

MOUNTAIN CYCLIST



LEADING THE PARTICIPATION OF MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS IN THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

FALL 2009

State Parks

A Test of Self Regulation

by Ted Stroll

Tom Stienstra says that when the state closes the state parks he's going in them anyway. Should you?

In his August 23, 2009, San Francisco Chronicle outdoors column, Stienstra wrote: "Nobody is going to keep me out of the state parks. A lot of people feel exactly the same. We share one thing in common. We have spots in parks where we know 'The Power of Place,' where we are free of all cares. These spots make us whole."

Since then, the state has announced there won't be any complete park closures. Henry Willard Coe State Park will stay open, at least to some extent. So will Big Basin Redwoods State Park, with its more than 80 miles of trail, and all of whose singletrack trails are barred to mountain biking. The outlines, however, are hazy. It appears that some parks will be closed on weekdays. At press time the

Sacramento Bee was reporting that parks will remain accessible for daytime mountain biking and hiking even when they are otherwise closed, but at press time there was no confirmation of that and it should not be assumed. In particular, the State Parks website is silent. The short answer to the question above, of course, is no. Riding on a closed day



Cycling in parks has caused needless alarm since the nineteenth century.

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Events

Pumpkin ROMP & Picnic!

Join us for our annual Pumpkin ride on Oct 24th. Meet at the Kings Mountain Community Center and Firehouse, 13889 Skyline Blvd Woodside, CA at 9:00 AM to ride to the coast for pumpkins (easier rides too!) Prizes! Or just come out for an afternoon of hanging out in the redwoods Ride is free, picnic is \$10. Everyone welcome. More at romp.org

ROMP Elections 10/26

Be ROMP. Join our board. See page 6

Christmas Party with Ibis founder Scot Nicol

Join us for our annual holiday festivities on Friday night, Dec 4th at Michael's Restaurant in Mountain View. Everyone welcome! Doors open at 6, dinner at 7 and Ibis founder Scot Nicol, one of the earliest mountain bikers in northern California and generally funny guy will speak at 8:30pm after dinner. We don't know what he'll be talking about, but it should be good and funny. More at romp.org

Turning Wheels for Kids - Bike Build

Save the date for Bike Build 2009. Last year, there was a great turn out under the ROMP tent, and ROMP is once again answering the call to help build bikes for needy and underprivileged youth. Planning In Progress. Date TBD.

High School Mountain Bike Team on the Peninsula



by *Patty Ciesla*

The NorCal League now has over 35 teams throughout northern California, with youth racing at 5 different race venues from March through May. Many teams are affiliated with a specific school and are part of the PE department, but others are extramural clubs.

Several youth on the peninsula would like to race together next spring, and so have banded together to re-form the Peninsula Composite Team, which raced in 2006 but has had no active members for the last few years.

This team will be organized as an extramural club and Patty Ciesla at Passion Trail Bikes will be coaching and helping get it going, along with a number of other adults from the Peninsula. Patty previously was the team captain and coach of the Stanford University Mountain Bike Racing Team and is excited to get back into helping young people get psyched about the sport.

Also key in forming the team is Nick Long, a young rider attending Carlmont High School in Belmont. Students from any



high school on the peninsula are welcome to participate in the Peninsula Composite Team.

ROMP will be assisting the team with procuring jerseys and a small subsidy per student to help offset the costs of travel and other expenses.

If you are a youth in high school on the peninsula and would like to get involved and be a part of the team, please contact Patty Ciesla at patty@passiontrailbikes.com, or Nick Long at jazzdude21@yahoo.com. They will be organizing rides, clinics, and team meetings throughout the fall to get ready for the competitive season next spring.

If you are not a high school student but would like to get involved, ride leaders and assistant coaches are needed. Also, donations of gently used mountain bikes, bike parts, accessories and clothing are gratefully accepted, and may be dropped off at Passion Trail Bikes, at 415 Old County Road, Belmont, 94002.

Ode to Tom

by Jonathan Rayner

For those of you who know or don't know... Tom is the man.

I met Tom nearly 10 year ago, probably first in Coe. After that, I kept seeing him around at ROMP events. Always on a crappy hardtail Cannondale with really bad pedals (Mallet's on a XC bike? Come On!). Eventually I couldn't ignore him any longer, mostly because he was always right there either in front or beside me. This guy can pedal...

