



## May 2009 NEWSLETTER

Greetings all. Wow it's nice to be getting into the meat of the awesome riding season, and there is so much happening in the mountain bike world right here in Pennsylvania that my head is spinning. Sit back and grab a coffee or a brew, and read on...

**Philadelphia's Fairmount Park System** is going through a lot of changes as we speak. We are in the midst of the arrival of the new Commissioner, the ending of the **Fairmount Park Commission** and uncertainty over the City's FY10 budget. To say that these people are busy right now is a true understatement. As many of us have experienced lately, the **FPC** has decided to enforce their park permit program for mountain bike and equestrian users on the **upper trails** in the **Wissahickon**. Agree with this program or not, it's the current law and we should adhere to it and get a permit. This small token of compliance with their rules will go a long way with all the programs that we, **PMBA**, are trying to achieve as well as continue to show our strength in numbers. We are doing more and more trail work in the **Wissahickon** and are getting better and better at performing sustainable trail repairs and additions. You may have noticed the natural technical features that we are incorporating into the designs to make the trails more fun while not interfering with any other users. Also, can you imagine the day when we have a legitimate **bike park in Philadelphia** where riders of all ages and ability levels can meet and hone their skills and have a blast? Well, I can, and we are working hard on selling the city and other user groups and stakeholders on this project, and we will need the fact that we have "x" amount of mountain bikers who have paid for their permit and play by the rules. Don't forget that the new commissioner will be evaluating all the user groups in our parks and we want to stand out like we do in many other parts of this country and be positive and productive citizens. Now more than ever our volunteerism holds a lot of weight since the city is tight on money and resources. Please visit this link and get your permit and we will all benefit from this, trust me:

[https://events.membersolutions.com/event\\_detail.asp?content\\_id=13806](https://events.membersolutions.com/event_detail.asp?content_id=13806)

Our **3rd Annual Rally in the (Wissahickon) Valley, Philly's own mini mountain bike festival**, was a great success. Please visit this link to read all about what happened:

[www.phillymtb.org/images/stories/2009Rally/2009rivthankyouletter.pdf](http://www.phillymtb.org/images/stories/2009Rally/2009rivthankyouletter.pdf)

Last weekend was the grand opening of the **Raystown Lake**, a.k.a. **Allegrippis Trails**, system and there was a huge event hosted by **IMBA**, the local club **Raystown MBA**, and **Rothrock Outfitters**, the local shop. There was camping and **PMBA** had **over 25 members** out there to represent and ride the new trails. It was a blast from beginning to end and was a very professionally run event. There is already talk of a fall event and an annual PA MTB festival at this location, which would be perfect. **PMBA** will also look into holding a camping trip this fall. Please check our website for pictures and videos from this past weekend and for announcements of future events here.

There is a lake a little closer to Philly than Raystown, and guess what, mountain bike trails are in the works! I have mentioned it here several times, and things are progressing nicely at **Nockamixon State Park up near Quakertown**. We were out doing the initial flagging of the trails this week with the **(Lehigh) Valley Mountain Bikers** group, and I was really surprised by the terrain and potential this park offers. Word from **IMBA** is that "**DCNR identified this park as one they are going to use as the test park, meaning that this should open up more opportunities for all of us if done right.**" That to me is huge incentive and motivation to do it right! Do you know how many other state parks are in southeastern PA that do not allow us to use the trails? Too many, that's for sure. We as a group are gaining legitimacy and access by leaps and bounds so let's keep it rolling. There are so many methods to help out and get involved, so please find one method that works for you and your family and do it!!!

Here are some events coming up real soon. Please visit our website for all the details:

5/15-5/17 **French Creek Camping Trip**

5/16 **Vertical Earth** support trail building and sample ride day at **Blue Mountain Ski Area**

5/30 "**Bike Month**" **Clinic and group ride in the Wissahickon sponsored by PMBA**

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

Lou Harris - PMBA President