



Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers

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State of ROMP

State of ROMP
By Josh Moore, President

Another year has gone by and what can we make of it? Was it a good year for mountain biking on the peninsula and south bay? How is ROMP doing in the midst of it? Will mountain biking be great in 2008? What can we do to make it so?

ROMP's goals in 2007 were pretty simple. Some of it was really easy to do because of the core cadre of volunteers that make so much happen in ROMP's name in the bay area. Some were much harder because they are hard to quantify. In addition to performing trail work, leading rides, and advocating for continued and more mountain bike access in the south bay and on the peninsula, ROMP also strived to have more social events, provide more slower paced, easier rides particularly for beginners, and increase our membership. The year has been a resounding success.

Throughout 2007, ROMP had a tremendous impact on the trail conditions. Led by Paul Nam, volunteers maintained and rerouted tens if not hundreds of miles of trails in Henry Coe, almost twice a month every month. ROMP's president helped organize five or six trail work days with Midpeninsula Open Space District (MROSD), developing a new alignment of an unsustainable portion of the South Leaf trail otherwise known as "Disneyland". ROMP members volunteered through trailworkers.com to help build a re-route of the Corral Trail in Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDF). As former ROMP president Berry Stevens stepped back after having designed built and maintained many of the trails in Waterdog Lake Park in Belmont, another core ROMP volunteer, Patty Ciesla, has stepped up to continue this tradi-

tion. Through Volunteers for Outdoor California (VOCAL), ROMP members got involved in building trails in Harvey Bear County Park, and helped maintain trails in Steven's Creek County Park and probably much more.



ROMP Holiday Party
With Joe Breeze



La Honda Creek OSP:
MROSD Public Meeting

In addition to our ongoing efforts to build and maintain trails, ROMP continues to lead a number of successful group rides on most every weekend. These rides vary in length, skill level, speed and location. Glenn and Linda Wegner led their popular Wednesday evening rides at Fremont Older all summer. ROMP joined up on Second Sundays at SDF with Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC), and third Sundays at El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve (ECDM). Other regularly scheduled rides take place monthly at Fremont Older and Arastradero Preserve and are geared towards entry level riders.

It has been a remarkably busy and successful year for advocacy as well. Out of the San Mateo County Huddart and Wunderlich master plan efforts, mountain bikers now have two seats on a county wide review of trails, trail connections and trail use designations. This Blue Ribbon Commission began meeting in the summer of 2007 and should produce a report and plan that will change mountain bike access in San Mateo County as early as 2009. Santa Clara County Commissioners approved a master plan for Sanborn Park in Saratoga with almost 20 miles of trails to open to bikes in coming years. The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) opened eight miles of trails to bikes in Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve. ROMP members and mountain bikers have come out in numbers in the hundreds to speak out in favor of mountain bike access in La Honda Creek (LHC), Sierra Azul, and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves. We spoke out in favor of a new parking lot in ECDM that will also provide pit toilets. We provided input at General Plans for The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and coastal state parks. ROMP members serve on key Trail Advisory Com-

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La Honda Creek Open



By Josh Moore, President

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, roughly bounded by Highway 35, Highway 84, the town of La Honda, and Bear Gulch Road West, encompasses 5800 acres and has proposed 30 miles of trails. In the current draft master plan, all but a single trail stretching just a few miles from east to west may open up at some point in the future as an alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. This article gives some background and insight into the current situation and provides some suggestions about how we can move forward.

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (LHC)

I am hopeful we will get more and immediate bike access to this preserve.

is managed by the Midpeninsula Open Space District (MROSD) and is now the second largest preserve after Sierra Azul. In 2004, MROSD began a master plan for LHC. When Rudy Driscoll decided to sell the 3500 acre Driscoll Ranch, MROSD bought it and appended it to the existing La Honda Creek Preserve. This made sense because of the shared border and both tracts needed a master plan. Unfortunately, the MROSD board decided in 2000 that LHC would be one of seven preserves that would categorically not permit cycling on trails.