He eventually became part of our south bay crew and consistent member of the TNR (Thursday Night Ride). His stories always...somehow had an incredibly positive note to them. Example? Tom lost \$2k in an Ebay scheme trying to buy a tandem for him and his girlfriend. His reaction – frustration mixed with resolve masked with laughter. "I won't do that again".

From troubles with girls to the newest bike part – his reaction to everything wasn't just positive, but full of wonder, excitement and surprise. There was more, of course, but his attitude is what sets him apart from everybody else I know. Including me.

Which is why he was my first pick to race the tandem with me. Tom was the clear choice. The stoker's job is to have a positive attitude, pedal hard, and have fun. All three things I

know Tom can do, in abundance. We rode only twice before the race. Second time – I crashed & basically threw Tom down a gully on the North Yuba... about 15 feet down. His reaction – 'We got the crash out of the way'. Sweet.

The race was intense. Tom pedaled his heart out. I, in turn, stopped pedaling (well, what do you expect – I'm lazy). He cramped. He hurt. He sweat. I didn't (thanks Tom!). On the downhill his fortitude paid off again. Always letting me do what I needed to do to get us (safely) down the mountain and always positive. But what told me that Tom was really into the race wasn't his comment as we passed our only competition 'We got to beat those guys', but the turbo boost of power that came from the back as we motored by – pure attitude. We lost by 16 seconds from a flat on the last ½ mile of road. Upset, but still positive – Tom feared he hadn't done enough. I didn't know how to tell him, he had done too much already.

Then, drunkenly, I (and others – I'm not the only guilty party) encouraged Tom to do the pixie race. Tragedy struck in the form of a jump gone wrong (Tom – believe me, I know the feeling, I think we all do). Yet, 6 stitches, 4 broken teeth, 2 hours, and 1 broken finger later, what do you think Tom was doing?

Partying - That's what – hanging out on the edge of the mosh pit – waving his arms in the air, like he just didn't care... Granted, the drugs helped, but that, my friends, is the power of Tom's purely positive attitude.

So Tom – this is for you. Thanks for helping me realize how kick ass it can be to have a positive attitude. You are an inspiration to me. Heal quick buddy.

PS – The obvious lesson here is that it's safer to ride the tandem down Pauley, 3rd, and 1st, than to ride a 16" bike.



More Donner Lake Rim Trail built

By Henry Pastorelli

On August 15 & 16th, I attended my first Donner Lake Rim Trail event. Over four days there were a number of rides from beginner to advanced on local North Lake Tahoe trails such as Sawtooth Ridge, Western States, Wall, Tahoe Rim Trail, Dirty Harry, Stanford Rock and Hole in the Ground. Most of these were accessible right from the Tahoe State Recreation campground in Tahoe City. The trail system in Tahoe is now quite developed with super fun ridge sections, technical downhills and challenging rocky climbs. It is accessed by a variety of user groups and it's encouraging to see distance runners, backpackers, dog walkers and cyclists enjoying the trails. The bike path along the Truckee River is also a perfect way to pedal to the many nearby trails. While I was told the most dangerous part of a typical mountain bike ride is the part on the paved bike trail, we successfully avoided run-ins with the hundreds of partying rafters moving to and from the river.

The main event on Saturday was to complete a new segment of the Donner Lake rim trail that crosses the west side of Donner Ridge above the I-80 Donner Lake interchange. Seventy-two trail builders from various mountain biking clubs turned out and built 860 ft of contouring, full bench cut trail in 4 hours. ROMP supplied 12 seasoned trail workers while FATRAC, MBOSC, BONC and BTCEB provided the rest of the labor. The Truckee Donner Land Trust supplied the Trail Boss and tools.

A number of rock retaining walls were built, stumps removed, Manzanita hacked back and about 6 large fallen trees shifted off the trail. I spent most of my time helping build a retaining wall where the trail traversed near a power line tower. It's pretty cool to be able to look up from highway 80 and see the section of trail you worked on and everyone seemed excited about the accomplishments. Our trail work coordinator from the Truckee Donner Land Trust



said the day's work was "phenomenal" and it's amazing to see what an organized group of laborers can accomplish in a short period of time. You can now continue west on the trail past Summit Lake and connect with the approach to Hole in the Ground trailhead. The Donner Lake Rim Trail will eventually loop around Donner Lake. Now that this segment is done, the Land Trust will be planning segments at the east and west ends of the basin, including a route for bikes that will roughly parallel the exist-

