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Pasadena Mountain Bike Club

March 2000 Newsletter

◇ *Find the Hidden Four-Leaf Clover!* ◇



Hi Ho Chuck!

What Up?

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- You Say You Want A Revolution?
- Saved By The Bell
- You Wanna Put a License Plate on Your Bike?
- Mountain Bike Dreams

- Some of the usual stuff
- Handy addresses

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello again and Happy New Year to all! Now that 2000 is upon us, I hope you all look back fondly on all of the great rides-and times-we've had and look forward to even more epic rides and legendary parties

with the Pasadena Mountain Bike Club. Start off the year 2000 correctly by renewing your club membership or joining up for the first time-if you've been out riding with us. I'm not going to harp on those

who lapsed in their renewals in 1999. That will be one of my first goals for '00. It'll be okay for you (slackers) to renew at the \$15 price this January and come back to the fold. Oops! I'm going to mail this out to everyone who was on the mailing list at the start of '99 to let them all have the chance to get caught up.



Next I'd like to try to do some late work getting some sponsorship for the team. If you raced this past season, and want to race for the PMBC in 2000, then get your racing resume-or just your results-to me yesterday. Hopefully, with some help from some other club members, we can scrounge something up and get some people excited to race once again. Enthusiasm in racing waned for us this year with some members opting to race road (because it's much cheaper)-or for some other, more active, teams. We do have new members coming in who are trying their hand at racing, plus some returning veterans, who both can use the support of a somewhat organized team. We'll try to make it worthwhile, or at least, more fun. If this stuff gets rolling soon, maybe we can get some more PMBC jerseys ordered and on the way.

We can work on the team stuff and talk about jerseys at the next club meeting on February 2nd. You can also sign up to be a ride leader at the meeting too. We had some interest in having the meetings in different places this year, so we met this month at Fuddrucker's restaurant in Hastings Ranch. We'll meet there again on February 2nd. That's just east of Sears on the northeast corner of Foothill and Rosemead Boulevards, in Pasadena. This doesn't mean we're abandoning Jack's Kasbah-with his tasty Mediterranean food and Craftsman Beer-because that place is killer. We just want avoid getting stuck in a rut. Maybe you'll pay more attention to the schedule and rideline for meeting places too. Same Bat Time: First Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. We discussed the February ride schedule and planned another Taco Truck Tour for February 10. I just told Tony he was leading it. We also talked about camping out on Memorial Day Weekend at someplace like Chilao or Sycamore Canyon and having a riding weekend. That means we'll be firing up the 'cue too, and you know that PMBC barbecues are epic!!! Give your input at the next meeting so we can make reservations soon.

The world didn't end, even for those of you who missed the big events of the last couple of months, like the MWBA Pancake Breakfast and the Thanksgiving

and (almost) Pearl Harbor Day rides, but you sure did miss out. The Pancake Breakfast featured good weather-for once-and a decent turn out, to celebrate the Mount Wilson Bicycling Association's many years of service in the San Gabriel Mountains. The pancakes were grubbin' like always, although the effort of climbing the Toll Road, and your subsequent hunger, usually makes you more appreciative of chow. PMBC members were not shut out in the schwag raffle this year-especially both Dougs who won big prizes. Sullivan won an aluminum, mountain bike frame and Ernst, a swanky Dyno Deuce beach cruiser. The thing is black with flames with chopper-style handlebars. It's totally you, Doug. It's ironic that Doug Sullivan won a frame. He'd been upgrading the parts on his Fisher for a couple of years, saving the frame upgrade for last (all the while weighing a new frame against clothes, shoes and food for his kids). He finally "ponies-up" for a new frame this year-wouldn't you know it-he wins one too.

