

MAPS & TIPS | TRAIL AND ROAD RIDES | FAMILY RIDES | GRAVEL RIDES & MORE!

# 2018 BIKE GUIDE



**Bike Town USA**®  
**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

special pull-out  
**RIDE GUIDE**

**BIKE EVENT**  
calendar

**CYCLING**  
camps



**YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE  
TO BIKING THE 'BOAT**

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A man with a beard and a black helmet is standing in a wooded area, holding a mountain bike. He is wearing a dark grey cycling vest with the brand name 'Maloja' on the chest, blue cycling shorts, and white and black cycling gloves. The background consists of thin tree trunks and dry brush.

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Steamboat

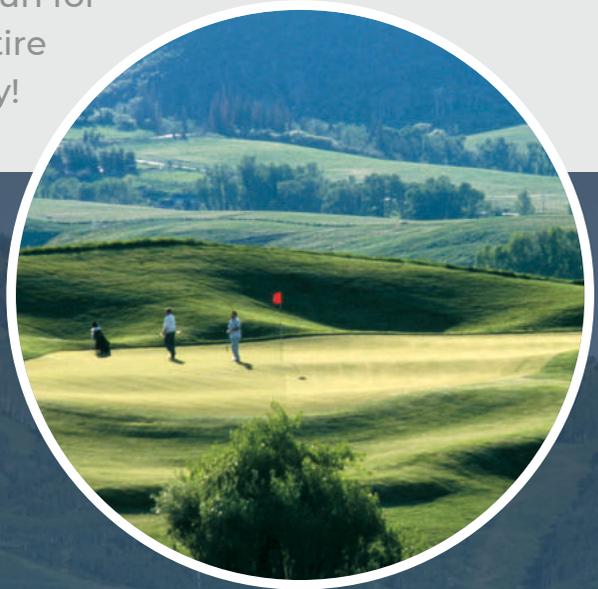
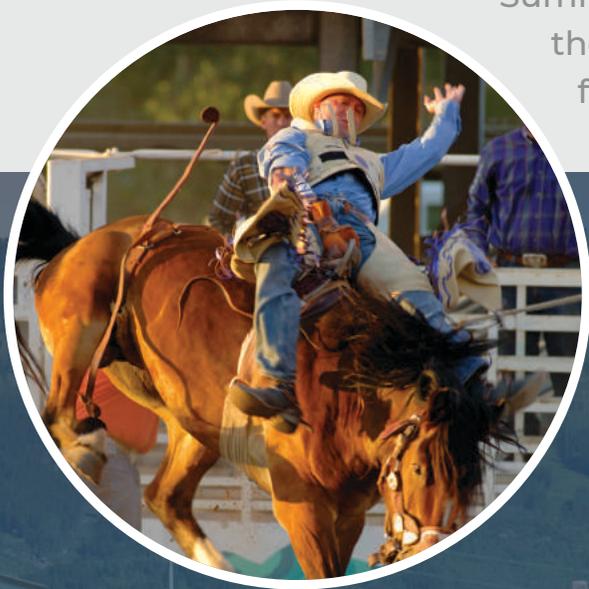
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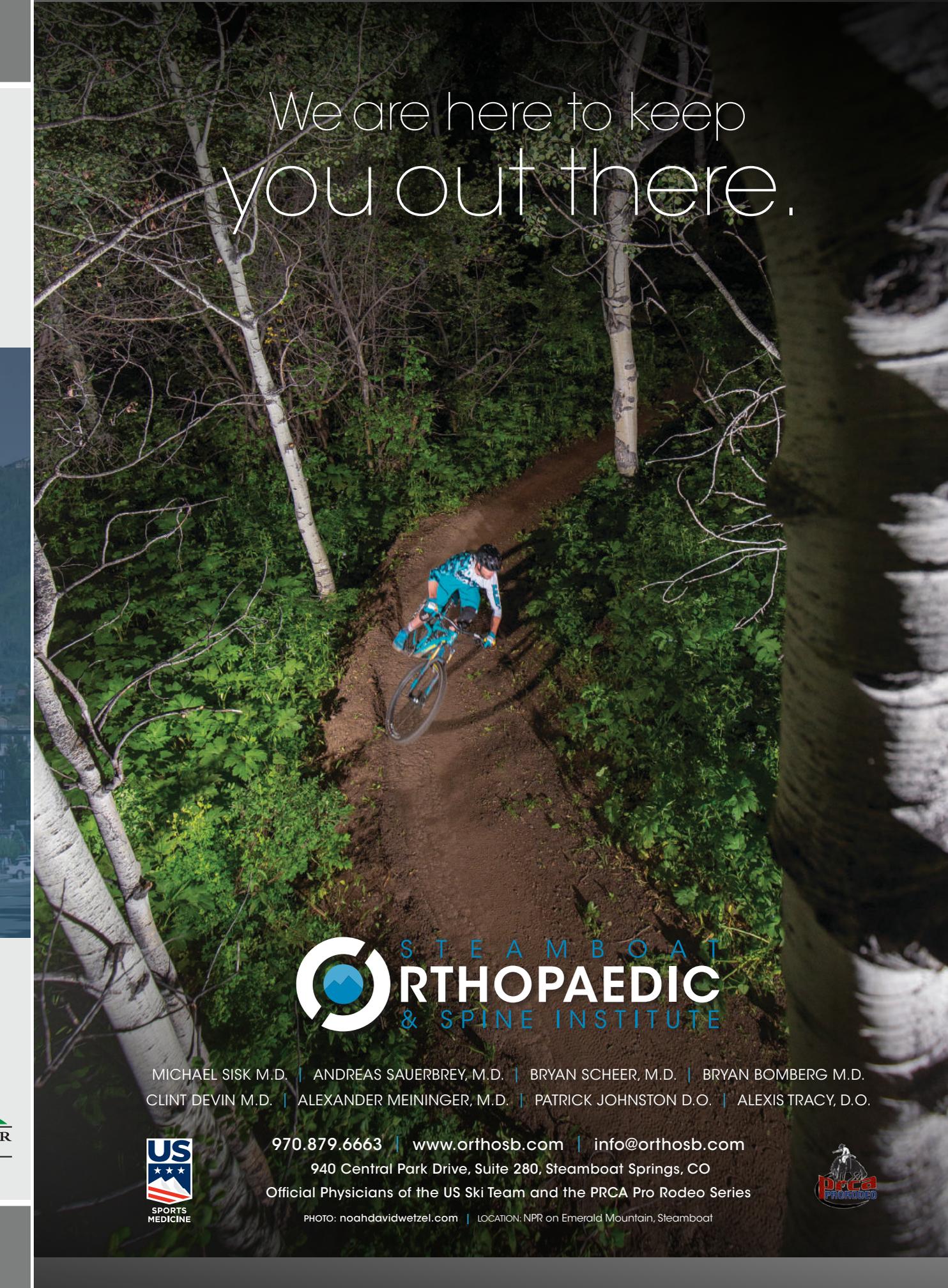


[steamboatsprings.net/ice](http://steamboatsprings.net/ice)



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We are here to keep  
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Official Physicians of the US Ski Team and the PRCA Pro Rodeo Series

PHOTO: [noahdavidwetzel.com](http://noahdavidwetzel.com) | LOCATION: NPR on Emerald Mountain, Steamboat



## STEAMBOAT BIKE PARK

### TICKET REQUIRED TO RIDE THE DOWNHILL PARK

Name	Difficulty	Distance	Type
Cowpoke	●	0.60 miles	Flow
EZ Rider	●	0.50 miles	Flow
Lasso	●	.34 miles	Flow
Lickity Split	●	1.0 miles	Flow
Tenderfoot	●	4.22 miles	Flow
Wrangler's Gulch	■	0.71 miles	Flow
Gunsnake	■	1.3 miles	Flow
Rustler's Ridge Upper	■	2.32 miles	Flow
Rustler's Ridge Lower	■	1.73 miles	Flow
Rustler's Ridge Connector	■	0.53 miles	Flow
Buckin' Bronc	◆	0.38 miles	Flow
Flying Diamond	◆	1.45 miles	Flow
Roughhide	◆	2.40 miles	Tech
Roughhide Connector	◆	0.03 miles	Tech

## MOUNTAIN MULTI USE TRAILS

Name	Difficulty	Distance	Type
Cathy's Cutoff	■	0.54 miles	Single Track
Elkhead Loop	■	1.05 miles	Single Track
Sunshine Trail	■	2.65 miles	Single Track
Valley View	■	.11 miles	Single Track
Pioneer	■	.55 miles	Single Track
Zig Zag	■	1.88 miles	Single Track
Creekside	◆	1.60 miles	Single Track
Creekside Connector	◆	.37 miles	Single Track
Moonlight	◆	0.72 miles	Single Track
Pete's Wicked Trail	◆	.39 miles	Single Track

## TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATINGS

● Beginner ■ Intermediate ◆ Advanced

## MOUNTAIN SERVICE ROADS

(MU) - Multi-Use includes vehicles, hike, bike, horse

Name	Distance	Type
Duster Road	1.19 miles	MU
Pony Express Road	1.24 miles	MU
Short Cut Road	0.94 miles	MU
So What Road	0.64 miles	MU
Spur Road	1.01 miles	MU
Storm Peak Challenge	2.33 miles	MU
Why Not Road	3.00 miles	MU
Yoo Hoo Road	1.32 miles	MU

## MOUNTAIN HIKING TRAILS

Name	Distance	Type
Thunderhead Trail	3.81 miles	hiking
Vista Nature Trail	1.00 miles	hiking

## PUMP TRACK

Located in Ski Time Square at the base of Steamboat Ski Resort, the pump track is a quick and easy riding option at the base of the mountain.

## BECOME FAMILIAR WITH STEAMBOAT BIKE PARK SIGNAGE

### STEAMBOAT BIKE PARK TRAIL TYPES:

**Flow Trails:** Flow Trails are machine-cut and contain man-made features. Routes are enhanced with dirt jumps, ride-on features, gaps, narrow surfaces, wall rides, berms and other natural and constructed features.

**Technical Trails:** Technical trails are designed to highlight the rugged shape and terrain of the mountain, utilizing a majority of natural terrain. Routes are typically hand-built and feature organic obstacles and stunts such as rocks, roots, logs, drops, jumps and other natural constructed features that require technical riding skills. Jumping skills may be required.

**Yield Appropriately:** Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you're coming - a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Mountain bikers should yield to other non-motorized trail users. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to all users headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic.

Check in at the Gondola Bay for the most up to date trail information and conditions.

# STEAMBOAT BIKE PARK



[steamboat.com/bike](http://steamboat.com/bike)





### BIKE PARK SPONSORS



This map may change, maps and updated information are available at the gondola base area.

For the most up to date trail maps and information, visit [steamboat.com/bike](http://steamboat.com/bike) [f steamboatbikepark](https://www.facebook.com/steamboatbikepark)

### MOUNTAIN BIKE & HIKING TRAILS

**BIKE PARK TRAILS: DOWNHILL BIKE TRAFFIC ONLY**  
 ————— Easiest Downhill Bike Trails  
 ————— More Difficult - Intermediate Downhill Bike Trails  
 ————— Most Difficult Downhill Bike Trails

**CROSS COUNTRY / HIKE / MULTI-USE TRAILS:**  
**EXPECT 2-WAY TRAFFIC**  
 - - - - - More Difficult - Intermediate  
 - - - - - Most Difficult

**LIFT AND ROAD DESIGNATIONS**  
 - - - - - Summer Service Road - Heavy Vehicle Traffic  
 ————— Paved, Public Road

Hiking Trail  
 Chairlift (Closed in the Summer)  
 Gondola

### MOUNTAIN SYMBOLS

Forest Service Trailhead	Dining
First Aid	Adaptive Access
Information	Restrooms
Picnic	
Disc Golf Course	
Parking	



### MOUNTAIN BIKE CHECKLIST

The trails of Steamboat Bike Park are rough and demanding on both the bike and the body. Before riding always inspect your equipment or have it checked by a qualified bike mechanic.

1. Ensure your helmet is in good shape and properly adjusted.
2. Inspect bike frame for cracks, damaged or dented areas.
3. Ensure you have sufficient brake pads to stop your bike while descending.
4. Front and rear axles or skewers should be tight.
5. Headset and stem must be secure with no looseness or play.
6. Check that your tires are in good condition, with no tears or cuts including in the sidewall.
7. Handle bar and handle grips must be tight and unable to spin. Seat and seat post need to be fastened securely.

IF YOU ARE NOT COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH YOUR BIKE AND ITS VARIOUS COMPONENTS, THESE CHECKLIST ITEMS, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT AS TO YOUR BIKE'S CONDITION, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU CHECK WITH A QUALIFIED BIKE MECHANIC FOR FURTHER ADVICE.



2018 Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation  
 This map is an artistic representation. Degrees of difficulty ratings are relative to Steamboat Resort only. Steamboat is located in the Rout National Forest and is operated under permit from the Forest Service.



**HONEY  
STINGER**  
FUEL FOR EVERY DAY

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DURING.  
AFTER.**



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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**



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# Bike Town USA

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

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**On the cover:**

It's a marvelous night for a moon ride: Steamboat locals Miranda Schrock and Kelly Northcutt bike Emerald Mountain under the super moon. Photo by Noah Wetzel.



Enjoying a Steamboat sunset by cycle. Photo by Larry Pierce.

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**RIDE GUIDE — PULL OUT SECTION (PG. 25)**

Trail ratings, tips, maps, descriptions and more for Steamboat's favorite rides, from classic roadie tours to Emerald Mountain, Buff Pass, the Steamboat Bike Park and more. Take this special pull-out with you on the trail for easy reference.



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# WELCOME!

Welcome to another great season of riding in Bike Town USA®

Whether it's riding the endless miles of singletrack on Emerald Mountain, Buffalo Pass, Rabbit Ears Pass, road biking on our scenic highways, cruising with your family along the Yampa River Core Trail, riding at Bear River Bike Park, or flying down the Steamboat Bike Park's flow trails, there's something here for everyone.

