



CORBA eTerraTimes for November 5, 2009

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Riders gather for the Advanced Guided Ride with guest pros Brian Lopes, Ned Overend and Sid Taberlay at the 2009 Fat Tire Fest held October 25th at Castaic Lake.
Photo by Heather Baroff

The Terra Times moves from print to the online eTerraTimes!

Volume 17, #12 of the Terra Times, mailed to CORBA members several weeks ago, was the last printed edition. After much discussion and

soul-searching, we have decided to rename the eNews to the eTerraTimes and distribute news to our members and other interested parties electronically. The eTerraTimes is normally sent out the Thursday preceding the first Saturday of every month, as was the eNews.

There are a number of reasons for discontinuing the printed Terra Times:

- Electronic distribution is more timely. The lead time for the printed Terra Times was months, so we were not able to include recent developments. The lead time for electronic distribution is only hours.
- We have the benefits of the world wide web. Printing pictures in full color in the Terra Times was prohibitively expensive for CORBA. We don't have that restriction with email and web pages. Obviously we can also put in live hyperlinks
- Volunteer time is precious. Both the Terra Times and eNews are produced completely through the hard work of many volunteers. Many people put many hours into generating each edition of the Terra Times. We would rather apply that effort to other projects
- Expense of mailing. The cost of printing the Terra Times was generously donated by Lombard Graphics, but the post office hasn't been so generous when it comes to mailing them
- Going green. With our new PDF link, you can print your own copy of the eTerraTimes if you like. But if you don't, you won't have to feel guilty about disposing of the printed edition

CORBA would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who contributed to the Terra Times over the years, especially Jim Shanman of Asylum Design who designed each edition, David Ross who was the editor, and Ross Lombard of Lombard Graphics who printed each edition at no charge to CORBA.

Urgent News

Comments Needed for for L.A. City Bike Plan

The draft [Los Angeles City Bike Plan](#) was recently released and mountain bicyclists should be concerned with the direction it has taken. We need comments not only from L.A.-based riders, but from anyone who has positive stories about relationships with equestrians and other trail users on California trails.

Public comments can be [submitted online](#) or via postal mail. The comment period has been extended to **January 8, 2010**.

Here are some suggested talking points:

1. Somewhere in L.A. City Parks there should be opportunities for mountain bicyclists -- it's bad public policy that all dirt roads and trails are closed to bikes.
2. Bicycling is a positive, safe, health-promoting activity for people of all ages and should be encouraged with both natural-surface and paved riding opportunities.
3. The 2009 plan should incorporate the 1996 bicycle plan language that called for pilot projects and a gradual increase in mountain

bike opportunities in the parks.

4. Bicyclists safely share trails with other trail users, including equestrians, all around the globe.
5. Mountain biking is a sustainable, manageable appropriate activity for L.A. parks -- it works in dozens of other cities so why not ours?

Additional Information

For several years, anti-bike groups have mobilized to perpetuate the bicycle ban in LA City Parks. An older 1996 bike plan proposed a gradual increase in mountain bike opportunities, but they were never enacted. The new plan abandons those proposals and focuses instead on studies and research.

We have published an [analysis of the plan](#).

At public meetings related to the plan, anti-bike equestrians have testified that bikes and horses simply don't mix and that even separate trails for bikes and horses won't work because bicyclists won't follow rules. Most of the opposition has been from equestrians who ride in Griffith Park, many from the nearby cities of Glendale and Burbank. Griffith would be a great place to bike, especially for locals, but bicycle advocates have not asked for Griffith specifically. We've asked for some trails somewhere, but the anti-bike groups' response has essentially been, "No, nowhere, never."

You can submit comments online via the link at the top of this page, or by mail on or before November 6:

City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
Attn: Jordann Turner
200 N. Spring Street, Room 721
Los Angeles CA 90012
jordann.turner@lacity.org

For further information, contact Jim Hasenauer at imbajim@aol.com



Reviewing the plans at a public meeting

CORBA's Fat Tire Fest 2009 was celebrated October 25th

The day of the 22nd annual Fat Tire Fest was a beautiful sunny one in Castaic with over 500 people attending the event and the highest number of participating exhibitors ever! CORBA was proud to have supporting the fundraiser, legendary mountain bike super stars Brian Lopes, Ned Overend and Sid Taberlay who attracted a big crowd for the advanced ride and demoed their techniques in Mark Langton's skills clinic. Our three special guest pros were

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also accompanied by the Subaru Gary Fisher Regional Team and three riders from SoCal Interscholastic Cycling League. There were plenty of smiles all around as participants enjoyed the Bike Warrior Wheelie Contest, watched as adults and kids alike tried the bike limbo, cheered on the cycling fashions of Girl Meets Bike, huffed and puffed up West Ridge Trail in the Cynergy Hill Climb Contest, munched Carmen's delicious tacos as children rode their bikes continuously throughout the day in the Kids Fun Zone and the "big kids" did likewise in the Skills Features area. Demo bikes were out on the trails all day long keeping the bike manufacturers Giant, Specialized, Cannondale, Trek, Scott and Ibis very busy! Among the big raffle prizes were a Specialized Rockhopper Expert 29er, light systems from Light and Motion, carbon frame from Sette, Simple Seven cruisers from Giant and an urban bike from Cannondale. Good fun was had by all ages and riders! Thanks to all the FTF volunteers, sponsors, special guests and supporters who made this 2009 Fest a very special day and successful fundraiser!