MROSD is a publicly funded special district that is managed and directed by a board of directors that are, in theory, elected officials. About one percent of property taxes from the geographical area that MROSD serves funds land acquisition and staff that serve under the direction of the board. The staff provides professional, scientific insight and anecdotal and experiential information that can shape MROSD policy and direction, but ultimately it

is the board that decides how the District is run. The board sets policy concerning whether rangers who are trained police officers should carry guns, whether rangers should be more like docents or more enforcement oriented, and all resource management policies concerning dogs, camping, mountain biking and land acquisition. The board oversees all aspects of managing and directing this land management agency.

Each of the seven board members represents a ward or geographical area and I believe that property owners in a given ward are constituents of a given board member. In order for a board member to represent a ward, the member needs to live in the ward he or she represents. Every two years, half of the board is up for re-election. Not all members of the board got their seats through election. When a board member retires out of an election cycle, typically the District does not hold a special election at the cost of approximately \$800,000. Instead, the board appoints a successor.

In 2000, MROSD closed seven preserves to bikes. The reason for the closure was the perceived need for a tranquil nature experience for hikers and reduction of conflicts between equestrians and cyclists. The preserves chosen for closure generally were not connected to other preserves or to multiuse through trails. Despite the fact that roughly 80% of the public that spoke out at public meetings, the board decided that they wanted to reduce the number of trails open to cyclists from about 75% down to 60 – 65%. It is unclear to me how they decided on this percentage. Currently about two thirds of the District's trails are open to cyclists. The District does non scientific studies of which user groups were using certain District preserves. At a meeting for a new parking lot at El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve (ECDM), MROSD showed statistics that over the last decade; about 80% of all users of that preserve have been mountain bikers. It would be interesting to know the percentages of trail users in Fremont Older or Monte Bello and provide access to user groups representative of usage data. If



half of the visitors to District preserves are cyclists, why are cyclists limited to just two thirds of all the trails?

District staff and board members have several reasons to keep cyclists out of La Honda Creek. MROSD would like to have one large preserve not open to bikers. Unauthorized trail construction and re-opening in ECDM continues to frustrate staff, and creates concern that La Honda Creek will have similar problems. Concerns that mountain biking may interfere with Rudy Driscoll's fifty year ranching lease make the District want to proceed slowly and cautiously. Board member Larry Hassett said, " we've got to balance [bike access] with the knowledge that there is input we likely haven't received. Other user

(Continued on page 3)

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		
City	State	Phone
Zip	Membership Type :	
Order ROMP Jerseys on reverse side ___		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$20.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Single Speed (\$50.00)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Hardtail (\$100.00)
Send Newsletter:		<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Via US postal service		<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership (\$1,000.00)
<input type="checkbox"/> Just send me an email		

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

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZED MOUNTAIN PEDALERS ("ROMP") 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_____ Date:_____

(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_____ Date:_____

(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

ROMP Out and About



ROMP Christmas Tree in San Jose



Romp Directory

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Soquel Demo Forest Liaison	Patty Ciesla		sdsf_liaison@romp.org
San Mateo County Parks	Berry Stevens		smcp_liaison@romp.org
Santa Clara County Parks	Charles Jalgunas		sccp@romp.org
Web Master			webmaster@romp.org

Christmas Party & Club Care Weekend

We had an action packed, fun filled weekend with the largest ROMP Christmas party ever. Approximately 95 attendees filled all the tables. Highlights of the party were our guest speaker Joe Breeze of BreezerBikes.com, the IMBA Club Care Crew, and award recipients Glenn and Linda Wegner.

On the next chilly Saturday morning, we met up with the IMBA Club Care Crew for ride through ECDM. We had 40 people show up for the ride and over 20 people at the IMBA Club Care presentation.

Turning Wheels for Kids

ROMP, Team Wrong Way & FOX Racing Shox shared work space and had a great time building bikes. ROMP made a strong showing with our 14 volunteers. TWFK ended up with close to 2,200 bikes given to local children and 100 bikes to the poorest of the poor in Mississippi—a desperately poor community devastated by Hurricane Katrina!

Christmas in the Park

The ROMP Christmas Tree in downtown San Jose had chainrings, cassettes, stems, tubes, and trail work pictures as decorations! In 2007, ROMP was spreading good cheer in the middle of downtown San Jose. Thanks to all members who contributed with putting the decorations together and making this happen.



