

From: Tom Butt

Sent: Oct 23, 2024 9:46 AM

I'm writing you to ask for your help in electing a slate of pro-mtb'ers (Mountain Trail Bikers) to the Sierra Club executive committee (ExCom) in the western Contra Costa County region where you reside. More on this in a minute but first some background.

As most of you are aware, Norman LaForce and a few of his like-minded mtb opponents in the Sierra Club (SC) have effectively stopped increased access of mtb's to single-track trails in the East Bay for decades. Last year a group of us got active in the SC with the ultimate goal of neutralizing their opposition. With the help of mtb'ers like you who joined and voted in the elections last fall we got a slight majority in the leadership of the SC Bay Area chapter which is the final decision maker over local policy. With this slight majority we have managed to put some important restrictions on Norman, but he continues to push an anti-mtb agenda despite national SC policy which actually supports mtb'ing in non-wilderness settings.

This fall we want to remove Norman from his leadership roles in the SC. Our best opportunity to do that is by gaining a majority on the ExCom of western Contra Costa County. To accomplish this, we need to get our slate of four pro-mtb'ers elected to that committee. The first step is to submit a petition to the SC by Sept 23rd supporting our nominees (Leisa Johnson, Andrew Butt, Jeff Royal, and Ed Jerum).

If you are NOT a current member then you must join. You can check your member status using the instructions in Attachment 1. If you need to join, see Attachment 2.

Please don't share any of this with friends who are not pro-mtb. If Norman or his supporters discover our efforts, they may well be able to counter them.

Finally let me say that we are slowly turning the tide on improving bike access in the East Bay. Some examples: strong support for mtb access at multiple levels of EBRPD staff; a change in attitude in a majority of the EBRPD Board thanks in part to the vocal support of some of our youth; steady progress on the Wildcat Flow trail which could be built as soon as next year; the startup of volunteer trail work days in Tilden and Wildcat Canyon parks; and the start of an EBRPD policy to convert selected rogue trails to legal mtb single-track. Working the "system" in legal ways is paying off though it takes time and effort. Please continue to help us do that.

Please let me know if you are already a member or if you have joined.

Tom Butt, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C

<attachment 1>

If you don't know your Sierra Club member number there are three ways to find it:

1. If you have a copy of Sierra Magazine look at these steps.

2. go to sierraclub.org, in the top right click on login. If you don't already have an account you can set one up. Once you have logged in it will provide your member number if you click on the "Members and Donations".

3. call Sierra Club member services at (415) 977-5653 M-F 9-5.

<attachment 2>

If you are a new member the cost to join is only \$15 for a single member. Join online at sierraclub.org but be sure you click the join button not the donate button. Couples can join as new members for only \$27 and thus be able to vote twice. To join as a couple you need to phone the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5600 to add the name of the 2nd member since they don't do couples memberships online. Once this is done you won't need to do it again when you renew the following year.

If you are an existing member, the cost goes up to \$45 for a single member and \$68 for a joint member. Membership expires one year after you join. To renew go to sierraclub.org and look for the "renew" button.

There is no age limit on membership so if you have a child who is an active mtb'er please consider having them join and vote. The more mtb'ers we can get to join of any age the more clout we have in enlightening the organization to the fact that mtb'ing is a legitimate outdoor activity and that we love and cherish the environment too!

If money is an issue, we'll happily send you a gift membership Just let us know whether you are an existing or new member. If you are an existing member we'll need your membership number.