



Photo: Brian Snyder

Kids seem to most enjoy JORBAFest ... but we're ALL kids, right?

Volume 1, Issue 7

June 2010

Third Annual JORBAFest: Bigger and Better in 2010

By Bob Birmingham



Photo: Luke Kelly

Always a big draw, the Skinny Contest attracts all ages and sizes

This year's JORBAFest moved from Fall to Spring, and we all agree it was a good move. The weather was great, trail conditions were excellent for riding, and with over 900 people attending this year's fest, it was apparent that they too agreed.

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The lineup of attractions for this year's fest included:

- Guided trail rides in Allamuchy, Deer Park and Stephens State Park for all skill levels
- Raffles! - From bikes to parts and accessories, there were LOTS of great prizes raffled, thanks to our generous sponsors, donors, and especially to Swag Czar Mark Perez for his relentless pursuit of great merchandise from a wide range of sponsors.
- Skinny Contest, featuring a new, challenging layout
- Skills clinics for all ages, offered by Cycleworks bike shop owner, John Nicholson
- Demos galore! The crews from Giant, Jamis and Trek were on hand, offering dozens of the latest demo bikes to test ride.
- Lots of kid-friendly "stuff", including rides, face painting and even a bouncy castle
- Another appearance by "Human Vice" Pat Povilaitis
- Food Drive for the Food Bank of NJ
- SwapFest - our first annual bicycle swap-meet
- Adult Goof Race - Yes, grown adults racing laps on tiny BMX bikes... This may become a new favorite!



Photo: Frank Harms

JORBA President Frank Harms talkin smack at the starting line.

The best way to share JORBAFest is through pictures, and it's obvious from the pictures that this year's Fest was (again) a big success. All this could NOT have happened, however without the great leadership of this organization, beginning with our Executive Director, Jeff Mergler, President, Frank Harms the JORBA Board, but most of all, Karen Workman and her huge team of volunteers. Karen planned, and coordinated all the volunteers like a musical maestro in charge of a 100-piece orchestra; it was her tireless work and attention to detail that made it possible for people to simply show up and have a rip-roarin' great time at the 2010 JORBAFest. BRAVO, and THANK YOU, KAREN!

Ride / Fest Videos:

Courtesy of Ellen White:

<http://gallery.me.com/ellenandart#100350>

<http://gallery.me.com/ellenandart#100338>

Courtesy of Dan Matthews:

<http://gallery.me.com/dan.matthews#100191>



Photo: Woody

The Rides are for all ages and abilities; EVERYONE rides; NO rider left behind



Photo: Woody

The Rides are the perennial favorite at JORBAFest; Washington Valley Chapter Lead, Kirt Mills leads a group



Photo: Luke Kelly

Annual crowd-pleaser the "Human Vise" was taking no prisoners this year



Photo: Brian Snyder

Vendor / sponsors were out in force this year, offering dozens of bikes to demo



Photo: Brian Snyder

GREAT food this year... If you left hungry it was your OWN fault!



Photos: Bob Birmingham



SwapFest: Plenty-o-swappin, sellin and buyin.



Photo: Euphoria

Everybody wanted in on the fun; Adult Goof Race (Check out Jeff Mergler trash-talkin')



Photo: Luke Kelly

Frank Harms, "safety test run" (DON'T ask about the next photo in the sequence)

Mountain Bike Festival
JORBA
 Waterloo Village Concert Field, Stanhope, NJ

Saturday, June 5, 2010 9am-5pm (rain date June 6)
FREE & Fun Event!!!!

- Allamuchy State Park Rides
 - *Guided Tours of Allamuchy, Deer Park & Stephens State Park
- HUGE Raffle of Four Bicycles, Bicycle Equipment and Services Generously Donated By Our Sponsors
- Swap Fest (check out the festival website for details)
- Ride Demo *Giant, Jamis and Trek* Bicycles!
- Adult Goof Race by Cycleworks
- Ride the Pump Track!
- Mountain Bike Skills Clinics
- Group Rides for All Skill Levels
 - Kids Rides
 - First Timers
 - Novice
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced

Want to be a sponsor? More info? Visit:
<http://bikefest.jorba.org>
 Help out other Americans in Need!
 Please bring a box of pasta, canned goods or a bag of rice for the Food Bank of New Jersey

For Safety's Sake, Helmets must be worn!

GIANT **TREK** **THOMSON**
JAMIS BICYCLES

Food Provided By: **Hometown Rest** **Café BBQ** **Jay's Diner**

Garmin **High Point** **Princeton Tac**

Impressive lineup of sponsors and activities marked this year's Fest

JORBA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Donations to JORBA are tax-deductible

Visit us at www.jorba.org

P.O. Box 673, Princeton Junction, NJ
 JORBA is New Jersey's IMBA affiliated organization

**Mailing Address:**

JORBA
PO Box 673
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Board Officers

President: Frank Harms
Vice Pres: Norm Albrecht
Co-Treasurers: Mick Tormey and Kevin Stout
Secretary: Ellen White

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Pay Dirt Admin: Kevin Stout, Ellen White
Web Admin: A team of nerdy geeks
Grants Admin: Mick Tormey
Government Liaison: Wally Tunison

Development Committee (Responsibilities include Membership, Newsletters, Promotions and Industry Relations)

Ferdie Araga, Maryanne Surowiec, Lisa Fortunato, Bob Birmingham, and Ken Seebeck

Parks:

Allaire: Contact: Frank Harms
Allamuchy: Contact: Bob Workman
Bald Pate: Contact: Kevin Stout
Cherry Hill: Contact: Jay Jones
Jungle Habitat: Contact: Jeff Mergler
Kittatinny Valley: teambulldog at jorba.org
Mercer County Park: Contact: Mick Tormey
Monmouth County Parks: Contact: Brian Snyder
Morris County Parks: Contact: Norm Albrecht
Ringwood, Ramapo: Contact: Art White
Round Valley: Contact: Bob Adase
Six Mile Run: Contact: Jason Pace
Sourland Mtn Preserve: Contact: Jeff Drobits
Washington Valley Park: Contact: Kirt Mills
Wawayanda: Contact: Jeff Stickle
Wildcat WMA: Contact: Norm Albrecht
Wharton State Forest: Contact: Kurt Widmaier

Director's Cut – from the Executive Director

It's a wrap! With 900+ people attending and smiles all around, JORBA's 3rd Annual Bike Fest and Swap Meet was another fine achievement and a bonafide success for JORBA and its volunteers!

