

Inside This Issue

Since the last time we met...



What's going on with NIMBA

On April 20th the Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association held its first formal meeting. Until then, meetings had consisted of 2 -- 3 people getting together on Tuesday evenings to eat tacos together, occasionally chasing them with the taste of stamp glue as newsletters were prepared. This meeting was very different. Seventy-five people showed up to hear three guest speakers talk on trail access and organizing mountain bike associations. If anyone had tacos they didn't share.

Cliff Johnson, Executive Director of the Indiana Bicycle Coalition, spoke first. He described the need for bicyclist to organize in the State of Indiana. Apparently, the IBC has "saved" bicyclist from the attempts by the state legislature to "help" us. Cliff described two propositions that were knocked down before they could go too far. One was legislators' plans to make us have lights on bikes one hour before dusk and one hour after dawn, thus ensuring our safety (and making sure we had no charge in our batteries by the time it got dark). A second victory for the IBC was the defeat of the notion that we required licensing through the state license branches which would produce stickers for our helmets. Cliff was a very informative speaker and stressed among other things the need for Indiana bicyclist to speak with a single voice and to band together for the common goals of all. He filled us in on the progress that has been made with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in developing a pilot project this year. The pilot project will provide state lands for mountain biking (possibly 3 locations) which will be watched closely by the DNR to determine if more lands or any will become available in the future.

Dwain Abramowski, Executive Director of the Michigan Mountain Bikers Association, followed Cliff. He described the success that MMBA has had in working with the Michigan DNR to open and maintain trails. A key point was that mountain bikers must adopt the attitude that we are willing to "pay to play." This means approaching land managers with offers to help them manage natural resources and do a big part of the work required to make trails available, i.e., cutting maintaining and educating riders on sensible trail use. He indicated that this had been the key to their success in developing excellent relationships with land managers in his state.

Dwain actually came to us as *two for the price of one*, in that he brought Kris Ouvry, President of the MMBA.

What's Going On by Steve McClure	1
"Get this Thing Rolling"	2
Organizational Chart	2
"Sometimes I feel like hitting my head against a wall"	3
10 Top Reasons to Join	4

Memorial Day Ride-Meeting-Pot-luck

When: May 29, 1995
Where: Syracuse (private land)
Time: 2:00 pm (meeting)
ride, meet, eat, ride



Directions:
Take SR19 to SR6
Take SR 6 to SR13
Take SR13 south .5 miles
Look for sign on right

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from page 1
What's going on...

Kris described what it was like to join, become involved and eventually take a leadership role in the MMBA. He commented on the challenge of running a successful mountain bike association. Not one to candy-coat the subject, he discussed the need for commitment from the volunteers -- saying you will show up to cut trail and actually do it. He also indicated that the successful organization needs money and that is something that must get constant attention. He said the MMBA is organized into chapters, each with its own officers. The Trail Czar is one of the most important *get things done* positions in each chapter.

Dan Wolfe of Trail Riders Accessing Indiana Land, or TRAIL for short, rounded out the list of speakers. Many in the audience identified with him right away as he told us that TRAIL arose from his frustration in having few quality places to ride. One memorable point he made was that, in Indianapolis, they are having trouble with credibility because of the behavior of a few riders. It seems that one of the choice riding spots in Indy was Fort Benjamin Harrison, a place then occupied by the US Army. It seems also that the bikers interfered with the Army drills and responded with finger gesturing at the Army's insistence that the bikers not ride where they were shooting and bombing. Some of these riders, obviously training for the Bosnian Bicycle Messenger Service, became agitated by the Army's lack of understanding and called the police in to control the Army. Dan pointed out that once something like this happens in the area the word gets around quick and it becomes a long uphill climb to a position where any land manager will take the mountain bikers seriously. He cautioned us against mistakes of this nature on private land in our area.

The meeting ended with people signing up to become involved in different areas of responsibility, including Trail Access,

Membership Development, Trail Construction & Maintenance, Leadership, and Public Relations & Newsletter Communications. In all 59 names were placed on these lists, some of these more than once. Signatures were also obtained for the trail cutting work days at Dr. Lawless Park in Michigan.

Three "get this thing rolling" meetings have been held so far among the people who signed up to organize leadership, public relations / newsletter and membership. Active participants in the meetings include: Brian Null, Steve Miller, Jerome Joachim, Steve McClure, John Nickison, Steve Pejza, Shelly Glick, Ken Glick, Jim Hamann, Tucker Snedeker, David Morris, John Neupauer, Jenny Johnston, Bill Webb, Rod McNeill, Max Reeder, Ryan Kakalia, Caesar Aquino, Marty Eby, Jim Tuthill, Kevin Morris, and Dan Ball.

