

## BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS: EDUCATION, PRESERVATION & STEWARDSHIP



'Helping acquire, protect, preserve, and maintain stables, trails, pastures, staging areas, and horse camps in the San Francisco Bay Area.'

REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS'

December 1, 2006 (1 of 5 pages)

### **Announcing Annual Meeting: Bay Area Barns and Trails**

**Teleconference: Monday, December 18, 2006 - 6:30 a.m - 8:30 a.m.**

Members are invited to phone in to our annual meeting...instructions and agenda will be e-mailed to you when we receive your name/phone/e-mail. Focus of this year's meeting: The Future of Bay Area Barns and Trails

### **Alameda County**

**Oakland City Stables - Pledge, Be An Activist, Volunteer Today!**

Visit [www.oaklandcitystables.org](http://www.oaklandcitystables.org) ...get inspired... get involved!

#### **'A Promising Future is Possible**

'The City of Oakland shut down this historic stable in 1994...Citizens were outraged that this site - an equestrian facility purchased with Measure K park bond funds - would be unable to fulfill its historic purpose...As a publicly owned equestrian center the historic site has the potential to house interpretive programs both recreational and educational including: riding lessons for youth and adults, horse training, trail riding and boarding as well as demonstration agriculture, stable management, and environmental science. Oakland City Stables was acquired in 1994 with Measure K (Park Open Space Bond) funding. Today the property includes facilities built in 1939. The covered arena was built in 1979 and the restroom/snack bar facility was completed in 2003. The 7.2 acre site was once part of the Luis Maria Peralta land grant of 1820 established by the last Spanish governor of Alta California (Mexico). It was subsequently divided between the four sons of Don Luis. Ygnacio Peralta received 9,416 acres which included this land. Ygnacio resided in the family adobe located near 34th Avenue and Paxton - that land is now Peralta Hacienda Historic Park. The City Stables site was part of the family's winter pasturage. Other owners of the property included Robert Simson, Realty Syndicate Company (Francis 'Borax' Smith), and the Ahmes Shrine. The Shriners used the facility to board and train their black and white pinto horses. During the 40s, 50s and 60s the stable was called Rancho San Antonio after the original Rancho. In the 70s, Harry and Mary Dunn owned the stable and ran a boarding and training business named "Vista Madera Stables" until 1994.

#### **Metropolitan Equestrian Preservation Society: 'MEPS'**

5458 Fernhoff Road, Oakland, CA 94619

510-531-5449 [info@OaklandCityStables.com](mailto:info@OaklandCityStables.com)

### **Contra Costa County**

**Bay Area Barns and Trails donates \$ 5,000 to match \$5,000 earned by the Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association & Metropolitan Horsemen's Association during fifth annual 5-day Labor Day fundraising ride:**

The fifth annual fundraiser was held on East Bay Regional Park District and Mount Diablo State Park trails and camping venues in cooperation with parks staff and Concord Mount Diablo Trail Ride Association.

Bay Area Barns and Trails supports this outstanding fundraiser because it demonstrates how 92 equestrians and 80 volunteers - working in partnership with public and private organizations - can create an event which helps publicize, build and maintain the Bay Area Ridge Trail as it passes through public and private lands, parks and open spaces, and ridgelands in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

... a model for all to follow! The event has now earned \$47,000 which includes \$20,000 in 'matching' funds donated by Bay Area Barns and Trails, whose members are pleased to help create and maintain the 500-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail...for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists.'

**morris.older** [ebhillsride@comcast.net](mailto:ebhillsride@comcast.net)

-October 28, 2006

### **Holiday Gifts Cards for the Horsey Set!**

Six elegantly packaged photo-cards show horses enjoying their rural life on San Francisco Bay Area public and private lands. Aviva Rossi, a local photographer and horse owner, has created a series of photographs that display pastured horses in areas bordering development. A set of six beautifully packaged cards will make excellent gifts for anyone who loves horses, rural areas, the great outdoors, and ...want to support the BABTT mission: preserving lands for horses!

The cards are made with actual glossy photographs, suitable for framing. Each card is individually packaged to protect the quality of the photograph. The package of six cards is attractively packaged together and is available for \$25.00. The cost of shipping is included!

(You may also receive one of these card sets at no additional cost as our thanks for joining or renewing your membership in 'Bay Area Barns and Trails' at the \$100.00 level or above.)

View photos: [www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org/help.html#home\\_gift](http://www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org/help.html#home_gift)

Please ship \_\_\_\_\_ set(s) of cards @ \$25 per set (includes shipping) = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

My check is attached & has been made payable to:

Bay Area Barns and Trails P.O. Box 2435, Mill Valley, CA 94942-2435

Questions? 415.383.6283; e-mail [babtt@earthlink.net](mailto:babtt@earthlink.net)

### **Marin County**

#### **Seeking Designs for SAFE Road Crossing where traffic signals are not permitted**

Suggestions needed! The County of Marin is working with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the Marin Municipal Water District and CA State Parks best design for a safe road crossing between Inkwells Bridge/Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and San Geronimo Ridge. This is an area of heavy traffic and poor visibility and has been a concern for trail users for years. Send your suggestions to [Babtt@earthlink.net](mailto:Babtt@earthlink.net)

#### **Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Planning for public lands north of San Francisco**

(see San Mateo County article describing advocacy work being done by South Bay Equestrians)

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently working on two separate plans that could impact equestrian recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Both projects have started their environmental review processes and have opened their respective public scoping periods.