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or in a closed area is trespassing. Nor will it be a principled act of civil disobedience, because you won't be protesting an unjustly discriminatory rule. Everyone, not just mountain bikers, will be barred from the parks. Stienstra's view is no more defensible than those of people who say, "I'm disabling the smog control on my car"; "I'm gonna keep driving with my cell phone"; or "I'll buy an assault rifle out of state and sneak it back in." People being human, however, it won't be just Stienstra who will be visiting state parks when or where they are closed. Their closure may even draw some mountain bikers to them. The temptations are obvious: little or no enforcement of no-bikes rules; the diminished moral basis for any face-to-face complaints about one's presence, given that the complainers may be there illegally too, depending on the rules governing closures; and increased opportunities to explore the unknown and find solitude. Especially if state parks officials put up no-parking signs for a mile or two on approaches to closed parks, hikers and horse-riders, legal or illegal, are likely to be few.

On the other hand, any encounters may be unpleasant and even dangerous. Marijuana growers and encampments of irascible people could thrive in lightly monitored open-weekends-only parks—the former some distance from trailheads and the latter nearer them. Sidearms, anyone? Again, no. They are illegal in some or all state parks, and besides, if one has to carry one, it's too dangerous to be there in the first place.

According to a recent article in the environmental magazine *High Country News*, some California state parks already experience anarchy. At San Timoteo State Park in southern California, "Off-highway vehicles ravage the hillsides; tree branches sag under platforms built by paintballers. [A California state parks archeologist], who is tall but delicate, has been instructed not to leave her truck if she visits the park without a ranger. 'The last time I spent any time out here, I was with a group of students who were planning to do a survey,' she recalls. 'We left after a couple of trucks pulled up loaded to the gills with automatic weapons.' " That could be the future for frequently closed Bay Area state parks.

Furthermore, if you are injured or wounded, rescue is likely to be complicated. Even in a well-organized country like the United States, rescue can be slow in a remote area if no official is on duty. While vacationing in Gunnison, Colo., this summer, I heard that someone had crashed badly on the Doctor Park Trail, a singletrack near the hamlet of Granite that rises to about 11,300 feet. It's a popular trail, but I know of no nearby ranger station. It was almost dark when rescue personnel arrived. Fortunately, other mountain bikers were there to stand by the injured mountain biker during the intervening hours. A similarly slow response may await anyone unlucky enough to need rescue in a state park that's closed.

Withal (one of my favorite obscure adverbs), you can count on the likelihood that some mountain bikers are going to ride state parks during closures. Given that, it makes sense to discuss the

consequences after those parks reopen fully someday. It seems to me that the closure will put not only mountain bikers to the test, but also the justifications for policies that limit bicycling on narrow trails.

One possible scenario is negative. A single rescue-requiring accident at a park like Big Basin could tilt California State Parks staff against liberalizing the rules for years to come after the parks reopen fully. Similarly, aggressive riding on closed singletrack, even if it startles only a few other illegally present park visitors, won't help the future of Bay Area mountain biking.

It's important not to deceive ourselves. For more than a century, many people have feared being near cyclists in close quarters, as this drawing from the *New York Illustrated Times* of October 4, 1879, reminds us. (Source: D. Herlihy, *Bicycle: The History* (Yale Univ. Press 2004).) They see us as going faster than we are and having less control than we do. It doesn't take much to startle people. Some weeks ago I was riding slowly down the double-track on the back side of Mayfair Ranch Trail at Rancho Cañada del Oro. As I came around a blind turn, I saw two equestrians approaching. They were perhaps 50 feet away. Even though I was riding almost at walking speed, the trail was steep and loose enough that I skidded a bit while braking to a stop. One of the riders complained that I had been going too fast.

Another possible scenario, however, has the potential to be, if not totally positive, at least interesting. We may see the conducting of an experiment: what happens when a park becomes relatively anarchical and trail users are left to their own devices? The experiment may demonstrate that trail users can work together and even thrive in the near-absence of government oversight. In other words, a situation of well-functioning and self-policed trail regulation may arise, rather like the East Bay casual carpool that was born during a bus strike in the 1970s and that has continued successfully ever since.