The Fest will be covered heavily in this edition of the Dirt, and deservedly so, so I want to limit my remarks and let the rest of the Dirt describe the day. But allow me take a moment to indicate my personal thoughts on the day and give out some sincere thank-yous to those who took part.

One of the best parts of the Fest is simply meeting new people and seeing old friends again. With everyone's busy schedules these days, sometimes it's hard to keep in touch with people and the fest is a great way to catch up and get a ride in with an old or a new riding buddy! The other great thing about the fest is seeing the parents and kids out together and loving their bikes. Hands down, one of the proudest things about the fest each year is seeing the kids come out to have a good time on the rides and to compete in the skinny contest. What a hoot to see them enjoying our sport as much (or more) as we do. We can only hope that some of these kids will continue riding and their passion will carry them into the role of JORBA volunteers.

Another great part is the group rides. Our ride leaders try very hard to make sure everyone has an enjoyable ride and gets back to the festival area safe and sound. From what I heard, this was achieved. In addition, the first SwapFest was well-received with over 20 people bring bikes and parts to sell. I would like to see SwapFest become an annual event.

Finally, I want express how much fun we have seeing old and new friends and how much we enjoy giving away swag and bicycles at the raffle. We gave away 4 bikes this year and we were thrilled to do it.

Now onto the thank you wishes to the people that made this fest happen:

First of all I want to thank our sponsors for donating money, swag and their time to the event. Between the local shops adding a little zaniness to the day (*did you see that goof race?*) and the bike manufacturers that let us borrow their bikes for the day, you all make the event what it is... a day of riding, giveaways and demos. Thank you for your participation! I hope that you felt your day was well spent and worthwhile.

Second, I want to thank the orange-shirted volunteers that made the day happen and made the day's event go off without a hitch. If you volunteered at the fest, please understand that we couldn't do this without you. If you took out trash, worked a table, led or swept a ride or did anything else for us, "thank you thank you thank you" for spending your day making this Fest virtually without flaw!

Third, I want to thank the Bike Fest Committee for putting in 6 months of organizational work to make the Fest the well-oiled machine it was. Marc Perez did a stellar job lining up sponsors and swag, Bob Workman organized the rides and leaders, Brian Snyder was volunteer master, Bob Birmingham did a splendid job running the Bike Swap, Frank Harms provided ample entertainment all day long, and Karen Workman was the über-whip (keeping us in line and pointing us in the right direction). The high degree of organization was really the hallmark of Karen, who had a tight grip on all facets of the event and stored an amazing level of detail in her magic Bike Fest Binder!

Finally, on behalf of JORBA, we hope that everyone who came out to the Bike Fest had a good time. Suffice to say, we tried very hard to make it a memorable day for you and your family and we hope that we achieved that!

IMBA Mountain Biking Summit

On May 5-7, 3 JORBA representatives drove down to Augusta, GA to attend the IMBA World Mountain Biking Summit. This is a biennial event that IMBA throws in order to gather advocates from around the country and the world to share ideas and learn from each other in a conference format.

For JORBA, Bob Workman (Allamuchy), Marc Perez (Bike Fest Committee, Dickerson Mine) and I piled into my Toyota with 6 bikes on board and made the 15-hour drive to Augusta. On the way we stopped off in North Carolina and rode some great trails in Pisgah, Bent Creek and Dupont State Forest, all in the Brevard area. We also rode on a privately owned pump and jump track in Asheville that was very well done. At first I thought that the uphill pumps would be a problem but eventually you get the hang of it.



Asheville Pump Track

After some big climbs in NC we moved onto the summit in Augusta. This was 2.5 days of break out sessions on a variety of topics, such as Getting started with Bike Parks, Bike Park Maintenance, Insurance and Risk, Latest Trail Building Science and User Impact, Dealing with Rogue Trail Building. Although we felt that most of the breakouts had a few important take-away nuggets I believe all 3 of us wish there were fewer actual sessions and yet a little bit more details in each. In addition, there were always 3 sessions going on at once so it was typical that you'd want to attend at least two of them. At night, there was always a dinner and an event (movie night, pump track opening, and music). In fact, Augusta opened up their beautiful new Pump Track in the middle of a disc golf course. The 3 of us hung out there for 2-3 hours with the builder of the track and a couple of folks from IMBA (including Tammy Donahue, who rips).



Augusta Pump Track

Photos: jeff mergler

To sum up our experience, we learned a lot of solid information and made some industry and fellow advocate contacts that will be important in the future. The 3 of us also represented NJ in the IMBA World Congress and hopefully helped shape the growth and improvement of IMBA in the next 5-10 years. This was indeed time well spent and I personally intend to be at the next summit 2 years hence wherever IMBA decides to hold it. It was fun to be around like-minded souls who love this sport and who are making a difference in their neck of the woods. We can always learn something from these people.

