

LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2003

The New 2003 ROMP Gruppo

ROMP's new president, Paul Nam, lays out his vision for addressing the coming year's challenges.

No matter how sophisticated or simple your mountain bike is, it lacks the most important component: trails. Without trails, there is no mountain biking. And *that* is what ROMP is really all about. We direct the bulk of our efforts to the coolest part of biking—which is, simply, all kinds of beautiful trails.

We have access to many awesome places to ride in the Bay Area, but we're not satisfied. Mountain bikers still do not have adequate trail opportunities. As responsible trail users, we deserve more trail mileage and a wider variety of trail experiences to reduce congestion and provide the full spectrum of technical challenges. So what's new about the 2003 trail spec gruppo?

This year ROMP has some new people coming on board. We have a fresh newsletter team and a new president. Soon we hope to have a new vice president as well. This year we explore an IMBA directive to form a coalition called BAMBA (Bay Area Mountain Bike Association). We'll follow this opportunity and report our findings. ROMP members will continue to attend land management agency meetings, make comments, write letters, initiate and participate in trail work events, conduct education stations, and

Women Gather for First Coe Epic

By Chris Voci-Nam and Ligaya Yrastorza

It was a beautiful, late-fall morning as we made our way to Henry Coe State Park. Little did we know that 20 women would be there to meet us for an epic ride through the wonder and beauty—and steep hills—that Coe has to offer!

Our ride took place Sunday, November 17 at 9:00 am. We were expecting only a dozen or so riders. Somehow, word got out, and no fewer than 20 showed. This turnout was both exciting and a little nerve-racking for us, given that we didn't know everyone's skill level.

The group comprised 20 strong, tenacious women, each one up for the challenge that lay before them. There were quite a few who had never been to Coe before, and this was to be their biggest ride ever.

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SPINNIN' WITH THE WOMEN Twenty women turned out for the female-only, 24-mile ride through Henry Coe State Park.



The *Mountain Cyclist* is the monthly newsletter of the Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (ROMP). Mailing address:

ROMP PO Box 1723 Campbell CA 95009-1723 info@romp.org

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

Joanna Holmes/Julie Brown newsletter@romp.org

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

Chris Voci-Nam and Paul Nam 408-446-3745 ride@romp.org

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

Address: 101 Town And Country Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (408) 736-2242

Newsletter Mailing Party

Many thanks to all for helping fold, tab, and label the last newsletter.

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.

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.

Trail Update: Harvey Bear-Coyote Lake BMX Park

A dedicated group of ROMP members has been monitoring and lobbying several Santa Clara County agencies for a bicycle track/dual-slalom area, as well as good bike access to multi-use trails, to be included in the new Harvey Bear-Coyote Lake (HBCL) park master plan. As of press time, the group has gained approval for the opening of 19.7 miles of multi-use trails to mountain bikes.

The ongoing need for cyclists to provide input is crucial to the eventual possible inclusion of a permanent bicycle-fun area in the final plan for HBCL.

Previously, the plan had allowed for use of a special-permit-only, bike-fun area. However, due to the persistent efforts of ROMPers, there is now a request by a special Board of Supervisors subcommittee (the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation—or HLUET—committee) to have this area changed to a permanent, dedicated bike-fun area that would not require permits. Details of this area still need to be worked out. ROMP members hope to eventually have an area that will be good for mountain bikes as well as BMX bikes.

The inclusion of 19.7 miles of multiuse trails in the park gives solid testimony that ROMP's continued involvement in the planning stages is critical to establish trails with legal bike access.

HBCL is a future Santa Clara County Parks site in the Gilroy area, encompassing thousands of acres in Southern Santa Clara County. HBCL's location on a potential bus line will open up a great area for bike access to kids of all ages, relieving overtaxed parents of the need to shuttle—which, as most parents will testify, is a huge benefit.

Just as the equestrians need a place to gallop, the hang gliders a launch pad, and the golfers a putting green (an 18-hole golf course is currently in the HBCL plan), dirt riders need an area where they won't be reprimanded for

hopping and birming around carefree on our steel/aluminum/"unobtanium" steeds. This BMX area at Harvey Bear-Coyote Lake park could be the first in the county to facilitate that, and with your added efforts, it may just happen.

Please stay tuned—ROMP will need your help if an upcoming meeting needs a strong showing from the mountain bike community. Upcoming meetings will be announced on the ROMP website, www.romp.org.

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Thanks to the Movers and Shakers

Thanks once again goes out to Alicia Borowski, one of the HBCL Task Force members (a volunteer citizen's advisory group consisting of many types of parks users), whose unwavering dedication to this planning process has mountain bikers' consideration for access to the trails as they are developed.

