



MOUNTAIN CYCLIST

LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

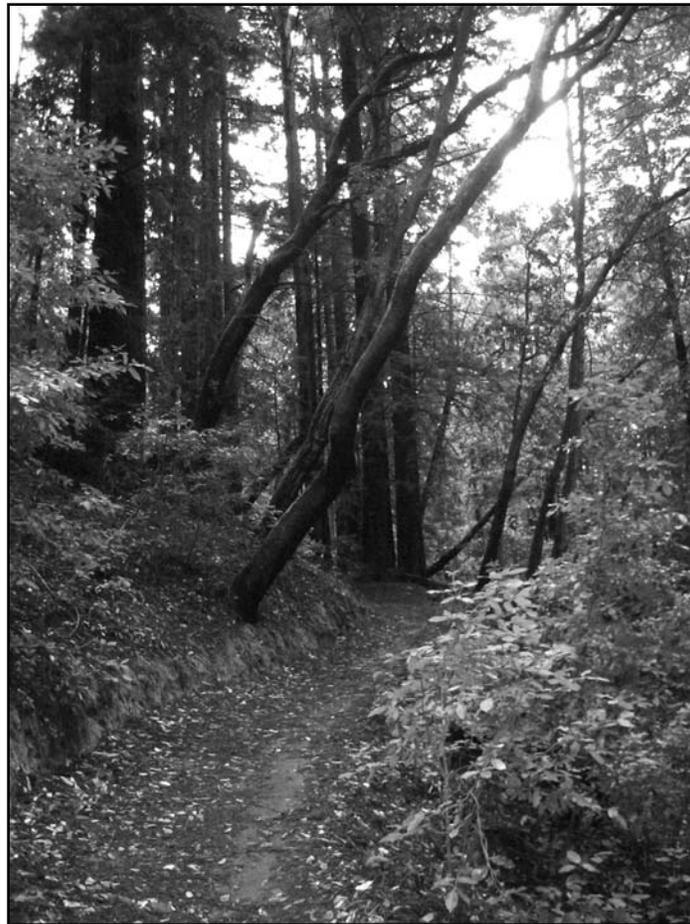
MAY—JUNE 2006

Short-Term Pain, Long-Term Gain

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Trail Restoration Plans

*By Meredith Manning
Project Manager/
Open Space Planner*

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) expects to perform major restoration work on two very popular multi-use trails within the El Corte de Madera (ECdM) Creek Open Space Preserve (Preserve) this summer. The purpose of the proposed work is to help protect a downstream population of steelhead trout, a federally threatened coastal species, by improving water quality, reducing trail erosion, and reducing sedimentation to the aquatic environment. The two trails scheduled for improvements are Giant Salamander (in the interior of the Preserve) and El Corte de Madera Creek Trail (from Gate CM01). Last year, MROSD benefited from ROMP members' input on improving the Giant Salamander Trail for both erosion control and rideability. We look forward to continuing to solicit help from ROMP during the construction phase of this project and beyond. This project will not be successful without mountain bikers continuing to remain patient and finding other trails to ride during and immediately after construction.



We hope that this advance notice will help us cooperate with you so that we can successfully complete restoration work in the Preserve. El Corte de Madera Creek and Giant Salamander Trails were identified as high priority treatment areas for their potential to deliver sediment to the aquatic environment in a 2002

Road and Trail Erosion Inventory of the Preserve. Both trails are located on former logging skid and haul roads that were not meant for year-round use. Construction is planned to occur from July 15 through October 15, pending permit authorization from CA Dept of Fish and Game, San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Mateo County Planning, and San Mateo County Building Departments.

Giant Salamander Trail
Giant Salamander Trail suffered erosion during this heavy rain season. A culvert became clogged with debris, water diverted down the trail, and finally drained off the road, taking about 100 cubic yards of saturated fill material with it to the creek below. Improvements to this trail will provide a long-term solution to the drainage

problems and enable the popular trail to remain open to users while reducing the potential for future creek sedimentation. MROSD staff, with assistance from ROMP members, reviewed all options for restoration work, including extensive scouting for new trail realignments.

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Fear and Loathing in Woodside

By Josh Moore
President of ROMP

We are extremely disappointed by the Huddart and Wunderlich master planning process. We have been slandered and called terrorists. We have heard a large number of misconceptions repeated over and over, and that does not make them true. The current recommendations disregard the desires of a large number of responsible and respectful cyclists in San Mateo County, and do not adequately anticipate demographics over the next 20 years.

