

Off The Back



Late June 2002

President's Corner

Time to put it into Summer Cycle Mode. With these long days there is no excuse not to get on the bike, so come out and join us for a ride some time. Or use the web site to custom make your own ride with a few club members. With all the up and coming Bigfoot's and various other local events, this could be one of the best years of cycling in Humboldt County. So get in shape, have fun and check the ride calendar for that special up and coming event. Hope to see you there!

I need to thank all the members that took the time and effort to get their surveys back to us. The BBC sent out over 60 stamped surveys and we got back 22. We are still compiling the information, but it seems that most members are into a campout and that a majority are not interested in putting on events! Most wanted us to pursue some type of club jersey as well. There's so much more to be discovered. If you have not gotten your survey in yet it's not too late. Your chance to give us feedback and shape the Club is important to us!

Don't FORGET to check your mailing label on your newsletters. On that label is your membership expiration date!!! So, if you suddenly stop receiving letters or Emails from the Club it could be because you have forgotten to re-up your ante. You can download an entry form from the website or get one from one of the local bike shops. We look forward to your continued support.

Hope to see you at one of the next General Meetings,
Ride Hard and Often!

John Dostal

Preliminary Survey Results

We have received 22 surveys back so far. We will have final survey results in the next newsletter. We have a diverse group of riders in our club. When asked what type of bicycling they do more than 50% of the time? 56% road ride, 38% mountain bike, and 6% commute. However, most club members are biking nuts and ride for all types of reasons. When asked what types of riding they do? 61% road ride, 89% mountain bike, 5% BMX, 39% commute, and 39% tour.

We got a lot of good feedback and will begin implementing some improvements. I'm particularly happy with the feedback I got on the newsletter and have started making changes already. Your advice and recommendations were very helpful. Sixty percent of members want to get the newsletter monthly. However, due to copying and mailing costs, we will continue to send it out every two months. Several articles in this newsletter are a direct result of your feedback including the camping trip, newsletter submission, and local ride description.

Hell Gate Camping Trip

Eighty percent of members thought a camping trip sounded like a good idea. So here it goes! We have planned a trip for July 20th and 21st at the Hell Gate Camp Ground on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. See the attached flyer and map.

John's Backyard

John's Backyard took place on the 19th of May up on Kneeland Mountain. Attendance was approximately twenty riders and everyone seemed to have a great time. The kids ride was very cool, and the skills clinic was a big hit. Look for the Club to continue with more events of this nature. Riders commented that there is a dire need for more skills clinics for road and off road riding. If you have any ideas for events of this nature we would love to hear from you.

Group Rides

These rides are not lead by a designated ride leader.

- Tuesday Night Road Ride. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at North Coast Laboratories at 5680 West End Road in Arcata.
- Sunday Morning Road Ride. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Muddy Waters in Arcata.

Local Ride Descriptions

The survey indicated that members want local ride descriptions in either the newsletter or on the web site. To facilitate this, we need your help. We have picked 5 road and 5 mountain bike rides to start with. One ride will be described in each newsletter and all will end up on the web. We need members to pick a ride and provide the following information:

- Where is it?
- Ride description that includes at least the difficulty, total length, and trail or road condition.
- A detailed route description with mileage points and markers.
- One or two photos would be helpful to show the local scenery.

Here are 10 rides to start with:

1. Arcata Community Forest
2. Tish Tang Ridge
3. Ossagon Trail
4. Little Bald Hills Trail
5. Grasshopper Peak
6. Tour of the Unknown Coast
7. Butler Valley Loop
8. Fieldbrook Loop
9. South Bay Time Trial Routes
10. Arcata to Hammond Trail to Trinidad

Any other ride descriptions are more than welcome but they must be legal. Please contact Jim Robbins at jbrobbins@aol.com or 441-1041 to pick a ride so we don't have members duplicating work.

Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Association (HBBCA) Meeting

The HBBCA is a local organization with the goal of improving and encouraging bicycle commuting. According to the survey, 38% of the membership commutes. This would be a great organization to get involved with. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. at Luzmila's. It is located at 1288 G street in Arcata.

Bigfoot Trail Day

If you want to help out the local mountain bike race scene, Team Bigfoot needs help on June 30th to do some trail work on the Bigfoot racecourse. The meeting time is 11:00 a.m. Check local bike shops for a flyer with directions to the meeting location. Revolution Bicycle Repair recently had a stack.

