

# TERRA TIMES

The official publication of the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association

Winter 2003

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CORBA is committed to gaining and maintaining mountain bike access to trails in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas through education, information and preservation

## CORBA Shares National Stage in Local Mountains

by David Grey

CORBA advisory board members Jim Hasenauer and Peter Heumann discussed mountain biking in National Parks with President George W. Bush on August 15, 2003. The exchange occurred at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) following the President's speech on his National Parks Legacy Project, which calls for funding of park facilities and maintenance.

**Jim Hasenauer (right) and Peter Heumann (center) discuss mountain bike issues with President George W. Bush in the SMMNRA.**



Hasenauer and Heumann were two of a small group of California government, civic and volunteer group leaders selected to attend this event. Hasenauer and Heumann also spoke about IMBA's National Park mountain biking agenda with Secretary of Interior Gale Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella.

Hasenauer and Heumann told the President that mountain biking is banned in most National Parks and that IMBA is working to change that. (IMBA has made this issue a top priority and has hired two promi-

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# CORBA Mourns the Loss of Zak Trail Tools Founder Larry Bain

By Kurt Loheit

I met Larry Bain ten years ago on a volunteer trail day in the Santa Monica Mountains. Turns out that Larry and I shared the same passion for volunteering. We worked on several projects together, always having a good time. Years later I found out that Larry had a company and was interested in manufacturing and supplying trail working tools. His company, ZAC Tools, made many of the tools used for trail work. This was an amazing find. I hooked Larry up with the International Mountain Biking Association. With backing from RockShox, the IMBA Trail Tool program was born. Those red McLeods with a RockShox label, that are ever-present on trail work days, are Larry's ZAC tools.

Larry was also an MBU volunteer who loved riding. Larry was fortunate to be able to combine business, riding, volunteerism, and trails all into his life.



Larry Bain – Zac Tools founder, volunteer, friend.

The last time I worked with Larry was in July of this year. It was on a new section of the Backbone Trail near Circle X Ranch. It was a typical day, and we both talked about the pain we were feeling in our backs. Little did anyone realize that Larry's pain was more than just sore muscles. A short time later I went to the hospital with Rich Pinder where Larry was admitted with inoperable cancer. Even though the cancer left Larry paralyzed from the waist down, he was his usual upbeat self. Larry passed away shortly after.

It has been said that death is always hardest on the living. It will be sad to know we will not see Larry's smile on the trail again. I will miss the conferences with him, working the trail, and just being his friend. I will look at his ZAC tools a little differently and know that every

time I use one, a little bit of Larry will still be there.

I have always said that working on trails is one of the few ways an individual can increase the quality of life for the most amount of people. While he would never take credit for it, Larry left an impact on more people than he knew. The trail community has suffered a loss that cannot be measured. We'll miss ya' Larry.

## corbamt.com Gets a Facelift

We recently launched our new website. The new site features sections such as: Hot Spots (featuring THE hottest trail issues), updated listing of current trail Issues, CORBA event listings, trail crew's work schedule and more. A big thank you to Frank Still of ActionWeb Media and Jim Shanman of asylum who have created an internet presence worthy of CORBA's cause. Be sure to bookmark the site and check in regularly because **corbamt.com** is the best place to stay on top of CORBA issues and events.

## **CORBA's Mountain Bike Skills Class**

by Louisa Bonnie, president of South Bay Mountain Biking Club, CORBA's recreational ride group

"Keep elbows bent! Chest down! Weight back!" Twenty six eager faces watched raptly as Mark Langton, CORBA's Mountain Bike Skills Class instructor, demonstrated how to ride over a parking block obstacle in the Malibu Creek State Park parking lot. Smiles of confidence and satisfaction appeared on the riders' faces as they successfully rode over the block while Mark carefully observed and coached each person. For some this was a completely new experience on a bike. To my surprise even I who have been mountain biking over ten years found that I needed some instruction in correct body position for mountain biking. I was pleased to find that indeed it did improve my steering and ability

to manage the bike. Will wonders never cease!

