail projects include planning and building a new staging area of Hwy 35 in ECdM OSP, acquiring properties to link ECdM with La Honda OSP, creating a through route for cyclists in Windy Hill OSP, extending public access in Sierra Azul south of Jaques Ridge, and working with Santa Clara County Parks and Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to acquire new lands for public trail access. BARTC is also planning two work days in May and June together with REI to maintain a section of the Skyline Trail, north of Saratoga Gap and will need cyclists to come out and volunteer. To find out more about the work of the council, to volunteer, or become a member, visit their website at www.ridgetrail.org or by calling 415-561-2595.”

like to see happen by coming on one of my rides, or sending me an email at president@romp.org.

ROMP needs you, too. There are a great number of opportunities coming up in the next few years, that could greatly change where and how you ride your bike. How can you help? You can come to our regular meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at Round Table Pizza. There is always more to do than we have people to do it. Join us at a Land Manager meeting. Write a letter or an email when we ask you to. Support ROMP by becoming a member or making a donation. Thanks!

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National Mtn Bike Patrol	Dave Wieland	408-371-2729	nmbp@romp.org
Web Master	Tom Oshima		webmaster@romp.org



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

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.

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Via US postal service Just send me an email		New Renewal Change of Address Donation \$

READ AND SIGN WAIVER BELOW (Required each year to process membership)

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WHEELMEN d/b/a LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS ("LAB") RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AND PARENTAL CONSENT AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT") IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity"), I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the Activity and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that:(a)BICYCLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS, AND DEATH ("RISKS"); (b)these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW; (c)there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation or that of the minor in the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Club, the LAB, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, members, volunteers, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the RELEASEES, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such claim.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

X _____ X _____

(Release Signature of Applicant) (Release Signature(s) Of Additional Family Members 18 and Over)

FOR MINORS ONLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

AND I, THE MINOR'S PARENT AND/OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF BICYCLING ACTIVITIES AND THE MINOR'S EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES AND BELIEVE THE MINOR TO BE QUALIFIED, IN GOOD HEALTH, AND IN PROPER PHYSICAL CONDITION TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITY. I HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON THE MINOR'S ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND FURTHER AGREE THAT IF, DESPITE THIS RELEASE, I, THE MINOR, OR ANYONE ON THE MINOR'S BEHALF MAKES A CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF THE RELEASEES NAMED ABOVE, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ANY LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY FEES, LOSS LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR COST ANY MAY INCUR AS THE RESULT OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

(Print Name Of Parent/Guardian) (Print Address and Phone Number If Different from Above)

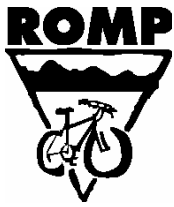
X _____

(Release Signature of Parent/Guardian) (Please print names and ages of minors)

Questions? For new member information, call Linda Wegner (408) 257-8284

Send this form with check payable to

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- MROSD Trail Use Guidelines 2**
- A Call To Action 3**
- Calendar 6-7**

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