We realize that cyclists have choices – where to travel, the type of riding to pursue, and the perfect après to cap your day — and we hope you'll choose Steamboat time and time again as your "must ride" destination. We believe you'll find our haven of a bike hamlet rewarding at many levels.

Our single-track network continues to grow each year, nurtured by active volunteers, public funding and stakeholders driven to enhance the Steamboat cycling experience. A variety of new trails have opened on Buffalo Pass, and trail development continues on Emerald Mountain and elsewhere. Steamboat now offers something for riders of all abilities, as well as enough variety for a multi-day visit or reason to visit again later.

Gravel riding continues to grow as an activity unto itself, or as way to link traditional road segments with detours onto our scenic rural roads. The Steamboat Bike Park also continues to evolve and is a perfect place to ride some downhill laps or take a lesson to refine your skills. With great dining



Photo by Noah Wetzel

and new family activities, including the new Outlaw Mountain Coaster and mini-golf, it's also a great place to relax with the family after your ride.

Visit [SteamboatBikeTown.com](http://SteamboatBikeTown.com) for updates on openings, and keep an eye out for a Bike Town Ambassador – they'll be wearing their "Ask a Local" jersey and are happy to help with route-finding or a friendly restaurant or après tip.

As always, Steamboat offers great accommodations, from plentiful camping to luxury condominiums, a varied and deep restaurant scene, and excellent bike shops to set you up with a rental, repairs and a friendly steer toward the perfect ride. And don't forget to soak in our world-class, natural hot springs to soothe those muscles after your ride.

We hope you'll enjoy the riding here as much as we do. See you out there.



**Jim Schneider,**  
*VP Skier Services,  
Steamboat Ski &  
Resort Corp.*



**Kyle Pietras,**  
*president, Routt  
County Riders*



**Chris Sias,**  
*president, Bike  
Town USA®*



**Kara Stoller,**  
*CEO, Steamboat  
Springs Chamber  
Resort Association*

# CALENDAR

Steamboat has miles of world-class singletrack, and just as many events where you can cycle, socialize and more with like-minded riders. Following are a few to put on your riding radar.

## MAY

- 12 Where the Hell's Maybell, 30-mile scenic group ride from Craig to Maybell on U.S. Highway 40, [www.visitmoffatcounty.com](http://www.visitmoffatcounty.com)
- 17-20 Steamboat Gravel Camp [www.veloscapes.com/steamboat-colorado-gravel-camp/](http://www.veloscapes.com/steamboat-colorado-gravel-camp/)
- 19 5th Annual Ride the Cog Museum Fundraiser, [www.haydenheritagecenter.org](http://www.haydenheritagecenter.org)
- 26 SSWSC Bike Swap, Howelsen Hill, [www.sswsc.org](http://www.sswsc.org)

## JUNE (Colorado Bike-To-Work Month)

- 6 Kick-off Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series, Marabou, [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)
- 11-13 Ride the Rockies in Steamboat: [www.ridetherockies.com/route](http://www.ridetherockies.com/route)
- 16 Moots Colorado Ranch Rally (50-mile, dirt/gravel non-competitive ride), [www.moots.com](http://www.moots.com)
- 20 Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series, Emerald Mountain, [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)
- 24 Tri the Boat Triathlon, Stagecoach, [www.tritheboat.co](http://www.tritheboat.co)
- 26-29 Grinta Camps Junior Development Weekend (ages 12-18). [www.grintacamps.com](http://www.grintacamps.com)
- 15 RCR Scholarship Day/ Gondola opens for summer riding (Steamboat Bike Park); [www.routtcountyrideriders.org](http://www.routtcountyrideriders.org), [www.steamboat.com](http://www.steamboat.com)
- 20-24 Grinta Cycling Retreat, [www.grintacamps.com](http://www.grintacamps.com)

## JULY

- 6 Captain of the Boat series, [www.bike.steamboat.com](http://www.bike.steamboat.com)
- 11 Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series, Mt. Werner (Hill Climb), [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)
- 11-15 Grinta Cycling Retreat, [www.grintacamps.com](http://www.grintacamps.com)
- 18 Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series, Emerald Mountain, [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)
- 20 Captain of the Boat series, [www.bike.steamboat.com](http://www.bike.steamboat.com)
- 21 Eriksen/Shimano Tour de Steamboat 116-mile "Gore Gruel", 66-mile Yampa loop, 46-mile Oak Creek loop and 26-mile Sydney Peak out and back. [www.tourdesteamboat.com](http://www.tourdesteamboat.com)

## AUGUST

- 1 Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series, Mt. Werner (Sunshine Loop), [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)

3

Captain of the Boat series, [www.bike.steamboat.com](http://www.bike.steamboat.com)

11-12

Steamboat Stinger Mountain Bike Race (50-mile, plus full/half trail marathons), [www.steamboatstinger.com](http://www.steamboatstinger.com)

12

Steamboat Triathlon At Lake Catamount (Sprint, Olympic, & Aqua Bike), [www.withoutlimits.com](http://www.withoutlimits.com)

15

Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series, Emerald Mountain, [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)

18-19

Revolution Enduro, [revolutionenduro.com/schedule](http://revolutionenduro.com/schedule)

17

Captain of the Boat series, [www.bike.steamboat.com](http://www.bike.steamboat.com)

22

Town Challenge Community Ride/ Dinner/Awards – Howelsen Hill, [www.townchallenge.com](http://www.townchallenge.com)

31

Captain of the Boat series, [www.bike.steamboat.com](http://www.bike.steamboat.com)

31-9/3

Steamboat Springs Stage Race (presented by Moots Cycles), [www.bikesteamboat.com](http://www.bikesteamboat.com)

## SEPTEMBER

6-9

Steamboat Bike Festival: Featuring organized mountain, road and cruiser rides, bbqs, music, raffles and a celebration of cycling in Steamboat. [steamboatbiketown.com/bike-festival](http://steamboatbiketown.com/bike-festival)

8

STARS Biking the Boat – 55 "Three Sisters", 26-, 13-, and 5-mile Family Fun rides for all ages and abilities. [www.steamboatstars.com](http://www.steamboatstars.com)

9

Colorado State High School Mountain Bike Championships, [coloradomtbb.org/events/](http://coloradomtbb.org/events/)

29

Quick and Chainless, Steamboat Ski Area, [www.bike.steamboat.com](http://www.bike.steamboat.com)

## OCTOBER

6

11th Annual Steamboat Springs Mustache Ride (fundraiser for Routt County Humane Society), [www.ssmustacheride.com](http://www.ssmustacheride.com)

## ONGOING EVENTS

**GRAVITY GIRLS CLINICS,** Steamboat Ski Area, Thursdays June 14- Aug. 23. Info: [www.steamboatbikemark.com](http://www.steamboatbikemark.com)

**STEAMBOAT SKI AND BIKE KARE CLINICS:**

May 29 – Clinic – Body Position, Fundamentals  
 June 5 – Ride night  
 June 12 – Clinic – Obstacles  
 June 19 – Ride Night  
 June 26 – Clinic – Cornering and Braking  
 July 3 – Ride Night  
 July 10 – Clinic – Descending  
 July 17 – Ride Night  
 July 24 – Clinic - Climbing  
 July 31 – Ride Night  
 Aug 7 – Clinic – OPEN Forum  
 Aug 14 – Ride Night  
 Aug 21 – End of Season PARTY!

**BASIC BICYCLE MAINTENANCE CLINICS** (free): Second Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. Info: 970 879-9144, [www.facebook.com/steamboatskiandbikekare](http://www.facebook.com/steamboatskiandbikekare)

**ADAPTIVE CYCLING FOR ALL ABILITIES** Steamboat STARS offers programs and rentals all season for specialized

hand- and foot-powered, upright and recumbent bikes for people of all abilities. Info: [www.steamboatstars.com](http://www.steamboatstars.com)

**WOMEN'S MOUNTAIN BIKE CLINICS AND RIDE NIGHTS (free):** Tuesdays May 29-Aug. 21, 5:45 p.m., courthouse lawn (bring bike, water and trail tools). Clinics follow at 7 p.m. Info: [www.facebook.com/skiandbikekarewomen](http://www.facebook.com/skiandbikekarewomen); [jody@simplysteamboat.com](mailto:jody@simplysteamboat.com)

**SSWSC CLINICS MTB FUNDAMENTAL SKILL CLINIC** (all ages): One-day clinic on Thursdays at Howelsen Hill Lodge for those interested in developing mountain bike skills, including body position, vision, climbing/descending, cornering and braking. 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cost (includes Honey Stinger snacks): \$99/SSWSC members; \$129/non-members. Info: [www.sswsc.org](http://www.sswsc.org)  
**Dates and Times:** Session 1: June 28; Session 2: July 12; Session 3: July 19; Session 4: July 26; Session 5: August 2

**MINI SKILLS CLINIC** (ages 5-10): Clinics run three hours and include Honey Stinger snacks. Cost: \$50/SSWSC members; \$65/non-members. Meet at Howelsen Hill Lodge. Info: [www.sswsc.org](http://www.sswsc.org)

**SSWSC STEEL CLUB ROAD TRAINING RACES:** May 23 - Rabbit Ears Time Trial; June 13 - Hwy. 131 Time Trial; July 25 - Twentymile Time Trial; Aug. 8 - Team Time Trial; Sept. 12 - Gravel Grinder Time Trial (Blackmere Drive to Lane of Pain)

**USA BMX 2018 SUMMER RACE SERIES** (sponsored by Team Flying Wheels): Registration: 5 p.m., racing at 6 p.m. Dates: June 14, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9.

**USA BMX 2018 COACHING CLINICS:** Two, 4-week sessions, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Session 1: June 14, 28; July 5, 12. Session 2: July 19, 26; Aug. 2, 9. Info: (970) 846-9880, [steamboatspringsbmx@rocketmail.com](mailto:steamboatspringsbmx@rocketmail.com), [www.usabmx.com/steamboat](http://www.usabmx.com/steamboat)

# STEAMBOAT CYCLING EVENTS

Want to race or participate in a great cycling event this summer? Behold a line-up of town's top events

## TOWN CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN BIKE SERIES (WEDNESDAYS, ALL SUMMER)

Held on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer riding season, Steamboat's Town Challenge Mountain Bike Series brings out riders of all abilities for everything from hill climbs to cross-country events. Kicking off June 6 at Marabou Ranch, the series offers 24 different categories, from pro/open to three different age groups for men's and women's expert, sport and novice divisions. It also offers kids and even single-speed categories. Points are awarded for each race, with the results tallied for top bragging rights at a raucous party at season's end. Riders can register ahead of time online or at the city's Parks office, or on-site on race day. "It's become more popular than ever, with more locals and visitors turning out each year," says longtime series co-organizer Gretchen Sehler. "It's a great way to bring riders together Steamboat-style."

Info: [townchallenge.com](http://townchallenge.com)

## RIDE THE ROCKIES (JUNE 11-12)

Ride the Rockies' 2,000 cyclists will make Steamboat their home for two nights June 11 and 12. Started by the Denver Post Community Foundation in 1986 as a way to benefit Colorado communities, the recreational, multi-day ride last came through Steamboat in 2014, and before that in 2011. Including the host communities of Breckenridge, Fairplay, Edwards, Grand Lake, Winter Park and Steamboat—each receiving a \$5,000 grant from the foundation for a local nonprofit—this year's six-day ride will span 418 miles with 25,935 feet of elevation gain. The ride begins and ends in Breckenridge, with Steamboat the only two-night stop; an optional 48.4-mile Oak Creek Loop ride will be offered June 12 during the layover, with local cyclists encouraged to participate. On June 13, riders leave over Rabbit Ears Pass on a 94-mile journey to Grand Lake. While in Steamboat, Ride the Rockies' headquarters and campsites will be at Howelsen Hill, where they'll have

access to the lodge and portable showers on a semi-truck. "It's going to be a great event," says city parks supervisor Ernie Jenkins. "This is as big as it gets as far as bicycling events in Colorado." Info: [ridetherockies.com](http://ridetherockies.com)

## 5TH ANNUAL MOOTS COLORADO RANCH RALLY (JUNE 16)

This fifth annual event has proven itself a community classic, featuring a 50-mile group gravel and dirt road ride showcasing area ranches while benefitting the Community Agriculture Alliance. Culminating with an after party at local bike manufacturer Moots, the non-competitive event draws 150 riders to rural dirt and gravel roads around Routt County connecting area historical ranches and farms. En route you'll pass by historic Elk Mountain Cemetery and ghost town of Mystic, enjoy lunch at a working ranch and finish with a climb over Fly Gulch before ending at the Moots headquarters. "It lets you see Steamboat's amazing countryside in a great group ride setting," says Moots spokesperson Jon Cariveau. Info: [moots.com](http://moots.com)

## CAPTAIN OF THE BOAT SERIES (JULY 6, 20; AUG. 3, 17, 31)

The Captain of the Boat Series returns to the Steamboat Bike Park on Friday nights this summer, providing a competitive gravity opportunity for riders of all ages and abilities. This year's series starts July 6 and continues every other week until the final race Aug. 31. With the focus on fun, experienced racers can test their skills against the best in the 'Boat while newbies can enjoy a relaxed introduction to competitive mountain biking. To become this year's Captain of the Boat, you'll need to beat such local mainstays as Marlo Ross-Bryant and multiple women's



The Moots Ranch Rally is one of several events to mark on your Steamboat calendar.