There is a rich history of mountain biking in the San Francisco Bay Area, the birthplace of mountain biking. ROMP was formed in the early eighties, and the International Mountain Biking Association was spun out of ROMP in 1988. None of this rich history has taken place in San Mateo County, and judging by the current state of the Huddart Wunderlich Master Plan, it is not going to happen soon.

Huddart Wunderlich Master Plan History

The mission of the County Parks Division is stated as: "Through stewardship, the San Mateo County Park and Recreation Division preserves our County's natural and cultural treasures, and provides safe, accessible parks, recreation and learning opportunities to enhance the community's quality of life". We are concerned that the current proposed master plan with no bike access on dirt in any of San Mateo County's parks is not providing access, nor safe recreation for anyone. The proposed master plan will guide the parks' stewardship for the next twenty years.

The process began in July of 2004

with a public workshop. County parks worked with numerous equestrian groups, and some other stakeholders. It is not clear whether mountain biking interests were well represented prior to the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to consider the draft master plan in August of 2005. At that time, a few of us began writing and addressing the commission, even though the process seemed biased against us from the very start.



Despite the seemingly impossible odds, Commissioner Bern Smith made a motion at the end of all the presentations and discussion, to forward the Draft Master Plan to the Board of Supervisors with the condition that staff identify a route for bicycles up through the parks to the ridge. The motion was seconded by Chair Richard Biederman. There was discussion about whether a route should be specified, such as a trail or perhaps Bear Gulch Road, and the motion was amended to simply state "a route." There was discussion about whether this represented a recommendation to lift the ban on bikes system wide, and Chair Biederman said that times change and maybe it's time to re-evaluate this restriction and start with this one Park.

The next opportunity for public input was Public Trail User Focus Group Meeting #2, on January 31, 2006 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, at Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, in Woodside. At that meeting, held in a room way too small, the equestrian lobby out-numbered mountain bikers by a factor of five or more. They spoke out of turn, booed and generally made asses of themselves. The meeting was a disaster, and many cyclists felt threatened afterwards.

The prevailing attitude that was screamed at us cyclists by the attending equines, was "go somewhere else" - Dirt Alpine, and Windy Hill were stated as viable alternatives for us bicycle riders to get from valley to skyline, then ride north along Skyline (State Highway 35) to access ECDM or Purisima. It is doubtful any cyclist would opt for this 10+ mile ride and report having had an enjoyable-safe excursion once on hwy 35. In addition, the equestrian bigots reviled again and again at all things bicycle. On multiple occasions we were

referred to as "teenaged terrorists". We were taken to task as prone to urinating at the front of resident's homes, hogging paved roads with rude-boorish packs of verbally abusive malcontents, not paying taxes, etc. So, in the view of equestrians in Woodside, not only are we unwelcome in the County Parks, but we should be removed from paved roads too.

This meeting really precipitated the fear and loathing of the equestrian community. They rallied, and put together a Not-in-My-Back-Yard, anti-tourism, anti-growth web site, keepwoodsiderural.org. The web site bemoans out-of-towners taking all the parking, running on trails, scaring

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Boggs Mountain State Demonstration Forest

By Peter P. Donohue

I was first introduced to Boggs through a series of mountain bike races that were held there called the Boggs Mountain Bashes. The races are no longer run, but that didn't stop me from returning to the trails last summer on a long weekend.

Boggs Mountain is located north of Napa County, next to the small town of Cobb, CA. Boggs Mountain is one of eight State Demonstration Forests. It is controlled by the State (specifically the California Department of Forestry) and is managed as a multi-use resource. Normally when a mountain biker says multi-use, they are talking about trail users such as hikers, horseback riders, and bikers, but in this case it also includes uses such as logging and hunting.

The "demonstration" part of the name refers to the balance between sustainability and use upheld by the parks resource management: the forest stays healthy and living while

providing accessibility to multiple use groups. In addition, logging pays the bills for the park, so there are no use fees for the public.

Note: there is another Demonstration Forest located closer to the SF Bay Area, and that is "the Demo" (Soquel Demonstration State Forest), between San Jose and Santa Cruz, which has many good trails, as well.

