

FAT TIRE

FLYER

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PO BOX 151

FAIRFAX CA.

JANUARY '81 FEBRUARY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COP ON A CRUISER RACES

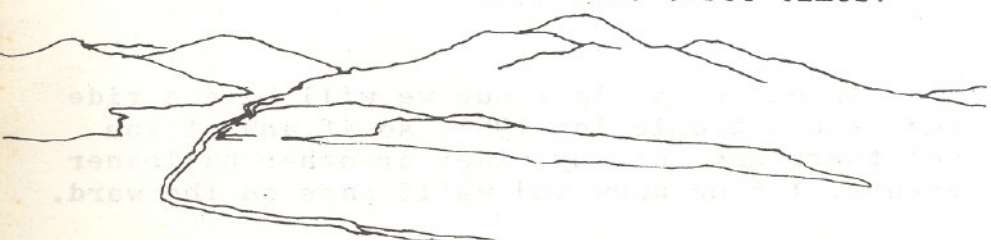
BIG RIDE COMING UP



THIRD TIME IS THE CHARM

If you are reading this it means that the third big ish of the Fat Tire (not the Flat Tire as some have mispronounced) Flyer, FTF for short, the only publication devoted solely to balloon tire bikes in all their ramifications (verb coming soon), the vocal organ, so to speak, of the Fat Tire Movement, and forum for fat tire expression as well as champion of Fat Tire Rights (verb next), has hit the stands.

Betcha had to read that three times!



The Fat Tire Flyer is published on a bi-monthly basis in the interest of promoting and protecting Fat Tire Flying.

Although we don't as yet pay anything for contributions, one of the easiest ways you can see your name or artwork in print is to send it to us. (In spite of this attitude, we still have standards.)

Protect your cruising interests by joining the Marin County Wilderness Wheelers. Contact the Flyer at P.O. Box 757, Fairfax, Calif. 94930 or call us at (415) 457-7016 or 456-1898.

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COMING SOON....

In our next big issue we will have a ride and race schedule for 1981, so if any of you out there know of any rides or other balloonner events, let us know and we'll pass on the word.

HOT BIKE



HOT LINE

List your stolen bikes in the Hotline at no charge.

BIKE: Columbia Western Flyer

DESCRIPTION: Blue. Has rear Morrow hub in front; nickel plated chain; extra thick sprocket; Columbia Western Flyer plate on front of frame.

STOLEN FROM: Larkspur on 1-7-81 (aprox.)

REWARD: Bike Parts

GALL: Larry Simpson at 924-0227

Bike: Colson 10-speed conversion.

Description: Red, red Ukai rims, Sturmey-Archer rear drum brake, cantilever front brakes, Magura brake levers, TA cranks.

Stolen from: Fairfax behind Sleeping Lady Cafe approximately 1-9-81.

Reward: \$200

Call: Sleeping Lady and leave message at 456-2044 or call Cove Bike Shop at 388-0800.

FISHER WINS IN CYCLO-CROSS

On Saturday, November 29, Gary Fisher served notice to the traditional cycling world that ballooners are real bikes by winning the Northern California Cyclo-cross senior championship on his MountainBike. Although he finished 16 seconds behind Gavin Chilcott of Santa Rosa, who was riding a traditional skinny-tire cyclo-cross bike, Chilcott is a junior and is now the NorCal junior champ.

Fisher's plans for the rest of the cyclo-cross season include the Berkeley -cross on December 21st and the Nationals on the 29th at Colorado Springs. "I hope it snows," he says.

Cyclo-cross is a European sport in which bikes are raced on a short lap course, the rougher the better. In addition to muddy trails, there are a number of obstacles which require dismounting and carrying the bike. Races average from 10-15 miles in length.