We're so used to the current trail management model that few give it a second thought. Government agencies control almost all trails in the Bay Area, Marin County's privately run Tamarancho trail system being the notable exception. Some agencies do so quite well, including State Parks; one or two others are inept. But all adhere to a regulatory model that invites pressure-group demands, whether from sincerely fearful hikers and equestrians, loony velociphobes, and pseudoenvironmental puritans who think that mountain biking defiles outdoor cathedrals.

We may be about to witness an era in which budget cuts force the government to walk away from trail-use oversight and leave trail users to govern themselves. If it works, i.e., if people get along in the absence of enforceable rules and regulations, it will tell us something. Not just us, either, but the more enlightened governmental entities as well. The sterner forms of recreational prohibition may have to give way. To quote a blogger discussing the East Bay casual carpool's impact, "Once the genie was out of the bottle, it's tough to get it back in."

In his *Chronicle* essay, Stienstra wrote, "Big Basin Redwoods is one of the parks that probably will be on the list of park closures

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MEETINGS

ROMP Business Meeting

Fourth Monday: October 26th, November 23rd, January 25th,

07:00 PM (2:00) Fourth Monday of every month except December. We will be meeting at Kapp's Pizza Bar & Grill. This is where we talk about what ROMP is planning to do. Also, if you would like to speak to the leadership of ROMP, please contact the president and we will put you on the agenda. We also welcome talks and presentations from outside organizations

Location: Kapp's Pizza Bar & Grill 191 Castro St Mountain View CA 94041
Contact Information: Josh Moore 408 420 7342 president@romp.org http://www.kappspizza.com

ROMP Elections

Monday, October 26th

06:30 PM Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers will be having their very official annual board meeting on Monday 10/26 at Kapps in Mountain View at 6:30 PM. To elect a board of directors and corporate officers. Current Board: Josh Moore – President; Charles Jalgunas – Secretary; Glenn Wegner – Treasurer; Paul Nam - Director at Large; Jim Sullivan - Director at Large

Five reasons to come down and run for ROMP board - 1) Make ROMP the club you always wanted it to be; 2) Give back to the sport that puts a smile on your face; 3) Avoid getting tickets riding on mid-pen lands; 4) Schmooze with big smelly cheeses; 5) Free pizza and beer.

In addition we are always looking for people to help out with: - trailwork and play; - attending land meetings; - planning fun events; - making cool fun graphics; - web related good times; - having fun. ROMP is incorporated in the State of California and maintains the highly coveted and desirable 501.c.3 tax exempt status. In order to maintain that we have a board of directors and an annual meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pumpkin ROMP & Picnic!

Saturday, October 24

09:00 AM (4:00) Meet at the Kings Mountain Community Center and Firehouse, 13889 Skyline Blvd Woodside, CA at 9:00 AM for a mountain bike and road ride through Purissima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve down to Arata's Pumpkin Patch near Highway 1. Pick your pumpkins and ride back up for a picnic / pot luck starting after noon at the Community Center. Easier rides available for youth and the less mad. Prizes

awarded for best costume, best pumpkin, most pumpkins in weight hauled up, largest single pumpkin, and stuff like that. Or just come out for an afternoon of hanging out in the redwoods with some old friends, or ones you have not met yet. Picnic Fee: \$10 - Please RSVP for picnic (<http://www.romp.org/paypal.html>)
Contact Information: Josh 408 420 7342 mtbikes@gmail.com

Christmas Party with Ibis founder Scot Nicol

Friday: December 4th

6:00 PM (5:00) Join us for our annual holiday festivities on Friday night at Michael's Restaurant at 2960 North Shoreline Blvd (banquet room) for a fun & entertaining evening. Everyone welcome! The cost covers appetizers & a full dinner buffet with veggie options. Cash bar. For the highlight of the evening: Ibis founder Scot Nicol, one of the earliest mountain bikers in northern California and generally funny guy will speak at 8:30pm after dinner. We don't know what he'll be talking about, but it should be good and funny. Scot says, "I could start to talk about American Culture here and why our kids don't ride their bikes to school anymore and why people live a long way from their jobs and live instead in their cars and why their lives are out of balance and so there's road rage and obesity and ugly things like that. But that would make me very angry and then I'd start drinking." Fee: \$25 - Last years event was a sell out, be sure to sign up early! For more info or

Calendar

to RSVP: <http://www.romp.org/paypal.html> Contact Information: Linda Wegner 408-257-8284 membership@romp.org

Turning Wheels for Kids – Bike Build

December 2009 Planning In Progress. Location and specific date are TBD. Check www.romp.org or email list for upcoming details.