Happy Trails,

Jeff Mergler
Executive Director

From Design to Dedication in 10 Weeks: NJ's First Public Pump Track Opens in Alexandria Twp

by Bob Birmingham

On the afternoon of June 5th, immediately following JORBAFest, the Township of Alexandria held its Annual Community Day celebration, which included the official dedication and opening of NJ's first public pump track, an impressive 5000 square foot stacked loop track tucked away in a remote section towards the rear of Alexandria park. Sponsored by JORBA and constructed by a team of volunteers led by JORBA Park Leader Bob Adase, the pump track required several dozen tons of dirt, use of heavy earth-moving machinery and hundreds of hours from several dozen volunteers.



Birdseye view – Alexandria Pump Track, just prior to Opening Day

Nearly a year earlier, Milford Twp resident (and JORBA Round Valley chapter lead) Bob Adase conceived the idea

of building a pump track in Alexandria Park, a sprawling, scenic, multiple-use recreational facility that serves as a community centerpiece for this semi-rural town nestled in the hills of Hunterdon County. Bob, his wife Jenny and several JORBA friends developed a well-conceived proposal and met several times with township and park officials over the next few months, where they successfully convinced the town to allow construction of a pump track in the park.

Bob received final approval in the Winter of 2010, and immediately established an aggressive goal of breaking ground in Spring, and completing construction of the track in less than 10 weeks, all in time for the June 5th Community Day celebration. This would not be an easy task.

Fortunately Bob had done his homework, and engaged the right people on the project, from township officials, parks & recreation workers, to JORBA members and friends, some of whom already had hands-on experience constructing pump tracks. Bob himself had constructed his very own pump track in his back yard several months earlier, and had gained valuable insight as to how to properly space the dirt rollers (mounds), and how to properly pitch the track to allow for drainage.

Bob served as chief designer and project manager, and with the help of two local riders, Professional Mountain Biker Lars Tribus and Doug Lozowski, the team laid out a design consisting of a rectangular outer (main) loop and a more advanced inner figure-8 loop. The end result was a track that even beginners (with minimal training and practice) can easily propel themselves around without pedalling: In fact, within days of opening, riders were completing as many as 50 laps around the track WITHOUT PEDALLING! Now THAT is one efficient pump track design!

I had a chance to participate in an early work session, before any dirt had been dumped on-site, when the track consisted of little more than orange lines and flags marking up an empty field of tall grass. With only a few lines painted on the grass, admittedly it was difficult to even imagine what the pump track would look like. Within a few days, however, Alexandria Public Works had dumped many tons of dirt into carefully aligned piles that would eventually be sculpted into the finished track surface, and the track began to take shape. This is where the work became very manual-intensive. Teams of volunteers used a variety of hand tools; shovels, pick-axes, rakes and tampers to move, sculpt and pack dirt into rolling mounds under the direction of track

designers, Bob, Doug and Lars.

Bob Workman, JORBA Allamuchy Chapter Lead transported JORBA's Ditch Witch down to Alexandria, where he sculpted several of the big berms, an art he had worked at perfecting on the berms of Allamuchy's "Lumpy Bumpy" trail.



JORBA TopGun BW with #1 Tool



JORBA Trail Weapons of Mass Construction

It's amazing how much progress a team can make once they set their minds to completing a task. Here again credit goes to Bob Adase for sticking closely to his plan, and for skillfully leveraging the steady stream of volunteers who showed up almost daily for several weeks, as well as the generous donors to the project (who made both cash and in-kind donations of materials and services). JORBA was the primary sponsor and donor, and the township of Alexandria also lent their support, including much-needed fill (dirt),

Photos: Bob Adase

JORBA 2010 Ride Series

By Maryanne Surowiec

New for 2010, we have JORBA's organized ride series! These rides that bring together riders of different skill levels are great opportunities for you to learn a new park without the fear of getting lost or left behind, and with a witty, laid-back group of people who do not mind if you fumble on a climb, you will feel no pressure. Your guides know what each park has to offer, which direction trails flow best, and what features you will love. Our ride series explores varying terrain from beginner-friendly to extreme, allowing you to see how much New Jersey truly has to offer. Thus far, we are having a ton of fun and exceeding our expectations!

The Rides:

Stepping back in time, Wharton, the first ride of our series is cancelled on March 12th because of rain (rescheduled for November 12th). Oh no! What does this omen mean? As it turns out, it means absolutely nothing! We have since been able to experience a bit of Warm Puppy at Ringwood, attack some hills at Baldpate, test our skills on the Three Amigos at Sourlands, and discover bike polo at our Clayton ride and barbeque. And to think this is only the beginning of things to come during the upcoming year!

April 18, 2010

**Ringwood State Park, Bergen and Passaic Counties
4,044 Acres, 40+ Miles of Rocky, Technical Trails
Ride Leaders: Art and Ellen White**

Today is a brisk day as we prepare to be led around the beautifully groomed trails of Ringwood (yup, Art, Ellen, and friends groomed the trails themselves). I am not good at guessing games, but I *guess* we have about 25 maniacal cyclists ready to climb, hop, and fumble over some rocks, and superman into streams.

Initially our larger group divides into two groups. As our first group enters the trails, Capers immediately busts something on his bike. Grrrr!! Life must go on and since he is a capable being, we ride right past him (don't worry – if someone really needs help, we will help), proceeding to begin our ride. We stop frequently to redo climbs and play in rock gardens. Although the entire loop is astounding, Warm Puppy Rock deserves special attention. It is as if each rock on this trail has a purpose (duh, of course they do) and has been strategically placed to create impeccable flow, knowing that serious mountain bikers will ride and judge this trail harshly (it passes with flying colors).

[Continued on Page 9, Ride Series](#)

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as well as use of Public Works equipment and personnel for the heavy earth-moving.

Additionally local volunteers brought in their own personal equipment, including power tampers to help make the sculpting and finishing work go much faster than if performed by hand.

