



FOUR ON THE FLOOR

Well, here's the number four issue of the Fat Tire Flyer, but you ain't seen nothing yet. That's because you're still stuck here with the editorial, and the good stuff is further on!

Although we must confess to a regional bias in favor of Northern California, it is becoming evident that Fat Tires are stirring up dust all over the West. In our efforts to fight regional bias we are eager to hear reports from all Fat Tire Fans, so keep those cards, letters, photos, drawings, checks, money orders, and negotiable securities coming!

We've been wondering with our editorial we, where 500 copies of the Flyer disappeared to every two months. At last, we have evidence that it is being used for something more than wrapping used fish, as we have begun to receive real, live correspondence. To Nathan Littrell of Sunnyvale goes the honor of having the first letter in print.

Dear Flyer,

I would just like to inform you that cruisers are alive and well in the Santa Clara Valley and would really appreciate it if you would cover some of the action up here or maybe even start up a ride. Keep up the good work.

Nathan Leitrell

Fat, Tired, Flyers Gang:

You may have heard of my position on organized racing, and to make it clear, here it is again in script.

I feel the joy of riding in the mountainous wilderness, and appreciate the freedom.

I do not desire to limit in any way anyone's freedom. I advocate no regulations regarding safety equipment: helmets, gloves, kneepads, brakes, etc. I advocate no regulations of any kind.

I know there are dangers in life, and that every individual feels the urge to survive. I recognize that this is the law of life and I have no desire to add to it.

Yours forever wishing you a breeze to cool the sweated brow.

Victor Vincente of America

The Valentine's Day ride over Pine Mountain, organized by your very own FTF (that's us, dummy) saw some 35 hard core riders show up. but muddy conditions caused by a hard rain the night before thinned the crowd out. After a taste of mud on the first two miles of fire road, about a dozen took a short cut to Repack and spared themselves the slogging.

The rest of the party struggled on through the ooze under perfect skies and perfect weather. The difference in effort between riding the loop on dry roads or muddy ones is a factor of two or three, so the traditional rest stop at the Grassy Knoll was extended into the afternoon.

Bicycle damage on the ride was minimal since the treacherous surface kept speeds well under the sound barrier and precluded any radical demonstrations of agility. One rider managed to destroy his rear derailleur; "...I just rode past this rock, and it jumped out and tried to bite my leg. I fought it off, but it got my derailleur..." Sure.

Open-derailleur surgery was performed under the most unsterile of conditions (like covered with mud) and with the most primitive instruments (like a rock) and the bike limped home.



WATER DISTRICT MEETING

On February 25, several dozen Fat Tire fans crowded into the meeting room of the Marin Municipal Water District board of directors as they pondered future use of the water district lands by cyclists.. Also at the meeting was a large contingent of horse enthusiasts, also discussing trail use.

After much discussion between the cycling group and Mr. Richard Rogers of the water district, during which Mr. Rogers mentioned several incidents of collisions between cyclists and other users of the area, the issue was boiled down to speed. If riders cannot stop in the distance they can see ahead clearly, there are going to be accidents, and the district feels it is imperative to keep riders from hurting others.



The district people seemed willing to allow all manner of cycling, including group rides and even competitions if the speed problems can be solved. Suggestions for solutions included the use of bicycle bells and a pointer from the horse enthusiasts that when passing horses on a narrow path cyclists should go around on the downhill side.

SCHEDULE 1981 RACES RIDES

This spring and summer will see a number of balloon events all over the west, representing all types of riding styles.

For the downhillers there is an event in Wyoming that is 20 miles, mostly descending, and for the cross-country enthusiasts there will be repeats of last year's popular events, Lopez Lake (25 miles) in San Luis Obispo and Reseda to the Sea in Los Angeles. So without further verbiage, here is when, where, and who.

Reseda-to-the-Sea Challenge

March 15, 11:00 AM

Reseda, California

Promoter: Victor Vincente of America

6701 Tampa Ave.

Reseda, CA 91335

213-88203300

213-882-3300

Mt. Wilson Uphill (mass start) and Downhill (time trial) (10 miles)

April 19

Mt. Wilson, California

Promoter: Victor Vincente of America

Central Coast Clunker Classic

May 2, 7:00 AM (sharp!)

Lopez Lake (San Luis Obispo) CA

Fee: \$3.00 pre-entry or \$4.00 after April 24.