I realized at the breakfast that I hadn't been to trail work in over a year. I remember the last time because it was the same Saturday in November of '98 that the UCLA football team self-destructed against Miami, proving some guy from Alabama-who I used to work with-right that, in his words, West Coast, tofu eating, leg-shaving, sissy-boy Pac-10 football teams, can't play smash-mouth football. Sorry, I digress. I felt pretty bad about not going to trail work, especially since I'd been bugging all of you go. Another thing for my list is to try to join you guys at trail work with the MWBA. Call them at (626) 795-3836. Then you can tell me where we're meeting.



Many of the usual suspects who made it out to the Halloween ride also made the yearly pilgrimage out to the Thanksgiving ride. After waiting for an hour at my house for the Peck to drag himself out of some anonymous person's bed on the Westside to meet us.

This ride is, as far as we know, is not an organized or sponsored, race, as a local newspaper claimed when it reported the injury-crashes of three riders on that day. It's just a local tradition that was spread, by word of mouth, into an event that has over a hundred riders show up each year. We'd had snow-and pretty cold temperatures-in previous years' rides but not this time. It was fabulous and everyone had a great ride-except the two riders who broke their collarbones, and the other who crashed into a Sheriff's truck that was responding to the previous two's injuries. Ouch. None were in our group but it was still uncool. The paper making a big deal about it and making it sound like an organized race, instead of a get-together with people being thankful for great rides and friends, is highly uncool.



There was a lot less hoopla at the (almost) Pearl Harbor Day dive-bomb in December. A much smaller group of about ten of us including; John Khao, Ray, Mark with his cast iron Y-bike, new-guys Matt (although he'd ridden with us before) and Dorin (who's not from around here), and Dave (from my work) with his O.C. buddies on downhill bikes, took one of the more scenic-and technical-routes from Mt. Wilson down to JPL. It ended up being about twenty miles of mostly singletrack, and mostly downhill that really worked most of us. That's a lot of time spent negotiating the tight and twisties. My last year's lack of riding showed in my reduced technical skills. Just when John Khao was telling somebody that I hardly ever crashed, I was sending my GT over a cliff and had to climb down to get it. After that, my confidence was blown and I couldn't keep myself on the trail all day. On one off-bike excursion, I fell over the side and caught myself on a bush. There was another set of

bushes under that, but below that was a sizable distance to fall. Luckily I didn't find out exactly how far. All in all, it was a pretty feeble day for me on some of my favorite trails. The other guys had a good time and were groovin' the singletrack. Ray's rear derailleur detonated, forcing us had to cut his chain and make him to ride it "single speed". He still smoked my floundering butt with all 24 of my gears working. The O.C. guys dug it and want to come back. I just want to ride more so I won't be so sketchy next time. Another thing to do: Ride more, crash less.

That's about all I wanted to commit to this time. Notice how I didn't say anything about not "harshing" the Peck this year. Is that what the kids are calling it these days? Come out and sketch with me on the weekend rides. Check the ride line. Have a safe and new year.

Hasta You Later, **Martin**

PMBC RideLine

(626) 577-RACE

Sponsored by Pasadena Cyclery!

Revolution Calling

by Scott Dayman

The takeover has begun. PMBC has a new newsletter editor, as well as a new webmaster.

The multi-media wizard, formerly known as Jon Adams has grown up, gotten married, been promoted from peon at work, and became respectable. We can't have someone of such stature responsible for the club's publicity. It makes the rest of us look bad. For good or bad, Jon Adams has been put out to pasture.

Hopefully we haven't seen that last of him and his Mantra. Rumor has it that he *does* ride the thing, so expect to see him on the trails from time to time.

Those irresponsible for the production of the newsletter and website are now Scott Dayman and Jonathan Tramell, respectively. Our contact information is at the end of the newsletter along with other handy club information.

Being such a momentous occasion, we're making this the *first* newsletter put out this year. The Jan/Feb issue couldn't get to the mail in time, though it did make it to the website. So some of the stuff in this newsletter is recycled from the last issue since some of you might not have seen it on the website.

Kudos to Bell Sport

by Scott Dayman

Thanks to Bell's generous Crash Replacement Policy, I have a brand new Bell Paradox Pro helmet.

