



MOUNTAIN CYCLIST

LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2003

Hot IMBA Epic At Coe

by Eric Lafferty

The IMBA Epic weekend, held at Henry Coe State Park the weekend of September 20-21, was an unqualified success!

While many thought that Sunday's "hot" ticket was sitting on the couch, sipping lemonade and watching the third week of the NFL football season, a select group of mountain bikers discovered that riding the trails of Coe was a much better event.

Temperatures soared above 100 degrees, as a group of 55 volunteers performed trail work on Saturday, and rode mountain bikes on Sunday. The final climb on Sunday's ride, along an exposed fire road with a 22% grade and the sun beating directly over head, was an experience that few will forget. If you were unable to attend, but wish you were part of the experience, turn on a 100-watt light bulb, wait five minutes and then stick your tongue against the bulb ... well, you get the idea. Despite the heat, the ride was a blast!

This year IMBA selected Henry Coe State Park in Santa Clara County as the venue for one of only four national Epic Rides.

IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) began organizing "Epic Rides" in 1999. Each Epic is a two-day event, with participants performing trail work on the first day, and riding the second. As you might guess from the

event name – Epic Ride – the routes are generally not a walk in the park.

This year IMBA selected Henry Coe State Park in Santa Clara County as the venue for one of only four national Epic Rides. ROMP was the local hosting organization, providing much of the planning, and volunteer efforts for the event.

Henry Coe park headquarters and the main park entrance are located in Morgan Hill, CA. However, access to the Epic was through the Bell Station Gate, located off of Highway 152 near the original Casa de Fruta.

Trail work on Saturday mainly included brushing overgrown trails. Brush, which had overgrown the trails, and excess poison oak was cut back leaving the trails more usable. Approximately seven miles of trails were cleared.

With the work that we completed, our hope is that ROMP will be invited back for future trail maintenance, and trail building events.



Jim and Cathy Haagen-Smit, IMBA reps for California, ride Epic tandem.

Better Late Than Never

By Paul Nam

After a four and half month delay, the Henry Coe IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association) Epic finally took place on September 20-21. Instead of the lush wildflower riot planned for early May, Epic trail workers and riders were greeted by the desiccated husks of the blossoms rattled by a hot breeze in the afternoon climax of 105 degrees Fahrenheit. While torrential rains drowned out the May event, high temperatures did little to dissuade participants from turning out in September.

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Get Involved!

Thanks to all who are sustaining ROMP members. For those who are not yet members, here are the reasons that we are. ROMP advocates multi-use and single-track trails. In Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties ROMP exists to watch over mountain biking interests - that means looking for new opportunities to gain, improve and defend existing trail access. If you ride a mountain bike on trails you should belong to ROMP.

It's no secret that only a small subset of the entire trail inventory in our public parks and preserves is open to mountain bikes. This current state of affairs is a result of the influence of non-cyclist working against mountain cyclists since before some of us were mountain bikers. Ironically, cyclists are currently the most avid users of trails in the area.

To initiate change, we must be properly represented at land manager meetings, participate in the planning process and volunteer at trail work events. ROMP is the local leader in these affairs, and there are many opportunities for members to participate. ROMP informs cyclists about current events by e-mail, on our web site (www.romp.org), and by word of mouth.

ROMP's membership has plateaued at approximately 400 members. ROMP should have at least 1000 members if we are to even barely serve the advocacy needs of the thousands of mountain bikers who live in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. We miss opportunities because there are not enough advocates representing cyclists.

If we desire improved access, new trails and more technical trails, we have to make it happen. If you ride and use trails you should also be involved in supporting, maintaining, and increasing them. Our trails do not exist merely because we deserve a place to ride. Our trails are the legacy of the beautiful vision those before us blazed. They may not have been cyclists, nor have cared or known about mountain biking, but they shared our healthy passion for the outdoors and nature.

Mountain cyclists have inherited the great benefits of the conservation movement that succeeded in preserving great tracts of lands for habitat preservation, view-shed protection,

renewable and mineral resources, and recreational opportunities. The conservation movement continues to move forward, sometimes in directions where bicyclists disagree. Despite these disagreements, it is a vital movement that we must attend. In places like Coyote Harvey Bear County Park and the Coastal Annexation, where new lands are coming under public administration, bringing with it the potential of new trails for cyclists, ROMP will represent the interests of cyclists.

Please support ROMP and get involved as much as you can. ROMP amounts to no more than the dedication of its members. Local mountain bikers surely realize that they will make a difference if they participate. With your input the future of access brightens.

Not enough cyclists know about ROMP, or know enough about our plight to care. This is going to change. You and all your riding buddies are being noticed out there. You use the trails; now take ownership of them and care for them because they are beautiful and we've got to make them last.

ROMP has a core of hardworking members who welcome new friends and faces. At the Coe Epic (see the front page of this issue for more details) we mustered 32 volunteers to run the event. No one volunteered because of the schwag: free T-shirts, Cliff Bars and Shots, kegs of beer, wool socks, and gear. They volunteered because they knew it would be fun, and at the same time they got things done. With the help of 23 additional participants a 7-mile

trail brushing project was completed, and afterwards riding the results rewarded us.

Given the harsh realities of our local and state economies it is incumbent upon all trail users to help maintain and defend our trails. We cannot expect others to look after our interests; it's up to us. Our parks and preserves need your help. Show up at trail days. Volunteer in programs. Ask how to get involved. Mountain cyclists are friends of the forest, not enemies. Your positive action will speak volumes of good, make friends, and create a better future for local trail riding.

ROMP is the soul of local mountain biking. Be part of it.