GGNRA managed parks include Tomales Bay, Olema Valley and Bolinas Lagoon (abutting to Point Reyes National Seashore), Marin Headlands, Presidio, Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Milagra and Sweeney ridge in Pacifica, Phleger Estate in Woodside.

#### **The Bay Area Ridge Trail--Connecting Equestrian Communities**

Morris Older from the Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association has been presenting this slide program to equestrian clubs throughout the Bay Area. Morris describes how - from the conception of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and in fact years before that, equestrians supported and were crucial to the idea of creating trail connections around the Bay. The show focuses on how the 300 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail, dedicated between 1988 and 2006, are now enjoyed by equestrians. The show also offers inspirational views of areas that are being planned for addition to the Bay Area Ridge Trail network. It also includes great photos of the East Bay Hills terrain enjoyed during the 2003 -2005 Multi-Day Benefit Rides and promotes the 2006 East Bay Hills Labor Day Benefit Ride. August 31--Sept. 4, 2006. The show will be presented by Morris Older, who assembled the show with the help of Connie Berto, Jim Steere, DVM, Barbara Weitz and many other equestrians from around the Bay.

[morris.older](mailto:morris.older) [ebhillsride@comcast.net](mailto:ebhillsride@comcast.net)

City and County of San Francisco

**"DAY 1,000 / PARK DEPARTMENT FINALLY MOVING ON REHABBING S.F. PUBLIC STABLES"**

**CHRONICLEWATCH Working for a better Bay Area**

*Suzanne Pullen, Chronicle Staff Writer* Saturday, November 18, 2006

'Saddling up at the last public horse **stables** in San Francisco is still a long way off.

For 1,000 days, the stables in Golden Gate Park have remained closed while the city has been mucking about in red tape, weighed down by city staff shortages and mired in bureaucratic delays. "It will take a Herculean effort to clean up that stable mess," Supervisor Jake McGoldrick said Friday.

ChronicleWatch began reporting on the 1930s-era stables in February 2004, after several tipsters asked us when the equestrian center would reopen. At the time, city Department of Recreation and Parks officials told us the stables were closed in 2001 after the company that ran the site left before its contract was up. The concessionaire had failed to do regular maintenance on the stables, officials say. They also told us that an environmental-impact review of the grounds and structures -- which was supposed to take 18 months to complete -- was already under way. But when we checked back eight months later, in October 2004, parks spokeswoman Rose Marie Dennis told us her agency in fact hadn't started the review -- and hoped to avoid having to carry it out to save the \$100,000 cost of the study. Parks officials later discovered that grandstands for the Golden Gate Park Polo Fields behind the stables were considered a historic landmark, and therefore under state law there was no way around a formal environmental review. By November 2004, the parks department submitted the paperwork to get the review going, but staffing shortages at the city Planning Department and an extended search for a company with the expertise to do the work delayed its start further. The review -- which includes an evaluation of the property, soil, historical data and environmental factors, and a public comment period -- finally began this past March. It is now due to be completed by May. When the last stable door closed in 2001, pessimistic riders worried they would never reopen. Five years later, it is not surprising that even horseflies have given up on finding any action back in the ring. "I've gotten a lot of hot air on its progress over the years," said McGoldrick, referring to the claims by bureaucrats responsible for the project. In August this year -- five months after the start of the environmental review -- he called city parks officials before the Board of Supervisors to layout a timeline for the reopening of the stables. According to the schedule that was presented, the design work should begin in June 2007 and take a year. Construction -- including installation of a covered area and new stalls -- could begin by June 2008. The stables could reopen in fall 2009. At least one tipster finds the progress in the last few months encouraging. John Cummings, chairman of the San Francisco Stables Foundation, which has been working on fundraising efforts for the stables for the past five years, believes that the project is finally on the right track. "It has the full attention of the park staff now," he said. "There is a consensus about how to put the pieces in place in order to get things done. The city had to make a decision about what will happen out there. Who will the facility serve? It has to serve the widest population possible, including disadvantaged youth, nonprofit and community groups, as well as the general population." The foundation is close to completing an agreement with another nonprofit group, the Parks Trust, which raises money for the parks system in general, Cummings said. He believes it will be a big step toward securing the future of the stables project. "I'm very hopeful," he said. "We are all focused on moving forward and working together to get things done."

