"UPCOMING" BTCEB EVENTS

To RSVP, or check the calendar, click:
http://www.meetup.com/bicycletrailscouncil/

JMP Trailwork Day, Huray!
(OR, YOU ASKED FOR IT. NOW SHOW UP :-) )
by Mike Udkow, BTCEB President
Saturday, December 1, 2018
9:00 AM

Our beloved Joaquin Miller Park has received too much love. It's time to finally do some much needed basic trail work. Many of you have been asking about doing this. Well, the dirt is now wet and will hold up to trail work, SO SHOW UP!

Above: What two days of rain can do. Drain work and duff removal is needed.
While the picture above was taken yesterday on Bayview, the very bottom of our beloved Cinderella trail also needs rain drainage work. For details and to register go to:
https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/events/256602822/
It's important to register so we know how many tools to bring, how much beer (the other “Duff” removal) to buy, and how to contact you if things (rain) change.

Gala Ride at Deer Park
199 Porteous Ave., Fairfax, CA
by Mike Udkow, BTCEB President
Saturday, November 10, 2018
9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

We invite you to our monthly Gala Ride. We usually meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month. 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 2.5 hrs.

Rides are free and open to the public and led by experienced local mountain bikers familiar with the trails. Medical coverage is provided to all paid BTCEB members,
one more reason to join. So go to our web site, http://www.bicyclerailscouncil.org/ and hit the JOIN TODAY button. We take PayPal.

We start gathering at 9:30am and hit the trails promptly at 9:45am. Join us for refreshments and snacks after the ride. Safety glasses are suggested. A well-tuned mountain bike is a must!

https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/events/ppsldpyxqblb/

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**Ride Like A Girl**  
**December 1, 2018**  
**9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

Hi Ladies, Let's plan to ride Rockville (near Fairfield) if it hasn't been too rainy. Check the BTCEB Meetup page for last minute info and to RSVP so you can receive email notifications of any changes to the ride.  
https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/events/ptzsslyxqbcb/

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**2019 Gala Ride Schedule**  
by Mike Udkow, BTCEB President

All rides are held on the 2nd Saturday except July 14 and October 13. Those marked with an "*" need an EBRPD permit:

- Jan 12 – Rockville
- Feb 10 – No Gala: Pop-Ups
- March 9 – China Camp
- *April 13 – Del Valle
- *May 11 – Crockett
- *June 8 – Wildcat/Tilden
- July 14 (SUNDAY) – China Camp
- *August 10 – Anthony Chabot (or maybe a Pop-Up Ride)
- Sept 14 – JMP
- *Oct 13 (Sunday) – Crockett
- Nov 9 – Fernandez Ranch (JMLT)
- Dec 14 – Deer Park (Marin)

Consider Castle Park and Pleasanton Ridge

Jan 11, 2020-Rockville

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**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 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.  

mikeudkow@gmail.com

Look for them at anytime on the Meetup page or subscribe to email notifications:  
https://www.meetup.com/BicycleTrailsCouncil/

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**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.
BTCEB Members Support the Sibley-McCosker LUPA
By Yvette Skinner, BTCEB President

Several BTCEB members attended the final public meeting on the Sibley-McCosker Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA). It was held during an EBRPD board meeting on November 20, 2018. We spoke in favor of the plan. The LUPA includes 2.5 miles of proposed multi-use trail, is 6 feet wide, and would be open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

Predictably, a new anti-mountain biking access allegiance known as "Safe Trails Environmental Protection" (STEP) spoke out against the LUPA. They objected to the short sections of trail which serve to connect existing fire roads because they were proposed as bike-legal. Earlier in the year, STEP went as far as to threaten a lawsuit against the EBRPD if they included these segments of multi-use trail as proposed in the LUPA.
I am very grateful to the mountain bikers who attended the public comment meetings during the long process of its development and those who contacted EBRPD staff with emails of support. I was proud to hear the testimony of the BTCEB membership and various associated mountain biking groups at the board meeting, standing up for our right to fair and equal access to trails with better connectivity in the East Bay Parks.

The LUPA was approved. However, a further three-year review was added. This will give STEP and BTCEB an opportunity to assess the trails before they are opened to mountain bikers. That is why everyone’s help continues to be so critical. Thank you.

