

2012 Year End Report



a chapter of



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable trail building and multi-use access with focus on mountain bicyclists. SBMTV advocates the conservation of open spaces and champions trail etiquette in order to protect the natural environment and the experience of all trail users. We offer volunteer trail maintenance work days, educational programs, and family activities designed to promote the responsible use of multi-use public trails.

Vice-president's message:

2012 was a strong year for SBMTV, thanks to our greatest asset – people. From the volunteers who came to one trail event to the active members who donated hundreds of hours of time, it is the dedicated and generous people who make our accomplishments possible. This year we had an influx of vibrant new energy in the form of several active members. Lindsey McManus stepped in to be our new membership coordinator (see back page). Jimmy Mesta cleaned up and expanded our website. Mike Tarpey led bimonthly Elings volunteer trail work and ride events. Isak Sawyer tuned all our tools as often as needed. Together with Jimmy and board member Damon Eckert, Jack Greenbaum has been working on a online trail wiki that will go live this year.

We are grateful to the local businesses and non-profit organizations with whom we partnered this year: Santa Barbara Chicken Ranch supported our trail events by providing food. The SB trail runners helped purchase new tools and volunteered at trail events. We teamed up with SB Bicycle Coalition for CycleMAYnia events and to attend the National Bike Summit. We would also like to thank the Los Padres National Forest, SB County Parks and SB City Parks and Rec for their help in facilitating and supporting our work. And a huge thanks goes out to REI who assisted SBMTV with a significant grant that is helping fund the purchase of tools, a sustainable trails training program, and the bike bell program.

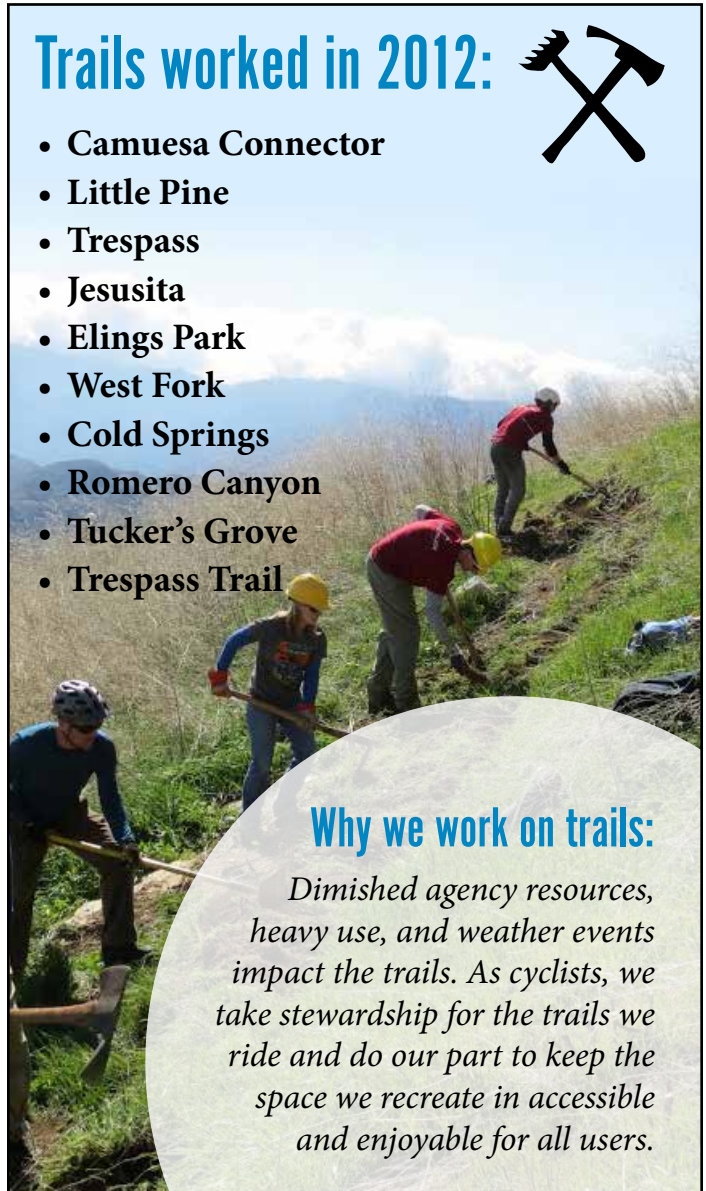
We are looking forward to carrying that energy into 2013 with continued trail work for the community, the planning for a bike park, release a trail wiki, and of course – great rides. See you on the trail!

