

May 5, 2007

## BIKE! Charlotte 2007 and More

BIKE! Charlotte, 2007, got off to an early start on Thursday night, as the Trailblazers hosted their monthly meeting at Dilworth Neighborhood Café. With 45 attendees, it was a great way to kick off a week of celebration of the bicycle! And if the truth be know, many of us were fortunate enough to kick things off a week early, as we celebrated the union of Dirt Diva (ok, she's a Trailblazer too) Jennifer Dilworth, and Trailblazer Brian Hines just outside of Tsali. Without a doubt this was the most fun that I have had in ages! They did it up right, from the beautiful wedding setting and ceremony to multiple group rides through the singletrack of Tsali! Congratulations Jen and Brian!

The Mayor's Ride was held Friday morning (Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>) and the dreary skies didn't keep many away as there looked to be several hundred riders representing many different riding groups from the Metro-Charlotte area. More symbolic than strenuous, the show of support for the bicycle as an alternate form of transportation and fitness was on display.

Sherman Branch, the handy work of Trailblazer VP - Jerry Adams and a core group of volunteers kicks off with a Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday morning that includes, rides and food...Grey skies may play a role, but the trails could use a little moisture...10.6 miles of sweet singletrack, Jerry, we really appreciate your talents!

And while we're on the subject of Sherman Branch, the need for rest facilities has been handled with the placement of a Port-Jon by CMP&R! Greg Jackson of P&R saw to it that our needs were met and we certainly appreciate it, Greg!

A year in the making, our Tarheel Trailblazers / Dirt Divas brochure has finally been printed and is being distributed to bike shops all over town...AND, we have gone to the printer with the THTB/USNCW map, which will be hitting the shops next week! Sponsored by Christenbury Eye Care, the maps will be a great means of cash flow for the club...Dan Burns is to be commended for his artwork and layout, Ivan Konermann for his GPS knowledge and managing the project and to Cathie Docherty whose image of Patty Smith was used on the cover...Thanks to everyone involved. It looks as if Col. Beatty is on deck as the next map.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fat Tire Music Festival will be held on June 16, 2007 in the parking lot of the Coliseum Shopping Center. The Trailblazers and Dirt Divas will be the benefactors of the festival not only financially, but also in allowing us to raise awareness of mountain biking in the Metro-Charlotte community...Bands include the Moonshine Racers, The Accentrix, Carmona, Lindy Dobbins and the Velvet Minx, and Audioform. More to be announced soon...Tickets will be \$5 and coolers are allowed. Stay tuned for more details!

We currently have over 350 paying members in the club. We're on a roll folks and I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions. No matter how large or small, each donation of time, money, or advocacy goes a long way. We couldn't do it without you!

See ya on the trail!

-tom

Posted At : 7:00 AM. | Posted By : tom