Paul Nam
ROMP President



Fall Trail Days

Santa Clara County Parks is looking for volunteers at various parks building, repairing, and restoring trails. Work is scheduled on most weekends through January, with work beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day.

Come prepared to work on trails. Work includes: repairing sections of trail, rebuilding switchbacks, removing slough and berm, and maintaining drainage. Tools, gloves and water will be provided.

As trail users we too often take trail maintenance for granted. The Trail Days program is an excellent opportunity to help maintain and rebuild the trails that we ride. Volunteering one day for trail work will go a long way toward maintaining the county's trail system. A strong presence at these events will give ROMP and all mountain bikers a better image within the trail-user community, and while volunteering, you might have a bit of fun!

Additional trail days will be scheduled later.

Upcoming Trail Days

- Nov. 1 - Vallecitos Trail at Calero
- Nov. 8 - Rocky Ridge Trail at Santa Teresa
- Nov. 15 - Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa
- Nov. 22 - Vallecitos Trail at Calero and
New Almaden Trail at Almaden Quicksilver
- Nov. 30 - Table Mountain Trail at Upper Stevens Creek
- Dec. 6 - Rocky Ridge Trail and Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa
- Dec. 13 - Great Eastern Trail at Almaden Quicksilver
- Dec. 20 - Rocky Ridge Trail at Santa Teresa
- Dec. 21 - Table Mountain Trail at Upper Stevens Creek
- Jan. 3 - Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa
- Jan. 10 - Prospect #3 Trail at Almaden Quicksilver
- Jan. 18 - Table Mountain Trail at Upper Stevens Creek

For further information, or to RSVP please check out the Santa Clara County Parks web site (<http://www.parkhere.org>) or call (408) 355-2254.



Mountain Cyclist

The Mountain Cyclist is the monthly newsletter of the Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers

Send general newsletter material directly to the editor (not to the club PO box):

◇ Eric Lafferty / Josh Moore
newsletter@romp.org

Send ride listings to the club ride coordinator (not to the club PO box):

◇ Julie Brown (650) 814 8271 ride@romp.org

ROMP Membership Update

Renewals

Rick Anderson
Gino Aynaga
Craig Ball
Gary Balsam
Cal Cornwell
Paul B. Koski & Family
Eric Lafferty
Josh Moore
Scott Schlachter
Gary & Sarah Schmitt & Family
Fred E. Stanke

New Members

Marina Balingit
Riya Devine
Michael Horwath
Alex MacBride
Valerie & Franck Mangin & Family
Tim Pepper
Steve Salisbury
John Withington

ROMP Helps Build New Singletrack

by Berry Stevens

Over the course of this year's trail building season ROMP and many volunteers built approximately 3/4 of a mile of new trail at Water Dog Lake Park (Belmont, CA). The trail building process included hiking the terrain, flagging the alignment, getting approval from the City of Belmont Parks and Recreation Department, brushing the trail route, cutting the bench, and finally doing the finishing work. A fun new trail was added to the local trail inventory!



First the volunteers removed brush.

Trail layout and design was done with copious reference to IMBA's trail building guidelines (http://www.imba.com/resources/trail_building/). The resulting trail is fun and challenging to ride, as well as stable and low maintenance

Along the new trail, there are three drainage crossings and two log-overs to entertain users. The goal was to build a "destination" trail that was as long as possible given the constraints of the terrain and the existing trail system. Judging by the response, even before we finished for the year, we succeeded beyond all expectations.

To take advantage of the soil moisture from the late April rains, trail work was performed two days a week during the last month of construction. Each week, volunteers dedicated one evening and one weekend to the trail work. Work ran into June, a very rare thing in this area.



Then experts put flags along the line of the trail and make the first cut.

When we started we knew there was a big challenge ahead. We planned work around/with the rains in order to always make progress. Benches were cut on the South faces of the trail (the ones that dried out first) before other sections were even brushed. In the end, all involved felt a great sense of satisfaction and pride in what we accomplished

Want to participate? To sign up for work this coming season, please contact Berry Stevens (bt3mtbiker@earthlink.com). The remaining 70 feet of the new trail will be completed, and the next segment of what will eventually be a 5-mile long unbroken singletrack at Water Dog Lake Park will be started.

Getting To Water Dog Lake Park

From Highway 280 in San Mateo County, exit Highway 92. Drive east and exit Ralston. Drive east about 1 mile, and turn right onto Hallmark Drive. Continue a short distance downhill and turn left onto Lake Road. Park on the side of the road before the gate.



We use various tools to finish the trail bed.

Land Manager Meetings

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) oversees many open space preserves throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Board of director's meetings are open to the public on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM in the district offices at 330 Distel Circle (off El Camino Real north of Rengstorff), Los Altos. The MROSD also holds Trail Policy Committee meetings which develop and implement trail use policy.

Los Gatos Trails Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6 to 7 PM at 41 Miles Avenue, Los Gatos.

Santa Clara County Group of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Committee (BARTC) meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Greenbelt Alliance, 1922 The Alameda, Santa Clara (may change – call before attending). Call Judy Etheridge at 408-248-3900.

San Mateo County Group of the BARTC meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM to 12 noon at Coyote Point Museum (odd months) and other locations (even months). Call Bill Smith at 650-873-0415 for meeting locations and other information.

Holiday Party

December 5th at 6pm at the Blue Pheasant in Cupertino. Julianna Furtado is speaking. Contact Linda Wegner (408) 257 8284.

