

Colorado is on to Something

Mountain bikers know the sport can be dangerous, full of "inherent dangers and risks." But the world of lawyers and lawsuits didn't get the memo, and the threat of lawsuits from injured riders has limited riding options on public and private lands, including ski areas.

Soon that could change for riders in Colorado, and major mountain biking organizations say it's good news for mountain bikers and landowners.

SB11-036, introduced this month in the Colorado state legislature, would limit the amount of civil liability from those involved in mountain biking, whether it's a landowner opening up property for mountain biking use, an event organizer or a mountain bike instructor.

State Sen. Greg Brophy, who sponsored the bill along with Rep. Andy Kerr, said that by declaring mountain biking "inherently dangerous," the state could offer the same legal protections afforded to ski resorts, which don't want a million-dollar lawsuit every time someone breaks their neck trying to land a backflip "We feel we need to do this to help make Colorado the most friendly state in the nation for mountain biking," Brophy said in an e-mail.

Most mountain bikers know about the risk of the sport and accept that risk, says Jeremy Fancher, legal counsel for the International Mountain Biking Association, which supports the bill.

The current law, however, sometimes shifts the risks to someone else. The result is landowners afraid of lawsuits closing off access to private lands.

"By placing that risk on the shoulders of riders, this bill will remove a substantial barriers to the development of both competitive and recreational mountain biking opportunities," Fancher said.

Mark Eller, communications director for IMBA, said passing the bill would help alleviate some of the fears from private landowners.

"It won't entirely prevent lawsuits, but it's a good step forward," Eller said.

Brophy is working with a number of mountain biking organizations in the state, among them the Colorado Mountain Bike Association, Bicycling Colorado and Ski Country.



The bill started when former state Sen. Chris Romer hit major liability obstacles while trying to host a mountain bike event. When Romer left to run for mayor of Denver, Brophy took the reins and introduced the bill in January.

But not everyone is a fan of the bill, among them the lawyers that could sue on behalf of injured mountain bikers. The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association is against the bill, and it recently asked its members to lobby Kerr to remove his name as sponsor of the bill. CTLA said the bill would not protect mountain bikers. Instead, the immunities would "take away bikers' rights and other legal remedies to hold wrongdoers accountable," the association said.

Brophy said the only opposition he's gotten so far has been from the lawyers.

Suffering is not a
virtue.

Joy is not a sin.

'Try not to become a man of success,
but rather try to become a man of
value.' ~Albert Einstein

MECCA Contact Us

Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 132
Cleveland, Utah 84518
playerslp@hotmail.com
Phone: 435-653-2440

*Always looking for
stuff to put in this
newsletter - send
me something!*

MECCA Address:
P.O. Box 491,
Huntington, UT 84528

MECCA E-Mail:
meccabikeclub@etv.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.biketheswell.org

Let's Plan our FESTIVALS for 2011!!!

Events

FIRST PLANNING MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR:

Feeling the need to get our wonderful group of people together - start pulling together our plans for the spring festival, etc. So, if you can,

PLEASE COME
Monday, January 31st
8:00 p.m.
Huntington Elementary School

Also, don't forget to get your 2011 membership sent in. We have only 14 in so far (and 2 of those are new members!)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

It's that time of year again - please go to biketheswell.org
To fill out, print and send in the form to keep your membership going!!

CLUB BUSINESS

Please give Kim a call if you want to invite the club on any rides... or even if you want us to organize a ride for you!

Have you heard any news about any club members to share in this newsletter? If so, please let Kim know about it.

Go to biketheswell.org for all the latest information about any of our activities.

Remember your club membership gets you discounts on MECCA festival registrations and on AWESOME biking supplies at DECKER'S BICYCLES.

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KNOW ANYONE WHO NEEDS A MECCA
MEMBERSHIP?

Get the form at biketheswell.org
~~\$12 per year - BEST deal on the planet!~~

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

** Tammy Bentley and Michael Norton. Looking forward to riding with you both!!!*

*Please let me know when you have events to share.
Notice the new email address in the top left corner of this page.*

"If you repeat the same task again and again, it will eventually become automatic. Your brain will literally change so that you can complete the task without thinking about it." Once this happens, the brain has made mental space for higher-order operations: for interpreting literary works, say, and not simply decoding their words; for exploring the emotional content of a piece of music, and not just playing the notes. Brain scans of experimental subjects who are asked to execute a sequence of movements, for example, show that as the sequence is repeated, the parts of the brain associated with motor skills become less active, allowing brain activity to shift to the areas associated with higher-level thinking and reflection." - Daniel Willingham
So Maybe nothing is as fun until you're good at it.

KIM PLAYER
Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 132
Cleveland, Utah 84518