I saw first-hand how the community of Alexandria responded to and embraced the pump track. Kids began showing up on bikes weeks before the track was really ready to ride. They were so excited, and often begged Bob A to allow them to test out sections of the track that were at least rideable. Parents came by to watch and ask questions. A noticeable buzz began to pick up as the same kids would be seen more than a few times hangin around the track, some volunteering to help; others just looking to see how things were progressing.

Once the initial outer loop was finished, things really started to heat up. Several skilled local riders, including Lars Tribus, and newcomer Dean Watson (from the Effinger's BMX Team) began putting on demonstrations that quickly found their way on to YouTube, and the buzz continued to grow.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBulUxtiEgQ&feature=player_embedded

By the time the opening ceremony rolled around, the locals had logged many hours of riding on the track, and some even complained that the track was already getting worn-in! If the measure of pump track's success is wear and tear, the Alexandria track was a hit before it even opened.

At the opening ceremony I jumped up on the roof of the supply shed next to the track, and it took very little to convince the riders on hand to all line up and form a giant convoy around the track, I caught it on video.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=API9XagFsQo&feature=player_embedded#

The result speaks for itself. With little more than just an idea (less than a year ago), Bob Adase and his team of volunteers have created a fantastic pumptrack that is free and open for all to use, and along the way has demonstrated the JORBA philosophy of leading by example, rolling up your sleeves, and engaging the local community. BRAVO, Bob, you DID IT!!! Congratulations (and thanks to all the volunteers and donors who helped to make this happen). A special thanks to JORBA, especially Bob Workman for his skills

and leadership, to Jason Fenton and Halter's Cycle for a most generous donation to the track, to Doug, Lars, Tommy, Pat, Brett and so many others who invested many hours bringing this to life.

For more information, including tons of photos showing the track at various stages of completion, videos, a list of sponsors, and a link to make donations, kindly visit the Alexandria PumpTrack page hosted on the JORBA web site at:

http://www2.jorba.org/index.php?title=Alexandria_Pump_Track



Opening Day – Bob A at center

Photos: Bob Adase



Finn

Like father, like son...

Lars



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After our first loop, we meet up with the other group to do a victory lap, hitting Warm Puppy for a second time. As we are nearing the end of our ride, we approach a rock bridge over a stream. If memory serves me right, the rock is about 2 feet wide by 5 feet long, with a tree growing rather close to it. From a distance, I see people walking or riding over the bridge, brushing said tree. At this moment, our one and only Brian hits the eject button, launching off his bike, nosediving into the stream of COLD water. Ooooh...that must suck, but it is certainly funny for all of us! Luckily a marine is always prepared for anything, including spontaneous dampness; the change of clothes is in his car.

Upon returning to the lot, some folks already left. So sad, ☹ as I wanted to say good-bye to them and talk about the ride. Our remaining group is ravenous (well, I sure am) so we wander just over the border into New York for lunch. The food is pretty darn scrumptious and the company is entertaining. In the future, if you ever get back to the lot early, relax, chill, WAIT! It is more or less a guarantee that we will have a post-ride party of some sort and by missing out on the party, you are missing out on food, drinks, and laughs.

May 2, 2010
Baldpate Mountain, Mercer County
1,800 Acres, 10 Miles of Rocky, Technical Trails
Ride Leader: Kevin Stout



We had a BIG Turnout for the Baldpate Ride

I thought May 1st was the hottest day ever as I rode through Deer Park, stopping frequently to swim and whine about the heat, and then came May 2nd, the hottest day ever. My drive to Baldpate is a surprisingly pleasant one; it is shorter than I imagined, and I pass a parcel of land with beautiful horses on it (yeah, yeah... AKA a farm). I expect about 12 riders to turn up for this ride, but to my surprise, our pre-ride headcount reaches 24. Well, that's just groovy!

I have never ridden Baldpate, but I quickly learn that you are either descending or climbing. After a few descents and a hefty climb, we make our way to a grassy field with a stunning view of the countryside. Are we really still in New Jersey? After enough rest and baking in the sun, we move on. Next up: some easier dirt roads, a steep and loose rocky descent (Mitchie goes a\$\$ over bars), more climbing, and then a trail not suitable for horses. This can only mean one thing: this trail is very suitable for mountain bikers! I take off down the trail, riding down one set of rock steps after another. Whew! That was a blast, but there are only five people with me at this point. So what do we do? We cross a little troll bridge that sends us over to Washington Crossing Park for a quick bonus loop. Washington Crossing is a faster park with subtle climbs in comparison and fun logs to hop. Zoom, zoom, zoom, and we are back at the troll bridge already? We spend the remaining miles climbing and sweating, making our way back to the parking lot where I learned the rest of the group took a detour to climb up the trail not suitable for horses. Now that's just crazy.

Did someone say EZ-Up? It is the perfect post-ride hideaway from the sun where we, yes, we, eat pretzels and drink cold beer. Something is happening to me; my taste buds are savoring this delectable beer. Could this be the final transition towards turning Mare into a hardcore mountain biker? No, that would be hopping over those pesky logs, but it seems biking and beer *do* go hand in hand, especially when it is from our local River Horse Brewing Company. Yum!

May 15, 2010
Sourland Mountain Preserve, Somerset County
3,197 Acres, 15 Miles of ROCKY Trails
Ride Leader: Jeff Drobits



Who's Afraid of Big Bad Sourland? NOT US!!!

I expect a meager crowd, assuming the boulders will be discouraging, but I feel a surge of happiness as I drive up to see the parking lot already full. These marshmallow peeps are afraid of nothing! I am late, I spend too long searching for my socks, and I need air in my tires. Oh boy...I hate being the one to hold things up, but here I am doing exactly that.