– Doug Jacobson, vice-president SBMTV

Trails worked in 2012:



- Camuesa Connector
- Little Pine
- Trespass
- Jesusita
- Elings Park
- West Fork
- Cold Springs
- Romero Canyon
- Tucker's Grove
- Trespass Trail



Why we work on trails:

Diminished agency resources, heavy use, and weather events impact the trails. As cyclists, we take stewardship for the trails we ride and do our part to keep the space we recreate in accessible and enjoyable for all users.

Little Pine trail work (photo by Mitch Sereda)

2012 - By The Numbers

Number of Trails Worked 11

Hours Spent Working Trails
(not including planning, travel, reporting) 872

Number of Volunteers 157

Volunteer Hours 1,912

Elings Park maintenance events 6

Elings Park maintenance hours 32

In-kind equivalent
to the community
1,944 hours x \$21.79
(National average volunteer wage) . . . \$42,359.76

**Approximately \$900,000 in kind
contributed from 1988 - 2012**



Volunteer crew for Santa Cruz/Little Pine Trail (photo by James Wapotich)

SBMTV volunteers recognized by Forest Service

At the annual LPNF Volunteer Wilderness Ranger training, several SBMTV members were recognized for their dedication to trails. SBMTV President Chris Orr received a letter from President Obama thanking him for donating over 1000 hours to our trails. Congratulations Chris! Damon Eckert, Lauren Kernochan, Paul Herning, Izaak Sawyer were rewarded with free Adventure Passes for donating over 100 hours of volunteer time.

Why we ride:

Epic trails like Little Pine provide some of the best mountain biking in the area, and some of the greatest opportunities for exercise, spectacular views, and just plain fun!



National Trails Day

SBMTV worked with California State Parks Ranger Tyson Burke to host volunteers from multiple local organizations and re-open a section of the “Trespass Trail” in Gaviota Coast State Park.



Unloading the tools for the day's trail work (photo by James Wapotich)

National Public Lands Day

Fifty volunteers joined members of the Forest Service Rangers, Santa Barbara County Parks and Rec, Santa Barbara City, and Montecito Fire for six hours of work on the popular Cold Springs Trail. Teams of volunteers worked on foliage brushing, installation of new signage to direct users away from erosion-sensitive trail spurs, maintenance and construction of water control structures to decrease erosion, and trail bed clearance. Hungry volunteers then headed to Manning Park for lunch provided by Santa Barbara Chicken Ranch and raffle supplied by REI.

Bike Shop Partnership Program

When you become a SBMTV/IMBA member, there's an opportunity to also support your favorite local bicycle shop with that membership! Select your shop under the membership link on the SBMTV website and quarterly, the shop with the most memberships gets a pizza and beer party hosted by SBMTV.

Right: Little Pine trail work (photo by Mitch Sereda) Opposite: Lindsey and Jimmy enjoy jumping at La Tierra Bike Park in Santa Fe (photo by Chris Orr)

Why we get involved in the community:

We work together with other local cycling, environmental and trail groups to accomplish our shared goals. Together we strive to maintain and advance the world-class environmental and community assets that Santa Barbara offers.





California Trails and Greenways Conference:

SBMTV'er Chris Orr, City Parks and Rec staffer Mandy Burgess, and County Parks and Rec Ranger Mark Guy attended this conference to gain insights how other California agencies are managing and maintaining their trails. SBMTV offered a grant to help Santa Barbara agencies attend.

