MONTANA FIRETOWER
BUCKET BRIGADE

WRITTEN BY TRINA ORTEGA
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NEMBA, the New England Mountain Bike Association, is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting trail access, maintaining trails open for mountain bicyclists, and educating mountain bicyclists to use these trails sensitively and responsibly.

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Paper Trail

Treadlines — 5
SideTracks — 12
Basic Biking — 13
Chapter News
• Connecticut — 14
• Maine — 19
• Massachusetts — 23
• New Hampshire — 30
• Rhode Island — 35
NEMBA Rides — 36
Support our Sponsors — 38

eMTBs -- Where can they be Ridden?

NEMBA offers guidance about where electric mountain bikes can be ridden. Short answer: anywhere offroad motorized vehicles and go.

Places to Ride
Fat Bikes in the Winter

If you’re getting ready to hit the trails on your fat bike this winter, check out our compilation of destinations and events. By Bill Boles

Hey, get creative! We welcome submissions, photos and artwork. This is your forum and your magazine. Be nice, and share!

On the Cover: Joe DiZazzo doing rock work at Billerica State Forest. Photo by Steve Richardson.

Do you have a photo that would make a good cover shot? Email it to pk@nemba.org

Want to Underwrite in ST?

SingleTracks offers inexpensive and targeted underwriting which helps us defray the cost of producing this cool ‘zine. Call 800-57-NEMBA or email pk@nemba.org for our media kit.

Moving?

Don’t miss an issue! Change your address online at nemba.org or mail it into SingleTracks, PO Box 2221, Acton MA 01720
Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation and PV NEMBA announce a partnership to open a 15-mile network of single-track trails at Dubuque State Forest.

“Dubuque’s singletrack trails wind through gorgeous and diverse woodlands and offer a variety of challenges, loops and scenic features that mountain bikers seek,” says Harold Green, President of the PV NEMBA Chapter. “But these trails will also provide new opportunities for cross-country skiers, hikers and trail runners as well.”

PV-NEMBA will organize trail maintenance and stewardship of the new trail system, help monitor against illegal trail building and work to educate trail users about etiquette and stewardship.

We are very excited about this partnership to expand recreational opportunities at Dubuque,” said DCR Commissioner, Leo P. Roy. “We expect that this new trail network will draw users from both the Pioneer Valley and Berkshire County to Hawley, and we believe that excellent trail networks and recreation can have economic benefits to local communities and the region.”

DCR and NEMBA are currently working to install signs, create new online maps, and build some additional trail connections.
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Sales . Service . Sincerity
Electric mountain bikes (e-MTBs) are now being produced and promoted by the bicycle industry and sold through some bicycle dealers in New England. While there are only a few brands and models currently available, many of the major bicycle companies soon plan to introduce them to the US market.

There are four classes of e-bikes:

• Class 1 e-bikes have a maximum speed of 20 MPH, a motor that is 750 watts or less that is activated by pedaling.

• Class 2 e-bikes are the same as the Class 1 but may utilize a throttle such as a regular motorcycle rather than be pedal-actuated.

• Class 3 e-bikes may attain speeds up to 28 MPH.

• Class 4 e-bikes may have motors greater than 750 watts and attain speeds faster than 28 MPH.

Most current electric mountain bikes fall into the category of Class 1.

Where can e-MTBs be ridden off-road?

It is important for consumers and bicycle dealers in New England to know where e-MTBs can and cannot be ridden on natural surface trails. Pedal-assist electric bikes can give more people the power to go further and to ride more trails, where allowed. To this end, the New England Mountain Bike Association has contacted many of the major land management agencies in New England to determine what the management policy is for e-bikes on trails.

The short answer is that all the major state and federal land management agencies in New England allow e-bikes only on trails which allow motorized recreation. E-bikes may also be ridden on private property and private trail systems with the permission of the landowner.

Many local trail systems are managed by town conservation commissions or land trusts that have not fully developed policies specific to electric, power-assist vehicles. However, those we’ve spoken to verify that regardless of the amount of power emitted by the electric motor, they are still by definition motorized and are managed as such.

How e-bikes are managed on paved public paths is unclear, and frequently state and local regulations have not yet caught up to the technology of e-bikes, and there is no definitive list of where e-bikes are allowed to ride on paved pathways.

STATE-BY-STATE GUIDANCE ON E-MTB USE

Connecticut

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) does not specifically call out e-bikes in their regulations but currently manages them as a motorized form of recreation.

There are two public motorized trail systems where e-bikes and motorcycles are allowed. Pachaug State Forest (Voluntown CT) has 58 miles of motorcycle trails available to e-bikes. The forest is open year-round except during mud season.

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Connecticut Camps

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• Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis
• Registration limited to a maximum of 15 Campers
E-biking is also allowed at the US Army Corps of Engineers’ property, Thomaston Dam (Thomaston CT). There is formally designated trail area on the west side of the dam that is open to trail bikes that are open from late-May to September.

E-bikes are not allowed on any other trails in the Connecticut state park system. They are also not allowed at any of the other popular mountain bike destinations, such as Rockland Preserve (Madison CT), Pisgah (Durham CT) or Mianus River Park (Stamford CT).

e-MTBs may not be ridden on local conservation land or land trust properties that prohibit motorized recreation.

Maine

Maine’s Bureau of Parks and Lands treats e-bikes as motorized vehicles and allows them only on trails designated for motorized use. Maine has an extensive network of motorized trails available to e-bikes. Regional Manager, Gary Best, recommends the Androscoggin Riverlands (Turner ME) as an excellent place to ride e-MTBs.

The Mt. Agamenticus Conservation Region allows e-MTBs on their multi-use, motorized trails but they are not allowed on any of the hiking or hiking/biking trails.

e-MTBs may not be ridden on local conservation land or land trust properties that prohibit motorized recreation.

Massachusetts

e-MTBs are not allowed on any non-motorized trails in Massachusetts. There are no places to legally ride e-MTBs on public land within the Route 128 beltway and there is only one within Route 495.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation regards e-bikes as “motorized personal vehicles”, (as opposed to a “bicycle”) and allows them on trails designated for motorized use. Currently there are eight state parks that offer opportunities for e-bikes:

- Beartown State Forest (Monterey MA)
- October Mt. State Forest (Lee MA)
- Pittsfield State Forest (Pittsfield MA)
- Tolland State Forest (Tolland MA)
- F. Gilbert Hills State Forest (Foxboro MA)
- Franklin State Forest (Franklin MA)
- Wrentham State Forest (Wrentham MA)
- Freetown State Forest (Freetown MA)

The US Army Corps of Engineers does not have a formal e-bike policy but they appear to be allowed on the motorized trails at Hodges Village Dam (Oxford MA), blazed in orange. This is the only USACE property in Massachusetts that allows motorized use.

e-MTBs may not be ridden on local conservation land or land trust properties that prohibit motorized recreation, including properties owned by The Trustees of Reservations.

New Hampshire

In New Hampshire e-bikes may only be ridden on trails designated as motorized or on private trail systems with permission of the land owner. e-MTBs are not allowed on any non-motorized trail in the NH State Park system, per resolution 7301.18: “the recreational use of electric and power-assisted bicycles on natural surface trails shall be
managed within the same rules and regulations as motorized vehicles.”

New Hampshire has an extensive motorized trail network available for e-MTBs. The US Army Corps of Engineers’ Hopkinton Everett Dam (Contoocook NH) has a popular 26-mile multi-use trail system. Jericho Mountain State Park (Berlin NH) also offers many miles of multi-use trails available for e-MTBs.

In the White Mountain National Forest, the US Forest Service allows e-MTBs on designated snowmobile trails in the Saco Ranger District when such trails are open to snowmobiles.

e-MTBs are allowed on private property and private trails with permission of the landowner. One such property is PRKR Mountain Trails (Littleton NH) which does allow e-bikes on the trails.

It should be noted that e-MTBs are not allowed on trails at Stonewall Farm (Keene, NH) or the FOMBA trails (Auburn, NH), per the Manchester Water Works which owns the property.

e-MTBs may not be ridden on local conservation land or land trust properties that prohibit motorized recreation.

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management manages e-MTBs as motorized. Currently, there are no parks in Rhode Island that allow e-MTBs except during permitted motorized events. As such, the popular mountain bike destinations, Big River Management Area, Arcadia Management Area, Burlingame State Management Area and Lincoln Woods are off limits to e-MTBs.

e-MTB may be ridden on private property with permission of the landowner, but they may not be ridden on local conservation land or land trust properties that prohibit motorized recreation.

Vermont

Vermont’s Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation regards e-MTBs as a category of motorized All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and allows them only on trails designated for ATVs. Currently there are no State Park trails open to ATVs. ATVs, including e-MTBs, are allowed on frozen bodies of public water.

Vermont does have an extensive number of Class 4 roads that are open to recreational vehicles, including e-MTBs.

Many of the popular mountain bike destinations in Vermont do not allow e-MTBs. This includes, among others:

- Kingdom Trails (East Burke, VT)
- Green Mountain Trails (Pittsfield, VT)
- Trapps Family Lodge (Stowe, VT)
- Cady Hill Forest (Stowe, VT)
- Perry Hill (Waterbury, VT)

We’ll be updating this article with the latest information at www.nemba.org.
Places to Fat Bike in the Winter
by Bill Boles

Over the last few years Fat Biking has really taken off, not only in the winter, on snow, but really all year long. I don’t think that I was on a single ride in 2016 that didn’t have at least one fat bike in the group.

The best natural conditions to ride in? Well, a few inches of snow, or best of all by far, deep snow that has been frozen to a consistency that allows you to walk around on it without breaking through the crust. Consider yourself extremely lucky any time you encounter that.

There’s a hang up with fat biking in the snow. Even though they were originally designed with snow in mind, winter fat biking presents some special challenges. And they all have to do with snow depth and consistency. Too little snow, no problem. It’s a normal ride save for the need to watch out for ice. You fall just as fast on ice on a Fat Bike as you do with a regular mountain bike. If ice is the norm, I suggest upgrading to studded tires.

Too much snow, and well, you just can’t ride. So, when there’s more than a few inches of snow, most Fat Bikers look for a prepared track to ride on.

In the past, probably your best choices were packed snowmobile trails. Snowmobile trails, especially the groomed ones are perfect for supporting fat tires.

Many NEMBA chapters schedule days on snowshoes to pack snow down. While others are experimenting with different kinds of groomers. Usually ones that are dragged by a snowmobile. And as people all over New England are starting to groom trails for Fat Biking, Fat Bike events are coming into play.

What follows is a partial list of fat Bike events and locations where some kind of grooming is going on. This list will grow as winter progresses. Check with your local chapter to see what’s going on in your area.

Kingdom Trails will have groomed Fat Bike Trails all winter long and their big WinterBike event is scheduled for 3/4.

In Littleton, NH, Littleton Bicycles has a weekly Franconia Area NEMBA Fat Bike Ride on Tuesdays. Also PRKR Mountain along with Moore Dam will be groomed this winter for fat biking. Additionally, the Franconia Inn, the Horse and Hound Inn and the Hillwinds Lodge near Fox Park all have fat Bike trails. Fat biking is permitted on snowshoe trails maintained around the Inns and on select Nordic ski trails.

The Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, NH will have groomed Fat Bike trails as well as rentals all winter long.

The Polartech Winter Fat Bike Event will be on 2/25 in Waterville Valley, NH.

The Essex Woods Fat Bike Ride & Race in Bangor Maine will be on 3/4 & 3/5. This event is sponsored by Penobscot Region NEMBA and is part of the Maine Fat Bike Winter Series.
SE MA NEMBA will be hosting their Snowpatuck Event, probably in February as conditions allow. The event will be at Wompatuck State Park in Hingham, MA. Also, SE MA NEMBA and the Friends of Wompatuck will be grooming for Fat Bikes all during the snow season.

Southern NH NEMBA has a regular Tuesday novice ride that will change to Fat Only when there’s snow.

Central Connecticut NEMBA has a weekly Fatday Ride.

365 Cycles, a NEMBA shop in Keene NH Will be doing a Sunday ride.

When there’s enough snow down on old Cape Cod, CC NEMBA alternates between fat biking on trails and fat biking on the beach.

And in fact, most of the rides listed at the back of this issue of SingleTracks go Fat when there’s snow.

If there’s a Winter Fat Bike hot spot (Cold spot??), or event not listed above, let us know and we’ll keep this list growing.

Since fat biking is so weather dependent, it’s a good idea to join your local NEMBA chapters Facebook page to get the latest trail conditions. There are also dedicated Facebook Groups, such as “Fat Bike New England,” where riders are organizing impromptu rides.

So, don’t let the snow and ice dissuade you from getting your riding fix! Fat biking opens up a whole new world of fun and helps keep the winter blues away!
What is Mountain Biking (off-road cycling, mountain bicycling, whatever we want to call it)? I'm sure if I asked everyone reading this I’d get a slightly different answer. Mine surely won't be yours. We are without a doubt in a pivotal time period for our personal favorite (or not) form of outdoor recreation. There are many changes afoot. This is my attempt to put some structure and meaning behind what may appear to be chaos.

If you've ever met me or ridden with me a few things immediately become apparent. I usually show up to the trailhead late, hungover, and with one gear. If you still decide to let me lead you on the trails you learn more, typically: we get lost, we hike-a-bike a lot, and I take you on all the gnarly uphills you would rather ride down.

That my friends, is why I joined this movement. I like to suffer. There is no greater suffering to me than classic New England steep rocky singletrack and a singlespeed between my legs.

But, I've found myself in a bit of a quandary. I am currently paid to travel the country designing and building mountain bike trails. And those paying are not always interested in suffering. Queue my inner crisis.

We’ve all read it on the internet, talked about it over beers, and taken sides. The eternal cry that our trails are being sanitized. I am the sanitizer. How can I ethically, a cranky New Englander, sell out to the man?

I didn’t. This form of fun we all share has many sides. It is full of diversity. And as with all things in life (except gears, only need one), I prefer moderation. I've seen the way riding your bike in the woods changes lives. Really.

Just because we build "dirt sidewalks" for beginners, for families, for kids; does not mean we sell out to the industry trying to push more bikes on us or those who “can’t handle it”. No, it means beginners, families, and kids are getting exercise, are doing things together, and are getting out into nature.

I've been on builds this summer that are directional, downhill, flow trails. I don't jump, I have no need for big berms, and yet even I smile when I ride my work. What makes me smile more is seeing the kid at the top on her old v-brake skinny tired rig whooping it up as she drops in. She might be home playing video games and eating chips if I didn't help bring this trail to her town.

As I rake smooth the green trail, the man who lost his job, gained weight, and took a myriad of pills for his health stops me. He is out here every day. In a few months he got a new job, he no longer needs all that medicine, and he is happier. How can I argue with that?

I grew up on locals only, secret stash, rake-n-ride classics. I love those trails. We still have those trails. I challenge you to go to Harrisonburg, VA and ride the rocks they grow. Come down to Pisgah and tackle the backcountry fall line gnar. Come with me to Arkansas and I’ll show you razor rocks and exposure.

I love riding. I love it for different reasons than you. But we both love it, so why can't we get along?

And as a reminder; those dirt sidewalks won't be sidewalks after ten years of freeze-thaw cycles. That flow will become chunky after 1000s of passes. Trails change. Dirt will always erode. Without constant maintenance trails will always change. And don't ever tell me a machine can't build technical lines. Come to Coldwater Mountain in Alabama this winter to learn that the hard way.

If I offended you in this rant, good. If I challenged your point of view, good. I don't ride lifts, I don't need six foot wide roller coasters. But I am more than happy to build them. I can assure you its not because I'm paid well. Its because, more than anything, I want people to have the chance I had; to get outside and have fun on bikes.
Balance
by Bill Boles

Balance and momentum are like the two sides of a spinning coin. On a recent ride, I watched a guy fly up a seemingly impossible hill. His climb carried him up and over roots, rocks and debris. All seemingly without effort. Later in the ride he rolled over a lengthy series of babyhead rocks, almost without any change in direction. His secret, momentum.

Maintaining your balance when you ride is important. Because when you lose your balance you tend to fall over.

Most people don’t think about it too much but the slower you go the more that balance plays a role in your riding and your safety. Think about it. When your speed diminishes and you’ve almost stopped you tend to fall either to the left or to the right. Especially if you’re sitting on your saddle. But while you’re moving momentum works to keep you upright.

Take this test: Stand on one leg and try to balance for a minute without putting a foot down. Then try the other leg. It was hard to keep your balance, wasn’t it? Now try hopping in a straight line on one leg. No balance issues now, not if you kept moving forward.

This column often suggests that momentum is your best friend. I hate repeating myself, but especially for newer riders, this point can’t be overstated. You don’t tip over when you’re moving.

Technical riding areas like Harold Parker State Forest contain lots of fun trails. But some of them are right at the edge of drop-offs. While others find you traversing big boulders or sometimes riding over narrow bridges. Doing them too slowly can get you in a lot of trouble. While, with a little more speed, they seem quite doable. Or at least they will the second or third time that you try them.

We’ve all seen videos of trials riders who seemingly pause for a long time before attempting a stunt. They’re pausing to get their balance before they move on. But then they don’t stop until their trick is finished.

One skill that many riders strive to master is standing motionless on their bikes. Usually with their front wheel cocked to one side. They may seem motionless, but, if you try it yourself you’ll quickly realize that there are really a lot of subtle movements going on. You’re never still.

Good balance comes naturally to most people. But, by consciously planning to never slow down, you enhance it. And then you’ll never have to deal with the fear of falling.

There’s a danger though. Go too fast and you may not have enough time to react to what’s on the trail in front of you. Or to be able to stop when you need to.

But, under most conditions, momentum and balance work hand in hand to keep you upright and to keep your ride safe and enjoyable.
As the year winds down I’d like to thank everyone who participated in chapter events, and give a reminder that it’s the members who make the chapter. The more participation we get the better we can advance the sport and the more fun we can have.

Our day after Thanksgiving Turkey Burner ride was a success as always. Although the weather wasn’t the best, about 50 riders showed up at Case Mountain to “burn off the bird” on four rides ranging in length from 11 to 18 miles. Thanks to Al Tinti for organizing.

In November the chapter joined forces with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) employees to build a bridge and a skinny at River Highlands. We replaced an old dilapidated bridge that was about to fall into the gap and turned a fallen oak tree into a 65 foot log ride with three possible lines. DEEP’s enthusiastic participation and impressive collection of power tools made the job a lot easier. Thanks for the permission and the help.

Lisa Maloney put on two great events this fall: a Halloween Ride & Costume Contest Ride attended by 25 people and a 4th Annual Holiday Ride & Luncheon at West Rock in Hamden which raised $200 for a local animal rescue group.

Our Winterfest is scheduled for Saturday February 11. There’ll be group rides at Millers Pond and Wadsworth Falls followed by a potluck and movie showing at CFPA Headquarters. Work will continue at River Highlands. We have about a mile of new trail to build and enhancements on what’s already there. The next segment, a half mile of fun flowy stuff, should be ready to ride by the end of the year.

All our rides and events are listed on our blog-ctnemba.com, Facebook page-Central CT NEMBA, and on nemba.org.

Ride on!
—Glenn Vernes
Hello fellow Riders!

This will be my last year-end update, in 2017 FC NEMBA will be looking for a new president, time for new blood to continue building what our chapter started doing when we were the first “new” Connecticut Chapter way back in 2011. It’s definitely been another awesome year though and I want to take the chance to highlight what our chapter has done for your riding and riding opportunities in 2016 in Fairfield County.

On the events front we had another great TrailFest that saw us revitalize the first legal mountain biker designed and built trail, Rock’n’Roll, at Huntington State Park. We dug, armored, and built some great board walk, rode, camped, and then did it again the next day. Awesome time as always and something we hope to keep in the rotation every year or two.

In addition to the TrailFest we had regular rides with Waldo Fat Bike Fridays, the RBCo Sunday Series, and the more stop and play focused Wilton Woods Wednesdays. Our most recent Après Thanksgiving (its FC, folks) was a hit with families and regular riders alike. Such an awesome sight! Something we do want to improve on are social and group rides, if you have an idea and want to lead a regular ride, let us know, we always need more ride leads!

Our relationships with our land managers are strong. We’ve invested 1,000s of hours over our chapter’s history of delivering great work that lives up to what we’ve promised. Our chapter can be proud of its contribution in 2016 of over $1,400 of tools and equipment, 800+ volunteer labor hours, and maintaining over 60 miles of trails at 10 different parks. We are the premier source of trail consulting in the area and Paula, Kyaiera, and Dave’s untiring efforts to be land manager partners that are experts, polite, and thoughtful have been the backbone of getting us there this year and in the past.

We’ve hosted events or contributed trail maintenance at Trout Brook Valley, Mianus River Park, Waldo State Park, Huntington State Park, Farrington Open Space, Wilton Woods, Bennett’s Farm State Park, Bradley Rd Open Space, Trumbull, with Quarry Head State Park being a new space we’re working with Wilton on.

Thank you to our builder experts, and to our builder volunteers without whom we’d never get done what we say we’ll do, I know our land managers appreciate that as much as we do!

We’ve also had an amazing year on engaging new participants into our sport. Monika Stokes has been an unstoppable force in developing a close relationship between FC NEMBA and the local kid’s cyclocross and mountain bike teams. She shuttles, she organizes rides, she leads rides, and she doesn’t stop! Her efforts have helped support the team to being 4th in the state and 6 kids going to nationals... plus she got them to come out and dig at Trout Brook Valley. Thank you!

Our board continues to reflect the diversity of riders we have in the area, with folks who ride locally from most of our Parks and a strong mix of guys and gals. Thanks to Gunnar, Paula, Dave, Monika, Rich, Bill, Kyaiera, and Brian for your time and dedication.

Fairfield County NEMBA has had a huge year and thanks to everyone out there that didn’t get a shout out but still made this chapter and local riding awesome.

