

TERRA TIMES

The official publication of the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2: MTB Skills: A simple "scanning" technique to improve your riding
- 3: Advocacy Update – The Gate, Canyonback Ridge Development and more
- 4: Fat Tire Fest Roundup – This year's event was a huge success
- 6: Trail Maintenance 101 – an eyewitness account from a first-time trail crew volunteer
- 7: PV – CORBA's efforts to intensify



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

Rich Pinder Announces Retirement From CORBA Trail Crew

By Kurt Loheit

At the Fat Tire Fest in October, CORBA celebrated its 18th year of programs and advocacy. Much has happened in 18 years. CORBA has helped to open, and keep open, many trails. We have educated and enlightened untold numbers of mountain cyclists and trail users. As an organization, CORBA has been fortunate to attract the talents of many volunteers who have helped the organization at all levels. We would like to recognize an individual who has been a steadfast supporter of CORBA, mountain cyclists, and trail users since CORBA's earliest days.

Rich Pinder has been CORBA's Trail Program leader for 10 years, and recently announced his decision

to retire from this official position at the end 2005. It is remarkable that he has held this position for so long since accepting the reins from his predecessor. Rich's legacy predates the trail crew.

As one of the early Mountain Bike Unit (MBU) volunteers, Rich spent quite a bit of time acting as a premiere ambassador to all users in the parks. His easy-going personality and ability to communicate on an approachable level to anyone made him a huge asset to the MBU. It was during this time that Rich also took

Pinder continues on page 2



Pinder continues on page 2

on the task of managing the seemingly unmanageable CORBA database.

Although he probably won't admit it, Rich is a wiz at computer systems. He was able to take the sometimes mysterious world of our database and make it a more friendly system to operate (although most of us on the Board were afraid of it).

As CORBA's involvement with trail work grew, Rich seemed to drift more towards the trail crew. As the demands of CORBA grew greater, Rich had participated in so much of the trail program structure that he was a natural for the transition of taking it over. As the former program's leader, I had no hesitation in handing over the leadership to Rich.

Under Rich's steady guidance, the trail crew has become effective and well respected. Initially focused around the Santa Monica Mountains, the crew has been widening its reach on a more regional basis. Rich was also responsible for initiating the successful joint volunteer trail days which CORBA now enjoys with other organizations.

As often as we have tried over the years, we could never convince Rich to join the CORBA board. I have to admit that this decision to not join the board undoubtedly gave him the time and focus to be so successful leading the Trail Crew. Because of his commitment to CORBA and trail care, we all are

indebted to Rich. He has earned the respect of his peers and colleagues, land managers, and trail users.



Rich has indicated he will continue volunteering. Just not in an official capacity (unless we can convince him otherwise). His service to CORBA cannot be understated, and finding his replacement will be challenging.

His experience and knowledge will make him a valuable resource for many years to come. So while we will still benefit from his ongoing volunteerism, we'll miss his leadership of the CORBA Trail Crew. Thanks RP!

Thanks RP!

CORBA Bike Bell

After concerns with the quality of our last batch of bells, the manufacturer of the CORBA bike bells has replaced them with new bells of better quality. The bells display the message "Share the Trails" and are just \$5 each.



Ringling a bell is a great way to make your presence known when approaching other trail users and where trail visibility is limited. Nine out of ten trail users say "We

just love the bells! Why don't all mountain bikers have them?"

You can purchase your bell at the CORBA store at www.corbamtb.com

Scan Ahead

More than likely you've heard the phrase "look where you want to go, not where you don't want to go." If you're looking at the rock, chances are greater that you'll run over the rock. In other words, wherever you're looking, that's where you're going to steer the handlebar. In more technical terms, it's a neuro-muscular reaction. Your hands tend to follow where your eyes are trained. When you look at the good line, chances are your bike will go in that direction too.

As you ride, look far enough ahead to see what's coming, then back to directly in front of your front tire, always looking for the best line. This way you are actively engaging your brain and readying yourself far in advance for any surprises. When you do get into a situation such as a hole or rut, tell yourself to "look for the good line" (remember, creating a mantra to attach to the skill is very important).

Finally, try to look past the obstacle or

terrain feature you are trying to avoid as you are approaching it. Watching it as it goes by only decreases your scanning ability.