National Geographic GeoStories Features SBMTV

Content: IMBA's mapping specialist Leslie Kehmeier, stopped by Santa Barbara in December to do a piece on Santa Barbara trails for National Geographic's new image based travel blog "GeoStories". The adventure can be found at <http://www.sbmtv.org/?p=1999>



National Bike Summit in Washington D.C.

Together with members of Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, member Lauren Kernochan and President Chris Orr attended the National Bike Summit in Washington DC, to lobby for trails and bicycles in the federal transportation bill. They also represented SBMTV and IMBA in negotiations for a proposed Los Padres National Forest wilderness bill. Meeting with representatives from our area and seeing the change that is possible when voters champion a cause helped Lauren lose much of her cynicism about our government, and re-energize her to participate in bicycle and mountain bike advocacy work.





Santa Cruz/Little Pine panoramas above and on cover (photos by Mitch Sereda)

Mountain Bike Skills Clinic and Tunnel Tours:

As part of CycleMAYnia, SBMTV again hosted a Mountain Bike Skills Clinic together with Tunnel Tours trail rides. Rocky Nook Park's trail system provided a perfect learning space to work on turning, balance and gaze. Some excited participants then practiced their new skills riding down Tunnel Trail in the afternoon ride sessions. Both events promoted respectful trail use and riding skills.



Santa Barbara Century Ride

Since the first year of the ride, SBMTV has been hosting an aid station for the Santa Barbara Century Ride midway up Gibraltar, conveniently located at the entrance to West Fork trail. This year we paired volunteering at the aid station with some trail maintenance education from local expert Chris Orr. Volunteers were rewarded with a sweet ride down the West Fork single track at the end, as well as genuine thanks from the Century riders who were impressed to see mountain bikers lending a hand. Our members handed out water and energy drinks, made PB&J sandwiches, and helped riders off their bikes when leg cramps became too painful. In return for volunteering at this event, SBMTV was given the opportunity to supply another non-profit with a one thousand dollar grant. This year we gave this grant to the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST).



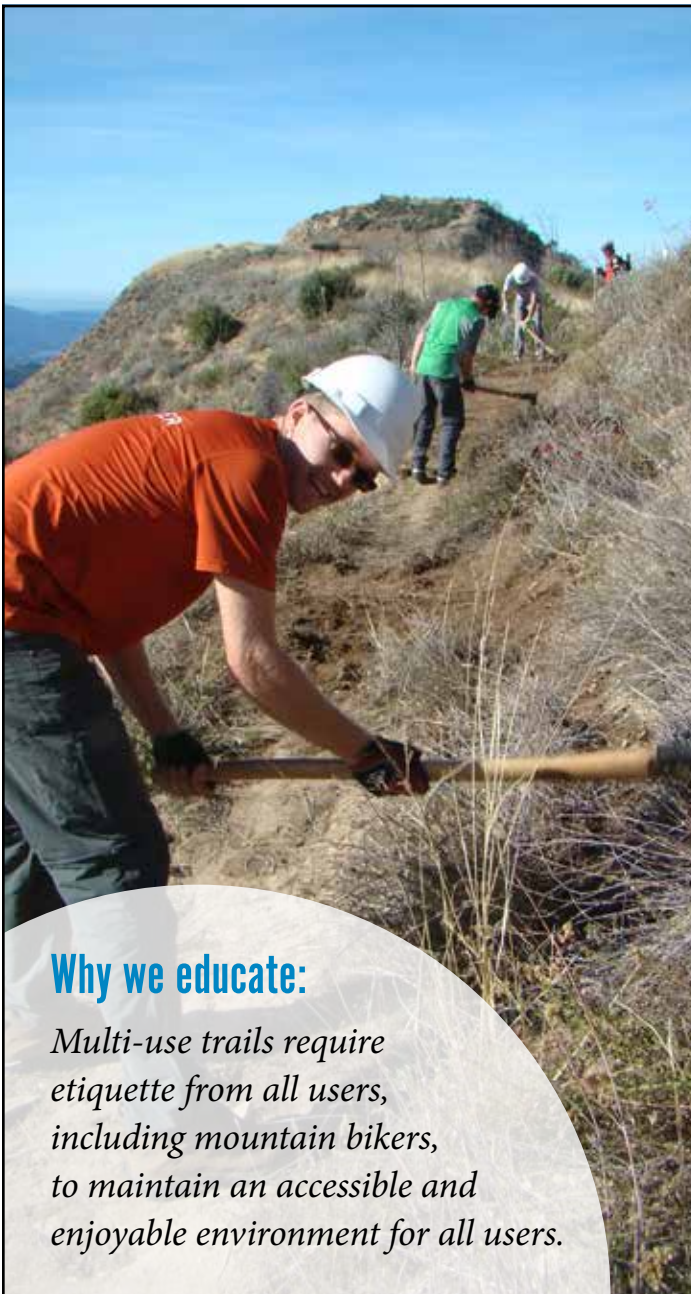
Photos from left: SBMTV Romero rock work featured in *National Geographic* (photo by Leslie Kehmeier), Our bicycle advocates in Lois Capps's Washington, D.C. office, MTB Skills Clinic Organizers: John Hygelund and Melissa Davis (photo by Matt Miller), Santa Barbara Century Ride aid station (photo by Chris Orr)