Promoter: Central Coast Rough Riders

Box 1110

Oceano, CA 93445



The Clunker Classic will be contested over 25 miles of very demanding terrain. The promoters require that all riders carry either a spare tube or a patch kit and a pump. A water bottle with at least one pint capacity is also necessary, so be sure your bike is equipped.

An extra \$4.00 submitted with the entry fee buys a commemorative T-shirt

Make checks for the Clunker Classic payable to Glenn Odell.



SECOND ANNUAL RESEDA-TO-THE-SEA CHALLENGE

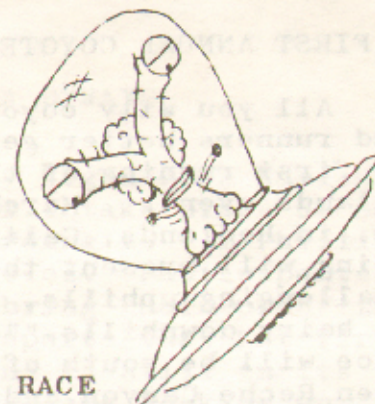
Only one year old, the Reseda-to-the Sea Challenge promoted by Victor Vincente of America, is already a classic...this sport is so new that any event being held for the second time constitutes a classic.

Last year's event drew nearly 50 riders in what is to date the biggest turnout for a balloon race. In the first running the road surface was in extremely poor condition due to record rains, but Victor swears that it will be perfect this year.

Riders will meet on March 15 at 11:00 AM at the intersection of Ventura and Reseda Boulevards in Reseda just west of the Ventura freeway.



WHAT IS IT?
BLEEP.



WYOMING RACE

Some time in the last two weeks of July is the loose date for the longest downhill race yet conceived. According to Mark Ward of Wheel Fixit in Laramie, Wyoming, the race is from the top of the Snowy Range to Albany Wyoming, a distance of some 20 miles and a drop of some 2500 feet.

There will be different classes based on sex, age and equipment, in order to spread the prizes out. Ward was non-committal in regard to prizes, but he said that there would be trophies.

A beer bust and picnic is planned for the end of the race. Terrain is approximately one-third trail and two-thirds dirt road.

Those interested should contact Mark Ward at Wheel Fixit (307) 742-4046



FIRST ANNUAL COYOTE DERBY

All you wily coyotes and off-road runners better get ready for the first running of this 17 mile badlands event. March 29, at ten a.m. in Redlands, California Badlands Racing will present this race on "challenging uphill, tightrope ridges, and hairy downhill." The meeting place will be south of Redlands between Reche Canyon and San Mateo Canyon. Assemble behind the bank in Mountain View Plaza at the intersection of Barton Road and Mt. View Ave.

Low gears and good brakes are recommended, but we all knew that, didn't we? The good news: no entry fee. The bad news: no prizes (at least none mentioned in the flyer. Assembly time is given as 9-9:30; for further information call 714-796-8527.



ARIZONA BYWAYS

The two-day Organ Pipe National Monument ride will take place on March 19, and 20, according to Tim Phillips of Tombstone Cycles. Participants are advised to bring thorn-proof tubes.

Phillips reports that Fat Tire riding in Arizona is still in its infancy, but things are looking up. No less a personage than Tom Sain, state road champ, has sworn he is giving up the road for the Joy of Booking, Fat Tire style.

Anyone who is in the vicinity of Tombstone is invited to drop in and go for a ride with Tim. Call him up at (602) 457-3810 or write to him at:

P.O. Box 451

Tombstone, AZ 85638

In addition to events which are firmly on the calendar, there are a number of races whose dates are not yet settled. These include a race on either May 16 or 17 in San Anselmo which will be promoted in part by the Flyer, and in part by The Athletic Connection Health Club with an assist from the San Anselmo Fire Department.

