

Adventure BIKE

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\$1.00

\$1.50 CANADA

NEW

HOW TO RIDE
OFF-ROAD

A City Adventure

CRESTED BUTTE

Fat Tire Bike Week

Routes: Washington, D.C.





The multi-lap criterium race is nothing if not spectacularly beautiful.



The longer races include water hazards—no extra charge.



Now this is the way to watch a bike race!

DESTINATIONS:

Crested Butte

Colorado's Fat Tire Bike Week



David Epperson/WILDPIG

Where's the passing lane?



Every boy's dream come true—mud.



Frank Staub

Approaching 12,000 feet on the Pearl Pass tour.



Harold Johnson

Downtown Crested Butte converts to all-mountain-biking during Fat Tire Bike Week.

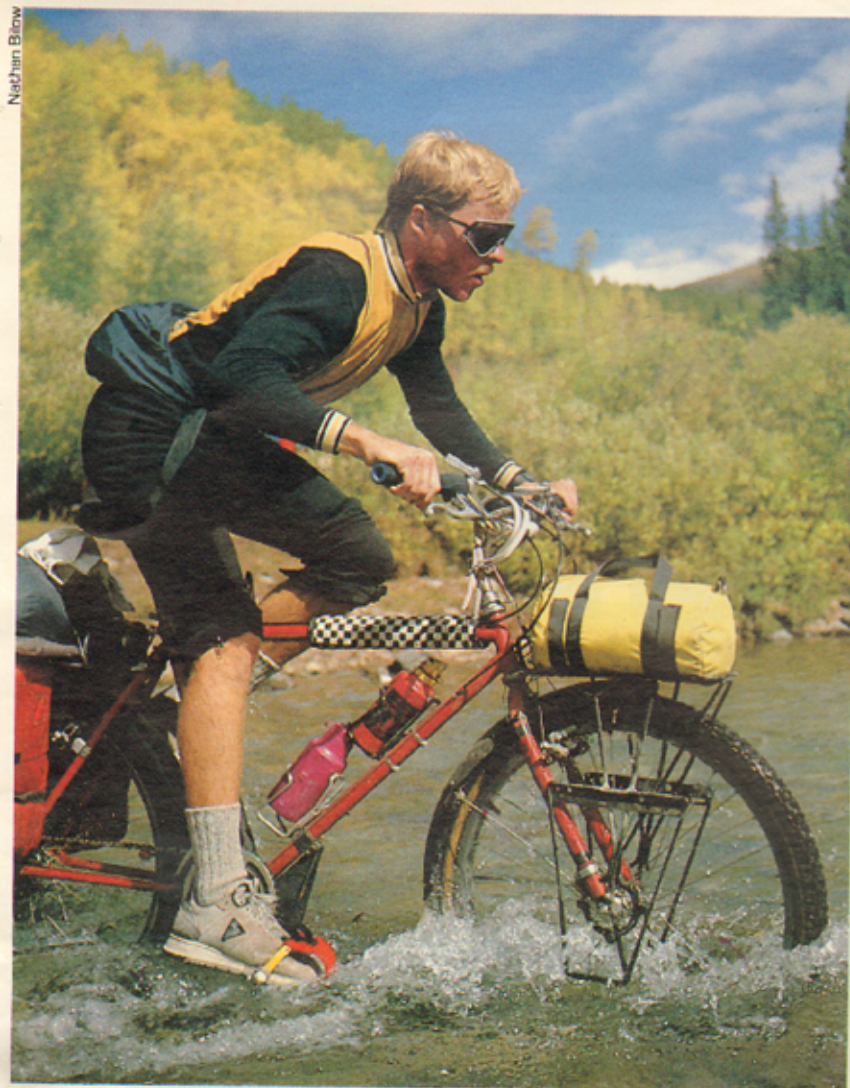


Nathan Blow

The triathlon has its Ironman, cycling its Tour de France and sailing the America's Cup. So what does the new sport of mountain biking claim as its premiere event, its showcase happening? Fat Tire Bike Week in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Crested Butte was partially responsible for the birth of the mountain bike craze in 1976 when a group of locals decided to ride their one-speed clunkers over the top of 12,700-foot Pearl Pass to neighboring Aspen. That annual pilgrimage quickly drew the participation of some California bike tinkerers. Their multi-speed bikes evolved into what we know now as the mountain, fat-tire or all-terrain bike. Every year, Fat Tire Bike Week recreates that first ride over Pearl Pass, but now, much more has been added to fill out a whole week of biking, touring, racing and fun.

Crested Butte, population 1,200, is a rustic, ex-mining town and all-season resort best known for—besides mountain biking—skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting and golfing. The



The object here is to stay on your bike.



Having fun is the main objective at Crested Butte's FTBW.



Don't wear this helmet during hunting season!



The summit! At the top of Pearl Pass.

during the winter, but after the summer sun has come and gone, and the Aspen leaves are turning their golden fall colors, bike riders from all over the globe gather at the site of Fat Tire Bike Week.

The roads and trails that radiate from Elk Avenue, the old main street, are full of off-road cyclists touring in small groups into the surrounding mountains and glacier-carved valleys. The daily morning and afternoon tours are led by experienced local riders and offer plenty of rest stops for you to enjoy the breathtaking scenery or have a quick snack alongside a sparkling mountain stream, socializing with newly made friends.

It's mountain magic to ride down a narrow trail through a forest of Aspen trees, with your wide tires breaking through a soft carpet of brilliant yellow leaves. And there's nothing quite like the feeling of flowing downhill on your mountain bike, carving around jagged peaks and rolling hills, finally descending to the valley floor; then the final ride back to town feeling hungry, tired and happy.

You can also watch or even enter the other organized events that are a part of Fat Tire Bike Week, like the bicycle rodeo on the main street, the fascinating "observed trials" obstacle course competition; and several time-trial, criterium and stage races for all levels, from novice to professional. And then, the grand finale on Saturday—the all-day Pearl Pass tour to Aspen.

Add slide shows, receptions, a big awards party and lots of good food at the local restaurants, and we can almost guarantee that, even if you're a non-cyclist, you'll have a good time. You can even rent your mountain bike from one of the two bike shops in town.

Whether you spend one day or a full week, a trip to the granddaddy fat-tire event is guaranteed to be a time you'll never forget. The 1987 Fat Tire Bike Week will be held in Crested Butte from September 14 to 20. For more information about activities, transportation and lodging, contact: FTBW, Box 793, Crested Butte, CO 81224, (303) 349-6761.



The popular Observed Trials competition is like a miniature golf obstacle course for all-terrain bikes.