IMBA World Summit

This was perhaps the most inspiring event our members took part in this year. SBMTV funded four people to attend the IMBA world summit in Santa Fe, New Mexico where they learned about trail systems, bike parks, working with local land agencies and so much more. They connected with leaders from other communities and learned how they are solving similar issues, and got to demo bikes to ride all over a spectacular Santa Fe area trail system. Member Jimmy Mesta won the Stryder bicycle race and the dirt jump jam, bringing home a brand new Stryder bike and GoPro camera. See included excerpts from Jimmy and Lindsey's trip reports. The full reports and a short video of the trip are on the SBMTV website, www.sbmtv.org



Above: IMBA World Summit attendees (photo by Chris Orr)
Left: Santa Cruz/Little Pine trail work day (photo by Chris Orr)



Why we educate:

Multi-use trails require etiquette from all users, including mountain bikers, to maintain an accessible and enjoyable environment for all users.

Elings trail work and rides

Throughout the summer, Mike Tarpey of SBMTV hosted evening trail work and ride events at Elings Park every second and fourth Wednesday. We all appreciate the poison oak removal, and the improved water control features have helped keep the trails in working order through some tough winter rains.

SBMTV Board of Directors:

President – Chris Orr

Vice President – Doug Jacobson

Treasurer – Paul Herning

Secretary – Damon Eckert

Media/Web Coordinator – Ryan Harris

Trail Event Coordinator – Eric Hawkins

Elings Coordinator – Mike Tarpey

Tech Specialist – Jack Greenbaum

Excerpt from Jimmy Mesta's 'Adventures to Santa Fe'

The first stop was a place that has been described to me as a "must ride" since I started mountain biking. I have even heard the word "magical" used to describe the trails. This place is called Gooseberry Mesa. The Mesa is located about 30 miles from Virgin, Utah and is a fairly quick jaunt to Zion National Park. The trails at Gooseberry were the vision of Morgan Harris and a few other crazy Utah locals back in the 90s and are full of twisty, flowy, singletrack that seems to never end. The perfect mix of exposed slickrock and loose dirt made for a burner of a ride. Before unpacking anything from the car we cranked out 10 hard miles and were quickly reminded that we were not at sea level anymore.