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

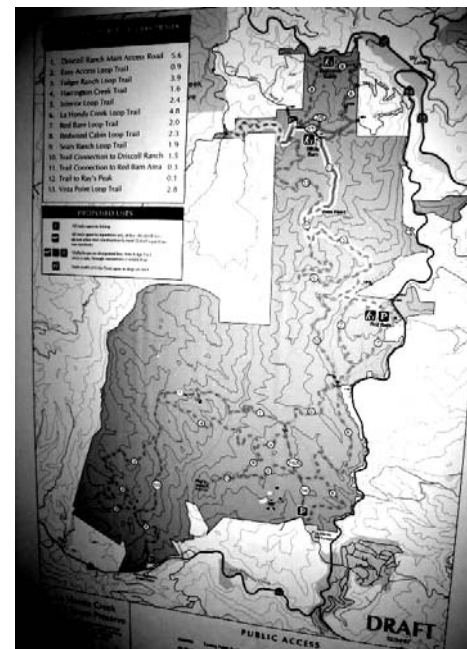
Newsletter Mailing Party

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

Space Preserve

(Continued from page 2)

groups aren't as well networked as cyclists." (Cyclists hope to share La Honda. *Tri-Valley Herald*, 12/2007). All of these points are largely subjective, and are easy to repudiate.



In the three public meetings to date, there has been widespread support of cycling in La Honda Creek from neighbors, the cycling community, and even hikers and equestrians, especially considering the long lines of sight and wide trails in La Honda Creek. Requests to MROSD for specific information concerning unauthorized trail building and respective restoration have not been provided. Roughly a quarter of all enforcement activity is bike related although it would drop to one tenth if speeding and biking in closed areas was removed. Citations for biking in closed areas almost doubled in 2006. This suggests the need for more trails open to bikes. Perhaps cultivation of some 40,000+ marijuana plants spread over ten locations and at least one meth lab on district lands is a much more serious problem for the protection of open space and society. There were two equestrian accidents on district lands in 2006, which probably had nothing to do with cycling. Of the 38 incidents in the report for 2006, only 2 were bike related, and only one with riding illegal trails. (MROSD Board Meeting 07-05, 2/28/2007). Ranching and mountain biking

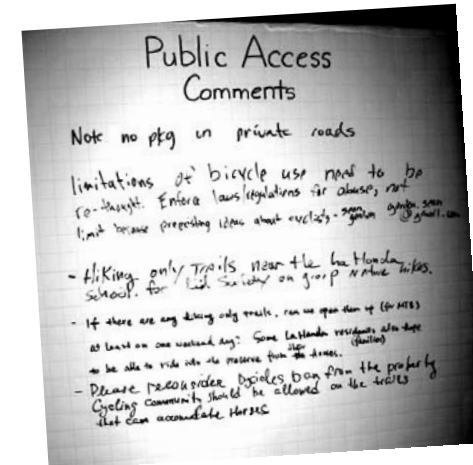
happily co-exist in East Bay and State Parks. My experience as a member of the Sierra Club and with the Huddart / Wunderlich County Parks master plan suggest that both hikers and equestrians are at least as well organized as mountain bikers. I believe mountain biking in LHC is just not an issue to hikers and equestrians. It is hard to believe that the bike ban for this preserve is being decided by anything other than the will of the Board of Directors.

The question is then, how can we influence their will. We need to continue to push for more access by showing up at public meetings for the plan which will resume this spring. We need to continue to write letters and get coverage in the media. We have had excellent coverage in a number of papers around the bay area. We need to ride responsibly and respectfully and stop building and reopening unauthorized trails. We need to remind ourselves and our friends and even strangers that unauthorized trails may be fun today, but hurt us in the long term. We need to work with land managers to make unauthorized trail use and construction more transparent.

We need honest feedback on what is happening out there so that we can work to make it stop. We need to register to vote. We need to consider ballot initiatives to change MROSD policy. We need to make the board accountable for their decisions when they are not representative of the people in their wards.