Special thanks also goes out to Darius Contractor, former Stanford Cycling Team President, who drafted the initial BMX/dual-slalom-area proposal (which ROMP also endorsed), and presented it to the various agencies for consideration—and followed up with lots of letters and speeches at meetings.

Finally, special thanks goes out to SC County Parks and Recreation board member Patty Ciesla, who has responded to our requests that mountain bikers have fair consideration in planning related items within the SCC Parks system. Together, their efforts, as well as all others who have come to these various related meetings, will live long past our tenure here in Santa Clara County.

Trail Update

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Contact Information

You can voice your support for this endeavor by contacting the individuals listed below.

For District 3—Milpitas, Sunnyvale, Alviso, Berryessa, and the Evergreen area of San Jose-please contact Pete McHugh's aide:

daniel.murillo@bos.co.santa-clara.ca.us

For District 1—Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and Los Gatos, please contact Donald Gage's aide:

rachael.gibson@bos.co.santa-clara.ca.us.

Also, words of appreciation and encouragement can be sent to Elish Ryan, Park Planner: Elish.Ryan@mail.prk.co.santaclara.ca.us

For a history of the Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch plans, visit

www.parkhere.org and click on "Planning and Development."

Lead a ROMP Ride

Why not volunteer to lead a ROMP ride? As an added incentive, ROMP will pay the membership fee for anyone who leads eight or more rides during one year.

Last-minute rides can be posted t o the e-mail list (romp@topica.com) and the Web site (romp.org). To post a ride on the Web, click on "Schedule a ride." Alternatively, you can phone the ride coordinator (see directory) or forward it to ride@romp.org.

The Desperate **Mechanic** On Flat Tires

By Igor Kottercrank

The Desperate Mechanic would like to apologize if he offended any readers with his comments about saddlebags. Since writing about them in the September/October issue, he has undertaken a systematic program of observing saddlebags in actual field use and assessing the level of utilitarian success its devotees were enjoying.

He has arrived at the following conclusions. First, while all of the saddlebags had obviously hung in there for a long time (as evidenced by their mercifully sun-faded gaudy hues), their owners enjoyed a false sense of security, believing that their spares and tools were always ready and attached to the bike. Second, he noted that pilots of these bikes had no idea of how annoying the rattling tools inside were when the Desperate Mechanic rode behind them. And finally, upon close scrutiny, he observed that many of the older packs' webbing showed dangerous signs of wear, which if left unchecked would surely lead to eventual fail-

By dint of these observations, the desperate mechanic concludes that devotees of the saddlebag are the bravest and most respectable cyclists around—they are hardy souls who often eschew the load of a pack on their back in favor of mud encrusted water bottles.

But back to matters at hand. Today we will focus on field repair of wheels and tires. Everyone hates flat tires. But no one hates flat tires more than folks who ride the new tubeless models. Because of the precise bead tolerances of the tubeless standard, it's very difficult to remove and replace the bead. In theory, if you're using tubeless

ROMP Directory

Responsible Organized Mt. Pedalers (ROMP)

PO Box 1723, Campbell CA 95009-1723 www.romp.org, info@romp.org voicemail and fax 408-380-2271, ext. 2171

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Trail Education

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Sponsor Coordinator VACANT Webmaster Karen McAdams 650-233-1895 webmaster@romp.org

Other Organizations

Bicycle Trails Council of Marin (BTCM)

PO Box 494, Fairfax CA 94978

415-456-7512

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@mbosc.org www.mbosc.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

Women's Coe Ride

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ROMP Membership Update

Desperate Mechanic

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It was a crisp, chilly morning at Hunting Hollow, and all the cyclists were layering up in their warmest attire. But just three miles into the ride, as we entered the first climb—a real doozy—those layers came off *en masse*.

The course took us up Anza/ Jackson to Domino Pond to Willson Field Hill for lunch. Surprisingly, the group was very cohesive and everyone seemed to have

All hail women with powerful thighs!

comparable skill levels.
Following lunch, we gleefully rolled down the Crest Trail to the Cross Canyon Trail. We ended our ride by descending the very fun, very technical Grapevine Trail (AKA the Rock Garden), then climbing back up the Anza Trail to Coit Road. The stats for this loop were approximately 24 miles, with 5000 feet of climbing.

We conceived the original "chick ride" idea this past winter, while riding the classic "Middle Ridge Loop" with our husbands in tow. The plan was to host a women's ride in conjunction with a men's ride on the same day, with both groups convening afterwards for refreshments, camaraderie and a barbecue. We had often been asked by fellow female riders to lead a women-only ride in Coe, and between the two of us, we certainly knew enough other women who were keen on the idea. Unfortunately, politics halted our plan, as same-sex-only rides had been discouraged by the

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ROMP Membership Chairman and board representative, Linda Wegner, would like to express ROMP's appreciation for all the new members and member renewals from this past year. ROMP currently has 383 members—our highest number ever.

