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there is no place you cannot ride

EDITORIAL

As life goes on and the wheels keep turning, every day we grow older and wiser... And we keep riding our bikes, no matter where we are. That's what sets us apart from the rest, the freedom, the wind in our faces, the scratched elbows and knees and the feeling after a good ride. And no matter what time of the year, we always have some excuse to go out and ride.... Keep the pedals turning, keep the wheels spinning. Describing the sport in 3 words, it's a WAY OF LIFE.

This time we introduce the mag41 racing team china, went riding across Sikkim, checked out some sweet trails out there. Introduce some new riders, show how to keep your bike healthy and happy and keep riding. Also we show how to go to trips and take your bike along with you everywhere and have fun jumping once you get there. We are also partners with Epic Mountain Bike in Nepal. These guys have a name that does them justice.

Its autumn and a good time to hit those high altitude Himalayas to explore them and shred.

RIDE ON.....KEEP IT REAL



Prateek Singh – editor in chief





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CONTENT

ISSUE 3



8 shredding the land of mystique and beliefs

44 tricknology

48 holly feniak

60 gallery

70 garage how to pack a bike

78 where ever we live, we need to ride

96 events, racing, national & international

122 protect your head

shredding the land of mystique and beliefs

mtbmag
8



Photos : Prateek Singh , Rahul Majumder
Text : Prateek Singh



Sikkim is the land of superlatives, with its magnificent mountains, rich cultures and amazing trails. A tiny jewel of a state, if explored can be a mountain biker's paradise. This summer, we decided to travel across the southern and western part of the state riding, exploring, and basking in the cultures on the way. Sikkim is a diverse land, with amazing food, people, sceneries, and of course riding locales. The riders who set out on a road trip to get blessed by the Lord amongst some of the oldest and established monasteries in the state and riding down the trails which lead to them.

Our journey began from Calcutta. Two bikers, a car, and two bikes all set for the road trip to reach Kalimpong In North Bengal. 15 hours of driving and we were there. Calcutta to Kalimpong. One hell of a drive, crossing the Tropic of Cancer on the way, dust, traffic, stares, and we reached kalimpong where our bikes touched the Trails for the first time on the trip. The first view of the trails, this looks yummy to ride.





Three days I and Rahul spent shredding the trails around our Kalimpong campsite. Amazing weather, trails, and unlimited fun riding those endless downhills...



The ride never came easy. As the campsite was at the bottom of the valley, we had to hike up 5 kilometers on the same trails we used to shred down.





Ride all day long, have lunch back at the campsite, then relax in the natural Jacuzzi behind the camp, that was what we did for three continuous days. Bikes and Beer - two things we didn't stay away from in Kalimpong.

The trails were long, they were versatile, they were unbelievable, and this was just the beginning of the trip.





Day 3, we were joined by the rest of the bikers who were going to accompany us on the trip across Sikkim to get blessed. Time to get stuff neat and tidy. We were kings of procrastination, leaving everything to shred the trails. "We'll do it when we come back from riding" was what we always told ourselves. Our chef, Milan was an amazing guy, he could sing, play the guitar and cook amazing delicacies. He was the all-rounder, making food, and then entertaining us as we hogged after riding all day. Also he kept us and the bikes safe at night.

Finally we left Kalimpong; still miss the Jacuzzi and beer though.





Bikes packed, riders ready for the tour, from now on, it was a different bed every night.

All the team members and our friends assembled at the hotel, had a hearty breakfast and began assembling and tuning our bikes.

We rode uphill 20 kilometers, the rest we drove. There first stop was at the beautiful town of Namchi.

We stopped at several places just to ride small trails which we saw shooting off from the roads.

Rahul got ecstatic once we reached Namchi.





Namchi was beautiful, a small town located in South Sikkim, with beautiful people, delicious food, and rich culture. The small town square was so organized and looked like a town in Switzerland.



Sadly we reached it when the shops were closing and we left in the morning earlier than all the stores had opened, so could not get to see the town square in full grandeur.





The next day, we rode up from Namchi to Ravang-La (6800feet).

On the way visiting the towering statue of Guru Rinpoche at Samdruptse.

Upon reaching Ravang-la, we got to shred some sweet natural trails and rode through the town of Rabong, stared at by pedestrians and citizens. It was rainy that day, so the evening gifted us a beautiful rainbow in the sky. After having a hearty meal of mo-mos and chicken, we retired in our cozy cottages watching bike movies and dozing off soon after that.



People were staring so much at our car, we re-named it the URO (Unidentified Road Object)

Wai-Wai, beers, Momos and Thukpas are the only things readily available on the menu around here.





Our cottages were comfortable, the evening was pleasant, and the town of Rabong looked heavenly with a beautiful rainbow in its backdrop.





Next morning, the skies had opened up a bit, giving us a peek of the Majestic Kanchendzonga range. We quickly had breakfast, prepped the bikes and set rolling 21 kms downhill to Legship, for our next stop, Yuksom.

If you take the road less taken, there are some nice riding locales and trails around the paved roads. You need to keep an eye open and look for these trails usually used by the local villagers to commute on foot.