The District, like most government in the US is

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
A. VIOLATIONS																
1. Bike-closed area	120	172	197	154	125	149	112	101	112	99	62	60	63	89	58	94
2. Bike-speed				43	101	149	112	85	68	64	82	101	93	146	113	92
3. Bike-helmet				203	255	287	263	92	148	128	159	135	152	187	124	157
4. Bike-night riding							44	17	29	3	39	5	25	13	24	18
Total Bicycle Violations	120	172	197	400	481	585	531	295	357	294	342	301	333	435	319	361

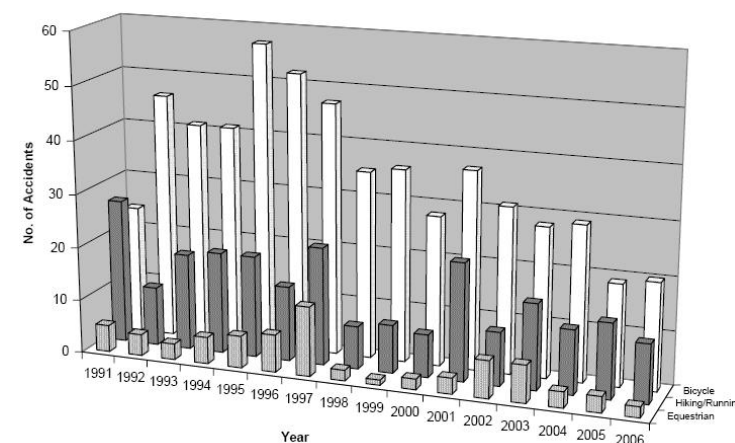


a representative democracy where elected officials make decisions for us. If we do not like the decisions being made, it is up to us to change our representation. In July of 2008, interested registered voters of El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Mountain View can file papers to run against Ken Nitz, Jed Cyr and Curt Riffle and be the next members of MROSD's board of Directors.

I am hopeful we will get more and immediate bike access to this preserve.



Accidents By User Type



ROMP Land Manager of the Year 2007

By Paul Nam

Henry W Coe Backcountry Ranger Cameron Bowers was recognized by Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers at the ROMP Holiday Party with the 2007 Land Manager of the Year Award.

He met the extraordinary challenge of the Lick Fire and played a key role in its containment.

As the sole Coe park staff-person with CDF training, it fell upon him to represent California State Parks during the fire-fight. He worked in hazardous conditions.

Cameron's first acts were to respond to the source of the fire. He evacuated the woman who started the blaze, along with her husband, and extricated them from a perilous circumstance. He was forced to modify their evacuation route because of fallen trees and the rapidly spreading fire. His knowledge of the roads and trails in and around the park would be invaluable in the days to come.

Where others might reach for quick unproven judgments, Cameron forbears and gives people the benefit of any doubt. I have seen this in action. An example is when he sees someone preparing for a trip into the backcountry at the trail-head. Perhaps he may see someone who is not well experienced or prepared. Cam makes a mental note, but withholds making pointed remarks. You see, he treats people with dignity and understands that we learn from experience. He knows that recreation and nature lovers yearn for and deserve a



uted to their preservation by keeping watch over CDF processes and reminding them when he felt necessary. This was aided in no small way by the fact the IC Battalion Chief was an old friend and boss of Cameron's from his days in the CDF.

Cameron has been a Helitack Fire-fighter, a CCC Crew Leader, a Fish Game Intern, a City of San Jose Ranger, a Santa Clara County Parks Ranger, and a Henry W. Coe State Park Aid, among others. Cameron is also an avid football coach. All of these hats he has worn give him that diverse background and experience that informs him. Since he began his current post at Coe in the final months of 2000, Cameron has watched over the backcountry, enforced regulations, assisted the public, and facilitated volunteer activities with an unrelenting enthusiasm and competence.

rich experience; one that springs from a native self-reliance and develops organically. And you know what? More often than not, people prosper when given a chance.

As the aftermath of the 2007 Southern California Fire Siege vividly illustrates, disastrous results were possible for the Lick Fire. Cameron was in the right position to influence events.

As a field coordinator with the CDF Incident Command (IC), Cameron provided the insight that only an intimate local can, and made key recommendations. He was also able to provide an effective radio communications conduit using the State Park repeater system when the CDF system was inadequate due to the terrain. Cameron kept the welfare of the park, its wildlife, resources, and trails, in mind as the fire was fought, and contrib-

Cameron deserves greater honor and recognition than the humble ROMP Land Manager of the Year Award can provide. Public servants are not thanked enough for the jobs they do day in and day out. Heroes are rare, and should be celebrated. This award has nothing directly to do with mountain biking. It is about respect for the right thing to do, and honoring those who do it.

