GET OUT AND RIDE

A free community event celebrating biking, family, and fun! Suitable for all ages and abilities.

Activities
- Adult Group Rides: 10am and 1pm
- Demo Bikes from Rocky Mountain
- Children’s Activities: 10am-3pm
- Awesome Give-away Prizes: 3pm
- Fundraiser, T-Shirt and SockGuy Sales
- Primitive Camping Onsite
- Hotel and Restaurant Discounts
- Sunday: Lapoint Trail Group Ride

NUMBFest 2017
May 27th 9am-3pm
McCoy Flats Vernal UT

For more information and details check out:
www.bikenumb.org
contact@bikenumb.org
Located halfway through the drive between Colorado’s Steamboat Springs and Park City, Utah, each established mountain biking mecca, Vernal has long been a great overnight stop or midday break for the traveling mountain biker, but the high desert town on the southeastern reaches of Utah’s highest mountain range, the Uinta Mountains, is becoming a mountain bike destination in its own right. In May 2009, Bike Magazine wondered, “Better than Moab?” and said, “Today, Vernal has more than 100 miles of singletrack and could rival Fruita [Colorado] as the best in the West.” Three months later, the Provo Daily Herald called Vernal an “unexpected mountain biking hot spot” with trails to rival Moab, Saint George and Fruita. The headline of a 2012 Deseret News story read, “Vernal makes a run at Moab’s mountain biking dominance,” and as recently as May 2016 the town and its trails have been featured in Bike Magazine. And on Sept. 16, 2016, Patrick Phillips said while riding Red Fleet State Park for the first time with his wife, Annie, “It’s just as good as Moab but without the scene.” The couple had stumbled on Vernal and its trails while traveling from their home in California to the Maah Daah Hey Trail in North Dakota. After riding Red Fleet and learning of other nearby trails, they said they planned to return to Vernal for at least a month next year to enjoy the trails. With little advertising beyond word of mouth and directions to trailheads from Altitude Cycle bike shop in downtown Vernal, the world-class singletrack tucked in red rock canyons, draped over pine-blanketed mounts and hidden in high desert plains offer mountain bikers of all abilities and riding styles a tranquil respite from the internationally renown but crowded singletrack to the east, south and west. “The riding is unbelievable,” said Troy Lupcho, the longtime owner of Altitude Cycle and former BMX world champion. “You can get some of the best singletrack, not only in northeastern Utah but, I think, in the Western states. Bike Magazine said the trails out here can rival Fruita – it’s some of the best singletrack in the West.” Lupcho, a driving force behind much of the singletrack in the Uintah Basin, said the diversity of the trails and terrain surrounding Vernal was a major attraction to riders. “It’s an area that has the diversity that any place else has to offer without any crowds at all,” he said. “You can camp almost anywhere you want and have a phenomenal time.” Whether passing through Vernal for a day or making it a destination, riders hooked on Vernal’s mountain biking recommend these trails for your off-road itinerary.

McCoy Flats - With more than 50 miles of trails just a few minutes from downtown, McCoy Flats is synonymous with Vernal to mountain bikers. Trails cater to beginner, intermediate and intermediate riders on hardtails or full-suspension bikes with 4-5 inches of suspension travel. Loose rocks cover narrow, hard-packed singletrack with creative routing that leaves riders anticipating the next turn, small drop, punchy climb or swooping descent. But riders won’t have long to wait, because the trails are rarely straight. McCoy Flats is the most popular of Vernal’s relatively undiscovered trails, Red Fleet State Park just north of Vernal is a true hidden gem. With trails reminiscent of Fruita’s 18 Road and legendary Kokopelli trail system, as well as a taste of Grand Junction’s Lunch Box, riders can find trails of all skill levels.

A map shows locations of trailheads for popular mountain bike trails around Vernal, Utah.
NUMBfest 2017 promises family fun

By Brennan Deegan

Northeastern Utah Mountain Bikers is a non-profit educational organization, located in Vernal, whose mission is to create, enhance, and preserve great trail experiences for mountain bikers. NUMB will be holding their annual mountain biking event May 27, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be known as NUMBfest, and includes many different activities for riders to participate in.

In 2015, NUMB became an official chapter of the International Mountain Bike Association. With being a chapter of IMBA, anyone in the area who becomes a member of IMBA also becomes a member of the NUMB. Memberships range from $20/year to $1,000. All people that come from IMBA membership will have a discount on the insurance and maintaining the local trails of the chapter a person joins. The memberships also come with many benefits, including discounts on outdoor gear, health insurance, and free a magazine subscription. Members of NUMB even get a 10 percent discount at Altitude Cycle in Vernal.