Flying in the wind like a prayer flag...

Siba broke his free hub and so we had to strip our spare bike of its rear wheel and exchange it with Siba's bike. Upon reaching Yuksom, we were lost amidst the lush green trails. Yuksom is a great place to explore on a bike.







We managed to do some shredding at the local trails near Yuksom before a heavy shower began pouring upon us. The evening was spent at a local restaurant listening to stories about Sikkim and the cultures.

This huge Rock fell atop our car as we drove by an overhang. Luckily it missed the bikes and moreover nobody got hurt.

This guy in Pelling made amazing roasted chicken. We bought off all his chicken and 12 plates of momos from this guy. Hungry bikers kind of made his day. He seemed happy, we seemed happy, the world was in peace. Haha...



We woke up early morning and rode 3 km steep uphill to the second oldest monastery of Sikkim, Sangachoeling Monastery located at 7,500 feet. The trail up to the monastery has to be walked up the last 2 kilometers. Being above the clouds for a while felt well. The view from the monastery was awesome. Then we sat with the monks in their morning prayer and got blessed by the head Lama there.

The ride to get blessed - finally we all got our blessings, felt like we all got superpowers while descending down.





The blessed riders then shredded down the steep trails back to Pelling. Felt like we descended from heaven back to earth.

Then we rode down from pelling, 13kms to Legship. On the way down I had a crash while trying to avoid hitting an oncoming vehicle on the road at high speed.



Riding for the day ended there for me. Upon reaching Gangtok, I was taken to the doctor and got two weeks of bed rest. A great way to end the amazing riding I guess..... ;)



Many things have changed since I wrote the last time! The summer is already here, bikeparks are opened, weather is beautiful! I had a good time in Vienna, did some dirt and some downhill action. You won't believe it but in Vienna you can go for a downhill ride in their parks, it's not the best but it's funny! All the other people look at you, I think they thought that I am crazy or an alien! Haha But I had to study a lot, you know stress, stress, stress ;-), cause I had my final exam these days so I can't go riding! And I passed it very well! Now I have my summer holidays! That means good vibes ;-)! Fun on two wheels! In August there's a little festival in my town it is called Bike-Infection! Take a look for their page! www.mountainbike-kaprun.com!! There is also a little dirt contest! The team, including me, will build the jumps with Andi Brewi. I was already at the bikepark Leogang and rode the new downhill track for the world championships this year! It is supersick! I will report from the world champs for sure! so enjoy my pictures and RIDE ON ... KEEP IT REAL !!



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explore the himalayan trails



TRICKS

dirt - jump style



text and rider:
mesum verma
photos: matt mac donald

race style

if you want to jump with the bike, there are many different ways to jump. We are showing here two different styles. It all depends on style or speed.



Max pressure into transition

Explode off the lip

Fly !! Be free!!

Extend to catch the backside

**Must ...
go ...
higher ...**

Tricknology

lose speed



maintain speed



Extend into transition

Absorb lip

Body low, bike held close

Suck up to a clear landing lip

**Must ...
go ...
faster ...**



Holly Feniak

Interview with an upcoming Star

17 years old and killing it. This girl from the sunshine coast of British Columbia is making herself known in the DH racing scene worldwide.

photos: ian hylands



So Holly, we hear you are making it big out there. Tell us a bit about yourself. When did you start riding and when did you decide you want to do this as a profession?

I started riding DH when I was 12 and decided to take it to the next level as a pro late last season.

What was your first bike?

Some random hand-me-down no name bike? haha

You have placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the Northwest Cup races, and finished 5th in the Sea Otter DH. You also managed to win the Sunshine Coaster again this year, beating out well known racers in the process. How does it feel to be on the podium?

I love being on the podium! It's one of the best feelings for me, being up there with so many other talented females. Honestly, I love getting second place. I've been in first place much more than second, but this being my first season competing in pro, I've definitely had a lot more competition. Putting me in second place a lot more often! Second place to legendary world cup racers and Olympic medal holders is like freaking winning to me. Call me crazy! But being so close at such a young age is like a promise of success for me in racing, along with some more experience and training!





Do you get nervous before the start of the races?

What does nervous even mean? If it's doubting yourself, then mostly, no. Hours before a race my body does definitely get into the fight or flight mode, and I get extremely focused. Nothing matters on race day but the things that will help make that one special run smooth, and very fast. At the top of the course minutes before a race, I am calm, quiet, focused, energized, and ready to give it my everything. I think what helped me hugely overcome pre-race nerves is to always keep in mind that the race that I am about to do is certainly not my last, and winning that day or not, there will always be another race, and time to improve so I can be where I want to be; which is on top.

What does riding mean to you?

Riding connects me to so many parts of myself I otherwise probably wouldn't have known. I learn to be brave from mountain biking. Every time I do a jump or something challenging that I'm afraid of on my bike that confidence transfers over to other parts of my life and vice versa. Riding has connected me to so many inspiring and wonderful people that I can now say are some of my best friends. What I love about racing is that it requires an insane amount of commitment, in every aspect of my life, which has created a ton of motivation to be the best I can be.

