

SPRAD TRACKS



TRACKS ISSUE # 17

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Maybe You Can Go Home Again

I have heard it said, "You can never go home again". I guess that may depend on what you said to your significant other when you left, or maybe how many times you left the toilet seat up when you were there. Last February, HR 2583 or some such proposal was being introduced in what seemed another attempt by our elected officials to thwart trail building and fat tire enjoyment here in Kansas. After typing letters and e-mails to various elected officials, I decided to go for a ride to rid my head of these evil thoughts. Twenty minutes later, I finished shoveling the snow out of the back of the truck so I could load my bike. As I was plodding through the snow loading gear, Ryan "Fish" Cole called from his cell phone. He had a bike on his jeep and was about a 1/2 mile from Coronado Heights, but he was a Fish out of water. The four-wheel-drive was stuck in the snow and assistance was required. I packed a few shovels in around Sugar's wheels and headed off across the snow-covered plains as the wind picked up a bit.



Fish out of water

As I approached the last, known location of Fish, the weather conditions started to sink in. The jeep was most definitely stuck! A large snowdrift had halted its forward pro-

gress. The road had drifted over in several places and the wind was blowing steadily. Coronado Heights resembled the iceberg pictures being passed around on the Internet. Only where the calm blue water with the bottom of the iceberg should be, there was Fish's jeep, stuck in the snow with his Trek shivering on the rear carrier. As the realization sunk in that we probably weren't going to free the Fish and go ride, I started thinking there is something fundamentally wrong with this picture.

After digging out the Fish, he returned to Salina for some indoor appointment. I went into town for a few miles of pedaling through snowdrifts with Brian Holdsworth. I told Brian, the job I had been considering in Arizona was looking better with each drift. CKMBC, (Central Kansas Mountain Bike Club) was growing and improving, there were plenty of other sharp folks to carry on its good work in my absence. I shouldn't be missed much there. At last report, the weather in Phoenix was about 90 and sunny. As we rode my toes went numb, my fingers went numb, and my mustache froze. I went home, made some living adjustments, gave away my snow shovel, and announced *Tracks Last Call*.



**"It's not a Ride...
Until somebody Bleeds!"**



TRACKS

Maybe You Can Go Home Again

100+ days have passed since then. Much has happened in my life, CKMBC's life and mountain biking in Kansas in general. Phoenix had many positives, but it also had plenty of negatives. One such negative was the distance between my family, friends and bike buds (and budettes). The job was not working out as I had expected. My supervisor was not a real joy to work for and after a few months I decided it was time for a new plan. I heard most of the snow in Kansas had melted or been washed away by the never-ending rain showers anyway.

We've all had some interesting stories for the first half of 2004. Cameron Chambers is still battling the big boys of mountain biking trying to make a name for himself in the endurance racing circles. You can read more about that in several of the mainstream bike magazines or on the Chambers Pages in this and upcoming publications of the Tracks. CKMBC member, Brad Cole speedster on wheel and of foot, ventured across the big pond to compete in a duathlon event where few Americans have battled before. Several of our local racers have been burning it up, or mudding it up chasing points and trophies in the Midwest Fat Tire Series and the Heartland race series events. These and Fish's account of his trip on the Kokepelli trail in "Bikappelli" are all good stories that need to be told. I will share these stories and some of my adventures in this and future issues of the Tracks as space and time allows.

Whether the Tracks can go home again is up to you, the readers, riders and contributors of the Tracks family.

**TEAM
LATR**



It's Not A Ride Till Somebody Bleeds!

I returned to Kansas in time to join some close friends for a July 4th camping trip. Under the camper's awning I watched the storm clouds and lightning move in across the plains. My friend giggled and rubbed noses with her new baby girl. Her husband Doug, was busy laying out the fishing gear that got soaked in the previous night's rain. I relaxed, smoked a cigarette and thought "maybe you can go home again".