Boggs Mountain contains 22 miles of fire roads and 14 miles of single track in nearly 3500 acres.

These trails explore a variety of terrain, from forest to brush. Although the forest is located on Boggs Mountain, there is not as much climbing as one would expect, but don't get me wrong - the terrain isn't flat. For most people, 2 or 3 days is enough to cover the whole park. Pick up a map at the kiosk as you enter and start exploring. The trails are pretty well marked though the map is getting a bit out of date, as some of the newer trails weren't marked. The single track trails are generally well groomed and while challenging aren't overly technical.

If you only have one day and are looking for a long ride, a good loop is to follow much of what was used as the race course. Start at the campsite and work your way down either Ball Cap or John's Trail and then down trails 300 and 100 to Grizzley. Go up the different parts of Grizzley and then up Jetro. Out Scout Trail, to Karen's, and then Hoberg's Loop. Refill water if



needed at the CDF station and then take the road to Houghton Creek Trail and back to the campsite. If you are riding during blackberry season, there is a huge blackberry patch at the creek crossing on Houghton that you can snack on.

For a shorter loop, just take Scout, to Karen's to Hoberg's Loop. This also would be a good route for hotter days, as these trails are well shaded and offer some relief from the sun.

Boggs Mountain is a bit of a trek from the Bay Area, but conveniently there is camping on site. The facilities are sparse (pit toilets, closest water is at the CDF station which is a few miles from the camping area, etc.), but it is hard to complain since there is no fee to camp there. The camping area also makes a great starting point for many of the trails.

The park is a bit dusty and can be hot, so you may want to bring a solar

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Because the surrounding topography was too steep to construct an erosion-proof trail system, the decision was made to upgrade this trail in its current alignment.

The temporary trail closures will be worth the inconvenience because the “daylighted” stream crossings, partial road-to-trail conversion, and narrow-track reroutes will produce a better ride from behind the handlebars while protecting the aquatic environment.

Proposed Giant Salamander Trail work includes a reroute of the deeply incised and gullied easternmost portion of the trail where it connects to Timberview Trail. A new bridge will replace the existing failing culvert crossing constructed during the logging era. Three smaller bridges will replace culverts along the western portion of the trail where it connects with Methuselah Trail. All the fill material associated with the culverts is proposed to be physically removed and the original stream channel bed exposed. Large heavy equipment is necessary to perform this work; hence, the need to close the trail for safety during construction.

The access road for the Giant Salamander Trail work will be on the Methuselah Trail. This trail is not expected to be closed to Preserve



MROSD staff takes sedimentation readings in the ECDM watershed

users during construction. However, dependent on the presence of rock dump trucks, water trucks, heavy equipment, and vehicle traffic necessary to support the restoration work, temporary closure may be considered to ensure visitor safety.

The Giant Salamander Trail is also proposed to remain closed to users throughout the first rainy season following construction. This is critical because the restoration work will suffer from even light foot traffic during the first winter season following construction.

El Corte de Madera Creek Trail
The El Corte de Madera Creek Trail was originally a logging haul road constructed immediately adjacent to a stream that flows year-round. Springs, seeps, and intermittent stream channels that flow into the year-round stream must cross this trail before they can reach their destination into the channel. Adding moderately heavy visitor traffic on this trail compounds the problem by causing additional erosion and sedimentation to the creek. Proposed work for 2006 includes removing culverts and all associated fill material and replacing them with three new bridges. As with the Giant Salamander Trail, we did extensive reconnaissance to find a better route. Finding none, the decision was made to upgrade this trail in its current alignment. These popular trails must be closed during construction to protect the safety of Preserve users and apologize for the inconvenience. We look forward to continuing to work with ROMP on trail reroutes and layout opportunities in the future. We also appreciate your patience and willingness to support ongoing restoration efforts in the Preserve. It is a pain in the short-term, but a long-term gain for all.



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.

Name		
Family Members		
Address		
		Phone
City		email
State	Zip	Membership Type
Send Newsletter		Individual (\$20.00) Family (\$25.00) Student (\$10.00)
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 MINOR 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

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

RIDES

May 2006 Rides

Wednesday, May 3, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride

(2:00) Join us for our weekly Fremont Older rides. We leave the main Stevens Creek County Park parking lot at 6PM. The parking lot is about 2 miles south of I-280 on Stevens Canyon Rd (Foothill Blvd. exit off I-280.) County Park charges for parking, also bring money for optional post-ride food. Glenn & Linda, 408-257-8284.