Next year we’ll focus on riding opportunities and more social events... YES we do want another bike swap with easy food and beverage access. Stay tuned

—Ryan Tucker

Fairfield County

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29 riders, including 9 kids, come to the Après Turkey Ride at Troutbrook hosted by the Ridgefield Bicycle Company and FC NEMBA. Photo by John Sweeney

29 riders, including 9 kids, came to the Après Turkey Ride at Troutbrook hosted by the Ridgefield Bicycle Company and FC NEMBA. Photo by John Sweeney

Rock work at Huntington State Park. Photo by John Sweeney

FC NEMBA Kids ride at Mianus led by Scott Randall. Photo by Monika Stokes

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—Ryan Tucker
The last days of the year are upon us and we are beginning to once again add precious minutes of daylight to each passing day. No better time than the Holidays to reflect on the accomplishments of this past year and make plans for the upcoming 2017 riding season that rapidly approaches.

2016 was a very busy and productive year for the Northwest CT Chapter. Ambitious trail projects, group rides and bike demos were all on the menu and served up in both Burlington and Harwinton. We even found some time to fire up the grill and enjoy some cold frosty beverages.

The trail work in Burlington was extensive this year. From completing the new “white/red” trail to our signature project, “The Big Dig” a full bench cut on a steep hillside over a quarter of a mile long. 1000+ man-hours were volunteered to move yards and yards of dirt, huge rocks, enormous dead falls and stumps that refused to exit the trail tread. 2016 was by far the most productive year we’ve had in Burlington but despite the accomplishments this past year, the projects keep piling up so trail work will resume next year as soon as the snow melts in the spring.

The trail crews in Harwinton have been equally as busy. The “Black” trail was completed this spring connecting the Recreation Area down to Leadmine Brook, the giant log ride/bridge and the Carros Property. It’s a beautiful section of trail with unique features that rides great in both directions. The crew has also made many, many, many other improvements that have truly transformed the Harwinton ride experience.

In addition to building and maintaining the bike trails, NW CT NEMBA members have also been working with the CFPA (CT Forest and Park Assoc.) on the Blue Blazed “Tunxis” hiking trails that weave around Burlington woods. A collaboration of volunteers most recently repaired “Babu’s” Bridge after it was vandalized numerous times this year. NEMBA loves working with the CFPA on projects like this and we look forward to many more in the years to come.

There were also the numerous group rides that our Chapter hosted and the many guided tours NEMBA members provided throughout the course of the year. The list goes on and on.

After a busy and productive year, we look towards 2017 with even more enthusiasm and vigor. I would like to thank all the great volunteers who have lent a helping hand this year. Without your help and support none of the accomplishments listed above would have come to fruition. Thank you!

Happy Holidays.

—Jon Regan

Mary Reid banking it on Miller Time. Photo by Randall Reid

Rogue Hoe Operator, Scott Ruell, working the berms. Photo by Jon Regan
2016 Wrap-up - Another great year of mountain biking. Our annual CT Trails Day Weekend fun ride at Goodwin/Natchaug went great. By request we extended the loop, with the Hero Loop extension being a grueling 10 miles of classic Natchaug trails. Not for the faint of heart, it took most everyone who attempted it, much longer than they anticipated, but they were still able to smile and compliment the challenge. As always, the ride was celebrated with a post ride Potluck BBQ for all in attendance.

We were able to develop a new trail in Old Furnace this past Spring and highlight it at the scorching hot fun ride in July. While everyone suffered from fatigue and heat exhaustion, many compliments were passed about the new trail, Tomfoolery.

Thanks to Bob Caporaso for his time designing the trail and to everyone who helped build. There were many days of team work out there and it really shows.

Currently in the works, drum roll please….. a legal, non-motorized, multiuse trail within Pachaug State Forest. Yes, you read that correctly. This has been a long project with getting permission, working with the different interested parties, working around protected/endangered areas, designing, marking, walk through tours, and on sight approvals. This is all before we can even think about beginning to clean the proposed path. Please join me in extending a HUGE Thank You, once again, to Bob Caporaso, who took this project on full force, is working through all the red tape, has dedicated hours upon hours and countless days wandering the vast project area to find the very best options to meet all the criteria put before him.

With that said, I would be remiss not to mention our partners in DEEP whom have been more than supportive of our efforts this year, Matthew Quinn and Mark Darin. Mark has been instrumental in the trail development process within Pachaug, and we are so very happy to be blessed with his management there, along with his knowledge, experience, and love for mountain biking. Matt, also as a mountain biker, is tasked with overseeing several of our parks and forests here in the Quiet Corner, and is in tune with our efforts and vision for the future. Currently, Matt is working with Friends of Goodwin and NEMBA trail ambassador, Glen Newcomb, to add an additional blazed trail within Goodwin. This trail will be designated as a non motorized, multiuse trail.

NEMBA Racing - Quiet Corner had an increase in members on the NEMBA Racing team this year, some returning to racing after along hiatus, some first timers, some continuing on with their regular schedule. It was great to see everyone out there having fun, and representing the Chapter and NEMBA. Congratulations to everyone on a fun season. We look forward to seeing even more jerseys out there in 2017.

Group Rides - Starting back up in the spring, Quiet Corner NEMBA offers lots of riding opportunities: our Monday Mellow Ride at Goodwin SF, the Wednesday Women’s Ride, the Saturday Morning Special, our Weekend Warrior Rides, and our Sunday Endurance Series. Check the NEMBA web site and our Facebook page for details. come spring.

—Stacey Jimenez
The Southeastern Connecticut chapter may be small, but we had an amazing 2016. Our main event of the year, the Bluff Point MBAS, was a great success again with over 70 riders. Thank you to all the folks that helped clear the trails of briars and vines, without your hard work and time Bluff Point is practically impassable in late summer. In addition, we’ve maintained an excellent relationship with our local land managers, like the Town of Lyme and the Lyme Land Trust, building and installing bridges at Hartman Park.

Looking forward to 2017, the biggest news is the rapid progression at Mooween State Park. Approval to build a new trail system was officially granted this summer. This fall, work crews of volunteers have been out roughing in and sculpting a trail system that will cater to riders of all abilities. Smooth, flowing beginner trails will wind through stone walls and the old abandoned summer camp to link up with advanced features including steep rollers, log skinies and 3 foot hucks. Trail building will continue into the winter until Mother Nature stops us. Watch the Facebook group, NEMBA Trail Project at Mooween State Park, for trail day announcements and pictures of the next great riding area in Connecticut.

Keep an eye on the SECT NEMBA Facebook page for ride and trail day announcements. As always if you have an idea for a trail project, want to lead a ride or just get a little more involved in the chapter…drop me a line.

—Cory Stiff

SECT NEMBA

President: Cory Stiff, president@sect-nemba.org
Vice-President: Mickey Gilland
Treasurer: Andy Bennett
Secretary: Thom Lamourine
Facebook: “Southeastern CT NEMBA”
Webpage: www.nemba.org/sectnemba

SECT NEMBA build days at Mooween State Park. Photo by Cory Stiff

Eric Apgar squeezing through one of the many natural features at Mooween SP

Photo by Eric Apgar

Brian Kendall catching some air at Mooween SP

Photo by Brian Kendall

Brett Severson dropping into one of the big rollers at Mooween SP. Photo by Tina Severson
Another year is in the books. Thanks to each of you who came to Carrabassett Valley to ride, to volunteer at an event or a trail work day, and to otherwise enjoy yourself in the outdoors.

The year has been one of growth, and as with all growth, there are growing pains. Some of the measures of growth include:

Chapter membership: As November, our membership total is 162. This membership includes 146 from Maine, 16 from other areas including MA, and NH. Of the 146 members from Maine, 40 are from the Kingfield/Carrabassett area, while 106 of our members represent other areas from Maine. That a vast percentage of our membership is from outside the local geographic area is a testimony to their commitment to our mountain bike trail network and the riding experience available here. Thank you all. We feel a special obligation to all of our MTB sisters and brothers to provide the very best in MTB riding and appreciate the support from all over Maine and beyond.

Another measure of the interest in our MTB community is evident from social media. First we are fortunate to have our Chapter Secretary, Lori Gerencer, as the social media champion for CRNEMBA. If you have visited our Facebook or Instagram page, undoubtedly you have seen a pic or posting from Lori. Our Facebook fans now number 1,982; our Instagram page has 220 followers.

Events are continuing to evolve and grow. In 2016, a couple of notable events include the most successful Carrabassett Backcountry Cycle Challenge to date with over 300 competitors; and in September the first Sugarloaf MTB Festival - a non-competitive event that brought riders from far and wide and showcased the working relationship of Maine Huts & Trails, Sugarloaf, and CRNEMBA. The MTB Festival also attracted about 300 participation.

If you are winter fat tire enthusiast, please mark your calendar for February 11 & 12, 2017 for what is becoming an annual event- the Sugarloaf Fat Tire Festival. This year’s Festival promises a new course and more riding options.

As mentioned, this growth has taxed everyone associated with MTB in some challenging ways. One of the elements that impact our riding community is the opening and closing of trails in either the spring or fall. First, CRNEMBA wants our membership to know the responsibility for opening and closing of trails rests with the Carrabassett Valley Trail Committee (CVTC). This committee comprises representation from the Town of Carrabassett, Maine Huts & Trails, Sugarloaf, and CRNEMBA. Our trail system exists on land owned by private interests, as well as public entities. We are fortunate to have been granted permission to build and use the trail system on their land. The primary purpose behind any restrictions that have been imposed has been to protect the trails and the investment (both volunteer and financial). We are confident there will improvements to solving the challenges in keeping trails open and protecting the trails. I ask for your patience as the CVTC navigates this area in the interests of all stakeholders. In addition, the CVTC is working on an improved signage system that will serve MTB riders and winter trail users, including Nordic skiers, snowshoers, and Fat Tire riders.

Our trail system continued to expand. In 2016 we completed almost 2 miles of new single track construction. Almost $15,000 has been set aside by the Bingham Wind Project sometime in 2017. This is the first of 20 annual payments to CRNEMBA as a result of State of Maine Law that requires wind developers to fulfill 'Tangible Benefit Agreements' with local community groups. Equally important has been the continued support of chapter members who have contributed individual donations directly to CRNEMBA, at events or in the donation jar at the Bike Shop. We thank you all.

—Peter Smith
It’s been an amazing year for CeMeNEMBA, so we’d like to share some of the highlights.

**Clinics**

Clinics at Mt Apatite in Auburn virtually bookended the season. Francois Jalbert and others donated their time and expertise to teaching skills and building confidence. In between, CeMeNEMBA in conjunction with CMCC (Central Maine Cycling Club) held their second annual Women’s clinic at Titcomb Mountain. With over 40 attendees the clinic covered everything from rock rolls to tire changing. CeMeNEMBA provided lunch and a raffle of items donated by Northern Lights bike shop in Farmington adding a festive air to the day and a very welcome benefit to the participants.

The fall saw a different type of “clinic” with Busytown Bikes hosting a bike fashion show put on by our own VP and Liv ambassador Disa Fedorowicz. As mountain bikers we tend to spend an inordinate amount of time devoted to our sport. Looking and feeling your best just makes sense. Busytown provided beer, wine and hors d’oeuvres proving that indeed mountain bikers can be civilized.

