



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

Helping Preserve Equestrian Land & Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area

Happy New Year! Happy Barns! Happy Trails!

Annual Report (2007) soon on its way to your mailbox. Let us know if you'd like some newsletters for your club, business or stable: babtt@earthink.net

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Your support enables BABTT and its partners to support the work of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies. Membership forms are available on our website, in the newsletter, or you may [click here to JOIN ONLINE](#) through 'Groundspring'

JOIN TODAY!
new membership gift

JANUARY 2008: REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS'

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Los Altos Hills approves \$800K for Westwind: Funds to help repair deteriorating stables

In recognition of the Westwind Barn's importance to the town, the Los Altos Hills City Council will spend \$800,000 to rehabilitate the aging facility. "I can't imagine Los Altos Hills without Westwind," Council Member Breene Kerr said. "If you can't imagine the town without the barn, you're compelled to fix it."

The city council's 3-1 vote Thursday night paves the way for the \$1.7 million restoration work, half of which is to be financed through privately raised funds. Applause broke out when the council approved the expenditure about 10 p.m. after much debate.

Council Member Craig Jones, who cast the dissenting vote, said "there is no other topic more troubling than Westwind Barn. ... There's a dilemma. It's really expensive. We're talking huge numbers." Because the stables, built in the 1940s, are seismically unsafe, restoration will include "collapse-prevention" work.

"Westwind is a town treasure," longtime Westwind supporter Nancy Couperus said. "Westwind is a community asset that needs to be cared for." Nearly a dozen riders from the local Pony Club and 4-H groups told the council how much they love Westwind.

Resident Jim Abraham, however, argued against spending so much for "this place that sucks money." He said Westwind caters to a small group of people, mostly girls who like to ride horses. Ulli Sharma, president of Friends of Westwind, which runs the barn, said the city should be as generous to the stable as it is to its Little League fields. The council also voted unanimously Thursday to spend \$1.2 million on the city-owned Little League fields near Purissima Road.

Dec 15, 2007: Melanie Carroll at mcarroll@dailynewsgroup.com.

Tolay Regional Park: Sonoma County Regional Parks should provide Equestrians the same unlimited access being provided to hikers

December 6, 2007: Mike Kerns, Supervisor - District 2
2575 Administration Dr. Room 100A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Main Office (707) 565-2241; Petaluma Office (707) 778-7578;
FAX (707) 565-3778

Dear Supervisor Kerns,

The Interim Access Plan currently being written for Tolay Regional Park should provide public access beyond guided tours. Limiting access for mountain bikers and

equestrians is unfair and unnecessary. Hikers will be allowed unguided and unlimited access on the days the park is open to the public...why not the bicycle and equestrian community? If there is a concern with 'supervision and maintenance', Regional Parks could partner with trail riding organizations. (there are many!) Organizations such as Back Country Horsemen/North Bay partner with 'Land Paths' to assist State Parks with management of Willow Creek Lands which are not yet 'officially' opened. The equestrian sector contributes thousands of hours and donation dollars volunteering annually through out the parks systems providing Mounted Assistance Patrols, building and maintaining trails. ... The horse industry is the second largest agricultural industry in Sonoma County, after grape and wine production. There is a population of nearly 14,000 horses, which is a per capita ratio of one horse to every 30 people. The economic, environmental and political significance of the equestrian sector calls for policies and plans that should allow for the same unlimited access as hikers, including full use of publicly owned lands.

Supervisor Kerns, Thanks in advance!

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Weitz, Executive Director
Bay Area Barns and Trails

San Francisco Golden Gate Park Stables Renovation Project

A community meeting regarding the proposed facility design of Golden Gate Park Stables was held at the County Fair Building on November 20, 2007. Staff members were present from San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department, San Francisco Parks Trust, and the architecture firm of Tom Eliot Fisch.

The meeting focused on the guiding principles of:

- Restoring the historic activity of horseback riding to the park
- Restoration of WPA buildings
- Creating a community asset & improving community access
- Improving health & safety for the horses
- Economic viability for the vendor
- Diversifying recreational opportunities

The facility design discussion included:

- Improving the stables integration into the Park, and improving the connection to the polo field and other arenas.
- Making the facility more welcoming for the public, and improving the interior traffic flow for stable operations (not car related).
- Improving the horse living spaces by increasing the stall size. Improving "herd" contact for the horses by making stalls with slatted top portions, and creating more turn-out spaces.
- Replacing the center arena with a larger covered & lighted arena. Creating a community room, new tack rooms, washracks, vet/farrier area, etc..
- Having the facility offer the most activities to the broadest range of public. A

launching pad for introducing the public to horse activities (not necessarily for higher level teaching/training).

The facility would have a total of 42 stalls, with the breakdown of horses to be based on the business model of the selected stable operator (i.e., whether any stalls will be available for boarding). The RFP is anticipated in early 2008, and the vendor's involvement is desired prior to the completion of the design phase. If no speed bumps are encountered, building will begin Fall 2008 and the stables will hopefully reopen in Fall 2009. The project is anticipated to be in the \$11 to \$12 million dollar range (this includes a proposed endowment fund, the current project cost is estimated at \$8-\$8.3M).

