



MOUNTAIN CYCLIST

LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2007 — MARCH 2007

The State of ROMP

By Josh Moore, President

As 2006 came to a close, I accepted the honor of being ROMP's president for another year. We had a number of successes and a few disappointments in 2006, and as the year came to a close there was a great deal of discussion online and at our monthly meetings about what direction we want to take ROMP in the future, and how we can make ROMP better.

The 2006 Scorecard
2006 started out with a bang as ROMP and other cycling organizations went head-to-head with the xenophobic community of Woodside and Portola Valley over opening one trail to bikes. The so called Squealer Gulch alignment would be on the other side of Kings Mountain Road from the sacred Huddart Park, and would have provided an opportunity for mountain bikers to climb to Skyline Boulevard without having to ride on the road. The equestrians in Woodside quickly developed a rabid level of fear against all things cycling, and pretty much any kind of non-equestrian related tourism in bucolic Woodside.

While the trail alignment is not in the master plan, there is not an explicit prohibition of bikes in these



beautiful San Mateo County Parks. The Parks and Recreation Department promises to form a blue ribbon commission to determine what we already know: There are few mountain bike opportunities in San Mateo County, and almost no cycling on dirt in San Mateo County Parks.

ROMP stepped down from participating in organizing volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic, and handed over the responsibilities to Team Wrong Way, a Bay Area Race Team whose philosophy is more closely aligned with the Sea Otter's. They had a successful Sea

Otter, and many ROMP members volunteered through them.

We had a very successful Swap meet at the end of April, and had a large presence of volunteers at Henry Coe's Back Country Weekend.

A hastily planned picnic in Belmont still managed to turn out a couple dozen attendees.

Our status as a non-profit 501.c(3) organization made it possible for us to raise over \$8,000 to build a bridge in the Soquel Demonstration State Forest. This project will be very popular with SDF neighbors, and will open

up a 4 mile loop at the bottom of the Forest.

Membership is down. 18 months ago we had about 350 members and now we are down to about 250. Looking back over the years it is clear that our membership is cyclical. It is not clear what causes the ebb and flow of our membership.

We have more organized rides on our calendar than anytime I can remember. Our regular rides happen in preserves and parks as far north as El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve (ECDM) near Woodside and La Honda, and as far south as the Soquel Demonstration

(Continued on page 10)

Alaska Fly-in Wilderness Mountain Biking

By Jim Preston

1989 was a tough year for me. Divorce after a wonderful 16 year marriage, otters dying at my feet after the Prince William Sound Oil Spill, state funding cuts to the Alaska Repertory Theater, of which I had just joined the board, caused it to fold, and the devastating Oil States Recession in the late 1980's broke two-thirds of my CPA's clientele. It was getting hard to bounce back. My sister recommended a mountain bike as therapy.

When the snow cleared in May 1990, I bought a Diamondback: no suspension, center-pull brakes, blue, \$550. Anchorage has probably close to 60 miles of bike trails in town and I was riding both the paved and old army tank trails almost every day. That's nice, but Alaskans get a powerful dose of spring fever and I needed to get into the mountains.

Wrangell St. Elias National Park is the biggest in the US with an infestation of 16,000 foot peaks, blue glaciers, and gray glacial milk rivers. You'll find it on the Alaska – Canada border near the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound in South-central Alaska. Old mining roads will take you to the edge of the park but after that it is serious wilderness, as in no roads or trails. However, bordering the park is what we call a Preserve in Alaska. Preserves are managed by the Park Service but still allow hunting, existing gold claims to be worked, and people to continue living off the land. Preserves are a grandfathered political compromise. There are old roads and mining trails, and a few old ghost towns along the western edge of this park. The winter population in an area that is probably as big as New England is about 200.

I had visited the old mining towns of McCarthy (gold) and Kennicott



(copper) many times and loved hiking the area. They are in the Preserve and a variety of folks were working at restoration of the quaint towns. I won't get into the colorful history but they were abandoned in 1938 when the price of copper fell. The only access then was by a 196 mile railway from Cordova in Prince William Sound. When Kennicott closed down, everyone left on the last train out. They expected to return in the spring so they left all their goods. The mines never

reopened and into the 1980's we could still walk into a stocked drugstore and furnished homes. The place is magical. The map showed old mining roads and the ghost town of Chititu about 15 miles to the SE from McCarthy. There is a drivable road about half the way but the bridge over the Nizina River washed out in 1972 and I wasn't about to ford a glacial river alone. I called Gary Green in McCarthy and he offered me a drop-

(Continued on page 14)

Thanksgiving Appetite Seminar

By Charles Jalgunas

It all started about 30 years ago when Charlie Kelly and a few friends decided to preemptively burn a few thousand calories before sitting down to Thanksgiving Dinner. They called it the Appetite Seminar and rode from the town of Fairfax in Marin on their Klunkers, before such things were called Mountain Bikes, up over Pine Mountain and down Repack back into town. This ride became an annual event, and for a few close friends, is as much a part of Thanksgiving as mandatory face time with the in-laws and drinking before noon.

For this year's Seminar, I dug my Bell V1 Pro out of storage, pulled on my garden gloves and dress flannel shirt, swung a hiking-booted leg over the saddle on my '84 Schwinn, grabbed the bullmoose handlebars and rode back into time. I had packed a tool kit in my fanny pack consisting of a Crescent wrench, Swiss Army knife, a pair of snub nosed pliers, and still had room for a sandwich. No powerfood for this time traveler. I also had bolted an extra cage on the bike for a spare water bottle.