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

Advocacy Update

Canyonback Trail to the Whoop-Dee-Doos:

Part 1, The Gate – Significant progress has been made on this issue since the Crown Homeowner's Association (HOA) began their aggressive actions to privatize and gate Canyonback Road in 2004. CORBA teamed up with the Canyonback Alliance. We worked through a lengthy series of public meetings and hearings, networking, letter writing, as well as email and petition campaigns to successfully prevent the gating of Canyonback Road. Had the Crown HOA been successful at gating the public street, thru access for mountain bicyclists, hikers and trail runners would have been at the mercy of the private Crown HOA and its security forces. We could have lost access between dirt Mulholland and Kenter Avenue and the Whoop-Dee-Doos trail. We are pleased to announce that this will not be the case.

At the October 20, 2005 LA Planning Commission Hearing, the Commission denied the Crown's application to downgrade Canyonback Road to a "Local Street" from its current status as a "Hillside Collector Street." This would have been a step towards installing and closing the gates on the imposing Canyonback Gate Structure. Additionally, Councilman Bill Rosendahl announced a specific plan of action for the removal of the imposing Canyonback Gate Structure. In doing so, he emphasized that his "position remains firm and unchanged. Public access must be preserved, and the gate facade must be removed." Yes, our thru access on this section of the trail is secure, but as long as the gate structure stands, so does the potential of gates being installed on the structure.

Part 2, The Canyonback Ridge Development – A second problem along the Canyonback Trail surfaced in 2005. Development company, Castle and Cooke California, Inc., has proposed to build a gated residential enclave along the ridge that connects Kenter Avenue to Canyonback Road (just east of the Gate, described above). The plan is to



extend Canyonback Road towards the existing water tank and realign it into the proposed gated enclave as a private street. This action could restrict our historic public access along this section of the Canyonback Trail. In May, 2005 the developer acquiesced to public demands for 24-hour non-gated public access along the Canyonback Trail. At the October, 2005 Planning Commission hearing, the Commission approved a 10-foot wide public access easement through the development, however, the Commission then approved the developer's last-minute, surprise plan to reduce the easement to five-feet (or less) near the entrance. This action could cause safety problems for trail users and also presents public access concerns.

While we appreciate the public access easement, we believe that permanent unrestricted public access may not be guaranteed under this scenario. Permanent public access would result from maintaining the Canyonback Trail outside of, and apart from, the private development.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

In September, 2005 the National Park Service (NPS), State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hosted public scoping meetings for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Trail Management Plan (TMP). The meetings began with a great overview of the process by Melanie Beck, of the NPS.

Following the presentation, four maps of the Santa Monica Mountains were presented including the "Current Conditions", "Low Use," "High Use" and "Hybrid" alternatives. Representatives were available to field questions and comments for each of the alternatives. The agencies are now in the process of considering public input and finalizing planned alternatives. The environmental review process of the TMP will extend into 2007 when, thereafter, a final trail plan will be adopted.

The TMP Team has a "Common Vision" to improve the management of the trail system and promote a seamless recreational experience for visitors. The Team acknowledged the growing demand and diversity of trail users that need to be serviced in a sustainable way, and each of the alternatives increases the number of trails open to the public.

Currently there are 494 miles of trails open in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The Low Use alternative indicates 648 miles to be open, the Hybrid indicates 704 miles and the High Use alternative map indicates 732 miles of trails to be opened for all recreation uses. The High Use and Hybrid alternatives both add multiple use trail mileage to the system,

Advocacy continues on page 6



2005 Fat T

On October 16th CORBA celebrated its 18th year of advocacy, and what a celebration it was! This year's Fat Tire Fest was a huge success. Even with the threat of rain and the cooler weather we had approximately 400 people show up for this event making this the largest turnout ever!

Congratulations to the top FTF Winners

Kelly Jackson, Winner of the Poker Ride:

Rocky Mountain Frame, Fox Fork Combo

Troy Braswell: 2nd Place – Nite Rider Lights

Brad House: 3rd Place – Tool Kit

Raffle Winners:

Steve Handshaw, KHS Bicycle.

Troy Braswell, Giant Bicycle winner.

Steve Saldivar, REI Novara Bicycle (which his son will get for his birthday)



Michael Ortopan,
Specialized Enduro bike and

Marla Streb ride. (Michael earlier had won the KHS bike which he donated back to CORBA to raffle off to some else to win.)

