

TERRA TIMES

The official publication of the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association

Summer 2005

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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

Griffith Park Master Plan

By David Ross and Jeff Klinger

On March 30th, the draft of the Griffith Park Master Plan was presented to the public at Freedom Hall located at the park. Over a year of research and gathering input from the public went into the plan. There were three public, town hall- type meetings held during 2004. It was during these meetings that all interested parties had the opportunity to present their suggestions to the firm that was hired to develop the plan, as well as Los Angeles city officials. Mountain bikers were well represented by the CORBA board and CORBA members, as well as many local mountain bicyclists at each of these meetings.

It should be noted that the City of Los Angeles currently does not permit trail riding in City parks, including Griffith Park. CORBA, representing the interests of mountain bicyclists in Los Angeles and surrounding areas, believes that bicyclists who live in L.A.'s Eastside should have access to the local trails. We also support trail and fire road access to enhance bicycle commuting opportunities.

The reaction to every presenter from the mountain bike community was met with outright hostility, especially from the Griffith Park equestrians who do not want to share "their" trails. Naturally they feel threatened, especially since their only encounters with mountain bikers in the park are with those who are either

Griffith Park continues on page 6



Letter from the Editor

Hello! My name is David Ross, and I'm the new editor of the Terra Times!

When I was first asked if I would consider this position, I jumped at the chance. This momentary lapse of reason (to borrow a title from Pink Floyd) was instantly followed by my usual thoughts and feelings when asked to volunteer. The same thoughts and feelings I had years ago when my riding buddy, and now CORBA board member, Hans Keifer, asked if I would volunteer to help with trail work. "Now why would I want to do this? I've got a hundred other things to do!" Sound familiar?

After years (yes...years) of patience and persistence, Hans finally won me over, and I showed up for my first day of trail work expecting the worst. To my surprise, I had a great time, and wondered why I had waited so long. And now I am proud to say I actually know the difference between a McLeod and a Pulaski. So, this time I thought, why wait? And here I am. Staring at my computer on a Friday night!

I guess I've been fortunate that in all the years that I have been riding mountain bikes, I could count on one

hand the number of times I have faced an irate hiker or equestrian. That quickly changed last year when I attended the three public forums used to gather the public's feedback to assist in creating Griffith Park's 25-Year Master Plan (see separate story). It was one heck of a wake-up call. I was dismayed to hear the sheer and utter disdain for mountain bikes and bikers by this particular group of the equestrians and hikers at those meetings.

What I learned from this was the value of organizations like CORBA. CORBA gives us all a public voice, with the goal to create and maintain an environment where everyone can effectively share the limited and incredible open space we are so very fortunate to have here in Southern California. Without organizations like CORBA, I believe we would see many of our trails, and perhaps even fire roads, closed to mountain bikes. That's not to say that the battle

is over just because CORBA exists. The Griffith Park experience made it very clear that we have lots of work to do to protect our rights.

Mountain biking has given me so much pleasure, and I imagine you feel the same. So it is great for me to have this opportunity to support CORBA,

and to give a little back to the sport I love. And CORBA needs your continued help too. Ask your friends to join. And try to volunteer with the organization at least once during the year. I think you'll find the experience to be extremely rewarding. And your favorite single track will appreciate it too.

If you have any matters that you would like to see addressed in the Terra Times, please feel free to email me. I can be

reached at mtbross@pacbell.net.

Thanks for reading! See you on the trails.

CORBA GIVES US ALL A PUBLIC VOICE, WITH THE GOAL TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE CAN EFFECTIVELY SHARE THE LIMITED AND INCREDIBLE OPEN SPACE WE ARE SO VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE HERE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

CORBA Bike Bells — "Share the Trails"

CORBA is pleased to present our new bike bells embossed with the message, "Share the Trails." These "Incredi-Lever" bells are available for just \$5. They weigh a mere 1.1 ounce, and can easily fit on either side of your handlebars. They produce a double-ring with a quick and simple flick of the thumb, so you won't miss a beat.

