



## Along the Trail

### Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club

#### Newsletter

April 2016

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#### IN MEMORIAM

I'm saddened to report that long-time club member Miles Brubacher died on November 30, 2015 at the age of 90. He coordinated hikes for the club in the nineties with Maureen, his wife. They were known as "M&M" and usually led Saturday hikes. One of their favorites was the moonlight hike on Kaiwi Ridge, which was always well attended. Back then we rarely saw anyone else on the ridge, in contrast to the hordes today.

Stuart Ball

#### REMEMBERING NIGEL

Aloha ha hoa: Many of you will remember Nigel Robertson, the tall, thin, very quiet man who would show up before dawn on his bicycle at Point Panic on big days to catch a few private, un-crowded waves, and then return to work on his boat at the Ala Wai Boat Harbor. I knew him for more than 25 years, from both the beach and from being on Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club hikes with him. He died of a facial cancer on his boat up in British Columbia, on October 31, 2015, at the age of 76.

Please visit the memorial web site set up for all of us by his daughter at: [www.earthsoption.com](http://www.earthsoption.com).

There are many interesting photos of him and his life in Hawaii and at sea. Please check your photo files and post any you have of him at that site.

Michael M. Klicks

(Note: after clicking on above website, click on "Obituaries" and type Nigel's name in the Search box—Ed.)

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Barb Bruno

HTMC will hold its annual meeting on April 3, 2016. We will vote for three new Directors. Below are statements from some of the nominees. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

**Guy Archer** is a life member of HTMC and currently the Club Treasurer. He met the Club's 100-mile challenge in 2010 and still walks 6 to 8 miles each week. He retired as a Hawaii deputy attorney general and is now working on a book project and travel planning.

**Richard Nettell** is a life member of HTMC, hikes most Sundays, has served on various club committees, and is currently the Recording Secretary for the Board. He retired from the UH Manoa English Department in August 2015.

#### WILDERNESS PARK IN KAIMUKI

There is a wilderness park in upper Kaimuki called Mauumae Nature Park. It has no facilities of any kind, but it contains a loop trail. It is believed to have been made by hiking volunteers about 15 years ago. For a description, map, and more information see

[http://www.everytrail.com/view\\_trip.php?trip\\_id=1432224](http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=1432224)

To find the park, go up 16th Ave, which makes a right turn into Koko Dr. At almost the end of the straight portion there are utility poles, and the trailhead (somewhat obscure) is near one of the poles. There is limited parking on the right side of the Drive.

The loop has a right half and left half, which meet at the top (which is marked on the map). The right side is fairly easy to hike and to find, but the left side is hard to find in places and there is some rock walking to do. About 1/3 of the way on the left half, there is a way up which shows on the map. Actually, it is a shortcut that just about bisects the whole loop. I did that part last week, and it's easier to find than the left half. I copiously ribboned the left half, and adequately ribboned the right half. As a result, the whole loop is now easily doable.

About the second 1/3 of the left half is easy to do but is quite overgrown. There is obviously a trail bed under the overgrown grass. Since it is now well ribboned, it is quite easy to find. At the top 1/3, the trail crosses a stream and then goes up a ridge, slightly on the left of the ridge top, under a long but not very tall cliff. On the left is a fairly steep slope that falls into another stream. It is not at all dangerous. It is probably easier to go up the left half and come down the right half, as the right half is fairly easy to hike and easy to find.

Wing Ng

Thelma Greig was interested in this, and may have even worked on it. She led a club hike there on Feb 25, 1995.

Steve Brown

Very active in this volunteer effort was Albert Rich. He was also the principal builder of the 1-2-3 trail which I am sure that you will recall, Wing. The Mauumae Nature Park volunteers designed a T-shirt which they sold as a fund raiser to help support the building of the trail and the planting of native plants in the park. I am the proud owner of a Mauumae Nature Park T-shirt.

Art Isbell

#### TWENTY YEARS OF OAHU FENCING (1996 – 2015)

Patrick Rorie

For twenty years, various organizations have been fencing numerous Oahu ridges and trails in an attempt to establish enclosures to preserve rare and endangered Hawaiian plants and snails. While this effort has been somewhat successful, it has made a huge impact on Oahu hiking, both visually and on the trails themselves (the hiking experience has been adversely affected where most of these fences exist). Furthermore, some of the fences have done a great disservice to the men who worked hard to build the CCC trails in the 1930's.

It all began when Army Environmental (AE) installed a fence along the crest of Ohikilolo Ridge back in 1996. Before being fenced, this trail was one of the finest open ridge walks on Oahu. Now it is a totally different hike. Safer due to the fence, but ruined as a premier open ridge walk. AE then fenced the Makua Rim along the crest of the Waianae Mountain Range (which impacted backpacking to the Mokuleia Campsite), and AE eventually moved on to the Ko'olau Summit, establishing the Opaepala, Helemano and Koloa preserves, with fences either crossing the historic Ko'olau Summit Trail (KST) or

running next to the KST. In some places where the fence deviates a short distance from the KST, hikers have been following the fence, resulting in parts of the KST disappearing altogether in a sea of uluhe. If the fence had not been placed near the KST, the KST would not have been lost in these areas.