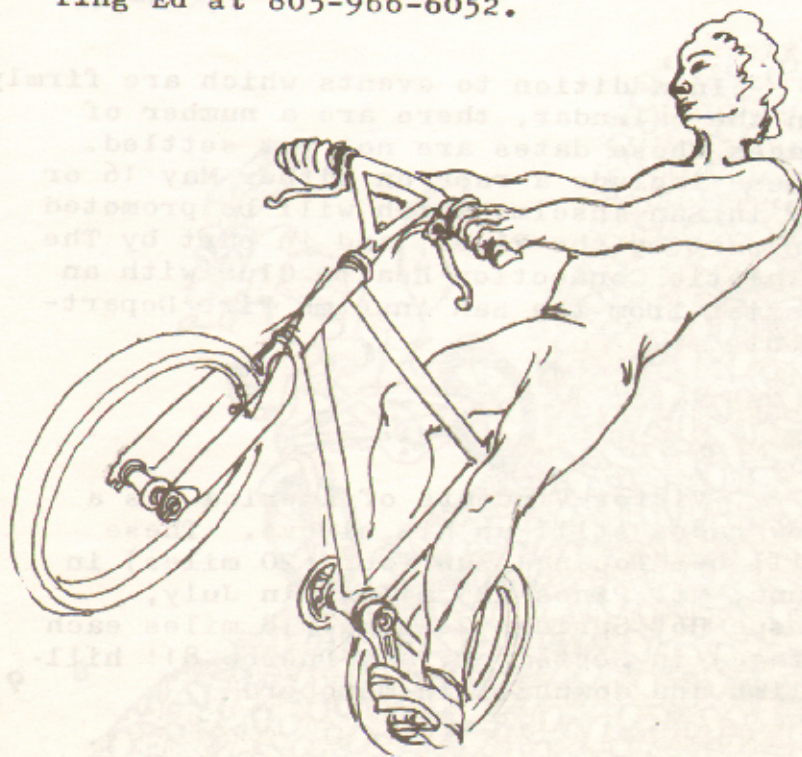
Victor Vincente of America has a few races still up his sleeve. These will be: Topanga Sun Tour (20 miles) in June, Mt. Pinos (25 miles) in July, Sespe Hot Springs 2-Stage (18 miles each stage) in September, and Puerco 81! hill-climb and downhill in October.

ROUGHNECK CHALLENGE

For those long on stamina and perhaps short on brains, the second annual Roughneck Challenge will cover 115 miles of grueling off-road intensity in two days. The two-stage event will start at New Cuyama (on highway 166, one mile up Paradise road. Stage one will be 65 miles on a rough fire road and will feature 7000 vertical feet of climbing.

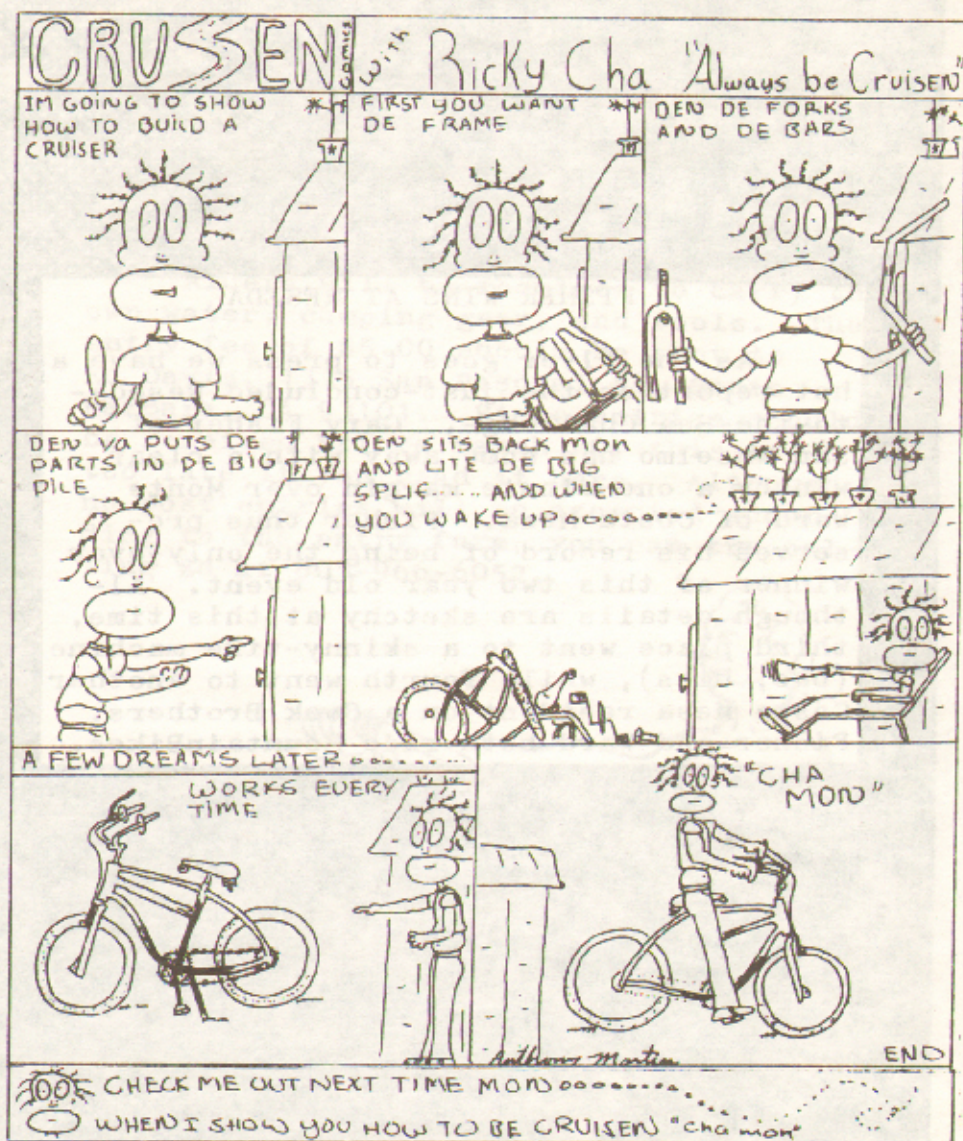
Stage two is 50 miles, also with 7000 feet of climbing.