Ringin a bell is a great way to make



Give a little ring! Share the trails by alerting other trail users that you are approaching.

your presence known when approaching hikers, equestrians, dog-walkers and others we share the trails with. Proceeds support CORBA and trail access. You can purchase your bell at the CORBA website at www.corbamtb.com.

CORBA's Trail Crew Making Gains in 2005

By Hans Keifer

The CORBA Trail Crew has been on the move this year! We have worked on trails from the Palos Verdes Peninsula to the high country of the Angeles National Forest. We have set new attendance records with very large numbers of volunteers helping out. Thanks to everyone that has participated so far this year!

The IMBA trail crew visit in February was incredible! Over 40 volunteers showed up, exceeding our expectations. Nat and Rachael, the IMBA trail crew leaders, really know their stuff. We made great progress on the Dos Vientos connector trail in Newbury Park. This is a new trail that should be open soon. Contributing to the creation of a new trail is a very rewarding experience. Cyclists and others will enjoy it for years to come!

The joint REI/CORBA Trail Crew work day on May 21st was also a huge success! We had 65 volunteers from all different user groups come out to work on the Sunset Ridge Trail and the Sunset/Millard Campground connector trail in the Angeles National Forest. REI can really get those volunteers out!

On June 4th CORBA members were

among the many volunteers that came out from several different user groups for the following National Trails Day events:

In Rancho Palos Verdes, we had approximately 50 volunteers. There was a large amount of brushing on the Quarry, Docent and Flying Mane Trails. Over 50 feet of trail tread was rehabilitated, including a drainage ditch and culvert. Approximately 200 feet of old chain link fence, and 500 feet of barbed



wire were removed. There were also enough exotic plants removed to fill half of a large dumpster.

In the Santa Monica's there were approximately 80 volunteers. Here we

worked on the Backbone Trail from Corral Canyon to the Meadow section. The trail got an incredible brushing.

In the Angeles National Forest there were another 80 volunteers. We worked on some of the trails in the Chilao area. Several fallen trees were removed from the Silver Moccasin Trail. Many overgrown sections were brushed. Many deep ruts on the Vetter Mountain Trail were repaired. And the Vetter Mountain lookout had brush cleared around it to decrease the threat of fire.

It was a great day! Thanks to everyone that came out for National Trails Day and for some of our other trail crew days! Keep coming back!

With all of the rain we received this year, you have probably noticed the trails are getting quite overgrown. If you have ever thought about volunteering for the CORBA Trail Crew, this is the year to do it. Come on out and try it. The experience is very rewarding and also great fun.



Here are the Trail Crew Schedule dates for the remainder of 2005:

July 9th

August 20th

September 10th

October 8th: COSCA Trails Day

November 12th

December 10th

Help CORBA Make a Difference

Have you ever thought about getting more involved in CORBA? Everyone at CORBA is a volunteer, and just like you, shares a love for mountain biking and riding the great trails of Southern California.

There are plenty of ways that you can use your unique skills to help make a difference for the entire mountain bike community. And it need not take a lot of your time. Members and non-members alike are welcome to lend a hand.

CORBA is looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

Webmaster – This will involve making design changes to the CORBA website, and keeping the site current.

Retail Sponsorship Coordinator – To make people more aware of the fragility of mountain bike trail access, and to help them become responsible custodians of our wild, open spaces. CORBA's Official Retail Sponsorship Program is being developed. The goal is to educate new and existing mountain bike enthusiasts about trail advocacy and etiquette at

the local bike shops, right at the time of bike and equipment purchases. National sporting goods retailers are also joining the program. Official Retail Sponsors benefit by increasing their sales, based on CORBA discounts, special promotions, and feature placements on our website and in the Terra Times.

Trail Crew Leaders – Interested parties should have trail-building and/or maintenance experience. If you don't have the experience, we can help you learn.

