



## SPRING! 2009 NEWSLETTER

How happy are you that Spring is here?!?!? Farewell old man winter, and good riddance! Break out the shorts and short sleeve apparel!

Wow, there is a ton of stuff happening right now with **PMBA**, the **Fairmount Parks**, the entire Philadelphia area and the mountain bike world in general. I will try to mention as much as I can in this short newsletter, but if you are relying on this as your primary means of info, you are missing out for sure. I have a hard time keeping up with all the committees and the great work that is being accomplished inside PMBA alone, not to mention the possible biking opportunities developing in our region at **PA state parks** as well as **Blue Mountain Ski Area**. Our website is a great means of communication to hear and share in the happenings, so please visit often! Not to mention that you will meet some awesome like-minded people...

Winter has nothing on our volunteer efforts in the **Wissahickon Park**. For instance, at our **January and February TMD's**, we had almost **40 volunteers** at **each day** that logged in **at least 268 hours** of work!!! We did everything from picking up tons of trash, removing invasive weeds/plants, de-berming some side slopes and making rolling grade dips to allow better storm water drainage, to clearing and crafting some downed trees into technical trail features. Not only do we work with a nice representation of other trails users and share our love for the park and the trails with them, we have fun too. Well at least I do! Thanks again to **High Point Café** in **Mt. Airy** for the much needed hot coffee (and **Heidi** for delivering it) to the delicious **Venuto's Old World Pizza** in **Roxborough** that **James Rigdon (Riggs)** delivered... Don't forget that we volunteer **every 4th Saturday** of the month, and all the **details** are on our **website**.

It's March already and that means it's a month away from our own little **mountain bike festival** called the **3rd Annual Rally in the (Wissahickon) Valley!** Yes that's right, we hold this event on the **3rd Saturday** of EVERY APRIL and this year is going to be better than the last two, which is saying a lot. If the weather gods cooperate like they did the last 2 years, we are in for a heck of a time. Just for the record, we had about **160 bikers** in **2007** and **over 240 last year**. We raised **over \$1500** in **2007** and **\$3500** in **2008**, half of which we donated to the **Friends of Wissahickon** group as a goodwill gesture to all the park users by supporting their **Sustainable Trails Initiative**. We raffled off 1 **Cannondale** and 2 **Fuji** mountain bikes last year as well as tons of components and apparel. This year we are trying to expand the "demo bike" opportunities so riders can test out the latest bike technology on our incredible trails as well as to give some nice exposure for the bike companies and their dealers; the local bike shops (LBS'). Last year we had **EWR Bikes** on site with their fleet of demo bikes and it went over really well. This year, **EWR** is on board again and we potentially have **Kona** and **Fuji** with their demo rigs, and hope to get **Cannondale**.

Last year we had the following LBS' step up to the plate:

<b>REI</b>	<b>Guy's Bicycles</b>	<b>Bucks County Bicycles</b>	<b>Abington Wheel Wright</b>	<b>Keswick Cycle</b>
<b>Trophy Bikes</b>	<b>Human Zoom</b>	<b>High Road Cycles</b>	<b>Performance North Wales</b>	
<b>Bike Line Bromall</b>		<b>Cycle Sports Doylestown</b>	<b>Eastern Mountain Sports</b>	

Not to mention our good friends at **DIRT RAG magazine** as well as **Princeton Tec lights**, **Go Cycling jerseys**, **Clif Bar**, **Starbucks Coffee** and **Glacéau Water**.

We ask that when you are making purchase decisions, consider these companies listed above as they have pledged their support to our mountain biking livelihood and our terrific park resources. Look for much more details on this event and **volunteering opportunities**. Starting with our **general meeting** this **WEDNESDAY MARCH 11** at the **Manayunk Diner** at **7pm**. We hope to see you there!

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

Lou Harris - PMBA President