**Races & Festivals**

The season kicked off in June with a new and improved Bond Brook Treadfest in Augusta. This years race/celebration moved to the spring adding one more day including camping, and both a fun race and an enduro race. These were an addition to the already tried and true formula of cross country, food, beer and music. We are already planning for next year. Please keep June 24/25 on your calendar. We promise that it will be even better than last year.

The resurrection of the Titcomb Mountain Challenge in Farmington saw over 100 riders gather for another day of testing their mettle. This showcased some of the great new single track volunteers had been working on all summer. The facilities at Titcomb are ideal for events, a lodge, enormous outdoor fire pit and plenty of parking.

We opened the season with a barbecue at the Reservoir in Hallowell. Lot’s of folks brought their kids. Fortunately the “Res” as we affectionately call it has lots of options for different routes and we split up into several groups for different adventures. At the post ride BBQ, kids young and old experimented on the stunts which were set up.

End of season will see us at Titcomb Mountain in Farmington. An early season freeze, thaw cycle may keep us off the trails but we’ll have a bonfire to keep us warm and more than a few memories to reflect upon.

**Volunteer Hours**

Regular Tuesday night trail nights for the Farmington Area Trails, every other Tuesday (Tuesday Night Trail work) and numerous workdays at both Range Pond, Androscoggin Riverlands, and Mt Apatite generated lots of volunteer hours, not to mention actual trails and camaraderie. We continue to see great participation from our local riders. With so many people helping out over a broad geographic area it’s difficult to keep the exact tally of hours, but we are pretty confident that once again we are close to 1000 hours of volunteer time this year!!!

Volunteers from outside of our target audience, “Maranacook Day of giving Back” and “Colby Cares” engaged high school and college students in community projects adding a very welcome addition to our regular crew.

2016 saw our chapter’s inaugural foray into paid trail building. As with any new venture it was a challenge but in the end the benefits were clear. Happily we came away realizing that we can get so much more accomplished with even just a small amount of paid labor than with just our volunteers. We funded 3 months of projects that were done by a mix of 5 different builders that each worked independently throughout the region. The trail crew this past summer was, in the end, a tremendous success and we were able to accomplish both new trail work and long overdue maintenance projects. We’ve also invested in machine building for a few key sections of trail at Bond Brook and in Farmington and are looking to increase that in 2017.

Our chapter also achieved a long term goal of surpassing the 100 member mark in 2016!! We have been consistently above 100 for most of 2016 and are excited for the next goal of 150!!!!

Great things are happening and mountain biking is gaining a lot of traction in our little corner of Maine. 2017 will be another great year for CeMeNEMBA!!

—Ian Ogilvie
November tends to mark the transition into winter riding here in the Midcoast and certain adjustments are made to keep the riding alive. Lights are mounted and cold weather riding gear is staged. Another important adjustment is where we ride during hunting season. We have amazing support from local landowners, along with our strong relationships with the Town of Camden/Snow Bowl, and the Coastal Mountains Land Trust. We’ve worked hard over the years to earn their trust, and respect, which are key elements to providing stewardship to the land we’re fortunate to build and ride on. Part of that means remaining off the trails during hunting season to respect hunting traditions on private land in the Goose River (Rollins Rd) riding location.

As 2016 comes to a close it is important to highlight many of the significant and ongoing efforts that your local mountain biking advocates have been focusing their time and energy on. Their willingness to devote their time and energy towards improving mountain biking opportunities is what is helping trail riding progress and evolve. Our volunteers are involved with the Coastal Mountains Land Trust (CMLT) “Round the Mountain” collaboration committee, which is an important partnership to realize an approximate 9-mile trail that will circumnavigate Ragged Mountain with the Camden Snow Bowl serving as the primary gateway to the mountain. Trail construction is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2020. We are also advocating for expanded single track trail opportunities that are envisioned to branch off of this 9 mile trail, which is intended to offer multiple options for varying levels of riding ability. Our trail design crew has also been working with CMLT to plan a fun reroute from the Snow Bowl to the 3 Brooks trail in the Ragged Mountain Preserve that we hope to begin construction on in 2017.

Morgan Laidlaw has been leading the charge and working steadily to evolve Camden’s first ever MTB pocket park off of Sagamore Farm Rd near the Camden Hills State Park. Having these trails so close to the heart of Camden has helped to educate even more of our neighbors about the good work that is happening in the community. Many locals are also excited about the option of not having to load up the car drive to a hit up a trail. .MCNEMBA also has representatives who are serving on the Camden Snow Bowl Four Season Recreation Committee. Our goal is to ensure that mountain biking interests are represented, which include the development of a formal plan to expand trails and to assess how mountain biking might serve to help support and sustain the Snow Bowl as a community asset into the future. Conversations have also involved exploring potential opportunities for lift served fat tire biking in the winter.

Brice Shirbach from pinkbike.com also paid the Midcoast a visit to feature local riding where the “Mountains meet the Sea” in October. Brice spent nearly a week hitting up just a sample of the variety of riding available, along with taking in the amazing scenery and local eateries around town. If you haven’t checked out the story yet, go to pinkbike.com and look up Camden East Bound and Down along with some other fantastic riding destinations that he has covered in the East.

Just in… Mark your calendars for February 5th. The Camden Snow Bowl will be hosting one of Baxter Outdoors duathlons that will include fat biking as part of their Packed Powder race series happening throughout New England. Hope to see you many of you out on the trails this winter for some fat tire fun!

—John Anders
What a wonderful life! We build trails. We ride them...to celebrate, to race and to remember. The perspective of December fills us with gratitude and wonder. This year, PR NEMBA focused on two related goals: attract more beginner riders and foster more collaboration. We succeeded on both counts.

In early October, Emmy Monahan tackled the first goal by launching a series of beginner rides. Yes, it was mid-fall. Yes, the weather got dicey. Undaunted, new riders, from their 20s to their 60s, met weekly to explore different trails and skills in the Old Town/Bangor region. Whether they ‘rode the plank’ or mastered the tightrope, all felt more accomplished for the effort. Look for this series to continue in the spring.

Handcrafted trail signs, new bridging, berms and reroutes all made the Kiski trails in Dedham more accessible to all riders, but especially to beginners, who could be daunted by trails like Endo Alley. Thanks to the good work of Keith Blanchard, Jake Cardello, Brandon Tolman, Tyler Peabody and Reid Garrity, there’s a more doable route to the Overlook. Trails named Boneyard, Bull Run and Big Hill have gotten TLC...reshaped, massaged, bermed. Replacing an old wooden bridge with a proper culvert and stone means snowmobile access. Fat bikes, anyone?

A terrific partnership between PR NEMBA and the City of Bangor launched a significant renewal at Essex Woods in Bangor. Led by Craig MacDonald, PR worked with the city to re-establish single track at a site that saw racing 20 years ago. New volunteers from Husson University, the newly formed Mountain Bike and Trail Club at Bangor High School, and other local riders joined PR NEMBA and Bangor Parks and Recreation to establish purpose-built trails—the first of its kind in the area. A feature story in the Bangor Daily News, “Build it and they will come” brought even more attention to the project. Look for news of Bangor’s first ever fat bike race in the next issue!

A substantial donation to PR NEMBA from Rose Bike and Rose Bike Racing gave a jump start to improving trails in Orono and Old Town, with a keen eye towards families and those new to the sport. These trails have been at the heart of the PR NEMBA network. Stay tuned for updates...there’s even talk of a pump track!

Time changes and waning light just mean that we put on our lights. Our band of women, in conjunction with the Rose Bike shop ride, experienced the trails at night—some for the first time. Needless to say, the rides have become a staple, with new riders joining all the time.

While not technically a PR NEMBA event, the 6th Annual Rud Ride represents so much of the good in mountain biking that I’m including it anyway. On the last Sunday of October, local riders gather at the Farm to ride in memory of Dennis Rudnicki, an avid rider and outdoorsman. This year, more than 65 riders geared up (and down) over the rugged trails of the Woodlot. Coming together to honor the memory of a fellow rider, celebrating his passion by continuing the tradition: this is community.

— Michele Yade Benoit

Big thanks to Rose Bike Racing and Rose Bicycles for the generous donation to PR NEMBA

Justin Qualey & Jeremy Porter. Photo by Deb Merrill

PR NEMBA Beginner Ride. Photo by Jared Mulligan
We've had a busy season here in BVNEMBA with lots of activity, new and old friends, rides and trail building. We had several riders step up and lead rides of their own or organize trail building events. We hosted a chainsaw safety class that was packed, thanks to some generous support by Mike Tonry and Milford 495 Rental Center. Things are winding down now and I'm going to step back and let a few of our volunteers share their thoughts. Thanks for a great season, see you on the trails! - Eammon Carleton

Bill Dakai on Mendon Town Forest

In April BVNEMBA members built a boardwalk to span a seasonally wet area on the Yellow Trail in the Mendon Town Forest. Lumber was donated by BVNEMBA. Members Brian Forestal, Kara Gilman, Justin Hollander, Ryan Olivia, Mike Flynn, Eric Grimes and Bill Dakai helped transport the materials 1/2 mile into the woods and build the boardwalk. Jake Berry donated the decking for the bridge.

In June BVNEMBA members helped raise a large kiosk at the main parking lot for the Mendon Town Forest. Members Ryan Olivia, Dave Cournoyer, Pete Dunn, Charlie Dakai, Bill Dakai and Bill Dakai Sr assisted the Town Forest Committee in raising and securing the main frame in place.

In October BVNEMBA members assisted Mendon Boy Scout, Brian St. John raise the main frame for his kiosk at the Southwick Zoo trail head to the Mendon Town Forest. This was Brian’s Eagle Scout project. NEMBA members Jake Berry, Charlie Dakai, Bill Dakai, Bill Dakai Sr, Justin Hollander, Ryan Olivia and Russ Stearns all assisted to raise the structure and secure it in place.

Also in October BVNEMBA members constructed a boardwalk to span a wet and rocky area at the beginning of Shirley’s Trail in The Mendon Town Forest. Members Ryan Oakland, Brian Forestal, John Goeller, Ted Johnson, Rob Farrell, Gary Rowden, Scott Mickel, Jim Nydam, Lisa Keary, Greg White, Chris Tosti and Bill Dakai decked the boardwalk and moved some big boulders from the novice intended trail tread.

Brian Forestal on the Thursday Night Ride Series

The Thursday Night Ride Series at Hopkinton State Park was a success this year. We introduced some beginners to the park and had the regulars cruising at a nice pace by the end of the season. While we were not injury free, we rode as much as we could and met lots of new mountain biking friends. The

John Goeller on Vietnam

This past year in Vietnam, we built two sets of boardwalks that cross some usual wet areas. The first one consisted of three 12ft sections and a 60ft section, the second is just a single 60ft boardwalk. Both of these projects were built with the local Boy Scout troop and the work was managed by two Eagle Scout Candidates as their final service project. The Boy Scouts did all the planning, including obtaining approval from local Conservation agents. BVNEMBA supplied the tools, materials, some volunteers and the knowledge of the proper way to build a boardwalk that will last for 20+ Years.
Here on beautiful Cape Cod, where the weather is always mild and sunny, we were dealt a blow from Mother Nature for our inaugural MBAS ride on November 6. We had a cold rainy day but as true to their sport hearty mountain bikers came from near and far to show their mettle on the rain soaked trails at TOT. Attendance was near 150 riders. Food vendors were well appreciated and the hot chili and pulled pork were a hit to all of the riders. Many thanks to all of the volunteers that made this a HUGE success for the Cape Cod chapter.