Congratulations to Backcountry Ranger Cameron Bowers, 2007 Land Manager of the Year! Whether it is confronting poachers, pot farmers, dealing with curious journalists, over-enthusiastic mountain-bikers, or fighting the biggest and most expensive blaze in local history, Cameron is the kind of person we need. Thank you Cameron.



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We plan to do another epic Coe event this May, and we should have a picnic. We hope to have other types of events such as shop nights, movie nights and even pub nights. Hopefully we will begin to recognize each other with our helmets off. Our monthly meetings where we discuss and plan ROMP's strategy and activities will occur on the fourth Monday at Kapp's in Mountain View at 7PM. Newsletter mailing parties will continue.

It is hard to estimate the effects of trail work on the goodwill of land managers and the sense of ownership among cyclists. Trail work will continue to be an integral part of ROMP's mission. Expect to see more trail work activities in state parks, MROSD, Santa Clara county parks and in city parks, as these are the land managers that provide access and value us as contributors to the trail community. In particular, we need to show our appreciation to Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation and help build and prepare trails set to open in Sanborn Park in 2009 or 2010.

The first half of 2008 should bring the acceptance of the master plans for La Honda Creek, Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves. In stark contrast to Santa Clara County Parks, MROSD may eliminate mountain bike access to over 35 miles of trails on over 7,000 acres in La Honda Creek and Bear Creek Redwoods. Mountain bikers need to continue to show up in great numbers at meetings and write staff and board members of MROSD to express our displeasure. ROMP is actively looking for potential MROSD board members from Sunnyvale, El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton, Redwood City, San Carlos, or Woodside to run against the incumbents in the 2008 elections.

In 2008, ROMP is going to lead an effort to engage more mountain bikers on the trails through expanded Trail Patrol Programs. We plan to underwrite most of the expenses of a trail patrol program at SDF. In the past, the OSA who has no ranger staff has asked us to help patrol their lands. This month, talks are beginning with MROSD on how ROMP can help stem the tide of unauthorized trail building and riding on District lands. We need individuals to lead these programs as well as to participate in them.

ROMP has agreed to sponsor a Norcal Mountain Bike High School League team in Camp-

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

bell. ROMP will provide financing, Jerseys and free memberships to all team members. We hope that these efforts will help raise awareness of the democratic process that is mountain bike advocacy among the next generation of mountain cyclists.

These activities will promote growth in ROMP, and our political clout will grow with land managers. We need your continued help and support to make it all happen. Don't be shy. Get involved. There is no doubt, whatever you choose to do, whether it is to dig, run for public office, organize a trip or an event or a night, you will find it highly rewarding. Join us!



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.

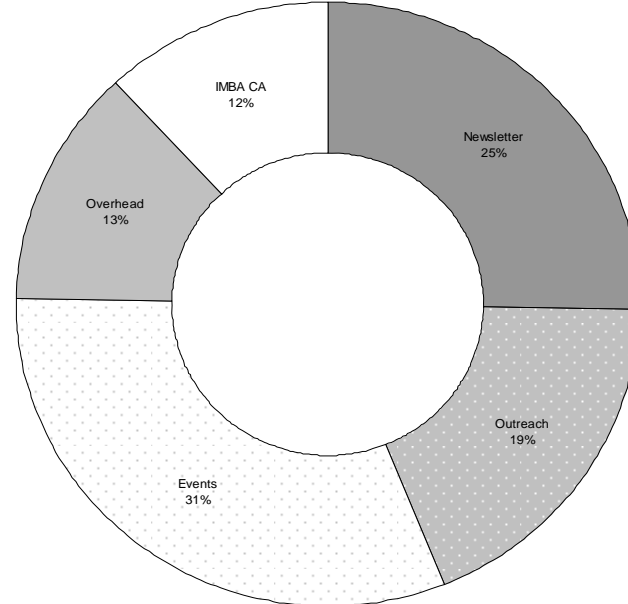
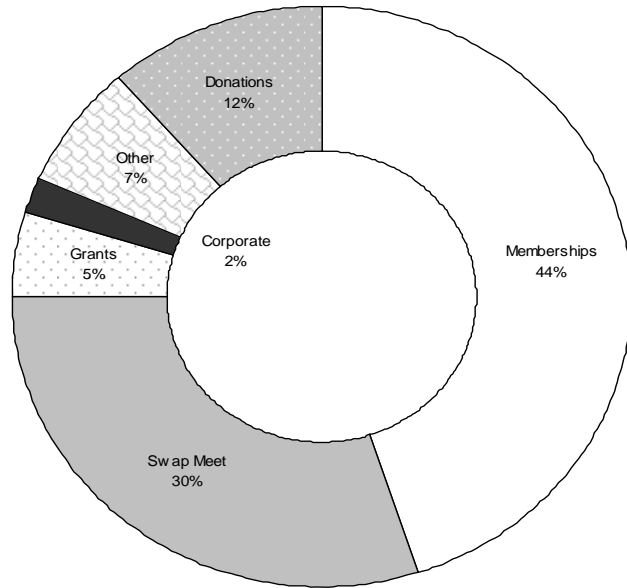
In general, rain at the area of the ride within 48 hours of the ride cancels. But, because different trails can withstand the weather differently, we allow the ride leader to make the final decision. If you are unsure about whether a particular ride will go on, contact the ride leader.