The Fat Tire Fest was written up in [MountainBike Action](#) and the [Los Angeles Times](#)!

View the [2009 Fat Tire Fest photo galleries](#).

Recent Trailwork

October 17th - Nineteenth Annual COSCA Trail Work Day and Lunch

About 160 volunteers built a new trail in Newbury Park on October 17th. The trail connects from Mountain Creek Drive to the [Potrero Ridge Trail](#). Except for about 20 feet of a very difficult section, the entire trail was completed in one morning. We have a [photo gallery](#) of the work, plus a write-up from the [Ventura County Star](#).

October 17th - Tunnel Trail Winter Preparation

The nearly 20 people who volunteered for the winter preparation of Tunnel Trail Saturday were all guaranteed two things, soreness throughout their bodies the next day and a feeling of accomplishment. [More...](#) [Note: Although CORBA was not involved in this trailwork, it is an interesting write-up.]

Why do Trailwork? If you've ever wondered this, take a look at [this article](#) in the Summer 2008 issue of Terra Times to learn more about why it's important. Visit the [CORBA Trail Crew page](#) for more information and links to photos of past events.

Other News

State Park closure update

California State Parks announced on October 27th that park districts across the state have finalized their Service Reduction Plans. While some service reductions began taking place shortly after the state budget was passed, the larger, more noticeable changes that include changes to park hours of operation were scheduled to be implemented on November 1.

The Service Reductions are one part of the \$14.2 million, one-time budget savings plan Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced on September 25 to keep parks open with the least disruption to visitors.

- [List of service reductions at all State Parks](#)
- [Examples of service reductions](#)

Backbone Trail may be completed within two years

Melanie Beck, outdoor recreation planner for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, says there are only three gaps in the Backbone Trail, and the National Park Service is confident that the entire route can be completed in two years time. For the complete story, see the article "[Backbone Trail Captures the Essence of the Santa Monicas](#)" in the Malibu Surfside News.

Trails closed due to the Station Fire

As a result of the Station Fire last month, a huge area of the forest has been closed to allow for it's recovery and for public safety. The area will be closed until the end of September 2010. The Forest Service provides a [description and map of the closed area](#) which should be consulted before venturing into the area. All trails and roads within the closed area are off limits to the public until the end of September 2010.

Mountains Restoration Trust's annual fundraiser with guest speaker Dr. Jared Diamond

Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) staff and volunteers are busily preparing for a fall fundraising program to support the acquisition of 78 acres of ecologically sensitive land to be added to the Cold Creek Preserve near Stunt Road in Calabasas. The recent fires served as an urgent reminder of the timely and significant mission of the Trust to preserve and enhance the natural values of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The fundraising event gets underway at **6:00 p.m. on November 12th** with a silent auction, and no-host bar cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres that will allow participants to catch up with MRT staff on current programs and learn more about the significance of the 78-acre Sisson acquisition before the main program with featured speaker, internationally acclaimed scientist, Jared Diamond, Ph.D.

Dr. Diamond is Professor of Geography at UCLA and the author of 8 books; among them, "Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies," which garnered him a Pulitzer Prize, and was made into a [multi-part series on PBS](#). His most recent book, "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail," was a New York Times Notable Book. Dr. Diamond holds a B.A. from Harvard and a PhD from Cambridge and has received numerous awards including the National Medal of Science and the Japanese International Cosmos Prize.

Attending the fundraiser supports MRT's acquisition of the 78-acre property as well as its on-going work to acquire other properties in the Cold Creek watershed which together will create a nature preserve that includes a year-round stream and core habitat for wildlife, while

adding a scenic trail for human enjoyment. The trail corridor is a 1.6-mile link in the 17-mile Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail and will offer another venue for passive recreation through a scenic corridor.

After the land is acquired, visitors will be able to enjoy a riparian forest with a waterfall, dense chaparral with sandstone outcrops and hillsides of coastal sage scrub, and be a witness to why the Cold Creek watershed is recognized for its biological diversity. This 78-acre upland habitat with two small perennial streams that are vital to the health of the riparian downstream ecosystem that supports the perennial waters of Cold Creek. Additionally, this east-to-west wildlife corridor links state and national park lands and will be protected in perpetuity.