We gain new members continuously throughout the year; however, we tend to see an increase in enrollment immediately following special events, such as guest speakers, picnics, rides etc.

This past summer, former ROMP President Henry Pastorelli initiated an IMBA direct-mail campaign. ROMP sent letters to all Bay Area IMBA members, introducing our organization, objectives, and projects—and of course, inviting IMBA members to join ROMP. As a result, ROMP added more than 30 new IMBA members over the course of a couple months.

All in all, ROMP added 132 new members over the course of the year, with July and September being our hottest months, adding 39 and 49 new members respectively in those periods.

Membership dues keep ROMP projects funded, so please ask your friends to join! See the attached form on page 11 of this newsletter. And feel free to contact Linda Wegner with any questions: email retrobiker@earthlink.net or phone 408 257-8284.

Late-Braking News!

December was a busy month, and as we readied to send this issue of *Mountain Cyclist* to press, a number of new developments surfaced. For the most current updates on the following topics, be sure to see the insert in this publication from ROMP President Paul Nam, or visit the ROMP website, www.romp.org.

- El Corte de Madera Open Space
- Henry Coe State Park
- GGNRA-Presidio
- Sudden Oak Death
- · Cupertino Bikes Swap
- · ROMP race team
- Sea Otter MTB Race

tires, you shouldn't get a flat—but if you do, you've got to have a spare inner tube and a pump to fix it. You can repair small holes and cuts with superglue, and you can patch them as well. But out in the field, spare inner tubes are the best way to go, given the difficulty of getting the bead to seat right for proper inflation, and considering all the dirt and compromising conditions.

The typical flat tire is not a big deal. You simply replace the inner tube or patch it and pump it up and you are riding in less than 10 minutes. If you don't have a spare or a patch kit, then you can try cutting the tube and tying a knot at each end, stuffing the tube in the tire (and perhaps padding the void with wadded up grass to be on your way. The typical local conditions catastrophe is when you get multiple thorns from "goat heads" stuck in your last spare inner tube. The Desperate Mechanic has had 18 tiny holes in one inner tube that ruined one after-work ride because, to save time, he tried cutting across a vacant lot where the weeds had recently been mowed. Lesson learned: shortcuts are often the longest way to go.

When you get a flat, it's important to figure out why it happened. Usually you find the problem is a pinch flat, but you've still got to determine its cause. Sometimes a pinch flat occurs because the inner tube had a tiny thorn or wire puncture which slowly aired out the tube until a pinch flat was inevitable. If a desperate mechanic simply replaces the inner tube without checking the inside of the tire casing for protruding thorns, he runs the risk of getting another pinch flat later on in the ride.

A bad puncture happens when the tire is ripped or severely cut, which makes it possible for the next inner tube to bulge the tire. Everyone should know that duct tape, snack bar wrappers and dollar bills are all useful aids in booting a tire. Such measures may be ineffec-

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Women's Coe Ride

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club to avoid any risk of discrimination. Although disappointed, we decided to pursue the idea as a "non-ROMP" event at some future date.

The purpose of our all-women's ride was to encourage and empower women riders to come out and experience the rigors of Coe without feeling threatened by male competitiveness for a day. The event was designed to be fun, social and noncompetitive; challenging enough to test everyone's limits, while not scaring anyone off from returning to Coe for future rides. We now know that among our group of 20, the original "fear of Coe" is gone—these women *will* be back for more!

One important point to note about this ride is that it was not an official ROMP ride. It was never posted on the website or in the newsletter. It was a group ride among friends, executed as a test to see if we could pull it off—and we did! When asked, the group was unanimous in requesting that we continue women's rides in the future through ROMP. We hope to do just that. If you'd like to be notified of similar rides in the future, please e-mail the authors:

Chris (voch1963@yahoo.com) Ligaya (Mtngal14@aol.com)

Ride Highlights:

- No mechanicals
- No crashes
- No complaining that the ride was too difficult or too long
- No one got lost
- Everyone had a great time
- Support and encouragement never faltered
- Sunny, warm temperatures



BASKING IN THEIR SUCCESS—Ride organizers Chris Voci-Nam and Ligaya Yrastorza enjoy a midday break during their successful women's Coe epic ride.

Desperate Mechanic

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tive for really large rips. Tears of that size are rare, but should they occur, it is possible to sew a tire back together using dental floss. This can be achieved using a pocketknife awl to make a series of holes around the rip, which can then be drawn together by threading the dental floss (or some other thread) through, like a shoelace, and tying it off. Further duct tape or patch kit reinforcement can make a very durable repair.