State of ROMP



2007 Income \$10,518

2007 Expenses \$10,442



port Tom Ward's tremendous efforts as IMBA California Policy Advisor. Newsletter expenses include printing and mailing; outreach includes renewal notices, membership drives, and books plus other materials given to land managers; overhead includes insurance, web site and other expenses; and events include permits, fees and expenses not covered by income generated

(Continued from page 1)

mittees at Castle Rock and Henry Coe State Parks. ROMP has also played an important role in MBOSC's request for trail designation changes in Big Basin, Butano, Castle Rock, and Año Nuevo State Parks. ROMP continues to serve as an integral point for gathering and disseminating advocacy opportunities, working with others such as IMBA, MBOSC, Bay Area Ridge Trail and mtbr.com to lead the participation of mountain bikers in the trails community.

ROMP has had an incredibly social year. In April, we held our annual swap meet at Cupertino Bikes which was our highest grossing, arguably best organized swap ever. In May, we relived the arduous IMBA Henry Coe Epic for which more than 50 people registered, and garnered approximately 20 new memberships and renewals. In September, we held our sort of annual picnic in Belmont. Despite freak September rain, more than thirty people showed up to hang out, socialize and ride

pixie bikes (courtesy of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange). In November, Joe Breeze presented a fascinating history of cycling at our annual Christmas Party. The event was attended by over ninety guests, the highest number ever. Glenn and Linda continue to host newsletter mailing parties which are a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Between the number of advocacy issues this year and a large number of social events and a successful membership drive, ROMP's membership grew from a low of 256 in February to 314 in October of 2007.

Financially, ROMP remains a stable, viable non-profit institution, where our income roughly equaled our expenditures. Almost half of our revenue came from memberships, a third from the swap meet, and an eighth from fully tax deductible donations. ROMP's expenses can be roughly split into quarters for our newsletter, outreach, events, and overhead if we include a sizable donation to sup-

ported by the given event. These categories are a little arbitrary since the newsletter is probably our most effective outreach tool to mountain bikers and trail work is our best outreach tool to land managers.

What can we look forward to in 2008? I think we can expect plenty of rides and trail work, as well as a slew of social events, and another pivotal year for mountain bike advocacy, and continued growth.

Our regular ride calendar will continue and I hope that we find some members who will consider leading rides at places where we currently have none, such as Santa Teresa, Harvey Bear, and Saratoga Gap to name a few. I hope to also plan a few weekend road trips to Boggs/Annadel/Oat Hill Mine, Truckee/Tahoe, and the Gold Country. We could really use your help and expertise to organize these trips or at the very least be a ride leader/ride planner.

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Visit The Backcountry of Henry W. Coe State Park

By Bonnie Stromberg

It's that time again! For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will again open the gate at Bells Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The Coe Backcountry Weekend, held in the little-traveled east side of the 87,000 acre park is scheduled for April 25-27, 2008. This event, sponsored by the Pine Ridge Association and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians have a unique opportunity to see and enjoy an area isolated from the park's western entrances by long distances and rugged terrain.

This is a really special opportunity to see close up the results of the Lick Wildfire in September 2007 that burned 47,000 acres. There will be special hikes and field trips into the heart of the burned area to see and learn about wild fire and its effects on the ecology.