**Aye, Aye, Captain:** Steamboat's Captain of the Boat series has riders careening down Steamboat Bike Park. Photo by Larry Pierce.

champ Yvonne Delaunty, who once tallied a perfect 2,400 points for the season. *Info: bike.steamboat.com*

### **ERIKSEN/SHIMANO TOUR DE STEAMBOAT (JULY 21)**

When mountain bike hall-of-famer Kent Eriksen first concocted the Tour de Steamboat in the 1980s, a motley crew of 80 riders pedaled 50 miles to Oak Creek and back. Now, the event draws 1,000 riders each year, while benefitting local nonprofits, including Routt County Riders. The non-competitive event offers rides of four distances, including a 26-mile loop out to Sydney Peak Ranch (963-foot gain), a 46-mile Stagecoach out-and-back (2,200-foot gain), and the infamous 116-mile Gore Gruel (8,000-foot gain), which takes riders from Steamboat over Rabbit Ears and Gore passes and back (with plenty of aid stations en route). This year also includes a 66-mile Yampa Loop (3,100-foot gain) to Stagecoach, Phippsburg and Yampa along the Flat Tops. "It's a great event for a great cause," says Eriksen. "These routes offer a fun and challenging day for everyone and showcase northwest Colorado's beautiful mountains, forests, rivers, ranch land and historic communities." *Info: tourdesteamboat.com*

### **STEAMBOAT STINGER (AUG. 11-12)**

This year marks the eighth straight running of the locally organized Steamboat Stinger race, hosted by Steamboat's own Honey Stinger. Serving up a healthy dose of

punishment Emerald Mountain-style, this year's event will lure 500 mountain bikers to town to race 50 miles up and over Emerald Mountain not once but twice, in a two-loop circuit. Billed as "epic fun with western flair," this year's event will again offer solo and duo divisions, as well as half and full marathon trail races. While the course changed two years ago with the addition of the Wild Rose trail, and again last year with the Orton Meadow reroute, organizers say this year's race should remain the same. "Racing is in our DNA, so this is a great way to promote our local, world-class trail system," says Honey Stinger's Len Zanni. "It's become a highlight of the summer riding season and gives people a great reason to come to Steamboat." Eat plenty of Honey Stinger if you hope to beat the course record of 4:07:58, and even more to earn the coveted King Sting and Queen Bee categories, awarded to those sadists who both ride and run. *Info: honeystinger.com*

### **STEAMBOAT ENDURO-X/ REVOLUTION ENDURO (AUG. 18-19)**

Enduro-X riding returns with the four-stage Enduro-X race at the Steamboat Bike Park. Open to riders 14 and older and benefitting Routt County Riders, the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund and Bike Town USA, the downhill extravaganza features descents of 2,000 feet or more. If you're going to step up, be prepared to beat perennial top pro men's finisher Trevyn Newpher, and top women's pro category winner Yvonne Delaunty. *Info: Enduro-Xrace.com*

### **STEAMBOAT STAGE RACE (SEPT. 1-3)**

When Steamboat Stage Race founder Corey Piscopo moved to town in 2008, he saw an opportunity for a new event drawing road racers from around the state. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the event's uniqueness stems from its stage race format, similar to the Tour de France, requiring racers to compete all three days, including a time trial, road race and criterium. It also offers 10 different racing categories for men and women, based on age and ability, with equal prize money for the pro men and women. "It's great because you get pro riders racing right alongside locals," says Piscopo, whose event draws nearly 400 competitors. "It's a Colorado classic for pro-am racing." *Info: bikesteamboat.com*

## **STEAMBOAT BIKE FESTIVAL (SEPT. 6-9)**

Mark your calendar for Sept. 6-9, when Steamboat celebrates its fifth annual Steamboat Bike Festival, Bike Town USA's primary event showcasing Steamboat's great riding opportunities and cycling community. Through collaboration with local businesses, cycling groups and bike industry partners, the event features organized mountain, road, E-bike, cruiser and gravel rides, culminating in a Saturday night party including food, drinks and entertainment catered to all participants. "It's always an awesome week, with great bicycling related activities all week long," says Bike Town USA director Amy Charity. "It has something for everyone, and is a great chance to discover all the two-wheeled adventures Steamboat has to offer." *Info: steamboatbiketown.com*

### **KEY EVENTS:**

- Guided and discounted bike park rides
- Tours at Moots and Eriksen Cycles
- Discount downhill lessons at Steamboat Bike Park
- Ribbon-cutting featuring new 2A trails (Buffalo Pass)
- Daily organized rides led by Bike Town Ambassadors (mountain, road, E-bike, cruiser, Bike Park and gravel)
- Road/mountain bike skills clinic
- Saturday night party
- Bike-in movie
- Bike Demos (E-bike, mountain, road and gravel)
- Bike Expo featuring industry partners and local businesses



Women on wheels: This summer a variety of cycling camps cater to female riders. Photos by George Fargo.

# WOMEN'S RIDING PROGRAMS

Women who want to ride with other women in Steamboat have several great options, from formalized clinics and camps to fun, low-key group rides.

## GRINTA CYCLING CAMP FOR WOMEN:

Led by former pro riders Amy Charity and Lisa Renee Tumminello, and catering to all abilities, Grinta Cycling Camps this year offers its Women's 4-day Cycling Retreat July 11-15 as a chance for ladies to get away from their busy lives by spending time in the mountains getting fit, soaking in the hot springs, learning health and wellness strategies, and enjoying a meal and glass of wine with other women. "As avid cyclists, we feel fortunate to have Steamboat as our training ground, and this is a great opportunity for women to ride and together in a supportive and fun environment," says Charity. *Info: grintacamps.com*

## IT'S A GIRL THING:

The Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club hosts this program for girls ages 6th grade and up. Designed to teach



middle and high school girls the skills and fun of mountain biking by riding with their peers, the six-week program is held Tuesday and Friday mornings from mid-June to the beginning of August. "Participation has grown each year we've offered it," says program director Blair Seymour. "We get more and more girls interested every summer." *Info: sswsc.org*

## STEAMBOAT SKI & BIKE KARE WOMEN'S CLINICS AND RIDE NIGHTS:

This program is held throughout the summer every Tuesday from May 29-Aug. 14, with alternating weeks of clinics and open ride nights. Women of all levels are invited to meet at 5:45 pm at the courthouse lawn with their mountain bike, water and trail tools. The free clinics focus on different skills each time, from descending to climbing and body position. The group ride nights are non-guided, with the girls in each group deciding the route. "The best part is learning the skills in a supportive environment," says organizer Jody Corey. "Women can gain confidence and try various trail obstacles without pressure. We also divide the women up into various groups depending on their level, and the coaches rotate so everyone gets different perspectives on biking. Another benefit is meeting other women of the same riding ability

and gaining new riding partners. You can also pick nights that work with your schedule." *Info: facebook.com/skiandbikekarewomen/*

## DATES:

**MAY 29:** Clinic – Body Position, Fundamentals

**JUNE 5:** Ride night

**JUNE 12:** Clinic – Obstacles

**JUNE 19:** Ride Night

**JUNE 26:** Clinic – Cornering and Braking

**JULY 3:** Ride Night

**JULY 10:** Clinic – Descending

**JULY 17:** Ride Night

**JULY 24:** Clinic – Climbing

**JULY 31:** Ride Night

**AUG. 7:** Clinic – OPEN Forum

**AUG. 14:** Ride Night

**AUG. 21:** End of Season PARTY!

# STARS ADAPTIVE CYCLING

The stars have aligned for people with disabilities to cycle in Steamboat. STARS (Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports) provides recreational cycling opportunities for people with physical and cognitive disabilities to promote empowerment and enrich their quality of life.

The program has grown significantly over the years in terms of equipment,



programs, riding locations and trained staffing. It also rents hand cycles, recumbent bikes and Buddy bikes.

A chapter of Disabled Sports USA and the U.S. Paralympic Sports Club, STARS is actively working with local bike groups and the USFS to develop more accessible trails in the area. "Biking is an inclusive activity that people can do with friends and family, and our programs enable people with disabilities to get out there and get active," says program director Brett

Maul, touting the Yampa River Core Trail as perfect for adaptive cycling.

Road and off-road cycling programs include: STARS Adaptive Cycling Club, Summer Adventure Camps for Teens and Youth, Stars and Stripes Summer Veterans Camps, and other specialty camps. Riders can also join this year's 7th Annual Biking the Boat Charity Ride Sept. 8, choosing between 55-mile, 26-mile, or 5-mile rides.

Info: [www.steamboatstars.com](http://www.steamboatstars.com)



STARS helps everyone enjoy cycling. Photos courtesy STARS

# ACCOLADES ROLL IN FOR CYCLING IN STEAMBOAT

## Town upgraded to Silver-Level Ride Center

Want proof that Steamboat's mountain biking is world class? The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) visited town in September 2017 and has upgraded Steamboat to a Silver-Level Ride Center. Locations are judged on trail experience, services, community involvement and marketing.

"The collaboration among the many different organizations in Steamboat is paying off," says Bike Town Executive Director Amy Charity. "We're making notable strides and receiving external validation of our progress. Many riders will see that Silver-Level label and want

to come ride here."

Steamboat's roads are also joining its mountain bike trails in receiving top honors. The League of American Bicyclists awarded Steamboat its honorable distinction as a Gold-level Bike Friendly Community. To qualify towns have to score high on a town's five E's:

### ENGINEERING:

Creating safe and convenient places to ride;

### EDUCATION:

Giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride;



### ENCOURAGEMENT:

Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling;

### ENFORCEMENT:

Ensuring safe roads for all users;

### EVALUATION & PLANNING:

Planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option.

To date, the U.S. has only 29 Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Communities. "We're inspired when we see places like Steamboat making bicycling safer and more accessible," says the association's Liz Murphy. "It helps set the bar for other communities investing in bicycling."

# STEAMBOAT'S MOST AWARDED DAY SPA



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MassageSteamboat.com

# 2018 CYCLING CAMPS



Grinding with Grinta: Grinta Cycling Camps founders Amy Charity and Lisa Tumminello.

## GRINTA CYCLING CAMPS

Boost your fitness, improve your cycling skills, and have the time of your life this summer by joining the Grinta Cycling Camps, catering to all abilities and led by retired professional cyclists Amy Charity and Lisa Renee Tumminello. Building off of the success of last year's camps, the duo will host two cycling camps this summer on Steamboat's world-class terrain. "As avid cyclists, we're fortunate to have Steamboat as our training ground," says Charity. "With quiet paved roads, rolling hills and mountain passes, it's

an ideal road cycling destination. We saw an opportunity to bring cyclists to town to experience it." Tumminello, an ultra endurance cyclist and coach, has hosted similar camps for running and foresees similar success for cycling. "After experiencing great support for our youth track and field and high school running camps, hosting cycling camps seems a great fit," she says. "We live in a perfect place for quality training and are surrounded by talent and knowledge. We hope to help grow the cycling community here." Info: [www.grintacamps.com](http://www.grintacamps.com)

## 2018 GRINTA CAMPS

### JULY 11-15, 4-DAY CYCLING RETREAT:

A four-day retreat designed to help cyclists develop technical riding skills, fitness and confidence in an unintimidating environment. It includes four structured rides, skills workshops and nutrition clinics, as well as hot springs, meals with wine and more.

## MOOTS GRAVEL CAMP (THE CYCLING HOUSE) JUNE 12-17

Moots Cycles and The Cycling House have teamed up to offer a six-day/five-night off-road camp in Steamboat, following The Cycling House's home base itinerary (overnight with the Cycling House, with home-cooked meals and rides leaving right from your door). The five rides include Dunkley Park (76 miles), Emerald Circuit (28 miles), Sleeping Giant (41 miles), Steamboat Unbridled (60 miles), and the 50-mile Moots Ranch Rally Ride June 16. Elevation gains range from 1,750 to 5,300 feet per day. Info: [www.thecyclinghouse.com](http://www.thecyclinghouse.com)

# BIKE SHOP ROUNDUP

Photos by John F. Russell

## CLASSIC CRANK



Repairs, rentals, restoration, retail. That's the tagline for Steamboat's newest "bicycle shoppe," founded by avid rider John Weinman. The full-service shop located in the heart of downtown provides expert repairs, pre-owned classic bicycles for sale, restorations for those 'barn finds,' new clothing and accessories and a rental fleet unlike any other. It all comes with classic customer service trademark of Weinman, who started his business in his garage and turned it into a thriving bike shop just steps from the Yampa River Core Trail. On the retail front, it

offers townies, classics and more, as well as a full line of "vintage cycling jerseys and parts." Keeping riding going year-round, it also partners with Haymaker Nordic Center to offer groomed singletrack fat tire trails come winter.

653 Lincoln Ave., 970-846-5112,  
[www.theclassiccrank.com](http://www.theclassiccrank.com)

## ORANGE PEEL BICYCLE SERVICE



Founded in 1999, Orange Peel, located downtown at 1136 Yampa Street, is Steamboat's only year round, bikes-only bike shop. A small shop with a big regional presence, it was

voted 2016's Best of the Rockies bike shop by Elevation Outdoors magazine. "We focus solely on bikes," says owner Brock Webster. "That's what differentiates us."

The full service shop offers retail sales, parts, accessories, rentals (high-end demos, cruisers, kids bikes, trailers and more), carrying such lines as Moots, Pivot, Transition, Kona, Salsa and Parlee — brands Webster maintains are perfect for the "enthusiast" rider. It also sponsors local events, such as the Town Challenge series, Moots Ranch Rally and Bike Town USA initiative, as well as such national programs as IMBA and Bikes Belong. "Bike service will always be our number one priority and passion," says Webster, adding the store also donates to the local trail maintenance endowment fund. "It's the engine that keeps things rolling around here."

1136 Yampa St., 970-879-2957,  
[www.orangepeelbikes.com](http://www.orangepeelbikes.com)

## LOCAL BIKE BUILDERS

### MOOTS



Entering its third year under ownership by avid cyclist Brent Whittington, and second being run by new president Drew Medock, Moots has been handcrafting high-performance titanium road, mountain and cyclocross bikes in Steamboat Springs for more than 35 years. "We're fortunate to be surrounded

by incredible singletrack and great, scenic roadways," says marketing manager Jon Cariveau, crediting the company's success to its designs and a staff that lives and breathes cycling. "Our employees take advantage of the riding every day." Continuing and refining such offerings as the Routt RSL gravel bike, Mountaineer and Vamoots Disc RSL as well as adding multiple personalized finish options, the company will once again sponsor its annual Moots Ranch Rally ride June 16 this year, and plans to build upon its ample awards, including a Wright Awards for companies celebrating Colorado's culture; a Colorado Company to Watch by the State Office of Economic Development; a Sustainable Business

of the Year in Steamboat; and one of the "Perkiest Companies in Colorado by ColoradoBiz Magazine.

