



## April 2009 NEWSLETTER

Hi everyone, it's that time of the year again: **Rally in the Valley!**

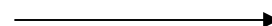
But first, let me get to some strange business that has just developed at the Fairmount Parks Commission. As you may know, the **FPC** was merged into the Recreation Dept. and the Nutter administration has a lot of changes in the works. I was at a meeting yesterday and the new commission has developed a new plan for user safety in all the parks, and they are requiring every mountain bike user to wear a **fluorescent vest** when riding on dirt trails! Do you believe that? I voiced my objection to this blasphemous rule and got them to backpedal on the vest, but we still have to wear fluorescent colors! It's gonna be like the 80's all over again! So hopefully a **Fox** rep is reading this and they will come up with some sweet looking fluorescent gear for us to wear. It's gonna be strange to see all that bright color, that's for sure.

Our **3rd Annual Rally in the (Wissahickon) Valley, Philly's own mini mountain bike festival**, is less than 3 weeks away! The flyers are done and they are large (11x17) and they look cool. You can download it right from our homepage, and they are being printed right now. Cross your fingers and hope the weather is like last year. But even if it rains, we will hold the festival portion of the event and give away all the prizes under our many tents. The grand prize has to be a 2008 **Fuji Outland Pro** full suspension mountain bike provided by **Bucks County Bicycle Company**. The winner of that is going to be real happy, as well as the winner of the **Cannondale** bike! Don't forget that you have a choice of what prizes you can win by placing your tickets in the bucket next to the prize. Also, bring your old-but-functional bike parts and we will have a swap meet type deal and you may score an item you want via the barter system. Pretty cool, eh? The food will still be served so come out rain or shine and show your support for this club and the Park we love. Please don't forget that when you are making purchase decisions, consider our sponsor companies as they have pledged their support to our mountain biking livelihood and our terrific park resources. Contact [david.haberstroh@verizon.net](mailto:david.haberstroh@verizon.net) and [james.rigdon@verizon.net](mailto:james.rigdon@verizon.net) for volunteering.

As I mentioned last month, **more biking opportunities** are developing in our region right now. For instance, we are helping the **Nockamixon State Park** land manager lay out **new trails** which will be **open to mountain bikes!** If you live near that park you should be really excited and get involved. But this is awesome news to anyone who likes riding new locations, and anyone can help out. Send me an email and I will get you in touch with the group leaders. Also, **Blue Mountain Ski Area** is opening up their mountain to **gravity mountain biking**, and **PMBA** is on board to support this operation. Note that you do not have to own a full-on downhill bike to ride these trails, as they are designing the network to be accessible to all types of riders who really enjoy going downhill, fast. You will be able to ride some of these trails on a rigid single speed bike and get into some killer flow. There will be four races at the mountain this year, and **PMBA** will be supplying the **medals**, with our **logo** on all of them, as well as being on site with our tent and dog and pony show to spread the good word. Also, **supporting members** will be allowed to attend a **gravity biking clinic** being held in **June by local pro riders**. We are holding our **April Trail Maintenance Day** on **April 25th** at the mountain for those that wish to help and **build NEW trails**. (We will also have a crew holding a TMD in the Wissahickon.) Check out [www.verticalearthpa.com](http://www.verticalearthpa.com) for details.

**PMBA** was out in force in **March** for our **monthly TMD** in the **Wissahickon Park**. Over **40 volunteers** logged many hours removing tons of trash, and doing several awesome trail projects near the Janette St trailhead. One job that we should be proud of is we covered up an exposed root network of a large tree and made a sweet trail with two lines of different difficulty for all the user groups to enjoy, heading up and down the hill. We also did the usual de-berming of side slopes and made rolling grade dips to allow better storm water drainage. I rode this section one day after the heavy rains this week and it was in perfect condition! Way to go everyone and thanks to our coffee sponsor **High Point Café** in **Mt. Airy** and to the members who delivered the food for the hungry volunteers.

a little more



We also have a **XC race team** this year, headed up by **Jacalyn Clawson**, that will be attending many of the MASS series races. Once again, this is all about spreading the word about **PMBA** and having fun with friends at these races. **PMBA supporting members** will be served some food and be welcomed to hang out at our tent and have a good time and swap war stories. Please check out our forums as we have a dedicated race team section. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact Jacalyn at [jacalyn.clawson@gmail.com](mailto:jacalyn.clawson@gmail.com)

Please don't forget that our website is a great means of communication to hear and share in the happenings, so please visit often! Also don't forget to get some **fluorescent riding gear to comply with to the new FPC regulations**. And don't forget today's date while you are wearing fluorescent.

Thanks for reading and we hope to see you on the trails having fun and/or volunteering...

Lou Harris - PMBA President