The unofficial count is 900 total riders for this year's Seminar, which ended as in years past, in a beer garden on Bolinas Road in Fairfax. Much thanks to Marin Brewing Company for providing refreshments for those that got off the mountain by 11:00. I had an absolute blast on the ride, staying in the middle of the group of five riders I started with, and just ahead of the largest mass of folks doing the whole ride. With the recent rains, we were treated to about the best possible trail and weather conditions imaginable. It was a dust free ride that had me alternating between death-gripping the brake levers and just plain letting go in an effort to stay somewhat on top of my bear-trap pedals and somewhat near the middle of the trail. A few other riders noticed what I was riding, and how I was riding it, but most apparently did not. While I had fun unique to the old full rigid bike in some places, for the most part I was just enjoying a group ride with a few good friends. It wasn't until we gathered at the bottom of Repack til I gave much consideration to old as compared to new technology. Jay, who just got a

new full suspension bike, mentioned how he couldn't believe he used to ride his old bike at all because the new suspension and brakes handled things so much better. As the bike seller, at first I spoke in complete agreement, then we both looked down at my bike. The disc brakes, long travel forks, hinged rear ends and computer designed and built tire treads don't really open many doors for us. They aren't taking anywhere the old bikes didn't, or at a much different pace. There I was, at the end of a 20 mile ride, right along side the guys I usually finish rides with when I am on one of my other bikes. I started to question whether anyone really needed any more than 5 speeds or a bike that weighed under 40 pounds. And certainly the beer at rides end would taste better to me, getting off my old Schwinn, than anyone riding a titanium steed that day. But then, as they say, I woke up. The next morning I felt like I had gone three rounds with George Foreman. Sore, sluggish, tired, I dragged myself first to the Advil, then the coffee maker, then off to work. I think Jay went out for a ride.

Mountain Biking 101

Introducing ROMP's Intermediate Beginner's Ride!

What: Mountain Biking 101

Hours: 4-6 per month.

Location:

Fremont Older Open Space
22694 Prospect Rd. Saratoga, CA
95070, Parking Lot, Gate FO-01.

Time: Meet at 10:00 am.

Days: 4th Sunday of each month.
(www.romp.org, see ROMP online calendar)

Ride Leader:

Rich Andrews
408.393.1959
randrews@arc.nasa.gov

Open Enrollment, All ages welcome.

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of Jim Sullivan's "4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic" or equivalent.

Required Reading:

"Beginner's MTB Information Guide". See link at www.romp.org for more information.

MTB 101's Goal:

Practice the basic biking techniques required to sustain climbs and descend single-track safely.

Basic Route:

From the Prospect Rd. parking lot, be prepared to practice climbing 300 feet in 1 mile to Hunter's Point via fire road. No time limit, no rider left behind. Descend the Seven Springs single-track loop trail.

Extra Credit Routes:

Seven + additional miles of trails within the park are available.

Post Ride:

Recovery ceremony at local establishments!

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council News

By Josh Moore

Janet McBride has joined the Ridge Trail as Executive Director. Her experience includes 20 years in the planning and environmental field, as well as highly relevant trail and nonprofit management experience gained over 6 years as Director of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project. Janet was instrumental in developing a program that offers competitive grants to local partners to design and build new trails. The program was structured to speed construction by targeting high priority segments and critical

"gaps", to leverage State funds with matching contributions, and to foster new partnerships and creative design solutions. Upon her appointment, Janet noted, "I am excited about leading the board, staff, members and volunteers of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to sustain the 300 miles already completed and to build the remaining 200 miles, to realize the inspired vision of a continuous trail circling the Bay Area ridges." Janet has developed a reputation as a visionary leader, talented collaborator, an

excellent planner, and a strong financial manager.

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority News

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority is planning to open about 6 new miles of multi-use trail as soon as it can get a staging area built. It will probably be late 2007 to get that done, and it means opening 4 newly-acquired properties. The OSA is also seeking people to serve on a Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Email info@openspaceauthority.org.

ROMP Holiday Party Pics!



Coe Park Report

By Paul Nam

Who earns high grades chasing after a beautiful symbiosis?

Volunteers on a trail of wonderful Coe-existence.

Upcoming 2nd Saturday trail work is Jan 13 & Feb 10 (March may be moved to the 17th). As I write on Jan 1, it is much dryer than last year (Dec 05' saw a staggering 9.84" of rain). Trail conditions are good. Nice weather has provided many excellent riding opportunities.

Despite that, the 2nd Saturday trail days are plagued by poor weather. Plans for an overnight trail work weekend into the backcountry were cancelled in December due to rain. November's trail day plans to work in the backcountry were changed because a storm had made the roads too wet to drive in on.

When bad weather or wet road conditions prohibit backcountry travel, we select trail work within hiking distance of the trailhead. In November we worked on Grizzly Gulch, and in December we worked on Phegley Ridge Trail. By the time you read this we'll have probably worked on Lyman Willson Trail, or if we have dry conditions, brushed

White Tank Trail on Jan 13. We meet a 9am at Hunting Hollow.

We have plans to re-enact the Coe IMBA Epic weekend on a TBA weekend in May, 07'. This would be after the Coe Backcountry Weekend, (Apr 27-29) and the expected 1st seasonal opening of the remote Dowdy Ranch Trailhead.



The 07' Coe ROMP Epic is still pending. The course will be slightly altered due to the fact that boundaries have been "corrected" southwards, causing the incredible Alquist Trail to fall within the 23,000 acre State Orrestimba Wilderness boundary. Therefore we'll use the Turkey Pond Trail instead. We plan to do some trail work there by then. The Epic for riders would take place on a Sunday. Trail work and course

marking the day before will be for volunteers.

Last Nov we had 7 volunteers. In Dec we had 6. That's good considering the weather we've had on those weekends. More help is obviously welcome. Our groups are fun and the work proceeds creatively and collaboratively.

We are using Evites on the web to manage volunteering and encourage ride sharing. You are invited:

<http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/vocinam@yahoo.com/coe2007>

You may volunteer by:

phone (408) 446-3745

email: vocinam@yahoo.com

Or just show up. Updates on trail work plans and reports are always posted on the ROMP email list, and less so on the website. Special overnight trail work/camping/riding weekends happen for volunteers, and notice of these opportunities are made on the ROMP list.

Wanted: Digital still and video person to record trail work.

Shwag: ROMP socks and ding-bells are given to volunteers. A new shirt is also in the works.