"Get this thing Rolling"

Officers have been elected, coerced into duty. This may sound premature. Members ought to vote for officers, right? Well, without members, it was a chicken and egg problem, so an interim solution was worked out. These officers are in place to get the Association off the ground, period. In six months, October 1995, general elections will be held for all officer positions, once the membership is in place. Until then, here are the lucky few who will get NIMBA off the ground:

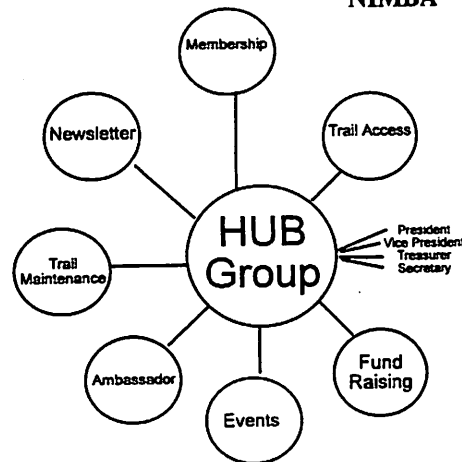
President	Brian Null	259-5814
Vice Pres.	John Neupauer	236-8617
Treasurer	Bill Webb	273-6265
Secretary	Steve McClure	277-3807
Membership	Rod McNeill	679-4992
	Shelley Glick	272-0129
Trail Maintenance	Jerome Joachim	233-7430
	Ken Glick	272-0129

Trail Access	Jim Hamann	271-7357
	David Morris	282-2567
Newsletter	Steve McClure	277-3807
	Jenny Johnston	233-7430
Ambassador	Open	
Fund Raising	Open	
Events	Open	

The HUB group will work like a Board of Directors and will be responsible for keeping everyone informed and for making decisions affecting NIMBA. However, it is expected that a lot of the activities of NIMBA will take place at the outer circles involving other members.

So far the priorities of the HUB group have been getting clear on what the organization will stand for, raising seed money and establishing a membership. The enclosed brochure illustrates the result of work that has been accomplished.

NIMBA



Have something to say?

Send your adventure, how-to-article, tech tip, race result, trail news, picture, or what-have-you to:

NIMBA
PO BOX 6383
SOUTH BEND, IN 46628

“Sometimes I Feel Like Banging My Head Against a Wall”

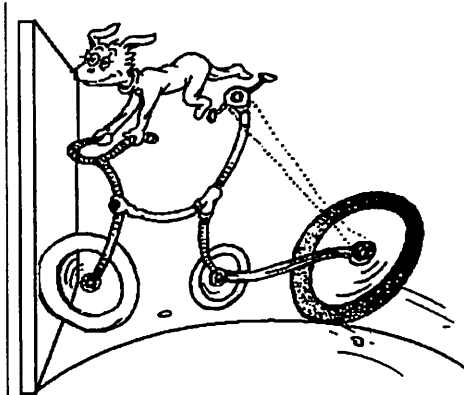
— Jerome Joachim

I wanted my first trail report to be a totally positive one but... Unfortunately the actions of a few idiots ruin it for all.

At our first meeting on April 20, we told you of a new trail at T. K. Lawless County Park in Cass County, Michigan. The trail is being developed by Steve Barnes who has more than 600 hours in the project. This trail is his baby.

We contacted Steve and told him we would be glad to help. We also stated at the meeting that the trail would not open until late May, early June. And riding before then was not allowed. This is true. SO STAY OFF!!! Failing to do so will only jeopardize the opening of this great trail system. Riding the trail now may also result in getting a hefty fine and your bikes impounded. Not to mention discrediting the already questionable reputation mountain bikes have. So please stay off the trail until it officially opens.

Until Sunday, May 7, things were going great. We planned two trail cutting days and they were a huge success. On April 29, twelve persons from the MMBA and twelve persons from NIMBA joined efforts and nearly completed the 10-mile trail under



Mr. Barnes careful guidance. I can't thank those of you who came out enough. The work was hard, the bugs were bad, you worked your butts off.

“If we are to gain access to land and gain credibility which is of the utmost importance, we must obey the RULES!”

Unfortunately, I got a call from an angry Mr. Barnes. He told me of a problem he had with a group of bikers who said they were from the South Bend -- Mishawaka area. Thanks a lot guys for being so irresponsible. Your action may have ruined any credibility that NIMBA gained.

If we are to gain access to land and gain credibility which is of the utmost importance we must obey the RULES!!

OK, enough preaching. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave a hand. It was nice working with you and seeing just what we could do. I hope you all had fun doing it and will continue to be there in the future. Remember you have to give it back to the trail or there will be no trails to ride.

Special thanks to Dale Cottingham at Outspoken for the Power Bars and Gatorade. Very cool Dale. Thanks for your support.

But most important, thanks to Steve Barnes and the Cass County Park Department for this trail opportunity.

Again, please stay off this trail until early June when it officially opens.

Rules of the Trail

1. Always wear a helmet.
2. Always yield right of way to other trail users in a kind manner
3. Slow down or stop when encountering other trail users, especially children, dogs, and horses.
4. Ride in control, including speed, at all times.
5. Stay on designated trails to minimize impact by respecting barricades and avoid widening or bypassing existing trails.
6. Be sensitive to disturbing wildlife and livestock.
7. Pack out litter.
8. Demonstrate respect for public and private property.
9. Investigate local trail regulations posted at trail heads or inquire with the park manager.
10. Avoid riding in large groups, and plan ahead.

Top 10 reasons to Join NIMBA

10. Because your mother didn't and now there are no trails.
9. You are tired of riding corn fields.
8. Because Judge Ito is a member.
7. So you can ride legal trail that doesn't dead end at a condo.
6. It's dirty fun the whole family can enjoy.
5. Because scientists have discovered it's the secret of sex appeal.
4. To save the whales trails.
3. To learn to speak techno-weenie.
2. Because cool riders everywhere are joining and you think that maybe you too can become cool.
1. It's the low-fat thing to do.



Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association
PO BOX 6383
South Bend, IN 46628

Inside This Issue
Organizational Update
Membership Application
Trail News