In 2016, there was a big push to increase the size of NUMBfest. The main reason for this push was to help pay for insurance, which is required for fall DMA trail building events.

“As a chapter, we are required to have insurance, liability insurance is $1,150 a year; NUMB didn’t have any money, so we really needed a fundraiser: Since NUMBfest was already established, we decided to just go with it,” Hedrick said.

“Trail etiquette” is just kind of acknowledging that other people use the trails, and don’t want to be interrupted.

Don’t be the rider that ends up in the hospital or worse yet puts others safe.

“Your Strava time doesn’t matter!” Hedrick said. “Slow down if you know there will be other people.”

Staying safe on the trail is half of the trail etiquette, though. Keeping the trails in safe rideable condition is also part of etiquette.

Ruts are a big part of keeping trails rideable. Ruts in the trail can not only slow riders down, but can make riding a bit more dangerous. “It’s also acknowledging that other people use the trails, and don’t want to be interrupted.”

“Always stay on the trail, because when you go off the trail, whether it be to pass or create a new trail, other people will see that and think it’s okay; it’s not okay, because we want to keep single track single, that’s what makes them so fun,” Hedrick said. “If we wanted to ride double track, we would just ride on dirt roads, and that is so boring.”

Not using proper etiquette could even end in loss of trail use by mountain bikers.

NUMB is a chapter of IMBA, which is a member of the International Mountain Bike Association. The office of N8MBfest is for riders to participate in the group, contact Trina Hedrick at contact@bikenumb.org. The group also has an open Facebook group called NUMB.

Don’t be the rider that ends up in the hospital or worse yet puts others safe.

“The money will also help us with trail maintenance,” Hedrick said.

While the event enables NUMB to pay for insurance, it also helps complete IMBA’s mission. “In 2015, NUMB became a chapter of IMBA, and as a chapter of IMBA we have a mission to protect, preserve, and promote great trail experiences,” Hedrick said.

NUMBfest is for riders of all ages and skill levels. Everyone is invited to go have fun for the day, and go for group rides of different lengths and speeds, depending on skill level.

“We have beginner and intermediate group rides going on at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.,” Hedrick said. “The group rides would be a great way to get out if you are feeling intimidated, since they will be led by people who know the trails, and the ride will not be extremely fast.”

“Rocky Mountain Bicycles will be providing demo bikes for people to try out, or just ride if they do not have a bike of their own. The demo also creates an opportunity for prospective bike buyers to go try out a different few different bikes to help make a decision.”

“If there’s some Rocky Mountain demo bikes,” Hedrick said. “No people can just bring a helmet and some wares, Jesse Brunson with the DLM will be doing it.”

Along with the activities, there will be a raffle at the end of the day to help raise money for NUMB’s liability insurance and operating costs. The raffles will have many different items, which are all donated by local businesses in the area. A few items were even hand made by Altitude Cycle’s KY.

“The biggest thing is probably the raffle,” Jen Callantine has really stepped it up this year and gotten some really awesome stuff, some really nice stuff,” Hedrick said.

“There’s all kinds of stuff, from nice retail items to hand made bike art.”

Leaders of NUMB are doing their best to create an event for the community to go out and have fun with, along with bringing people from out of town to help the local economy.

For more information on the event or the group, contact Trina Hedrick at contact@bikenumb.org. The group also has an open Facebook group called NUMB.

Riders make their way along the trails at McCoy Flats. This year’s NUMBfest is May 27, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For date information about the event May 27, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., please visit https://www.bikenumb.org. The group also has an open Facebook group called NUMB.

Trailing the trails 101 makes riding more fun

By Brennan Deegan

While most trails in Vernal are open to most users, there are guidelines that all users must follow. The guidelines are called trail etiquette, and since mountain bikers are the fastest trail users they are exceptionally important for them to know in order to keep everyone safe out on the trails. Etiquette mainly includes yielding and keeping trails in good shape.

Knowing that other people use the trails, and yielding when necessary is where etiquette all starts. When mountain bikers encounter other users, they are actually expected to yield to them.

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Not using proper etiquette could even end in loss of trail use by mountain bikers.

Hedrick said, “If you’re not polite on the trails, you run the risk to having trails closed to mountain biking; that is the worse case scenario, but it could happen.”

The two main points that Hedrick made was being polite and keeping single track single.