Advocacy – We can never have too many people involved here! This involves attending meetings, writing letters, and/or making phone calls.

Marketing – We are looking for someone that can help us market CORBA and expand our membership.

If you are interested or would like more information in any of these areas, please visit the volunteer page on the CORBA website.

Funding Our Fun

By Molisa Ringwelski

With all of CORBA's initiatives this year, we are looking for funding assistance from a number of organizations. Some of the areas we are seeking funding for are:

- Trail work tools and lunches,
- Youth Adventures bike supplies, and
- Building trails such as the Buckeye trail.

Some of the organizations we are approaching include REI, BikesBelong, IMBA, and the State Recreational Trails grant.

If there are any grants offered by an organization you are a part of, or perhaps the company you work for, please contact me at MolisaR@PacificaDirect.com. You can also help CORBA by letting us know of any events, such as company health fairs, you are aware of that would be open to having CORBA as an exhibitor.

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

____CORBA Bike Bell(s) @ \$5 ea. _____

____CORBA T-Shirt(s) @ \$15 ea (Size _____) _____

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's Birthday Bash Gets "Fat"

CORBA's Fat Tire Fest: October 16

Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for CORBA's biggest fundraiser and party of the year, Sunday, October 16th at Malibu Creek State Park!

What happened to the Birthday Bash? We just changed the name from the Birthday Bash to CORBA's Fat Tire Fest to better describe the event. With the Poker ride, celebrity visits, vendor booths, bike trials, demo bikes and a HUGE raffle, it really is a celebration of mountain biking you won't want to miss!

This event has been growing in both size and scope every year. Yet the entry fee remains the same at just \$20! For that you can participate in the Poker Ride, and reward yourself afterwards with an excellent lunch and drinks. In 2004 we added an easier poker ride route for beginners. Both the easy and more advanced rides will be offered again this year.

Pre-register by October 5th and you will also receive 10 free raffle tickets. Additional Raffle tickets can be purchased for just \$1 each.

Come on out and support trail access and have a great time too! Visit the CORBA website for more information and to pre-register.



CORBA Participates in the Southern California Bicycle Expo

CORBA had a big presence at this year's Bike Expo, and was well received by both the public and the bike industry. CORBA board members and friends staffed the booth, and participated in the City of Angels Fun Ride.

Representatives of the Youth Adventures program ran the Kids Fun ride for over 300 youngsters. And Mark

Langton conducted several mountain biking skills clinics to cyclists of all ages and skill levels.

CORBA introduced our bike bells at the Expo, attracting the attention of all passers-by. In addition, we presented our video series showcasing CORBA's Trail Crew in action, and the Youth

Adventures program. Our bike bells sold like hotcakes, and many new members signed up, showing their support for CORBA programs and trail access.

We extend a warm thanks to Peter Heumann, of Heumann Powered Productions, for once again donating booth space to CORBA.

Technique Tip

By Mark Langton

RELAX

Easier said than done, especially when faced with trying to ride over an obstacle that your brain is telling you will end in certain disaster for you and your bike. However, if you can train your brain by repeating a mantra such as "relax and stay calm, "you'll be more likely to make it past the offending obstacle in one piece.

Remember, the more you relax and let your arms move with

the front wheel and handlebar, the smoother the ride will be. Tensing up (also known as bracing for impact) will only make the bump force to your upper body more severe, and will cause your body to buck, creating a weight distribution imbalance.

Mark Langton is a founding member of CORBA and is the coordinator and lead instructor for CORBA's Introduction to Mountain Biking Skills Class. Go to www.corbambt.com and click on Skills Classes for more info. For more info on Mark, go to www.mountainbikeskills.com.

willingly or unknowingly breaking the law by riding there. The equestrians' lack of civility and blatant prejudice towards us was simply mind-boggling. However, during the initial public meetings, the City's consultants assured all in attendance that everyone's interests would be accounted for.