In 2014 the State NARs division in partnership with AE, installed a fence along upper Poamoho Trail and the Ko'olau Summit Trail to the south of the Poamoho summit (thus establishing the northern Poamoho preserve), and plans are well under way to establish a Kaluanui preserve above Sacred Falls, once again involving large scale fencing.

In 2015 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife (F&W) began fencing its Ko'olau forest reserve between Pu'u Ka'aumakua and Kipapa Ridge. Part of the fence runs along the Ko'olau crest, but it is absurd to think that wild boar could possibly climb the steep windward pali to enter this F&W preserve.

#### **What can be done?**

There appears little hope of halting this fence juggernaut. Those who opposed this conservation measure appear to be anti-conservation. One could argue that the main reason the CCC trails were built in the 1930's was to get pig hunters access to remote areas to hunt pigs. However, due to liability concerns, this option is no longer deemed viable by AE, NARs and F&W. The best hikers can hope for is:

- 1) To oppose funding of these preserves, appealing to law makers that there are far more important priorities in the State than fencing.
- 2) Have the fence panels dipped in green paint so that they blend in with the surrounding topography. After all, when Hawaii Electric installs powerline poles near the pali, the poles are painted green.
- 3) Install gates where the fence crosses the trail and
- 4) Instead of installing the panels along the trail, have the panels placed along the summit crest where pigs might traverse the summit; otherwise allow the natural topography to keep pigs out.

#### **The future of Oahu fencing:**

The lead NARs technician has said that a southern Poamoho preserve will eventually be established, where a fence will proceed south from Pu'u Pauao along the KST and down upper Schofield-Waikane (S-W). It is not unheard of to realize that the entire Ko'olau Range (with the exception of cliff and predominantly non-native plant areas) will be fenced in our lifetime when funding becomes available. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife representative has said that their goal is to fence the entire perimeter of the F&W preserve between S-W and Kipapa trails. AE is done with fencing for now.

#### **List of Oahu trails that have been impacted (most significantly) by fences (12 trails to date):**

Ohikilolo Ridge, Makua Rim, the Kalena Trail, the Ko'olau Summit Trail, upper Peahinaia, upper Poamoho Ridge, upper Castle Trail, Papali Uka, Waianae Ka'ala, Kuaokala, the Mokuleia Trail, the Waianae Summit Ridge between Pu'u Kanehoa and Pu'u Hapapa, the summit section of the Pu'u Kaula loop.

#### **Call to action:**

Contact me via e-mail if you are interested in getting involved – patrickrorie@hotmail.com

Call Governor Ige and tell him not to fund any more NARs enclosures – 808-586-0034

Call Senator Mazie Hirono (202)224-6361 and Congressman Mark Takai (202)225-2726 and tell them not to spend millions of tax payer dollars on Ko'olau Summit fences when we have a 19 trillion dollar deficit!

#### **NO MORE MEETING AT PALACE**

Steve Brown

The unanimous consensus of the coordinators at the recent coordinators meeting was to discontinue meeting at the palace for all hikes. The club is trying this revision for the first quarter of 2016 on an experimental basis.

This decision was based on the small number of hikers who meet at the palace, the logistics required for two meeting places, and the desire to start the hikes on a timely basis, without waiting for arrivals from the palace.

Also, meeting at the palace implies that there would be a way for hikers who meet at the palace to get to the trailhead, and to return to the palace following the hike. This is not always the case, and there's no way that the club can insure that this will happen. Although someone may be designated to go to the palace, there's no assurance that the vehicle capacity will be sufficient to handle all those who show up. There have also been instances when a driver departs from the hike without making arrangements for his passenger to return to the palace, and the coordinator is forced to drive his passenger back to the palace.

#### **REWARDS FOR TRAIL CLEARING**

Barb Bruno

#### **We're not above bribing you to get you to come out trail clearing!**

To encourage club members to try their hand at trail-clearing, we're offering bribes! Come out twice and get a trail-clearing patch. Come out a third time and you can buy a trail-clearing T-shirt for \$5 (made possible by a generous donation from Randy Ching).

Thanks to Mike Algiers for his awesome design, Myrtle Wong for coordinating the T-shirts, and Kris Corliss and Roy Tanaka for coordinating the patches. For more info, contact [barb@hawaii.edu](mailto:barb@hawaii.edu)

#### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

ALONG THE TRAIL is a quarterly publication of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club designed to inform the membership of club activities and matters of interest to the hiking community. HTMC members and any other interested parties are welcome to submit articles to ALONG THE TRAIL. Submissions must be received by the 5th day of March, June, September, and December in order to appear in the newsletter published for the following quarter, and may be sent in any of the following ways (email preferred):

**email:** richard27@hawaii.rr.com  
**Phone:** 293-2554  
**Mail:** Richard McMahan  
57-531 Kamehameha Hwy  
Kahuku, HI 96731

CHECK OUT THE HTMC WEB PAGE  
<http://htclub.org>

**MOVING?** Our low-cost newsletter mailings are not forwarded by the post office, so don't forget to send us your new address. Address changes can be emailed to [membership@htclub.org](mailto:membership@htclub.org) or sent by regular mail to HTMC, PO Box 2238, Honolulu, HI 96804

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