Location: Stevens Creek County Park Foothill Blvd, Cupertino

Sunday, May 7, 2006. 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.

Location: Start at Grizzly Flat.
Contact Information: Dave Tripier (408) 255-3464 tripier@aol.com

Wednesday, May 10, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride.

See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

Saturday, May 13, 2006. 2:30 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: 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.
Contact Information: Josh Moore (408) 420 7342
josh_moore@comcast.net

Sunday, May 14, 2006. 9:30 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo

Forest (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 The ROMP Second Sunday Demonstration Forest Ride will join the MBOSC Club ride. Both clubs will meet at the parking lot across the bridge at 9:30 AM. Wheels rolling by 10:00 AM, up Buzzard's Lagoon to Santa Rosalia Ridge. Consensus will determine the route down the mountain. 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. Contact Information: Rich Andrews 408-738-1384 randrews@arc.nasa.gov

Tuesday, May 16, 2006. 4:30 PM 3rd Tuesday 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", 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 hammerheads are summarily ditched and left to prove something somewhere else Location: California ave Caltrain station in Palo Alto Palo Alto. Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Wednesday, May 17, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride.

See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

Sunday, May 21, 2006. 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

Wednesday, May 24, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride.

See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

Saturday, May 27, 2006. 12:00 PM Basic Fikit Class

(1:00) The fixit clinic is for current romp members only, membership forms available at clinic for easy sign up. Beginner ride at 1:00 is open to the general public RSVP is a must due to max class size limit. This hands on fixit class will go over the basic needs for preventative maintenance and trails repair of your mt bike. Fix a flat, adjust your derrailleurs, straighten a wheel, and anything else bike related that will get you back on the trail. Location: Arastradero OSP Parking lot Arastradero Rd Palo Alto. Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Saturday, May 27, 2006. 1:00 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. Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Wednesday, May 31, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride. See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

June 2006 Rides

Sunday, June 4, 2006. 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

Wednesday, June 7, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride. See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

Saturday, June 10, 2006. 2:30 PM Arastradero Second Saturday Social (2:00) B/EASY/7/900. See May 7, 2006 ride listing for details

Sunday, June 11, 2006. 9:30 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000. See May 14, 2006 ride listing for details

Wednesday, June 14, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride. See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

Sunday, June 18, 2006. 10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at SDF (Demo Forest) (3:00) C-D/DIFF/15/3000 -- C-D/16-18/3000-4000. See May 21, 2006 ride listing for details.

Tuesday, June 20, 2006. 4:30 PM 3rd Tuesday Alpine Road (3:00). See May 16, 2006 ride listing for details.

Wednesday, June 21, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride. See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

Saturday, June 24, 2006. 12:00 PM Basic Fixit Class (1:00). See May 27, 2006 ride listing for details.

Saturday, June 24, 2006. 1:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic (3:00). See May 27, 2006 ride listing for details.

Wednesday, June 28, 2006. 6:00 PM Fremont Older After Work Ride. See May 3, 2006 ride listing for details

TRAIL WORK

May 2006 Trail Work

Sunday, May 07, 2006. 9:00 AM Wilder Ranch Trailwork (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.

Saturday, May 13, 2006. 9:00 AM Henry Coe Trail Day (4:00) We are looking for volunteers for another trail day at Henry Coe. We'll be meeting at Hunting Hollow at 9am. It happens rain or shine each second Saturday of the month through May. The exact trail project we choose depends upon conditions. There will be coffee and snacks served at the meet. Riding options will depend on the weather. Volunteers may ride to the trail project, take shuttles, and/or hike as conditions allow. Please dress appropriately. Wear clothes you do not mind getting dirty, because trail work is all about moving dirt, and it gets all over and in you, your shoes, and under your nails. Bring food and drink. No experience necessary. No matter what the weather looks like we bring a sweet attitude and wear warm smiles. Please let me know if

you are coming. We have gloves if you need them. Contact Paul Nam by phone 408 446-3745, or email vocinam@yahoo.com. Location: Hunting Hollow Parking Lot Henry W. Coe State Park (See Web Link below for driving directions) Gilroy / Morgan Hill <http://coepark.org/directionsse.html>

Sunday, May 14, 2006. 9:00 AM Water Dog Park Trail Work (4:00) The NEW Trail Work Schedule For Water Dog Lake, in Belmont. The Land Manager is friendly and appreciative, it's close & easy to get to and we're building trails with our interests & needs in mind. It's a cozy place, but full of destination quality trails. Come out & help make this season's project a reality and then come out & ride it. We will be working on Sundays this year and will be meeting at 9:00AM. Please email Berry Stevens bt3mtbiker@earthlink.net to sign up for the date of your choice, or phone 650-364-6785, with questions or your eager desire to volunteer. Location: Water Dog Park Belmont.