The east side of the park has beautiful spring wildflowers, great fishing, and scenic trails, some with breathtaking panoramic views of the Diablo Range. The ridges and valleys are broader and easier to travel than the steep terrain in the western part of the park, and you can plan day trips to areas that normally require several days of strenuous backpacking; places like Mississippi Lake and the Orestimba Wilderness.

During the weekend, you can explore on your own or you can participate in group activities, such as guided hikes and horseback rides, wildflowers walks, and bird watching strolls. To help you make the most of your visit, we'll provide brochures, park maps, and all sorts of information at visitor booths.

The fees for entering the park on this special weekend are: for one day (either Saturday or Sunday), \$20 per vehicle, for two days (Saturday and Sunday and camp overnight), \$40 per vehicle, or for backpackers ONLY, \$50 per vehicle for two nights (Friday and Saturday nights). There is no limitation on the number of people in a vehicle. Carpooling is encouraged. Rental vans are permitted.

Entrance is by application only, since we limit the number of cars each day. Only one application per address is permitted. Applications are selected by drawing from applications dated from February 1 through February 29, 2008. Applications will be available on our website www.coepark.org, at park headquarters, and at the libraries in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Modesto. You may request an application in writing by mailing a self-addressed stamped **business envelope** to Application Forms, Coe Backcountry Weekend, 1410 Terri Lynn Court, Gilroy, CA 95020



Trailwork info on page 7



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
Cavilan 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; 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

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

ROMP Calendar

MEETINGS

ROMP Monthly Membership Meeting

Monday, February 25 2008, Monday, March 24 2008

07:00 PM (2:00) This is where we talk about what ROMP is planning to do. Also, if you would like to speak to the leadership of ROMP, please contact the president and we will put you on the agenda. We also welcome talks and presentations from outside organizations.

Location: Kapp's Pizza Bar & Grill, 191 Castro St, Mountain View, CA

Contact Information: Josh president@romp.org

RIDES

Arastradero 2nd Saturday Social and Skills Session

02:30 PM (2:00) Saturday, February 09 2008, Saturday, March 08 2008, Saturday, April 12 2008

B/EASY/7/900

This friendly, introductory ride covers most major trails in the preserve. Route varies from month to month depending on interest, but we'll generally do a couple mild loops. Everyone is welcome--beginning riders can treat this as a skills clinic, working on descents and corners on some of the switchbacks while not having to earn their turns too exhaustively. Intermediates can give tips, swap lies, and work on their hang time during the dirt jump session/snack break mid-ride.

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: John H jharlander88@yahoo.com

ROMP MBOSC at Soquel Demo Forest

09:30 AM (4:00) Sunday, February 10 2008, Sunday, March 09 2008, Sunday, April 13 2008

C/INT/12-18/2500-3000

This is the ever popular joint MBOSC ROMP Second Sunday Demonstration Forest 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.

Contact Information: Josh Moore 408-420-7342 mtbikes@gmail.com

Third Saturday Social and Scenery Ride

10:30 AM (2:00) Saturday, February 16 2008, Saturday, March 15 2008, Saturday, April 19 2008

B/EASY/10/800-1000

Enjoy a ride for experienced beginners and intermediates who want to go slower. Meet at 10:30am to ride, socialize, enjoy the scenery, and work on your biking skills at a slow to moderate pace with frequent breaks for 2.0 hours or more depending on group wishes. Rides will choose from the Russian Ridge, Coal Creek, Monte Bello, and Skyline preserves, including moderate steeps, single tracks, and fire roads. Explore and learn new trails in a supportive group or share your favorites in these preserves. Bring your helmet, water, sunscreen and possibly a snack. Rain cancels.

Location(**new parking/ start location**): Meet in the vista point parking area on Skyline Blvd/ Highway 35 located 1.1 miles north of its intersection with Page Mill Road (i.e., right turn from Page Mill onto Skyline for 1.1 miles) and directly across from the Mid-Peninsula Open Space Russian Ridge Preserve. Contact: Rodney Johnson (650) 326-7665 or rodney@stanford.edu

Directions: Take I 280 to Page Mill Rd south (in Palo Alto) going up into the hills, continue on Page Mill Rd 25+ minutes (watching out for road bicyclists on twisty road) until stop sign at intersection with Skyline Blvd/ Highway 35 (near the Mid-Peninsula Open Space Russian Ridge Preserve), turn right, continue 1.1 miles and park on the right in the vista point parking. (Do NOT park in the parking lot for the Russian Ridge Preserve off of Alpine Rd near the intersection of Page Mill Rd/ Skyline Blvd).