Romp Directory

PO Box 1723, Campbell, CA 95009-1723 408-420-7342 www.romp.org

President	Josh Moore	408-420-7342	president@romp.org
Vice President	Scott Robinson	408-446-3745	vicepresident@romp.org
Secretary	Charles Jalgunas		secretary@romp.org
Treasurer	Glenn Wegner	408-257-8284	treasurer@romp.org
Beginner's Clinic Leader	Jim Sullivan	650-493-8774	beginnersclinic@romp.org
Membership Coordinator	Linda Wegner	408-257-8284	membership@romp.org
Membership Database	David Volansky	415-334-7569	memberdata@romp.org
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Trail Work Coordinator	Charles Jalgunas		trailwork@romp.org
Ride Coordinator	Tom Oshima	650-814-8271	ride@romp.org
Sponsor Coordinator	John Morgan	408-224-6879	sponsor@romp.org
National Mtn Bike Patrol	Dave Wieland	408-371-2729	nmbp@romp.org
Web Master	Tom Oshima		webmaster@romp.org

A Special Thanks To The Following Sponsors:



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 :
		<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) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Suspension (\$250.00)
Send Newsletter:		<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership (\$1,000.00)
<input type="checkbox"/> Via US postal service <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

MEETINGS

Monday, February 26 2007 7:00 PM Monthly Membership Meeting (2:00) Fourth Monday of every month meeting at Printers Ink Cafe on California Street in Palo Alto. 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: Printers Ink Cafe 320 S. California Ave Palo Alto CA Contact Information: Josh Moore (408) 420 7342 president@romp.org

Monday, March 26 2007 07:00 PM Monthly Membership Meeting (2:00) See description for February 26th event

LAND MEETINGS

Thursday, February 01 2007 2:30 PM San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (2:00) The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for establishing policies to guide the work of the San Mateo Parks and Recreation Division. This includes issues of parkland use management such as master plans, acquisitions, and development. Additional meetings may be set by the Commission as needs arise. Meetings are held publicly and are conducted by a quorum of at least three of the Commissioners. Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, Hall of Justice 400 County Center Redwood City CA 94063

Wednesday, February 07 2007 6:30 PM Santa Clara County Parks Commission Meeting (2:00) Santa Clara County Parks Commission Monthly Meeting - to view the agenda, actual start time (can vary), & meeting location, check www.parkhere.org, click on "General Agency Information", then click on "Parks and Recreation Commission". look for the corresponding meeting agenda.

Wednesday, February 14 2007 7:30 PM MROSD Meeting (0:00) MROSD 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. Check with MROSD for any last minute changes. Location:

Calendar

MROSD District Offices 330 Distel Circle (off El Camino Real north of Rengstorff) Los Altos

Wednesday, February 28 2007 7:30 PM MROSD Meeting (0:00) See description for February 14th event

Thursday, March 01 2007 2:30 PM San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (2:00) See description for February 01st event

Wednesday, March 07 2007 6:30 PM Santa Clara County Parks Commission Meeting (2:00) See description for February 07th event

Wednesday, March 14 2007 7:30 PM MROSD Meeting (0:00) See description for February 14th event

Wednesday, March 28 2007 7:30 PM MROSD Meeting (0:00) See description for February 14th event

Wednesday, April 04 2007 6:30 PM Santa Clara County Parks Commission Meeting (2:00) See description for February 07th event

Thursday, April 05 2007 2:30 PM San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (2:00) See description for February 01st event

Wednesday, April 11 2007 7:30 PM MROSD Meeting (0:00) See description for February 14th event

Wednesday, April 25 2007 7:30 PM MROSD Meeting (0:00) See description for February 14th event

RIDES

Sunday, February 04 2007 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) 667-5307 tripier@aol.com

Sunday, February 11 2007 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: <http://mtb.live555.com/rides/SoquelDemo.html> Contact Information: Rich Andrews 408-738-1384 randrews@arc.nasa.gov

Tuesday, February 13 2007 2:30 PM Arastradero 2nd Saturday Social and Skills Session (2:00) 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. 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: John H jharlander88@yahoo.com

Saturday, February 17 2007 10:30 AM Third Saturday Social and Scenery Ride (2:00) 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

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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).

Sunday, February 18 2007 10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at ECdM (3:00) C/15/2500
The third Sunday ride is changing back to ECdM! Meet at 10am at the skeggs point parking lot which is on route 35, 4 miles north of Alice's Restaurant. Location: ECdM Contact Information: Dave Tripier (408) 667-5307 tripier@aol.com

Tuesday, February 20 2007 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" 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

Saturday, February 24 2007 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. Location: Arastradero Preserve Arastradero Road Palo Alto CA Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Sunday, February 25 2007 10:00 AM MTB-101 (4:00) B/easy/10/1500 Come prepared to climb 300 feet in the first mile. No time limit, no rider left behind. We'll practice basic uphill and downhill biking techniques. Nine mile trail system open to bikes. Post ride recovery establishment TBD. Location: Fremont Older OSP 22694 Prospect Rd. Parking Lot, Gate FO-01 Saratoga CA 95070 Contact Information: Rich Andrews 408.393.1959 randrews@arc.nsa.gov

Sunday, March 04 2007 10:00 AM First Sunday Social Ride at Saratoga Gap (3:00) B/EASY/11/1500 See description for February 4th ride.

Sunday, March 11 2007 9:30 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 See description for February 11th ride.

Tuesday, March 13 2007 2:30 PM Arastradero 2nd Saturday Social and Skills Session (2:00) B/EASY/7/900 See description for February 13th ride.

Saturday, March 17 2007 10:30 AM Third Saturday Social and Scenery Ride (2:00) B/EASY/10/800-1000 See description for February 17th ride.

Sunday, March 18 2007 10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at ECdM (3:00) C/15/2500 See description for February 18th ride.

Tuesday, March 20 2007 4:30 PM 3rd

Tuesday Alpine Road (3:00) See description for February 20th ride.

Saturday, March 24 2007 1:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic (3:00) See description for February 24th ride.

Sunday, March 25 2007 10:00 AM MTB-101 (4:00) B/easy/10/1500 See description for February 25th ride.

Sunday, April 01 2007 10:00 AM First Sunday Social Ride at Saratoga Gap (3:00) B/EASY/11/1500. See description for February 4th ride.

Sunday, April 08 2007 9:30 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 See description for February 11th ride.

Friday, April 13 2007 2:30 PM Arastradero 2nd Saturday Social and Skills Session (2:00) B/EASY/7/900. See description for February 13th ride.

Sunday, April 15 2007 10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at ECdM (3:00) C/15/2500. See description for February 18th ride.

Tuesday, April 17 2007 4:30 PM 3rd Tuesday Alpine Road (3:00) See description for February 20th ride.

Saturday, April 21 2007 10:30 AM Third Saturday Social and Scenery Ride (2:00) B/EASY/10/800-1000 See description for February 17th ride.

Sunday, April 22 2007 10:00 AM MTB-101 (4:00) B/easy/10/1500 See description for February 25th ride.