What would you like to do other than riding on a perfect day?

Hanging out with my friends, and spending time with my amazing family.

Favorite riding discipline other than DH?

As of now, XC!!

Best place to ride?

For all around riding, definitely Whistler, BC so far. Whistler is a truly magical place. Everything is really close, the mountains are massive and beautiful, and the place is full of really active, healthy, happy, and adventurous people who love the outdoors! Riding there is a dream. Pump track, dirt jumps, XC, DH, Slope style, 4x...you name it, it's the mecca.

Favorite food?

Blueberries, mangoes, grapes, and baby coconut. Yum! I love fruit.

Favorite tunes?

Right now I'm really loving Rihanna's new stuff. I also am obsessed with Foster the People, and Drake.

Whom would you like to thank for your success?

My family! Wow. Words cannot come close to thanking my family enough for all the hard work on everyone's part that has gone into my success. I can't wait for the season that my parents aren't working their butts off just so I can continue to pursue my racing dreams. Also, Bjorn Enga for believing in me and taking me under his wing. Tyler Allison for being there for me almost every day for the past two seasons, with every possible kind of support you could imagine. Tyler has been there every step of the way and I can confidently say I wouldn't have been able to come this far in so little time without him! Also all of my generous contributors to my World Champs fundraiser, and my sponsors.



Plans for the near future?

This fall is my last year of high school, and next summer is going to be my first world cup season. We'll see where that takes me..

Any quote or rules you live by?

Love above everything else, it is universal and something that we could use more of.

A few words for the riders out there and biking in India?

How is the riding over there?!?!



rider: gueno dubost | photo: yan si xuan

BRISIA



rider: angie hohenwarter | photo: tom bause





rider: xavier „sherwy“ pasamonte | photo: lars scharl

rider: rasha ghosh | photo: prateek singh





rider: robin „mutti“ schmitt | photo: mesum verma



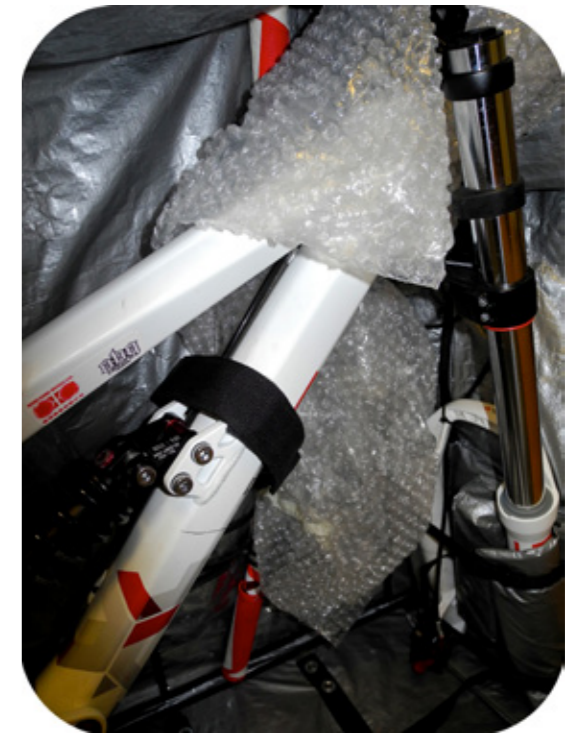
Garage

text & fotos
mesum verma

mtbmag
71

Sometimes we have to pack our bike, either we go to another country, or we just go to some place where we can ride the bike. Important is that the bike arrives safe at the destination along with us.

There are different ways to travel with the bike. In a hard cardboard box in which normally the bikes arrive at the stores. We will show here how to pack the bike in a bike bag. But it is the same as in a hard cardboard box.



As you see, here in the bike bag, i don't have to remove the fork. Sometimes in cardboard boxes you have to. Important is, that you have to fix the fork, in the bag, or in the cardboard box, to protect that it is not moving around. Same is for the frame. Actually, nothing should be moving around.

In the cardboard box as in the bike bag, you have to protect the bike from hitting the ground. Also remove also the pedals from the crank.

You have to first remove the tires, both front and back, and also the rotors. Do not forget to put a pad spacer in to the brake caliper, to protect the pads from getting together, if you don't have a special pad spacer you can also use hard paper or plastic to stick in it.

Next step, you have to remove the handle bar. Also put the bolts back, where they belong, to avoid losing them while travelling. When you have a bag, as here, you have the straps, to fix the handlebar. If not, make sure, you tightly tie the handlebar to the frame (With a tape, a small rope or a zip tie).





Strap the bike on that protecting block, if you have a cardboard box, make sure, that the safety block you put under your bike frame can't move. Remove also the rear derailleur. Pack the derailleur in a piece of cotton, so that it won't scratch the frame. I personally also remove also the chain. Is not necessary but is better to strap the bike, and protect the frame from the chain



In the bike bag i don't have to remove the saddle. I have to put the saddle really down, but i have to use it, to strap the seat post to the bike bag. You can see, i also protect the handlebar (with the shifters and brake levers on it) from the frame. You can use some cotton piece; i used here some bubble wrap.



