



June 2019

"UPCOMING" BTCEB EVENTS

To RSVP, or check the calendar, click:

<http://www.meetup.com/bicycletrailsCouncil/>

Gala Ride at Wildcat

Wildcat Canyon Park, Alvarado staging area

Saturday, June 8, 2019

9:15 AM to 12:15 PM

by Jim Arth

We offer ride groups for ALL SKILL LEVELS, from novice to intermediate to advanced. All rides are 'no-drop' rides (we won't leave you behind or let you get lost) and are fully supported. A novice rider should be able to ride 8-10 miles on hilly fire roads for 2-3 hrs. To RSVP see:

<https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/events/258253790>

Ride Like A Girl

China Camp

Sunday, June 9, 2019

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) hosts a MTB ride for women only on (usually) first Saturday of the month. The intent of the ride is to have fun! and to meet other women who love to MTB. (There's a \$3 trail pass fee at China Camp. Cash or credit card. We can stop by the trail pass kiosk to buy the passes on our way biking before we hit the uphill.) Lets ride China Camp! It's almost all single-track - yay! And there are switchbacks to keep us on our toes! For more details and to RSVP, click here:

<https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/events/ptzsslyzjbcb/>

Crockett Trailwork Crockett Hills Regional Park

Friday, June 14, 2019

4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

HELP US MOVE SOME DIRT AT CROCKETT HILLS. Note that we will meet at 4:30PM at the main and only park entrance off of Crockett Blvd.

Bring your bike, water and gloves. We will supply the tools. There is a 3-5 mile bike ride to the work site. RSVP:

<https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/events/261790568/>

Popup Rides **by Mike Udkow, BTCEB President**

BTCEB has many other smaller, less formal last-minute rides, known as "popups".

Want more organized rides?? Who doesn't. Sign up to organize a POP-UP ride. If you are uncomfortable as a ride leader, no problem. Ask someone from the group to lead (that's what I do!). The "organizer" isn't necessarily the "ride leader". Send me the ride info and your cell number to mikeudkow@gmail.com and I will cut and paste your description into MeetUp. And thank you to the small group of pop-up ride organizer volunteers. Keep up the good work.

Look for them at anytime on the Meetup page:

<https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/>

Or join and subscribe for automatic email notifications here:

<https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/?action=join>

BTCEB via Facebook

Finally, if you want to hear about other last-minute news, such as demo rides, and volunteering opportunities, "like" and follow BTCEB's Facebook [Notification Page](#), and also request to join BTCEB's Facebook [Discussion Group](#).

REPORTS

Crockett Gala Writeup **by Jim Arth**

The May 11 Gala Ride at Crockett Hills Regional Park was a fun time for all. We had 25 riders divided into 4 different groups ride that day. The trails were in great shape and the weather was perfect. Everyone enjoyed riding across the new bridge at the park. After the ride, we recovered with refreshments and talked about biking. Thank you to everyone who brought something to share, and a special thank you to Dave Blank for consistently bringing the beer to the rides; everyone appreciates your efforts!



Picture Above: The B and C riding groups posed at the Pad.

Crockett Trails Report

by Scott Bartlebaugh

It's been a busy month at Crockett Hills with good news and a little bad news. Starting with some good news: Two Peaks was re-routed with an easier grade that provides a non fire road option for the second half of the climb back to the top of Sugar City. In addition, Sugar City was mowed so the brushing issue is much better. The regrading was expected to be rough, but it didn't go quite how the EBRPD expected, and several features were severely damaged. The loose surface has firmed up quite a bit with the late May rains, and it is steadily improving as it gets ridden and gets some additional hand work. We've completed installation of the first pallet of diamond blocks on the Warep hardening project (see Yvette's write up below). The district will be bringing in more blocks and gravel. In the mean time, we'll continue excavating ahead of time to take advantage of the softer soil conditions. This hardening should make Warep hold up much better during wet weather. While Sugar City has been mowed, and most fire roads have been mowed, Soaring Eagle needs brushing help. Volunteer brushing has been focused on Tree Frog and Warep during May, with over 60 field volunteer hours that month. True to form, the cattle wintered away from trails on the Stev Property, but were moved back to the north pasture just in time to catch the late May rain. Soaring Eagle was hit pretty hard, but, it's responding to the love of our wheels on it. Each pass helps smooth it out a little bit more, so go ahead, put a pass or two in.





Editor's note: The Author is pictured above.

Diamonds in the Dirt

by Yvette Skinner



Not the gemstone kind, but rather cement blocks shaped in diamond patterns. Some sections of Warep trail at Crockett Hills seem to stay soggy and soft for most of the year. These soft spots become badly rutted and eroded. This year, in a collaborative effort with EBRPD trail staff and BTCEB volunteers we are installing diamond block cement pavers to “harden” or “armor” the trail to protect the surface from erosion and tread wear.

EBPRD staff have staged pavers and gravel along Warep trail and small work crews are working to install them as volunteer time and materials come available. It is a multi-step process. After soft sections of trail are identified we start by digging a shallow, wide trench slightly wider and deeper than the pavers. The bottom is filled with gravel to form a durable base and then the pavers are added to fit snugly one after another. More gravel is added on top to fill the gaps. Finally, drains are cut in the trail itself either above or below on the trail to direct water flow away from the trail and down the hillside.



Most of this work has been done by a handful of dedicated volunteers and we would love to see some new faces on the trail work days. If you are interested and available to help, please contact Henry Mitchell, BTCEB Trail Maintenance Coordinator, at his email address: hamlll@mindspring.com.

Fernandez Ranch Workday
by Yvette Skinner

Wow! What a great day!