Saturday, April 28 2007 1:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic (3:00) See description for February 24th ride.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday, February 10 2007 10:00 AM Bike Repair for the Community (4:00)
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 Mountain View CA Contact Information: Dave Fork fork@park.com

(Continued on page 9)

Saturday, February 24 2007 12:00 PM Basic Fixit 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 Contact Information: Jim Sullivan 650-493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Saturday, March 10 2007 10:00 AM Bike Repair for the Community (4:00) Learn to repair bikes and contribute to the community. See description for February 10th event.

Saturday, March 24 2007 12:00 PM Basic Fixit Class (1:00) See description for February 24th event.

Saturday, April 14 2007 10:00 AM Bike Repair for the Community (4:00) Learn to repair bikes and contribute to the community. See description for February 10th event.

Saturday, April 28 2007 12:00 PM Basic Fixit Class (1:00) See description for February 24th event.

Sunday, April 29 2007 Swap meet at Cupertino Bike Shop. Each year ROMP hosts a swap meet. The swap meet is a fundraiser 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 number 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.

TRAIL WORK

Saturday, February 03 2007 9:00 AM Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Trail Days (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 Fee: Free

Sunday, February 04 2007 9:00 AM Wilder Ranch Trailwork (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.

Saturday, February 10 2007 9:00 AM Coe Volunteer Trail Day (6:00) Coe 2nd Saturday Volunteer Trail Work series. Each 2nd Saturday of each month through June 9 2007, there will be a volunteer trail day at Coe. Typically we meet at Hunting Hollow. A poor map is on the evite (if you need more instructions ask). Those who rsvp will receive vital details and important updates. Weather and conditions play a major role. Really extreme bad weather may cancel trail days. Park staff can also order a cancellation. The duration of these days is open ended. It depends on participant enthusiasm and potential post work rides and contingencies. Typically we are back to meet area by 4pm. Carpooling is encouraged. There is a tool to help organize car-pooling on evites. Or simply contact those coming and try to arrange one. More details are to be found at the event web link. Location: Hunting Hollow Entrance (except 12/9, meet at Bell Station) Henry Coe State Park Morgan Hill / Gilroy CA Contact Information: Paul Nam 408 446-3745 vocinam@yahoo.com <http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/>

vocinam@yahoo.com/coetraildays
Fee: Free

Saturday, February 17 2007 9:00 AM Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Volunteer Projects (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 Fee: Free

Saturday, March 03 2007 9:00 AM Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Trail Days (4:00) Monthly Trail Days See description for February 3rd event.

Sunday, March 04 2007 9:00 AM Wilder Ranch Trailwork (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.

Saturday, March 10 2007 9:00 AM Coe Volunteer Trail Day (6:00) See description for February 10th event.

Saturday, March 17 2007 9:00 AM Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Volunteer Projects (3:00) See description for February 17th event.

Sunday, April 01 2007 9:00 AM Wilder Ranch Trailwork (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.

Saturday, April 07 2007 9:00 AM Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Trail Days (4:00) See description for February 3rd event.

Saturday, April 14 2007 9:00 AM Coe Volunteer Trail Day (6:00) See description for February 10th event.

Saturday, April 21 2007 9:00 AM Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Volunteer Projects (3:00) See description for February 17th event.

(Continued from page 1)

State Forest (SDF). We have led special rides at Fort Ord, Henry Coe, and the Marin Headlands. ROMP has organized numerous trail work days in Henry Coe State Park. We also worked in collaboration with MROSD on the Watershed Protection Program in ECDM to scout new trail corridors, and to realign and maintain existing trails. Our membership organized trail work at SDF through trailworkers.com as well. Very little has been done with Santa Clara County parks, San Mateo County Parks, and Santa Clara County's Open Space Authority. Besides Belmont and Pacifica, little effort has been made to improve mountain biking opportunities in our city parks. ROMP has seen lively discussions about all things mountain biking on our email list serve. Discussions have included topics such as tires, trail conditions, land management, and making ROMP better. The discussion on how to make ROMP better can be summarized into this list:

- 1) Ask your friends to Join.
- 2) Print business cards to give out to non-members to remind them to join
- 3) Allow payment for memberships on paypal
- 4) Make a "real" marketing campaign with metrics and

- feedback on efficacy
- 5) Make people feel they are welcome
- 6) More social programs. (Maybe heavily discounted for members)
- 7) Try to bring in younger members
- 8) ROMP Trips for Kids Chapter
- 9) Skills classes
- 10) Singles Rides
- 11) List events through other media channels such as Craigslist, MTBR, and Cycle California.
- 12) "New Riders" easy ride
- 13) ROMP water bottles with Marketing insert
- 14) No begging, pleading nor guilt
- 15) Co-List Rides with other organizations, other outlets (e.g. Velo Girls, Western Wheelers, Nocal High School league)
- 16) Make a business plan / Overall marketing Strategy / Marketing tactics. Answer questions such as "Why Grow? How to execute the Plan? Who to target? How to fund it?"

What is ROMP and what do we want it to be?

Much of the discussion on the email list revolved around increasing ROMP's membership, and if we had more members, we would have more people who would be willing to lead rides, plan events, do trail work, and generally make ROMP go. ROMP was compared to other organizations with paid staff, such as IMBA and vo-cal.org, implying that the way forward for ROMP was to reach a critical mass to be able to

hire paid staff. People mentioned forming strategies and tactics, and marketing ourselves towards a target audience.

I think having goals and objectives is a great idea. With some goals we can measure our progress towards being all we want to be. There is a question that remains unasked though: what do we want to be? ROMP was formed some 25 years ago to help keep mountain bike access in lands that later became Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. ROMP was then, and continues to be primarily a mountain bike advocacy organization that also has a strong social component. ROMP has been actively involved in getting trails open to cyclists all over the peninsula and in the South bay area ever since. This long history of advocacy and accomplishment gives ROMP a formidable reputation with land managers despite its size. We need to continue on with advocacy, but over the recent past we have seen a downswing in the number of social, fun events, and easier, more entry level rides.

