



There's still room...Fifth Annual Six-Day 100-Mile East Bay Hills ride

-Wednesday, August 29 - Monday, September 3, 2007 (You may sign up for one or all of the rides)

Great Rides!! Great Fundraiser for Trails! Tilden Wildcat Horsemen www.twha.org and Metropolitan Horsemen are preparing for 2007 Six-Day 100-Mile East Bay Hills ride. Wednesday, August 29 - Monday, September 3, 2007.

Ride and Camp all or part of the Memorial Weekend. Funds raised support East Bay Parks' equestrian facilities and trails and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Bay Area Barns and Trails will match the first \$5,000 raised.

Morris Older: ebhillsride@comcast.net or 925-254-8943

2nd Annual 'Ridge Trail Cruz': Bay Area Ridge Trail hike or ride in the Mid Peninsula Open Space District and Santa Cruz Mountains: Saturday, Sept 29, 2007

Events start at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve parking area, south of the junction of Page Mill Road and Skyline Boulevard. Attendance is limited and pre-registration is required. ETRAC (Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee) - a coalition of equestrian clubs in San Mateo County - is a co-sponsor of the 'CRUZ' event and its members will be on hand at the starting area to advise equestrians about specific needs.

Parking for horse trailers is limited. Enjoy a fully-supported day on the trail guided by Ridge Trail volunteers...enjoy lunch, snacks, and water. You'll traverse beautiful terrain through the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

'Cruz' is for Hikers and Mountain Bikers, too: 'Long' hikers will pass through Sanborn, Skyline County Park and Castle Rock State Park. Hikers will choose a 13-mile or 23-mile route, and will be bused to start of their hike. Families can enjoy a hike around Horseshoe Lake. Mountain bicyclists will choose an intermediate or advanced loop. Equestrians will receive maps describing several loop options (short, medium, longer rides) starting near the Skyline Equestrian parking lot. Arrive by 8:00 a.m. near the Skyline Equestrian parking lot. With the equestrians leaving the area by 9:00 am, they will not likely be running into hikers and bikers from the event until in the afternoon. Registration for the general public opens on August 15th.

Invite family and friends to sponsor your hike or ride in the CruzAThon and win terrific prizes donated by REI. Non-members may register for a special \$60 donation that includes a one-year BARTC membership. Attendance is limited and pre-registration is required.

→www.ridgetrail.org or call 415.561.2595

→Equestrians Contact Carole Bridgeman (caroleeee@juno.com)

A VERY IMPORTANT message from 'Equestrian Trails Advocates (ETI)

'As many of you know - because of equestrian perseverance, a new trail was just opened which connects Northgate Road and Castle Rock Road in Walnut Creek. This trail goes behind several houses - where children and dogs play in their own backyards, behind secure fencing - far from the trail's double fence line.

There have been a few issues with rude and inappropriate equestrians riding by - where they are yelling at the kids and dogs for playing and telling the kids to stand still while they ride their horses by.

REMEMBER: This trail is only open by the good graces of East Bay Regional Park District and by many hours of gathering signatures for a petition to open the trail. It is a privilege to have this trail available to us, NOT a right.

Therefore, if you and/or your horse are spooked, please exercise proper horsemanship and dismount to lead your horse. The families who live in this neighborhood have every right to play in their own backyards without comments from trail users. Please pass this information along to all equestrians who ride trails. It would be a shame to have a few misbehaving equestrians ruin this fabulous and safe trail access for the rest of us.

Any questions or comments - please feel free to email me directly at Pamela@LumiPlexionSkincare.com.

