



January 2009 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year fellow mountain bike enthusiasts!

The **PMBA holiday party** held on December 12th at the beautiful **Valley Green Inn** was a huge success! Over 60 members shared good food, stories and good times. Towards the end of the night we gave away some real nice swag, raffle style. **Neil Silverman** stepped up and got his company, **Armstrong-Colt-George Ophthalmology**, to donate SIX pairs of **ADIDAS** biking glasses. I won a pair when my ticket got called and I really like those new shades. Thanks to everyone who showed up, and make plans to attend this year if you missed it! There are plenty of pictures within our forum so check them out.

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Our **Trail Maintenance committee** has been very busy planning out our projects for this year, in conjunction with the **FOW**, as we hope to

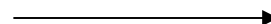
take on sections of the **STI Project** and help get them completed. Plans are still in the works and this is proving to be a constantly changing process. Stay tuned for ground breaking details, but what we can report is that our **monthly TMD's** in the **Wissahickon Valley Park** will resume on **Saturday 1/24 at 10am**. The winter hours are shorter than the warm months, but we will be out there cleaning up and maintaining several of the trail projects we did in 2008. We plan to work until 1pm and then have lunch and call it a day. We have a new TMD sponsor, **Venuto's Pizza** on Ridge Ave. in Roxborough, and they will be providing their delicious thin crust pizza for us to devour. They just opened up their shop and signed on as a sponsor, so please show them some love and support them. Also, our long time supporter, **High Point Café** in Mt. Airy will be providing the much needed hot coffee to get us moving! See our website for location details. We hope to see you there!

Our **Outreach committee**, including the **Bike Shop event sub-committee**, has also been very busy. **PMBA** and **FOW** will be co-hosting an invite-only bike shop outreach event at Valley Green Inn on Feb 1st to educate local shop owners and managers about us and our role in the **FOW** owned and operated **STI Project**. There seems to be some confusion out there on the street and we want to try and get all stakeholders on the same page. We hope to get shop people talking to their customers about **PMBA**, our website and the **STI**. We also hope to convey to them the strength of the **PMBA** word-of-mouth influence and the resources that exist amongst our members for new mountain bikers. I think it is safe to say that the more we get our story out there, and the more we increase the mutual support between us and the local bike shops, the better off our sport/pastime in the Philadelphia area will be...

Did you know that we now have **PMBA jerseys** designed and ready to order? Our **Jersey committee** has logged many hours making this a reality and they did a great job. If you come to our **Jan 22nd general meeting at Manayunk Diner at 7pm**, you will see them and can try them on to see what size fits. You can order these right on our homepage and orders must be placed by end of day Jan 31st as the order will be submitted to the manufacturer on Feb 1st. Well, what are you waiting for?!?!?

Speaking of our website, our **Web committee** has been working long hours and we are about to unveil a totally revamped website which is, quite honestly, one of the best, most dazzling websites that I have ever seen. There are fortune 500 companies whose websites are weak compared to ours. **Chris Hunter** and **Kris (with a K) Molendyke** are our web application guru's, and you will not believe your eyes when you see the new website, trust me. Also, we upgraded our servers so it will be lightening fast. If you have not been actively using our website, you really ought to reconsider. The functionality and available web applications that we will be offering our members will blow your mind. I would love to further divulge the back-end details to everyone, but it is like a foreign language to me, plus it sounds dirty...

I must share a really cool story that I think epitomizes what PMBA is all about. Around the end of 2008, I receive a personal email from Callum McEwen, a 13 year old young man and new member from Chestnut Hill, who just got a (used) mountain bike for Christmas and is extremely excited about the sport of mountain biking, especially hitting dirt jumps. Well, in his email he sadly tells me that the bike he just got and



rode once has a crack in the frame. He asked for my advice on the frame and that if I knew anyone that could weld it. I told him I will look into it for him so I made a post on our forum with his original email and asked the PMBA members for advice. A few days later I get another personal email from a member, Nathan Johnston, and he tells me that, well, here is his email: *"I was reading a post today about a 13 yr. old kid who discovered a crack on the frame of his Christmas bike. I have an old '03 or '04 Kona Shred DJ frame that I've been looking to give away for several yrs. It's a medium size frame probably the perfect size for this kid and in pretty mint condition in spite of all the abuse I put it through. Please pass the word along and let me know if this might work out."*

Needless to say I was astonished by Nate's generosity and I passed his message on to Cal, who was equally excited. Problem was Cal had no way to swap all the parts from his broken bike to the new one. Well, I offered to do the work for him because I wanted the privilege to be involved in such an amazing story of generosity and comradeship. I am proud to report that Callum has a new bike that is ready to go and that he will enjoy for years to come. This story shows what this organization is all about: meeting great people and looking out for each other, especially the young new guys and gals. They are the future of PMBA!

OK, now that you probably feel all warm and fuzzy inside after that story, go out and invest in the proper warm clothing and get out and ride! Don't let these sub arctic temperatures scare you. It sure beats going to the "gym" or sitting on the couch and watching your mid region grow too much. Well, at least try to get out before the EAGLES GAME on Sunday!!! GO EAGLES!!!

Thanks for reading and we hope to see you on the trails...

Lou Harris - PMBA President