ROMP has been fortunate to have a core cadre of a dozen or more volunteers to lead rides, organize trail work events, keep an eye on land managers and participate in land use planning. These volunteers have identified a project they want to work on and have done the footwork to make it happen. Such events include things like the annual ROMP Swap Meet, Trail Work events with Santa Clara County Parks, City parks, and state forests. We have organized social events such as picnics, nights out, and Christmas parties. It is the individuals, over the years, who have offered their time to organize events that have made ROMP great. I encourage everyone to consider taking on one or more of the ideas listed above and to make it happen. Speaking on behalf of ROMP's leadership, we will be there to help you make it happen.

Our core cadre of volunteers do a lot to make ROMP what it is. It is probably true that if we had more



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members we would have more people willing to organize things. Yet, if our core cadre is already doing everything they can, should they drop what they are currently doing and work on increasing our membership? What if our current active members are not interested in managing a marketing campaign or a membership drive? ROMP is, and will continue to be what our volunteers are willing to make it. What would you like ROMP to be?

Looking Ahead

In 2007, I believe ROMP will continue to be a powerful force for mountain bike advocacy in the bay area, and beyond. I also hope that ROMP will start some new traditions and revitalize some older traditions that will invigorate a more social side of ROMP as well. Many road cycling clubs have supported century rides that are the primary fundraiser for the club. We are planning to have a similar, long, supported ride put on by ROMP this Spring or Summer. The ride will probably take place in Henry Coe in May, and may be a weekend long event located in the Dowdy Ranch area of the Park.

This year, we plan to have one or more ROMP n STOMPs, or carrot fests, where mountain cyclists and equestrians get together and get to know each others' sport better and gain appreciation and respect,



resulting in more positive user experiences for everyone. We hope to organize one in San Mateo and one in Santa Clara Counties. In the past, ROMP has had picnics with "Bike Olympics". These events have been thoroughly enjoyed and well attended. Hopefully we will plan another for some time this summer.

ROMP now has an A or B paced ride every weekend, and C paced rides as well. It would be great to see some regularly scheduled rides in some places where we do not have any now, such as Pacifica, Henry Coe, Grant Ranch, or any of the skyline preserves.

I hope we can organize some weekend trips to the Sierras, or possibly some bike touring and camping in neighboring areas, such as Big Basin, or Henry Coe.

It should prove to be an interesting year for advocacy as well. As the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District expands toward the coast and finishes up master plans for its two biggest preserves, La Honda Creek and Sierra Azul, we will need to be there fighting for access for bikes. San Mateo County has promised to form a commission to look at county wide trails, and ROMP members will serve on this commission. Santa Clara County Parks will finish up the Master Plan for Skyline Sanborn, which should finalize a key stretch of Bay Area Ridge Trail from Saratoga Gap to

Lexington Reservoir as multi-use. When that plan is finished, we will watch carefully as Calero Park in South San Jose starts its master plan. City Parks seem supportive of the idea of having bike parks. We need to work with San Jose to re-open Calabazas, Pacifica to get permission for a



bike park there, and put pressure on Mountain View to get a plan to fund a bike park that has been on the books for some time now. This year, ROMP participated in National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day. I hope in 2007 we can get even more kids involved. The Norcal High School Mountain Bike League continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are poorly represented in the league. We need people to get involved and become coaches at their local high schools, and ROMP needs to work with the league to provide a strong land management awareness component to the league in our area. Very few of the items I have listed have anyone to take charge and make them happen. ROMP is effective because people like you decide to take them on. Our volunteers enjoy giving back and their efforts make the trails better places. We would be delighted to have your help and support, and thanks to everyone who has helped in the past. Please let me know what you can do to help ROMP make 2007 a successful year.

The New Disney

By Josh Moore

I met with Meredith Manning and Craig Beckman today to scout out a new alignment - a new trail really - to replace the section of the South Leaf Trail known as Disneyland. Disneyland is the locals term for the section of trail that goes from gate CM08.5 basically straight downhill to the Methuselah Trail. Few people ever ride this trail up, because it is so incredibly steep, and a few people ride down it accidentally, when they miss the turn to the technically very challenging South Leaf Trail.

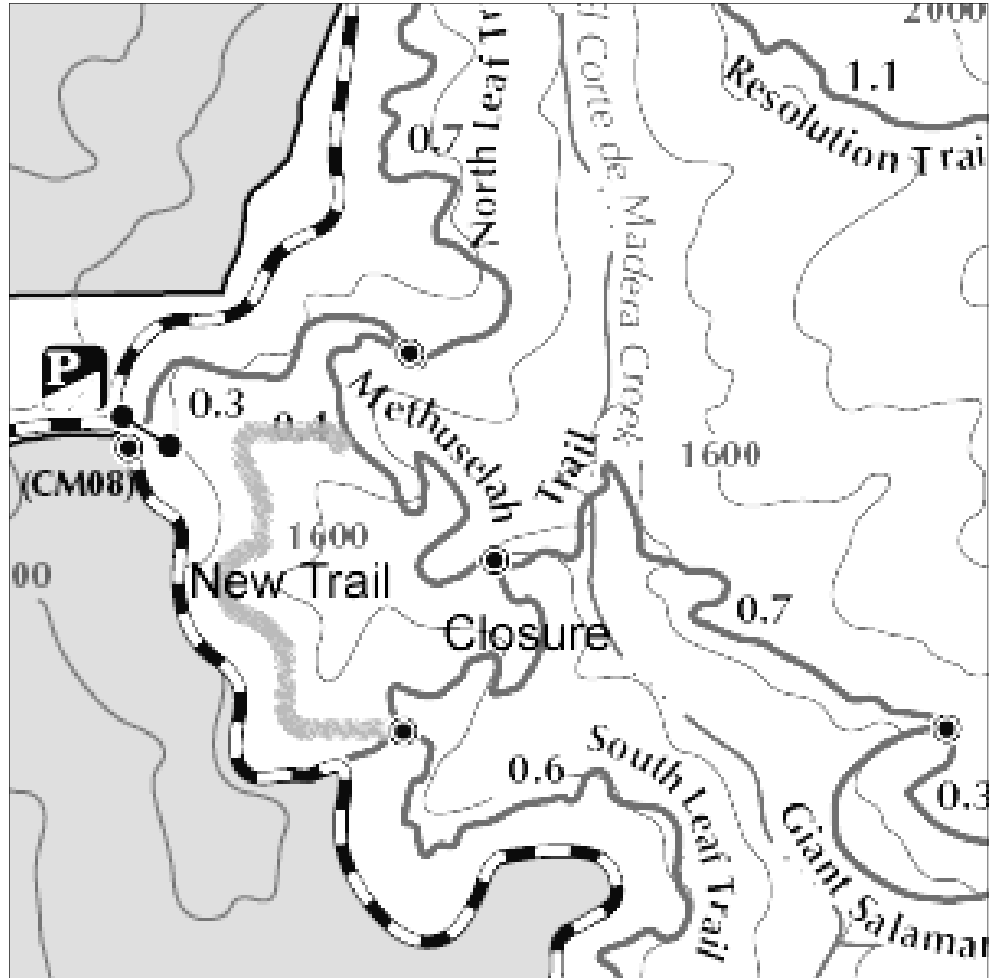
The new alignment will go from Methuselah Trail (0.4 mile marker on the map) near gate CM08 along a 1700 foot contour, and meet up with the top of South Leaf, where it is easy to miss the turn onto the fun part of the trail. This trail would bypass the need to ride up and out gate CM08, along Star Hill Road and drop into gate CM08.5 at the top of the south leaf trail.