3rd Sunday Ride at ECdM

10:00 AM (3:00) Sunday, February 17 2008,

Sunday, March 16 2008, Sunday, April 20 2008

C/15/2500

Meet at Skeggs point at 9:30 for a 10:00 AM start. Routes will vary depending on trail conditions, closures and the whim of the group. This is a no drop ride that starts at the top of the hill and goes down, so you do most of the climbing at the end. Bring your helmet, water and a snack. Lunch after at Alice's restaurant.

Location: El Corte de Madera OSP Skeggs point, Skyline Blvd Woodside CA

Contact Information: Josh Moore 408 420 7342 mtbikes@gmail.com
http://www.openspace.org/preserves/pr_madera.asp

3rd Tuesday Alpine Road

04:30 PM (3:00) Tuesday, February 19 2008, Tuesday, March 18 2008, Tuesday, April 15 2008

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 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 hammerheads 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

4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic

01:00 PM (3:00) Saturday, February 23 2008, Saturday, March 22 2008, Saturday, April 26 2008

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 fire roads and single-track. 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

MTB-101

10:00 AM (4:00) Sunday, February 24 2008, Sunday, March 23 2008, Sunday, April 27 2008

B/Beg-INT/10/1500

Meet at 10:00 AM, Fremont Older / Prospect Rd. parking lot. Bring your MTB in good mechanical condition, helmet, water and fuel.

Be prepared for a 400'climb on fire roads during the first mile. No time limit, no one left behind. Decent will be on a sweeping Single Track. We will practice basic MTB skills and trail etiquette. Beginners welcome. Location: Fremont Older OSP Prospect Rd. parking lot Saratoga CA

Contact Information: Rich Andrews 408.393.1959 randrews@arc.nasa.gov

SOCIAL EVENTS

Bike Repair for the Community

10:00 AM (4:00) Saturday, February 09 2008, Saturday, March 08 2008, Saturday, April 12 2008

Learn to repair bikes and contribute to the community.

Volunteers work on donated bikes, with the help and guidance of skilled mechanics. Tools and stands are available, but bring your own if possible. The bikes are then given away to needy children and adults regularly through various help organizations. No Event in December. Event starts at 9:00 during daylight savings time. Location: Behind BTN Automotive 2566 Leghorn Ave, between Rengstorff and San Antonio Moun-

tain View CA

Contact Information: Dave Fork fork@park.com

Basic Fixit Class

12:00 PM Saturday, February 23 2008, Saturday, March 22 2008, Saturday, April 26 2008
Basic 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 mtn bike. Fix a flat, adjust your derailleur, 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 CA

Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Swap meet at Cupertino Bike Shop

Sunday, April 27 2008

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 CA

VOLUNTEER

Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Trail Days

09:00 AM Saturday, February 02 2008, Saturday, March 01 2008, , Saturday, April 05 2008,

(4:00) Monthly Trail Days - 1st Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm

Come on out and help repair, restore, or rebuild our County Park Trails. These Trail Days will take place at a different County Park each month. No experience needed. Tools, gloves, & refreshments provided. Please wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed toed shoes. Contact with poison oak is always a concern, please take appropriate precautions, bring a change of clothes if necessary. Contact Information: Santa Clara County Parks (408) 355-2254

Wilder Ranch Trailwork

Sunday, February 03 2008, Sunday, March 02 2008, Sunday, April 06 2008

09:00 AM (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.

Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Volunteer Projects

Saturday, February 16 2008, Saturday, March 15 2008, Saturday, April 19 2008

09:00 AM (3:00) Monthly Volunteer Projects - 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-noon
Help us tackle all types of projects ranging from painting and invasive plant removal to litter pickups at locations that desperately need it! These projects will take place at a different County Park each month. Tools, supplies, and refreshments will be provided.

Contact Information: Santa Clara County Parks (408) 355-2254