Saturday, May 20, 2006. 9:30 AM ECDM Trail Work (6:00) Meet at Skegg's Point Parking Area. Trail Work-Originally scheduled for Giant Salamander or Methuselah Trail, however recent storm damage may change specific work site. Nine remaining volunteer spots available. Please RSVP to Paul McKowan at volunteer@openspace.org or 650.691.1200. Each participant will receive more details the Monday prior to the event via email.

June 2006 Trail Work

Saturday, June 03, 2006. 8:30 AM National Trails Day at Butano State Park (6:30) We will be doing finishing work and final construction of the "Candelabra Redwood" Trail, followed by a BBQ in the late afternoon when all the trail crews return. Bring lunch, at least two liters of water, energy snacks, work gloves and trail work clothes (jeans, long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes). Tools will be provided. No experience necessary. Groups welcome. Youth must be 14 years or older to

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participate unless accompanied by an adult. Directions to Site: Take US Highway 1 to Pescadero, CA, and follow Pescadero Road east to Cloverdale Road. Take Cloverdale Road south to the Park entrance. Meet at the entrance Ranger station. Location: Butano State Park, Pescadero.

Saturday, June 03, 2006. 9:30 AM National Trail Days Project with BART at ECDM (6:00) Help complete the Watershed Protection Project (or other more routine trail work depending on conditions) with volunteers from ROMP and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Please RSVP with Paul McKowan volunteer@openspace.org. Location: Skeggs Point Parking Lot, Highway 35, approx. 5 miles north of Highway 84.

Sunday, June 04, 2006. 9:00 AM Wilder Ranch Trailwork (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, April 30, 2006. Swap meet at Cupertino Bike Shop. Each year ROMP hosts a swap meet. The swap meet is a fund-raiser for ROMP and a place where cyclists can purchase road and mountain bike parts, tools, frames, complete bikes, clothing and accessories. Per-person admission charge is minimal. The meet is held behind the Cupertino Bike Shop,

10493 S. De Anza Blvd. (two blocks south of Stevens Creek Blvd.). Call 408-255-2217 for prices on swap spaces. Volunteers are required from 7.00am to 4.00pm. Contact swap@romp.org if you wish to volunteer for this event. Donations of items for ROMP to sell at the Swap Meet are welcome. Now's a good time to clear out your garage and help ROMP. Contact swap@romp.org if you have any donations to give to ROMP for sale at the Swap Meet. You can have your own swap meet table by contacting Cupertino bikes 408 255-2217 or www.cupertinobike.com ROMP makes their money on the # of swap meet selling tables there are. So the more we can list that Cupertino Bikes is open to more business tables the better for us. Location: Cupertino Bike Shop 10493 S De Anza Blvd Cupertino.

Saturday, May 13, 2006. 9:00 AM Barbeque Potluck (6:00) Join us for a barbeque potluck at Twin Pines park in Belmont. ROMP will provide ice, beer, other beverages and charcoal. Show up at 9, unload your bike and food, and ROMP members will lead various level rides in Waterdog park. Around noon the festivities will begin. BYO meat, and a side or dessert, and a few friends. Location: Twin Pines Large Group Picnic Area 30 Twin Pines Lane Belmont CA 94002. Contact Information: Josh Moore 408 420 7342 president@romp.org.

Wednesday, May 17, 2006. 7:00 PM Let CitySports Magazine's 2005 Best Bay Area Personal Trainer Al Painter show you how to ride longer and pedal stronger at the Los Altos Training Studio (LATS). FREE for ROMP members and their families, \$15 for non-members. Al is a graduate of Santa Clara University, a member of the National Academy of Sports Medicine and a USA Cycling Coach with over 10 years of personal training experience. Please RSVP to al@loyolalats.com or call 650-224-4354 by Friday May 12, 2006 if you are going to attend. Location: LATS, 955 Fremont Ave at the corner of B Street and Fremont Ave in Loyola Corners, Los Altos.