The new trail is basically in early conception. Today we picked out about half of the trail corridor. After the trail corridor is identified, a geologist needs to approve the alignment, discussions with Fish and Wildlife need to happen to address concerns about crossing the three major drainages, and the District Biologist needs to approve the alignment as well. Then permitting can begin.

You can expect a call out for volunteers as early as 2008. In the meantime, you may want to start training for your climb up Disneyland before that trail gets restored.

Sierra Azul Master Plan

MROSD held a third public workshop for Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves in December of 2006. Located South of Los Gatos, encompassing over 18,000 acres, these two preserves represent more than 1/3 of all the land the District owns. The District proposed three basic recreation management plans to choose from, and said that these ideas could also be selected



amongst in a smorgasbord type fashion. The first option, A, is to do nothing - status quo. The second and third options involved increasing public access, and removing legacy buildings to various degrees. Both B and C options call for leaving Bear Creek Redwoods closed to bikes. While this will be unpopular to the residents of Summit Road who would like bike commute options, their rationale for this was reasonable. They said that this preserve already has a stable on it and a history of equestrian use, and also does not interconnect to neighboring preserves, which is largely correct. However, Bear Creek Redwoods is close to El Serrano OSP and Skyline Sanborn County Park, and there is significant amounts of open space in between owned by San Jose Water District.

The basic difference in plans B and C are the amount of parking spaces in

the parking lots, number of camp sites, and miles of trail open to the public. Generally speaking, I support option C, with a few caveats.

I was disappointed with the "planning" of trails which largely involved deciding which existing fire roads to open to the public and which ones to restore to a natural state by slashing and replanting vegetation. I think this is a really shortsighted way to plan, although one could argue that it maintains the historical nature of the preserve. As this is a plan, I would strongly encourage the district to plan some more contour line trails, and shorter loops near trail heads. Conversations with planning staff suggested that better planned trail corridors will happen after land acquisition becomes less of a priority and they can direct more financial resources towards public enjoyment, which holds a lower

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priority according to the District's mission.

Both options would open the vast majority of trails in Sierra Azul to cyclists, leaving the Rancho de Guadalupe area closed to cyclists. The rationale for that is its proximity to an "urban" center, that it will probably be used by families, and its proximity to a stable. With Plan C, a trail would be open from Rancho de Guadalupe up to the alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Since this would be a regional trail connector from an urban center, I would hope they would open at least a bike corridor through this area, which could someday provide a good loop in conjunction with Almaden Quicksilver.

Other areas that may prove contentious in the mountain bike community are the re-alignments of Rattlesnake and Dogmeat (Upper Priest Rock) Trails. The re-alignments are deemed necessary due to erosion and water quality issues.

Of interest in the plan was a few campsites. One would be 2.5 miles up Kennedy, and another just 3/4 miles up rattlesnake near SDF. The policy is to provide camp sites with bathrooms and water, so remote campsites seem to be out of the question. I did not ask if backcountry camping will be possible. I think not. Plan B calls for the removal of all buildings in BCR except the Chapel (and stables) which would be restored. In Sierra Azul, it calls for the removal of all buildings except the Monolith. Plan C calls for the removal of all buildings except the stables.

Unfortunately, few mountain bikers went to the Bear Creek Redwoods sessions. Therefore there was very little input at the meeting about getting cycling access to that preserve. I encourage you to provide your input into this process. More information:

http://www.openspace.org/plans_projects/sierra_azul_bear_creek_mp_alternatives.asp

Please provide your feedback to

Ana Ruiz, Project Planner
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022
Email: masterplan@openspace.org

Things to Say:

- Open Bear Creek Redwoods to Bikes!
- Support Option C
- More contour line trails like the Priest Rock to Kennedy option
- Open a bike corridor through Rancho de Guadalupe
- Permit back country camping
- Plan a trails network based on desired routes and modern design techniques rather than on existing trails. Implement it over time.
- Support regional trail connectors such as Limekiln to St. Josephs

La Honda Creek Master Plan

For those of you who don't know, La Honda Creek is 6,000 acres bounded by El Corte de Madera OSP to the north, Skyline Boulevard, and Highway 84, and goes most of the way down to the coast, down to the Driscoll Ranch Rodeo facility. For comparison, ECDM is 2300 acres, SDF is 2000 acres, Fremont Older is 740 acres. In size, it is second only to Sierra Azul.

In 2000 MROSD decided to close this preserve to bikes, and essentially to everyone else for that matter, but it is currently undergoing a master plan, so that is up for review. The current proposed alignment for the bay area ridge trail could go through there, and also has the potential for a skyline to the sea route in the future. The terrain is hilly and is about 50% grass lands and 50% riparian, or wooded habitat close to a creek. Steelhead trout and Coho Salmon are found in its streams. Endangered frogs, snakes and turtles are also found there.

The lower half of the preserve has a grazing lease. It will be interesting to see how the District manages recreation and grazing on the same land. I have seen it co-exist peacefully at Henry Coe, and understand that it happens on East Bay Parks lands, as well as in Marin County.

In November of 2006, I went to the MROSD public input meeting for La

Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. There were about 60 - 80 people present, most of whom were from La Honda. In addition there were the usual 5 mountain bike advocates, and the usual 5 equestrian advocates. There were a few more equestrians from town than there were mountain bikers.