Fred Chavez: Rocky Mountain Frame

Ann Minder: Santa Cruz Heckler Frame

And a huge THANK YOU to all of the sponsors of this year's FTF! Please support these companies and stores when you get the chance, as they help support CORBA and our efforts to keep the trails open for everyone.

- Agoura Cycle Center
- Bicycle Johns
- Big Bear Mountain Resorts
- Camelbak
- Cane Creek
- Cannondale
- Clif Bar
- Dirt Rag Magazine
- Easton
- Eugenia Luvizaro Massage
- Fox
- Giant Bicycles
- Giro
- Glaceau-Smartwater (vitamin water)
- Glendale Cyclery
- H&S Bicycles
- Helen's Cycles
- HelMufs
- Heumann Powered Productions
- Intense Bicycles
- Kenda USA
- KHS Bicycles
- Jones Bicycles
- Kona Bicycles
- Light & Motion
- Manitou
- Marla Streb
- Mountainbikeskills.com
- Neema
- Niner Bikes
- Open Road Bicycles
- Pasadena Cyclery
- Price Point
- Promologic
- REI
- Santa Cruz Bicycles
- Sixsixone
- Specialized Bicycles
- Supergo
- Trek Bikes of Ventura / Westlake Cyclery
- Tri Flow
- Velo Pasadena
- WTB
- YAS Yoga And Spinning

Tire Fest

We had quite the diverse crowd out for the poker ride. The youngest rider was 10 years old and the oldest was over 80! Thanks to all that came out and participated.



CORBA-PV Effort to Intensify

By Greg Scarich

Palos Verdes, CA, or PV, as it's known by some, is located 23 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, so it's a significant drive to get to the local mountains. That makes access to the local trails a high priority for PV's resident mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians. Although some trails now have million dollar homes on them, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes have been purchasing land to save it from the developer's bulldozer.

CORBA recently sponsored a fund drive to help the PVPLC and Rancho Palos Verdes purchase an additional 450 acres known as Portuguese Bend, one of the few areas still in use. CORBA raised more than \$10,400 in donations. These funds helped PVPLC reach the \$4 million private funding goal that proved local support for the preserve was significant. This proof locked in a \$10 million grant from the state as well as some other funds. On November 13, PVPLC's Executive Director Barbara Dye

notified CORBA that the final \$1.55 million contribution was official. Portuguese Bend has been saved from development, and CORBA's donations helped make it happen.

Our involvement in PV began in 2004 when PVPLC held the first of several widely publicized meetings to discuss trail plans for an area called Forrestral Nature Preserve. The original trail plan proposed only two short fire roads open to mountain bikes. Most of the 21 trails were designated pedestrian only. That got the attention of CORBA.

After the series of meetings, local mountain bikers formed a group under the auspices of CORBA. They named it CORBA-Palos Verdes, and are led by Troy Braswell. CORBA-PV turned out in force to work on Forrestral trails and restore habitat. These activities demonstrated our commitment to the area and helped us gain credibility. A formal presentation was later made to the Forrestral Steering Committee where numerous people spoke on behalf of



mountain biking access. As a result, 10 of the 21 designated trails are

now open for mountain biking with 15 open to equestrians. Our hard work resulted in an improvement. But it is still not acceptable.

The campaign to preserve mountain bike access in the new Portuguese Bend preserve will begin soon, and CORBA will participate. This next campaign may be a tougher fight because the area is much larger and used by more of the community. Your continued support on trail workdays is the most important contribution you can make to help us keep the trails open to mountain bikes. Look for more details on the CORBA website.

Greg Scarich is a member of the CORBA Board of Directors

Advocacy continued from page 3

while the percentage decreases in the Low Use alternative.

We support the High Use alternative for the area's mountain bicycling community. The High Use alternative serves the public more completely by:

- providing more trail opportunities overall,
- addresses projected population growth and future demand for trail access, and
- it plans for trails with continuity and efficiency, rather than an expensive and inefficient piecemeal process of adding individual trails over the years.

