



February 1997

*In this Issue*  
*Letter from the President*  
*Latest News*  
*Upcoming Events*  
*Membership Application*

## President's Corner

I have good news, and I have not-so-good news.

First, the good. Ken Glick and I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of Michiana Watershed on December 3rd. Subjects at that meeting included a section of abandoned rail corridor that runs near the Rum Village Pathway trail, and some smaller bike path sections near the Darden Road pedestrian bridge. We'll be looking further into these parcels, and will keep you posted as to what opportunities may develop.

The not-so-good news regards the T.K. Lawless trail, which we had hoped to be riding again soon after the first of the year. The folks at the park have decided to wait until spring to reopen the trail, though we may be able to work with them to

change that policy for next winter. It's a shame to miss out on some excellent riding during the winter months, but "them's the breaks." Also, there are some areas of Lawless in need of maintenance, and I offered our services for spring trail work. In the meantime, stay off the trail until it's officially open.

Finally, the Rum Village trail is open, conditions permitting, and has some interesting new reroutes you may not have ridden. Remember, even though the temperature and the snow have fallen, the bike doesn't have to be hung up. GET OUT & RIDE!

Max

## *Rum Village Pathway Opening Day 1996*



Past President Jerome being interviewed

## *From The South Bend Parks & Recreation Department*

Development is often a phrase which carries negative connotations. In the case of the "development" of the Gertrude Street annex, negativity has not been a factor. Creating a mountain bike trail on this vacant piece of park property has been a real plus for the bikers, as well as the park system.

Trash, illegal dumping and hunting plagued this piece of property until its rebirth as a mountain bicycle trail. Now, not only is it used for bicyclists and walkers, it is an additional area that is used by the Rum Village Nature Center staff for school visits.

Comments on the trail have been very positive from neighbors and bicyclists. It has been a real help to park employees to have the NIMBA members regularly police the trails for trash and debris. What was once an eyesore has been converted into a real asset for the community as well as the department.

NIMBA is to be complimented on a job well done in the development of this recreation area. In addition, NIMBA is to be recognized on their continuing commitment of cleaning and improving the trail. I'm sure the residents of the Rum Village area appreciate it. The South Bend Parks and Recreation Department certainly does!

**Betsy Harriman**  
12/17/96

***Rum Village Pathway  
Opening Day 1996***



Jim Tuthill inflates Mayor Joe's tire

**SHIMANO  
ACTION HEROES**

**HELP IMBA PRESERVE  
TRAIL ACCESS**

***Auction of 14 Mountain Bike  
Racer Dolls Benefits  
Trail Advocacy***

Fourteen custom Shimano Action Hero mountain bike racer dolls will be auctioned this winter to raise money for trails advocacy and the work of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). Mountain bike racing teams, racers, fans, collectors, and IMBA supporters are invited to post written bids to purchase one or more of these unique resin dolls. All proceeds from this auction, which closes March 15, 1997, will be used to establish the IMBA-Shimano Action Heroes Fund, which will recognize and support IMBA-affiliated clubs who are going above and beyond the call of duty to preserve and improve trail access for cyclists.

Each 22-inch-tall Shimano Action Hero was designed and built of solid modeling resin by Propworks, a Seattle-based company that specializes in movie props. The cost of creating each figure was \$3,000. The dolls, which were featured in

a recent Shimano national ad campaign, were designed to highlight the personality quirks, significant life events, appearance and mannerisms of top international mountain bike racers such as Juli Furtado, Thomas Frischknecht, Ruthie Matthes, Paola Pezzo, Sara Balantyne and Don Myrah. Eight other Action Hero figures were featuring Toby Henderson, Tim Gould, Dave Cullinan, Beat Walbel, Kirt Voreis, Marla Streb, Leigh Donovan, and Pete Loncarevich.

Typical of the breed is the "Toby Hollywood Henderson with Head Swelling Action" doll, which was inspired by downhill and dual slalom specialist Henderson's reputation as a man with abundant confidence. Olympic champion Pezzo, who shaped a strong fashion statement as she pedaled to victory in Atlanta, is immortalized as a Marilyn Monroe-esque "Paola Paparazzi Pezzo."

Shimano's donation of these Action Hero dolls is one part of its multi-faceted support for IMBA. Shimano is an IMBA Industry Member and a primary sponsor of the inaugural IMBA National Mountain Bike Advocacy Summit that was held earlier this year in Arizona.

## MBA Swap Meet

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, March 2**

**Turners American South Bend**  
**53666 Ironwood Road**

The Action Hero auction is open to everyone. Bids should be sent, faxed, or e-mailed to IMBA, P.O. Box 7578, Boulder, CO 80306 (phone: 303-545-9011; fax: 303-545-9026; e-mail: imba@aol.com). No bids will be accepted after 2 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, March 15, 1997. IMBA will track bids and notify the winners.

IMBA and Shimano hope this auction inspires the mountain bike community to show its support for IMBA and trails advocacy. The goal is to create an auction that rewards the highest bidders and the volunteers who are making sure that mountain bikers everywhere

have plenty of places to enjoy the sport.

IMBA, a non-profit international advocacy organization, works to keep trails open and in top condition for everyone.

### Donate Your Bike Parts for Trail Access

The Michiana Bicycle Association (MBA) holds an annual swap meet where bike stuff is bought and sold. NIMBA will have a table and will sell any parts you donate in order to make money for our trail access efforts.

There are two ways to donate your parts. (1) Bring them to Turners, find the NIMBA table and drop them off, then go do some shopping of your own. (2) Call Jim Tuthill at 219 264-3556 (Elkhart Number) and he will arrange a way of collecting them. Sorry, we don't have any NIMBA part donor decals for your tool box.

### Thanksgiving Day Ride

Precisely in excess of about 2 dozen riders showed up for the Thanksgiving Day event at Rum Village Pathway. It was cold, and the trail was frozen dirt... about like 80 grit sandpaper, according to a survey conducted on the spot. This made traction unbelievably good. People rode in small groups of 2 to 4 and generally reported that the ride was a success. Certainly the cold temperature cut down on that one person in your group who is always stopping to adjust this or that causing everyone else to wait. Special thanks goes to Steve Miller for his riding direction leadership.