Thanks, Pamela Swartz, President - Equestrian Trail Advocates



Muir Heritage Land Trust Awarded Nearly \$2 Million for Fernandez Ranch Restoration & Public Access Project

...excerpts from MHLT Press Release: June 28, 2007

'Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman announced today that the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT) has been awarded \$1.92 million from the highly competitive California River Parkways Grant Program for its Fernandez Ranch project off of Highway 4 between Martinez and Hercules...' "We're absolutely ecstatic and deeply grateful that the Fernandez Ranch project was selected for this grant. The property will offer tremendous public recreational opportunities and wonderful benefits to wildlife and water quality. With such generous funding from the California Resources Agency, MHLT will get the project done," said MHLT Executive Director Linus Eukel upon hearing the news. The River Parkways grant will provide two-thirds of the capital funding needed to open Fernandez Ranch to the public and complete a large-scale creek restoration and habitat enhancement plan.

Project partners include the State Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

Approximately \$1 million of this grant will be used to restore and enhance unstable and degraded sections of Rodeo Creek. More than 2,500 linear feet of riparian habitat will be restored with over 10,000 native plants. Approximately \$900,000 of the grant will support public-access amenities including a staging area for cars and equestrian trailers; a pedestrian and emergency-vehicle bridge spanning Rodeo Creek; approximately 3.5 miles of multi-use wildland trails, of which 1/2 mile will be ADA accessible, and four picnic areas with interpretive elements. "Fernandez Ranch is the Land Trust's most regionally and nationally significant project to date. It will become part of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail system and it provides significant habitat for federally listed threatened wildlife species," says Eukel. The project budget is \$2.8 million and matching funding will be provided by the State Coastal Conservancy, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the Oakmead Foundation among many others. Creek cleanup and preparation work has already begun at the site by the East Bay Conservation Corps and volunteers. Final plans, permitting and major construction will start in 2008. Fernandez Ranch is expected to open to the public in 2010....

...The Muir Heritage Land Trust acquired the 702-acre Fernandez Ranch in 2005 for \$3.2 million with funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board, State Coastal Conservancy and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation among many other smaller foundations and private donors. The California River Parkways grant program came into being when California voters approved Proposition 50, the "Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act" in 2002. According to the California Resources Agency: "The act authorized the Legislature to appropriate funds for the acquisition, restoration, protection and development of river parkways. The California River Parkways Program, a competitive grant program administered by the Office of the Secretary for Resources, awards funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to develop river parkways in their communities." The Muir Heritage Land Trust has been working to acquire lands and land preservation agreements since 1988. With members from all over the Bay Area, the trust focuses on the preservation of natural areas and environmental education throughout Contra Costa County, including the communities of Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Martinez, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, Rodeo and San Pablo. **Since it's founding, the Muir Heritage Land Trust has protected over 2000 acres for people to enjoy through recreational opportunities that include wildlife observation, hiking, horseback riding and environmental education.**

www.muirheritagelandtrust.org

www.ridgetrail.org

http://resources.ca.gov/bonds_prop50riverparkway.html



Robertson Arena - Livermore...a success story!



"Behind the covered arena is the Robertson Rodeo Arena. **The parking area serves as a trailhead through the Livermore Valley and winegrowing region.** I am proud to say - the Ag and Open Space subcommittee which had as a subgroup, TCLAV (Trails Council of Livermore Amador Valley) along with local equestrians - made it happen. A friendly board and staff at LARPD (Livermore Area Park and Recreation) was also key. -reports and photos from **Dick Quigley <rlquig1@comcast.net>**

MORE about Robertson Arena and adjacent trailhead parking

Kelly Albrecht <kellyliz0143@sbcglobal.net>

'How to say so much with as few words as possible. I guess until someone can hire a pro writer i'm the best (worst) tha' cha got. First off yeah....we did it! We have, for those of you that don't know, a beautiful and wow do I mean beautiful & new huge indoor arena. Thx for everyone's hard work. It did -by the way- take a couple of horse vans full of locals supplied with whips, spurs and yes, a few carrots (the later which I seem to have been in short supply of) to make it happen. Ssoooo we have accomplished a #5 sized hoof in the door. However there is yet another large hurdle looming if we wish to:

- A. Continue our quest for the promised "A Circuit" show facility.
- B. Keep the grounds as a staging area for promised looping trails to Sycamore Park, Del Valle, and the up and coming Shadow Cliffs Tri lake loops among others.