Until recently ballooners were too heavy to be competitive, but Fat Tire technology has now closed the gap. Although he still lost a little time on the climbs, Fisher more than made it up on the down-hills and flats.



more racing news →

FIFTH ANNUAL PUNK BIKE ENDURO

The Fifth Annual Punk Bike Enduro in Santa Rosa featured the gnarliest cross-country action seen around here in a long time. The event, which was held on Saturday, December 7, featured 19 short stages on an undeveloped part of Sonoma County. Distances ranged from one-third of a mile to two miles over virtually every type of cross-country terrain. There were climbs on roads and trails and descents of various velocities through the same routes. Total distance was about 20 miles, and at the end of that distance the twenty or so starters had been reduced to eight by bike damage and the effort required to sprint each stage.

If total damage to machinery is any indication, the riders had a great time. Among the write-offs: a cyclo-cross bike, a pair of pedals, a one-speed freewheel, several pairs of grips, two headsets, an Avocet saddle, a TA chainring, an Araya alloy rim, and a lot of tires. Gordon Burns entered with cracked forks and finished with them intact. He rode the last few stages with six spokes torn out of his front wheel and three teeth off his one-speed freewheel.

Scoring was by points awarded the first six finishers of each stage. Winner with nine stage wins and 131 points was Joe Tanner. Second was Gordon Burns with 92 and third was Garvoon Chilblatt with 88 points and seven stage wins. Chilblatt was awarded the quitter's trophy by Burns for abandoning with three stages to go.

Other finishers were: Winston Harper, 69, Mark Clement, 35.5, Eric Oyen, Joe Rubi both 32.5, Charles Kelly, 29, and organizer Steve Striepeke, 26.

still more !

BERKELEY CYCLO-CROSS

The eighteenth Annual Tilden Park cyclo-cross on December 21 drew an estimated 20 hardy balloonner riders to contest a similiar number of traditional skinny tire 'crossers on a muddy 3/4 mile course in a drizzeling rain. Truly excellent conditions for 'cross with all bikes covered in mud by the end of the first lap.

Unfortunately no one will ever know the true results, since the handicapping system was completely arbitrary (some riders recieved up to a three lap head start), and the judging was out of control from about the third lap on.

Kenny Fuetsch of Corte Madera was eventually declared the winner after a long conference by the officials. Joe Ryan of Berkeley (now national cyclo-cross champion) was the fastest rider from scratch. Francesca Saveri of San Francisco was the first finisher of three women entered. Of the winners only Fuetsch rode a balloonner.

Notwithstanding the officiating, both contestants and spectators had a great time. One obstacle in particular a steep descent followed by a stream crossing, provided dozens of crashes for the happy fans, truly a sight for Fat Tired eyes.

- This is the second year that the Tilden Park was won on Fat Tires. by Fuetsch on his last year by Gorden Santa Rosa on his



running
'Cross
This year
Breezer,
Burns of
Richman.

RACING

in SoCal

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HILLCLIMB/DOWNHILL RACES

The Southern California hillclimb/downhill Championships were held November 23 on a $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile dirt course north of Malibu. The event was promoted by Victor Vincente of America, who put his mettle to the pedal and finished fifth in the climb.

Although no times were available for the uphill due to a timing mix-up, winner Monte Ward finished with an estimated two minute lead over James McLean.

In the downhill local Aaron Cox came away the winner in 5:42, followed by Kurt Brown in 5:51. This event was marred by a crash in which Jim Samuelson broke his hand; the accident occurred while he was making a strong bid to take the downhill honors.

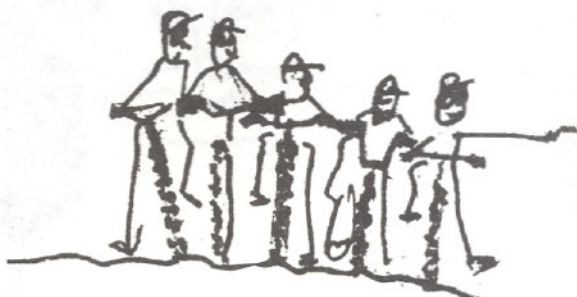
Complete results are as follows:

Downhill

1. Aaron Cox 5:42
2. Kurt Brown 5:51
3. Jeff Day 6:00 tie
Paul Boyce
5. Monte Ward 6:03
6. James McLean 6:20 tie
Brian Skinner
8. Jim Spadoni 6:24 tie
Kent Shelbourn
- 10 J. Carney 6:36

Uphill

1. Monte Ward
2. James McLean
3. J. Carney
4. Paul Boyce
5. Victor Vincente
6. Morey Bassarino
7. Jim Harlow
8. Brian Anderson
9. Aaron Cox
10. Jeff Day



ATTENTION HOTSHOES!