Supporting the town it loves, Moots sponsors numerous community and industry advocacy movements, from local trail work days to the SSWSC's Cycling Team, and employs a cutting-edge recycling program and solar system to power its manufacturing. "We strive to design and build the most innovative, high-performance titanium bikes in the industry," says Cariveau. "We're proud of our bikes, our team and the town we call home."

—Moots offers guided factory tours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10 a.m.

Info: [www.moots.com](http://www.moots.com), 970-879-1676

## STEAMBOAT SKI & BIKE KARE



Located at 442 Lincoln Ave., with another storefront on the mountain, Steamboat Ski & Bike Kare has been voted town's Best Bike Shop six years in a row. "Our bike mechanics are some of the best in the business," says owner Harry Martin, whose store is the only factory service suspension shop in town. "They know how to fix anything."

Bestsellers on the retail side include Trek and Giant, with the store also recently picking up Ibis and Intense. With up to 20 employees cranking away in peak riding season, the store offers rentals (high-end demos, hybrid road bikes, mountain bikes, child bikes, tag-a-longs, trailers and more), retail and repairs, catering to locals as much as visitors. As well as sponsoring the Town Challenge series, Steamboat Stage Race and more, the store also hosts women's clinics and

rides, as well as a bike repair clinic the second Tuesday of every month. It also donates \$1 from every rental to town's trail maintenance fund. "Our staff is very passionate about riding," adds Martin, who has served on the 2A Trails Committee since the program's inception. "Steamboat's a fantastic bike town."

442 Lincoln Ave., 970-879-9144,  
[www.steamboatskiandbike.com](http://www.steamboatskiandbike.com)

## SKI HAUS



Store manager Murray Selleck credits Ski Haus's success to a staff that's passionate about riding. Carrying such brands as Cervelo, Specialized, Rocky Mountain, Santa Cruz, Juliana and more, the store prides itself on sales and service, and a friendly staff happy to catch you up on local trail conditions. Come summer, the store's basement is a beehive of bike activity, offering rentals (mountain bikes, road bikes,

e-bikes, cruisers, child bikes, tandems, trailers, tag-a-longs and more), repairs and retail, with garage doors opening up outside. Supporting everything from the local Town Challenge series to Tour de Steamboat and Steamboat Stage Race, the store strives to offer something for everyone, from beginners to seasoned pros. It will also pick you up at your condo if you need a ride to the store. "Biking is definitely the majority of our summer business," says Selleck, whose store also carries a full line of apparel, backpacking and camping gear. Locals tip: Visit when the Specialized and Rocky Mountain demo vans visit.

1457 Pine Grove Road,  
970-879-0385,  
[www.skihaussteamboat.com](http://www.skihaussteamboat.com)

## WHEELS BIKE SHOP

The Steamboat bicycling community was deeply saddened by the passing of Wheels Bike Shop owner Chris Johns this past spring, but the small, independently owned and operated bike shop located along the Yampa River downtown continues to have a place in the hearts of bike-loving locals and visitors. Specializing in tunes and sales, Wheels is Steamboat's Norco and Yeti Cycles dealership, happily bringing customers into the folds of the "Tribe." It services bikes of all walks—including mountain, racing

## KENT ERIKSEN CYCLES/ BINGHAM BUILT BIKES



Two other titanium titans, Kent Eriksen and Brad Bingham, also build great bikes in the Yampa Valley. The former owner of Sore Saddle Cyclery and founder of Moots in 1981, Eriksen was elected into the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame in 1996 and founded Kent Eriksen Cycles in

2005. In 2016, he sold the company to former pro rider and ex-Moots employee Brad Bingham, continuing as an employee along with his wife and business partner Katie Lindquist. As well as running Kent Eriksen Cycles, Bingham also builds bikes under the Bingham Built Bikes brand.

"Together, we've had some great successes both building and riding bikes," Bingham says, adding the company has won eight Blue Ribbons from the North American Handbuilt Bike Show for best Tig welding, and best Road Bike/Gravel Grinder and Tandem. "Kent and Katie have continued to set records at the Leadville 100 on their tandem and I've been lucky enough to race all over the country on bikes we

built right here in Steamboat."

The company produces about 150 bikes per year and makes bikes of all styles — road, mountain, cross and touring. It specializes in custom cycles, measuring down to the millimeter as part of the process. It also hosts the annual Tour de Steamboat, organized by Lindquist, raising funds for local nonprofits.

"I'm extremely excited about the future of cycling as well as my small part in its success," Bingham says. "I have a small team of talented employees and we will continue to build beautiful custom titanium bicycles here for a long time."

Info: [www.kenteriksen.com](http://www.kenteriksen.com), [www.binghambuiltbikes.com](http://www.binghambuiltbikes.com), 970-879-8484

road, freeriding, downhill, townie and more—and offers a complete rental (cruisers, mountain and road) and demo line as well. It also prides itself on giving back to the community, supporting such organizations as the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and the “Giving Bikes Back” refurbishing and donation program.

841 Yampa St., 970-870-1974,  
www.wheelssteamboat.com

### STEAMBOAT BIKE SHOP

Located on the Promenade in the basement of the Sheraton Hotel at the base of the mountain, the Steamboat Bike Shop is the one-stop shop for your rental, gear, pass and lesson needs when riding the Steamboat Bike Park. Rental Packages include full-suspension, downhill mountain bikes from GIANT, Specialized and more. Top-of-the-line rental options are available with the latest components and downhill technology. Rentals include a full face helmet, shin and elbow pads and bike gloves. Cruisers, cross country and pedal-assist bikes are also available.

2305 Mt. Werner Circle,  
970-871-5348,  
www.steamboat.com

### PEDEGO



Pedego is Steamboat’s electric bike shop, offering rentals, sales and tours. Capable of reaching speeds up to 20 mph using pedal assist technology, the bikes will have you grinning and spinning all over Steamboat, from county roads to Fish Creek Falls. With 20 bikes in its fleet, a variety of styles exist for all walks, from the Stretch, which handles 400 pounds of cargo, to tandem models, beach cruisers and the fat Trail Tracker, opening a new realm of riding for the whole family. “Don’t think of it as replacing your bike,” says co-owner Linda John, an avid road and mountain biker as well. “Think of it as replacing your car. It’s a lot more fun than people expect.”

345 Lincoln Ave., 970-761-5312,  
www.pedegosteamboat.com

## OTHER RENTAL LOCATIONS

### BOOMERANG SPORTS EXCHANGE

Buying and selling used mountain, road and cruiser bikes, with sales and rentals of Jamis mountain bikes, and sales of Nirve cruisers, bike accessories and kids’ bikes downtown.

1125 Lincoln Ave., 970-870-3050,  
www.boomerangexchange.com

### STEAMBOAT STARS

rents specialized hand- and foot-powered, upright and recumbent bikes for people of all abilities.

www.steamboatstars.com

### CHRISTY SPORTS

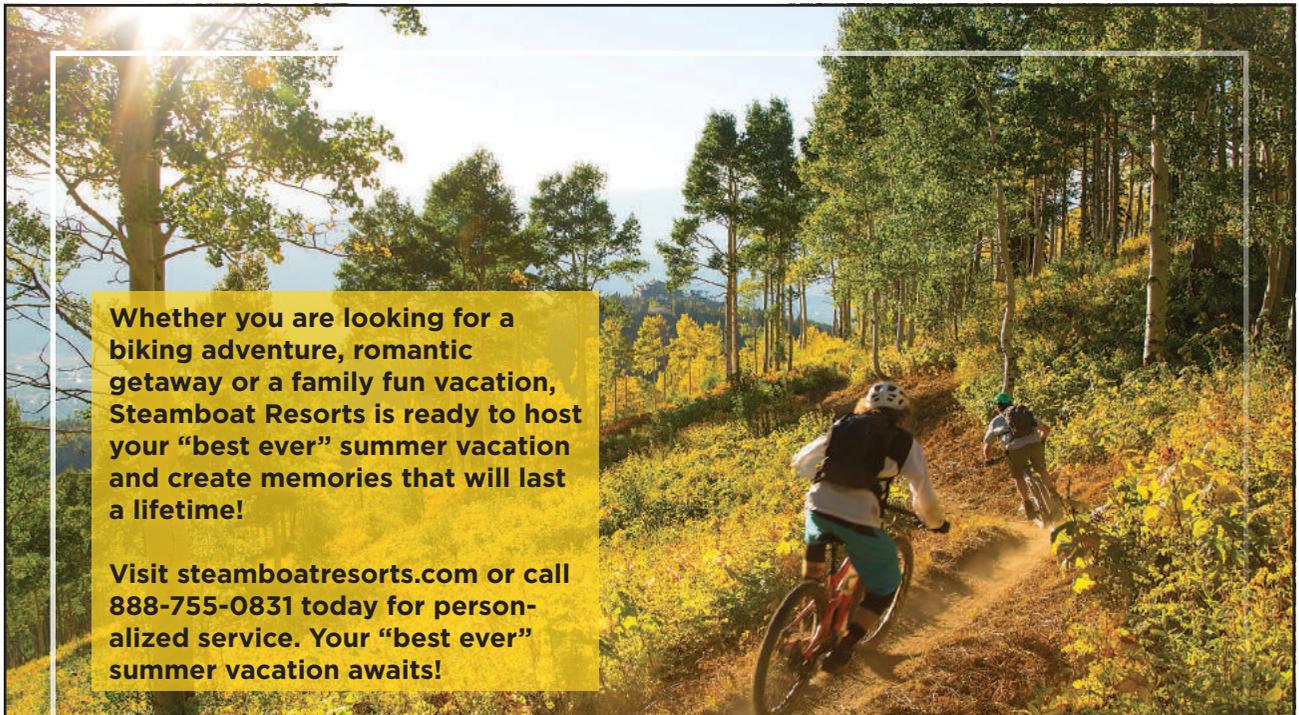
Trek full- and front-suspension mountain bike rentals. Child bikes and trailers also available. Helmets included.

1835 Central Park Plaza,  
Steamboat, 970-879-1250,  
www.christysports.com

### ONE STOP SKI SHOP

Rentals of mountain bikes, as well as rechargeable electric bikes.

35 11th St # 130, 970-879-4754  
www.onestopskishop.net



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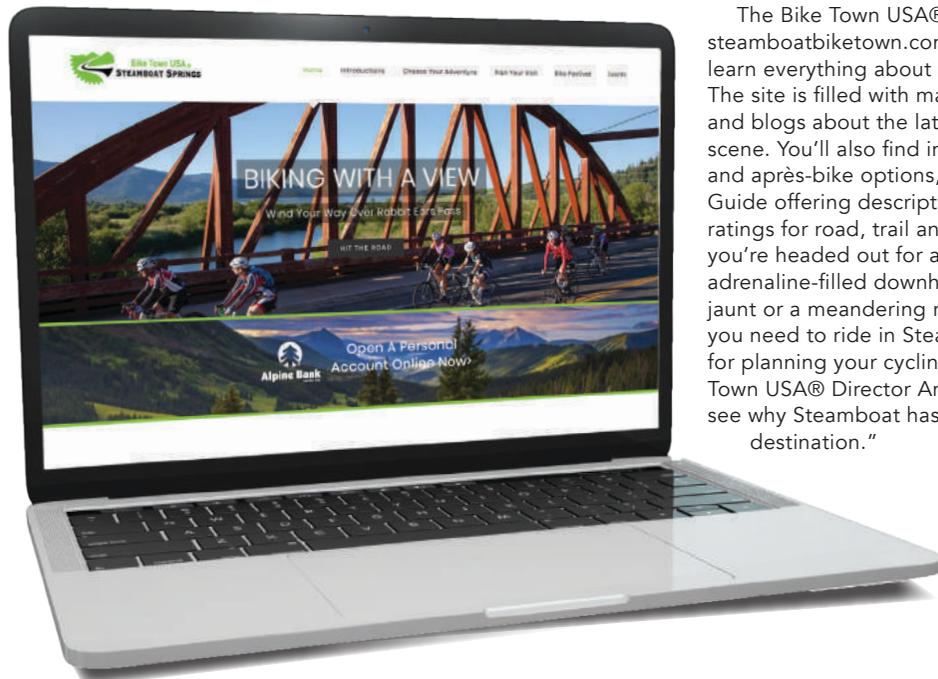
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Find everything you need to know in Bike Town USA®



The Bike Town USA® website ([www.steamboatbiketown.com](http://www.steamboatbiketown.com)) is your one stop shop to learn everything about riding in Steamboat Springs. The site is filled with maps, event calendars, photos and blogs about the latest in the Steamboat cycling scene. You'll also find information on lodging, dining and après-bike options, as well as an online Ride Guide offering descriptions, directions and difficulty ratings for road, trail and leisure rides. Whether you're headed out for a cruiser ride with the family, an adrenaline-filled downhill ride, a smooth cross-country jaunt or a meandering road ride, you'll find everything you need to ride in Steamboat. "It's a great resource for planning your cycling adventure here," says Bike Town USA® Director Amy Charity. "Come on up and see why Steamboat has become a must-ride cycling destination."

## BIKEAMBASSADORS



Have a question? Ask an ambassador in amarillo.

New to town and looking for directions on local trails? Keep your eyes out for riders in yellow jerseys to help you and provide information on trails, routes and bike-friendly spots around town.