We are at the crossroads of the declining horse /livestock/farm presence unless we continue our rally to the cause. LARPD is having one of their final forums for the updating of the master plan for this facility which includes the expansion of equestrian trails and connection of existing loops. There have already been a number of meetings and surveys along these lines and I get the feeling that they are looking for an out to continue the plans along the same lines. Therefore they have opened this meeting to the public including surrounding home owners. Can we all please rally to the cause maybe two more times?

(continued on page 4)



RIBBON CUTTING - photo by Dick Quigley <rlquig1@comcast.net>

MORE about Robertson Arena and adjacent trailhead parking - Livermore...a success story!

'We have momentum behind us now. There has not been a new master plan for 20 years according to the Independent. I know that the '92 unanimously approved plan - I have a copy of it - has mysteriously disappeared from all LARPD archives. (This was the plan for the "A Circuit Show Facility, Staging Area" with connecting trails.) The discussion will be at the Barn next to the new arena @ Robertson Park. Wednesday July 18, 2007. This looks to be a meeting with heavy local residential opposition (eeewe I don't like the flies/smell and noise/lights type thing) This property including where the baseball fields, corp yards, soccerfields, horseshoes pits, Arroyo trails were all sold to the City of Livermore at well below market value to replace the Rodeo/Stockmen's association property that the city condemned and then built the town hall, police dept, library, new library, new police dept, Sunken Gardens etc. We have always been willing to share to our own detriment. How long will they keep taking our trails and facilities away? Please stand up for what is right.

-Kelly Albrecht <kellyliz0143@sbcglobal.net>

For past history on the project kellyliz0143@sbcglobal.net,
or for meeting agendas or details, call Chiye Azuma, project manager, (925) 373-5724.

-ncook10@netzero.net



EXTRA....Pinnacles National Monument...an opportunity?

This interesting 'horsey' possibility is in San Benito County, far out of BABTT's 'radar'...but it sounds like a possibility...so, if you know of folks down that way, ask them to contact David Cole...there may be a chance for horses to roam!!

...from Nature Conservancy NL: 'This past winter, the Conservancy purchased the 1,967-acre ranch with the goal of transferring it to the National Park Service for incorporation into the 24,000-acre monument within three years. A campground located on the ranch—the only campground that serves Pinnacles National Monument—will continue operating. Together, the ranch and the monument support a wide variety of wildlife, including golden eagles, peregrine falcons, deer, bobcats, badgers, foxes, neo-tropical birds and most notably, newly released California condors...'

...from David Cole: "The new ranch lands transferred to the park ahead of schedule - the process was completed April, 2006. The park is now in the process of developing their new *General Management* plan so it is an excellent time to put forward ideas for how to integrate horses. Since the land has historically been ranch land (with both cattle and horses), I think it is less controversial than if the land were traditionally wilderness. I have suggested the idea of allowing horseback riding, and I have submitted this as input to the general management plan. I have also spoken to the park superintendent, and I know he is open to including horses (and trail bikes for that matter). However, it might be helpful to have some additional support, especially as the general management plan undergoes public review. Horses can be somewhat controversial so it would be good to have adequate support during critical meetings. Also, I'm not sure what the right model is for the Pinnacles. Currently, the park keeps a small number of horses to help with trail maintenance, etc. However, they don't have any public stables, and horses are not currently allowed on parklands.

Possible ideas are:

- Allow folks to trailer in. Park would need to build some simple corrals for overnighting. Overnight use could be limited by requiring reservations.
- Day use only?
- Park could maintain a stables, but I don't think the park would find this cost effective.
- Perhaps a concessionaire would be interested in providing stables, horse rental, etc.?

If you have any suggestions, pass 'em along to David @ 408-410-7686 or e-mail DCole@ebay.com