Riders will be required to carry their own water, camping gear, and tools. The entry fee of \$5.00 should be sent to Ed Davis, 1315 San Pascual #8, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Since entries should be received before March 20, this is too late if you read it here. Although no post entries will be accepted according to the entry form, you can try calling Ed at 805-966-6052.



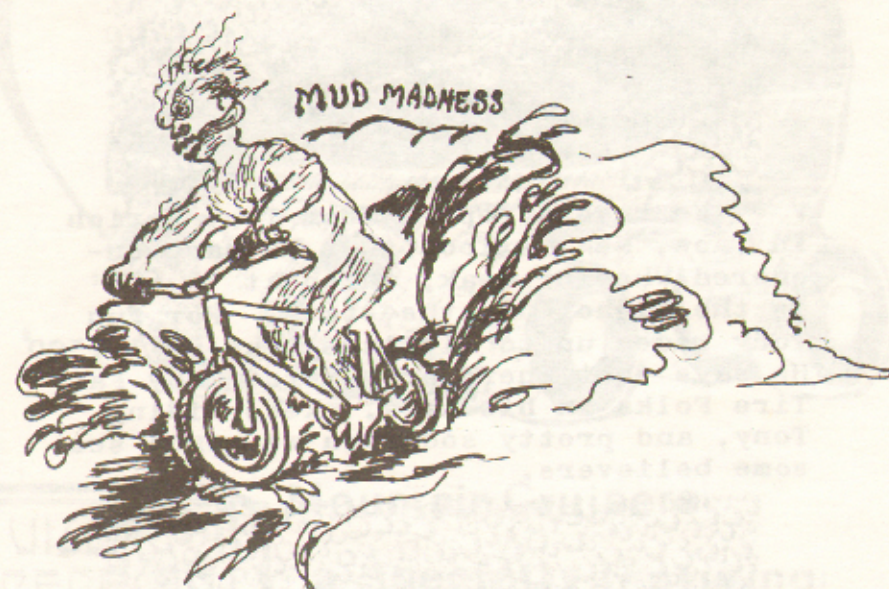
FISHER WINS AT RESEDA

As the Flyer goes to press we have a hot report on the just-concluded Reseda-to-the-Sea Challenge. Gary Fisher of San Anselmo has come away with a clear win by a one-minute margin over Monte Ward of Costa Mesa. Fisher thus preserves his record of being the only-ever winner of this two year old event. Although details are sketchy at this time, third place went to a skinny-tire machine (boo, hiss), while fourth went to another Costa Mesa resident on a Cook Brothers. Fisher and Ward both ride MountainBikes.



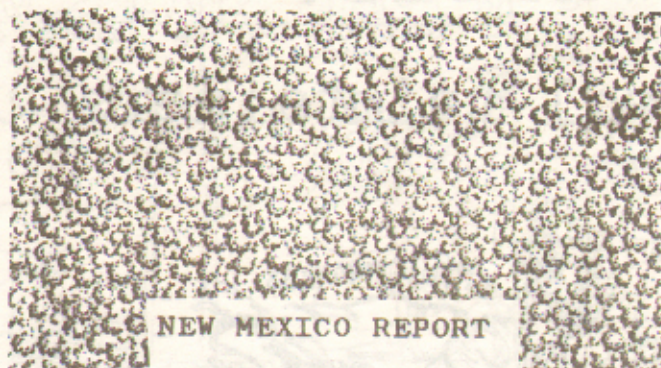
WANTED!

Trail maintainers



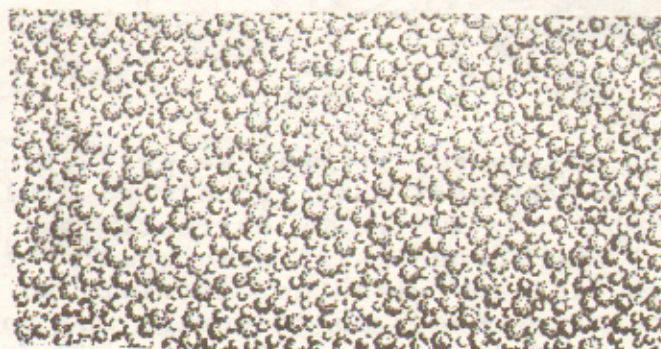
It is imperative that we protect our riding privileges; this is only possible if we abide by the rules currently in force. Any changes will come about only through dialogue with the district, so we encourage riders to cooperate and to tell their friends to do the same.

Anyone interested in helping with trail maintenance is encouraged to contact the Flyer at 456-1898 or 457-7016. We will be scheduling work parties that will be half work, half party. } 13



NEW MEXICO REPORT

We have a report from Tony Herich in Taos, New Mexico, that he has conquered Wheeler Peak, which at 13,600' is the highest in the state. For fun Tony rides up to Williams Lake at 11,500'. He says that there aren't too many Fat Tire Folks in his area. Keep riding, Tony, and pretty soon you're gonna see some believers.



OUTDOOR SKATES

923 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA 94904
Phone 456-6277

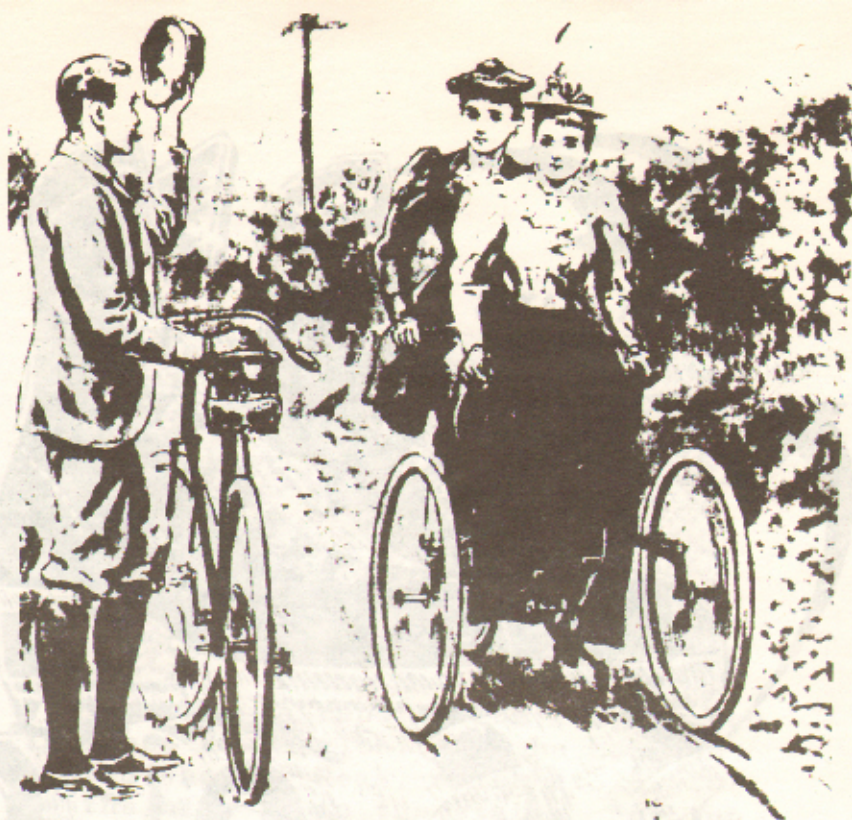


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