This ride starts off the same as every other ride with everyone gathering for a group picture then warming up through the trails. Fun, eh? Moving along, we find a big tree down and some of the more experienced fanatics hop it. I just talk sh!t. Next we find big rocks and then the big rocks turn into big boulders. No, silly, they don't actually metamorphosize before our eyes; it's my way of saying we come across progressively larger rocks. Before we know it, we are on the Three Amigos trail, one that must be ridden to be fully appreciated. It has multiple lines to choose, ranging from less technical (if you are comfortable on smaller rocks, you can try this) to boulders and rock lines that require considerable skill, making it appealing for riders of all levels.

What can I say about the rest of the ride? Things get extremely technical, some show off their wicked skills, some crash, I continue to talk sh!t, and we capture an awful lot of the day on video (yes, you can see the videos online). We arrive back at our cars with only minor abrasions, which implies the day is a tremendous success! This group managed to stick together well, had a ton of personality, and we had one of the best rides ever! I mean, what would you expect? Put a bunch of cool bikers in the woods and it's a recipe for fun.

May 31, 2010
Clayton Park, Monmouth County
421 Acres, 6 Miles of Easy, Beginner Friendly Trails
Ride Leader: Maryanne Surowiec



Every good ride deserves good BBQ...

JORBA welcomed summer with style at our Memorial Day Ride and BBQ at Clayton Park including tons of delicious food, smiles, laughter, Bike Polo, and even some riding in the woods.

Our ride instantaneously turns into a “play on everything” ride. Between logs and jumps, we break the record for the length of time it takes to complete a lap at Clayton, but we are able to grind down a good 2 inches off of any log presenting itself to us. Playtime is abruptly halted purely because of growling bellies. Meandering back to the parking lot, we unveil grills, burgers, chips, veggies, a plethora of watermelons, and of course Brian’s sausages (I did say a marine is always prepared for anything). Although we do not have hoppity hops this year, Bike Polo seems to be a smashing hit! In between platefuls of food, players swing their mallets feverishly resulting in one taced wheel and immeasurable entertaining crashes. This zany game, which is evidently the new craze, can also be seen in videos and pictures online.

We finished up none too soon, loading up our bikes just as a thunderstorm rolled in. A big thanks to all for attending our Memorial Day FunDay, and of course to every leader, sweeper, and participant involved with all of our rides thus far. You are all helping to make this year a great success!



Bike Polo... Obviously not for wimps...

Conclusion:

Each park offers different terrain, setting different paces and creating unique stories for each escapade, but there does seem to be a recurring theme here: **we are all having a ton of fun!** If you missed any of these rides, don't fret... just join us on an upcoming ride:

Continued on next page

Ride Series Dates:

July 17 th	Hartshorne Woods Park & Pool Party (Bring a dish to share)
July 31 st	Allaire State Park and Mexican
October 9 th	Allamuchy State Park and Nosh
October 16 th	Six Mile Run
November 12 th	Wharton State Forest Night Ride

Departure times and additional info available at www.jorba.org

This time of year can bring some powerful thunderstorms that can dump a ton of rain in a very short time. Please be mindful of the trail conditions:

http://www2.jorba.org/index.php?title=Trail_Conditions

Email Mare at mare@jorba.org or check our website for more details and updates.

A Special Thank You to Jason Fenton & Halter's Cycles

JORBA would like to acknowledge Jason (aka JDog) for his recent \$2000 donation to JORBA.

Many of you know Jason as the owner/operator of Halter's Cycles <http://www.halterscycles.com/>, one of the premier bike shops in New Jersey. You also probably know Jason for the work that he and his JORBA partner Jason Pace continue to lead at Six Mile Run State Park, transforming it into a truly prime NJ mountain biking destination.

Jason shared his thoughts with Jeff Mergler about JORBA's mission: "I believe in JORBA and its mission, that's why I'm supporting them with this donation. I'd like to challenge other shops and bike manufacturers to do the same, by matching (or even exceeding) my donation."

We (JORBA) appreciate your generosity, but most important your commitment to JORBA's mission, and we too call upon our commercial industry partners and friends, bike shops and manufacturers to strongly consider supporting their local clubs, statewide advocacy organizations and IMBA through volunteerism and monetary support at a level of your choosing.. Thank you for this reminder.

And thank you, Jason for you love of cycling, for being a strong leader for cycling advocacy, and for your continuing support of JORBA's mission.

Upcoming Events, Meetings & Miscellaneous Dirt

JORBA needs you!

JORBA is in constant need of volunteers at every level. Work, household chores, family responsibilities, social obligations – it's hard enough to fit in a ride, let alone find time for building trails. However, if you are unable to make it to monthly trail maintenance, there are lots of other options for giving back to the sport we love. Fortunately, many of them don't involve traveling any farther than your computer. Here are some of the skills we are in search of:

- **Newsletter Editor:** for our somewhat regular newsletter, the Dirt. Our current editor, Montclair Bobby B, who's also working as a liaison to NJ Bicycle Coalition and the Bike Ped. Coordinator for JORBA, would like to work with a new person who is interested in taking on newsletter editor responsibilities. BB will carry on until that time, train the new editor and make the transition as smooth as glass. If you're interested please contact us at development@jorba.org.
- **Reporters:** for our super-informative, witty, somewhat regular newsletter. We need your help gathering content, generating ideas and creating articles for "The Dirt". One specific need is a "Beat" Reporter who can interview the park reps for ongoing happenings and interesting tidbits at the parks. (Contact development@jorba.org)
- **Grant Researchers:** We need people to monitor grant sources by scanning the internet for bicycle or trail related grant opportunities. Our main source of Grant money is the RTP program, but we do need additional sources for bike park projects, trail marking, equipment, etc. from other grant sources.
- **Trips for Kids Coordinator:** We're seeking a coordinator to run a Trips For Kids Program <http://www.tripsforkids.org/national/howtojoin.htm> You would act on behalf of JORBA as a sub-chapter of TFK Metro NY Chapter (<http://www.tfkmetrony.org>). Trips For Kids is a non-profit organization that provides mountain biking outings and environmental education for kids who would not otherwise be exposed to such activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at development@jorba.org.