The bike is almost packed. If you have a cardboard box, put your wheels in it, important is, if you fly, put the air out. Put the wheels in to the box. There will be lots of spare space. Fill in your gears and clothing, all what you need for biking somewhere not at home.

Make sure, if you have a cardboard box, the bike can't move at all. When you have a bike bag, put the wheels in the outside wheel pockets. *You are ready to go now, to explore the trails somewhere out on this planet.*

Ride On!





where ever we live, we need to ride


Following the Mag41 Racing Team China

TEXT : MARCO JAGGI

PHOTOS : GUENO DEBOST, ROBIN SCHMITT, MESUM VERMA

Quick quick a few last emails... press send.... The phone rings – again... My assistant informs me that someone from the Swiss head-quarter want's to talk to me. Meanwhile an employee is standing at my desk and needs some documents signed and chopped. But sorry, no time for all of you guys. I'm off. I got a downhill race this weekend!!! Byebye.....

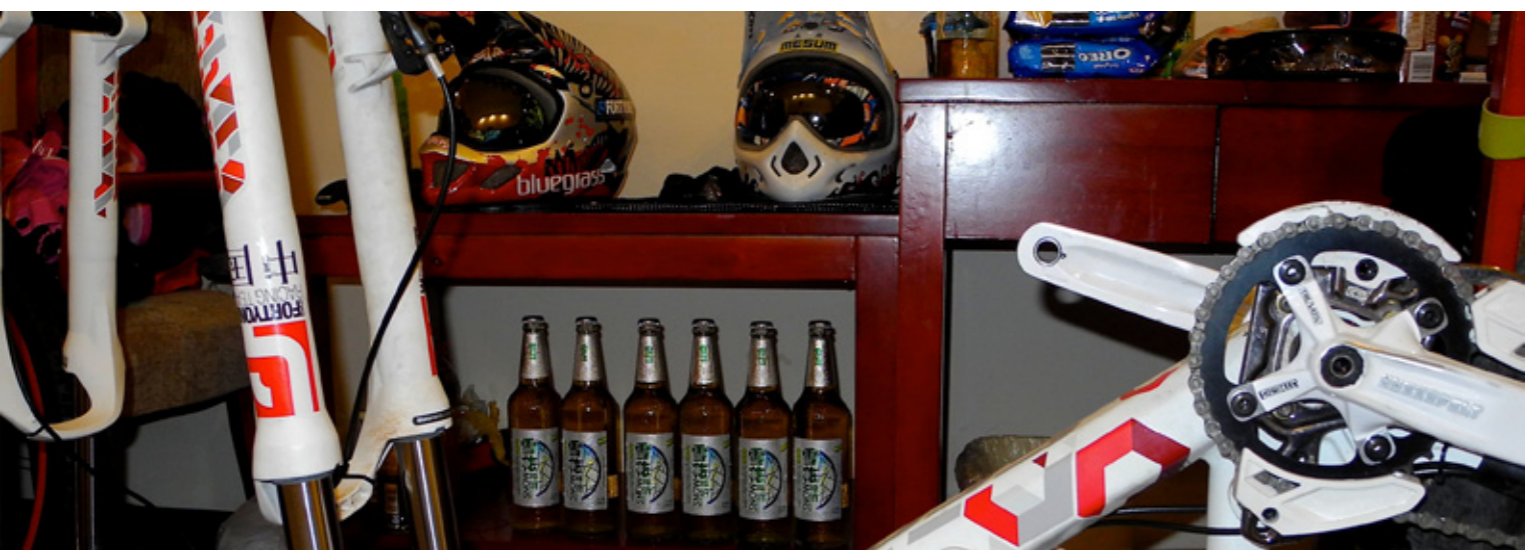
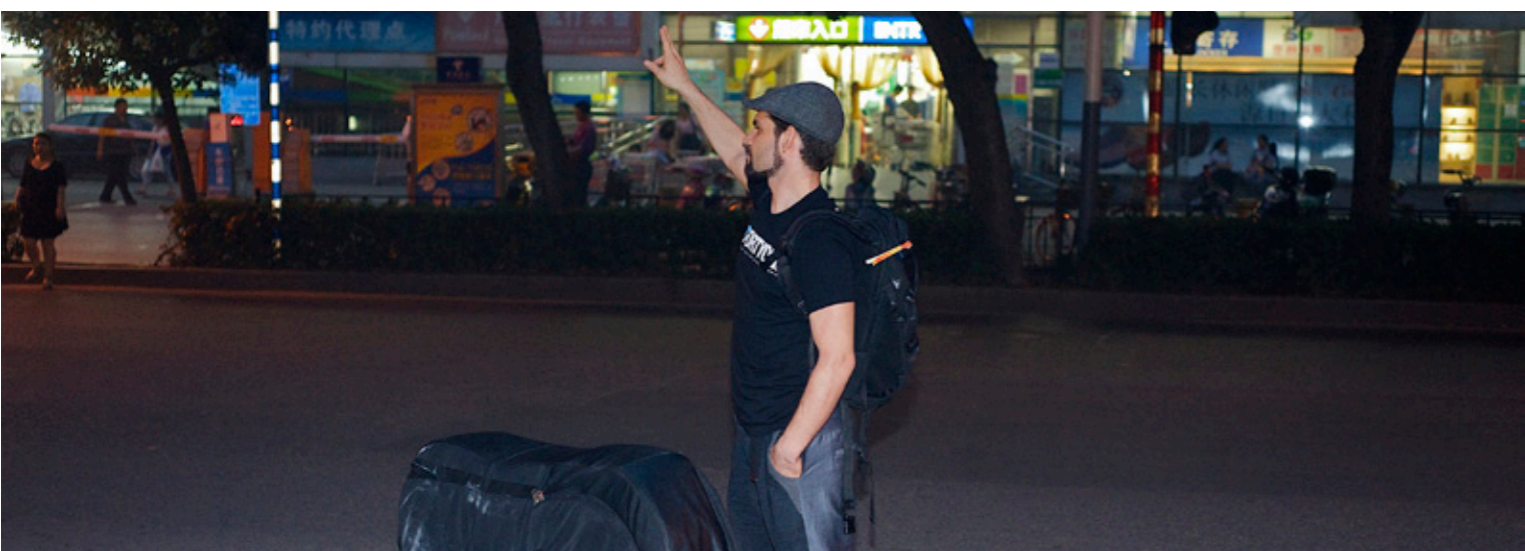




