

Trail News

WELCOME, NEW IMBA CHAPTERS!

Eight organizations joined the IMBA Chapter Program in the summer of 2014, bringing the total to 172 chapters. These organizations build and maintain trails, organize rides and contribute to their communities. IMBA chapters are closely connected to IMBA, including joint local and national memberships. Chapter services include close contact with IMBA regional directors, professional marketing and design services, day-to-day management and other direct support from IMBA's staff.

IMBA welcomes the newest additions to its chapter program:

- Bomber Mountain Cycling Club, Sheridan, NY
- Cannon River Offroad Cycling and Trails, Northfield, MN
- Friends of Arkansas Singletrack, Bentonville, AR
- Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Marin County, CA
- Oklahoma Earthbike Fellowship, Oklahoma City, OK
- Pedal United, Billings, MT
- Silverton Mountain Bike Club, Silverton, CO
- Susquehanna Valley Velo Club, Williamsport, PA

NEW IMBA DIRECTOR FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION



Laurel Harkness takes over her new role as the director for the Northern California IMBA region. Harkness was most recently the executive director of the nonprofit Snowlands Network, based in Nevada City, CA. Previous to that she was the executive director of the Mount Shasta Nordic Ski Organization. A 1996 graduate of Univ. of Calif., Davis, Laurel has professional experience in land-use policy, government relations, grassroots organizing, fundraising and event planning. Harkness succeeds Tom Ward, one of IMBA's first regionally based staff members. She can be reached at laurel.harkness@imba.com.

NATIONAL TRAIL PROJECT AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Below is just a small sampling of new trail projects and mountain bike advocacy work happening

across the country, and highlights how IMBA and its chapters help all of us get more and better places to ride!

CALIFORNIA: A massive, three-day volunteer effort in late September helped complete the Paradise Royale Trail System in the King Range National Conservation Area. The Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association, Bureau of Land Management and IMBA Trail Solutions helped complete a 30-mile project started in 2005.

IDAHO: IMBA, Wood River Bicycle Coalition, Outdoor Alliance, Idaho Conservation League and the Sierra Club are making huge strides toward a federal national monument designation for the Boulder White Clouds in Idaho, which will protect the land while maintaining existing mountain bike access to classic, big mountain rides.

NEVADA: IMBA Trail Solutions has begun to design and flag 40 miles of trails in Caliente, NV. The project will feature everything from backcountry singletrack with stunning views to family-friendly pumptracks and beginner routes, all located about two hours north of Las Vegas.

UTAH: IMBA Trail Solutions recently designed a master plan for the first mountain bike trails at Powder Mountain in Eden, UT. Construction of many miles

of high alpine singletrack is underway, with the first trails opening to the public in 2015.

ILLINOIS: The Linn Area Mountain Bike Association in Linn County, Iowa, in partnership with Linn County and the Linn County Recreation Commission, recently had the Linn County Creek Park Project selected to receive \$55,000 in funding from the Recreational Trails Act. It's the first Linn County-specific project in the state to be selected for funding support. LAMBA will use the funding to complete trails that were started in 2012 by IMBA Trail Solutions.

OHIO: IMBA Trail Solutions, the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Area Mountain Parks and the Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association continue to work in collaboration on the Kerruish Bike Park, which Trail Solutions recently submitted a conceptual plan for. The IMBA Trail Building Fund supported this process, which is now in the community input phase.

VIRGINIA: In September, RVA MORE, an IMBA chapter in Richmond, broke ground on a "gateway trail" in Pocahontas State Park that will be accessible for handcycles. The project is part of the Richmond Regional Ride Center and was inspired by a former president of RVA MORE who suffered a spinal injury but wanted to continue mountain biking. Once the project is

Join your local IMBA chapter, or associate your existing membership with a chapter, by visiting imba.com/join

finished, there will be 22 miles of handcycle-optimized trails.

OKLAHOMA: The Oklahoma Earthbike Fellowship, an IMBA chapter in Oklahoma City, is partnering with a mountain bike club in Tulsa to save Turkey Mountain, a parcel of land home to 20 miles of mountain trail that is being threatened by development. IMBA forces with the club and the Tulsa club to create an instant creation of a louder voice to protect one of the state's spots.