This was not the case. Mountain bicycling was not even mentioned in the draft plan. During the oral presentation of the plan, the following statement was made regarding mountain bikes and off-road riding: There will be no bicycles permitted off the paved roads in Griffith Park.... PERIOD. Needless to say, those of us representing the mountain bike community were dismayed and angered. The Los Angeles City Councilman for the area that includes



After presenting the plan, they allowed the public time to make their voice heard. Many brave people representing mountain bikers, including several CORBA board members, got up to speak for what was by then, a very hostile audience.

The outcome of the "public process" is that the **Griffith Park Master Plan for the next 25 years does not include access for bicycles on any dirt trails or fire roads.** Despite the input and participation in the public

to bicyclists. Upon donating the Park to the City of Los Angeles, Griffith J. Griffith stated that "it must be made a place of recreation and rest for the masses. "This great park hosts a zoo, golf courses, picnic and BBQ sites, hiking, horseback riding, an observatory, rock concerts, swimming, tennis, etc., yet city officials will not, as of yet, allow local residents to ride any trails there.

Mountain bicyclists can still make a difference by visiting the Griffith Park web site at www.laparks.org and clicking on the Griffith Park Master Plan link. You can review the Draft Master Plan and let them know that there is a need and desire for bicycle trail access in LA's Eastside by submitting electronic or paper comments by clicking on the feedback link.

This experience highlights the importance of trail advocacy and groups such as CORBA and IMBA. There is much work to do educating the public about mountain biking. While on the trails that we are permitted to ride on, we must take great care to represent all cyclists in the most positive light that we can.

MR. LABONGE MADE HIS SENTIMENTS PERFECTLY CLEAR BY ANNOUNCING THAT HE THINKS ONLY HIKERS AND EQUESTRIANS SHOULD BE PERMITTED ON THE FIRE ROADS AND TRAILS AT GRIFFITH PARK, AND THAT NO BIKES, OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

Griffith Park is Tom LaBonge. Mr. LaBonge made his sentiments perfectly clear by announcing to everyone that he thinks that only hikers and equestrians should be permitted on the fire roads and trails at Griffith Park, and that no bikes, of any kind should be allowed. It was a stunning statement to hear from an elected official charged with representing all of his constituents.

process by CORBA and Los Angeles mountain bicyclists, city officials and the consultants have chosen to stonewall local city residents from legally enjoying existing trails on their bicycles, or creating new dirt trails that bicyclists can enjoy. We find it ludicrous that the Master Plan considers an aerial tram, but no mention of trail access

Horses and Bikes: Rider Interaction

This past winter, CORBA members participated in a horse and bike rider interaction event at Malibu Creek State Park. The event was led by Jeannie Gillen, a long time trail advocate, equestrian and member of the California Recreational Trails Committee. The entire Governor-appointed committee was in attendance. The event included a discussion of horse-bike interactions, scenario training and volunteer demonstrations. Bicyclists had the opportunity of riding horses and the

event concluded with a horse-bike-hike trail excursion on the Tapia Spur Trail. All in attendance had a great time and demonstrated, once again, that all trail user groups can share the trails together. CORBA anticipates more horse-bike rider interaction events in the future. They are educational and great fun for bicyclists and equestrians. If you would like to volunteer to coordinate these events, please visit our web site to get involved.

RIDE • EAT • WIN

CORBA'S FAT TIRE FEST

POKER RIDE

RAFFLE

FOOD

10.16.05

Malibu Creek State Park

- **Win bikes and other great prizes**
- **Vendor Booths, Bike Demos and more!**
- **Fun for the whole family**
- **Come out to support trail access**
- **Sign up early and get free raffle tickets**

www.corbamt.com

CORBA Information

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

Membership Services

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

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David Ross
 mtbross@pacbell.net

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@adelphia.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

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.

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
 (headquarters)
 303-545-9011
 imba@aol.com
 local rep Jim Hasenauer
 818-704-7396
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 www.imba.com



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