RIDES

Rancho Canada Del Oro Night Ride

Friday: October 16th & 30th

The OSA hosts the final two night rides of 2009. The First 50 registrants get to go starting at 8 PM. The preserve will be open to all mountain bikers 18 years and older from 5:30 to 10:30pm. This is a free ride, ride at your own pace. More information can be found at openspaceauthority.org

ROMP MBOSC at Soquel Demo Forest

Second Sunday: October 11th, November 8th, December 13th, January 10th

09:30 AM (4:00) C/INT/12-18/2500-3000 This is the ever popular joint MBOSC ROMP Second Sunday Demonstration Forest Ride. Both clubs will meet at the green bridge at 9:30 AM. Wheels rolling by 10:00 AM, up Buzzard's Lagoon to Santa Rosalia Ridge. Consensus will determine the route down the mountain. 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 few miles to the road block. Park there and ride the last mile downhill to the green bridge on the right.

Contact Information: Josh Moore 408-420-7342 mtbikes@gmail.com

Third Saturday Social and Scenery Ride

Saturday: October 17th, November 21st,
December 19th, January 16th

10:30 AM (2:00) B/EASY/10/800-1000

Enjoy a ride for experienced beginners and intermediates who want to go slower. Meet at 10:30am to ride, socialize, enjoy the scenery, and work on your biking skills at a slow to moderate pace with frequent breaks for 2.0 hours or more depending on group wishes. Rides will choose from the Russian Ridge, Coal Creek, Monte Bello, and Skyline preserves, including moderate steepes, single tracks, and fire roads. Explore and learn new trails in a supportive group or share your favorites in these preserves. Bring your helmet, water, sunscreen and possibly a snack. Rain cancels.

Location: Meet in the vista point parking area on Skyline Blvd/ Highway 35 located 1.1 miles north of its intersection with Page Mill Road (i.e., right turn from Page Mill onto Skyline for 1.1 miles) Contact Information: Phil Solk, psolk@pacbell.net

MTB-101

Sunday, October 25th, November 22nd,
December 27th, January 24th,

10:00 AM (4:00) B/Beg-INT/10/1500

Meet at 10:00 AM, Fremont Older / Prospect Rd. parking lot. Bring your MTB in good mechanical condition, helmet, water and fuel. Be prepared for a 400' climb on fire roads during the first mile. No time limit, no one left behind. Descent will be on a sweeping Single Track loop to the first bail-out point. Those willing can continue riding. There are several bail-out points along the way. We will practice basic MTB skills and trail etiquette. Beginners welcome.

Location: Fremont Older OSP Prospect Rd. parking lot Saratoga CA

Contact Information: Rich Andrews
408.393.1959 richard.a.andrews@nasa.gov

Mountain Biking Beginner Skills Class

Sunday, October 25th, November 22nd,

December 27th, January 24th,

01:00 PM (3:00) Class meets and rides on the 4th Sunday of the month, 1-3pm. Meet at the old Linda Mar School site, Rosita Rd @Peralta. Class will consist of a 1-hour ride prep and skills overview and a 1- to 2-hour ride up the lower part of Montara Mountain. Free! All ages and skill levels welcome. Helmet required. Led by Jim Sullivan, member of the Pacific Bike Park Committee. RSVP required because class size is limited. For more info or to RSVP, please e-mail Jim at jsullivan@gmail.com

TRAIL WORK

Wilder Ranch Trailwork

Sunday: October 4th, November 1st, December 6th, January 3rd,

09:00 AM (4:00) First Sunday Every Month. See trailworkers.com for more information.

Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Trail Days

Saturday: October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, January 2nd

09:00 AM (4:00) Monthly Trail Days - 1st Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm
Come on out and help repair, restore, or rebuild our County Park Trails. These Trail Days will take place at a different County Park each month. No experience needed. Tools, gloves, & refreshments provided. Please wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed toed shoes. Contact with poison oak is always a concern, please take appropriate precautions, bring a change of clothes if necessary.
Contact Information: Santa Clara County Parks (408) 355-2254

Santa Clara County Parks Monthly Volunteer Projects

Saturday: October 17th, November 21st,
December 19th, January 16th

09:00 AM (3:00) Monthly Volunteer Projects - 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-noon Help us tackle all types of projects ranging from painting and invasive plant removal to litter pickups at locations that desperately need it! These projects will

take place at a different County Park each month. Tools, supplies, and refreshments will be provided. Contact Information: Santa Clara County Parks (408) 355-2254

Land Meetings

Santa Clara County Parks Commission Meeting

Wednesday: October 7th, November 4th,
December 2nd, January 6th

06:30 PM (2:00) Santa Clara County Parks Commission Monthly Meeting - check www.parkhere.org, follow the Quick Clicks down to select General Agency Information, then select Parks and Recreation Commission .