Just as Doug got all his gear laid out "to dry", a big crack of thunder preceded the roar of rain blowing its way across the lake. As Doug started running around covering up gear, I thought of the already muddy trails as the third rain in as many days started pelting the canopy and ground inches away from my chair. I looked at Toto crouched smugly at my feet, as I leaned over and gave him a swift kick in the ass! It is good to be home again!

Whether the Tracks can go home again is up to you, the readers, riders and contributors of the Tracks family. *Tracks #17* has some of my stuff, some of your stuff, and some of the arbitrary stuff! Keep your stories coming and I promise to keep the Tracks coming. *Tracks #17* is finally here for your bathroom reading pleasure. Oh and I promise not to leave the seat up!

Once again, its great to say...

Hope to see you on the trails! 7~



Tracks on the edge at Moab's Slickrock

TRACKS

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**The Kanza Rail-Trails
Conservancy has
initiated legal action
against George
Ferdinand et al
(adjacent landowners)
near Berryton**



Bikerpelli by Ryan "Fish" Cole

I arrived in Fruita, CO the beginning of this month. I did a little riding, visited the cycle shop, and decided to head a few more miles West for the free camping. I found a camping site next to a suspicious looking rig. The guy had an old van turned trailer that was covered in camo (windows and all). This was pulled by an underpowered ford pickup that had a frame bent so bad you could notice it from a mile away. Suspicious, but a great guy with lots of

good stories and good coffee. He could have been a poster child for the "Recycle and Reuse" program. The most impressive was a deck off the back of his van/trailer that was completely made out of metal found in the ditch.

After hanging out with my new friend and getting some good rest under the stars, I headed to Loma, where the Kokepelli trail lain in waiting for me. I gathered with 40 other riders and hit the trail after a brief meeting. The first day was the easiest,

covering 34 miles and climbing 2800'. We started off on a very fun Mary's Loop. This took us to some amazing views that you will only know the power of if you venture there yourself. Food was cooked and devoured at our campsite on top of a mesa. I slept under the stars just 15' from the edge of the cliff. I awoke revived and ready for the second day of riding. I only felt revived for about half the day. The organizer miscalculated the mileage a

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KANSAS TRAILS NEWS; Clark H. Coan

June 27, 2004

LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL OPENS. According to Atchison convention and tourism staff, the 10-mile Lewis & Clark Independence Creek Trail in Atchison is now open for biking and walking. The scenic trail follows the Missouri River north from Atchison to Independence Creek and then travels west along the creek. The big Lewis & Clark Bicentennial celebration is scheduled for July 3-4 in Atchison. Independence Creek is where Lewis & Clark camped on July 4 in 1804. For more information about the festival see: www.atchisonkansas.net.

PRAIRIE SPIRIT TRAIL EXTENSION ON TRACK. Amy Thornton, assistant attorney with KDWP, reports that railbanking has been com-

pleted for extending the Prairie Spirit Trail from the Marias Des Cygnes bridge to the restored Santa Fe Depot in Ottawa. When the trail is surfaced, the depot will serve as the trailhead for both Prairie Spirit Trail and the Flint Hills Nature Trail which lies just south of the bridge.

RIVER TO RIVER TRAIL PROPOSED. Trails advocates in Lawrence are proposing a "River to River Trail" which would stretch five miles from the Wakarusa River to the Kansas River. The Haskell Rail-Trail, the first developed rail-trail in Kansas, would form the backbone of the trail. The City of Lawrence plans to extend the rail-trail north using an unused BNSF spur. An extension south through the Baker Wetlands National Natural Landmark to the

Wakarusa Trail would then have to be developed.

LANDON TRAIL IN TOPEKA. The City of Topeka still hopes to let bids this year for paving the 4.8 miles of the Landon Trail it leases from Kanza rail-Trails Conservancy. This is apparently a package bid and to include development of a Shunga Trail segment. BNSF is apparently slow in signing off on letting the City build the Shunga Trail under the BNSF which is located just east of the Landon Trail.

INJUNCTION AGAINST BERRYTON BULLIES. The Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy has initiated legal action against George Ferdinand et al (adjacent landowners) near Berryton who are blocking the trail with large piles of logs and mak-

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