The November meeting went very well. Everyone - neighbors, equestrians, dog walkers, and bikers were expressing their desire for multi-use access to this preserve ASAP. I was pretty astounded because these were the very same equestrians, when discussing Huddart and Wunderlich, were saying that bicyclists and equestrians just don't mix. The main difference is that since most or all of the trails go through grasslands, the lines of site are great, which gives the equestrians a better sense of what is going on.

We need more public input now! Please write to Ana at aruiz@openspace.org and tell her that you would like to see multiuse trails open up soon in La Honda Creek. Please be sure to mention that you would like:

- East-West and North-South Regional Connectors, with building the North-South connector a priority
- A second North south connector to provide the opportunity to do a big loop
- Trails built in the wooded and pond areas to provide access to the diversity of habitat in the preserve for nature observation and education
- Open staging areas ASAP at the Red Barn and Driscoll Ranch Rodeo Areas.
- Tell her about your successful experiences with recreation and grazing co-existing, and that you would be respectful of the cattle by closing gates and not herding them.
- Ask for permission to bring your dog on trail with a leash, and for a dog run, if you are so inclined.
- Ask them to respect the desires of coastal residents and follow their suggestions on how to manage the property, as this will set a precedent of how coastal residents perceive the District.

(Continued from page 2)

off and pick-up in his Piper Cherokee 6 for \$100. I bought fore and aft panniers for the bike at REI, stuffed my backpacking gear in them, and a few days later was landing on a remote grass airstrip near the tiny settlement of May Creek. (It's a 9 mile flight from McCarthy to May Creek.)

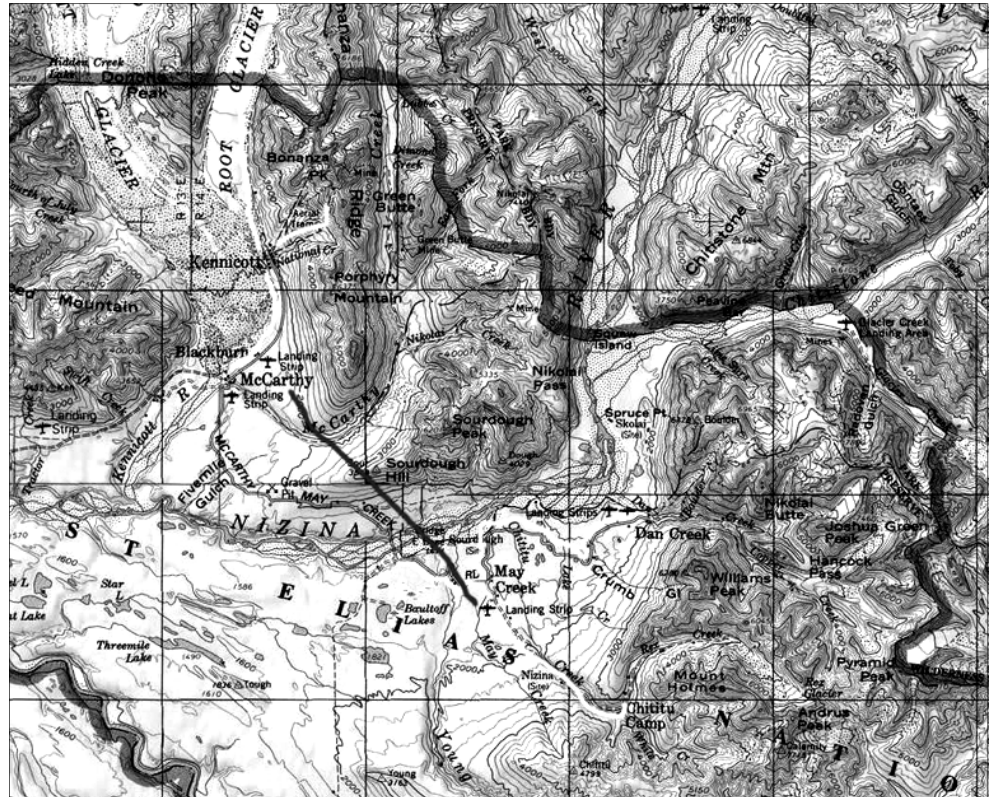
I unpacked my bike from the aircraft and Gary flew off over the trees, to return in three days. That is when I noticed Fred and his neighbors. At the upper end of the airstrip was a little cabin-like "airport lounge" that the mountain folk wait at for the mail plane once a week. About six men and women were waiting for this weekly excitement with their guns and dogs when I dropped in on them in my new Lycra biking clothes and bike. I looked very out of place.

I biked over to the cabin and sat down on the porch with them. No one said a thing for a while, a long uncomfortable while. It was a scene from Deliverance. Finally a big red-bearded guy in Carharts introduced himself as Fred and asked something like what planet I came from. I mentioned Anchorage, which has a reputation in Bush Alaska something like Northern Californians think of L.A., only worse, but everyone started chatting with me anyway.

With the ice broken I was able to find out about their remote lifestyle and the conditions of the local "roads". Well, most of the roads on the map were mere animal trails at that point in history. These people were from Dan Creek about seven miles away and once a week they bushwhack their way to and from the airstrip. They told me about the deep beaver ponds they have to wade through, the heavy brush, and the large biting black flies. Of course they had grizzly and moose attack stories, but that I was used to. I had only been riding this bike a month, never on dirt with panniers, and I was getting concerned. Still, such stories are

usually exaggerated so I continued with my plan.

I believe it was a 1989 issue of National Geographic that had an article about three guys who "biked" through this area and over to Denali Park across open terrain. They wanted to go farther but the leader died near Mt. McKinley and winter set in. I knew they had a rough time but they did find places to actually get on and pedal the bikes. I was seeking those treasured little stretches of trail.



Fred said that the five miles of old road up the creek to Chititu Camp could probably be biked so I launched on my adventure alone. He was right about the road and other than a few nasty climbs and washouts, the ride wasn't eventful. It was hot however, in the 90's, and I stripped to my diapers. Exploring Chititu Camp was exciting. Much of a small town remained including a fully stocked blacksmith's shop and horse-drawn wagons. Roofs were coming down due to the extreme weather and lack of maintenance and there was over a half century's brush and trees growing on the main street. With a little imagination I could visualize a

lively gold camp on a white water stream at the base of a weathered old mountain. Not quite No Name City from 1969's Paint Your Wagon but still a few interesting buildings. I settled into a chair at a kitchen table with the plates and utensils still set out and started reading Christmas letters received by the miners in the mid-1930's when the thunder storm hit. I walked out of the house and onto Main Street and was spooked. Sheet metal was banging in the wind and the sky

was dark and ominous. It was a scene from a horror movie. I escaped to the familiarity of an open gravel bar above the creek, set up my tent, and dove in just as the big drops hit. The storm would clear the mosquitoes out for a short time – nice.