Please support our JORBA as we work to maintain our access at parks throughout the state. With your help we were able to log over 5900 volunteer hours in 2009 and we are setting our sights even higher for 2010.

Here are some of the upcoming trail maintenance dates. Start times and other detailed information are available on www.jorba.org.

July 1st	Ringwood
July 6th	Jungle Habitat
July 11	South Mtn, Bald Pate, Six Mile
July 17	Allamuchy, Lewis Morris, Mercer
July 18	Allaire
July 24	Sourland
July 25	Bald Pate

Remember, JORBA continues to grow and we need your support more than ever.

You dig? We do!

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at allaire@jorba.org and please pass this e-mail on to your friends and riding buddies.

Sincerely,

Frank Harms

JORBA President



Frank Harms, welcoming guests to JORBAFest

JORBA Sponsors

JORBA thanks its sponsors for their continued support and hopes that you will, too, by supporting them.

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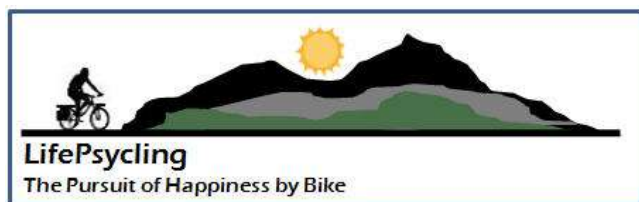
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INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

Clean Fill



Building Perfect Beasts, Bike'n Brew Rides, and Bikes-for-Birms

What? Three stories that all begin with the letter B? Wow, let me put my pajamas on, this MUST be a BB Bedtime story... OK, just relax, they're all short and they carry the following important messages:

- "Life IS better when you ride bikes"
- "Rediscover life's simple pleasures"
- "Give the gift of bicycling to others"

Building Perfect Beasts

Over the past two years (*during my just-turned-50-mid-life-crisis phase*), I have rediscovered the joys of building/restoring and riding what I believe to be the ultimate bikes. It started, oddly enough on my 49th birthday, when I set aside a fair chunk of change to build myself a "tribute bike" for my 50th birthday... you know, the equivalent of a mid-life crisis Harley, except a bicycle...a veritable monument to myself that I thought would represent my true persona. But after some really DEEP soul-searching and a few experimental attempts at finding the ultimate bike, including discussing custom build options with Richard Schwinn at Waterford Precision Cycles (*who, by the way is the grandson of my all-time bicycle hero, Frank Schwinn*), I came to an altogether different realization. My perfect bike (*strangely enough*) isn't actually a bike. Instead, my "perfect bike" turned out to be MANY bikes, many great rides and many great moments. Searching for "the" perfect bike made me realize that I could never be truly happy owning just one bike (no matter how awesome it was), while conversely I could never live with myself owning too many bikes; after all, no bike should go unriden. Instead, I realize that while a perfect bike alone won't make me happy, living a rich, biking lifestyle DOES...

So fast-forward two years or so, through a few experimental bikes, after which I find myself with more new and used bike frames and spare parts than I know what to do with. But I have at least settled on a most awesome bike, following a painstaking weeding-out process. I settled on a Salsa Fargo, an all-terrain uber

touring 29er that I have aptly named "The Land Beast". I think this comes close to being the perfect bike (if there were such a thing). It rolls over everything in its path with ease, is comfortable for long rides, and feels like a high-tech super-duper paperboy cruiser. At the same time I also converted my old Giant ATX 770 into a commuter with fat slicks (dubbed it "Big White Boy") and gave it to my eldest brother (I've got 5 more bros and 3 sisters)...

And since I always had a thing for mid-80s mountain bikes, especially lugged Stumpjumpers, I started combing eBay for used ones in nice condition. Before I knew it I had an impressive collection of vintage Stumpies, Rockhoppers and a Trek, plus enough vintage parts to build up a mutant army of Klassic Klunker Kommuters. I'd also like to think that my 25 years of mountain biking and road-commuting experience has honed my tastes where I know both what works well and what LOOKS good.

Deep down I remain a recovering garage sale junkie, and I love hunting for hidden treasures. In seeking out vintage bikes, I occasionally run across a rare gem. For example I recently bought a beautiful 1983 Stumpjumper frameset on eBay. And I have to digress for just a moment to tell you a quick side-story. I was recently reading about a chef from Santa Barbara, CA named Tim Neenan, who despite having a successful career in the culinary arts, decided in 2009 (*at around the age of 60*) that he wanted to focus on bicycle frame-building. If you visit the site of Tim's custom bicycle manufacturing company, Lighthouse Cycles (<http://www.lighthousecycles.com/>) you may find it surprising that Tim actually builds an amazingly beautiful and well-crafted bike, commands \$2000 and up for each frame and places his signature on every frame.

But then again there's something I haven't told you about Tim. Before he became a chef, Tim was already a well-known master frame-builder. In fact back in the early 80s he was approached by a guy who needed help with his fledgling new company, called Specialized Bicycle Imports at the time. That guy was Mike Sinyard, the company today is known simply as Specialized, and one of the bikes Tim designed for Mike was called the Stumpjumper... the same Stumpjumper that sits in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, and the same Stumpjumper that I picked up on eBay, which (*like his custom bikes*) bears Tim's signature. As a matter of fact, I read that Tim's signature appeared only on the first production batch of Stumpjumpers, and therefore this one must be one from the initial production run of 1982!