Land Manager Directory

Acterra (Arastradero Preserve) 3921 E. Bayshore Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94303, 650-962-9876, fax 650-962-8234; www.arastradero.org, www.acterra.org/info@acterra.org (general), www.participation.com/arastradero

California Recreational Trails Committee
Ken McKowen, Trails Coordinator, PO Box 942896, Sacramento 94296-0001, 916-653-6501

Castle Rock State Park Bob Culbertson, 408-429-2869; Dave Keck, 916-322-2997

City of Palo Alto (Arastradero) Recreation
Open Space and Sciences Division,
650-329-2423

East Bay Regional Park District 11500
Skyline Blvd., Oakland 94619, 415-531-9300

Henry W. Coe State Park 9000 East Dunne Ave, Morgan Hill 95037. 408-779-2728
Gavilan Sector Supervising Ranger Denise Reichenberg dreichenberg@parks.ca.gov; Coe Senior Ranger Barry Breckling baryb@coepark.org; www.coepark.parks.ca.gov

Monterey District California State Parks, Gavilan Sector; Henry W. Coe State Park.

P.O. Box 787; 19 Franklin Street; San Juan Bautista, CA 95045. 831-623-1659. Monterey District Superintendent C.L. Price

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos 94022; 650-691-1200; mrosd@openspace.org, www.openspace.org

Mt. Diablo State Park District Office 96
Mitchell Canyon Rd., Clayton 94517;
510-673-2891; Larry Ferri, Park Superintendent

Santa Clara County Parks & Rec. Dept. 298
Garden Hill Dr., Los Gatos, 95030; Mark Frederick, Capital Projects Mgr., 408-358-3741 x143; fax 408-358-3245; mark.frederick@mail.prk.co.santa-clara.ca.us, claraweb.co.santa-clara.ca.us/parks/

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors 70
W. Hedding, San Jose, 95110; 408-299-2323

Santa Cruz District 600 Ocean St., Santa Cruz 95060; 408-429-2850; David Vincent, District Superintendent

The Trail Center 3921 E. Bayshore Road,
Palo Alto 94303; 650-968-7065,
www.trailcenter.org

Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail Opens

by Chris Voci-Nam

On August 21st, 2003 a handful of hikers, equestrians, political heavyweights and ROMP members attended the long awaited opening ceremony for the 10-mile stretch of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, known as the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail.

The opening of the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail represents the first time that bicyclists have had access to this area, and over the past 10 years ROMP has played a major role in helping gain this access. Many thanks go out to ROMP member Berry Stevens, who saw this project from beginning to end!

As Claire Nippres and I entered the parking area, I knew we were going to be a part of history. Seeing the media, police and firemen, Mayor Willie Brown and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Amiano, I knew this event, which ROMP had been invited to attend, was something special.

After speeches by Mayor Brown, Tom Amiano and the folks from the San Francisco Public Utilities, there was a ceremonial cutting of the ribbon at the trailhead, and an unveiling of a plaque. Afterward the eager enthusiasts set out on various modes of transport to experience the trail's beauty first-hand.

In order to access the trail, all groups must be led by a trained docent at all times. The docents are volunteers and are present to help protect the fragile ecosystem in the area. Several ROMP members have volunteered and are trained to lead rides in the area. Berry Stevens, Claire Nippres and Linda Wegner are currently trained docents and ROMP members. During each

ride, all groups must start together, stay together and finish together.

The trail is a gravel service road, with periods of loose base rock. Grades range from flat to 21%. The steepest grade stretches 1.3 miles from Skyline Quarry (elevation 400 feet) to Cemetery Gate (elevation 1,050 feet) on Cahill Ridge.

Along the way vegetation varies, but expect to see beautiful Monterey Cypress, old growth Douglas Fir, coastal scrub, and mixed hardwood/Douglas Fir woodland. Drop-dead gorgeous views of Crystal Springs Reservoir, which is located below the trail, are available throughout the ride.

One of the coolest memories that sticks in my mind about opening day, was when we were coming down the first hill after a photo shoot, Claire yelled to Tom Amiano, "Hey Tom!" He said back to us, "mountain bikers rock!" That put a huge smile on our faces, and made my week!



Hikers, bikers and equestrians celebrate trail opening together

If you are interested in checking out the trail, you must sign up in advance at: <http://www.sfwater.org>. Also, you can contact one of the ROMP docents for more information. The Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail is accessed from Highway 92, west of I-280, approximately 1/2 mile past Crystal Springs Reservoir.

Picnic Rewards

by Claire Nipress

ROMP's annual picnic was held at the Stevens Creek County Park on October 11. This social event is held to reward the ROMP members for their hard work throughout the year.

Before I arrived at 8:30 a.m., Riya Devine and Robin Reynolds were hard at work decorating the picnic area. Many thanks and kudos go out to Riya and Robin for planning and executing the event!

Several rides were scheduled in the morning before the picnic. I led a ride up Montebello Road and through Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, while Glenn Wegner led a "retro" ride through Fremont Older Open Space Preserve.

Shortly after 9 a.m., despite the low temperatures, I bravely shed my jacket and started our ride. Our group quickly warmed up on the Montebello Road climb, shedding arm warmers and jackets within the first mile.



Chris rides off with the balloons only to tie them to the back of Rich's car. Are they still there Richard?

At the top of the climb we regrouped before hitting the Bella Vista Trail, where we met a large group of hikers making their way to a Mid-Pen volunteer event. Views were spectacular as we descended along the trail, completed a loop, and returned following the same route. At the Backpacker Camp we met Ranger John, who kindly posed for an impromptu photo with our group.



Phillip wins the bicycle limbo contest while Jim mans the beam.