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shower, or better yet, take a break from the park and head out to one of the many nearby springs to rinse the dust and sweat off.

One option is Harbin Hot Springs. There is a lot of geothermal activity in the area and even a power plant that uses geothermal water to produce power. One of the benefits of this geothermal activity is the natural hot springs that have formed. Harbin Hot Springs, which is based out of the town of Middletown, is clothing optional and does have camping facilities on site, if you'd rather stay away from Boggs.

If you prefer to soak in cold water (or just don't want to be around naked people), I received a great local hint.

A waterfall that drops some 30 to 40 feet into a rock canyon form a pool about 10 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter, with cool, crystal clear water. This spot is well known by locals, so don't expect much privacy on hot days.

To find it, drive up Socrates Mine Road (between Middletown and Cobb on Highway 175) for 2 miles. The parking area is a pull off on the left just after Ford Flat Road. Walk down the trail (about a half mile, and steep in places) and jump on in.

If you want more to do in the area, it isn't a far drive from Boggs to Clear Lake or to Calistoga and the Napa Wineries. Happy trails!



(Continued from page 2)

equestrians, and blocking traffic while riding bikes on the road. This website does not publicly state who is behind it. The fact that they are not willing to publicly say who they are conjures visions of bigots in white robes carrying flaming crosses, and lynching anyone in lycra. A "whois" lookup suggests the domain is registered to James Johnson of Creativity Center in Woodacre CA, 94973, jj@2cpro.com. Woodacre is in Marin. Please don't do business with him.

What is most distressing for me is the fear within the equestrian community that generates more fear. The fear results in intolerance, and scapegoating. Pretty soon the reaction is similar to Nazi Germany. All of Woodside's problems can be attributed to cyclists. Cyclists should be rounded up and eliminated. I am fearful to go to Woodside any more, but then again, that is what they want. We won't be intimidated. I hope that Parks and Recreation will stand up to them.



Equestrian trail use causes "troughing", an erosion pattern with a flat bottom, typically one foot wide, up to a foot deep.

The town of Woodside and the equestrians have actually been running anti-bike ads in the papers, against the proposed trail. They have sent a postcard to all the residents to reject the proposed trail. Their major objections are that it would make Woodside even more of a destination, and they do not have the infrastructure for it; that Woodside has a long equestrian heritage; that Cyclists have more trails available to them than equestrians; and that multiuse trails really are not multi use, because it is too dangerous for equestrians. While I believe some of their arguments are valid, and I enjoy hiking on trails without mountain bikers on them, I think their beliefs, attitudes and methods are repugnant.

At the next public meeting Dave Holland decided to back down from the proposed trail. Some cyclists have suggested that it would be better to decouple this from the master plan and work at it from another side later. Dave Holland just started and perhaps needs to protect his reputation, and look like he is in touch and effective.

ROMP's position Using information from the American Horse Council and The National Bicycle Dealers Association, I estimate there are 5,880 equestrians and 33,600 mountain bikers in San Mateo County. That's 5 times more mountain bikers than equestrians (1).



Perhaps there should be 5 times more trails open to cyclists than to equestrians.

ROMP did an informal study which shows half of trails North of Page Mill Road are available to all users including cyclists, and half are available to hikers and equestrians only, excluding cyclists. None of San Mateo County Park's trails are open to the County's 33,600 mountain bikers (2).

The Blue Ribbon study of trails is no concession to the mountain bike community. Instead, leave the conceptual Squealer Gulch trail in the plan. Please include in your recommendation for the blue ribbon study, a study of trail user populations and growth. Please also require the parks commission ACT on the results of the study. Please request a repeal of the county ordinance banning bikes on dirt.

There have been many studies showing trail wear is similar for all users (3). Equestrian use in particular causes troughing, turning trails into little gorges and channeling the water down the trail. Evidence of this is widespread in neighboring Teague Hill OSP.

Mountain bikers are good stewards. Mountain bikers donate thousands of hours each year to build and maintain trails all around the peninsula, and in San Mateo. ROMP and others have helped build and maintain trails in Waterdog Lake Park and El Corte de Madera OSP (4).