The class riding demo and practice had begun after a thorough hour of basic instruction including bike safety, trail etiquette, correct behavior around horses on the trails and fixing flat tires. Mark's able assistant, Ezra Dweck from the MBU (Mountain Bike Unit), chimed in with additional pertinent information and occasional levity. Coasting down the dirt trail we practiced our body position on the bike. Elbows bent. Chest low. Relax the arms. Pedals level. Mark guided the group to the top of a set of wide tread stair steps. I looked on with amazement as every single person in the class of twenty six men, women, ages ranging from 20's to late 50's, rode down the stairs with aplomb, Mark spotting each one as they descended.

We practiced climbing hills and descending, negotiating dips, ruts in the

road and riding sandy sections. After the four hour class I really felt it was a greatly rewarding experience. The class was absolutely free and I ride better than I used to! Mark's Introduction to Mountain Bike Skills Class takes place the first Saturday of every month at Malibu



Creek State Park meeting at 8:45am in the parking lot. For the complete class details and directions to the park go to CORBA's web site at [www.corbamtb.com](http://www.corbamtb.com) and click on "Free MTB Skills Class". Mark also is available for private instruction. Contact Mark Langton at (805) 480-0500, [markmtb@verizon.net](mailto:markmtb@verizon.net) or [mountainBikeSkills.com](http://mountainBikeSkills.com). Come join the class! Newcomer and experienced rider alike can gain new and better skills!

## **Adventure, technical challenges, and sweet single track!**

**The South Bay Mountain Biking Club (SBMBC) is the recreational, fun ride section of CORBA**

By Louisa Bonnie and Greg Scarich

Looking back on the October rides I was amazed at the enormous variety of mountain biking experiences that were offered by our wonderful ride leaders. Each ride is something to enjoy and savor long after it is over. Zipping along with Sue down the single track to Paradise Falls at Santa Rosa-Wildwood, cruising by the sycamore savannahs with Jamie at Point Mugu State Park, traversing the mountain on the Jackson Trail with its breathtaking view of Devils Punchbowl and the desert beyond, bounding down the Rock-it trail with SBMBC ride leader Michael at Aliso and Wood Canyons Night riders grinning ear to ear! Dennis' Viejo Tie Trail and San Juan Trail gave us a thrill with its rock gardens, roller coaster twists and turns, Nordoff Peak rewarded us on Gary's



Sisar Gridley ride with spectacular views of Ojai and surrounding mountains. Colorful hang gliders and parasails soared over head as we went down the Gridley Trail heading for a favorite Ojai lunch spot. We explored the jungle-like

canyon and water crossings of the Mike Antonovich Trail with Doug before sailing over the rolling hills of Bonelli Park. What more could you ask for? I look forward to more mountain biking adventures with you all!

This is just a taste of what local riding has in store for you. Join us on these and other rides. SBMBC has rides scheduled most weekend

days. You can see the upcoming rides on the website, [www.sbmhc.com](http://www.sbmhc.com) or get the newsletter by sending an email to [sbmhc@sbmhc.com](mailto:sbmhc@sbmhc.com). You can also call Louisa Bonnie at 626-584-0822.

# 2003 Birthday Bash Fundraiser Raises Over \$7,500 for Trail Access

On October 4, 2003 CORBA celebrated its 16th Birthday with a Poker Ride, BBQ and Pow Wow. The event was an overwhelming success attended by more than 300 people. The money raised will enable CORBA to continue its fight to open new trails for mountain biking. CORBA was overwhelmed with generous support from the industry and local shops which contributed to this festive event.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this year's Birthday Bash an overwhelming success.



**CORBA's chairman Ed Dee served as MC for this year's festivities.**



**The largest crowd in years helped make this year's Bash the biggest success ever.**



**CORBA's Jeff Klinger mans the chow line.**



**Clockwise from above: Tamara Ostler scored a KHS 2003 XCS04, Susan Williams with her Manitou shock and Jay Marsh walks away with a Live Stigma Frame.**





**Stephan Michaels (left) lead a Pow Wow session to discuss current trail concerns.**

**We had more sponsors and participants than ever including Giant, KHS and REI who donated full suspension bikes for the raffle.**