Retuning down the hill, we rejoined the picnic festivities, where Glenn, Linda, and the rest of the "retro" crew had already started in on the appetizers. Riya and Robin provided the best spread I've seen at any ROMP picnic.

A not-so-serious award ceremony was held after we'd finished eating. Awards were given for the "most crashes," "most broken bones," etc. Among the more serious awards, Paul Nam was given a framed photo of the attendees of the IMBA Epic, and was thanked for a great job in planning the event.

After the awards presentation and schwag raffle, the fun and games be-



Using her superb spooning skills, Adrianne and Dave win the egg relay.

gan. A competitive game of volleyball was ended to start the "egg and spoon race," where Glenn and Linda Wegner emerged as King and Queen of the Egg. In the on-the-bike competition, Phillip Strenfel proved to be the undisputed Bike Limbo King.



If you missed the fun and games at the picnic, you can still party with ROMPers at the next social event: the December 5th Christmas Party. Hope to see you there!

A special thanks to our cooks, Riya and Robin



The boys talk . . . about their rides.

Ride Listings—November

Saturday, November 08, 2003

10:00 AM HammerBetty Ride #2 in ECDM C/INT/15+/3K+ HammerBettys & the Betty Booper's ride at ECdM Saturday November 8th - for women only(guys, if you want to don a wig, you can come on our ride!) We will meet in the Skeggs parking lot on Hwy. 35/Skyline @ 10 a.m. Our loop will include the following fun trails; Giant Salamander, Blue Blossom, Steam Donkey, Corte Madera Creek Trail & Resolution. Bring all the usual gear. Fearless leaders will be: Claire (408) 255-3464, Chris (408) 446-3745 & Ligaya (408) 779-4997, call for any additional questions. Hope to see all you HammerBettys out there. Of course rain cancels.

02:00 PM Arastradero Second Saturday Social B/EASY/7/900 This friendly, introductory ride covers most major trails in the preserve, including some moderate hills, jumps, tight switchbacks and single track. More skilled riders are encouraged to join us, socialize and provide support. Depending on skill level and time, we may go up dirt Alpine Rd. after. Directions: Take Oregon Expressway / Page Mill Rd. south past Hwy 280. Turn right on Arastradero, and right into the parking lot. Contact Information: Josh Moore(408) 420-7342 josh_moore@comcast.net

Sunday, November 09, 2003

10:00 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 Meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to SDF on Highland Way. From hwy 17, take the Summit Rd. exit and head SE. Go 5 1/2 miles to the first stop sign, turn right and then bear left onto Highland Way. Go another 4 miles to the entrance. Rides will vary covering singletrack such as Ridge, Braille, Tractor, or Sawpit; Double loop option if you didn't have enough fun the first time down. Contact Information: Rich Andrews (408) 738-1384 randrews@arc.nasa.gov

Sunday, November 16, 2003

10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at ECdM (Skeggs) 2 RIDES: C/INT/12/2000 & D/DIFF/15/2500 Claire & Dave's (408) 255-3464 3rd Sunday ride is back! Meet at Skeggs Point on Skyline Blvd. at 10 a.m. All hammerheads should ride with Dave. Anyone who wants to ride the same trails at a more leisurely pace should ride with Claire.

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

05:00 PM 3rd Tuesday Alpine Road This year round ride has a couple options on where to meet up. First chance is the California Ave. Caltrain station in Palo Alto @ 5:05 p.m., meeting the Northbound #79 and the Southbound

#66 trains @ 5:05 p.m. The 2nd chance to meet up occurs here @ 6:15, corner of Alpine Rd. - Willowbrook in Portola Valley, please park on Willowbrook. The ride then meanders up Alpine Rd., following El Corte De Madera creek, all the way to Page Mill Rd. to Skyline. This 3 hour ride requires the use of lights in the fall/winter months, loaner sets are available, and rear flashing lights are highly recommended. Please contact Jim beforehand for any equipment questions. The main concept of this ride is FUN. Contact Information: Jim Sullivan (650) 493-8774 ssulljm@juno.com

Saturday, November 22, 2003

01:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic A/Easy/6/800 On the 4th Saturday of each month, meet at 1pm at the Arastradero Preserve, at the main parking area on Arastradero Road. We'll cover the basics of mountain biking while riding a combination of fireroads and singletrack. Be sure to bring a helmet, water, and something to eat. Please RSVP to Jim at (650) 493-8774 or ssulljm@juno.com. RSVP is a must, as the meeting spot at the Preserve can vary with class focus. Contact Information: See above.

Sunday, November 23, 2003

10:00 AM There and Back Again D/Intermediate/40/4000 Meet at Stevens Creek Dam, ready to ride, at 10 am. This will be a longish ride with infrequent regroupings exploring the parks and open spaces concentrated around the intersection of Page Mill Rd and Rte. 35. The goal is to provide a longer ride exploring trails little used by ROMP rides on days when no ROMP alternative is planned. We'll head up Charcoal Rd. and then find some nice trails to explore. Bring plenty of water and food. We'll have a "lunch stop" somewhere. Contact Information: Fred Stanke (408) 343-0349 biker-fred@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, November 30, 2003

09:30 AM ROMP Last Sunday @ Wilder Ranch is BACK! B-C/INT/16/2000 Wilder Ranch is 2 miles past the traffic light at Western Dr. on Highway 1. We will meet in the parking lot near the restrooms. Leave the parking lot at 9:30. Lots of single track on your favorite trails: Old Cabin, Rodrigo, Twin Oaks, Zane Grey. Many regroupings and "do-overs". Bring water and a snack. Be prepared for the best views of Monterey Bay, great technical single track and faces you may not have seen for a while! Lunch in Santa Cruz after for those interested. Contact Information: Michael & Jain Light (831) 662-9744 malight@pacbell.net

General Ride Info

Ratings code

Pace / Technical difficulty / Mileage / Approximate elevation gain

Pace

A – Slow; social or introductory ride. Riders need not be experienced or fit.

