

Off The Back



May/June 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our regional IMBA representative, Jim Haagen-Smit called me in early March. He was looking for volunteers to join IMBA for their 24 Hours of Washington DC event April 6 and 7. Their objective was to raise awareness about access and recreation issues. The plan was to meet with our nation's lawmakers to convince them mountain biking deserves their support. When Jim called, he had not yet found a single Northern California representative. Jim called some other club members and word got around. He got in touch with Rocky Brashear, the club Land Access Spokesperson and Rocky jumped at the opportunity. An abbreviated version of Rocky's account of the event is in this newsletter.

24 Hours of Washington DC is going to be a regular annual event. With a better head start next year, we will be able to send an even stronger delegation.

Finally, a note of thanks to all of those who financially contributed to this event. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Tim

Inside this issue:

What is New	3
Upcoming Races	3
Club Events	3
Regular Rides	3
Membership Application	4

BIGFOOT GOES TO WASHINGTON

By Rocky Brashear

A trip to our nation's capitol sounded like a grand adventure: lobbying for various bills and legislation, whirlwind travel, and tons of information to absorb. I'm there! So, in less than two weeks I left for Washington D.C. for the greater good of mountain biking, and to get some great experience.

Upon my arrival, I decided to use my only free hours to see as many sights as possible. I found the freedom of being alone exhilarating as I passed busloads of tour groups who had to wait for their entire entourage to see each exhibit. I covered miles of ground as I moved from sight to sight, exhibit to exhibit, until it was time to meet my host at their work place. IMBA had arranged for a free place to stay for a night with a local mountain biker, for which I am very grateful.

Later that night I made my way to Virginia to meet the other IMBA representatives for dinner and an overview of our plan. I felt a bit awkward at first, but became excited and eager after talking to the IMBA folks. When the meeting was called to order, we all listened intently. A bombardment of information flashed on the projector screen; I gave up trying to write things down, as the projector flickered from one slide to the next. I began to feel uneasy

Special points of interest:

- **Club Jerseys**
- **Team Bigfoot Bucks**



2005 IMBA Capitol Group Ride.

Bigfoot Goes to Washington (cont.)

again, but the IMBA staff reassured us all of how much our contribution meant, and how appreciative they were for us to undertake this task. When the general speech concluded, we met with our fellow state constituents.

My fellow Californians were great mix of mountain bikers, and I felt a lot better to see how many were there. We were all a little shell shocked from the trip, and unsure of ourselves. Just as I was starting to understand our appointed task, it was time to catch the Metro before it closed. I safely found my way back to my hosts' apartment; I let out a sigh of relief and exhaustion.

With bright sunshine greeting me the next morning, I arose to a cup of coffee and my smiling host. I quickly donned a long-sleeved button up shirt and tie. I felt like I was starting to fit in with the DC crowd while walking to the subway. Even though I got off at the wrong subway stop and had to jog what seemed like a mile to the meeting point, I felt good about the day to come. We gathered as one large group to take a photo before breaking into smaller groups to meet various aides of district representatives.

The California group originally had no representatives; therefore, very few meetings had been set up. Eric Muhler from Oakland took the initiative of setting up some last minute meetings with Barbara Boxer and Mike Thompson. We had ten minutes to get to our first meeting and we immediately got lost. The House of Representatives offices were a maze of similar looking offices down identical corridors. We amazingly found the first office and were only a little late. Upon our arrival, I was disappointed to find out that we would only be meeting with the representatives' aides. Luckily, they were very helpful and knowledgeable about the various bills and budgets we discussed.

Eager and statistically armed we lobbied for the BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, and Recreational Trails programs. All of these are key land management groups that work hand in hand with IMBA to promote mountain bike trail access. We were also at the capitol to lobby against the current version of the Wilderness Bill due to its unfortunate lack of consideration to mountain bike access. Our first meeting was with Alex Oehler, aide to representative Herger. This meeting was important for the mountain bikers in Redding due to the threatened closure of trails in a place called "area 51". Redding had no success in lobbying locally against the BLM's decision to trade the land to developers. Oehler proved to be very interested in the matter and discussed the problem enthusiastically. We helped with information here and there, and began to get a feeling for what the other meetings might be like. The meeting was brief, as all the meeting would be, but we felt like we were really being heard. The next few meetings were a bit of a blur as we talked with other aides in attempts to get greater amounts of funding for outdoor recreation affiliated with mountain biking.