The TMP also includes many new and

exciting possibilities. In both the High Use and Hybrid alternatives, the Backbone Trail is open to mountain bicyclists from Pt. Mugu to Roger's Road for a cross-mountain trail experience. In addition, the Team has included 11 camp sites in the alternatives for multi-day excursions. Furthermore, many "social trails" or unrecognized trails are brought into the system as legal multi-use trails.

CORBA has been involved with the efforts of the Santa Monica Mountain Area Recreational Trails project (SMMART) leading up to this TMP since the mid-nineties. This is the first Trail Management Plan where mountain bikers can play an active role.

CORBA prepared detailed comments and recommendations regarding the trail map alternatives and the process overall. In addition, many CORBA members and local mountain bicyclists also submitted comments and we appreciate your participation. Each letter, petition or email is meaningful and significant. We highly encourage you all to take the time to participate in the public process. A few moments now can translate into a lifetime of great riding experiences.

If you would like us to keep you apprised of any new developments and any need for action, please subscribe to our E-Alert list at www.corbamtb.com.

Trail Maintenance 101

By Jerry Parra

A few months ago, two of my riding buddies mentioned that a free mountain bike clinic was being put on by an organization called CORBA at Malibu Creek State Park. We had a great time and came away with improved riding skills, thanks to the competent abilities and instruction of Mark Langton. Later that day I went online to learn more about CORBA. I discovered they have been pro-active in building and maintaining the trails, and also involved in the politics of keeping the trails open and accessible. I decided I would go out for a day of trail work.

On a bright Saturday morning I drove to Thousand Oaks. At the end of Moorpark Road was the meeting place; a trailhead called Space Mountain. I met Rich Pinder and a dozen or other volunteers. Everyone was friendly, enthusiastic and looking forward to the morning ahead.

We piled into three vehicles and drove about a half-mile up the fire road. Tools were distributed, and instruction was delivered on the correct use of each tool, as well as a description of the task at hand. Clif Bars were also handed out, and Rich and Hans Keifer made sure everyone had plenty of water. We then split into teams with each group led by an experienced trail crew member.



The whole crew hiked up this great trail that starts in Thousand Oaks, and extends well past the area we were working that day, to Point Magu. I took advantage of this time to get acquainted with my new companions. For the regulars, it was a chance to catch-up with good friends.

After a mile or so we came to the first section that was pretty over grown. Our teams split up and got to work cutting back branches and clearing brush. The rule of thumb was to provide a double-arm's width of clear trail. The cuttings were tossed into the surrounding growth away from the trail. No one slacked, even though the day was warming up. Extra attention was given to eliminating protruding limbs that could cause injury should one take a fall into them. Attention was also given to clearing overhanging branches that could be an obstacle for taller cyclists and riders on horseback.

All the cyclists and hikers that passed us each expressed thanks for our efforts. A couple of riders that had volunteered with CORBA in the past stopped to say hi and thanks too.

At 12:30 we started back down the trail. Once back at our vehicles, we drove to a nearby park where an El Pollo Loco lunch was waiting for us. CORBA's cur-

rent Board Chairman Jeff Klinger had gone ahead and brought back the lunch. We enjoyed our meal, final chatter, exchanged and felt appreciation and pride for our morning's accomplishment, and departed until next month's trail work.

The CORBA Trail Crew is well organized and works on a different trail every month. These people do this for their own enjoyment, because they ride these trails, and also for the benefit of everyone who takes advantage of our local mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding opportunities.

As for me; I achieved my objectives and more. I discovered a great new trail. And when I ride the section we worked, I will truly appreciate what it takes to maintain a clear trail. I met some terrific people. And I felt the personal reward that comes from doing some physical work. I've joined the ranks of CORBA members, and plan to get involved in some of the other activities as well.

I encourage you to get investigate the various opportunities and activities offered by CORBA for yourself. And I hope to meet you on a future Trail Crew.

Editors note: Thanks Jerry. We really appreciate your support! And we hope this inspires others to experience the rewards of trail maintenance firsthand for themselves.

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 Information

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

Membership Services

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

Terra Times Newsletter

David Ross
 mtbross@pacbell.net

Trail Building & Maintenance

Rich Pinder
 818-773-3555
 rpinder@usc.edu

Youth Adventures

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

Danny Ybarra
 ssc69@juno.com

Skills Classes

Mark Langton
 805-558-1606
 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
 imbajim@aol.com
 www.imba.com



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