Several months ago, Katrina needed to replace her Giro helmet due to a minor impact. After checking Giro's Crash Replacement Policy, they gave something like a 20% discount off list price for a new helmet, plus I'd have to pay shipping to return the damaged helmet. It was cheaper just to find the same helmet on sale, which we did. It was only fair that if she got a new helmet, that I get a new helmet, just to keep up with the latest fashions. My old OLD Giro Hammerhead is somewhat outdated, and probably not as safe as a new helmet. After sizing the Giros and Bells, they felt about the same, but I knew Bell had a much better Crash Replacement Policy. So I picked up a new Paradox Pro on sale.



Not even 3 months after buying the helmet, I was "Just Riding Along," when *BAM*!!! Out of nowhere the ground smacked me in the head and ruined my perfectly good helmet. Good thing I was thinking ahead when I bought the helmet. So I shipped the helmet back, along with \$20, a copy of my receipt, and a letter explaining how my helmet got the way it was. One week later, I got a letter back from them saying my new helmet was on its way, and they included a Saved By The Bell certificate. Two days later, my brand new Paradox Pro arrived and I was stylin' again. I hope I don't have to replace it anytime soon, but if I do, it's nice to know that Bell offers a great, no-hassle deal on a replacement.



Should Bikes Require License Plates?

by Uncle Barn

Some folks think license plates would give us more credibility as a means of transportation, force drivers to respect our right to share the road, reduce bike thieves, result in more uniformed observance of traffic laws by cyclists, and ultimately make us safer. Others think it would only add more regulations, insurance costs, and fees to our lives - with little (if any) change in the status of cyclists.



In Europe many countries require that bicycles be licensed -but only Switzerland enforces the law. But if the behavior of the police in the Greek Island of Mytilini is reflective of a new European interest in enforcement, things could get interesting. A 12 year old Greek girl, who was recently hit by a bus and slightly injured, didn't quite get the treatment she had expected when the local police charged her as the offender.

The charge was riding a bicycle - without a license plate. Much to the surprise of the Greek public, article 88 of the vehicular code requires a bicycle to have a proper license plate. According to the local media, not a single license has been issued over the last 20 years. In the case of the 12 year old girl, the district court saved the dignity of the police force, when it declined to rule - because of the girl's young age.

But the police have apparently decided to create another example. A schoolteacher has been charged with the same offense. In this case, the police ignored the fact that the woman had previously tried to register her bike, but was turned away because she no could not produce a receipt.

So what do you think - leave things as they are, or join the world of license plates? Uncle Barn favors the status quo. I'm all for better enforcement of our rights, but not sure that adding a license plate to my bike

would stop the nut who thinks its hilarious to force me off the road.

One Less of Us

by Scott Dayman

For those who have visited MTBReview.com, the guy below might look familiar. Sadly, Chris Cannon (DaleRider1) passed away in January, shortly before his 47th birthday.



He was a great source of information in my quest of knowledge of bikes. And he also provided positive encouragement in all things bike.

He is missed on MTBReview, but it's still a great place to check out for meeting riding buddies, as well as getting the scoop on what bikes & parts work, and what doesn't. Pay mtbreview.com a visit and see where others like us hang out on the internet.

The Southern Sierra Fat Tire Association presents: Totally Toad's Winter Downhill Series

2000 FEB. 13, FEB. 27, MARCH 12, MARCH 26, APRIL 9

New First Timers Class Cash to Fast Time of the day
No Licenses - No Memberships - No NORBA Medals 3 deep in each class.
Trophies for the Series Champions 3 deep.

Staged at Hart Park, Bakersfield, CA

Fees: One Race, \$20.00, That's only 2000 pennies per race or All Five for \$85.00
Preregistrations must be postmarked 6 days before each race. Preregistration for all 5 races can only be done by first race.

Registration 8:00 am to 9:30 am
Race starts at 10:00 am

SSFTA rules apply. Helmets mandatory.