Bike Town USA's Bike Town Ambassador program consists of 15 to 20 ambassadors who regularly ride on city and U.S. Forest Service trails in and around Steamboat to answer any questions riders might have. The all-volunteer riders carry maps and more to offer assistance to those in need.

"You can recognize them by their yellow jerseys," says program organizer Liana Jones. "They're like ski ambassadors on the resort in winter, there to help. They're not mechanics or bike patrols, just riders out to ensure everyone's ride goes as smoothly as possible. It's helpful for both tourists and locals." Another area they'll offer assistance in is for those accidentally riding directional trails the wrong way.

"It's kind of like roving signage," she says, adding they'll also serve the resort's public trails, but not Steamboat Bike Park itself. "Everyone's pretty excited about it, from the city to the ski area. It should be a great program."

Info: [www.steamboatbiketown.com](http://www.steamboatbiketown.com)

CALLING ALL MOUNTAIN, ROAD, DOWNHILL, STRIDER, EBIKE, CRUISER & GRAVEL RIDERS!

# STEAMBOAT BIKE FESTIVAL



**Bike Town USA**  
**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

Join us in Steamboat Springs for 4 days packed with organized rides, clinics, street races, food and entertainment.

The Steamboat Bike Festival pulls together cycling enthusiasts and showcases the best riding that Steamboat has to offer.

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9**

[STEAMBOATBIKETOWN.COM/BIKE-FESTIVAL](http://STEAMBOATBIKETOWN.COM/BIKE-FESTIVAL)



# Bike Town USA® STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

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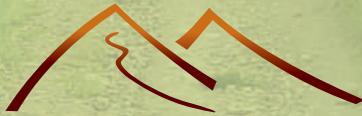
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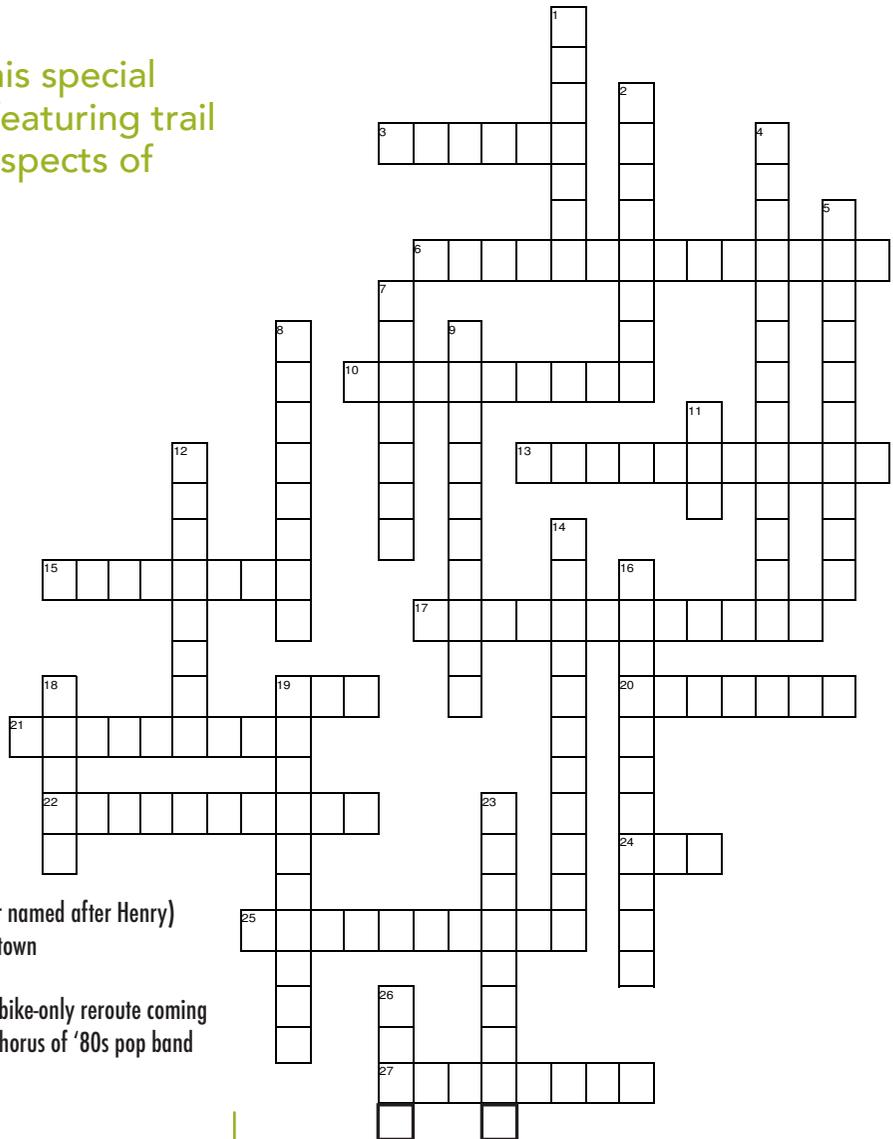


## q̄S Glas Deffryn Ranch

# CYCLECROSSWORD

## Good at games?

Try your hand at this special crossword puzzle featuring trail names and other aspects of Bike Town USA®!



## ACROSS

3. Emerald trail (and Adirondack river named after Henry)
6. Takes you to the best selfie spot in town
10. A ride and breakfast joint in one!
13. Popular local hiking trail with new bike-only reroute coming
15. Trail with tight switchbacks (think chorus of '80s pop band Kajagoogoo song "Too Shy")
17. What you get when you ride it
19. 2A trail on Buff (rhymes with PBR)
20. A green, mountain biking Mecca
21. Something you don't want to get at the dentist
22. A road to coal
24. Emerald's pedal-less directional trail
25. Buff tail named for a fern
27. Bike Town USA signature event?

## DOWN

1. Early Steamboat settler
2. TV western with catchy jingle (and resort ride)
4. Cattle thieves on a mountain crest
5. Trailheads on Cow Creek Road
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Gloria (Emerald trail with 35 switchbacks - yes, we counted)

8. A crazy brook
9. Another name for a greenhorn (and resort ride)
11. Two trail builders and their canine companion
12. Trail with panoramic views
14. Trail named after a ski patrol (and 5.3% American brown ale)
16. Nickname elbowing Ski Town USA out of the way
18. Steamboat bike company with alligator logo
19. Not for the superstitious
23. A punishing 112-mile loop making you earn your apres
26. Worldwide bike advocacy organization

(Answers on page 65)

# GRAVEL RIDING

## New website touts region's dirt road rides

As well as its top-notch road riding and mountain biking, Steamboat also offers a great combo of the two—cross, or gravel, riding—taking advantage of the region's well-maintained, dirt roads.

"Cross riding here is gaining huge momentum," says Moots marketing director Jon Cariveau. "Our roads are great for it; they're smooth with little traffic. We're starting to see way more cross bikes around town."

The sport has gained such a following, in fact, that two locals, former pro mountain bikers J.R. Thompson and Doug Demuez, recently launched a new website ([www.thedirtyroads.com](http://www.thedirtyroads.com)) as a gravel rides resource. "It's a free resource for the gravel/dirt road crowd," says Thompson, adding they're starting with northwest Colorado and will eventually expand through the state. "Gravel riding is going off right now, and is one of the biggest sectors of the global cycling industry. It's not just a small niche or trend. It's big business, and for good reason."

As for Steamboat's position in the sport's growing echelon, he adds it's near the top. "This area offers some of the most premier dirt roads in the state," he says. "Hayden could well be the dirt road capital of Colorado."

The reason for cross riding's strong local following is that it offers everything road riding does, from

the vistas to the workout, without the traffic. Thompson says he can knock off a 50-mile ride and only see a handful of cars. "It's the road bike experience, without the traffic," he says. "We just want people to get out and experience it. And we're only putting the top rides on it; we don't want to waste people's time. The rides we list are all pretty special."



Steamboat Springs...Cross Ride Town USA? Photo by Ben Ingersoll

## MOOTS RANCH RALLY

One event celebrating this category of riding is the annual Moots Ranch Rally, a 50-mile group gravel and dirt road ride showcasing area ranches while benefitting the Community Agriculture Alliance. The non-competitive event draws 150 riders to Routt County's rural roads in a route connecting historical ranches and farms. This year's ride is slated for June 16. **Info:** [www.moots.com](http://www.moots.com)

## 2018 STEAMBOAT GRAVEL EVENTS

**MAY 14-20: The Dirty Roads 500**

**MAY 17-20: Steamboat Gravel Camp**

As part of its Dirty Roads 500 and Steamboat Gravel Camp, in May Steamboat's Veloscapes is promoting and guiding a few gravel events, including free guided rides out of Steamboat, Hayden and Maybell, and a doozy to Trapper's Lake. "The ride to Trappers Lake is epic," says organizer J.R. Thompson, touting the route over Dunckley and Ripple Creek passes. "I'd classify it as a monster cross route, with a minimum tire size of 40mm." Another classic is a two-day gravel route from Steamboat into California Park, along the Little Snake River, then back around to Steamboat Lake, with overnight lodging (Veloscapes is offering a fully supported two-day gravel tour on this route). **Info:** [www.veloscapes.com](http://www.veloscapes.com)

# FAT BIKING IN THE 'BOAT



**"IT'S FUN AND  
DIFFERENT...IT'S  
A GREAT WAY  
TO GET SOME  
EXERCISE IN THE  
WINTER."**

*—Jon Cariveau, Moots*

Photo by John F. Russell

While Steamboat may have had a sub-par ski season this past winter, it was perfect for fat biking, showing that cycling in Steamboat isn't just for summertime. The craze is fast sweeping through Ski Town USA, with more and more followers each year. The reason is it's fun, a great way to get exercise, and perfect for Steamboat's rolling hills and snowfall.

"It's a fast-growing trend and we're seeing more and more of them," says the city's Craig Robinson, who oversees fat biking on the city's Nordic trails. "Especially with RCR packing out trails on Emerald Mountain." Adds Moots marketing director Jon Cariveau: "It's fun and different. A lot of our employees ride the same singletrack

they ride in the summer. Plus, it's super accessible and today's equipment is great; five-inch-wide tires work great in the snow."

Local retailers are also hot on the trend, reporting increased sales and rentals every year.

"Since fat bikes came out, we've seen a phenomenal difference in winter traffic in the store," says Orange Peel owner Brock Webster. "It keeps people interested in biking."

Credit the boom, in part, to Routt County Riders, which uses its snowmobile-towed trail-groomer to create winter flow trails on Emerald Mountain, including No Pedaling Required. "That trail is great for it," says Webster. "It's super smooth and flowy."

Other popular riding spots include the city-owned Nordic trails at Howelsen Hill; Catamount Ranch & Club, which hosts races; and 10K of groomed singletrack at Haymaker Nordic Center. Riders also hit the snowmobile trails groomed by Routt Powder Riders on Rabbit Ears Pass.

All this has made Steamboat a hotbed. "Steamboat's perfect for fat biking," says local Robert Orr, a three-time finisher of Idaho's 200-km-long Fat Pursuit Race. "We get great snow and have great terrain for it that's not too steep or rocky."

Local events are also helping. Hahn's Peak Roadhouse hosts a fat bike race around Steamboat Lake every March; Steamboat Ski Area's Cool Dual race

offers a fat bike category; Catamount Ranch & Club and Ski Haus host the Pleasant Valley Race-Ride-Tour series; and this year saw the inaugural 50- and 105-mile Bear Race in North Routt County (see sidebar).

"Fat biking has become a great addition to our Nordic Center activities," says Catamount's Dave McAtee, touting their full moon Fat Cat 22 race and six-event Race Ride Tour Series. Catamount's fat bike specific singletrack trails are also popular, he adds, thanks to a custom groomer machine. "We can have up to an extra 15K of singletrack at any given time," he says.

In partnership with the Classic Crank bike shop, Haymaker Nordic Center — the city's municipal golf course in summer, and a Nordic touring center in winter — also has a special grooming machine to prep 10K of fat bike singletrack, all offering great views of the south valley. "We have three great interconnected loops, all of which offer great fat bike riding," says Classic Crank owner John Weinman. "It's hard to script a better place for it."

It all boils down to having fun on two big wheels in the snow. "They're no longer just a curiosity," says Catamount race series co-organizer Kevin Kopischke. "People want to try them."

## "FAT BIKING HAS BECOME A GREAT ADDITION TO OUR ACTIVITIES AT THE NORDIC CENTER."

—Dave McAtee, Lake Catamount

### WINTER FAT BIKE RENTALS

Orange Peel Bicycle Service • Wheels Bike Shop •  
Lake Catamount Touring Center Haymaker Nordic  
Center • Steamboat Ski & Bike Kare • Ski Haus

## THE BEAR RACE

In February, nearly 50 cyclists took part in The Bear, an inaugural 50- and 105-mile fat bike race in North Routt County leading riders from Colorado into Wyoming and back. "It was pretty brutal due to the wind, but everything went off great," says organizer Jon Kowalsky. Braving the unstable weather, riders began the race at 7 a.m. from Hahn's Peak Roadhouse.

Eleven men and three women started the 105-miler, which tallied a 10,000-foot elevation gain. Three riders finished, with Neil Belchenko coming

in first at 15 hours and 20 minutes. Beth Shaner was the only woman to finish, ending in 24 hours and 45 minutes.

On the 50-mile course, which gained 5,000 feet of elevation, Tom Sawyer finished first at six hours, 19 minutes, followed by Steamboat's David Zink at six hours, 21 minutes. Local Helen Beall finished first for the women at seven hours, seven minutes.

"I was scared going into it, but it was a lot of fun," she says. "I still find myself smiling."

Info: [www.thebearendurance.com](http://www.thebearendurance.com)



Photos courtesy Dave Dietrich

## WHERE TO GO

**Lake Catamount Touring Center:** Open to fat bikes with restrictions; trail fee required and rentals available.

**Steamboat Ski Area:** Open to fat bikes with restrictions; closed during normal hours of operations; use only routes identified by the resort.