On December 4th we will have our annual toys for tots ride. The success of this ride reaching 150 riders and the amount of toys collected are something that the locals have embraced. And a highlight of the winter season. We would encourage off cape riders to venture down to the Cape next year to experience our little Santas helpers’ event.

Cape Cod NEMBA will have our annual New Years Day ride...

We are currently involved with the town of Barnstable in continuing our maintenance of the local trails.

We look forward to using our fat bikes as the white fluffy stuff will ultimately cover our rocks and roots until the spring thaw.

—Perry and Kris Irmi
Annual Toys For Tots/Kids Ride

Another holiday season starts off with a very successful group ride on a beautiful late Fall day with the purpose of bringing some holiday cheer to others. Riders both young and advanced filled a box full of toys for Toys for Tots and then embarked on a beautiful day of Fall riding. The sun was high, the temps were cool and the trails were perfect! Thank you to all who joined and supported a great cause.

“I REALLY Need a Fattie!”...

...proclaimed a jogger plodding along Turning Mill Road as we were about to embark on a great morning ride. The mere fact that THIS woman wanted in on our fun just shows how far the popularity and accessibility of our sport has come. With pricing below $1,000 for a serviceably-equipped ride, ’Tis the season to get out and enjoy the splendors of fat bike riding, hopefully on some fantastically groomed trails. Head down to your local shop to view their offerings and join the fun.

It Pays to Play...Nice!

Accessibility is a key factor in our enjoyment. Most trail systems are very open to NEMBA’s involvement, but then there are some that have other influences who seek to limit our enjoyment. While GBNEMBA has had, at times, contentious “conversations” with our involvement in the Middlesex Fells, those conversations over the past few years have become more fruitful. We’ve been able to gain more legal trail access (Orange Blaze) and now we are finalizing discussions for more trail work in 2017 that will include trail ‘re-routes’ and potentially access to new trails in parts of the park that were previously “closed” to mountain biking. Much of this is due in part to our fearless leaders at the top who have been consistent and VERY patient in working with DCR to improve the trail system for EVERYONE. DCR has recognized the value-add and even gave us an invite to get some face-time with Governor Baker earlier this year. There are even rumors for the potential of groomed trails this winter! Be on the lookout in the Spring for some fun trail work in the Fells and we strongly encourage everyone to join us for our monthly meetings to be part of the conversation!

Group Rides!

While it’s usually dark by the time all of us leave our offices, our Weekly Group Rides are hibernating until Spring. However, we’re still open to folks leading Weekend Group Rides throughout the Winter. If you have interest in leading a group ride in your local or favorite trail system, let us know! Provide date, time and location to one of our Board Members and we’ll get it posted to our typical channels.

Thank You!

It’s been a fantastic year. On behalf of everyone on GBNEMBA’s board, I’d like to express our gratitude to all our members and volunteers. It's your continued support of our mission that continually invigorates and engages us to build quality programming for your enjoyment and to sustain our trail systems as well as our access for the long haul. To show our appreciation, we’ll be holding our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night in January/February. Be on the lookout and we look forward to supporting your enjoyment in 2017!

—Gregory Jones
President’s Message

The 2016 riding season is in the books. It was an extremely busy season filled with many accomplishments. The general maintenance (deadfall removal, leaf removal, brushing back, drainage…) continued throughout the season. Our biggest accomplishment has been the completion of additional trails at Billerica State forest. The reviews have been extremely positive. We will continue to build new trail into 2017 and beyond.

With the close of the 2016 season, the 2017 season is open. Winter riding is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and keep the legs moving. The number of winter rides has increased over the last few years. The conditions have been amazing so far. We plan on hand grooming Russell Mill when the conditions make it necessary. We will post snowshoe event on our Facebook group. It takes volunteers to make it all happen. Get out there in 2017 and give back to the trail systems you all enjoy!

We have seen an increase in trail modification this past fall. We have added signs to the areas we have been having issues with. Please do not modify a trail you didn’t build, period! Time spent repairing modification is time taken away from new trail. If you are going to spend 30 minutes sanitizing a trail feature, or just creating a go around, why not spend that time practicing the trail feature.

Come ride with us!

—Barry Moore
The Wicked Ride of the East, held on Oct 30 at Harold Parker SF, is NSNEMBA's marquee event. This year there was a record turnout with 771 registered riders and 276 who joined or renewed their NEMBA Membership at the event. Fair weather ruled and those who came were faced with a great number of options as to how to spend their day. There were led rides for all ability levels, a Ride-like-a-Girl Skills Clinic, a vendor expo area, a merchandise tent with cool, limited edition WR clothing for sale, a chili tent staffed by Lee Hollenbeck and his crew, a fundraiser BBQ Tent by Forza-G and a stunt show sponsored by JRA Cycles. The success of the WR is largely due to the hard work and planning by NSNEMBA Volunteers before, during and after the event. But it is a labor of love for many volunteers who have, in many cases, devoted years to building and maintaining the trail network at HP, which has become one of the top mountain bike trail networks in New England.

Another noteworthy event was a 43 mile ride led by Frank Lane on Nov 13. The ride started at Willowdale SF and proceeded through Bradley Palmer SP, Cleveland Farm, and Georgetown-Rowley SF before returning to Willowdale. Frank does an amazing job linking together the different trail networks and including hidden gems in between. The ride ended at twilight and hot food and beverages awaited the tired riders.

The final NSNEMBA Chapter Meeting of the year will take place on Dec 4 at Scott and Debi Merloni’s house in Ipswich, MA. A ride will take place before the meeting in Willowdale SF starting at 9:30 AM. The ride is open to everyone and all NSNEMBA Members are encouraged to attend the meeting which will include planning and the election of Chapter Officers for 2017.

The weather is getting colder and winter is just around the corner but the mountain biking continues unabated on Boston’s North Shore. We are fortunate to live in an area with so many fine places to ride. Best wishes for 2017.

—Hank Kells

Bob Ganley and Patricia Lane selling custom WRE gear. Photo by Hank Kells

How many riders does it take to change a fatbike tire? Photo by pk

Lee Hollenbeck and the Wicked Chili Crew. Photo by Hank Kells

Frank’s Big Ride. Photo by pk

Save the Trails
So, with a few weeks of preliminary work with a half-dozen of us working every free hour we had, we organized the volunteer day to really get it done. There was much to do—mostly in the form of bench-cutting and grade-reversals and drainage features… Finally, we could put all that trail-building theory and technique to use!

With all that manpower on the 6th, we were able to not only complete the reroute, but to also close the sections of trail that were washed out. AND enjoy a barbecue lunch back at Houghton’s Pond by 1:00!

If you haven’t ridden to the top of Buck Hill, put it on your list of places to ride, you won’t be disappointed!

I want to thank all of my NEMBA Crew Leaders, Co-leaders, Friends of Blue Hills, Milton Scouts, bike shops who sent employees, all the hard-working volunteers and especially all of the eyes and creative minds that from the very beginning, a few years ago, helped make the Buck Hill Renroute happen.

This includes but certainly not limited to:

John Jacopo and Paul Jahnige (DCR)
Tom McKenna
Eric Heinrich
Wayne Strohm
Chris Patrick
Rich Higgins
Dave Riding
Corey French
Lars Ahlzen (Map Guru)
Jeff Gilman
Tim Friedmann
My wife Kelly (for getting up early and delivering the coffee and donuts)

Special Thanks also to supporting local shops and organizations:

Landry’s Bicycles
Bicycle Link
Bike Barn
Greater Boston NEMBA (tools)
Friends of Wompatuck (tools)
Friends of Blue Hills
Blue Hills Cycling Club
WMBR.org 88.1 FM

The following weekend we assisted with Bicycle Link’s Wompaturkey, an annual poker ride that’s always a fun ride and gathering of the tribes. We hosted a 50/50 raffle, where the winner would take half of the pot home, and the other half we would spend on trail tools and park improvements. The winner, Eric Peraksilis of Hingham, decided not to take his half of the $$ collected and to let the chapter keep it. Thanks to Eric, that covered the permits expenses with DCR and Natural Heritage that we incurred up on the Buck Hill project.

Wow! What a ride! I mean, the fall of 2016 has been quite a ride, both on and off the bike. Most specifically, November. The month started out with the Buck Hill Re-route, on the 6th, with 85 volunteers making this new trail a reality. The Buck Hill Renroute started as an idea to provide another way down from arguably the best hilltop in the Blue Hills. The idea originally came from the first Buck Hill reroute of a ‘drainage ditch’ trail, into something way better, longer, and more rewarding singletrack way to the top of the hill.

We built that in 2013, at the request of Mass DCR, who oversee Blue Hills. This original reroute, being the only legal way up and down Buck Hill, was getting too much use on its own. So in came the new idea, to reroute another weather-abused section of trail that wasn’t legal to bikes and make it into a much longer, sustainable, safer, and more fun way for EVERYONE, including bikes, down Buck. At the same time, provide more of a loop experience for those who prefer to do ‘repeats’ on Buck. The reroutes were both historical, being the first and second trails that have been built in Blue Hills since the CCC days, back in the 1930’s….

So, with a few weeks of preliminary work with a

President: Steve Cobble, cobblestv@gmail.com, 781-254-8796
Treasurer: Rich Higgins VPs: Ames Nowell: Malcolm Neilson
Blue Hills: Steve Cobble (open position) Borderland: Rich Higgins
Braintree Town: John Doherty
Cutler Park: Chip Baker
Foxboro/Wrentham: Brad Childs
Massasoit: John Bailey
SE MA Bioreserve: Jason Berube
Wompatuck: Dave Farrell
Secretary: Dave Riding
Facebook: “SE MA NEMBA”
President’s Message

We’ve had some great riding this fall. Leominster State Forest, Pearl Hill in Townsend, the Groton trails network are in prime condition. Leaf blowing was put on hold (for the most part) this year. It’s been fun relearning how to drift around on the leaves.

We had six brave souls opt out of Black Friday, instead choosing to ride 16 miles in the cold and drizzle. A few of us liked it so much we ran the mileage up to 22.

On December 18th we’ll have held our 3rd annual Toy ride. The past couple years we’ve had about 25 riders donate 50+ toys. This year we’re hoping to see that number go up. Both intermediate and advanced intermediate groups will ride for a few hours on some techy goodness.

—Dave Burnham

Ware River Watershed (WRW)

In late November, we welcomed DCR Commissioner Leo Roy to visit the WRW for the first time. NEMBA’s pointperson, Brett Russ, and a member of the public also involved in this issue, Bill Dobson, showed Roy and DCR MassParks Central Regional Director Nick Panarelli the situation on the ground. We viewed authorized and unauthorized trails, both healthy and those needing work, saw some of the historic sites, got the lay of the land, and discussed the NEMBA proposal. The Commissioner is working hard to gather and weigh all of the facts in this issue and would like to see a solution reached. We are honored that healthy discussion is now taking place.