Contact Mike Scott (661) 831-9231
SSFTA@aol.com
Jeff Childress 661:837-4286 : Jeff@arcc.com

or <http://members.aol.com/ssfta>

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An Early Morning Ride

Fiction by Scott Dayman

I had always wanted to go on a ride through a forest as far removed from civilization as possible.

While on vacation one spring, I had camped out deep in a National Forest in Northern California. As it was still early in the year, the nights were still frosty, and hardly anybody was venturing out into the forests filled with fresh 50 degree morning air.

The campsite I was in was surrounded by tall fir trees that rarely let the light in. With such a thick forest around me, the air was filled with the scent of pines, the occasional birds chattering with each other, some animals rustling around in the trees and on the ground, and very little other noise. The silence is at first unsettling to the ears, as I strained to listen for the background noise I hear all around me when I'm back in civilization.



Ahhhh, the perfect setting for a solo ride in the mountains. I got my gear together and hopped on my bike and headed for trail solitude. You just can't beat the feeling of a quiet ride through the forest with just the sound of your tires whispering over the fallen leaves, and the birds chattering amongst themselves. There's something about the sweet scent of the mountains. It's like inhaling candy with every breath. Its sweetness coats your nostrils, tongue, and throat. Taking a drink of water, the taste of mountain air was washed down, only to be replaced by more flavor of the mountain air.

Even though the trail sloped upwards, it was smooth, relaxing, and seemingly effortless to pedal on. I got into a hypnotic rhythm of pedaling my through the trees. It's incredible to go on a ride where I feel like I have become "at one" with the bike. When the bike feels like an extension of your body, you feel every nuance of the trail, and can maneuver the bike without thought. Time was rushing by, and I didn't even know it; it was still morning light, but warming up. Soon I would arrive at a vista point where I could survey the valley below. Without a bike computer or watch, the ride follows its own pace, and my mind is free of the pressures to reach any performance goals. Before I knew it, I had reached the vista and it was snack time.

Unpacking some trail food and sitting down, it truly felt like I was enjoying the most relaxing vacation I could remember. Looking over the forested valley, I had no responsibilities to take care of, no rush to be anywhere, and all the time in the world to enjoy nature. This is why I mountain bike. Nature is the greatest escape from the daily grind, and my bike is my ticket.

After eating and saddling up again, it was time to get back to the campsite. I headed back down the trail, lazily coasting my way back through the trees, passing various critters in their home territory.

Riding down a smooth windy trail is like a peaceful roller coaster. Even going slowly is a thrill, feeling the subtle changes in the trail with my bike as my connection to the earth.

I eventually got back to camp, not the least bit fatigued from my ride. I actually felt more energized than when I left earlier in the day. In fact, it'd been a long time since I felt so alive. I'll have to do this more often. But I won't tell you where...at least not until I get back.

Rides and Events

Call the RideLine at (626) 577-RACE for info

Thursday February 10 – Taco Truck Tour of LA (again). Ride leader – Tony The Peck. You'll

definitely see critters on this ride. But what a great ride - and the food! YES! Check here for a writeup on the the ride last summer!

Saturday February 12 – Beginner Ride. Ride leader – Scott Dayman. Meet at Pasadena Cyclery at 8:30a and there we pick which place we're gonna ride depending on who shows up.

Sunday February 13 – El Morro Canyon, Laguna Beach. Ride leader – Forrest Hayashi. Great ride on nice single-track oh so near to the ocean.

Sunday February 20 – Sam Merrill/Sunset Ridge, Altadena. Ride leader – Martin Gomez. "Yosemite" Sam Merrill trail - it's a freeway now, but a nice climb, not too heinous.

Saturday February 26 – Beginner Ride. Ride leader – Scott Dayman. Meet at Pasadena Cyclery at 8:30a and there we pick which place we're gonna ride depending on who shows up.

Sunday February 27 – Chesboro Canyon, Agoura Hills. Ride leader – Scott Dayman.