Crockett Hills Update - Nov 2018
by Scott Bartlebaugh

We built a bridge, cattle are mitigated, Goldfinch is open, and much trailwork is headed to Crockett. The Sugar City Bridge is in service after BTCEB volunteers worked 120 hours on the bridge decking, approach, and exit trails. The park supervisor is aiming to minimize cattle damage to the trails by moving the cattle away from Sugar City and Tree Frog trails as soon as there is enough water in the Stewart property to the east. The Goldfinch trail is NOT under an eagle nesting closure at this time. We're working on reclaiming this trail after several years of neglect. Get your tires on Goldfinch to help ride it in. The EBRPD trails development group is planning on doing some machine regrading this spring and we're involved in the planning process. We're also working on some hardening on the Warep trail. As we hit the wet weather use good judgement and stay off the trails if it's too wet and causing damage. Also look for some trail work days in the next few months (tentatively Dec 6 & 15 and Jan 8 & 19). If you are available to do trail work, check our Meetup event site, or email us at info@btceb.org to be put on the work list and also note if you are available during the week. Happy Trails!

Ride-Like-A-Girl November 2018
by Amy Arcus

In November, we headed down to Santa Cruz to ride the Emma McCrary trail and beyond. The weather was great and though it was a small group, we had plenty of fun. The trails here are flowy with some roots thrown in here and there. Definitely a fun place to ride.
Fernandez' No Gala Ride
By Mike Udkow, BTCEB President

Our ride at Fernandez Ranch was once again cancelled. Last year it was due to the rain. This year it was cancelled twice because of the very poor air quality. But now it is raining and the smoke is gone! I will cancel a ride if the AQI is above 100, a most unusual occurrence. I'm hopeful that when the rain lets up we can have some pop-up rides at Fernandez, or wherever you want to ride. The December ride is in Marin, staged at Deer Park. Most of the ride is on fire roads that hold up well in wet weather. As we ride around the three lakes, we will be surrounded by great views. As we "Easterners" are unfamiliar with the trails, hopefully (you?) Marin folks will volunteer to help lead or sweep a ride group. IMPORTANT: With the wet weather upon us, it's important to RSVP on MeetUp so we know who to contact if the ride needs to be cancelled.

Save 20%
Bike Holiday Shopping at Sports Basement
By Mike Udkow, BTCEB President
We're inviting everyone at “Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay” (that's you!) to a very special shopping event, where you'll receive *20% off your entire purchase* all day long. Mention your Baseminite account at the register, so your purchase also supports “Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay”!

*Date:* December 20 - 22, 2018  
*Time:* All day long!  
*Location:* All 10 Sports Basement stores!  
*Can't join us at the store? Join the celebration by shopping online!*  
*Use the code 2050008418954 at checkout.*  
[https://shop.sportsbasement.com/](https://shop.sportsbasement.com/)

**Editorial**  
**By John Roberts, Buzz Editor**

Thank you for your hard work in 2018, and I look forward to continue the wave of positive developments for mountain bikers in 2019. We are all volunteers at BTCEB, and we worked very hard in 2018. We contributed to first trails opening to mountain bikers on EBMUD property, we groomed Crockett, and we are also developing a great relationship with Fernandez Ranch land managers. JMP remains the crown jewel. So what is wrong with 2018? We worked every bit as hard towards opening new trails on new EBRPD land (read Sibley / McCosker). And it did not happen. No doubt BTCEB, that is you and me, have worked hard in 2018. Sometimes accomplishments happen in a non-linear fashion. Results can come in clusters. I cannot wait for 2019.

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**Preserving Nature While Cycling**  
submitted via Eric Minghella, P.I. Law

**Preserve the Environment When Cycling**  
Cycling is a healthy, fun and eco-friendly form of transportation. It is a way to get to and from work or school, get a great form of exercise, and enjoy cycling scenic routes, such as on roads, or paths in parks. Here are some tips for preserving the environment while cycling in a park.

**Share the Road or Trail**  
When you are out on the road, path, or trail, remember you aren't alone. Share the...
road with other vehicles, such as cars, bikes, and hikers. Adhere to traffic laws or rules and be courteous. Maintain a safe speed to avoid crashes.

**Don't Get Off the Trail**

Don’t freestyle across grass, through fields, or on hillsides. Always stay on the road or trail. Should you get off the path, you can damage the habitat.

**Watch for Wildlife**

Remember, when you are in a park you are traveling in an area that many animals call home. You might encounter birds, deer, or snakes. Be on the critter lookout.

**Pack it Out**

Properly dispose of any trash that you may have.

**Don't Cut Deep Ruts**

Ruts could lead to a crash in the future. It is important to manage any ruts caused by water.