One of the worst catastrophes is when the sidewall of the rim bursts. This happens to miserly cyclists who insist on getting the maximum mileage out of their old rim-braked wheel sets. Eventually the braking surface of the rim sidewalls wears so thin that the sidewalls become weak and can suddenly burst under the pressure of the confined tire and inner tube.

When this happens on a ride, it sounds like a gunshot, and the rider of that rim could go down like he was shot, dismaying the rider's companions and scaring the daylights out of local wildlife. The rim will burst on one side and a reed-like section of aluminum as much as two-thirds the radius of the wheel in length peels off and can get entangled with the spokes or drive train.

There was a time when the Desperate Mechanic believed that such an event necessarily signaled the end of the ride for the hapless owner of the rim, and that the rider's long hike was about to begin.

As it turns out, there is an effective field repair to make the bike rideable. The problem of having the rim blow out is that the tire and inner tube can no longer be mounted to the rim because of the missing section of sidewall. The repair addresses this problem, with the only major shortcoming being that the rider will no longer be able to use the rim brakes.

Obviously the original inner tube will be completely shot and ripped in the original blowout beyond repair—but it can be used in the repair. First, you need to prepare the rim (with wheel removed from frame) by removing any burrs (use a file on a multitool if available) and shards (use pliers to traighten deformations) from the failure and making sure the wheel is (at least) almost true. Then partially inflate a new inner tube to give it shape. After mounting the tire with one bead over the rim—and finding and repairing any rips—you can place the fresh inner tube inside the tire.

The old inner tube will be used like a bandage to wrap the tire to the rim and hold in place where the rim is damaged. You'll need to trim off its valve, and then cut it into a long tube. A piece of duct tape is useful to anchor the initial end of the tube to the rim to begin the wrapping process. The goal is to tie the tire that contains the good inner tube to the rim, using the old inner tube as a bandage and wrapping it between the spokes. You need to wrap it

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lead rides, etc., as usual. But we will also branch into some new directions.

New Regional Trails Committee

For instance, ROMP is forming a Regional Trails Committee (RTC). This is an important ROMP project that had been shelved for some time. A regional trail is one that connects lands governed by different agencies from one geographical area to another. ROMP will take a proactive stance in promoting new regional trails to provide opportunities for mountain bike and horseback touring and long-distance hiking, to liberate more trails for bike access, to provide unpaved alternatives to get from A to B, and to preserve cultural and natural features for posterity and interpretation.

Of course we aren't going to reinvent the wheel. Many great minds and organizations are already in pursuit of these worthy goals. The ROMP RTC will research potential trail corridors and find and cooperate with similar trail advocates and petition land management agencies with arguments for opening regional trail corridors, piece by piece.

The RTC is part of an overall trails advocacy plan (TAP) that summarizes ROMP goals and strategies concerning local trail access. Some things "on TAP" for 2003 are:

- El Corte de Madera (ECdM, AKA Skeggs), a favorite local venue, is facing trail system changes due to stream siltation issues. The ROMP meeting on January 27 will feature a brief presentation on this issue by MROSD Assistant Manager John Escobar.
- The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation system has plans to open a large new park near Morgan Hill. For details on this topic, see page 2.

ROMP members are taking an active role in trail maintenance and construction, National Mountain Bike Patrol, and developing community recreational facilities as partners with local agencies.



Paul Nam was elected president of ROMP in October 2002.

- The Santa Clara Open Space Authority's agenda will be an area of great interest for us. With over 9000 acres already acquired, yet with currently little public access, this agency is loaded with future opportunities.
- Our state parks may be facing budget constraints resulting in increased volunteer opportunities.
- The Soquel State Demonstration Forest deals with an ongoing problem of unwelcome motorcycles.
- These items are but a few of the advocacy challenges that 2003 holds for us. But we have many other items on the coming year's agenda.

Regrouping with Local Bike Shops

The ROMP bike shop sponsorship program has faltered in the last few years, and it's time for ROMP to make amends. Your local bike shop is an important partner in the cycling community. Pinched between economic hardships and Internet competition, our local bike

shops are an endangered species. We encourage cyclists everywhere to continue their patronage of local shops. This year ROMP will reach out to the shops as partners, not for handouts, but to create better relations by creating a bike shop web directory appended to the ROMP website, and encouraging patronage by giving good reasons for it. Remember, if your local shop disappears, it is because you voted with your dollar.

Health and Insurance

Another economic demon is health insurance and health in general for mountain bikers. I would like to see research into various types of insurance for individuals and families to reveal whether or not mountain biking could be classified as a "high risk" recreation that might disqualify the bearer for full or even partial benefits.

In terms of actual health issues, I would like ROMP members to share their experiences and tragedies, so that others can learn from them. Also, watch this space for articles submitted by healthcare professionals to address real and urgent questions faced by real mountain bikers.