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday: October 1st, November 5th,
December 3rd, January 7th

02:30 PM San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (2:00)

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, Hall of Justice 400 County Center Redwood City CA 94063

MROSD Meeting

Second and Fourth Wednesdays: October 14th, 28th, November 11th, 25th, December 9th, 23rd, January 13th, 27th

07:30 PM (0:00) MROSD 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. Check with MROSD for any last minute changes.

Location: MROSD District Offices 330 Distel Circle (off El Camino Real north of Rengstorff) Los Altos

Open Space Authority BOD meeting

October 8th, 22nd, November 12th, 26th,
December 10th, 24th, January 14th, 28th

06:30 PM (2:00) Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Board of Directors meeting. Location: Board Room Suite 200 6830 Via del Oro San Jose 95119

www.tdlandtrust.org/donnerlake.html
for more info on trails and progress
davegeo.users.sonic.net/ some route
info, Google Earth views of various
segments and GPS tracks for the ad-
vanced rides



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ing Pacific Crest Trail through the area.

Linda and Dave George put in a lot of time and effort setting up this event for ROMP. This included coordinating and leading rides from Thursday through Sunday, reserving the campgrounds and answering numerous logistical questions. Their dedication to

the Tahoe area and TD Land Trust is evident in the great Tahoe trails and access.

There's a couple of good web links to see:

To Save the State Parks, Let's Press for a Bicycle License Plate

By Ted Stroll

Frustrated that you can't do more to advertise your passion for mountain biking? Sure, you counter the dour antibike frothers on SFGate and *Mercury News* blogs, and are heartened to see other mountain bikers do so, often with considerable felicity of language. And you take pride in the cachet that mountain biking has with the public, as illustrated by the number of car and health-food commercials that show mountain biking. At the same time, you want to thumb your nose at the negative attitudes of a small minority toward our sport and road cycling as well.

What we need is a highly public, but individual, way to proclaim our enchantment with mountain biking. That way is the personalized license plate.

Oregon now has a bicycling license plate:



Nice, but its "Share the Road" legend reflects that most riding in rainy Oregon is road riding—a lot of it is done by Portland and Eugene commuters. The average Oregonian who sees that plate may be induced to give road riders a few more inches when passing, but may not think of mountain biking.

In California, we need something more like this:



The bicycle, too, should look a little more mountain bike-like.

There are more and more niche license plates all the time. One neat example: Louisiana has just issued the first foreign-language license plate in the United States. It's in French! It's labeled "Louisiane," depicts "la glaie bleue" (the Louisiana iris), and bears the motto "chez nous autres" (colloquial Cajun for "our home").



The Louisiana plate was pushed by that state's French-speaking community, which got the plate through the state legislature. Sponsors are predicting enthusiastic demand for it.

In California, we already have many specialized license plates, recognizing everything from the September 11 attacks to the University of California, Los Angeles, to the Lake Tahoe Conservancy. The UCLA plate was sponsored by the UCLA Alumni Association, whose website states: "Each time you purchase and renew your collegiate license plate, a portion of the fee goes to the UCLA Scholarship Fund. Display your Bruin pride while you support academic excellence at UCLA!"

We could ask for a bicycle license plate that would help fund the California State Parks. It would not be easy. First the Legislature would have to pass legislation approving the design. (See Veh. Code §§ 5024, 5060-5075.) Then mountain biking and road cycling organizations would have to collect 7500 prepaid license plate applications in 12 months.

Worse yet, in 2006 the Legislature passed a law prohibiting any new special interest license plate programs. (Veh. Code § 5060.1.) But what the Legislature does it can undo—especially when it's trying to figure out a way to fund the California State Parks. A bicycling special interest license plate is perfect.

Perhaps IMBA, the California Bicycle Coalition, and local road cycling and mountain biking organizations could get this effort underway. If Oregon has a bicycle license plate, why not we?