Following this tour, we’ve updated the NEMBA WRW trail map to also include Mass DEP surface water supply protection zones. This map and all of our prepared documents on this issue can be found at nemba.org/wwr.

Mark Conti, reporter from the Worcester Telegram, wrote a great piece on the WRW situation in late November as well. That article can be found online. Finally, Bike Magazine, the top national mountain bike periodical, spent a week in November covering this story from all sides. Their balanced feature is currently planned to release in February 2017.

Treasure Valley

The future continues to look bright over at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation. The Trails Committee has been revived and is in full swing, meeting every month, and looking for more people to be involved. A healthy social media presence is online at facebook.com/tvsstrailsALIVE and we just published the latest version of our trail map. Look forward to upcoming events marking and building trails!

Rutland Town Trails

There is now a small new trail network on the town land known as Rutland Heights, the site of a former hospital. Chris Stark of the abutting Central Tree Middle School, and his team of mountain bikers, have been instrumental in developing this resource for the public. Combining these new trails with the existing trails on school property provides after school programs with approximately a five mile loop for riding, running, and walking.

—Brett Russ

President: Dave Burnham, tattooedav- ej@yahoo.com, 978-852-4962
Secretary: Brett Russ
Treasurer: Fred Meyer
Coldbrook Springs: Brett Russ
Midstate Trail: Don Seifert
Nashoba Trails: Dave Burnham
Petersham Trails: Alf Berry
Facebook: “Wachusett NEMBA”
Webpage: www.nemba.org/wachnemba

www.nemba.org
2016 in Review

First I’d like to thank our 2016 Chapter officers. We wouldn’t be as organized or get nearly as much accomplished without Peter Poanessa as our President, and Josh Reynolds and Corey Ickes as VPs (representing VTTJ). Thanks to Pete Schrader for keeping the books organized, and to Mike Davern for writing it all down.

Surprisingly last winter’s fat bike season wasn’t too bad. We didn’t get much snow, but what we did get crusted over (or iced over, depending on your POV…) and we were able to ride all winter - providing you had studded tires… Winter was quite short, and we were riding dirt in early March. Unheard of. Even if the snow is gone that early, things are typically too wet to ride in March. I guess we are paying the price for the dry riding season with our current drought conditions.

In late March we brought the movie unReal to Keene’s Colonial Theater. We kicked the day off with group rides around the area, met for pre-movie food and cheer, and then roughly 380 MTBers descended on Keene to watch the movie. Huge thanks to everyone that came out for all or part of the day. And a giant thanks to our sponsors who made the movie possible: Lothstein Guerriero PLLC, Norm’s Ski and Bike Shop, and Wilson Orthodontics. We couldn’t have done it without you. Thanks so much. Another big thanks to all the businesses that donated cool swag for us to give away: West Hill Shop, Norm’s Ski & Bike, Linik’ Bikin’, Highland Mountain Bike Park, Andy’s Cycle, VMBA, Advanced Cyclist, Ted’s Shoe and Sport, and Strava.

Since we were on a roll, we decided to have our 2nd Annual Spring Picnic at Todd and Pam Amato’s own in Vernon VT in May. Big kudos to Pam and Todd. Todd pulled out all the stops, tuning up the pump track, building a sweet skills course, organizing activities for kids (young and old), and setting up some great rides. Special thanks to Advanced Cyclist (365 Cycles now) and Linik’ Bikin’ for bringing over their demo fleets for the day - thanks for taking the time and for supporting Brattleboro-Keene NEMBA. As always, support your local shops people. The pizza by Little Zoe’s Take & Bake Pizza was delicious. We had over 100 people attend the event.

Speaking of local shops - Thanks to 365 Cycles (Advanced Cyclist) and Norm’s Ski and Bike for renewing their NEMBA dealer memberships. You guys are great.

For the first time BK-NEMBA had a contingent representing at the 2016 NEMBA Fest. And thanks to Jonathan Montgomery we even had a compound of sorts in the camping area. Let’s get more people up to Kingdom Trails for next year’s event. We all had a blast, and Gerard took it to 11 with the group night ride.

And we’ll be looking even more pro at NEMBA Fest in 2017 with our new canopy that we purchased with donations from the movie event and spring picnic. Thanks all!

The chapter’s Tuesday Night Rides were augmented by weekly rides put on by 365 Cycles as well. Attendance was good. We hit all the usual Keene areas as our default rides, made a couple trips to Ascutney (where some of us made our way into a promotional video getting filmed), we rode various Brattleboro haunts, and had a well-attended ride in Putney (opps, my bad).

Mike Hoefner attended a NEMBA Trail School weekend and then came back to Keene and led a great work day at Drummer Hill where we armored a stream crossing and a couple wet spots on Far Side. Let’s get more people to trail school in 2017! The areas kids MTB race team (more on that later…) put on a trail work day at Stonewall Farm. Cyclones racer Jonathan Hills organized the work day. Cyclones and others did some massive rock work, put in a nice reroute, and did some armor/irrigation work. The chapter also built a new bridge at Stonewall Farm just in time for the Root 66 race. We bridged an ever expanding mud pit. The kids race team from the Dublin School also came over and did a work day at Stonewall Farm, putting in two reroutes around a couple areas that were getting blown out. It is great to see the kids giving back to the places that they ride.

To help support our future trail work, 365 Cycles made a very generous donation to the chapter to fund a major tool purchase. We’ll be building out our tool inventory this winter and getting ready for next year’s projects. Thanks to the shop for supporting us and the trails in Keene.

The chapter hosted a fall Take A Kid MTBing Day at Stonewall Fall. Big thanks to the farm for supporting mountain biking. 365 Cycles provided adjustment/tune-ups to help make sure everyone’s bike was in tip top shape, Dave Levasseur built his skills course (better every year!), and we had a lot of chapter members come out to help out. Despite the cold, it was a nice day playing bikes at the farm.

One of next year’s projects will be to replace the signs at Drummer Hill that have gone missing this year. We aren’t sure if the signs are becoming collectors’ items, or victims of vandalism. But we have a lot missing. We’ll be doing an inventory this winter and hanging replacements next year.

The chapter hosted a Thanksgiving morning Turkey Baster ride in efforts to make room for all that turkey and stuffing. We had a good turnout with people coming from all over the regions to join us. There are also a few things going on at the end of the year that haven’t happened as I’m writing the year end recap. December 4th we’ll be celebrating Global Fat Bike Day over at Pam and Todd Amato’s house. Guaranteed to be fun (and informative, special announcements…). We are making good progress on getting a map for Drummer Hill printed and available in stores - It’s been a long time coming! We are also finalizing plans for the 2017 movie event, and have some developments with private landowners in the Keene area that should be very good news.

2016 was a great year. We are seeing an uptick in membership. More and more people are getting involved in chapter projects like meetings, work days, advocacy, and rides/events. The kids MTB scene is blowing up! Trail work projects are happening as well. People seem more excited and involved in mountain biking in Keene. The number of people on the trails has significantly increased as well. All the more reason to get people involved with the chapter. More riders = more maintenance. And remember, encourage your friends to become a member, volunteer, or lead a ride.

—Michael Davern

BK-NEMBA Cyclones Year End, 2016

The season Kickoff was hosted by Tim and Loren in March, and well attended! There were activities for all ages and potluck followed.

Friday night practices started in May, and continued night through the end of August, and were a HUGE success in our inaugural season! We met at Stonewall Farm in Keene every Friday night. Stonewall Farm is a very gracious host; they even kept the Ice Cream stand open late for us one night when we rode later than usual! Average attendance at practice was 20 kids, plus their associations adults, and made for quite a presence at the farm and on the neighboring trail networks. Was really nice to see so many families out enjoying bicycle time together! Thank you all for coming out this year, we are all thrilled! Thank you Stonewall Farm!

There were a few trail work days/weekends during the season, all were well attended, and with so many hands (big and small), a lot was accomplished! Trailwork with the kids is a great way to teach them how to give back to the community and to the sport they love.

The Root66 and EFTA race series’ in New England were well attended by the kids, especially our own local race; Bikes for Bovines at Stonewall Farms! The kids had a blast racing, as well as cheering / manning the feed zone. It was a hot enough day they made it the ‘splash zone’ and helped cool the racers in the Cat 2 and 3 races. (and was appreciated due to the heat!)

Next season’s plans are in the works, and with all the practices we had last season; the kids should all be ready to hit the dirt pedaling come Spring/Summer racing! Stay tuned for news of a Spring 2017 kickoff BBQ event!

Many thanks to our local Screen-Printer, Bulldog Athletics in Keene, NH for our awesome high-visibility blaze orange gear this season! Also thanks to Daq Woods of Woodstech for his GREAT BK-NEMBA/ Cyclones logo! The combination is hard to miss!

—Dave Levasseur

NEW HAMPSHIRE / VT

Brattleboro-Keene

President: Peter Poanessa. info@signwworx.com
Vice President: Josh Reynolds
Secretary: Mike Davern
Treasurer: Peter Schrader
Email List: bk nemba @ google groups.com
Contact Email: bk nemba @ gmail.com
The autumn of 2016 was epic north of the notches as well as elsewhere in New England. Our foliage came late but held on and trails remained dry and good well into November. The Franconia Area Group invited Bill Boles from NEMBA, Tom Giles and Jodi Cinchen from The Pemi-Ranger District office of the WMNF and Taylor Caswell FA-NEMBA member and driving force behind the Parker Mountain trail system in Littleton to update our General Membership and the Community on our progress with trails in the region. More than 50 people attended the meeting and enthusiasm for the progress here was palpable. Volunteer efforts from members and friends continue to drive our community effort. Many hours of individual effort have been expended both on the trails and organizationally during 2016 and the results are most evident. In collaboration with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and the National Forest we have completed the “yellow traverse” linking Trumpet Round Road in Sugar Hill at the Cooley Jericho Community Forest to South Easton via a mid altitude wilderness ridge trail that joins the Jericho trail in the National Forest. The National Forest is actively engaged in reviewing our proposal for linking the Jericho trail through an old existing but unofficial network of trails the length of Easton and back into Franconia on the Kinsman side of 116 in private and National Forest Service lands as an extension of our Franconia Area Trails. A focus for 2017 will be to improve the accessibility and remove technical hazards from a core of trails in Franconia Valley to make them more user friendly especially for novice riders and family groups. Grant funding from the New Hampshire RTP will support some of that activity in collaboration with Lafayette Recreation. Efforts are focused on Fox Hill Park and the new Lawrence Preserve but will also extend to areas near the Franconia Glider Port and Franconia Inn.