B – Moderate; recreational ride.

C – Quick; fun and fitness ride with multiple hours of strong riding.

D – Sustained, fast; sweaty, intense training ride.

E – Hammerfest; riders should have their heads and knees examined!

Pace generally reflects climbing speed; downhill speed in most local areas is limited to 15 mph. A, B, and C rides are "no drop" rides with regroupings as needed and rest breaks appropriate for weather, terrain and pace. D and E rides may drop riders who cannot maintain the pace; the drop policy may be stated in the ride listing, or ask the ride leader.

Technical Difficulty

EASY – Smooth singletrack or fire road; obstacles such as rocks and roots might exist but are not numerous.

INTERmediate – Steep, rutted fire road; singletrack with extended sections that can include medium or large rocks and roots; stream crossings; exposure; long singletrack descents.

DIFFicult – Singletrack with very steep and/or rocky sections; narrow trails; exposed sideslopes; downhill-side-sloped sections.

EXTreme – Singletrack with extended steep climbs or descents over rough terrain; many tight switchbacks and turns. Portions may require portage.

Notes

For your first ROMP ride, try one of our monthly A, B, or C rides to get an idea of pace and technical difficulty.

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL ROMP RIDES. Please be prepared for the ride (make sure your bike is in working order, bring appropriate tools, food, water, clothing, etc.). All riders will need to sign a waiver before every ride; minors will need a parent or guardian to sign their release.

In general, rain at the area of the ride within 48 hours of the ride cancels. But, because different trails can withstand the weather differently, we allow the ride leader to make the final decision. If you are unsure about whether a particular ride will go on, contact the ride leader.

Hot Epic

(Continued from page 1)

Of the 55 attendees, 37 riders participated in the 24-mile loop that climbed approximately 5,000 vertical feet. An early start made the majority of the ride pleasant. Four groups were formed based on riders' skill levels and speeds, and each group was assigned a leader to navigate through the ups and downs, and twists and turns of the ride.

Sunshine Bikes of Gilroy was present at the event manning a large aid-station near the route's end. Drinks, food and shade were provided for the weary riders. At the peak of the day's heat, several groups converged on the station to recap the ride before starting the long grind back to camp. The camaraderie shared by the riders was evident in the hooting and hollering coming from the aid-station tent, and by the many words of encouragement that riders gave each other on the hot climb home.

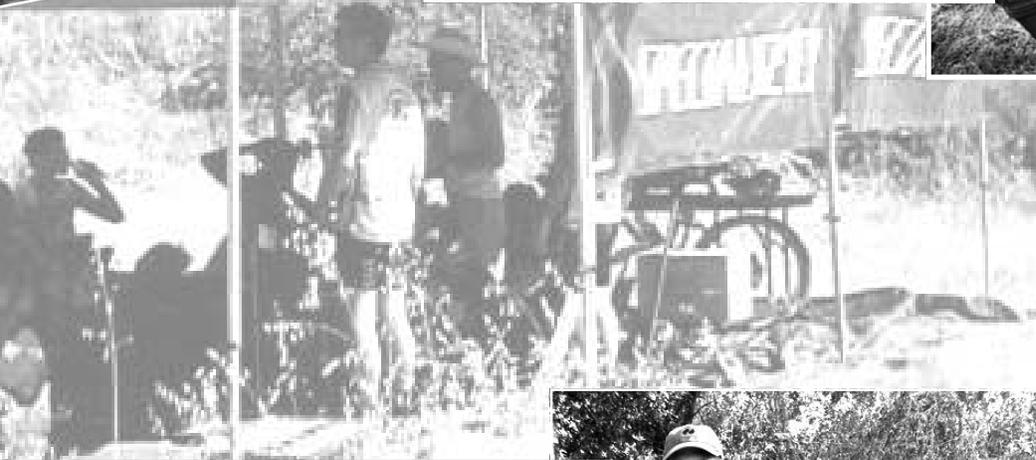
While the majority of participants hailed from the south bay, volunteers from San Diego, Ventura, Fresno, Auburn, Novato, Berkeley and Colorado attended the event. Both ROMP and IMBA certainly consider this Epic a success, and are extremely thankful to the many volunteers that donated their time and sweat.



Better Late

(continued from page 1)

Careful planning, and even more careful participants helped make the event fun and safe. More than 55 people participated, contributing to brushing (i.e. trimming, pruning, clearing, cutting back, etc.) seven miles of trail on Tie-Down, Purple Pond, and (especially) Dutch's Trails. Planning and preparation prior the event added another five miles of trail brushing.



The Coe Epic ride will be published in the growing international library of IMBA Epic Rides (<http://www.imba.com/epics/rides.html>), and is the first ever in Santa Clara County. Starting from the planned future trailhead of Dowdy Ranch, the ride is more than 24 miles long with 5,000 feet of climbing.

With more than 85,000 acres, and still growing, Henry Coe State Park is California's second largest State Park. Parts of the park spill into Stanislaus County, but all access is gained through Santa Clara County. This park, rich in diverse wildlife habitat, even contains a State Wilderness area in its remote northeastern fastness.

Coe's best riding season is about to begin. ROMP rides at Coe will be a regular feature on many weekends starting in November (weather permitting). Look to ROMP's website for details.