ALABAMA: In October, IMBA and Alabama Chapter will fund a \$100,000 Trails Program for Alabama, which will be used for building area trails and a 30- to 50-mile trail system in Lowry Mountain State Park. IMBA will be led by Trail Solutions.

IMBA'S MTB PROJECT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

In the coming months, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will update trails information for its projects, including printed topographic maps, using data from MTB Project, IMBA's online mountain

bike trails resource. Most mapping products in the U.S. are derived from USGS data, and this project will put mountain bike trails in a readily accessible place. It is desirable that the rides in your area are fully mapped on MTB Project to ensure they are documented on USGS and other widely-used maps. Help us showcase, on a national level, how many great rides are out there and the value we riders bring to public lands. The project runs from Nov. 2014 through May 2015. Get started at MTBProject.com.

MTB Project, with the help of IMBA chapters and the broader mountain bike community, has mapped more than 30,000 miles of trails since launching in May 2013. A team of IMBA and MTB Project staff have carefully verified and edited all of the featured content, reviewing more than 8,000 trails and rides. IMBA's mapping efforts receive generous sponsorship support from Shimano and PeopleForBikes.

IMBA CHAPTERS GUIDING LAND PROTECTION PLAN IN CALIFORNIA

In mid-October, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish 346,177 acres of national forest land in the San Gabriel Mountains

in southern California as a national monument, to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service. According to a White House statement, the designation will permanently protect this popular outdoor recreation destination to increase access and outdoor opportunities for the area's residents.

IMBA and its local chapters—the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) and the Mount Wilson Bicycling Association (MWBA)—took a leadership role in partnering with the conservation community to help shape plans for the national monument. The mountain bike groups worked to improve public understanding of the designation, and collaborated with the San Gabriel Mountains Forever group on a co-signed letter to define the characteristics of a bike-friendly national monument, which they delivered to the White House, U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, Congresswoman Judy Chu of California, and others.

Advocates from MWBA and CORBA, along with IMBA staff, will continue working with the U.S. Forest Service as the management plan for the monument is formulated, seeking to ensure that mountain bike access, which is not

specifically described in the proclamation, will be protected. The chapters are encouraging riders in southern California to join them in making their voices heard as a viable, valuable user group. Visit CORBAMTB.org or MWBA.org for more information.

CHECK OUT IMBA'S NEW EMAIL NEWSLETTER!

If you're not currently receiving email newsletters from IMBA, you should be! If you're not receiving emails tailored to the region in which you live, you might need to update your contact information by signing in to IMBA.com. We strive to keep you abreast of both national and local access issues, trail openings and volunteer days near where you live, big regional events you don't want to miss, and opportunities for education, grants and stoke from IMBA. If you don't already receive email newsletters from us and don't have an IMBA.com account, you can register quickly and securely at imba.com/traillove.

WHAT IS A NATIONAL MONUMENT? A national monument is a form of federal land protection that the President can designate—without the approval of Congress—via the power of the 1906 Antiquities Act. National monuments can be managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Bureau of Land Management, all agencies that IMBA partners with regularly. IMBA supports national monument designations because they can protect public lands while still allowing for and enhancing great mountain biking experiences. However, bike access is not always guaranteed, which is why your membership dollars support national advocacy efforts to shape bike-friendly forms of land protection. Without your support, IMBA and our chapters cannot fully engage in the land management process.

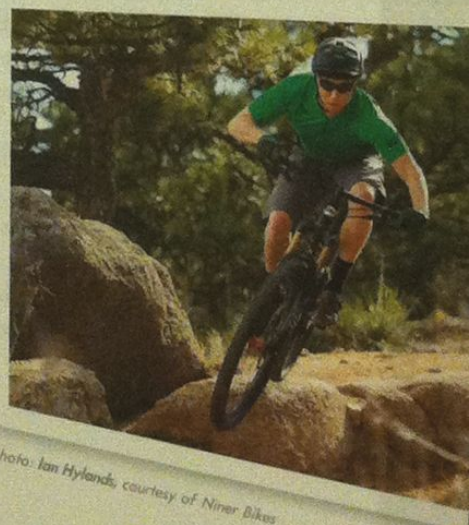


Photo: Ian Hylands, courtesy of Niner Bikes