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because [it] loses money on offseason weekdays. But when the waterfalls flow in Berry Creek Canyon, I'm going. They can close Big Basin headquarters, gate the road and parking lots, put up no parking signs and have helicopter surveillance, but I'll go. I know the woods better than they do, and I defy them to catch me."



A mountain biker who encounters Stienstra at Big Basin will have the chance to ask him why it's OK to hike closed trails but not for mountain bikes to ride them. In his Chronicle column of December 4, 2008, Stienstra objected to "illegal riding" in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, published a photo of some unremarkable mountain bike tracks on the Pacific Crest Trail, and complained hyperbolically, "Mountain bikes are prohibited from the entire 2,680-mile trail, but that didn't stop riders from plowing through a muddy section during the Thanksgiving weekend." In summary: when and where state parks are closed you shouldn't ride in them. If you do, however, bear in mind that the degree of politeness you show could affect trail-use policies, for better or for worse, long after the parks reopen.

Help Wanted

Jersey Designer or Artist Needed!

ROMP is in need of some new artwork for a jersey order we would like to place this fall, in time for Christmas and spring racing. The jersey will be offered in a loose, pocketless style that goes with baggy shorts better than than lycra.

If you would like to submit a sketch or other graphic with your jersey idea, please contact patty@passiontrailbikes.com.

Newsletter Layout Designer / Graphic Designer

Local cycling non-profit seeks creative volunteer to layout an 8,12, or 16 page black and white mountain bike advocacy newsletter 5-6 times a year. We hope to find someone who would do it for at least a year. We currently use Microsoft Publisher, but we would be amenable to changing design tools, as well as the look of the publication, but not our logo. For more information contact editor@romp.org or president@romp.org.

Web Master / Editor

Help re-design ROMP's web site and / or post interesting content to it. How hard could that be? For more information contact president@romp.org.

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San Mateo County Parks	Berry Stevens		smcp_liaison@romp.org
Santa Clara County Parks	Charles Jalgunas		sccp@romp.org
Web Master			webmaster@romp.org

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):

◇ newsletter@romp.org

Send ride listings to the club web master

◇ Josh Moore (408) 420 7342
webmaster@romp.org

Newsletter Mailing Party

This fun is repeated bi-monthly. If you would like to help next time (and eat some pizza and talk bikes at the same time), contact Glenn Wegner 408-257-8284 newsmailing@romp.org

ROMP 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.

Name		
Family Members		
Address		
		Phone
City		email
State	Zip	Membership Type :
Order ROMP Jerseys on reverse side ___		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$20.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Single Speed (\$50.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Hardtail (\$100.00)
Send Newsletter:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Via US postal service		<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Just send me an email		<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership (\$1,000.00)

READ AND SIGN WAIVER BELOW (Required each year to process membership)

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZED MOUNTAIN PEDALERS ("ROMP") RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AND PARENTAL CONSENT AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT") IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity"), I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the Activity and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.
 2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that:(a)BICYCLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS, AND DEATH ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW; (c)there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation or that of the minor in the Activity.
 3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Club, the LAB, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, members, volunteers, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the RELEASEES, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such claim.
- I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

X _____ X _____ Date: _____

(Release Signature of Applicant) (Release Signature(s) Of Additional Family Members 18 and Over)

FOR MINORS ONLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

AND I, THE MINOR'S PARENT AND/OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF BICYCLING ACTIVITIES AND THE MINOR'S EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES AND BELIEVE THE MINOR TO BE QUALIFIED, IN GOOD HEALTH, AND IN PROPER PHYSICAL CONDITION TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITY. I HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON THE MINOR'S ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND FURTHER AGREE THAT IF, DESPITE THIS RELEASE, I, THE MINOR, OR ANYONE ON THE MINOR'S BEHALF MAKES A CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF THE RELEASEES NAMED ABOVE, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ANY LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY FEES, LOSS LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR COST ANY MAY INCUR AS THE RESULT OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

(Print Name Of Parent/Guardian) (Print Address and Phone Number If Different from Above)

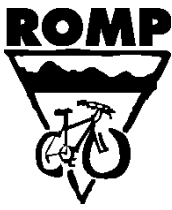
X _____ Date: _____

(Release Signature of Parent/Guardian) (Please print names and ages of minors)

Questions? For new member information, call Linda Wegner (408) 257-8284

Send this form with check payable to:

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



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

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