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## BIRTHDAY BASH

*and annual fundraiser*



**Above, Gary Stevens presents Robin McGuire with her Klein Mantra courtesy of REI and later...**

**...Ed Dee presented Robin with her second - yes second - grand prize of the day, the Giant VT1 (right).**



## Trail Crew On The Move

by Rich Pinder

CORBA has expanded its area of interest, and now is committed to activities concerning "mountain biking in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas." This gives the Trail Crew a fantastic chance to get out and work some NEW trails:

**Valley Forge Trail** – This beautiful trail is located up in the Angeles National Forest, just on the backside of Mt Wilson. It descends down a steep canyon and offers spectacular views of the peaks in the Angeles National Forest. CORBA officially adopted this trail, and ventured out for our first work day on a hot July day. This trail had not seen any maintenance for years. The Trail Crew cut nasty pointed yuccas, reestablished the trail tread in slide areas and lopped out Manzanita that covered the trail. A great big thank you to Answer Products for giving new lightweight handlebars to the Trail Crew! If you've never ridden in the Angeles National Forest, come out and take a peek at what it has to offer.

**COSCA Trail Day** – Once a year our friends in the Conejo Valley put on a super trail event and this year, CORBA got a rare treat of spending the day making the initial cut on a BRAND new trail. We even had Frank Padilla from State Parks and crew out with us on the chain saw, as we hacked and crawled our way up the trail! It was a hot and dusty day, but we managed to make a good start of this new gem of a trail. Jack Short (yes THE Jack Short) was with us, and we appreciate all the help he gave to make it possible for us to begin work on what will become a beautiful trail. When the work was done we all joined together for a barbecue and raffle it was a great show of volunteerism.

**Gabrelino Trail** – On another trip up into the Angeles National Forest in November, we got to work this wildly popular trail. Starting from Red Box, fourteen of the Trail Crew volunteers worked a couple miles down the trail, removing lots of brush, doing some water diversion work, cutting out a huge tree that was covering the trail just at the top, and had an overall fantastic day. All the riders who passed the crew that day gave us the 'Way To Go' encour-

agement we all love to hear!



By Rich Pinder

**San Juan Trail** – COMING UP – On January 24th, 2004, CORBA will take another road trip and join up with a fledgling group of Sierra Club Mountain Bikers to work one of the best single-track trails in all of Southern California. This 11-mile gem is in South Orange County, off of the Ortega highway and it's a fantastic climb with a very chal-

lenging descent. A neglected trail for a long time, maintenance has been needed in many spots for a while. Switchbacks are being hammered by usage and rain runoff, and brush has crowded the trail in many spots. Some super biking friends formed the 'Mountain Biking Committee' of the Angeles chapter of the Sierra and they have formally adopted this trail as their first trail for maintenance! CORBA is going to head down and join them. This is a great work-day to start of your 2004 Calendar!! Check out the CORBA website for details on this event, and links to the Sierra Club group as well.

The CORBA Trail Crew needs all the help it can get. EVERY trail work day for 2004 is already planned. So make a commitment – go to our website, check the dates and pencil in a couple into your calendar. No, wait – forget the pencil – use INK we NEED YOUR HELP !!



# Reaching Out to Kids with Adventure

Youth Adventures is a CORBA program that takes "at risk" children between ages 8 and 17 on mountain bike rides in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). The program is geared towards youth who don't otherwise have the means or opportunity to enjoy experiences with nature.

Many of the kids have never been to a park in the SMMNRA. Some of them have lived their entire lives in central LA and have never seen coyotes, a natural stream, snakes, or a majority of the things that occur in a natural mountain habitat. One young man's eyes teared up when he realized he had lived to his mid-teen years and had never seen the ocean.

The Youth Adventure rides are a breathtaking escape from the day to day pressures of being a youth in today's inner city.

The kids who have participated in CORBA's Youth Adventures program have reported increased enthusiasm, self-esteem, and a sense of freedom and joy that comes from having a better understanding of the local park systems and what is available to them.



By Ed Dee



Youth Adventures supplies the bikes, helmets, gloves, water and snacks. The kids receive instruction on safety, trail rules, and how to use the bicycles prior to the ride. During the ride, interpretive and historical information is presented about the park and its surroundings.

The rides are supported by adult volunteer ride assistants as well as members of the Mountain Bike Unit. The success of the Youth Adventures program depends on the dedicated volunteers that have given countless hours to ensure that this great program remains in existence.