For more information and to purchase tickets (please purchase by November 9th) visit the [MRT website](#).

Jo Kitz, the Co-Executive Director of MRT, tells us that these trails will be open to mountain biking once their acquisitions and trail improvements are complete.

Last chance to see "Race Across the Sky" is November 12th

Back by popular demand, NCM Fathom and Citizen Pictures brings Race Across the Sky – Leadville Trail 100 Encore Event back to select movie theatres nationwide for ONLY ONE NIGHT on Thursday, November 12th at 8:00 pm PST.

Tickets on-sale Friday, November 6th! Visit [FathomEvents.com](#) to sign up for an email reminder, find a participating theatre and to purchase tickets on 11/6/09. Advance purchase for this one night event is strongly encouraged, as the original October event sold out in select theatres nationwide.

In addition to the presentation of the documentary Race Across the Sky – Leadville Trail 100, this event includes a candid panel conversation with Lance Armstrong, Dave Wiens (6x Leadville 100 winner), Travis Brown (Olympian and professional mountain biker), Matt Shriver (Ft. Lewis College Mountain Biking Coach, coach of 4 consecutive mountain biking national championships) and Ken Chlouber (Leadville Trail 100 Founder).

At 12,570 feet anything can happen...so don't miss your last chance to see what does in this one night event in select movie theatres nationwide.

Please go to <http://www.ncm.com/fathom/Sports/RaceAcrossTheSkyENC.aspx> to see which theaters in your area are showing Race Across the Sky – Leadville Trail 100 and to purchase tickets.

New on the CORBA Website

- [Physician convicted in bicycle crash case](#) - November 3
- [Fat Tire Fest Photos](#) - October 25
- [Main Staging Area](#)

- [Raffle and Awards](#)
- [Guided and Poker Rides](#)
- [Bike Limbo Contest](#)
- [Bike Warrior Wheelie Contest](#)
- [Cynergy Hill Climb Contest](#)
- [Skills Clinic](#)
- [Kids Activities](#)
- [Wood Features](#)
- [Fashion Show](#)
- [2009 Draft LA Bike Plan Leaves Mountain Bikers in the Dust](#) - October 22
- [COSCA Trailwork Day photos](#) - October 17
- [October Skills Clinic Photos](#)
- [Photos of Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day](#)

Recreational Rides

For a list of upcoming recreational rides, please visit the [CORBA Calendar](#).

Free Mountain Biking Skills Clinic

Saturday November 7th is the next skills clinic.

The CORBA free skills clinic is held on the first Saturday of every month at Malibu Creek State Park.

Mountain biking is a lot like tennis or skiing. Just a few minor adjustments in technique can make a huge difference in your control and proficiency. If you want to get better faster, you need to know the fundamentals of mountain biking technique. Whether you're just getting into mountain biking or have been riding for years, you'll learn some valuable tips from our Introduction to Mountain Biking skills class that is offered each month. Check out our [Skills Clinic web page](#) for all the information. After the clinic, see photos of your new skills on the CORBA web site that you can share with your



family and friends!

Monthly Beginner Ride

CORBA holds a recreational bike ride for beginners the second Saturday of every month, a week after the Skills Clinic. This is the perfect opportunity for the clinic attendees to practice their new skills! But you don't need to attend the Skills Clinic before you come on this ride; everyone is welcome. This is a great ride for first-timers to the CORBA recreational rides. The ride leader will go over the basics of riding a mountain bike along the route. Check the [Calendar](#) for details.

Follow CORBA on Twitter

We have set up an account with Twitter to help keep people informed of the latest developments in our trail advocacy, recreational rides and trailwork days. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/CORBAmtb.



Support CORBA

Join or Renew your membership today on our [membership web page](#).

Join Our Team! Do you have any ideas about mountain biking recreation in the L.A. region? Would you like to apply your skills and manage projects that contribute to the sport and lifestyle that you love? Is there an advocate in you? We are recruiting motivated individuals who work well with others. Send an email to info@corbamt.com or come to a monthly Members Meeting to find out more about what we do and how you can help. Check the [calendar](#) for the next meeting.

Other simple ways to support CORBA

- [FRS Healthy Energy](#): Get a 25% discount and also help CORBA
- [JensonUSA](#): Shop for bikes, parts and accessories and help CORBA
- [Ralphs grocery stores](#): Use your Ralphs card and help CORBA
- [Albertsons' grocery stores](#): Use your Albertsons' card and help CORBA
- [GoodSearch internet search](#): Search the internet and help CORBA
- [GoodShop online shopping](#): Shop at your favorite online retailers and help CORBA
- [Phones For Good](#): Help CORBA when you get your next cell phone
- [Holmes Body Shop](#): Get that dent fixed and help CORBA

(Click on the links above to get more details!)

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