Bike Sites

Have a favorite bike related web site? E-mail Jim Robbins at jbrobbins@aol.com. The hot sites picked for this issue are:

- <http://www.rusa.org/> Randonneurs USA
- <http://www.uci.ch/english/index.htm> UCI
- www.bigfootbicycle.org

Newsletter Submissions

All members are encouraged to submit articles to the newsletter. Send articles to Jim Robbins at jbrobbins@aol.com or by regular mail to Bigfoot Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 2823, McKinleyville, CA 95519. For the next newsletter, the due date is July 31st.

Help Out Youth Triathlon

Tri-kids is looking for volunteers to be course marshals during the bike leg of their triathlon that is coming up on Saturday, June 29th. The triathlon will be at College of the Redwoods. Volunteers are needed from about 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. They need about 10 people that would be willing to ride along the route and make sure that all goes well for the young competitors. Please call Jason Quik at 825-9592 if you want to volunteer. This is a great way for the club to help out local youth sports.

Road and Trail News

- The lower half of Butler Valley Road from the Fickle Hill junction to the Mad River has been graveled. Be very cautious if you are descending down to the Mad River.
- The Fern Canyon road has been blocked to vehicle traffic past the bathrooms, leaving a larger portion of the Ossagon Trail car free!
- The Tish Tang Trail has become very popular with motorcycles. Some of the descents have become very rocky and loose. Use caution next time your out there.

Rules for the Ride

Non-members are welcome on all Club rides. But, the following guidelines must be followed by all cyclists:

- Helmets are mandatory!
- Wear comfortable and adequate clothing for the ride.
- Bring the basic tools to repair your bike (pump, patch kit, various wrenches, & spare tube).
- Some tool options include a spoke wrench and a chain tool.
- Food and drink along with money for food, calls, or fixing that blown tire.

2002 Event Calendar

The event calendar is getting shorter as the year goes by, but there is still a lot to look forward to. If we missed an event or have incorrect information, please E-mail Jim Robbins at jbrobbins@aol.com. Please provide the name, date, and description of the event or a web site address.

- **June 22nd - 12 Hours of Humboldt**, mountain bike, Organizer: Vic Armijo of Team Bigfoot, web site: www.teambigfoot.net
- **June 29th - Tri-Kids Triathlon**, kids triathlon at College of the Redwoods.
- **June 30th - Ashland Triple Challenge** Choose from the Century (100 miles), Metric Century (63 miles) or the 30-mile Rogue Valley Challenge. All rides start and end at Lithia Park, Ashland, OR. Web site: http://one.mind.net/siskiyouvelo/ashland_triple_challenge.htm
- **July 13th-14th - Bigfoot II**, mountain bike cross country and downhill, Organizer: Vic Armijo of Team Bigfoot, web site: www.teambigfoot.net

- **July 13th - Death Ride**, tour, Markleeville, CA, web site: www.deathride.com.
- **July 20th-21st - Hell Gate Camping Trip and Chile Cooking Contest**. See the attached flyer.
- **August 3rd and 4th - Ruth Lake Summer Festival**, 3 bike rides starting at Ruth Lake. You can choose from an easy lake ride, 60 mile, or 100 mile ride. Check your local bike shop for route descriptions. There are no start times. You can ride any route on either the 3rd or 4th.
- **August 10th - Humboldt 100**, road bike tour, Organizer: Vic Armijo of Team Bigfoot, web site: www.teambigfoot.net
- **August 18th - Return of the Jedi**, mountain bike cross country, Location: Grants Pass, OR, web site: www.obra.org
- **September 21st-22nd - Humboldt Hoe-Down**, mountain bike cross country and downhill, Organizer: Vic Armijo of Team Bigfoot, web site: www.teambigfoot.net
- **October 26th - South Bay Time Trial, No Host-No Fee**. 13.6 mile flat course or 15.2 mile hilly course. Time: 8:30 a.m. registration and 9:00 a.m. start, Location: College of the Redwoods. For more information call (707) 443-9861



2002 Board of Directors

President: John Dostal 442-0726 for info
Vice President: Justin Brown
Treasurers: Todd & Jolien Olsen
Secretary: Michael Butler
Newsletter: Jim Robbins
Wed Site Director: Matt Hodgson
Director at Large: Tim Wykle

The Big Foot Bicycle Club is supported by the following sponsors:

