



2008 YEAR END NEWSLETTER

2008 was quite a year for this club. We made some awesome accomplishments and built a more solid foundation and reputation. Look, it's not easy to have all these similar type people around each other and not have some speed bumps and disagreements, and everybody has their own opinions which is what we want. But at the end of the year, we should all be proud of being part of this club and the positive contributions we have made for the common good. We are an intense bunch, volunteering our time and money, and we are focusing that intensity in a positive direction. To coin and adapt that heroic saying; "**Lets** keep it **rolling!**"

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Are you still full from Thanksgiving Day feasts and in the holiday spirit? We sure hope so because we have our **annual year end**

gathering/party on Friday December 12th at 6:30 pm at the

beautiful Valley Green Inn in the Wissahickon Valley Park. Yes that's right, we are going to celebrate all the good we have done smack dab in the middle of the park that we love to ride in and donate ourselves. Unfortunately, since we are still a new developing club, we need to charge a small fee as we don't have a huge bank account, yet. PMBA will cover the balance as a act of appreciation for all our help and involvement. We have reserved the large room where they have weddings and all types of other celebrations and there will be an open bar from **6:30 until 8:30** so it will be easy to get on your happy face. There will also be some delicious food selections to eat like fresh mushroom caps stuffed w/shrimp & cheese and baby lamb chops with wholegrain mustard & herb & lots of cheeses. Hungry yet?

Please either register on the website under this event listing, where you can also pay, or send an email to me at lou.dirtmerchant@gmail.com so we can make sure we have enough food!

Here is the link: www.phillymtb.com/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,3/func,details/did,66/

Ok now onto some biz-ness. At our November general meeting we opened up the **10 committees** that the board of directors started as a way to get more people involved in the behind the scenes workings of the club. These committees are a great way to get involved in an area which you may have valuable experience to share, want to learn some or just want to get involved and meet some good friends. This is still a developing process and we are learning as we go so now is a great time to get involved and help shape the club. We are trying to figure the best method to get these on the website to share the committee details with everyone so please stay tuned. Thanks very much to those who were at the meeting and already volunteered to help!

I can share some info on the **Bike Park committee** since I am involved. We now have a website for the bike park which we intend to build as soon as possible. You can check it out at: www.phillybikepark.org. This project may take a while to achieve, but we are committed to get one built. There are bike parks in New York City, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, and many other smaller cities across the US. There is no reason why this great city of Philadelphia should not have a world class park. You hear what I'm sayin'?!?

2009 is shaping up to be another busy, productive and fun-filled year for us. We are cementing our plans to use the **\$10K grant** that we received from our title sponsor, **REI in Conshohocken, PA**. We are most likely going to be building a sweet new multi-use singletrack trail across the creek from Valley Green Inn which will eliminate the need to ride the gravel covered service road up and over the hill. I helped the **IMBA team** plot this new trail and believe me when I tell you that this is going to be beautiful. And don't forget to thank the **FOW** for stepping up and getting the next phase of this very expensive and labor intensive project off the ground.

We have taken the months of November and December off for our Trail Maintenance Day's since the 4th Saturdays fall right near the big holidays. So save up your strength for the January TMD on Jan 24th. Location and project TBA since we have to see how old man winter is treating us. One thing is for sure: we won't be jack-hammering through frozen snow covered ground!

A LITTLE MORE →

We are also going to have many events and activities other than trail maintenance, which we know is not for everyone. The **Activity Committee** will be rolling out clinics, group rides, road trips, family events and many more fun events. All of the events we had this year were so successful that we recognize the need and desire for all types of fun riding related events and we are planning them right now! Contact KellyAnn.Bostick@ironmountain.com if you would like to help out with ideas.

I am glad to report that our club is still growing steadily, and we are getting new registered and supporting members, as well as lots of renewals, every month. We have over 660 registered members on our website and close to 250 supporting members... Sweetness!!

Welcome aboard everyone, and we hope to see you on the trails...

Happy Holidays!!!

Lou Harris - PMBA President