During our meetings we would always talk about the Wilderness Bill, trying to get support for the change to allow mountain biking. It was always met with some skepticism and the inevitable questions about what Mike Thompson's thoughts were on the matter. The last meeting that we had for the day was with Thompson's aide Jonathan Birdsong. I was the representative for that particular district, and therefore assumed responsibility in discussing the matter. The meeting with Birdsong was definitely the most difficult one. He met each point we had with a counter point, noted discrepancy in our argument, or in our information. We argued that the mountain bike community is an untapped resource in the push for keeping land pristine, and that we should not be dislodged from the trails we help maintain. We owe a lot to Patty Cielsa who spoke about her ability to access areas like the King's Range, only because of her mountain bike. For her, the mountain bike allows a means to be mobile through rough terrain even though she is partially disabled. I believe this gave a crucial "down to earth" feeling to where we were coming from. I really appreciate all my fellow constituents in backing me up during this meeting, and I believe that we did well under the circumstances.

A long vague day of rushing from place to place and regurgitating statistics and reasons for our cause, all came to a sudden stop. Before I knew it, I was back into travel mode, sleeping on a metal grate in Dulles airport waiting for my plane to leave in six hours. As I was leaving the city, everything felt overly surreal. It took me another two days to get home due to conflicting bus schedules and airplane departure times, the grand finally being an eight-hour bus ride next to a bunch of eccentric passengers.

The trip was an awesome experience, and I greatly appreciate all those who made it possible. The need for mountain bikers to speak up for their right to use trails is extremely important. I highly encourage my fellow riders to get involved, even in the simplest of ways. We are losing what little access we have, and fast, if you want to keep riding, stand up for your right to. Thank you all, and ride on! - Rocky

At the Races by Michael Butler

Several major events have been attended by Bigfoot folks this past month. Most notable was the Sea Otter Classic. Humboldt county put in a great showing with many of the events having at least one local on the podium. In the Elite CAT 5 road race, Dan Goldsmith pulled off a 10th place finish to earn a medal in his first time out. Jerod Katri (JJ) placed 4th in the Masters 30+ CAT 5 while Tim Wykle earned a 6th in the Master 40+ race. On the dirt, Geoff Hales took 6th in the Single Speed race and Tom Phillips took 12th in Expert Men 35-39. Tim Wykle also placed well in the cross country race earning a 10th place finish in the Expert Men 45-49. In the Women Beginner 30-34, Rebecca Robertson came in 3rd and Jessica Hughes came

in 9th. Linden Kimmerer took home first in the Expert Women 19-24. Mike Butler placed 11th in the Beginner Men 40-44. Sorry if I missed anyone, but my eyes are getting tired of digging through the results.

There was also a good showing of Bigfoot Jerseys at the Chico Velo Wildflower century. It was an exciting ride with rain, chills, and spills. In two separate incidents, riders from Humboldt county went down on the descent from Table Bluff. Word is everyone is OK, just left a little skin and gained a few bruises. Some of us were not satisfied with doing anything less than a true century and tossed in some extra miles by getting lost.



Upcoming Races

- *May 21st* - Anderson River Park Century, Anderson, CA
25, 60, 100 mi. routes . For info. Call (530) 547-5529; or e-mail: Jaxon@shasta.com
- *May 22nd* - Arcata Downtown Criterium, Arcata , CA
<http://www.teambigfoot.net/>
- *May 28th* - 12 Hours of Weaverville, Trinity High School, Weaverville, CA
Relay for teams of 4,3,2 or solo, 8am to 8pm.
<http://www.teambigfoot.net>
- *June 5th* - Humbug Hurryup, Greenhorn Park, Yreka, CA
<http://www.snowcrest.net/kgreen/index.htm>
- *June 17th-19th* - Bigfoot Classic, Bald Mountain, CA
<http://www.teambigfoot.net>
- *July 9th* - 24 Hours of Humboldt, Arcata, CA
<http://www.teambigfoot.net>
- *July 20th* - Redwood Acres Criterium, Eureka, CA
<http://www.teambigfoot.net>