*E-mail Suzanne Pullen at [spullen@sfchronicle.com](mailto:spullen@sfchronicle.com).*

**San Francisco Stables Foundation [www.sfsf.org](http://www.sfsf.org)**

### **San Mateo County**

#### **Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Planning for public lands south of San Francisco**

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently working on two separate plans that could impact equestrian recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Both projects have started their environmental review processes and have opened their respective public scoping periods.

GGNRA managed parks include Tomales Bay, Olema Valley and Bolinas Lagoon (abutting to Point Reyes National Seashore), Marin Headlands, Presidio, Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Milagra and Sweeney ridge in Pacifica, Phleger Estate in Woodside.

Ten equestrian organizations are members of ETRAC, an umbrella organization for horsemen in San Mateo County. San Mateo County Equestrians have been attending all of the public meetings on this subject and have provided extensive input into the process. As part of ETRAC, the CHAT, or Coastside Horse Action for Trails, will be creating a vision statement for ETRAC which will attempt to plan and track both N-S and E-W equestrian trails opportunities, including horse camps from Wilder Ranch in Santa Cruz to McNee State Park in Pacifica. ETRAC would like to have a write-in network available should public comment become necessary.

Adda Quinn [www.californiastatehorsemen.com/envirohorse.htm](http://www.californiastatehorsemen.com/envirohorse.htm) 650.255.3241

#### **Santa Clara County: Assessing Election Results: Measure A**

The Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Greenbelt Alliance and other groups backing Measure A in Santa Clara County were surprised when voters rejected it 51-49 percent. Measure A would have put in place strict new rules to limit building on ranch lands, hillsides and large farms. But farmers, real estate interests and ranchers raised nearly as much money as supporters did, and ran an aggressive campaign. "We knew there were a lot of undecided voters. We knew it could be close," said Peter Drekmeier, a Palo Alto City Councilman who ran the Yes on A campaign. "I think we had the better argument. But it is a huge county. You can't talk to everyone." Drekmeier said he thinks voters rejected the measure because opponents created doubts with TV commercials featuring farmers and Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith, who said it would hurt family agricultural operations and could expose the county to lawsuits. He said supporters have not decided yet whether to come back in a future election. If they do decide to try again, he said, "We would involve the Farm Bureau the next time. We need to rebuild trust on both sides."

San Jose Mercury News [www.mercurynews.com](http://www.mercurynews.com)

November 12, 2006

#### **Sonoma County - Future trails networks being planned**

The Willow Creek Trails Working Group is developing a community-supported vision for a future trail network in the new Willow Creek State Park acquisition in Sonoma County. This vision will be shared with California State Parks staff as they continue the Sonoma Coast State Beach General Plan update process.

The group is open to the public and consists of park users (hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers), neighbors, State Parks staff, and LandPaths' staff (non-profit partner).

For more information, please contact Brendan O'Neil, State Parks Environmental Scientist, at (707) 865-3129, or Jonathan Glass, LandPaths Willow Creek Project Manager, at 707.544.7284.

#### **New Trail at Hood Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve**

The addition of the 307-acre former Johnson Ranch to Hood Mountain Regional Park provides enhanced access from the Highway 12 scenic corridor. Acquired in 2003 by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District, the Park now includes a new 5-mile segment of the 500-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail. The new multi-use trail winds through the former ranch, connecting to Hood Mountain Trail near the 2,730-foot summit. Check it out soon!

[www.bayarearidgetrail.org](http://www.bayarearidgetrail.org)

**Education, Preservation, Stewardship, and Capacity Building Grants 1999 - 2006: \$ 97,019**

<b>Alameda/Contra Costa County</b>	<b>September 2006</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Tilden/Wildcat Horsemen/Metropolitan Horsemen: 5-Day Labor Day Weekend Ride: East Bay Regional Parks District and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council: Stewardship		
<b>Contra Costa County</b>	<b>December 2006</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Muir Heritage Land Trust: To support trail planning, construction and management: Stewardship		
<b>Marin County</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Friends of Marin Stables/Marin Municipal Water District: Purchase new manure storage bin to prevent drainage into neighboring creek: Stewardship		
<b>Marin County</b>	<b>October 2006</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>
Alto Bowl Horseowner's Association/Marin County Open Space District: Habitat Restoration/Invasive Plant Removal: Stewardship/Volunteer Support		
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
Santa Clara County Land Conservation Initiative: PLAN/Measure A Help protect hillsides, watersheds, ridgeline and other valuable natural areas: Education & Capacity Building		
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>
Friends of the San Jose Mounted Unit: 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Capacity Building		
<b>Solano &amp; Contra Costa Counties</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Michael Muir/Access Adventure: Assist with purchase of two Thornlea Carriages for Disabled visitors to Muir Heritage & Solano Land Trust properties: Education		
<b>Solano County</b>	<b>December 2006</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Solano Land Trust: To support trail planning, construction and management: Stewardship		
<b>Sonoma County</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Back Country Horsemen, North Bay Unit/ Army Corp of Engineers Construction of a Shade Cover within the Dining Area of the Lake Sonoma Horse Camp: Stewardship		

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'BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS' E-News-December 2006 - 5 pages

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