**Howelsen Hill Nordic Center:** Open to fat bikes with restrictions; trail fee required; trails closed to fat bikes from 2 to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and during Nordic events.

**Haymaker Nordic Center:** Haymaker uses a special grooming machine to prep more than 10 kilometers of dedicated singletrack over gently rolling terrain.

**Elsewhere:** Fat bikes are allowed on all other city trails not groomed for Nordic skiing. Hotspots include Blackmere Drive and the mountain bike trails of Emerald Mountain.



## FAT BIKE PROTOCOL

• **DON'T:** Ride groomed trails if: 1) you leave a tire rut deeper than 1 inch or can't ride in a straight line; 2) your bike tires are narrower than 3.7 inches and tire pressure is greater than 10 psi. Note: don't ride in classic tracks.

• **DO:** Yield to all other users; ride in control; ride on the most firm part of the track.

# THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT FUND

## What's your favorite trail worth to you?

With new trails completed on Buffalo Pass and additional trails proposed for Mad Creek and Rabbit Ears Pass—all financed by the city's 2A lodging tax—Steamboat is in a trail-building boom. But these new trails also bring added responsibility. A trail must be maintained regularly as trees fall, erosion occurs, and use takes its toll.

The Yampa Valley Community Foundation's Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund (TMEF) is tasked with generating at least \$1 million in contributions in the next eight years. Once achieved, the fund will generate \$50,000 annually to pay for maintaining trails on public lands in Routt and Moffat counties in perpetuity.

"It's a unique approach to solving the maintenance problem," says U.S. Forest Service recreation specialist Kent Foster. "Ensuring you have the means to maintain trails is far more difficult than building them. Addressing this is testament to Steamboat's commitment to its trails, and will help ensure we have great trails for years to come."

After the second year of fundraising, a grant of \$4,300 was awarded to the U.S. Forest Service for work on the Uranium Mine Project at the Fish Creek Falls Recreation Area and the Wyoming Trail (#1101) near Summit Lake. Decisions on how to spend TMEF revenue are made by a board comprised of four land managers, a Chamber representative and two community members. Both projects will leverage the granting dollars with service work provided by local nonprofits Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and Friends of Wilderness.

"We'll grant out money every year, which bucks the nationwide trend of closing trails and reducing recreation," says city government programs manager Winnie DelliQuadri. "It's a very successful program and great for our valley. This fund is critical to showing that we value our trails and are willing to invest to keep and maintain them."



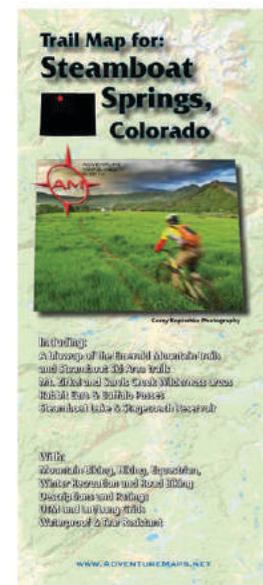
## HOW TO DONATE

To generate the \$50,000 needed annually to maintain local trails, Steamboat's Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund must reach between \$1 million and \$1.5 million by 2026. The fund is on target, says the Yampa Valley Community Foundation's Helen Beall, but needs the support of all users. "It's easy to donate," she says. "Just ask yourself, how much is your favorite trail worth to you?" All donations go directly to support the fund, with all fundraising expenses paid for by the city and Yampa Valley Community Foundation. **To donate, visit [www.yvcf.org/trails](http://www.yvcf.org/trails)**

## RCR MAP

### Proceeds benefit Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund

Routt County Riders has created a detailed trail map that shows summer and winter bike trails in the Steamboat Springs area, including North Routt County, as well as popular road rides. Produced with funding assistance from the city, the map shows difficulty levels for each trail and has descriptions of suggested rides and hikes in the margins. RCR worked with Scott Rapp of Adventure Maps to create the comprehensive guide after determining a better map for the area was needed. To support future trail maintenance efforts, all proceeds from the maps sales go to the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund. "Your purchase helps make sure the trails you enjoy riding here will continue to be available for everyone," says RCR executive director Kelly Northcutt. The maps are for sale at <https://squareup.com/market/routt-county-riders>, or local bike shops.





# SHARE THE ROAD

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Going into its 18th year, Steamboat Safe Routes to School is a community-wide effort aimed at making it easier and safer for kids to commute on bike or foot. The program is funded through a CDOT grant and locally through grants from YVEA and the Rotary Club, and is sponsored by Bike Town USA and the Steamboat Springs School District. The program sponsors Hike and Bike to School Fridays in which volunteers and Community Service Officers man busy intersections for cyclists, and school bus riders are allowed to get off and walk to school via Butcherknife trail. In the spring, bike rodeos are held at each elementary school, teaching everything from street smart and bike handling skills to tips for never-ever bike riders. "It's a great program," says coordinator Sally Cariveau. "And the bike rodeos are a great way for kids to get ready for a busy summer of biking around town."

### TURNING RIGHT

A bike lane is a travel lane: Always turn from the lane closest to the curb. To make a right turn, any vehicle (bike, car, truck, etc.) should be as far to the right as practicable; before turning, a motor vehicle needs to safely merge into the bike lane (yielding to any existing traffic). Dashed lanes encourage drivers to merge before turning right. If you're riding in a bike lane and a car pulls in with its blinker on, wait behind it until it turns or merges into the adjacent general-purpose lane.



Photo by John F. Russell

## SAFE BIKE RIDING TIPS

### PREPARING TO RIDE

- Choose the route with the fewest streets to cross, even if it's longer.
- Wear brightly colored clothes. Tie your shoes and secure long laces and loose pants. Don't wear headphones.
- Wear a properly fitted helmet (no more than two fingers between chin and chin strap).
- Check that tires are firm and brakes work.
- Ride a bike that fits (when straddling, both feet should be firmly planted on the ground; when seated, hands should reach the handlebars).
- Don't carry anyone else on your bike, or anything in your hands (use a backpack or basket).
- If riding in the dark, use headlights, tail lights and reflectors and wear bright clothing with reflective material.

### RIDING AWARENESS AND SAFETY

- Before entering a street, look for other vehicles to the left, right, in front and behind.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Watch for other vehicles and hazards, such as potholes and parked cars.
- Watch for vehicles turning into or exiting driveways.
- Watch for parked vehicles that may back up, pull forward or open a door.
- Ride in a straight line with two hands on the handlebars unless signaling.
- Before changing lanes or turning, always check in front and behind for traffic.
- On sidewalks or paths, ride slowly and be prepared to stop quickly. Pedestrians have the right-of-way.
- Dismount if crossing at a stop light crosswalk.

# 2A TRAIL PROGRAM UPDATE

Trails are shaping up in Steamboat. Entering year five of a 10-year spending cycle allocating \$5.1 million in lodging tax proceeds for 46 trail-related projects (known as the 2A Trail Program), the results are popping up all over, from Emerald Mountain to, most recently, Buff Pass.

"We're really excited," says the city's Winnie DelliQuadri. "We're developing a new 40-plus-mile trail system on Buff Pass alone, with more in the works."

Spearheaded by Routt County Riders, RCR Trailbuilders and the U.S. Forest Service, local organizers have made quick work of the trail-building windfall, with the new Buff Pass trails a great complement to town's offerings. "It's an amazing opportunity to create an interconnected trail system rivaling anything in the country," says 2A committee member Nate Bird.

## SPRING CREEK SNAPSHOT

Running from Dry Lake Campground to the Spring Creek ponds, a new downhill mountain biking trail in the works would parallel the existing Spring Creek Trail, offering cyclists a less crowded way to reach city limits from Buff Pass and reduce conflicts between cyclists and other trail users.

"The vision is to develop a sustainable trail for cyclists to safely get down from Buff Pass and minimize impacts to other recreationalists," says city trails

manager Craig Robinson.

A committee vetting proposals has approved funding for the design of the trail this year, with possible construction in 2018.

The trail proposal includes two sections: 1) Dry Lake to where the singletrack meets Spring Creek Road; 2) from this point down to the ponds. City officials estimate the trail will cost between \$50,000 to \$160,000, depending on its length. Part of the trail would pass through National Forest.

## CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

U.S. Forest Service recreation specialist Kent Foster tips his hat to Routt County Riders and its sister organization Routt County Trail Builders for Steamboat's trail-building boom—especially the recent efforts on Buff Pass. "Routt County Riders (RCR) was integral in completing work this year, with the assistance from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps," he says. "Plus, they were awarded a nearly \$250,000 grant from Colorado State Parks for trail construction in 2017 and 2018, which will assist the city's 2A fund to complete these and more projects." Without their help, he adds, none of these projects would have gained ground so quickly. "Normally, the Forest Service doesn't get involved in building new trails unless it has strong local partnerships, which is exactly what we have in RCR and our other partners," he says.

## 2A TRAIL-BUILDING FUNDS AT WORK

### YEAR ONE

The new 4.2-mile Morning Gloria trail on Emerald Mountain; a reroute of lower Spring Creek Trail; and the installation of several road-crossing signals.

### YEAR TWO

The expansion of the Ridge Trailhead on Emerald's backside; the new NPR downhill directional trail on Emerald Mountain; the new Wild Rose trail on Emerald Mountain.

### YEAR THREE

Initial steps of adding 40 miles of trails on Buff Pass, including the building of the first five miles of Flash of Gold; the continuation of Emerald's NPR trail, with a lower mountain beginner and intermediate line.

### YEAR FOUR

Adding an additional 6-mile upper section to Flash of Gold, bringing its total to 11.3 miles; the 1.25-mile beginners Panorama trail; a redesign of 2.1-mile BTR; a new 2-mile trail near Dry Lake called Fiddlehead; the completion and re-routing of the popular 3.3-mile Grouse trail.

### YEAR FIVE (TO COME)

An additional 17 miles of trail on Buff pass, including the completion of the 3.3-mile Soda Creek Trail; a new loop around Buff Mountain; a new downhill-only trail on Spring Creek; and a motorized trail linking Dry Lake to higher motorized trails.

# BLESSED IS BUFF PASS

**Buff Pass**—as well as local riders—was the main beneficiary of this past season’s trail work in Steamboat, with more than 21 miles of new and improved trails being built. The result: a bonanza of new mountain bike riding options offering everything from technical descents to smooth cruising just a 10-minute drive (or hour bike ride) from town.

“Our major focus this year was up on Buff Pass, and it came out great,” says Gretchen Sehler, who helped lead the summer’s trail-building efforts.

The work is all part of the larger, voter-approved 2A trail-building effort, which earmarks more than \$5 million from lodging tax proceeds over 10 years to building new trails. The Buffalo Pass Trails project is a partnership between such local organizations as



First tracks: Flash of Gold is one of several new trails on Buff Pass.

Routt County Riders, Bike Town USA, the city of Steamboat Springs, Yampa Valley Community Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service.

This past season marked year four of the decade-long commitment, with sights set on the Buff Pass trail system. New trails include 11.3-mile Flash of Gold, including, most recently, an additional 6-mile upper section ending near the summit of Buffalo Pass; the 1.25-mile beginners Panorama trail, finished in July; a redesign of BTR — which was once an unauthorized pirate trail; a new 2-mile trail near Dry Lake called Fiddlehead, named for a fern that grows in the region; and, in October, the completion and re-routing of the popular 3.3-mile Grouse trail, offering more advanced riding.

“We had great working conditions most of the summer and in all, we completed 21 miles of new designated

trail in 2017,” says U.S. Forest Service recreation specialist Kent Foster. “We’ve been lucky to be able to concentrate on that area.

Foster adds that this year will see great improvements as well, with an additional 17 miles of trail to be completed in 2018. “We’re about halfway there,” he says, adding a total of 43 miles are planned for the area.

Up next is a motorized trail to link the Dry Lake area to more motorized trails higher in the mountains without forcing riders to take the road; a downhill-only trail on Spring Creek; a trail around the flanks of Buffalo Mountain; and completion of the Soda Creek Trail.

“It’s taking the pressure off Emerald, which is great,” Sehler says. “It’s already spreading people out more. It makes me excited to give riders a new playground.”

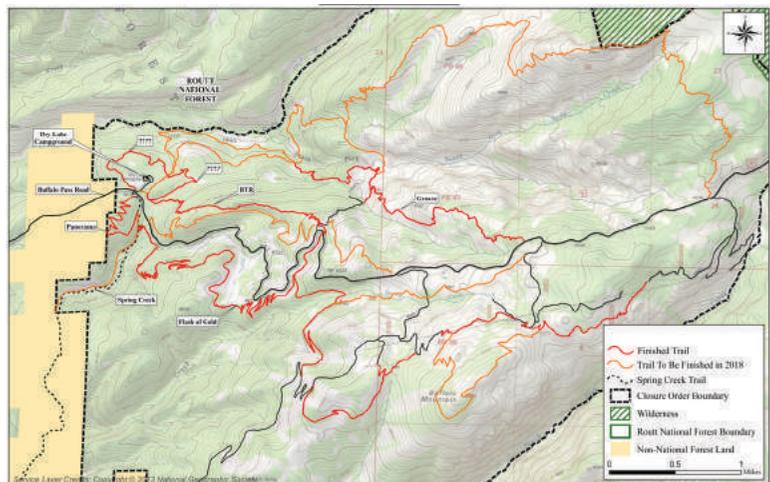
## UP NEXT: MAD RABBIT

Construction could start as soon as spring 2019 on the Mad Rabbit Trails Project, which addresses the areas of Mad Creek, Rocky Peak and Rabbit Ears Pass. The work would occur on public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, and the Forest Service is currently seeking initial public feedback. “There’s a lot of public interest in this project,” says Foster.

The Mad Rabbit project is the final 2A project on land managed by the Forest Service. Currently, two proposals are in the works: Proposal A, which calls for 79 miles of new trails and was designed by U.S. Forest Service staff, taking into account concerns related to wildlife, watershed and other natural resources; and Proposal B, which calls for 68 miles of new trails and more closely resembles a 2013 proposal developed by the Steamboat Trail Alliance Group.