All Photos: Bob Birmingham

Not just a Stumpy...A Tim Neenan Stumpy

The Bike n Brew Rides

A few months ago I started taking my other favorite Stumpjumper (*a 1985 lugged beauty with vintage components, a Brooks B17 saddle and Schwalbe Big Apple tires*) out for leisure twilight rides in my neighborhood, often returning after dark (with my generator hub lighting up the way home). Along the way I rediscovered a local pub in town with an awesome selection of beers, plus it's the perfect distance (about 6-7 miles away) making for a nice twilight ride on my classic steed. Soon I was making this a regular outing... What I really enjoyed about these rides was that I never felt like riding at a hammer pace; I always took it slowly, savoring every pedal-stroke, soaking in the scenery of my town that I learned to appreciate more and more on the seat of a bike. But even more than that, this reminded me of the bike rides I took with my brother, Bill as a kid... just to be out and pedalling around the town of Montclair, where I grew up.

There are things in this world that are meant to be savored: riding beautiful bicycles, drinking good beer and enjoying good food. And actually these things go quite well together. Now while I'm NOT advocating riding a bicycle while impaired, I do strongly believe that the combination of a well-selected scenic ride, great food, great people and awesome beer... there are few things on the planet that can match this. And thus I have embarked on a mission (beginning right in my own back yard) to discover some of the best pub rides in the greater NJ area, where the full experience of riding a superbe bike is matched only by a truly killer beer selection (on tap) at a pub that is accessible by a lightly traveled route. (*The Rocky Hill Inn, a short pedal from the D&R Canal Towpath along Route 518 in Rocky Hill, has become my perennial local favorite,*

although I'm really only just getting started, and I know I'll find places that will easily rival or exceed this place).

My ride begins with a scenic ramble over several neighborhood paths and gravel trails, through beautiful Montgomery Park, over the Mill Pond boardwalk trail and across the Campbell Farm, where the trail terminates at River Road. There's a short burst of pretty, if not slightly dangerous riding along this road, to a less-travelled short-cut down to Rocky Hill.

The Rocky Hill Inn features no fewer than a dozen great beers on tap, and an equal number of bottled beers. On any given evening I can typically find Ommegang (Belgian style) ale, Rogue Dead Guy, Magic Hat #9, or (local Lambertville favorite) River Horse ale on tap, making the choice particularly difficult. The food is pub-style; their burgers are excellent, as is their traditional fish-n-chips.

The bartenders are ALWAYS very friendly and personable, and the Rocky Hill Inn is the kind of place you really WANT to hang out at for hours... it's a genuine feel-good atmosphere. But perhaps the best part is the ride home... which begins with a short downhill glide to the D&R Canal Towpath. We typically leave the RHI after dark, and switching on our bike lights for the ride home in the cool night air along the canal is always the highlight of the evening, especially on a moonlit night. The ride home is the part I enjoy the most, and I savor every pedal stroke and every breath of fresh air... This, to me is truly one of life's simple pleasures.

Preferred ride: 1985 Stumpjumper (aka "The One"), a beautifully restored classic bike suitable for a classic, beautiful ride...



There's good reason why it's called "The One"

I'm sure if you join me on one of my Bike n Brew rides to the Rocky Hill Inn you will become instantly hooked. And I'm equally sure there are dozens of RHIs out there waiting to be visited by adventurous cyclotourists. I've only scratched the surface. A few other rides I've done so far this year include:

- Bike n Brew Long Valley – Columbia Trail between Long Valley and High Bridge (by way of the incredibly beautiful Ken Lockwood Gorge)... This ride I've done in both directions, and I honestly have no preference... this trail is awesome in both directions. There are two great pubs to enjoy on this ride: First, there's the Long Valley Brew Pub (in Long Valley off the old Route 24), that serves a nice variety of brewed-on-premise beers and ales along with good food... You can't go wrong at this place, in my opinion. A slightly more laid-back local establishment is Mrs Riley's in High Bridge (down the hill through the main drag of town from the Columbia trailhead). This is a tin-ceilinged bar with a great beer selection. I haven't eaten there, but the food reviews have been good. My brother is a musician; his band plays there on a fairly regular basis and I really dig this place.

Preferred ride: The Land Beast (Fargo), which covers great distance in unparalleled comfort.

- Bike n Brew NYC – This was a ride I had been anticipating for a long time... The plan was to meet at the Staten Island Ferry, wheel our bikes on the ferry (which is free!) and sail over to Manhattan (and the Battery Terminal). From there we pedalled up the Hudson River Greenway, a dedicated 2-lane paved bike trail that beelines up the West Side of NYC (and actually circumscribes the entire island of Manhattan). Our destination was the Chelsea Brewing Company, located in the 20s at Chelsea Pier.

The ride in and out was A LOT of fun; the Brewing Company itself was admittedly a disappointment. We may have picked it on a bad day; there was a private fishing tournament banquet that we literally crashed at the tail end... which reminded me of a fraternity party at 2 AM... Our after-dinner ride included a quick trip up to see the Intrepid Aircraft Carrier, before turning back to the ferry. NYC has

come a long way since the 70s, and the West Side is no exception. The bike trail looks like a well-landscaped urban promenade, lined with stonework, trees, benches and scenic walkways overlooking the (impressive) Jersey City skyline (yes, that's right).

Preferred ride: 1960 JC Higgins Spaceliner cruiser with drum-brakes, internal 8-speed and generator hub. This bike, known as "The Brick II", is my tribute bike to the Klunkers of Mt Tam and the crazed visionaries who built them.