Racing with ROMP

As long as I'm healthy, I'll always be looking for the fun aspects of mountain biking. Sometimes the occasion is that beautiful pain known as racing. I have proposed that ROMP forms a small squad for a ROMP race team this year. The roster, calendar and jersey are all under development. I contend that ROMP has been too quiet and needs more exposure in the cycling community. What better way to communicate our goals than to show our colors at a race, occupy a booth to support our racers and sign up new members, and inform the public of our goals?

Time to Get Involved!

The philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti once said, "If you want to change the

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world, start with yourself." Circumstances don't change for the better if you let someone else change them for you. Please get involved. Mountain bikes are here to stay, and they keep getting better. Trail conditions need to improve simultaneously. If we all take steps to improve our own habits and relations with the entire trail community, including the natural habitat we pass through, access will improve as well. Getting involved can mean as little as being thoughtful while out on a ride. Ask yourself and those around you, "Am I part of the solution or part of the problem?"

"...If we take steps collectively to improve our own habits and relations with the entire trail community, including the natural habitat we pass through, access will improve as well."

If you ride, we need your help. To get involved in the most positive aspects of mountain biking, check out the ROMP website (www.romp.org). There you'll find a wealth of leads and contacts. The site has undergone many changes in the last year. Its content expands dynamically through contributions from registered users. Watch for new content coming on line all the time. For example, ride leaders can now post rides using the event calendar. Many rides don't appear in the newsletter because they're organized too late; learn about these one-off events by perusing the calendar.

We're interested in your comments on how to improve the aesthetics and usability of romp.org. And of course, ROMP board members welcome your phone calls and letters.

ROMP will always stand for the good things in mountain biking. Rhetoric and hyperbole in a thousand pro-access letters and comments is good, but we need more. Talk to your peers and bring them to meetings with you. Take the time to greet rangers and other park staff, and get to know them as people. When selecting your line on the trail, choose that with the least erosive impact. What may be the fastest and easiest line is not always the most environmentally sound choice. Stay on the trail, challenge yourself, and raise your personal standards. Be a good example to other riders.

The trail to Hades is paved with good intentions, but we're not riding on pavement, are we? The choice is yours. We hope you'll like the new 2003 ROMP trail spec gruppo. As you read this, we're already thrashing it out on the trails to see how it holds up under real field conditions, and we'll give you a thumbnail MBA shootout test in our next exciting issue!

Paul Nam President, ROMP

Mountain Bike Pioneers Join Trips for Kids Fundraiser

Mountain biking pioneers will support Trips for Kids at the fifth annual "Brews, Bikes and Bucks" fundraising party on February 2nd from 2-6 p.m. at the Broken Drum Brewery in San Rafael. Well-known mountain bike legends such as Gary Fisher, Joe Breeze, Scott Nicol, Jacquie Phelan, Otis Guy, Charles Kelly, Ross Shafer, the Koski brothers, and Steve Gravenitis will be guests at the event. There is no charge for admission, but Noah Berry, proprietor of the Broken Drum Brewery, will donate proceeds from food and drink sales to Trips for Kids

A drawing will be held for a Jamis Mountain Bike. The bike will be on display at the Broken Drum Brewery and advance raffle tickets will be available for sale at Trips for Kids Re-Cyclery thrift shop at 610 4th Street in San Rafael and at the Broken Drum Brewery.

Trips for Kids was founded by Marilyn Price in 1988 to take inner city youth in the San Francisco Bay Area on mountain bike rides. It has since expanded to include an earn-a-bike program and a well-known bicycle thrift shop, Re-Cyclery, in San Rafael. To serve as many kids as possible, Trips for Kids started expanding nationally two years ago. Now, there are 27 Trips for Kids groups across North America that expect to reach 3000 youth this year.

"Trips for Kids owes its existence to the early mountain bike pioneers," says Price. "They developed the sport and we are here to ensure that mountain biking is available to everyone. Our annual party at the Broken Drum is a celebration of this wonderful sport."



"BREWS, BIKES AND BUCKS"—On February 2, mountain biking pioneers will gather at the Drum Brewery in San Rafael for the annual Trips for Kids fundraiser.

January and February Rides

Check Website for Updates!

Sunday, January 5

B/EASY/INT/11/1500 - 1st Sunday Saratoga Gap

Meet at 10:00 AM at Grizzly Flat on Skyline Blvd. (between Junction 9 and Page Mill Rd.). This is a social ride so there are plenty of breaks and we wait for everyone. Bring helmet, water and power bars. After ride, we will go for lunch in Saratoga. For further information contact Claire or Dave at 408-255-3478 or **crashcall@scoreone.com or tripman@scoreone.com**

Tuesday, January 7

B/INT/23/1500 - ROMP Alpine Road Auto-Free Mountain-Bike Ride.