Photos by Micheal Hawks

Trail Closures

The Los Gatos Creek Trail (west side trail closest to Highway 17) from Main Street in downtown LG to the dam at Lexington Reservoir is closed through February 2004. The San Jose Water Company is replacing huge water supply pipes in this area and have closed the area to all public access. The public can access Lexington County Park via the east side trail which goes through St. Joseph's Preserve. If you have any questions regarding this closure please call the Town of Los Gatos at (408)354-6809.

Lexington Reservoir -Limekiln Trail is closed until further notice.

Almaden Quicksilver -New Almaden Trail is temporarily closed between the Mine Hill and Senador Mine trails.

Upper Stevens Creek County Park - Due to bridge construction on Stevens Canyon Road, the section of Stevens Canyon Trail from Table Mountain Trail to Stevens Canyon Road is closed. This closure is in effect from September 2003 to January 2004. There is no access from Skyline Boulevard, Page Mill Road or upper Monte Bello Road via Canyon Trail to Stevens Creek Reservoir.

Other Cycling Organizations

Bay Area Velo Girls

650-347-9752 www.velogirls.com

Bicycle Trails Council of Marin (BTCM)

PO Box 494, Fairfax CA 94978
415-456-7512 www.btcmarin.org

Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB)

PO Box 9583, Berkeley CA 94709
415-528-BIKE www.btceastbay.org

Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition

916-663-4626 www.fatrac.org

International Mt. Biking Association (IMBA)

PO Box 7578, Boulder CO 80306
303-545-9011 www.imba.com

Monterey Mt. Bike Association (MoMBA)

PO Box 51928, Pacific Grove CA 93590
408-372-2134

Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBoSC)

president@mboosc.org www.mboosc.org

Sonoma County Trails Council (SCTC)

www.sonomatrails.org/sctc/

San Jose Inner City Outings (San Jose ICO)

www.sierraclub.org/ico/sanjose/

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

www.svbcbikes.org/

Western Wheelers Bicycle Club

www.westernwheelers.org

Women's Mt. Biking and Tea Soc.

(WoMBATS)

www.wombats.org

Ride Listings—December

Sunday, December 07, 2003

9:00 AM Women Only Romp through Henry Coe Put on your calendar another "biker chicks" only ride in Henry Coe State Park with Chris & Ligaya! We do not have the exact stats yet, we just wanted you to put this on your calendar. Stay tuned, it will be a good one! Location: Hunting Hollow entrance Contact Information: Chris or Ligaya (408) 446-3745 or 779-4997 voch1963@yahoo.com

10:00 AM First Sunday Social Ride at Saratoga Gap B/EASY/11/1500 Please see November 2 Listing

Saturday, December 13, 2003

02:00 PM Arastradero Second Saturday Social B/EASY/7/900 Please see November 9 listing

Sunday, December 14, 2003

10:00 AM 2nd Sunday Ride at Soquel Demo Forest C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 Please see November 9 listing.

Tuesday, December 16, 2003 05:00 PM 3rd Tuesday Alpine Road Please see November 18 listing.

Sunday, December 21, 2003

10:00 AM 3rd Sunday Ride at ECdM (Skeggs) Please see November 16 listing.

Saturday, December 27, 2003

01:00 PM 4th Saturday Beginner's Clinic A/Easy/6/800 Please see November 22 listing.



Taking a rest after an awesome decent down the ROMP built Braille Trail at SDF.



Charles and Patty ride the Braille Tandem opening day.

Interested in leading a ride?

Contact Julie Brown, (650) 814 8271 or ride@romp.org by the tenth of the preceding month for newsletter listing. See www.romp.org for help on leading a ride or to submit your ride online.



The bridge off Highland Ave, where rides at SDF seem to always begin and end

Newsletter Mailing Party

This fun is repeated monthly, usually on the fourth Wednesday or Thursday of the month in Cupertino. If you would like to help next time (and eat some pizza and talk bikes at the same time), contact Glenn Wegner at 408-257-8284 or newsmailing@romp.org for more details.

ROMP Patrollers Enter "the Demo"

by Dave Wieland

ROMP's National Mountain Bike Patrol (NMBP) is proud to announce the signing of a contract with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection allowing for bike patrols in the Soquel Demonstration

Forest. The forest is providing a service that the CDF does not have the manpower to provide.

Soquel Demonstration Forest (SDF), one of eight state forests managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, is located in the



Many ROMP members are in the National Mountain Bike Patrol

Soquel Demonstration State Forest. Thomas Sutfin (Forest Manager) and Dave Wieland (ROMP's NMBP coordinator) signed the contract on May 1, 2003.

This contract, the first of its kind in California, requires patrollers to ride the forest trails and report back to the CDF. The patrollers are the eyes and ears of the CDF, relaying the number of users in the forest, the number of visitors contacted and any assistance that was provided by the NMBP. A patroller's manual that outlines how and when to report incidents, and how to handle trail and environmental issues, is currently under development.

In return patrollers are rewarded with the knowledge that they are helping fellow bikers, hikers and equestrians enjoy an experience in a place that is truly unique. The NMBP

is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The forest consists of approximately 2700 acres, of which about 1500 acres contain rideable single-track and fire roads. The purpose of the forest is to demonstrate good forestland stewardship and watershed protection, including

proper management of the land, trees and streams. The main focus is forestry education and research through carefully planned timber harvesting for research and education purposes.