For info about the RFP contact: Tom Hart, Property Manager - Recreation and Park Department. 415-831-2773, Tom.Hart@sfgov.org

Dig deep! BABTT plans to donate \$5,000 to Golden Gate Park Stables in 2008... Please encourage your organization to hold a fundraiser!

Save the Dates...PARTICIPATE! Support Access Adventure

April 26, Saturday: Rush Ranch Days and Horse Fair.

This is our very popular and widely attended annual Open House at the 2070 acre headquarters of ACCESS ADVENTURE. Hundreds of people join us every year to learn about Rush Ranch history, enjoy food, art, photo exhibits and music, in addition to live demonstrations of falconry, sheep herding, wool spinning, Native American crafts and much more. The Syar Foundation has provided a major grant to renovate the historic equestrian facilities and build a big new arena. The recently completed Visitor Center is open for business. We are seeking the support and participation of a broad spectrum of the equestrian community to celebrate this event. We want you to join us if you can help in any way with live demonstrations of dressage, jumping, eventing, combined driving, therapeutic riding, antique carriages, historic wagons, horse farming demonstrations, oxen, mules, draft horses and mounted equestrian groups.

July 5, Saturday: Celebrate Adventure! "Walk with Rock", our annual fundraiser featuring a walkathon led by Rock, North America's largest Percheron horse. We are seeking participants to join us for 5K and 10K runs, a bike ride (the Grizzly Island Challenge), a kayak and canoe regatta, walking teams (employee groups, etc.), wheelchair athletes, mounted equestrians and carriage drivers.

All these diverse groups will converge on the Rush Ranch for a fun-filled finish, barbeque, music and prizes.

This is our major fundraiser for the year to support ACCESS ADVENTURE. Plan to join us!

Michael Muir, Director | ACCESS ADVENTURE

Details for these events will be available at www.access-adventure.org

**GRANT APPLICATIONS: 2008 Equestrian Land and Trail Stewardship Grants:
\$500 - \$2,500**

Application Deadlines: May 1, 2008 and October 1, 2008

Bay Area Barns and Trails invites equestrians to submit funding requests for projects which will enhance equestrian trails, stables, pastures, and staging areas in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, or Sonoma Counties. Preference will be given to a project which improves a trail, stable, pasture, staging area or horsecamp.

Inquiries should be made by e-mail (BABTT@earthlink.net) or (415-383-6283) before completing the application form. Priority will be given to water quality enhancement projects, such as:

Drainage improvements, i.e. culverts, berms, bridges, puncheons, turnpikes, waterbars, switchbacks, cribwalls; geo-web to harden trail tread, fencing to discourage shortcutting;

Reduce sedimentation: install riparian buffer zone; restore native grasses and plants;
Pasture management: re-seed grazing areas, remove invasive plants, install riparian buffers;

Manure management: install composting bins, windrows.

**Education, Preservation, Stewardship, and Capacity Building Grants 2000-2007
\$114,000.**

Details and a complete lists of grants can be found on the Bay Area Barns and Trails website by [clicking here](#).

Alameda/Contra Costa County | October 2007 | \$ 5,000

Tilden/Wildcat Horsemen/Metropolitan Horsemen/6th Annual 5-Day Labor Day Weekend Ride: Benefits East Bay Regional Parks District and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council: Stewardship

Contra Costa County | September 2007 | \$ 2,500

Muir Heritage Land Trust/Tina Batt Trail Dedication:
Support trail planning, construction and management: Stewardship

Contra Costa County | July 2007 | \$ 2,600

M & M Stables: Support Stable & Creek Cleanup: remove accumulated horse manure: Stewardship

Marin County | May 2007 | \$ 2,500

Friends of Marin Stables/Marin Municipal Water District:
Support restoration of seasonal creek adjacent to horse paddocks: Stewardship

Marin County | November 2007 | \$ 500

Alto Bowl Horseowner's Association/Marin County Open Space District:
Habitat Restoration/Invasive Plant Removal: Stewardship/Volunteer Support

Solano County | May 2007 | \$ 2,500

Solano Land Trust: Support Lynch Canyon Trails Stewardship

Solano & Contra Costa Counties | October 2007 | \$ 2,500

Michael Muir/Access Adventure: Assist with Corrals construction/Rush Ranch
Solano Land Trust properties: Education

Sonoma County | May 2007 | \$ 475

Back Country Horsemen/North Bay
Support construction of manure bunker in Annadel State Park

Your donations are tax-deductible. E.I.N. #68-0442986.

P. O. Box 2435, Mill Valley, California 94941-2435

Phone 415-383-6283; Fax 415-381-3809; e-mail BABtt@earthlink.net

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



To help keep BABTT informed of acquisition, facility and trail maintenance opportunities and challenges in your area, please submit articles and photos to Bay Area Barns and Trails: babtt@earthlink.net
visit us online @ www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

[Unsubscribe BABTT2@earthlink.net](mailto:Unsubscribe_BABTT2@earthlink.net)

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