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Outside of San Mateo County, there are plenty of successful multi use areas in the Bay Area where cyclists and equestrians successfully share trails: Annadell State Park, Fremont Older OSP, and Arastradero Park to name a few. The fear mongering, exclusionist equestrians in Woodside have repeatedly misrepresented this fact, and their fear contributes to, and perpetuates, the incompatibility of bikes and horses in San Mateo County. I ask the commission to recommend and also help organize and stage regular events to help relieve multi-use conflict through shared riding events, like Carrot Fests or ROMP n STOMP's (5).

The population of California will continue to grow, and more and more trail users of all types will want to use San Mateo County parks. Creating a legal alternative trail for cyclists will make the parks safer for all users.

The city of Woodside and the equestrian community have bullied San Mateo County Parks into NOT making positive changes to help alleviate conflict. I am stunned that San Mateo County Parks concern for Woodside's infrastructure outweighs the plans mission to provide recreational opportunities for County residents. Woodside is long overdue for infrastructure improvements to support local tourism, and a Master Plan with the proposed bike trail alignment should go through and be an additional catalyst for much needed change in Woodside.

Recommendations

1. Leave the conceptual Squealer Gulch trail in the plan. Just because it is in the plan does not mean it will happen, or happen anytime soon. Leave out the most objectionable areas if necessary.
2. Include in your recommendation for the blue ribbon study, a study of trail user populations and growth.
3. Require the parks commission act

accordingly on the results of the blue ribbon study.

4. Please request a repeal of the county ordinance banning bikes on dirt.
5. Organize and stage regular events to help relieve multi-use conflict through shared riding events.

Conclusion

I would like to share a quote with you from some years ago:

"First, know that the tiny community of Woodside is Bike Central. There isn't a more bike-friendly town anywhere in the Bay Area, a region filled with bike-friendly towns. And there isn't a more likely place to spot the most expensive bikes, the hottest gear, and the tautest leg muscles. It seems that people who can afford to



live in Woodside have plenty of time for recreation and fitness. You can't hold it against them." (6)

Everyone in the bike community hopes that we can work towards a safe, equitable solution to the growing demands on limited parks resources in San Mateo County. I know that someday the above quote will once again be true, if the equestrian community is willing to look for solutions beyond irrational fears and intolerance.

Mountain bikers too have much work to do. We need to reach out to the equestrian community. We need to provide opportunities to work and ride together. Most importantly though, we need to stay off trails not

open to bicycles.

End Notes

1. US Census data was used to calculate percentages of US, California and San Mateo populations, used to extrapolate data.

An American Horse Council press release in 2005 indicates that about 42% of all horses are used for recreational purposes, and that there 700,000 horses in California. That suggests there are about 294,000 recreational horses in California. If horse population is directly proportional to humans, there are 5,880 horses in San Mateo County.

The National Bicycle Dealers Association reports that in 2002, 41.4 million Americans age seven and older were estimated to have ridden a bicycle six times or more in 2002, according to the National Sporting Goods Association. Of bikes sold, 34% of them were mountain bikes - that suggests 14 million riders rode mountain bikes in the US, or 33,600 in San Mateo County.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06081.html>

<http://www.horsecouncil.org/2005%20June%20Economic%20Study%20Press%20Release.htm>

<http://nbda.com/page.cfm?PageID=34>

2. Sullivan, J. "Boycott Tour de Peninsula". The Mountain Cyclist. July - August 2005

<http://www.romp.org/news/pdf/0507.pdf>

3. Sprung, G. Natural Resource Impacts of Mountain Biking. http://www.imba.com/resources/science/impact_summary.pdf

4. <http://www.trailworkers.com/> spun out of Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz and provided over 2000 hours of trail work in 2006. ROMP member Berry Stevens has built and maintained miles of trail in Waterdog lake Park in Belmont, and helped construct the Leaf trail in ECDM. ROMP members helped reroute the Blue Blossom and giant Salamander trails in ECDM. Please see <http://www.romp.org> for more information.

5. Photos of a ROMP n STOMP in San Mateo County in 2005 <http://www.romp.org/index.phpmodule=photoshare&func=showimages&fid=29>
<http://mbosc.blogspot.com/>

6. Brown, Anne Marie. Foghorn Outdoors Bay Area Biking: 60 Of the Best Road and Trail Rides. Avalon Travel Publishing, first edition.



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