The purpose of the NMBP is to assist, educate and inform. At SDF patrollers help forest visitors by:

- ◇ providing maps and directions to people who are lost and in need of directions
- ◇ providing water or energy bars to those who have in need assisting with bike repairs
- ◇ providing trained medical assistance to injured visitors, and calling search and rescue teams if required
- ◇ providing information to visitors about trails, trail etiquette and how to protect the environment

Thom Sutfin, the Forest Manager, is very excited about the new NMBP program: "We greatly appreciated the work of Dave Wieland from ROMP and the folks at IMBA for establishing this terrific program."

A very special thanks needs to go out to Ed Orre (Assistant Forest Manager) for his endless effort in getting the NMBP involved in SDF, and to the board of directors for the "Stewards of Soquel Demonstration State Forest" for their continuing support of the NMBP.

Look for more news on ROMP's the chapter of National Mountain Bike Patrol in future editions of the newsletter, and on the ROMP web site (www.romp.org) under "Trail Patrol." For information on how to join the NMBP contact Dave Wieland at (408) 371-2729, or traildowg@aol.com.

To Ride at Soquel Demonstration Forest

From highway 17, take the Summit Road exit. Drive east for approximately five miles, until reaching a stop sign. Turn right and then immediately left on to Highland Way. Continue approximately four miles and the park entrance will be on the right where Hihn's Mill Road intersects at a bridge.

Riding in the park varies from intermediate to advanced, with some advanced technical sections. If you've not ridden in the park, a map is highly recommended.



The Rescue Mission

by Igor Kotterkrank

Out on the trail expecting solitude, 12 miles from the nearest trailhead we ground away the final meters toward the summit ridge. Another pair of riders surprised us with their sudden appearance from around the rocky switchback coasting toward us. Maybe the caw of a nearby Crow should have alerted us, but we dismissed it, having put up with that same bird's "Hey everyone! Here comes trouble!" call all day.

Surfer Joe gave them a quick once-over before grunting his universal greeting, "Dudes!"

From hangin' 10-27 (speeds) with Joe for so many years, I know his opinion just from the subtle variations of his grunt. This time he grumbled, "Hunnh?" (like Scooby-doo), which meant he was a tad stumped.

The first mountain biker to come down was armored: knee, shin, elbow and teeth. The bike and full-face helmet had matching brown metal flake and black paint jobs, with a scratching-claw motif "W" logo. Everything was polished and perfect on this all-mountain cutting edge uber-bike. A bold decal announced that this bike was for "Wild Animal Rescue." The rider listened to the crow's cackling with a tilted head, and then uttered an inhuman

clucking reply, that ended with a rap of a knuckle to the helmet. The crow cawed in reply and took to its wings, soaring over the ridge above us in an instant.

Normally flamboyant by accident, Surfer Joe seemed drab in comparison despite his style. He wears baggy Hawaiian print swimsuits. He rides platform pedals, because he wears sandals or nothing on his big hairy feet, and his ride is a scratched up fillet-brazed monster cruiser frame. For suspension he uses a combination of huge tires and floppy wide ape-hangers. When Surfer Joe's descending, he has one leg out around the corners, steering by bowing his bike with a flowing imprecision that brings a toothy smile to his freckled cheeks. He surfs a big dirt wave, while the rest of us just ride a trail.

But the pair who had zeroed in on us were obviously on a mission. The second rider maintained a perfect track-stand on an old police edition StumpJumper with a Blackburn rack. A faded red stuff sack with a white cross on it was bungeed on the rack, and the rider wore the yellow National Mountain Bike Patrol (NMBP) jersey. An antenna sprouted from the pack; integrated into the shoulder strap was a microphone.

Track-stand spoke up, "Hi, have you guys seen a hiker out on the trail this morning? We're looking for someone who didn't make it home last night."

I replied, "Haven't seen a soul all morning. We came up from West Fork."

Track-stand said, "He was supposedly looking for the hot spring down the South Fork trail. We'll ride down, and keep searching," then keying the mic, "Patrol Alpha to base, over."

"Go ahead Patrol", came a scratchy

reply.

"We have met a couple of guys come up from West Fork who haven't seen him. We're going to search down the South Fork towards the Springs. Over." the Patroller paused.

"That's a 10-4. Copy"

Then the armored rider keyed a mic, "Tell Eagle Eye that Crow Patrol has seen no sign of him along the North Ridge."

"Copy that Wolverina. Be advised Hawk Patrol reports no sign of him on the East Fork either. Over," came the reply.

"OK. 10-4!" concluded the patroller. "We will call back in 30 minutes, 1100 hours. Over."

"Roger. Good luck girls, over and out."

Wolverina grabbed her bars and wheeled away. Track-stand was off right behind. Instantly we were alone again. A squadron of crows soared by, filling in the silence with rustling feathers and clucks.

Surfer Joe said, "Dude!... Way cool betties!"

We watched them round a few technical switchbacks below us before resuming our upward toil. I said to Joe as I grabbed for another gear, "You know, looks can be deceiving. I thought they were guys when I first saw them. I hope they find the guy they are looking for."

"Dude!" Sighed Joe, "I should be the guy they are looking for."

"Hey Joe, do you think that Crows was trying to tell us something?"

"Unh? Maybe Dirt Divas ahead?"

"Naah, Judging from the fresh bird-splat on your pack, they were yellin', "LOOK OUT BELOW!"

IMBA Rules of the Trail

ROMP, an IMBA-affiliated organization, supports and practices the IMBA Rules of the Trail. Following these rules is not only key to responsible riding, but essential to keep trails open to cycling.