The excitement had been creeping up on us over the whole week. For days text messages and emails had been going back and forth between all the members of our team. Every one eagerly awaiting the coming weekend of killer rides, competition, sweat and dirt, bike trash talk and beers. Just hanging out with good old friends! Long time no see – long time no rides!

Zoukai zoukai!(Quick Quick) At high speed I'm riding my fixed gear bike through Shanghai's Friday night rush-hour traffic craziness. What better preparation for a bike race could I get. My heart is racing. Shit I'm late. At home I tear off my tie and suit, jump into comfortable slack clothes. Where's my helmet, tires, gloves, spare tube....? I stuff everything into my bike bag and off I go. Outside I'm running along the crowded road, pulling the 25+kg bag, sweating, swearing, shouting: taxi, taxi... Finally I find one. „To the train station, go go go!“

Our bike team is scattered hundreds of miles across the Yangtze delta. Once or twice a month we all get on trains, busses or into cars on Friday evening and drive several hours to meet at some place with a mountain and good trails. We live in Shanghai (Marco), Nanjing (Xu Jin, Mesum), Yancheng (Jiangsu Province)(Gueno). We're all from different countries, speak different languages and have entirely different jobs. So what brings us together? What's the magic that makes us good friends? Mountain biking of course! The love for riding good trails, breathing fresh air and pushing the limit... That's what makes us feel free... That's what brings us together as a team!





Aaah pain, my arm is falling off! I'm pulling the heavy bike bag through the hustling and bustling ocean of people at the hopelessly crowded Shanghai Central Railway station. My t-shirt is soaked with sweat. Zouzouzou (Go Go Go), I'm super late and the high speed train bound to leave in only a few minutes. I just make it through the gate before they close, jump on the train, press my bag into the last seat row of the carriage and let myself fall into the seat. Puuu, I made it. The train sets off and accelerates to over 300kmh. I wish I could ride as fast on a bike....

In our team we enjoy riding together because all of us share the same passion for good rides. Some of us have been riding for years, some just for a short time. We can learn from each other, not only biking skills, but also languages and cultural things. With each other we speak Chinese, French, German and English. But we understand us best when we're on the trail, having a blast and shouting to make each other ride better, smoother and faster...

Xu Jin has a long history of competition biking (BMX, MTB), Mesum comes from a professional Freestyle sports background (snowboarding, sports photography, MTB), Gueno started riding for pure fun and for myself, apart from years of passionate mountain biking I also produced a succesful mtb movie with Greg Minnaar, Timo Pritzel a.o. So for sure, bikes with lot's of travel and and fat knobbed wheels make us happy! Even more when we find good places to ride them!

I'm getting off at some train station, people staring at me while I'm pulling my bulky black bike bag through the crowds towards the taxi stand. It's a reoccurring classic: the taxi stops and opens the trunk, the bike bag's too big, I put it on the back seat, there's an argument that this is not possible but as always, it is possible (every thing's possible in China). The driver brings me to a cheap hotel somewhere near the track. Again, people staring at my bag. I check in, go to the room and open my bag. In a few minutes the hotel room looks like a bike shop. Bike parts and bike clothes everywhere. If the hotel is unlucky, everything might be super dirty and the poor ayi (hotel worker) will have a whole forest to clean out the next day.



Don't mention the tire marks on the walls or the chain oil on the bed sheets. Sorry to all the hotels we already stayed at and sorry to all the hotels we will stay in the future... While I'm assembling my bike there's a loud knock at the door. Yeah, the boys are already here, waiting to go for a good night out before the training day. I open the door and know: this will be another great mountain bike weekend!