Forest Service concerns include impacts to watersheds and wildlife areas. It hopes to complete its study—which includes a National Environmental Policy Act analysis—by the end of this year.

## Buffalo Pass Area Trails Status



# ROUTT COUNTY RIDERS



Routt County Riders is a non-profit 501(c)(3), International Mountain Biking Association Chapter and Bicycle Colorado organization representing all variations of biking. Putting in more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work every year, its mission is to “advocate to implement positive change for cyclists in Northwest Colorado.”

RCR unites bicyclists through trails, roads and pathways, as well as education and cycling events, and strives to create a fun, healthy and safe bicycle-friendly community. The volunteer-based, membership-driven organization advocates for cycling as a method of transportation, a mechanism for fitness, and a way to have fun. It works with the community, locals and tourists to promote and enhance all forms of cycling on trails, roads and pathways in Routt County.

As a bicycle advocacy group, it offers input to, and through, numerous governmental agencies, including: CDOT, Northwest Transportation Region, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Routt County, the City of Steamboat Springs, the Emerald Mountain Partnership, and others.  
Info: [routtcountryriders.org](http://routtcountryriders.org)



This past year Routt County Riders was busier than ever building and restoring area trails. Photos courtesy Routt County Riders

## CASE STUDY: RCR VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

While the majority of Routt County Riders’ volunteer trail work has historically focused on Emerald Mountain and other valley areas, last year provided opportunities in new territory. In September, a group of volunteers ascended Buffalo Pass Road with tools in tow to remedy several long-standing environmental issues that, until now, had not been approved nor permitted for rehab.

The first work weekend focused on a problematic bog crossing near the

top of the Fish Creek Falls trail, about a mile below Long Lake (in shoulder seasons, its muck can downright disable a bicycle). While the excavation, drain digging, and rock harvesting wasn’t easy at 10,000 feet, the volunteers replaced the bog with a dual, rock-layered, fabric-lined pathway.

Another volunteer opportunity arose when a popular section of steep trail came under scrutiny for sustainability factors. Slated for a re-route, local riders rallied, putting

# RCR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## KELLY NORTHCUTT



Routt County Riders Executive Director Kelly Northcutt is the right person in the saddle for the job. Born and raised in Steamboat Springs, she earned a Master's

Degree from Portland State University in Environmental Management, with a thesis on developing off-road cycling facilities. She's coached youth mountain biking clinics, worked for a mountain bike tour company in Bend, Oregon, and has spent hundreds of volunteer hours on trails before the pull of the Yampa Valley brought her home. Now firmly settled back in Steamboat, she balances conservation and recreation and believes all recreationists have a responsibility to be advocates and stewards of the natural world.

**NAME:** Kelly Northcutt

**AGE:** 28

**OCCUPATION:** Executive Director of Routt County Riders. I also assist with the outdoor program at Steamboat Mountain School, taking students on backcountry adventures, am the resident mountain bike guide at Marabou Ranch, and sit on the board for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

**FAMILY STATUS:** No kids, but one mighty fine spotted mutt of a dog.

### WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT RCR:

I was initially hesitant to join an organization that advocates for all forms of cycling, because my only experience had been with mountain biking clubs. But seeing that I commuted roughly 100 miles a week in Portland for six years (over 30,000 miles), that made me an advocate of road cycling infrastructure as well. I thoroughly enjoy RCR's balance between trail advocacy, hosting things like jump jams at Bear River Bike Park, and supporting road events such as the Tour de Steamboat. I'm honored and excited to be the organization's first executive director because this is my dream job and greatest passion. My graduate "research" consisted of meeting with land managers and trail alliance directors in the Pacific Northwest and riding the trails they had created. Enduring jealous remarks from my fellow classmates—who by their own choice chose to study algal blooms or snail shell thickness—I finished grad school not sure I could actually make a career out of the project. But thank goodness for that relentless Yampa Valley curse, because within a few months of returning home I had found the perfect organization. As part of RCR, I truly enjoy the diversity of advocacy topics, meeting with stakeholders and land managers, and most of all contributing to the

community that raised me to love biking.

### RCR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:

RCR is incredibly lucky to have such a diverse and engaged board—without them I would not have this position nor be able to raise the bar for the organization. Our new mission states we "advocate to implement positive change for cyclists in Northwest Colorado," and we'll do so through community outreach and increasing connectivity and diversity of cyclist amenities. Some of our goals for this year are to have a stronger presence in the community and at cycling events, educate trail users about the USFS NEPA proposals for Mad Creek and Rabbit Ears Pass, and to promote a more diverse trail network.

### OTHER INTERESTS/HOBBIES:

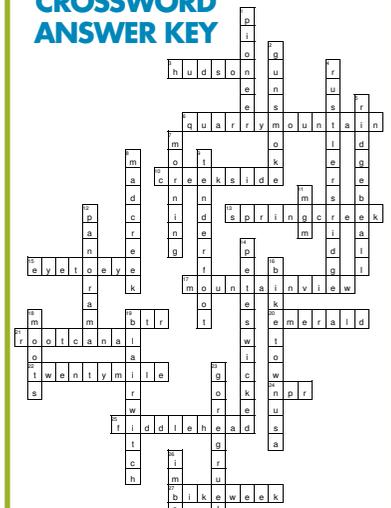
Skiing in the backcountry and eating snow; eating delicious meals made by others; reading musicians' autobiographies; yin yoga; learning the constellations (I'm only at 21 of 88); frightening myself on my bike; inventing great things that have already been invented; hot baths; not idling my car; watching my dog run in his sleep; and trying to keep up with my hero of a sister.

in hours of arduous rock hauling to armor the chute and keep the fall-line ride line intact.

"These volunteer efforts on Forest Service land demonstrated local riders' willingness to support Steamboat's alpine trails maintenance," says RCR Executive Director Kelly Northcutt. "With the growing number of higher elevation trails, involvement of local volunteers is vital to ensure these trails are maintained. This season proved that riders, trail builders and land managers can all work together to advance our evolving trail network."



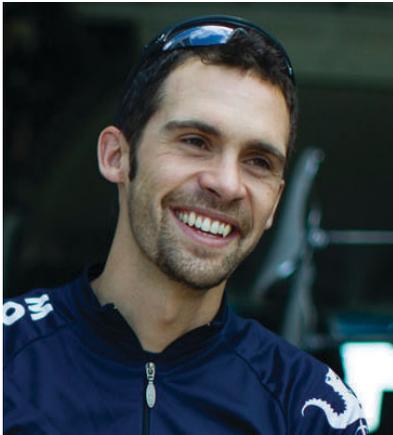
### CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY



## BEHIND THE SCENES

# LOCAL RACE DIRECTORS

A peek at the volunteers responsible for Steamboat's top races



### EVENT: STEAMBOAT STAGE RACE

**Name:** Corey Piscopo

**Day job:** Sales Director, Moots

**Years in Steamboat:** 11

**Years event has run:** 9

**Participants:** We've ranged between 250 and 400 participants over the past nine years, with racers coming from as far away as Texas, California and Montana.

**Best part of organizing it:** It's a unique event, with three days of racing which you don't typically see on the road racing calendar for Colorado. Its origin was a desire to create something

special in the Colorado road racing scene.

**Biggest event challenges:** Promoting a road event is costly; and doing three days of racing is even more extreme relative to other racing disciplines. Our top goal regardless of cost is to keep everyone as safe as possible while creating a top tier race experience, whether we have 250 or 400 racers. Many years of racing has given me a better sense as a promoter with what is important to racers—such as getting the results posted quickly and accurately.

# CURVE PLAZA

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Thursday - Saturday 10am - 11pm  
2093 Curve Plaza, Unit D  
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**Benefit to Steamboat:** Over the race's nine years we've given away proceeds to a variety of organizations, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, but typically at a minimum we aim to contribute to LiftUp of Routt County, Routt County Humane Society and Bicycle Colorado. We also love bringing in a great group of tourists over Labor Day weekend, who lodge and dine with their families. The race has also helped support Steamboat Velo, a local racing program, so there is great synergy there as well.

**Why you like organizing it:** I somehow make the time to organize it every year because it's important to me as a personal contribution to the sport of cycling as well as an economic bump for the Steamboat community and businesses that support cycling. That said, you need to approach it professionally, regardless of whether you get paid or not.

**Course selection:** It's critical to use roads that are safe, challenging and will have minimal impact to vehicle traffic. An example is our Sunday morning road course, which heads west from town towards the coal mine and works great because you see only a handful of cars then. It's also one of the most challenging road courses in Colorado, thanks to the big paved climbs in our backyard.

**Bike racing trends:** There's an endless list of different cycling events, so many are trying new types of riding like gravel, enduro and gran fondos. NICA has been another great area of growth for bike racing with high schools across the state fielding teams.

## EVENT: THE BEAR FAT BIKE RACE

**Name:** Jon Kowalsky

**Day job:** Managing broker, The Steamboat Group Realty

**Years in Steamboat:** 20

**Years event has run:** 1

**Participants:** 44

**Best part of organizing it:** Making new friends in the community and other parts of the country who share the same passion for cycling in winter.



**Biggest event challenges:** Working with North Routt's winter conditions—we could have a blizzard, a bluebird day or -20. But that's part of the adventure for winter fat bike riding.

**Benefit to Steamboat:** We showcase the beauty of North Routt County to people who had never seen it—nearly half of our participants came from out of Steamboat. We also donate a sizable amount to the Steamboat Lake Snow Club; without them we wouldn't have been so successful.

**Why you organize it:** I love bikes and riding them all year. But there's something special about winter. I rode up in North Routt for many years and always longed to show others the beauty, trails and friendly atmosphere. I wasn't sure we'd even have anyone sign up; I just did it because I love the sport and the beauty of North Routt.

**Course selection:** First and foremost comes the safety of our racers and volunteers. Our course was selected to benefit the racers with the most amount of support from aid stations. We also had to factor in getting everything to the Wyoming border on 20 miles of snowmobile trail. The logistics were challenging but the effort of our volunteers made it all possible.

**Bike racing trends:** More adventure and less structure. Our event is less conventional and not as polished as others, which is how we like it. We don't even have a podium for the winners; it's not what The Bear is about. It's all about the experience and our slogan: Adventure burns brightest on the map's edge.

## EVENT: STEAMBOAT STINGER

**Names:** Kristin Tidik, Katie Black, Jordan Edwards, Nate Bird, Sara Tlamka, Len Zanni

**Day jobs:** Marketing Dept., Honey Stinger

**Years in Steamboat:** Our team includes longtime locals, new arrivals, and everything in between.

**Years event has run:** 8

**Participants:** 1,120 (in 2017)

**Best part of organizing it:** Knowing that our hard work results in a weekend full of goal chasing, adventure, challenge and fun.



From left, Steamboat Stinger organizers Jordan Edwards, Nate Bird, Kirsten Tidik and Katie Black

**Biggest event challenges:** Obtaining volunteers—it takes an army to put on a great event.

**Benefit to Steamboat:** Proceeds go to Partners in Routt County and Routt County Riders.

**Why you like organizing it:** It's cool and fun! Initially, we saw a big gap in the Colorado race scene—there was no major race in Steamboat. With races trending toward longer endurance events and our amazing trails, we knew we could fill that void. Since Steamboat is Honey Stinger's hometown it's also a great chance to showcase our homegrown company, our amazing town and trails.

**Course selection:** We wanted as much singletrack as possible. Other races integrate more dirt road than we prefer, which decreases the quality and fun. Emerald Mountain has some

of the state's finest singletrack, so what better place to create a course? Logistics also come into play. We designed the course as one big loop with accessible and serviceable aid stations. It also had to be marathon distance for the running portion. We've tried to incorporate the newer trails as well.

**Bike racing trends:** We see increased female participation, more novice racers and the desire for non-traditional racing with multiple disciplines (duo team mountain bike option, King Sting/Queen Bee and Bumble Bee bike/run options).

## EVENT: REVOLUTION

**Name:** David Scully

**Day job:** Owner, David Chase Furniture & Design

**Years in Steamboat:** 24

**Years event has run:** 6

**Participants:** 135

**Best part of organizing it:** Getting out on the bike or motorcycle to explore and create new courses.



**Biggest event challenges:** Event logistics for the remote backcountry courses to provide good trails and manage event flow.

**Benefit to Steamboat:** Every event brings in tax dollars to the city that support community services. A percentage of proceeds is also donated to Routt County Riders Trail Building and the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund.

**Why you like organizing it:** I enjoy the challenge of creating the events, solving the logistical issues and showcasing our trail networks. Most importantly, I love seeing the high-fives and stoke that the riders share from participating. The race is my way of giving back to the sport.

**Course selection:** The trail selection changes every year to provide racers a new course. Mostly the trails are technical singletrack.

**Bike racing trends:** The bike industry is rolling out longer-travel suspension, and all-mountain bikes designed for more technical terrain. All this suits the popularity of the growing enduro race trend—it offers the best aspects of mountain biking: exploring new trails with a casual ride to the top with your friends, and then the reward of a great descent.

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# 5 TIPS TO HAVING MORE FUN ON YOUR MOUNTAIN BIKE

## 1 LEVEL PEDALS:

You don't pizza your skis, falling leaf on your snowboard, or doggy paddle at the pool, right? So don't stork on your mountain bike. Birds are good at standing on one leg, but mountain bikers aren't. Keep your pedals level at all times when cornering or descending. Dropping one foot down may feel easier, but it puts your balance on one leg, locks out your knee, and puts your pedal lower to the ground and closer to snagging something. No storking!

## 2 ONE-FINGER BRAKING:

Modern mountain bikes typically have powerful hydraulic disc brakes. One finger is all you need to easily slow yourself down. Using two fingers makes it harder to control the power and weakens your grip on the handlebar.