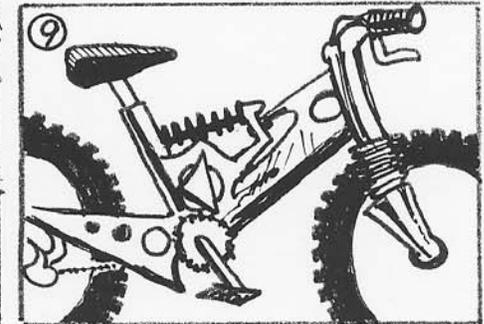
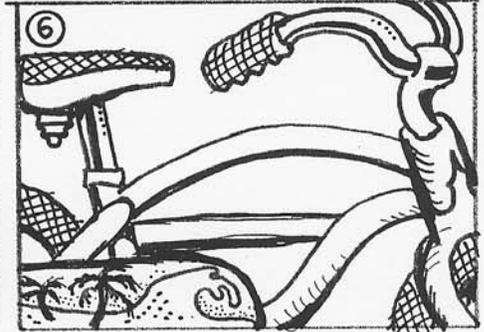
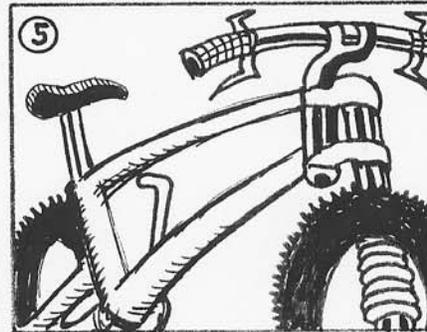
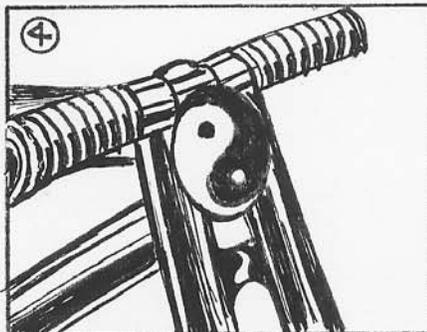
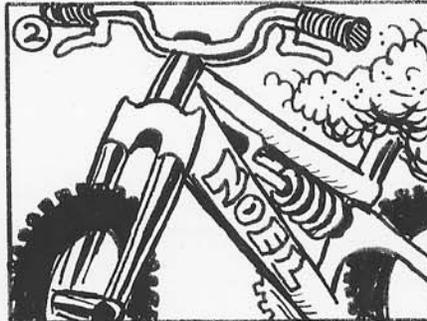
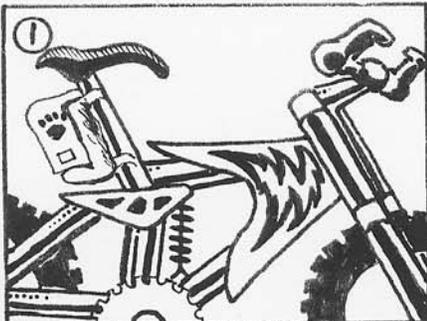
1. Ride on open trails only.
2. Leave no trace.
3. Control your bicycle.
4. Always yield trail.
5. Never spook animals.
6. Plan ahead.

The Adventures of Captain Kickstand

MATCH UP THE CHARACTER WITH THEIR BIKE!...



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Zanotti Cycles Refines the Art of Custom Frames

by Joanna Holmes

Whatever kind of ride you're looking for, Zanotti Cycles can make it for you. Founder Chris Zanotti brings years of racing, wrenching, coaching, and fitting experience to his Fremont-based business to create a bicycle frame uniquely tailored to the needs and desires of each client.

Zanotti started his company after noticing a disturbing market trend: "Almost every major bicycle company was dropping steel frames from their line-ups and going with titanium, carbon fiber, or some new material. I thought to myself, if I can offer a high-quality steel frame, people will seek me out."

According to Zanotti, steel represents the best all-around material for a bicycle frame. "We offer aluminum,

scandium, titanium, and carbon fiber when we feel it will be beneficial," he says, but he attributes his company's success to its belief in steel as the ultimate material.

Zanotti made an early foray into cycling. By thirteen he was trading bike-shop labor for an education in wrenching. As luck would have it, his tutors ranked among the industry's best wrenches, working for Mavic race support and lending their services at the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia for the pro riders' bikes. Meanwhile, Zanotti continued to race, and in that capacity he was able to learn from top coaches.

Eventually he graduated to frame building. After studying at the United Bicycle Institute, he spent two years refining his technique, investing in



STEEL LIFE—Frame builder Chris Zanotti fillet-brazes a top tube to a seat junction on one of his hand-crafted steel frames.

equipment and studying new materials. He discovered that years of racing and coaching race teams - both road and mountain - had honed his ability to study a rider's bio-mechanical performance and then fit the rider in a position that optimizes comfort and efficiency. "After racing for fourteen years," he explains, "I've developed my own school of thought on bicycle performance and rider fit, thanks in no small part to the tutelage I received as a young racer."

Zanotti asserts that the best way to get a feel for the quality of his bikes is to take them out on the trails. Several demo bikes and frames are available for this purpose. To arrange a ride, contact Zanotti Cycles in Fremont: e-mail info@zanotticycles.com; phone (510) 490-4030, or visit www.zanotticycles.com.

Holiday Party

Dec 5th at 6pm at the Blue Pheasant in Cupertino. Julianna Furtado is speaking. Contact Linda Wegner (408)257 8284 for details.

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ROMP Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are where the vast majority of ROMP business is conducted, including policy development issues, budgets, and cyclist education. They occur at 7 PM on the fourth Monday of each month (except December) at the Round Table Pizza, Sunnyvale Town and Country

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