This all-legal, mostly offroad night-ride, will meet southbound Caltrain #66 at 5:02 PM, and northbound #81 at 5:05 PM at the California Ave. Caltrain station. From there we'll roll up through Arastradero Preserve to Alpine Rd. and Willowbrook in Portola Valley. At 6:15 PM we'll meet anyone driving up (please park on Willowbrook) at this intersection. Next we'll pedal up old Alpine Rd. to Page Mill Rd. at Monte Bello Ridge. Returning we meet the northbound Caltrain #95 at 8:26 PM, the southbound #66 at 9:03 PM. There are a bevy of bicycle-friendly eateries on California Ave. to hang at 'til the desired train arrives. This ride is for intermediate riders with 3+ hr. headlight systems; reflectors and flashing rear lights are also highly recommended. Route will consist of 2 miles on singletrack, 5 miles on dirt roads, and 16 miles on paved roads. The pace is slow, and cloudsplitting is a must at the summit. This ride is geared for fun. For further information, contact Jim at 650-493-8774 or ssulljm@juno.com.

Sunday, January 12

C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 - ROMP 2nd Sunday Soquel Demo Forest

Meet at 10:00 AM at the entrance to SDF on Highland Way. From Highway 17, take the Summit Rd exit and head S.E. 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. More info at www.mtb.live.com/rides/SoquelDemo.htlml. 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. For more information contact Jim Lauth at 408-739-3946 or singletrck@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, January 19

D/DIFF/15/2800 – ROMP 3rd Sunday Advanced Ride in El Corte de Madera.

We'll leave at 10 AM from the Skeggs Point lookout on Skyline Blvd, approximately 5 miles north of the Hwy 84/ Skyline intersection. This advanced ride will be filled with technical challenges. For more info contact Dave at 408-255-3464 or **tripman@scoreone.com**.

C/DIFF/11/2100 – ROMP 3rd Sunday Not-As-Advanced Ride in El Corte de Madera.

We'll leave at the same time and place as the Advanced Ride. For more info contact Clair at 408-255-3464 or **crashcall@scoreone.com**.

Tuesday, January 21

B/INT/23/1500 - ROMP Alpine Road Auto-Free Mountain-Bike Ride.

This all-legal, mostly offroad night-ride, will meet southbound Caltrain #66 at 5:02 PM, and northbound #81 at 5:05 PM at the California Ave. Caltrain station. From there we'll roll up through Arastradero Preserve to Alpine Rd. and Willowbrook in Portola Valley. At 6:15 PM we'll meet anyone driving up (please park on Willowbrook) at this intersection. Next we'll pedal up old Alpine Rd. to Page Mill Rd. at Monte Bello Ridge. Returning we meet the northbound Caltrain #95 at 8:26 PM, the southbound #66 at 9:03 PM. There are a bevy of bicycle-friendly eateries on California Ave. to hang at 'til the

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 regroups 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.

Interested in leading a ride?

Contact Paul Nam or Chris Voci-Nam at 650-493-8774 or ride@romp.org by the tenth of the preceding month.for newsletter listing. Visit www.romp.org for detailed help on leading a ride or to submit your ride online.

MOUNTAIN CYCLIST

Membership Update

Renewals

Melvin D. Chan

Jeff Driskell

John R. Grundy

Jeff Hane

Rick Hanford & Family

Adrienne Harber

David P. Ibison

Jason & Leslie Jones

Esther Kim

Ken Lee

Ted Lohman

Cathy & Tim Mueller

Claire Nippress & David Tripier

Kathy & Michael Podgorski

Nigel Ray

Shane & Desiree Reed

Paul Rodwick

Martin & Laura Romero & Family

Rich Schwerin

Hal Stanley

Harvey Wong

Ronald Yara

David Young

Ford Young & Amy Faucher

New Members

Connie Frank

Gerry Gabourg

Saar Gillai

Anne-Marie Jumeau

Tom Kraus

Dave Payne

Lane Wigley

Jeff & Joann Wong

Rides

Continued from page 8

desired train arrives. This ride is for intermediate riders with 3+ hr. headlight systems; reflectors and flashing rear lights are also highly recommended. Route will consist of 2 miles on singletrack, 5 miles on dirt roads, and 16 miles on paved roads. The pace is slow, and cloudsplitting is a must at the summit. This ride is geared for fun. For further information, contact Jim at 650-493-8774 or ssulljm@juno.com.

February

All regularly scheduled rides in January continue through February. These include regular ROMP rides every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, as well as Interpretive rides with the Santa Clara Country Parks.

See www.romp.org for updates on special rides.

THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN KICKSTAND



ROMP and its members do not condone or endorse the acts of free riding, riding without a helmet or modifying kick stands for use as headgear.

Desperate Mechanic

Continued from page 5

loosely, because afterwards you will inflate the tire, and the air pressure will hold the bandage in place under pressure. You may have to rewrap it a couple of times to get the tension just right. The wrap job should overlap just like handlebar tape-just enough and no more—and it should just overlap the tire where the rim is blown out. To finish the wrap, just tuck the last end between the rim and the tire so that when it's inflated it gets tightly pinched and secured. It helps to have someone hold the wrapped wheel in place as it is inflated. After you are sure you like the results, trim the tail end off the wrap off as closely as possible.

What you should have at this point is a nice, ridable wheel with the tire covered where the rim blew in a few tightly stretched layers of inner tube that wrap around the outside of the rim. After adjusting the brakes so that they won't rub on the rim, you can mount the repaired wheel and ride away. You should use at least the regular 40 pounds of air pressure, and you'll be surprised at the excellent grip the tire will have. The knobs will show through the stretched inner tube, and it's possible to get many miles out of this setup. You can even feather the brakes a bit if needed, but braking on the affected wheel should be avoided.

Repairing a wheel like this in the field is almost miraculous. If you want to try this out, just keep on riding your rim brakes to the death. While the misers out there are doing this, they might as well be stretching the life out of their chains. We'll examine this foible, and more, in our next installment. Until then, may the best parts find your bike and never fail to satisfy.

The Desperate Mechanic

Save a Tree: Go Paperless!

Members with web access may forgo receiving the printed version of this newsletter. By doing so, you will receive an email notifying you when the latest newsletter is posted on ROMP's website (at www.romp.org/news). If you would like to select this option, send an email to memberdata@romp.org with "No paper, please" in the subject and your name and preferred email address in the body.

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 District also holds Trail Policy Committee meetings which deal with development and implementation of 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.

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 P.O. Box 846, Morgan Hill 95038 Kay Robinson, Park Sup't. 408-848-4006, Barry Breckling, Unit Ranger 408-779-2728, Joe Harcastle, District Superintendent. 209-826-1196; www.coepark.parks.ca.gov (general), www.coepark.parks.ca.gov/biking.html (biking)

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 x 1 4 3; f a x 4 0 8 - 3 5 8 - 3 2 4 5; 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

Re-Cycled Stories: The Rut

by Gary Gellin

The following story originally appeared ten years ago in Vol. 8, No. 1 of The Mountain Cyclist (January 1993).

On a beautiful Sunday after the rainstorm in December had passed, ROMP members Brad Smith and Christian Johnson and I set out for Henry Coe State Park. Coe is known for its vast size and multiple steep canyons. The views are spectacular and wildlife is always present. Of course, these wonderful elements of nature can take one's attention away from something very important—the road.

After the brutally steep climb up the "Short Cut" and a rest at Mt. Sizer, we descended down to the Jackass Trail—a suitable name for the trio about to pass over it. This particular road happened to have a rut in it, which grew to a size large enough to bury a small tree (well, maybe the front half of a bicycle).

"Somehow, Brad managed to fly over us and perform a one-point landing on the left arm of his sunglasses."

While concentrating on my line, I glanced ahead to see a body and bicycle catapulted in opposite directions. With less than a second to spare, I did the logical thing - slammed on my brakes and hoped there wasn't too much mud in my cleats for my feet to launch out. With my hard-shell helmet in Christian's spine, I barely moved before—smash!—here comes Brad! Somehow, Brad managed to fly over us and perform a one-point landing on the left arm of his sunglasses.

We picked ourselves up to inspect the damage, and fortunately the bikes and our selves were fine—particularly the bikes, since we were all on new, expensive equipment. Brad had several scratches on his face, but busied himself searching for the multiple parts of his sunglasses. "Where's the arm off my glasses?" he inquired. We replied, "It's stuck in your helmet." As he sheepishly removed the wayward arm, we continued our downhill run.

My advice to others is to give plenty of room to those in front of you when descending and to anticipate obstacles early enough to pick a good line. Although experiences such as this are rare, they generally do not provide this same level of entertainment.

Trips for Kids

Continued from page 7

Trips for Kids uses the bike as a tool to instill positive values and healthy habits. A mountain bike ride can show kids the fun in a physical challenge, as well as build self-esteem. When so much in the lives of these children is inconsistent or inadequate, it is the commitment of Trips for Kids to provide a concentrated dose of empowerment, happiness and physical exhilaration.

Price knows that there's a long-term benefit from Trips for Kids rides. "Once they make it up a hill, I know they've learned something. As one boy said after a ride, 'I learned that if I stick with it, I can make it to the top.'"