The Brick II – Neo-Retro Klunker

- Bike n Brew Lehigh – This ride features a route from my buddy's neighborhood in Bethlehem, PA along the Lehigh Canal into Easton, PA, where we park our bikes at Pearly Baker's Alehouse for dinner. What I love most about this ride is the rich history of the Lehigh Canal, and the role it served in helping to build America over the past two centuries. Many a mule-driven coal barge travelled the waters of the Lehigh canal, and the bike trail along the canal merely serves as a placeholder of the once great travel corridor that connected the industrial machine of Eastern PA to the rest of the world. **Preferred ride:** 1985 Mongoose ATB, converted to long-distance tourer/randonneur. This bike is a rare beauty, and appropriately named "Mongo Rando".

There are hundreds of Bike n Brew rides out there... We just need to go out and find them. When you do, PLEASE share them. My brother, Bill (who now rides a 1992, lugged Trek 950 set up for backroads and

urban assault) lives along the Loveland Bike Trail in Cincinnati. With just a quick Google search and Google Map plot, I easily put together a local Bike n Brew ride up to Paxton's Pub in Loveland... 10+ miles each way... PERFECT for a Saturday evening ride....

Bikes for Birms

I'm one of those people who loves to share his toys, almost to a fault. It clearly stems from my childhood. I am one of 10 children, and growing up sharing my stuff was not only the law (imposed by my wonderful parents, Dick and Claire Birmingham), it was almost as much fun as acquiring stuff. Lately I've been on a kick to get my bros (and sisters) back on bikes. The best way to do this (I figured) would be to customize bikes to their liking (*and fortunately they like pretty much what I like*). This started with my brother Rick. He was so jazzed to be riding Big White Boy, and he was absolutely goo-goo-eyed over my 86 Rockhopper that I had recently built up with an internal geared 7 speed hub and a dynamo/generator front hub, I decided to upgrade his ride. The resulting creation I call Drumpy, a 1983 lugged Stumpjumper with custom wheels. (*I laced a pair of white Sun downhill rims to Sturmey Archer drum-brake hubs; the front hub included a generator, the rear had 8 internal gears*). The tires are white Schwalbe Fat Franks, which give the bike an amazing ride and an awesome look... This bike also has a Brooks B68 saddle, the perfect finishing touch to this head-turner, and it gives one of the most amazing rides ever. Needless to say, Rick is ecstatic about this bike, and he even occasionally commutes a few miles to his job on Drumpy. Oh, and I passed Big White Boy on to my brother-in-law, Mark, who is smitten by its smooth ride, and who plans to ride with his wife (my sister, Annie).



Drumpy

Next, I converted an awesome 2007 root beer colored Salsa Ala Carte frame it into a 96er (ie a 29er wheel in the front and a 26er in the rear). It's got Mary bars, SRAM X9 gripshifters, hydraulic brakes and blinding speed. I call this Son of Beast, a lighter, more nimble version of the Land Beast, but equally capable of taking a flight of stairs on short notice. This one I gave to my brother, Chris, who lives close to the Columbia Trail (*which we know has great Bike n Brew potential*). He loves this bike, loves beer, and has found his match in S.O.B.

Next, I acquired a beautiful 1992 lugged Trek 950 on eBay, and retrofit it with vintage Shimano friction shifters from 1985. This bike rides so nice, everyone who rides it instantly falls in love with its smooth ride characteristics. I added a nicely broken-in B17 saddle, (*essential equipment on most of my rides*), as well as front/rear racks. This one I gave to my brother, Bill (from Cinci), who also rides a Trek 850 on the trails. This bike will last a lifetime and rides like a dream. I haven't come up with an appropriate name for this yet.



Trek 950 – Simply awesome...

Next, I "pimped" my brother Dave's existing ride (an early-90s Kermit Green Kona MTB), simply by adding a riser stem extender and a set of Schwalbe Big Apple tires. This bike (which he uses to bomb down the dirt road he lives on in Grand Isle, VT) went from sitting (unused) in the garage for years, to a regular daily all-rounder, just with a little tweaking. Dave loves his "new" ride, which I call "Crunchy Frog".

Finally, I acquired a free ladies frame from a generous donor on MTBNJ.com (an older steel Giant Rincon) which I pimped out for my sister Annie. This bike is the female match to Big White Boy (AND the same year, 1989!!). This is a basic mountain bike that I rebuilt with a set of awesome Wheelsmith hand-laced wheels, Fat Frank tires, gripshifters and the cushiest seat on the planet, a Selle Royal Drifter. The bike is green and

red, and appropriately named "Princess Fiona"; an ogre-lady with special qualities. This bike MAKES my sister want to get out and ride. For me that simply means... mission accomplished.



Princess Fiona

So what's my point in taking all this time to customize these bikes, only to give them away? Bottom line, I love these bikes. I love my family. I love the fact that these bikes MAKE them want to ride. This is my idea of living the bike lifestyle; creating bikes that I love, that others love, and that people WANT to ride... How cool is that?

Peace to All,
MontclairBobbyB

And WHAT am I supposed to do with all this leftover space? Why, FILL IT WITH MORE BIKES!



Red Stumpy – Bagel Wagon Option



Blue Rocky – Day-night Cruiser awaiting a home



The Peace Bike – Gift to my wife



Root Beer Roadster (pre SOB transformation)

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INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

Mud in Your Eye – Parting Shot

Six Mile Bridge!!



Photo: Jason Fenton

That's right... The highly anticipated and long-awaited Six Mile Run bridge over the creek near Middlebush Ave is now a reality, thanks to the brilliant work of the JORBA Six Mile team of Jason Fenton & Jason Pace.

This bridge, re-purposed from stream-crossing in another park will provide a vital crossing, especially during the colder months, when the only alternative is to pedal through the shallow creek, which takes every bit of skill to remain dry.

KUDOS, JASON AND JASON, and to all the Six Mile Crew who helped to put this massive structure in place. Thank you, and my (dry) feet thank you!

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