As our valley trail network continues to improve, and we improve signage, there are a series of country Inns and lodges that border the circuit and would make fine destinations for riders seeking to enjoy our quiet valley while touring New England. The Franconia Inn supports a Nordic center in the winter that transforms into the White Mountain Bike Shop and stables in the Spring. Fat biking is permitted on the snowshoe trails maintained around the Inn and on select Nordic ski trails. This is a full service Inn with full dining and amenities. The Horse and Hound Inn is a quieter country Inn on the network with more limited hours and services, but is noted for fine dining. The network trail traverses the Inn’s parking lot. Finally the Hillwinds Lodge is a more basic accommodation located in downtown Franconia immediately adjacent to Fox Hill Park and the Dow Strip. A trail entrance into Fox Hill Park can be found on the back side of the Hillwinds parking lot. Fat Bikes are welcomed in Fox Hill Park. There are many additional hostélries in the neighborhood that are not yet directly on the network, but all are easy access to our trails. We will highlight others in future installments. Over the hill from Franconia Village, Parker Mountain in Littleton immediately adjoins the Remick Park and is a few short blocks from the newly completed River Loop in Downtown Littleton and the adjoining Littleton Bike & Fitness. There are many accommodations to be found in Littleton and the Littleton Bike & Fitness can provide further detail regarding the Tuesday night ride series and local information http://littletonbike.com/about/events-calendar-pg363.htm.

—Chris Nicodemus
Pemi Valley

President: Slade Warner
Vice-President: Jay Harrington
Treasurer: Sean O’Leary
BOD Rep: Jeremy Hillger
Facebook: Pemi Valley NEMBA

Pemi Valley NEMBA members have a lot to be proud of as we look back on the last year of trail building and advocacy. At our last meeting elections were held and Slade Warner is now president, Jay Harrington is Vice President and Jeremy Hillger is BOD Rep. We thank Jeremy for his service as president of our chapter for the last few years.

Jody Chinchenden from the USFS attended our last meeting as the new dispersed recreation manager for the Pemi Ranger District. Although Jody is only a few months into her new position she has been actively working with our chapter to legitimize existing trails on Forest Service property. We appreciate her guidance as we work with the USFS to navigate this process and look forward to moving our proposal forward to create new riding opportunities in our region.

Pemi Valley NEMBA continues to move forward in support of Squam Lakes Conservation Commission Society in our efforts to create a new mountain bike trail network in Ashland, N.H. Thanks to the prodigious efforts of Roger LaRochelle of SLCS we are moving closer to being able to design and build a trail network on this 700+ acre parcel which features amazing views of the Squam Lakes Region. We are optimistic that progress will be made this winter to pave the way for this exciting project which will connect the towns of Ashland, Holderness and Plymouth.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Josh Trought of D Acres educational farmstead in Dorchester, N.H. Josh has been actively working with P V NEMBA to open up new riding opportunities on the western bounds of our region. D Acres is a non profit organization which seeks to educate the public about Permaculture and sustainable agricultural skills. D Acres also offers lodging and meals so please check them out if you plan to stay in the region for any recreation in the beautiful White Mountains. www.dacres.org

The riding continues to grow and improve in Fox Park located in Plymouth. This is a small system but the efforts of our trail crew have begun to make for some fun and flowing terrain. Thanks to the Old Coot for coming up from Cape Cod to enjoy our trails and pump track and doing that great article in the last SingleTracks issue.

So tune up your fat bike and wax those skis to be ready for the coming winter. Peace and keep riding!

—Slade Warner
Bear Brook Boogie:
2016 may have been the worst drought in southern NH in decades, but mother nature certainly made up for it on the day of the Bear Brook Boogie at Bear Brook State Park. The weather pattern must have been tricky to call, because the forecast for rain to end just after daybreak wasn’t really accurate. Despite the rain, which got heavy and cold by mid-day, a bunch of hearty souls came out for what turned out to be a fun day on some of Bear Brook’s best trails. We raised $737 for trailwork at the park. Let’s hope for better weather next year.

Exeter Trail Work:
This Fall a dedicated group of NEMBA members replaced a bridge along the Forest Ridge development at Fork Rock (formally known as Henderson-Swasey and Oakland Town Forests) in Exeter, NH, complete with a rock-armored entrance and exit. The project was funded jointly by the Exeter Conservation Commission, NEMBA and local riders and all the labor was provided by local riders. This is probably the first of many projects since there is a tremendous amount of positive energy among the Exeter Conservation Commission, its Trail Committee and local riders. It was very rewarding to see a recent Commission meeting attended largely by local riders and to hear the kind words spoken about mountain bikers by those hikers and cross-country skiers who use the trails.

Amherst Trail Work:
Six months ago, bicycling was formally restricted to all but four trails in the entire town of Amherst, due to inclusion of mountain bikes in an OHRV ordinance. Through the persistent efforts of a handful of chapter members and Amherst residents, a revision to the OHRV ordinance was enacted, effectively putting regulation of access to conservation land in the hands of the Amherst Conservation Commission. Since the ordinance was changed, commissioners and chapter members have implemented a significant amount of work in a few short months.

Led by chapter member Wes Robertson, the Betty Arnold Forest in Amherst has undergone an amazing transformation. The existing trail network was improved by building and improving five bridges, creating a parking area with kiosk, replacing a rotated set of stairs, and building several reroutes on steep slopes and in wet areas. Two new trails have been constructed, and when combined with the existing trails, a nice loop is formed around the property. We’ve received rave reviews from the hiking community on the trail work and there is more to come. Betty Arnold Forest is located at 9 Austin Road Amherst, NH, a very short spin from Likin Bikin.

As with the Fort Rock projects in Exeter, the lion’s share of the materials and labor used on the Amherst trails have come from local businesses, the SNH NEMBA chapter and local members. The lesson here is if you don’t like something, get involved. Work closely with land managers and, if you really want a voice at the table, consider becoming a member of conservation commissions or join the board of a local land trust. Rally support from like-minded folks. Keep them informed with the web, emails and social media, and do the same with abutters. Address opposition with facts, not emotion. Once you get a little momentum, amazing things can happen. It’s just like riding a bike.

—Dan Dwyer
The White Mountains Chapter finished our most productive year ever in the Mt. Washington Valley. We have some great projects in the works and are especially stoked to have an influx of young gravity-oriented riders joining the fold.

Some of our 2016 accomplishments:

### Albany Town Forest

We began a new trail with a long bench cut on a steep slope to access an upper plateau. Thanks to Mike Steward and Tom Gill for their work.

### East Side Network -

- the long awaited sign project was nearly completed, with just a few signs left to be made & installed.
- an extensive reroute of the Sidehill Trail was laid out and built by Chris Krug & Molly Savard, with a bit of finish work help from the usual suspects.
- the lower Red Tail Trail was upgraded with tabletops and berms thanks to Nat Lucy, Chris Lewando, Alex Leich and Amanda Tulip. A climbing trail was routed around the tables with contributions from Chase Lee, Chris Fithian, Michael Hartrich and a host of others.
- The Cheater trail was routed off Nature Conservancy property at their request. John Barley put in loads of solo hours to make it happen.

### Marshall Conservation Area -

- a mile of new machine-built trail was completed; props to Chris Lewando, Jeff Lathrop and many other finish workers.
- extended and expanded the T-Bone loop; Earl Sires & Rob Zimmerman get gold stars for their tireless efforts
- Lager’s Lane received a couple of fun reroutes thanks to Zim & his crews.

### West Side Network -

- the long bridge on the Electric Loop was reworked and the approach to one side reconfigured.
- Stony Ridge got a sweet relo that climbers will especially appreciate.

Rob Zimmerman and John Barley put in numerous hours fighting back the jungle on the High School Loop.

For 2017, expect to see:

- a new downhill-only trail in the Hurricane Mountain Road area
- more new XC trails in the Marshall Conservation Area
- improved signage and mapping
- resurrection of old expert-level trails on Cranmore
- completion of an additional loop in the Albany Town Forest

Maryanne Dunfey and Leo Rossignol leaf blew many, many miles of trails this fall and many people contributed to our success this year beyond those mentioned above. We are very grateful for their help and the positive feedback received as a result of their work.

Think snow!

—Rob Adair
2016 was another great, action packed year for RI NEMBA that proves the fact that time flies when you’re having fun! I remember sitting in the same seat last year writing our final chapter update of the year and it feels like yesterday. Though the time flew, reflecting back on the year shows that we accomplished quite a bit over the last 365 days! Below are some highlights.

This year was kicked off in typical fashion with the 11th annual Earth Day Cleanup at Big River. We filled 6 large dumpsters with tires and debris from old dump sites as well as road side cleanup. Thanks again to Peter Gengler for coordinating this amazing event, Chris Hughes for his fantastic work as MC, and everyone who came out to make Big River a cleaner place!

Soon after, in May, RI NEMBA hosted a cycling clinic for the wonderful kids at Meeting Street School. This event took place for 6 weeks and provided many kids their first riding experience. Alan Winsor (Big River VP) put his heart and soul into this clinic and affected many children’s lives providing a positive role model for those who may not have one. This was truly a special event and hats off to all involved with making this clinic successful.

While the Meeting Street School Clinic was going on, RI NEMBA was also hosting its second annual, 6 week, Intro to Trail Riding Skills Clinic! Once again the clinic was met with great success, improving on the clinic with best practices learned from the year before. One of the greatest improvements was changing the venue to Ryan Park in the town of North Kingstown. The trails there provided the perfect terrain to help develop the skills of the folks who participated in the clinic. Each week we averaged 30 participants and 15 volunteers! Thank you to the participants and volunteers who came out each and every week to make this clinic as great as it is. We couldn’t do it without you! A special thank you goes out to James Hoard, Lauren Hoard and Haley Sumner for coordinating this amazing event. A lot of work goes into this and it’s GREATLY appreciated by all! I already can’t wait for next year!

In addition to our cycling clinics, RI NEMBA once again hosted 3 Fun Rides. Our spring ride was held at Big River, our late summer ride at Arcadia, and most recently our fall fun ride at Lincoln Woods. This year’s Lincoln Woods ride was once again our food drive for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. This year, a record 1283lbs. of food was collected! Thank you to everyone who attended the ride and donated to this great cause. Also, thank you Brendan Dee for doing a great job coordinating this big event, and James Hoard and Craig Mello for delivering all the food to the food bank! Let’s collect even more next year!

This year, RI NEMBA teamed up with Shimano and hosted two trail work days at Arcadia. Efforts were focused on cleaning up some of the lesser traveled trails and fixing an erosion issue on the Ben Utter trail. Here we built a rolling grade dip to divert water off of a fall line. Rolling grade dips require little maintenance, last virtually forever and are a much better alternative to a water bar. Nice job everyone! A special thank you goes out to Jim Grimley from Shimano for providing us with free t-shirts and pizza!

As some may already know, 2016 will be my final year as RI NEMBA Chapter President. It hurts me to step down from this position, but personal reasons and workload with my occupation just aren’t allowing me the capacity to perform the duty for another year. Thank you everyone for making the past 3 years such an incredible experience! Looking back at it all, when I was asked if I wanted to run for the position back in 2013 I was hesitant. I didn’t know much about trail advocacy and I didn’t know many of the key individuals within NEMBA and RI DEM. I’m so glad that I decided to give it a shot because it’s truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The friendships I’ve developed and the education in stewardship and ambassadors I’ve received since then has been priceless. Thank you Philip Keyes, NEMBA and RI NEMBA for providing me with such an experience. Also, thank you Haley Summer for ALWAYS being there. Thank you to the entire RI cycling community for your help and support! Whether it is trail projects or ride events, we never have a lack of volunteers and that’s a direct reflection of the awesome group of people we have here in RI and neighboring states! Haley and I will still be involved in the chapter, but to a lesser extent. We’ll still be coordinating the Intro to Trail Riding Skills Clinic and the Arcadia Fun Ride. Again, thanks everyone for such a memorable 3 years!