For more details about the Brews, Bikes and Bucks fundraiser or about Trips for Kids, send e-mail Marilyn Price at tfkbike@pacbell.net, or v i s i t t h e w e b s i t e: www.tripsforkids.org. The Broken Drum Brewery is located at 1132 Fourth Street in San Rafael.

Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers Membership Application, Renewal, Change of Address, and Donation Form

ROMP is a group of local, energetic mountain bikers who have discovered the need for an active representation for the mountain biking public, and for an organized, responsible attitude in the practices of off-road bicyclists. ROMP needs YOUR support to help these changes come about.

Fill in all information whether you are a new or renewing member. Failure to include all information will delay your membership. Please print legibly and fill out every line.

| Name | | Additional names (family membership) | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Address | | | | |
| City | | | | |
| State Zip | | | | |
| Phone () | | Email | | |
| Membership Ty | ре | | | |
| New | Renewal | Change of address (allow 30 days) | | |
| Individual (\$20.00) | Family (\$25.00) | Student (\$10.00) | | |
| Donation (\$) | | | | |
| Send newsletter via postal service | | Just send me an email when the news is online | | |
| Club Directory | — please list m | ny | | |
| Name | Address | Phone | Email | |
| Do not list me in the di | rectory | | | |
| I'd like to help v | vith | | | |
| Education | Trail work | Fundraising | Letter writing | |
| Event coordination | Newsletter articles | Ride leadership | Social events | |

Release of Liability Agreement

Upon acceptance of my membership in Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (ROMP), and while participating in any group event sanctioned, sponsored or organized by ROMP, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, assigns, successors and administrators, release, waive and discharge any and all claims for liability or damages resulting from death, personal injury or damage to any property which may occur, or which may later become accountable to me as a result, directly or indirectly of my participation in ROMP events (group rides). I fully understand this release is intended to unconditionally release, in advance, ROMP from any and all liability pursuant to or arising from my participation in club event, EVEN WHEN SUCH LIABILITY ARISES OUT OF NEGLIGENCE OR CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF ROMP, its members, officers, and representatives.

Signature Date

Parent signature (if under 18)

Date

Send this form with check payable to:

ROMP – Attention: Membership, PO Box 1723, Campbell CA 95009-1723

Did you complete all information, sign your name, and enclose your check? Thank you, and welcome to ROMP!

New ROMP T-Shirts For Sale!

The new T-Shirts have white lettering on forest (dark green) or olive (light green), and are available in various sizes immediately.

These attractive shirts have the ROMP logo on the front, and "Share The Trails" in large print on the back. "www.romp.org" is on the left sleeve.

T-shirts: \$10 + \$2 shipping

(or pick them up at a club meeting or by arrangement at a club ride)

To order, fill out the following: (Sorry, only size XL available)

| Color (olive or forest) | Qty. | Subtotal |
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| Order total \$1 | 0 ea.: | |
| Shipping \$ | 2 ea.: | |
| | Total: | |
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| | Order total \$1 Shipping \$ | Order total \$10 ea.: Shipping \$2 ea.: Total: |

Send this form with check payable to:

ROMP - Attention: T-shirts

Campbell CA 95009-1723

PO Box 1723



ROMP MOUNTAIN CYCLIST



Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers PO Box 1723 Campbell CA 95009-1723

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LIGHT & MOTION











Crossroads Bicycles















The Bicycle Outfitter 963 Fremont Avenue, Los Altos 650-948-8092 www.bicycleoutfitter.com
Broken Spoke 782 Laurel Street, San Carlos 650-594-9210 www.brokenspoke.com
Calmar Cycles 2236 El Camino Real, Santa Clara 408-249-6907 www.calmarcycles.com

Chain Reaction 1451 El Camino Real, Redwood City 650-366-6620; 2310 Homestead (at Foothill Plaza), Los Altos 408-735-8735 www.chainreaction.com Cupertino Bike Shop 10493 S. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino 408-255-2217 www.cupertinobike.com

Palo Alto Bicycles 170 University Ave. Palo Alto 650-328-7411 www.paloaltobicycles.com

Slough's Bike Shoppe 260 Race St., San Jose 408-293-1616

Summit Bicycles 100-A S. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos 408-399-9142; 843 Gilman St., Berkeley 510-524-5398; 1111 Burlingame Ave., Burlingame 415-343-8483

Trail Head Cyclery 14450 Union Ave, San Jose 408-369-9666 www.trailheadonline.com

Calabazas Cyclery 6140 Bollinger Rd., San Jose 408-366-2453 www.calabazas.com Crossroads Bicycles 217 N Santa Cruz Ave # C,Los Gatos,CA 408-354-0555

Light&Motion, 300 Cannery Row, Monterey, 831.645-1538 www.bikelights.com