For those of you who have been itching to try out your bikes on a BMX track, here's some good news: there is a track being planned for Mill Valley that will include all the standard BMX action, jumps, berms, and all that stuff.

Scheduled for opening in March, the Mill Valley track will mostly be aimed at the 20" wheel bikes; lately though, the BMX field has been invaded by the 26 inchers, and now a lot of the best action is in this class with the bigger riders.

According to James Wickham of Mill Valley, the new track will be bulldozed out in a field near Middle School in early March. It will be 800' in length with a 25' wide starting gate narrowing down to a 15' wide track. The track may be a little short for those used to mountain cruising, but hey, you can show off for all your friends, right?

The track will operate with an ABA (motocross) sanction, according to organizer Wickham, which translates to you gotta wear helmets and gloves and otherwise demonstrate that this is a clean (?), safe sport suitable for family consumption.

Next summer plans include demonstrations by all the hot pros, workshops, and of course, lots of racing, so get down there and grab air.



RIDES



FRIENDS AND LOVERS Valentine's Day Ride

February 14th is the day, and the Pine Mountain loop is the place for the Valentine's day ride stating at 10:00am in the Fairfax Theatre parking lot.

For those who couldn't get enough of Pine Mountain on Thanksgiving we offer the same gnarly route with lots of spills and potential spills waiting to be activated. So grab your lover or someone you like, and don't forget your bike, and be there or be square. Lunch as usual will NOT be catered, so bring whatever you need to spend the afternoon high in the mountains.



valentine's day ride

FEBRUARY 14th

Saturday



* 10:00 AM
FAIRFAX
THEATRE

ANOTHER FAIRFAX FLYER EVENT!!

APPETITE SEMINARIANS GET DOWN ON PINE MT.

The sixth Annual Thanksgiving appetite seminar starting and ending in Fairfax drew sixty riders from as far away as Lake Tahoe for the traditional calorie countdown. The course, as always, was the Pine Mountain loop, which climbs and drops on good fire roads for some eighteen miles.

The weather was perfect, in contrast to the conditions of last year's ride, which was conducted in a driving rain. This year's participants included five women and one ten year old clunkster who is as far as we know, the youngest person to conquer the loop.





The first leg of the ride is the two-mile stretch from the pavement to the top of Pine Mountain. After gathering at the infamous "Grassy Knoll," high atop the mountain, riders cruised down the back slopes toward Kent lake on perfect road surfaces. Recent rains had settled the dust without leaving the road muddy, and groups of four or five engaged in some informal dicing for the best lines.

The close action resulted in a few divots being placed by overeager tirebiters. Only one bike sustained any serious damage in the dozen or so minor wipeouts, and the pretzeled wheel was rebuilt for the owner on the trail by the only bike mechanic within quite a few miles. The mechanic's fee is said to have been staggering.

Joe Ryan of Berkeley, national cyclo-cross team member, dazzled some of the Fat Tire fans with a display of downhill daring on skinny tires.

Some of the group were in more of a hurry than others, and riders were quite strung out. Repack was in perfect condition, having been graded recently above the gate.