Oh yeah, this is great! We've already had two full runs on the track where the race will be held tomorrow Sunday. Today is training day and we're working hard to smoothly ride the key parts of this trail. We've been out on the trail since 9am this morning. Getting up was definitely not too easy. The party last night brought us good food and a lot of beers at the local bar. Even the shaokao (BBQ) at 2:30am couldn't help us avoiding the hangover headache when we got on our bikes this morning. But after the first run the amazing feeling of the riding wind blowing in our faces blew out the hangover and pumped joy and excitement into our bodies.

We normally walk every race track off before riding it through once. Some think it's a waste of time. We think it helps to clearly see the details and to get a good feeling before the first run. That way you're not up for any surprises and can already really push it on the first lap. After the first full run we push back up and discuss the key sections that we're planning to focus on today. Rock sections, drops and jumps, some tricky roots, a sharp turn, whatever makes the track interesting. Most of the other teams and riders who will compete tomorrow are on the trail for practice. Many familiar faces. Ni hao, ni hao (Hello, Hello). Good to see you all. Every time I see this I'm happy that mountain biking is getting more and more popular in China. The scene is growing, you can feel it.

I've been riding bikes since I was a very small kid. It always meant a lot to me. The sensation of gliding along a road or trail, wind in your face, the landscape dashing by, the smell of your environment, the soothing smoothness of flowing turns. When I started mountain biking there was no such thing as freeride or downhill. I rode cross country bikes without suspension and tried to go as hard and fast as I could. I finally bought a fully and kept on pushing it. For me the best way to progress your skills is riding with people that are better than you. Best of all is a group of friends who love to push their limits with someone always trying a bit harder. That keeps the energy going and everyone feels motivated to do their best. A crash also only hurts half as much, when good friends come to help you onto your feet and cheer you up again. „Dude, that was a hell of a hit you took there, hahahaaa, that looked sick, hahahaaa! Come on, try it again, you'll nail it next time.“





Yes, crashes were also part of this training day. Haha, luckily nobody got hurt really bad, but some of us definitely got their bruises and pains today. Not only our bodies but our bikes had to eat some dust and dirt. There's gonna be some repairing going on in our hotel rooms tonight for sure. Ma-fan (inconvenient), but that's part of the game and that's what makes things interesting too. If you can't handle some juicy crashes, the resulting black and blue spots and soar body or some maintenance of trashed bike parts, then stay home and watch TV! That however will not be any bit as rewarding as the feeling when you pick up the flow of the trail, your bike running almost by itself, when you lay down a perfect line in a tricky rock section or when you pump out a great jump. What's better than you and your friends ripping a trail together, closely following each other laughing cheering and shouting out your excitement? Yiiihaaa, what a blast!

Now I'm lying in bed, tired and happy. We've been out on the trail all day and are confident that we've got it dialed and that we're ready for the race tomorrow. The torn off derailleurs, broken break levers and punctured tires have been repaired in our hotel rooms. Making the rooms look even messier than the evening of our arrival but our bikes seem almost like new. Pictures are moving through my mind: the smiling faces of my team mates, their rides in the sections that we did over and over again, the landscape. Before my inner eye I ride down the trail, trying to remember every detail, enjoying every moment.... Let's see how it goes tomorrow... If we're lucky one of us might even get a place on the podium.... Whatever. For sure it will be another great racing day tomorrow...

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WHATS UP??!!

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**a peek into what's
going on
in the biking world,
national
and worldwide ...**

racing and events

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Nepal

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Dirt Jump Competition - Bike Expo
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BMX Stunts
Food N' Entertainment - B-Boying - Music
Go-Green Stalls
And Fan Zones - Watch & Win a day-long
celebration of life on two Wheels



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Nilesh on his way to topping the qualifier

DOWNHILL IN THE DOWNPOUR

The 2012 Turahalli Downhill / 14. & 15. July, India

Text and Photos: Rahul K. Thomas

The day dawned a dirty grey as the rain pelted down in varying quantities across Bangalore. Frantic messages traded mobiles and the message went out to all sundry – it was a great day for downhill!



Piyush getting some air

Thus, the second edition of the BBCh Turahalli Downhill, cranked off to a wet but far-from-dull start. Riders from all over headed towards Kanakpura to witness arguably the single most exciting race of the Indian bicycling calendar. With thrills and spills like no other, even roadies turned out to watch the lads shred the slopes.

This year saw the Turahalli Downhill progress in huge leaps and bounds. Preparation for it had begun more than 3 months prior to it with the Bangalore Bicycle Championships (BBCh) team laying the track and creating 3 jumps which weren't on the race line last year. Word went out to all and sundry and the entire Pune contingent descended on Bangalore two days prior to the race, to get some trail time in before Sunday.

Downhill being in its infancy in India, Team BBCh did its utmost to ensure that it was as safe a race as possible. To ensure every single rider on Race Day knew what he was getting in to, it was compulsory for all participants, regardless of experience or skill levels, to log at least two practice runs on four allocated practice days before the race.

There were to be two runs – one a seeding run, followed by the final. In the spirit of inclusion and with the aim of growing the sport in India, the organisers decided not to have a qualifying run and to let everyone participate, regardless of their timing. However, the seeding run would separate the men from the boys. And the ladies from the girls too for that matter since the Turahalli Downhill also had 3 ladies fighting it out on the slopes.



