

# Trail users to ante up at Wilder

✓ Wilder Ranch  
Sentinel staff report

Hikers, horses and mountain bikers will go heel-to-hoof-to-pedal at an upcoming "Poker Ride" in Wilder Ranch State Park.

The fund-raising ride is believed to be the first to combine the three kinds of trail users in a fun and friendly way, according to Chuck Beebe, one of the event organizers.

Appropriately, the ride is at Wilder, one of the first state parks with multi-use trails, Beebe said. It has also been one of the most successful examples of cooperative trail use by equestrians and mountain bikers, who have often been at odds with each other, he said.

The event is being sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Horseman's

Association, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County and the Association of Concerned Trailriders.

The etiquette of the trail for the day will be the same simple method that has worked at Wilder, Beebe said. "Go slow and announce yourself. If everybody's polite you don't have a problem."

Cards collected during the ride will comprise each rider's poker hand. Prizes will be given for the best hands.

Money raised from the ride/hike will be used to build bridges at stream crossings in Gray Whale Ranch, where trails have recently opened.

The ride will be about 12 miles. It will be followed by a barbecue,

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raffle and dancing to country western music, Beebe said.

The \$12 entrance fee buys a poker hand and meal. Extra hands can be purchased for \$7 each.

More than \$12,000 in donated prizes will be given away and raffled off. Extra points will be given to teams that combine types of trail users, such as a team composed of a hiker, equestrian and bike rider, said Beebe.

The ride will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 19. Registration will take place the day of the ride.

For further information, call Beebe at 475-2852 or Keith Kelson at 423-1434.