Wednesday March 1 – PMBC Club Meeting. The club meeting and newsletter party will be at Fuddrucker's in Hastings Ranch, 7:30pm.

Sunday March 5 – Brown Mountain/Ken Burton trail. – Ride Leader Martin VanDerVeen. A fireroad ride up to the top of Brown, then down the sketchy Burton Trail into the Arroyo.

Saturday March 11 – Beginner Ride. Ride leader – Scott Dayman. Meet at Pasadena Cyclery at 8:30a and there we pick which place we're gonna ride depending on who shows up.

Sunday March 12 – La Tuna. Ride leader – Tony The Peck. Cruise up to the top of the fireroad, then go head down some singletrack you didn't even know existed.

Sat/Sun March 18/19 – Sea Otter weekend. No rides planned.

Saturday March 25 – Beginner Ride. Ride leader – Scott Dayman. Meet at Pasadena Cyclery at 8:30a and there we pick which place we're gonna ride depending on who shows up.

Sunday March 26 – Chino Hills Park. Ride leader – Martin Gomez. Take a ride in the park and enjoy the nice winter scenery.

april April APRIL!!! – Thursday Night Rides start up again. fun, Excitement, MAYHEM!!!

Classifieds

Club Information

Spinergy Spox Road Wheelset - Super light tubular wheelset for sale. Riden less than fifty miles with Vittoria Corsa CX (\$50 each) tires mounted on the wheels. Shimano freehub body will take 8 or 9spd. Get these carbon wheels for your road ride they are very schweeet. Retail for \$800 without tires asking for \$500.00 o.b.o. Call Tony at 626-799-6840 or email tony_quiroz@hotmail.com

Bontrager Road Lite road bike. - Gold-colored Large (about 57cm) frame. True Temper OXIII tubing in a classic NorCal sloping top tube/monostay frame. It just looks like a mountain biker's road bike! Shimano Ultegra 8-speed with some Dura Ace components. Great looking, comfortable riding-but raceable, road bike looking for rider for long-term relationship. \$900 O.B.O. Call Piero @ 626-296-3143 and get hooked up.

530 Vista Light - Turning the clocks back an hour is right around the corner. So if you don't want to hold a flashlight in your teeth on those after work rides, buy my light. Salient facts: two bulbs (10watt and 15watt), burn time is two hours + with only the 10 watt on and 1 hour with both on, soft battery pack (hangs from top tube), and also comes with helmet mount attachment. Will sell to first reasonable offer. Call (626) 683-8327.

Kelly Knobby Cross cyclocross frameset - 55X55cm Tru-Temper frame w/Steelman fork, Kelly Lime Green (radiator fluid green). Brand new, never built w/stem, bar, post, Grafton crankset and Vittoria Master Cross 700x27C green tires. Just add a few parts and you're racing 'cross. The season isn't that far away! All for \$750. Call Martin@909-596-6603.

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Racing Team Manager and Advertising Coordinator	Colette Halman (626) 794-1245
Webmaster	Jonathan Tramell (818) 635-3559 jonathan@tramell.com
PMBC Rideline	(626) 577-RACE
General Membership	membership@pmbc.org
Drive-by E-Mail	mailbag@pmbc.org
Website	http://www.pmbc.org



PMBC Membership Application

What are your interests?

touring
 beginners' rides
 racing
 recreational rides
 trail maintenance
 thursday night rides
 riding clinics
 maintenance clinics
 trail access issues
 other _____

name _____
 address _____
 city, state, zip _____
 phone _____
 e-mail _____
 home page url _____
 racing class: beginner sport expert semi/pro

new members: \$25 (jan-mar), \$18.75 (apr-jun)
 \$12.50 (jul-sep), \$6.25 (oct-dec)

old members: \$15 (jan-mar), \$12.50 (apr-jun)
 (renewals) \$6.25 (jul-sep), slacker! (oct-dec)

mail checks only to: PMBC Membership 1670 E. Walnut Pasadena, CA 91106

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