**Don't Ride the Brakes Going Downhill**

When you are riding downhill, you don’t want to go too fast. You should be able to slow down without locking up your brakes or skidding as a way to avoid leaving braking bumps on the trail. Learning a balanced use of the front and rear brake is key.

*This article was provided by [www.personalinjury-law.com](http://www.personalinjury-law.com), an organization dedicated to providing the public with information about personal injury and safety information. Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice, and it is intended for informational use only.*

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**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!

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**&... WITHOUT FURTHER ADO:**

**Master Links**

How to buy a bike
Submitted by Mike Udkow
There will be a pop quiz at the next Board meeting, so watch this...

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**Are you an active member of BTCEB?**

by Jon Running
Due to some technical glitches with our membership management system over the last couple of years, renewal notices were not going out to our members. Many folks who were once active and current on dues probably don’t even know that their membership lapsed. Others may have registered and meant to become an active member but got stuck with website issues or confusion over the various membership levels and what they mean. No more!

We have fixed up the membership portal, so now is a great time to check your membership status and renew or sign-up for an active paid membership at https://www.memberplanet.com/btceb

**What does an active paid membership contribute to?**

- Continued planning and organization of monthly Gala and Ride-Like-A-Girl Rides
- Glorious snacks and drinks after Gala Rides
- Various Permits and location fees paid for the group at Gala Ride locations (like Del Valle, Rockville and China Camp)
- Personal Insurance during Gala and Ride-Like-A-Girl organized Rides
- Organization and coordination of various pop-up rides around the area during the week and on weekends
- Activism by BTCEB Board and Club Members on continued or new access to Local Trails. Without work like this we risk losing access to legal bike trails all over the Bay Area.
- Relationships with local Parks departments and other organizations to work on local initiatives that benefit mountain bikes
- Trail Maintenance Efforts. A clear trail is a fun trail to ride
- Education for cyclists in Responsible Mountain Biking
- Youth MTB Adventures (YMBA) – free all-inclusive rides to get city kids into nature
- Sponsorship of several local High School Mountain Bike teams

In the future there may also be member-only organized group rides to special locales like Downieville, Tahoe, Santa Cruz, etc.

Visit the club website for more info on what we do and who we are - https://www.bicycletrailscouncil.org/

**What kind of memberships are available?**

There are five annual membership levels. These can all be adjusted up or down each year upon renewal:

**Individual Membership - $30 per year**

The standard membership level for a single person

**Family Membership - $42 per year**

If there are multiple riders in your household, please consider a family membership. BTCEB is working for a family-friendly MTB community and fighting for trail access for all riders.

**Club Supporter - $55 per year**

Same as an individual or family membership, with an extra contribution to the club to help out all members

**Singletrack Society - $250 per year**

Our most committed group of members makes it possible for BTCEB to make a sustained impact, not just now but long into the future.

**Student/Financial Hardship - $15/year**

If you're a student or are facing financial hardship, join BTCEB at a reduced rate to contribute to the cause at a more affordable rate.

**Lifetime Membership option - $500.**

This is the one if you are a trail hero, wish to advocate in perpetuity, and save the stamp, paper, and hassle of paying every year.

**Registered Member is the final/default membership level.**

This just means you have a Member Planet account but aren’t yet an active paid member of our coalition.

Please send a note with any questions or issues to: membership@btceb.org

How do I know what membership level I am now?
To check your current membership level and status:
We hope you'll consider renewing or signing up for an active paid membership with BTCEB. Happy Riding!

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OUR SPONSORS INCLUDE:

- REI (Bike and other sports store)
- Hank and Frank Bikes (Neighborhood bike shop)
- La Farine Bakery (Boulangerie)
- TrailTechnique.com (Ian Massey / mtn bike coaching)
- Rhythm Bikes (Neighborhood bike shop)
- Rack Solid (Bike racks)
- Sports Basement (Bike and other sports store)
- TrailForks.com (Phone GPS and trail map app)
- Cycle Sports (Neighborhood bike shop)

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

BTCEB BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Udouj, President
information@btceb.org,

Jim Arth, Membership Coordinator
membership@btceb.org

Yvette Skinner, Vice President

Dan McAvoy, Secretary

Lauren Haughey, Treasurer

Henry Mitchell, Trails Coordinator

Dave Wolden, Director of Youth Programs (YMBA)

Amy Arrus, Director of Women’s Programs

Tom Gandesbery, Member-at-Large

Tom Holub, IT Chair