There is an overwhelming feeling of reward that comes from donating time to be a ride assistant, bike mechanic, or ride leader.

There is always room for anyone to help out this tremendous program that offers kids a chance to have the beauty and freedom of an outdoor mountain bike experience they most likely would not have otherwise.

**For more information contact:**

- Holly Harman 818-882-2839
- Ed Dee 818-404-1113
- Virgil Hemrick 818-704-1284
- David Mummert 805-522-1272
- Mike Poteet 805-524-3939

**National Stage continued from page 1**

ment D.C. law firms to push for better National Park access.). CORBA continues to work with the National Park Service to gain more access on our local trails.

IMBA and CORBA view mountain biking as a National Park solution that will get people out of their cars, away from

crowded parking lots and trail heads, and into the outdoors. It would be great if most national parks enjoyed the

kind of volunteerism that we have here in the SMMNRA where the mountain bike community has been an active partner with National Park Service in trail building and maintenance, the CORBA Youth Adventures program,

and the MBU volunteer patrol.

Hasenauer is a past IMBA president. Heumann is a founder of CORBA. Also attending were Holly and Terry Harman representing CORBA's Youth Adventures Program and MBU. The Harmans were also involved with a trail building demonstration with President Bush.

## CORBA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I'd like to lend a hand. Contact me about volunteer opportunities.

CORBA is a tax exempt "501(c)(3)" organization. Your donation to CORBA is tax deductible. Your dues will be used to promote trail access and other interests of mountain bicyclists in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas.

Annual Membership \_\_\_New \_\_\_Renewal \$ 25.00

I'd like to do more to keep trails open

with an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to CORBA and mail to: CORBA, P.O. Box 57576, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413.

**Tell a friend.** Send CORBA information to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Welcome to CORBA.**

### **CORBA Information**

818-773-3555  
info@corbamtb.com  
www.corbamtb.com

### **Membership Services**

Greg Scarich  
310-374-7552  
membership@corbamtb.com

### **Terra Times Newsletter**

David M. Grey  
dg@corbamtb.com  
310-444-1960

### **Trail Building & Maintenance**

Rich Pinder  
818-909-7185  
rpinder@usc.edu

### **Youth Adventures**

Holly Harman  
818-882-2839  
hollytfc@socal.rr.com

Danny Ybarra  
ssc69@juno.com

### **Skills Classes**

Mark Langton  
805-480-0500  
markmtb@verizon.net

### **Fun Rides**

South Bay Mountain  
Bike Club  
Louisa Bonnie  
mtbike4@earthlink.net  
www.sbmbc.com

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

California Department  
of Parks & Recreation  
818-880-0350  
dpree@parks.ca.gov  
Fire Closure Info  
805-488-8147

The message changes every  
day at 2 p.m. It is illegal to  
ride in the parks when they  
are closed due to high fire  
danger.

National Park Service  
805-370-2300  
www.nps.gov/samo

Santa Monica  
Mountains Conservancy  
310-589-3200  
www.smmc.ca.gov

Conejo Open Space  
Conservation Agency  
805-495-6471  
Ranger office 805-381-2741  
www.cosf.org

Mountain Bike Unit  
Terry Harman  
818-882-2839  
terhol@gte.net

International Mountain  
Bicycle Association  
a(headquarters)  
303-545-9011  
imba@aol.com  
local rep Jim Hasenauer  
818-704-7396  
imbajim@aol.com  
www.imba.com

## **CORBA is committed to:**

1. Maintaining access to and gaining access to trails in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas, through education, information and preservation..
2. Educating mountain bicyclists in the safe and appropriate use of mountain bikes.
3. Contributing to the building and maintaining of riding areas in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas.



**REI's Ross Elion and Sally Johnson present CORBA's Louisa Bonnie (right) with a check for \$2,000.**

### **REI Becomes the Newest CORBA Sponsor**

REI – the outdoor equipment retailer – has always been dedicated to increasing access to outdoor activities and restoring and protecting the environment. Now CORBA can count them

as an official sponsor. REI recently donated \$2,000 to support CORBA's programs and plans are being made to jointly participate in bicycle-related activities.



P.O. Box 57576 Sherman Oaks, CA 91413  
www.corbamtb.com