For more information on etiquette, and more “set stone rules” visit https://www.imba.com/about/rules
Cycling pioneer Chris Chance was a co-founder of Breadwinner Cycles and builder of the legendary "Fat Chance" mountain bike. It was the first mountain bike on the East Coast. There was a renaissance in hand-built mountain bike builders in the early '90s, when there was a movement to try making it and see what you could come up with. Chance says he was inspired to start building mountain bikes, including many Fat Chance Bikes, from the 2017 North American Handmade Bicycle Show in Salt Lake City in mid-March, a nearly overwhelming volume of such bikes was on display. This great thing about a custom bike is that it's built for each individual rider. And how they're going to ride it and for the shape of their body. — Tony Pereira, the owner of Broadbrimser Cycles said.

"The mountain bikes that we build are bikes that I feel like I had gone as far as I wanted to go in road racing, all these different types of trails. And now it's like, there's a lot of different ways to ride, all these different types of trails. That's where handmade bikes come in."

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In a world of ever-increasing globalization, American-made goods are hard to come by, but one bicycle component manufacturer stands apart from the tide of companies flooding to overseas production.

Founded in Ogden, Utah, in 2007, ENVE Composites celebrated its 10th year of business this year with a new facility in North America. sha-sha-foot headquarters and manufacturing facility that opened in February. And to celebrate the anniversary and the opening, ENVE, which makes high-end carbon fiber wheels, forks, headsets, handlebars, stems and seatposts, held an open house on March 9, the night before the opening day of the 2017 North American Handmade Bicycle Show in Salt Lake City. A significant portion of the hundreds of bikes on display at the event were ENVE wheels and components. The wheels are among the best available.

ENVE, which was essentially called EDAC but renamed in late 2009 after the trademark dispute with a European company, began by making straight carbon-fiber tubing for bicycle frames. Road bike builders came, saw, and then ordered a full complement of cockpit components.

“ENVE was founded on the ethos, just how to create a better riding experience, and what we do is we manufacture high-end carbon fiber wheels using that—which is handlebars, stems, seatposts—basically anything that might be on the bike other than the drivetrain, relabeled,” ENVE Marketing Director and Product Manager Jake Pantone explained. “It was a dynamic time in the United States of America, and ENVE was the first company in the market to make a lot of carbon tubes for custom bicycle frames and handlebar stems. But, Pantone said, “Internal manufacturing is the way it’s going to go.”

People can take care of the smaller tasks and trail maintenance is no exception. There are a lot of ways to keep the trails in great shape.

*Simple maintenance is the biggest thing,“ Hedrick said. “If there is a rock on the trail, that is a rock you want to remove because it’s size or embedded in the soil, as a rock just sitting there is the edge of your trail. It’s the shoe shoveling, that’s how (Lupcho) calls it.”

Carbon fiber rims are stacked for sale and building at ENVE Composites’ new Ogden, Utah, headquarters and manufacturing facility on March 13, 2017. (UBMEDIA.BIZ)

Do your part by being a can-do kind of person. There are three common trail maintenance tools that every rider may want to consider getting to help with maintenance.

*Basic maintenance tools that you can get away with are a shovel, rake, and"
TRAILS

Continued from 2nd

Loops, Red Fleet offers a feel of the Best of the West sampler. Riders can pedal or hike a winding array of fast, flowing singletrack trails, offering various routes in the remote canyons and atop massive mesas. Red Fleet State Park is surrounded by an ever-expanding number of spectacular titanium bikes and the trail is a tougher version of a mountain bike covered in the aftermath of an early spring ride. Mountain bikers enjoy the trails. Downhill travel may also be tackled in individual segments by riders along the way, the trail can also be tackled in individual segments by riders at McCoy Flats and Red Canyon Visitor Center, allowing riders to shorten their routes by parking at other location or stop along the way of riding the full length.

Dowd Mountain - Just a few miles south of Red Canyon, the Dowd Mountain Trail offers a variety of singletrack and double-track with sections of habitat and rolling terrain. Best ridden countdowneckwise, the trail offers unparalleled views of Red Canyon and Paha Sapa at the Down Mountain Overlook, and an optional downhill spur to the Hidden Draw boat launch. Riders who choose to descend to the boat launch can either ride back up the double-track they descended on, or Lupcho suggested, coordinate a heat to anotherlaunch area accessible by maintained roads.

Not only is Vernal surrounded by an ever-expanding network of trails, but the town is also improving its bike infrastructure. Bike lanes are ap

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