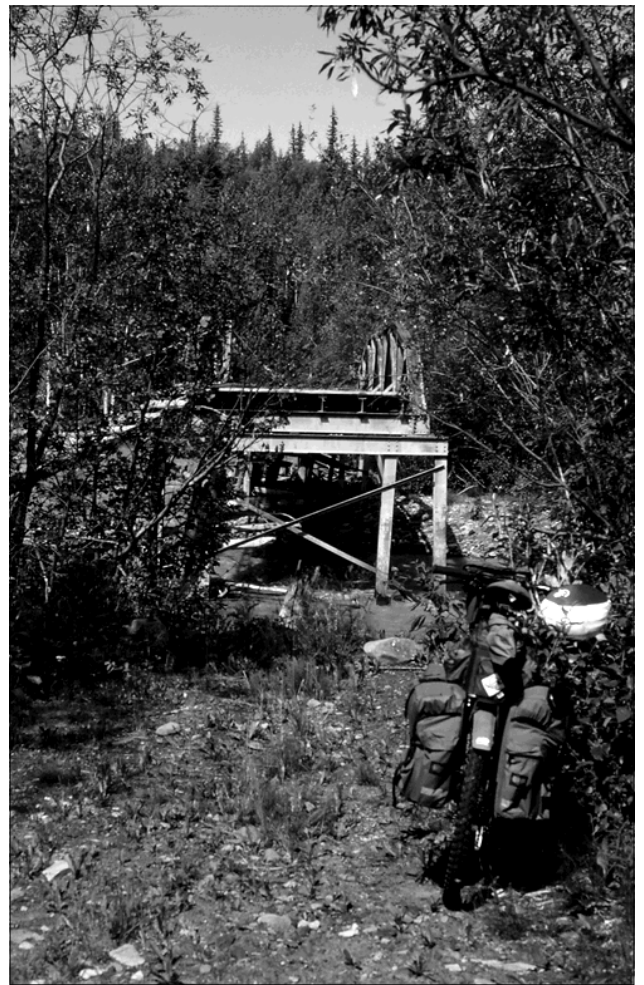
When the storm cleared, I checked out the road ahead. It went through a swollen glacial milked stream and up the canyon. I couldn't find trees in the right places to rig up a rope crossing so I turned around and had a lively ride back down to May Creek. The settlement of May Creek consists of a couple of beautiful

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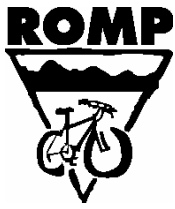
(Continued from page 14)

large log houses populated by retirees and a new NPS barn-like building as a base for research projects. Major materials are trucked across the frozen river in the winter. There were a few ATV's and 4WD vehicles in the area. I wasn't quite as alone as I thought. About a dozen people lived there. My next destination was Dan Creek along the level seven mile "Road of the Flies". At first the road was just fine and the views of the surrounding peaks and glaciers were classic Alaska. Then the fun stopped. There were little inconveniences like missing bridges and I would have to hang my loaded bike (45 pounds of gear) on my shoulder and wade. This required both hands to be involved with the bike and that meant two hands were not available for swatting at the hordes of thumb-sized black flies. There were few mosquitoes, even with the beaver ponds, and I assumed that the flies ate them. I thought wading through the first few muddy beaver ponds was more than annoying until I came to the brush. I didn't bring my machete so the bike had to be hoisted above the brush and that only left one option, to portage it and gear with my arms extended above my head for sometimes several hundred yards. With my arms fully occupied the

flies had a feast. I thought to myself "This is supposed to be therapy?" As therapy the mountain bike was working fine, but this prescription was a bit off. Still, men don't turn back or ask directions. I'll never know how far I got on the Road of the Flies but I crossed several streams and I think I was near Dan Creek when I turned around and did it all over again back to May Creek. On the third day I was ready for a cheeseburger at McCarthy Lodge and Gary's Piper was a welcome sight. I went on to bike the well-traveled roads and trails around Kennicott and up the Root Glacier trail. If you love exploring old mining towns then this is one of the more interesting ones and still mostly intact. You can check out the history and photos on the Web. The trip from McCarthy through Kennicott and up the Root Glacier is about 8.5 miles. Kennicott up into the mines area is about 2 miles, very up. As I recall the old road has a 20% grade.



I pushed most of it. Biking along the narrow trail on the steep scree slopes above the Root Glacier had a high pucker factor. I wanted to include a screen shot of the route from Google Earth but the Alaska images are rather pathetic. There is a 60 mile dirt road along the old rail tracks from the paved highway to the river crossing before McCarthy. That road used to be a rough adventure but has been upgraded by the Park Service recently. The road ends in a primitive parking lot on a gravel bar by the river. To get to Kennicott and McCarthy there is now a walkway bridge across the Kennicott River where once we pulled ourselves across the torrent in a hand operated, as in pull the rope, tram. The panniers on both wheels were very stable and worked fine. I went on to adventures in the Mayan jungles and Russia after this trip and never used them again. A few days ago I threw them out, still with the May Creek dirt on them.



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650-328-7411 paloaltobicycles.com



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1111 Willow St. San Jose 95125
408-2932606



Passion Trail Bikes
For the Love of Mountain Biking
415 Old County Rd. Belmont
650-620-9798
passiontrailbikes.com



Trail Head Cyclery 14450
Union Ave, San Jose 408-369-9666 trailheadonline.com

TRAIL HEAD CYCLERY



Summit Bicycles 111 East Main Street., Los Gatos 408/399-9142;
1111 Burlingame Ave., Burlingame 650-343-8483; 1820 4th
Street, San Rafael 415-456-4700

Slough's Bike Shoppe
260 Race St., San Jose
408-293-1616



BikeMapDude:
bikemapdude.com



Walt's Cycle
and Fitness

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

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



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

Crossroads Bicycles



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

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