Five volunteers from the BTCEB, Scott Bartlebaugh, Henry Mitchell, Mike Anciaux, Dave Hammon and myself joined Alex Bursch of JMLT to improve the trail tread, cut in drains, and repair switchbacks on the lower portion of Whipsnake Trail at Fernandez Ranch. You won't believe how much better that upper switchback on Whipsnake looks now!



Editor's note: T1

Author is pictured above.

We met with Alex, a land manager representative and were able to learn about what kinds of trail maintenance equipment they have available and how the work gets done, as well as some of the unfortunate limitations of where they can bring their equipment due to the narrowness of the wooden bridges. They mowed some of the trails a couple weeks ago, including a lot of poison oak removal on lower Whipsnake. They will be mowing again since we have had more rain recently.

We also talked about other trail improvements, particularly the Canyon Loop Trail. There was agreement that safety is a primary focus. There is interest in improving the trail system at the west end of the property. This is in response to plans for building a second entrance to the park using the now abandoned "West Trail" that will open to a cul-de-sac street in Hercules. Many exciting next steps for the future!



For the short term, I agreed to ride the entire trail system and take photos of other areas where the trail needs work, such as cattle damage, erosion, overgrowth, etc. Based on those needs, we will set up more small work days which will be easier to plan and pull off. Also, Alex would like to set up a big work day in the future with dozens of volunteers, but that will take more planning. Through our hard work, we continue to build relationships with land managers.



Ride Like a Girl **by Alex Co-Leader**

Ride Like a Girl hit the Rockville Trails on May 4th led by our new co-leader, Ellen. She knows Rockville Regional Park's trails well - it's almost her backyard. We had a small but mighty group, covering about 9 miles and 1200' elevation. We rode lots of single track, some rock gardens, and lots

of session-worthy features. A great time was had by all. We even carried on Amy's tradition of slice apples with lemon juice during the post-ride snacking. Our next ride will be at China Camp on Sunday, June 9th. See you there!



Mountain Biking....

Editorial

... is mainstream. You know this when on the commute home you spot the billboard below. Our sp was also on a Boy Scout banner in Piedmont, on college promotional materials targeting high schc students, etc, etc, and etc. Mountain biking is a wave that will continue coming, it is everywhere, a it is here to stay.



Some One

Editorial

Everytime I see unicyclist, I am amazed. I see them on the trail, then even more so. BTCEB's own IT Chair, Tom Holub, primarily rides a unicycle for recreation and for commuting purposes, and he supports BTCEB too. We met up last week at Oakland's [Luckyduckie Cafe](#), where there is a regular bike presentation series. There, I learned from one presenter about tandem mountain biking ("when your relationship is going, it gets there faster on a tandem"), as well as unpaved rides from Oregon the Bay Area, and around parks in Utah. Each presentation was better than the prior (the beer helped), with the grand finale being handed out to "Tracklocross". To get the idea, it is a competition that crosses cyclocross, with messenger fixie bikes, on dirt, and refreshments may be involved. Whew. Tracklocross has various mottos, including "bleeding is believing", "Tracklocross isn't dumb if you're dumb!", and "Riding track bikes off-road has always been a good time, so why not race them?". Tracklocross has many competitor categories across the rider spectrum, holds a national competition, and the winners get to go to Japan to compete in its world cup. To round off the night, the picture below was just a prop, as Tom preferred to ride his uni home. Thanks for the great night and on behalf of BTCEB, thanks for your support Tom!



Reminder: As a BTCEB member, you can receive a 10 percent or higher discount for parts at many of the bike shops in the East Bay. You just have to ask. Thank you to the many bike shop sponsors for your support!

&... WITHOUT FURTHER ADO:



Danny Daycare by Danny Macaskill

Submitted by Tom Gandesbery

You had me at "Danny". Think crazy bike tricks and balance with antics, including a child trailer (no actual children were used in the stunts).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj0CmnxuTaQ>

REI has 21 Mountain Bike Classes

Various locations throughout the Bay Area, various dates, skill levels, topics, even a women-only. \$

[https://www.rei.com/events/42/introduction-to-mountain-biking-class?](https://www.rei.com/events/42/introduction-to-mountain-biking-class?course.session.anyLocation=100.000000~37.888395~-122.296578;geo_r&previousLocation=947)

[course.session.anyLocation=100.000000~37.888395~-122.296578;geo_r&previousLocation=947](https://www.rei.com/events/42/introduction-to-mountain-biking-class?course.session.anyLocation=100.000000~37.888395~-122.296578;geo_r&previousLocation=947)

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- [Trailforks.com](#) (Phone GPS and trail map app)
- [Cycle Sports](#) (Neighborhood bike shop)
- [ZRC Wealth Mgmt](#) (Personal Wealth Manager)

ABOUT BTCEB

BTCEB is a one-stop shop. We defend access rights. We lead volunteers to build sustainable trails and repair historic trails. We host social rides. We teach underprivileged kids to ride. We fund youth mountain bike race teams. The list goes on because as riders we can do more

together than individually. If you have not already, please consider joining us as a member. Many bike shops in the East Bay grant a 10% discount on bike parts to BTCEB Membership Card holders. It is just another benefit of joining BTCEB. Thank you to all the East Bay bike shops that support our efforts both on and off the trails!

CONTACT US

Do you have a good ride story, trailwork report, or other bike trail news? Tell us about it. Please send a paragraph with 150 words or less with a pic (under 10MB please) and/or link telling us about trailwork, rides, events, or any good mountain bike effort to bring our community together, etc. Please send via email to the editor, John Roberts, with pictures if possible, at: buzz@btceb.org

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