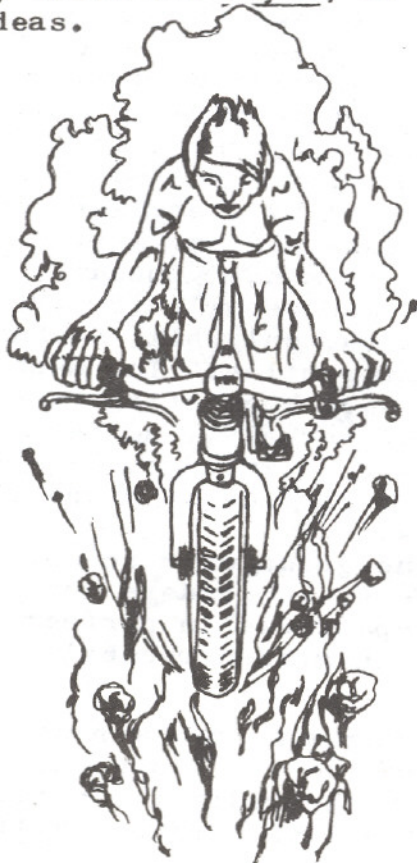
Action Now magazine had a reporter on the scene, and he was blown out by the intensity of the riding, especially the fact that the locals ride uphill as well as down

RACING LEAGUE??

There has been talk lately of a sanctioning body being formed for the purpose of promoting and standardizing the rules for off-road (as opposed to BMX) balloonner racing. The advantages of such an organization are numerous, and in fact, such a body is inevitable if the sport is to grow.

So, we all can sit around and let someone else organize a league and then complain about how it is run, or we can involve ourselves, start it and then run it (presumably) the right way.

Last pitch: if you are interested in helping formulate race rules and spreading the sport, write the Flyer, if only to send us your ideas.



BOMBER PATROL

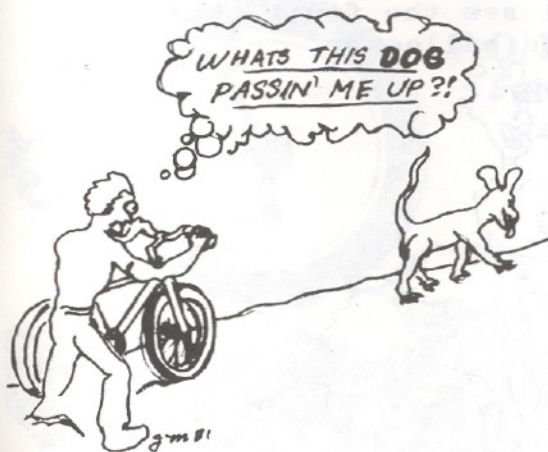
It was inevitable that the wheels of justice would switch to Fat Tires. Since balloon tires are efficient for local car, the Mill department has known local less at the pilot, Officer



so much more efficient traffic than a Valley Police Department instituted the first Bomber Patrol, more or suggestion of the chief James Wickham.

Wickham will cruise the areas around Tamalpais High School and Middle School before and after school hours and deal with the minor traffic problems created by hundreds of students hitting the streets at the same time. Officer Wickham is familiar with cycling and traffic; one of his other jobs is teaching bicycle safety in the Mill Valley schools.

For the record, we'll run down on his new equipment: the frame is a Kos Kruiser supplied and set up by John Lewis at his Mill Valley Schwinn. It's a five-speed with SnakeBelly tires, DiaCompe calipers, and so on. Wickham says he'll race it "just for fun," at the track he will be promoting in the spring.



BIKE SHOW

LONG BEACH BIKE SHOW

The Long Beach bike show on January 10, 11, 12 saw some significant recognition of the balloon tire bicycle by the entire two-wheeled industry. The number of exhibitors displaying ballooners went from four last year to fifteen this year.

One of the high points of the entire weekend was a lecture-workshop for dealers entitled, "Fat Tires, Fat Profits," narrated by the Fat Tired Prophet himself, Don Koski of the Cove Bike Shop.

The amount of attention paid by the Japanese engineers to the Ritchey/MountainBike and the Cove Trailblazer at the show seems to be a good indication that the Japanese will be competing soon in this market. There is already a low-priced imported balloon tire bike available, and informed sources tell us that around April we will see the first attempt at a quality imported balloon.



We would like to extend a hearty thanks to our advertisers and urge you Fat Tire Fans to support the people who make The Flyer and other Fat Tire ventures possible.



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