It all boiled down to the last three. Vinay Menon rode a stylish run (as is his wont) to finish in 1 minute 13.6 seconds, clearly ahead of the pack. But, in no time, Gautam Taode shredded his way down the track to 1 minute 11.6 seconds. The final slot belonged to last year's King of the Hill - Nilesh 'Nelly' Dhumal. And he left nothing to chance, burning up his home trail in 1 minute 10.9 seconds, to be seeded 1st.

As the organisers flew to get things in order for the main event, participants began the long climb back to the top. The rain had slowed by then but the trail had changed yet again. All the traffic on the trail did not lend itself well to its preservation and the redistribution of mud on the trail rendered some sections a lot sketchier than two hours previously.

The finals began with the ladies taking centre-stage and Meera Velankar coming out on top, ahead of Pooja and Sowmya.

The men's final got off to a ripper of a start with the bottom half knocking anywhere from 10 to 20-odd seconds off their individual times. The trail by this time had seriously deteriorated and the top half really had to work to cut their times.

But cut them they did!

It was quickly apparent how much the trail had changed in character over the course of a single downpour. On an ordinary day, Turahalli is something of a dust-covered hill lending itself more to drift than traction. Today however, it was an entirely different story. Tyres gripped like glue and even the less experienced riders sailed through lines which normally would've had them slipping and sliding all over the place.

The seeding run went more or less according to script with the major competition being between about eight or ten riders. The Pune boys began cautiously (by their standards) with Piyush Chavan, Corey Curtis and Anand Sadana being placed 8th, 7th and 6th respectively. Local boy Ignatius 'Iggy' Chen rode home turf confidently to place 4th while recent-DH-convert Karan Bhuta rode a blistering run on his hardtail to place 5th in a time of 1 minute 20.9 seconds.

It was already evident how far things have progressed in the sport in the short year since the Bangalore Bicycle Championships introduced India's first downhill race in its itinerary. Even with a course 60-odd metres longer than last year, times were considerably faster than in 2011

Gautam blazing his way to the finish and first place

Piyush rode a ripper of a race, to knock an amazing 8 seconds off his seeding time to finish in 1 minute 17.4 seconds. The red (leader's) seat was his. And it stayed his for the next few attempts. Try as they valiantly did, Corey, Anand, Karan and Iggy failed to knock him off his perch with Anand coming heart-breakingly close in 1 minute 17.6 (a time which would earn him 4th place).

It was yet again down to the last three riders.

Vinay's languid riding style is such that, to a spectator, he could as well be in his own backyard. And yet, it belies his speed and he finally unseated Piyush with a time of 1 minute 13.1 seconds.

It finally came down to the last two.

Last year Gautam Taode walked away with second and a broken collar bone to show for his troubles (albeit the fact that the injury came after the race).



Siddharth about to take the long curve



Vinay takes the long walk back to the top

This year he was having none of that. Throwing everything he had at it, Taode caught some big air as he alternately battled and sailed to a time of 1 minute 10 seconds flat – the fastest time of the day. And the fastest yet recorded at Turahalli! Vinay had to give up the hot seat, having warmed it for but a few minutes.

Ladies podium (L to R) - Sowmya, Meera and Pooja



Men's podium (L to R) - Anand, Vinay, Gautam and Piyush

It was down to one man and the crowd new it. Nelly's a popular figure on the local biking scene and it showed, with shouts descending the hill ahead of him. Knowing that it would take nothing less than his very best to beat Taode's time he threw everything he had at it. He hit the first ramp faster than he'd ever done previously. As his bike hit dirt, it catapulted him over the bars a good fifteen feet in a spectacular crash which left onlookers stunned. To his credit, he collected himself, grabbed his bike and finished the race despite, as we later found out, a couple of broken ribs.

And so the 2012 Turahalli DH saw a new King of the Hill – Gautam Taode!

A fantastic day of racing and a huge shot in the arm for the sport of downhill mountain biking in India.



mtbmag
112



Impression from China / Changsha 4th & 5th Aug. 2012
national DH race from the hometown of Mao Zedong

PHOTOS: MATT MACDONALD & MESUM VERMA



Suzuki Nine Knights MTB presented
by G-Shock

mtbmag
115



Nine Knights

HOSTED BY
ANDI WITTMANN

WILDKOGEL
NEUKIRCHEN

A FREERIDE MTB SUPERSESSION

AUGUST 25th 2012

WILDKOGEL-ARENA
NEUKIRCHEN BRAMBERG

WWW.NINEKNIGHTS.COM

Location: Nine Knights Castle at the Wildkogel | 12:00 Qualification | 14.30 Finals
21.00 Afterparty at Schweini's by Sweet Protection and mtb.downdays.eu



photos: budi meier





On the 20th of August Andi Wittmann will gather the who's who of the freeride scene in Neukirchen at the Wildkogel in the beautiful Salzburger region for the second time. Apart from last year's winners Martin Söderström (SWE) and Yannick Granieri (FRA), the legendary Andreu Lacondeguy (ESP) has decided to turn up to the party, whose incredible trickery will undoubtedly feel right at home in the massive castle. The two Canadians Kurt Sorge and Geoff Gulevich, Benvenido Aguago Alba from Spain, the Germans Amir Kabbani and Timo Pritzel as well as local hero Niki Leitner from Vienna will also be part of the crusade of knights charging the castle, causing the cameras of the world's best mountain bike filmers and photographers to heat up from the action.