Gooseberry Mesa is not your average hit and run mountain biking destination; people come here and seem to make the Mesa their home for a while. Maybe it's the solace the high desert brings or maybe it's just the epic singletrack. On our journey we met some amazing people, most of whom came from outside of our country. Our friend Gavin, from Australia was on a multi-month trip that started in British Columbia and included hitting the best trails our country has to offer. On one of the gems of the trail system



Jimmy Mesta at Gooseberry Mesa (photo by Chris Orr)

in Gooseberry, the Hidden Canyon trail, we met Phil, a cheery sixty something, grey-bearded mountain biker from Vancouver Island who was staying on the Mesa with his wife for a month. We made plans to meet up later that day to have a beer and were off to Gooseberry point where the view was one that reminded us how small we really are on this planet. While relaxing and re-fueling, we met a couple from the Bay Area of California (who were also first-timers to Gooseberry). We chatted for a while and planned to meet them in the evening for a tour of their Mike's Bikes Sprinter and a beer. Chris and I put the lights on our bikes and cruised around "God's Skatepark", a section in the middle of Gooseberry that is full of fun slickrock bowls, jumps, and berms. We then shared stories over some beers with our new friends. The perfect way to end our day.



Camuesa Connector and Little Pine

SBMTV organized multiple trail work days on the Camuesa Connector and Little Pine trails, accessible from Upper Oso Campground on Paradise Road. These trails offers some of the longer, fun, and flowy single track rides that are available in the Santa Barbara area. Volunteers cleared years of overgrown brush, and put in much needed water control features to ensure the trail will last multiple rainy seasons with minimal maintenance.

Left: Camuesa Connector trail work day number one (photo by Chris Orr)

Excerpt from 'Summit Days'

by Lindsey McManus

I had the chance to embark on my first IMBA Summit this year with the SBMTV, and feel incredibly grateful for it. I have come home with new friends, a bit tired and bruised, and motivated to find my role in supporting the trails of Santa Barbara County.

This year's Summit discussions shed light on what mountain biking would be without all the trail advocacy groups around the country. With the efforts of these groups our beloved sport is sustainable, continues to attract new riders, and increases our access to quality affordable gear. The combined network of these local trail work organizations really are to thank for keeping mountain biking alive.

Arguably the most important contributor to overall success for a trail work organization is having a strong team of volunteers. First, it's important to have a few key individuals trained in correct trail maintenance or building. These people will act as leaders for other volunteers on trail work days. If the job is done right the first time, a rolling grade dip, for instance will last a long time and serve its purpose. Secondly, finding consistent volunteers relieves the effort needed to promote trail work days. Touching on the first point again, the 'repeat' volunteers consequently become better trained after each day out on the trail.

Another very important, yet less advertised role is the 'operational volunteer'. This role could encompass anything related to the preparation needed to put on events and organizational upkeep. Some tasks include: grant funding, PR, social media management, membership promotion, event coordination, graphic design, volunteer appreciation, coordination of trail rides, bike-shop liaison, and so much more. When the right person fills one of these needed roles, the organization is more likely to have a greater impact. Besides, it's unrealistic to have one person successfully play all of those roles - on top of their current day job.

There are so many ways to help out your local trail organization. If you feel you would like to help out in some way - ask if you can help fill a needed role!

All in all, I have come home from this years Summit stoked off mountain biking and motivated to give back to our land, this sport and my community. I learned that the mountain bike culture is that of good friends, good rides, and giving back. Each and every person I met inspired me in some way. And, I feel I have come home with a few places and faces to visit around the country.



Lindsey McManus riding above Colorado Springs (photo by Chris Orr)

Looking forward: Coming events for 2013

- SBMTV 2013 kick-off party
- Release of our Trail Wiki
- New t-shirts and SBMTV pint glasses
- Crew leader training
- Washington, D.C. Bike Summit (March 4-6)
- Trails and Greenways Conference in Tahoe (May 7-10)
- IMBA Southwest Conference in Idlywild, CA (May 31)
- National Trails Day (June 1)
- National Public Lands Day (September 28)
- SBMTV Take-A-Kid Mountain Biking Day (October 5)
- SB Century Ride and West Fork trailwork (October 19)



To read more of Lindsey's and Jimmy's essays, see additional photos, and keep current on our upcoming events please visit

www.sbmtv.org