2017 is already shaping up to be another exciting year with events and trail projects already being planned, and an incredible group of mountain biking advocates moving forward with leading the chapter. 2017 RINEMBA board members will be voted on and announced at our annual holiday meeting on December 10th. Stay tuned for next month’s update for the results! I hope everyone has a safe holiday season filled with health, love, joy and of course, mountain biking! See you out on the trails.

—John Sumner
## NEMBA Rides

NEMBA rides are led by individual NEMBA members for other members and prospective members. So if you haven't yet joined NEMBA, please do. Rides are usually for small numbers of people and vary with the location and the personal style of the host. Rides have been known to change location or time at the last moment. So be sure to contact the ride's leader, both to sign up, and to find out more about the ride. **Be sure to contact the ride leader a couple of days before the ride takes place. That way you will be sure that the ride is on.**

If you commit to a ride, go, since space is limited. That way the rides will stay manageable and will be enjoyable for everyone. Helmets are required on all NEMBA rides. Contact your ride's leader if the weather looks questionable.

**HEY!**  -  Why not lead a NEMBA ride yourself? Contact Bill Boles at 508-583-0067 or nembabill@yahoo.com for more information.

### Special Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Central CT NEMBA Winterfest</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>John Joy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmj@cctnemba.org">jmj@cctnemba.org</a></td>
<td>203-260-6200</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 - 3/5</td>
<td>Essex Woods Fat Bike Ride &amp; Race</td>
<td>Bangor, ME</td>
<td>Arlon Chaffee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arlon@lococycling.com">arlon@lococycling.com</a></td>
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### Central, Wachusett & Western Mass

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<td>Sundays</td>
<td>Wachusett NEMBA Leominster SF Ride</td>
<td>Jim Wrightson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jjwright@princeton-ma.us">jjwright@princeton-ma.us</a></td>
<td>978-852-4800</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
<td>PV NEMBA Chapter Meeting/Ride</td>
<td>Harold Green</td>
<td><a href="mailto:harold.f.green@comcast.net">harold.f.green@comcast.net</a></td>
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### Connecticut

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<td>Stacey Jimenez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:QuietCornerNEMBA@gmail.com">QuietCornerNEMBA@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>860-230-1237 Location Varies</td>
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<td>Alternating Saturdays</td>
<td>Central CT NEMBA Faturday Ride</td>
<td>Glenn Vernes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:glennvernes@gmail.com">glennvernes@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>Central CT NEMBA Branford Supply Ponds Ride</td>
<td>Marc Otfinoski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:motfinoski@comcast.net">motfinoski@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>12/17</td>
<td>Fairfield County NEMBA Winter Solstice Ride</td>
<td>Paula Burton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peburton1@gmail.com">peburton1@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Central CT NEMBA Winterfest All</td>
<td>John Joy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmj@cctnemba.org">jmj@cctnemba.org</a></td>
<td>203-260-6200</td>
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### Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont

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<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Leader Name</th>
<th>Email/Contact Information</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>Brattleboro-Keene NEMBA Sunday Fat Bike Ride</td>
<td>365 Cycles</td>
<td>603-968-5797</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays</td>
<td>Penobscot Region NEMBA Ride All</td>
<td>Emmy Monahan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:duchess.of.dirt@hotmail.com">duchess.of.dirt@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>SNH NEMBA Novice Ride</td>
<td>Chris Gaudet</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gggid71@gmail.com">gggid71@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Nashua, NH (Fat Bike Ride with snow.)</td>
<td>603-444-3437 Littleton, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Franconia Area NEMBA All</td>
<td>Dave Harkless</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daveharkless@gmail.com">daveharkless@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>207-441-8227 (Location Varies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>CE ME NEMBA Ride</td>
<td>Brian Alexander</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BAlexander1@roadrunner.com">BAlexander1@roadrunner.com</a></td>
<td>607-441-8227 (Location Varies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>Polartec Winter Fat Bike Series</td>
<td>Waterville Valley NH</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 - 3/5</td>
<td>Essex Woods Fat Bike Ride &amp; Race, Bangor ME All</td>
<td>617-543-3971</td>
<td>Arlon Chaffee at <a href="mailto:arlon@lococycling.com">arlon@lococycling.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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### Metro Boston, Merrimack & North Shore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Leader Name</th>
<th>Email/Contact Information</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>MV NEMBA Russell Mill All</td>
<td>David Zizza</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidzizza@gmail.com">davidzizza@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>617-543-3971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>MV NEMBA Thursday Ride All</td>
<td>David Zizza</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidzizza@gmail.com">davidzizza@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>617-543-3971</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>MV NEMBA Northeast MA Ride</td>
<td>David Zizza</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidzizza@gmail.com">davidzizza@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>617-543-3971</td>
<td>(Location Varies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat &amp; Sun</td>
<td>GB NEMBA Weekend Rides</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/gb.rides/">www.facebook.com/groups/gb.rides/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Location Varies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southeastern Mass. Blackstone Valley & Rhode Island

Sundays
SE MASS NEMBA Intermediate Level Ride
Corey French
cfrench3974@gmail.com

Sundays
RI NEMBA Arcadia Ride
John Sumner
JSumner13@yahoo.com

Tuesdays
SE MASS NEMBA Foxboro Mellow Ride
Iain Crerar
icrerar@addvantagegroup.com

Wednesdays
Cape Cod NEMBA ToT Wednesday Ride
All
Mike Dube
dubati@comcast.net

Wednesdays
RI NEMBA Lincoln Woods Ride
Brendan Dee
mtbdee@hotmail.com
401 335 3163

Thursdays
SE MASS NEMBA Thursday Foxboro Ride
Iain Crerar
icrerar@addvantagegroup.com

Thursdays
SE MA NEMBA Blue Hills Morning Ride
Steve Cobble
cobblestv@gmail.com
Milton, MA

Fridays
Cape Cod NEMBA Friday ToT Ride
All
Mike Dube
dubati@comcast.net

Saturdays
SE MASS NEMBA Wompatuck Ride
All
Richard Banks
spellmanmountainbikers@yahoo.com

Saturdays
Cape Cod NEMBA Saturday Mellow Ride
Bill Boles
NEMBAbill@yahoo.com
Location Varies

New NEMBA Ride Shirts!

Club Ride Shirts for Women and for Men

Deer Abby: Our first woman’s specific NEMBA shirt by Club Ride. This shirt looks good both on and off the bike! It’s made with high-tech Sheer2Dry™ fabric and offers UV Protection and a rear stash pockets and a media port.

New West: Club Ride’s New West Jersey allows people to ride comfortably and look good while doing so. Made from revolutionary RideDryWear™ material, the shirt is lightweight, wicking, and fast-drying. Function and fashion.

Deer Abby: $45
New West: $55

NEMBA Wool Socks from Sock Guy

They feature a padded terry cloth footbed, 6-inch high cuff and Sock Guy’s Wooligan build made with 75% TURBOwool, a superior blend of 50% polypropylene and 50% Merino wool, which provides five times the strength and durability of Merino wool alone. Shrink-resistant and itch-free.

Choose between Small/Medium (Sized 5-9) and Large/X-Large (9-13)

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- Kona Bicycles, Fernsdale WA
- Redbones BBQ, Somerville MA
- The Bikeway Source, Bedford MA

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- Corner Cycle, Falmouth MA
- Hub Bicycle Company, Cambridge MA
- JRA Cycles, Medford MA
- Ride Headquarters, Sherborn MA

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- Buchika's Ski & Bike, Salem NH
- Colonial Bicycle Portsmouth, Portsmouth NH
- Colonial Bicycle Salem, Salem NH
- Gamache & Lessard Co., Auburn ME
- Gorham Bike & Ski, Portland ME
- Likin Bikin Bicycle Shop, Amhert NH
- Mavic USA, Haverhill MA
- Quad Cycles, Arlington MA
- Rainbow Bicycle, Lewiston ME
- Ridgefield Bicycle Company, Ridgefield CT
- Salem Cycle, Salem MA
- The Bicycle Shop of Topsfield, Topsfield MA
- The Bike Den, Wareham MA
- Washington Square Tavern, Brookline MA

$100
- 365 Cycles, Keene NH
- All Tuned Up, Ashburnham MA
- Amity Bicycle, Woodbridge CT
- Acadian Shop, Lenox MA
- Bicycle Clinic, S. Weymouth MA
- Bicycle Link, Weymouth MA
- Bicycles Unlimited, Greenfield MA
- Bikezone Hyannis, Hyannis MA
- Bikezone Yarmouth, Yarmouth MA
- Busytown Bikes, Lewiston ME
- C2 by Janeware, Somerville MA
- Cape Cod Cycling Club, Hyannis MA
- Carrabassett Valley Bikes, Carrabassett Valley
- Central Maine Cycling Club, Vassalboro ME
- Clif Bar, Emeryville CA
- Cycle Lodge, Pembroke MA
- Cycle Loft, Burlington MA
- Downtown Putnam Cyclery, Putnam CT
- Exeter Cycles, Exeter NH
- F.I.S Sports, Kingfield ME
- Fales & Fales, PA, Lewiston ME
- firefly Bicycles, Boston MA
- Goodale’s Bike Shop, Concord NH
- Goodale’s Bike Shop, Hooksett NH
- Goodale’s Bike Shop, Nashua NH
- Littleton Bike, Littleton NH
- LOCO Cycling, Newmarket NH
- Mau’s Bike Shop, Halifax MA
- Miso Partners, Waltham MA
- Mt. Washington Resort, Bretton Woods NH
- NBX Bikes, East Providence RI
- NBX Bikes, Narragansett RI
- NBX Bikes, Providence RI
- NBX Bikes, Warwick RI
- New Canaan Bicycles, New Canaan CT
- Norm's Bike & Ski Shop, Keene NH
- Northeast Race Management, Raynham MA
- Northern Lights, Farmington ME
- Onion River Sports, Montpelier VT
- Orleans Cycle, Orleans MA
- Pedal Power, Middleton CT
- Pedal Power Cycle, Portsmouth NH
- Pedro’s, Chestnut Hill MA
- Plaine’s Bike Ski Snowboard, Pittsfield MA
- Ride Studio Cafe, Lexington MA
- Rose Bicycle, Orono ME
- Ski Rack Sports, Bangor ME
- Slipping Gears Cycling, Bangor ME
- Top Notch Inn, Gorham NH
- Union Cycle, Attleboro MA
- Velofix Boston, Boston MA
- Winterwoman Designs LLC, Nashua NH

$75
- D Acres of New Hampshire, Dorchester NH
- Highland Mountain Bike Park, Northfield NH
- Speed & Sprocket Cycle Works, Holyoke MA

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