Club Events

- ◆ *June 11th* - Trail Work Day. Arcata Community Forest.
POC: Tom Philips
- ◆ *June 12th* - Family Ride/BBO will take place at Hiller Park on the Hammond Trail. Family Ride at 10am. There will also be a MTB ride departing at the same time. A potluck/BBO will take place after the rides. The club will provide charcoal, drinks, condiments, utensils, and plates. Please bring your own meat (if desired) and a side, salad, or dessert to share.
- ◆ *July 10th* - Ladies Ride. Hiller Park, 9am.
- ◆ *July 11th* - Maintenance Clinic: Hubs.
Tim's garage, Cutten at 7pm. Info. 445-1738

Weekly Rides

Thursday Night MTB Ride– Stay posted at our Yahoo! Group.

Saturday Morning Road Ride–Meet at Wildberries parking lot in Arcata at 9AM. This is a moderate paced social ride. Rain or Shine!

SHASTA LEMURIAN CLASSIC

Short Course

1	DENISE WALKER-BROWN	34 F	00:57:41
4	STERLING HUGHES	12 M	01:18:44

Intermediate Course

3	TIMOTHY DANIELS	CD M	03:02:35
3	JESSICA HUGHES	33 F	03:25:05

Long Course

4	WES SWAFFER	18	02:28:49
5	TOM PHILLIPS	38	02:33:25
17	CHRIS CARROLL	38	02:55:19
5	JOHN NELSON	55	03:08:22
7	JOE MELLO	48	03:26:27
5	JUDE STROMBERG	SS	02:40:36
6	JOHN MYLNE	SS	02:43:01
15	JUSTIN BROWN	SS	03:10:17

What Is New?

Team Bigfoot Bucks– Thanks to a generous offer from Team Bigfoot, all members in good standing should have received their "Bigfoot Bucks" by now. Bigfoot Bucks can be used toward admission to Team Bigfoot events or toward Team Bigfoot merchandise.

Club Jerseys– Enclosed is an order form for BBC Jerseys. Voler will be producing the jerseys and we have a delivery date of mid-July. All orders requests must be received by May23rd. There will be a very limited number of extra jerseys ordered, which will be reserved primarily for new club members. So if you are on the fence, I urge you to take the plunge. The design can be viewed at our website:

www.bigfootbicycle.org

Questions? 707-445-1738 or sunshinetripper@earthlink.net. Additional order forms can be downloaded from the club homepage or from our Yahoo! Group site. Thanks, Jessica

Staying in touch–Bigfoot Bicycle Club members are making the switch to Yahoo! Groups for on-line communications. The site includes a message board, calendar, a place to share your cool cycling photos, and add your favorite links. Go to:

<http://sports.group.yahoo.com/group/BigfootBicycleClub/>



Bigfoot Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 2823
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Promoting road, mountain, and
family cycling.

www.bigfootbicycle.org

BIGFOOT BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ DOB _____
Significant Other _____ DOB _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____
New Membership ___ Renewal ___ Change of Address ___

Additional Family Members:

Name _____ DOB: _____
Name _____ DOB: _____
Name _____ DOB: _____

<u>Membership Dues</u>		
	Family	Individual
Jan-Mar	\$20	\$15
Apr-Jun	\$16	\$12
Jul-Sep	\$12	\$9
Oct-Dec	\$8	\$6

***Release of Responsibility:** For consideration of membership in the Bigfoot Bicycle Club, Inc., I hereby release for myself and for all my agents, the Bigfoot Bicycle Club, Inc., its agents, officers and successors, from all responsibility for damages to my property or me from any Bigfoot Bicycle Club, Inc., activity or event. I acknowledge that cycling entails certain risks and hazards, almost none of which arise from the organization of cycling events. I agree to abide by the rules established for club activities and events.

Helmets are required on all club rides.

Signature _____ Date: ___/___/___
Signature _____ Date: ___/___/___

*(All adult members must sign release; signature of Parent or Guardian **required** for members under age 18.)

Make checks payable to **Bigfoot Bicycle Club** and return completed form to: **BBC, P.O. Box 2823, McKinleyville, CA, 95519**