Rider's list:

*Andi Wittmann (GER)
Andi Brewi (AUT)
Amir Kabbani (GER)
Bienvenido Alba (ESP)
Geoff Gulevich (CAN)
Kurt Sorge (CAN)
Linus Sjöholm (SWE)
Mads Makken Haugen (NOR)
Martin Söderström (SWE)
Niki Leitner (AUT)
Timo Pritzel (GER)
Piere Eduard Ferry (FRA)
Yannick Granieri (FRA)*



DHI-
Final

UCI MTB World Championships
2012 DHI -Down Hill Final
@ Leogang, Austria

Our man **Fabian Mitterhauser** will be covering the event **live** as it takes place on **2nd September** this year. Be prepared for the action **live** and also in the next issue as we give you the race news first hand **directly** from Leogang.

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ਮੇਂ ਆਲ ਟਰਲਿੰਗ ਹੋਲਡ

This is a journey that took birth over a cup of a tea and is just a week away from starting. Its a journey that traverses through 9000 km of an extremely diverse country. From the highest mountains to never ending coastlines. We want to take our cycles and discover everything along its length purely in the road less cycled upon. We want to discover the land, her people and every inch of culture that truly makes **india** what she is. We also spread the word of cyclists across the country, to push anyone and everyone we see to take up a cycle and ride to whatever they want. We want find happiness as we experience it on our bikes with every kilometre. We want to explore new routes and share it with the community back home. We want to establish that cycles are a great way to travel and not just commute within the city. Through this journey we want to challenge ourselves and come back with a new map of **india**, a map which is marked with uphill, downhill, trials and everything that excites and defines a cyclist.

= ਨਾਚੜੜੇ ਲਪੀਰੋ ਏ ਗੋੜੇਹਾਥੇ ਲਾਠੋਰਾ
ਘੋਠੇ **mtbmag** bring you closer to the country we call **ਹੋਲਡ**
follow them on their journey.....

on ਫਿਏਬੋਕ www.facebook.com/iamcominghome

and ਟਵਿਟਰ www.twitter.com/cominghomeindia

also on ਲੋਲਗਿੰਦੀਆ

„No matter what discipline, what bike, or where you ride, important is that you wear a helmet“

we bring you Kali protectives available @ epic mountain bike



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The Kali Protectives Avita Carbon XC Mountain Bike Helmet. To climb to the top of the pack you have to be able to show what you are made of. How about Carbon Fiber and High density EPS foam. If you are talking Mountain Bike and BMX Helmets you have just said the magic words. The new Kali Avita BMX, MTB helmet was built using the patented Composite Fusion and Contego EPS Foam technologies. These technologies allow the Avita to weigh in at a crazy light 350 grams.

Composite Fusion and the Kali Avita Carbon Fiber XC:

Lightweight, Durable and Protective. All of the Kali Protective high end helmets use the Composite Fusion technology. What sets the Avita apart from others is the unique style and fit offered in this Mountain Bike Helmet. The Kali Avita also offers expanded rear helmet protection, which is rarely found in Cross Country helmets. Designed with 22 vents across the lid, your head easily dissipates the trapped heat.

Kali Protectives Avita Carbon XC Mountain Bike Helmet / Features:

- Revolutionary mix of Carbon Fiber, Fiberglass and Polycarbonate Materials for frontal skeleton
- COMPOSITE FUSION™ Shell/Liner Connection
- Low density CONTEGO™ EPS foam for impact absorption
- Expanded rear coverage design
- Integrated Airflow System with 22 Vents
- Washable, adjustable, anti-microbial fit pads
- Breakaway visor

Kali Protectives Avita Carbon XC Mountain Bike Helmet / Bottom Line:

The Avita has a great blend of technology and style. The Weight advantage is the obvious point to the Avita, but it also offers great protection with the expanded rear head protection. When you are looking at a helmet at this level you expect a lot, and with the Avita you get a lot and then some.

About Kali Protectives:

The name based off of the Hindu goddess of chaos destruction and rebirth, Kali Protectives has set out to design protective equipment for professional athletes and those that push themselves to the next level. By making the most comfortable protective gear on the market, Kali Protectives goal is to improve itself and be perfected as new technologies come to life.

Founded by Brad Waldron, aerospace/composites engineer, David Assyag, French snowboarder/skateboarder with deep graphic vision and design experience, and Mike Wilson, expert in branding and sporting goods marketing. That makes a total of 60 years of experience between them, with committed knowledge and a strong relationship working in a business they love. Continually advancing their products technology, Kali has top-rated protective equipment for BMX, mountain bike, skateboarding, snowboarding, inline skate/roller derby and moto.

About Issue 003 - Aug / 2012

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