Try squeezing your handlebar with just your pinky and ring finger... Now try it again with your pinky, ring finger and middle finger. The difference should be surprising. When braking, make sure your index finger is out on the end of the lever, so you have maximum control. You may need to slide your brake levers in on the handlebar to make this possible.

## 3 LOOK WHERE YOU WANT TO GO:

Keeping your eyes up helps your balance and allows you to prepare for obstacles sooner. Looking forward while cornering will help you know whether you need to slow down, or let it roll.

## 4 DROP YOUR SEAT:

Nearly all modern, high-end mountain bikes come with dropper seat posts that you can raise and lower on the fly. For good reason. Speed, agility,

comfort and safety all go up when your seat goes down. If you have a dropper post, use it all the time. If you don't, no worries—when you get to the top of a long climb, lower your seat to a more comfortable height while standing, so you can practice good descending technique.

## 5 DON'T BE STUBBORN:

We mountain bikers tend to be a proud group, but sometimes to a fault. Don't fall back on bad habits or buck trends because you have too much pride to change. I continue to learn things every ride, and you can too. Get some coaching and take a private lesson from a certified instructor. It'll take less time than it does to climb Emerald, and you'll have more confidence, ride safer, and get more out of every ride.

—Tim Price is a mountain bike instructor and guide at the Steamboat Bike Park.

## BIKE MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Check tire pressure and tire surface for cuts and embedded debris.
- Keep chain clean and lubricated. Lubricate with dry lube; or every other week or 400 miles with wet chain lube.
- Check chain for side-to-side play and replace if necessary.
- Wash bike regularly (once a week or every 200 miles) in hot water and dish soap, oil drive train, and wipe off excess oil.
- Inspect shifting and braking cables and housing twice a year; replace if necessary.
- Be prepared for inclement weather; carry extra clothing and food.
- Carry proper repair gear, including pump, spare tube, patch kit and chain tool.
- Check cleats for wear and tighten bolts; replace if worn.



Photo by Larry Pierce

# APRÉS BIKING DOWNTOWN



For après-pedal fun, hit Yampa Street, just moments away from the trails of Emerald Mountain. Recently undergoing a major renovation to make it more bike- and pedestrian-friendly than ever, it's the perfect place to finish your ride for post-pedal fuel and libations. Whether it's a cold riverside beer, glass of wine or sandwich in the sun, there's no better place to cap off your ride. Following is an alphabetized rundown of where to celebrate:

## **AURUM FOOD & WINE**

Seasonal new American fare, with a Colorado-focused craft cocktail, beer and regional wine program along the Yampa River. 970-879-9500, 811 Yampa St.

## **CARL'S TAVERN**

Home of comfort food and big screen TVs, Carl's will fill your belly after your ride or let you socialize around its Cheers-like horseshoe-shaped bar. Try the Rocky Mountain Mule. 970-761-2060, 700 Yampa St.

## **CUGINO'S PIZZERIA**

What's not to like about pizza or calzones and beer after a long ride?

Plus, it has a great deck offering views of Howelsen. 970-879-5805, 41 8th St.

## **DOUBLE Z BBQ**

If you've really worked up an appetite, head to Double Z for Best of the Boat BBQ ribs and fries. 970-879-0849, 1124 Yampa St.

## **E3 CHOPHOUSE**

Swing by for happy hour beers and bar food (or an all-natural, Angus beef steak), complete with a beautiful lawn and deck overlooking the river. 970-879-7167, 701 Yampa St.

## **MOUNTAIN TAP BREWERY**

Hand-crafted pizza and beers, enjoyed in a large garage-door patio across the street from the river. Try the Passionate Pedal after the day's ride, and look for bike maintenance clinics on the patio. 970-879-6646, 910 Yampa St.

## **SAKE2U**

Hop off your cycle straight into some sushi or cold beer at this downtown riverside dining establishment across from town's newest park. Grab a seat on the outdoor deck to view the terrain you just rode on Emerald Mountain. 970-870-1019, 609 Yampa St.

## **SCRATCH**

Scratch prides itself on serving affordable, rustic mountain fare, with a great happy hour from 4-5:30 p.m. Try the pork tenderloin or fried avocado app. Tuesday through Saturday. 970-761-2586, 700 Yampa St.

## **SUNPIES BISTRO**

Riverside, outdoor seating and straight from New Orleans Hurricanes that should be consumed with caution. 970-870-3360, 735 Yampa St.

## **TACO CABO**

Homespun burritos, tacos and mores, with the roar of the river as a backdrop. 970-846-2307, 729 Yampa St.

## **YAMA**

For some sushi, sake and Sapporo after cycling head to Yama on the west end of Yampa, directly across from the river. 970-761-2087, 1110 Yampa St.

## **YAMPY'S**

Specializing in coffees, crepes and cocktails, head to Yampy's for casual food and cocktails called "individual, delicious, drinkable works of art." (Try the Pineapple Upsidedown Cake Martini.) 970-761-2096, 910 Yampa St.

## **BREWERIES IN THE 'BOAT (and a new distillery)**

### **MOUNTAIN TAP BREWERY 910 Yampa St. mountaintapbrewery.com**

Twelve handcrafted beers on tap, including Passionate Pedal; a full menu of artisanal wood-fired pizza and other cuisine; and an outside patio across from the river, where they host bike maintenance clinics.

### **BUTCHERKNIFE BREWING CO. 2875 Elk River Rd., www. butcherknifebrewing.com**

A 4,000-square-foot brewery with tap room and patio (\$1 off each pint to

customers who arrive by bike). Bonus: bike stand with maintenance tools, compressed air and cleaning hose.

### **STORM PEAK BREWING CO. 1885 Elk River Plaza stormpeakbrewing.com**

Twenty taps, a 4,600-square-foot facility, and garage doors that open to a large patio. Bonus: \$1 off your first pint if you show up by bike.

### **MAHOGANY RIDGE BREWERY 435 Lincoln Ave. mahoganyridgesteamboat.com**

Steamboat's oldest brewery located

in the heart of downtown, with seven craft-brewed beers on tap at any given time (try the locals' favorite Alpenglow. Bonus: Happy Hour from 4-5:30 p.m., featuring half-price drinks and buck tapas.

### **STEAMBOAT WHISKEY COMPANY 55 11th St., steamboatwhiskeyco.com**

Town's first and only craft distillery, making high-quality spirits by hand in an American-made pot still. Try its Sleeping Giant Gin and Ski Town Vodka.

## E-bikes are gaining steam in Steamboat.

Available for sale and rent at a number of shops throughout town, electric bicycles come in two types, whose electric drive system reaches a top speed of 20 mph: Class 1 E-bikes employ a pedal assist mode; and Class 2 E-bikes include a throttle. While not allowed on non-motorized U.S Forest Service, city or Steamboat Bike Park trails (without a guide), they are allowed on roads, providing riders follow all appropriate rules.

**"I LOVE MY E-BIKE...IT'S AN INCREDIBLE WORK VEHICLE."**

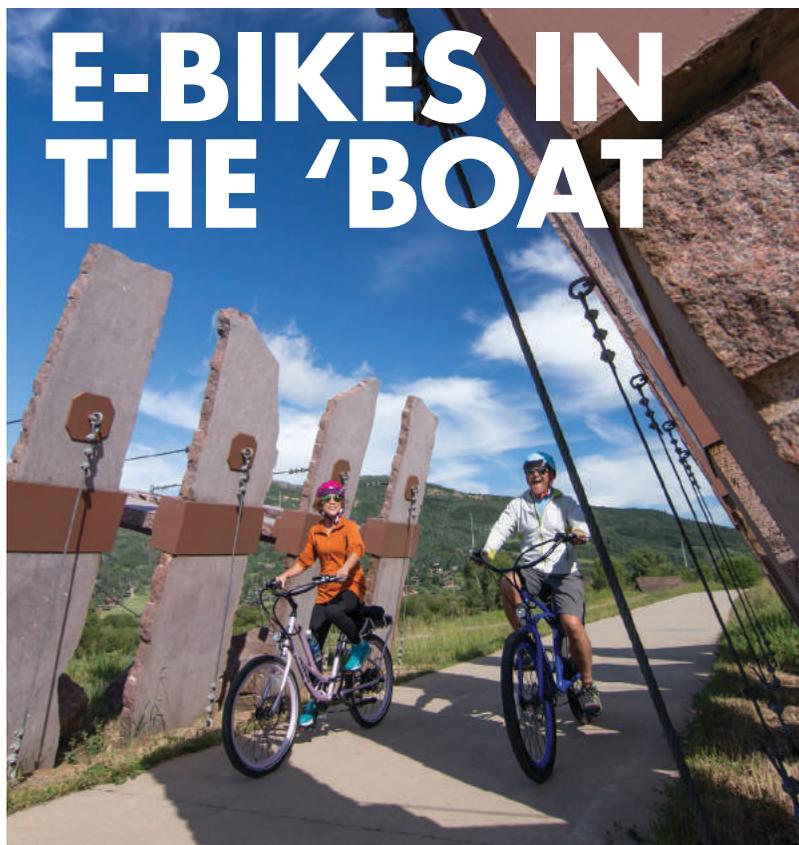
**—Local rancher Steve Williams**

"They're considered motorized, meaning their trail use has to be on a trail open to motorized vehicles," says U.S Forest Service recreation specialist Kent Foster. "And they need an OHV registration. But we're continuing to work with the groups as this technology develops."

Last year, the city's parks and recreation commission recommended a yearlong pilot program allowing their use on the Yampa River Core Trail, even considering setting a speed limit for them.

Regardless, they're gaining a quick following among everyone from the elderly and disabled to regular riders who want extra help. "I love my E-bike," says South Routt rancher and cyclist Steve Williams, who uses one to repair fences around his Oak Creek ranch. "It's an incredible work vehicle." He adds that with his wife's recent heart problems, it's the only way she could still ride during her recovery.

The craze has also enhanced sales for local retailers. "We sell a few each year," says Orange Peel owner Brock Webster. "It's a growing trend, so it's smart for us to embrace it." Steamboat's first "E-bike only" bike shop, Pedego Steamboat, has a complete rental fleet, including tandems, beach cruisers, the fat Trail Tracker, and the Stretch, which handles 400 pounds of cargo. "It's a lot more fun than people expect," says co-owner Linda John.



## STEAMBOAT SKI CORP.: AN EARLY E-BIKE ADOPTER

Steamboat Ski Resort is an early leader in eMTB operations, leading the way for other resorts on U.S. Forest Service lands. In 2016, Steamboat gained approval to run a pilot program, allowing resort and USFS staff to ride E-bikes within the resort's special use permit boundary up the motorized mountain-access roads and down Steamboat Bike Park trails.

The program was then modified last year for public use as a guided-only experience. Guests are required to register for either an E-bike lesson or tour, and are accompanied by a guide, riding up the access road and down the trails. The guide gauges each guest's ability level, provides instruction and decides the appropriate trail to descend within the permit boundary. "It's been received very well,"

says Bike Park manager Trevyn Newpher. "People often leave asking where they can buy them."

He adds that they're especially useful for beginner instruction. "Guests get more out of it when they're riding the entire time," he says. "Instruction opportunities are built into the entire ride, including skills, equipment knowledge and land access education. Plus, there's no waiting for a lift like the traditional downhill experience requires."

This year, Steamboat is continuing its guided E-bike program, with a fleet of demo Specialized Turbo Levo E-bikes for rent, which can also be used on the Yampa River Core Trail, the only legal trail to ride an E-bike in the city bike trail network. Info: [www.steamboat.com](http://www.steamboat.com)

## PARTING SHOT

# STEAMBOAT MUSTACHE RIDE

Photos courtesy CJ Berg

Think Steamboat riders don't have panache ... and 'stache? Visit the first Saturday of every October for the annual Mustache Ride, a fundraiser for the Routt County Humane Society that celebrates all things bicycle and follicle. What started as a fun pub crawl among friends has morphed into a whimsical, costumed and mustachioed bar-hopping, charity bike ride through town. Last year's cycling-like-Tom-Selleck ride included more than 500 riders, raising more than \$16,000 in donations—as well as the eyebrows of un-mustachioed onlookers. Bonus: Donate \$30 early and receive a 'Stache Card from sponsors for one free drink from each of the sponsored locations. Info: [www.ssmustacheride.com](http://www.ssmustacheride.com)





# STEAMBOAT SPRINGS **SERIES** RUNNING

**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Hayden Cog Run  
8.4M, 5K and Fun Run

**Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Steamboat Stinger  
26.2M and 13.1M trail

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Spirit Challenge  
10K, 5K and Fun Run

**Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Continental Divide Trail Run  
50K and 16M trail

**Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Steamboat Marathon  
26.2M, 13.1M and 10K

**Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
10K@10,000 Feet  
10K and 5K

**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Howelsen Hill Trail Run  
8M and 4M

**Fri-Sat, September 14-15<sup>th</sup>**  
Run Rabbit Run  
100M and 50M

**Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Mountain Madness  
13.1M and 10K

**Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Emerald Mountain Trail Run  
5K, 12K and Fun Ru

**Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Hahn's Peak Hill Climb  
7.3M trail

**Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Foundry Halloween 5k  
5K road and trail

**Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Creek Memorial  
9.5M, 5K and Fun Run

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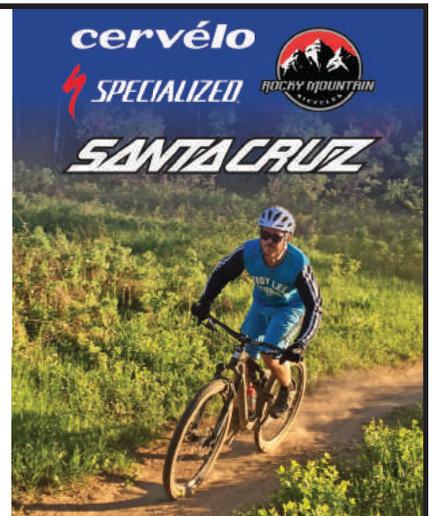
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