



Basherama!

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The Official Newsletter of the Kuala Lumpur Mountain Bike Hash

WANTED KICKING AND SCREAMING! – YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2000:

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Ed.itorial

1. This month, Ed.'s main topic of discussion is about pets. Pets come in all shapes and sizes and different pets appeal to different people. You know, like dogs, cats, lizards, tigers, elephants and hamsters. Pets are cool to have as they bring much joy into the lives of their owners.

However, let us not forget that pets have feelings and needs too. For example, they need to be kept clean and well-fed. And most importantly, especially for **big dogs**, they need to get **exercised regularly**. This diatribe has come about as a dog in Ed.'s neighborhood has been howling and barking at all hours since being denied the chance to roam about freely (a.k.a. sneaking out). But hey, it wouldn't have sneaked out if it had been properly exercised! So remember, treat your pets as a member of the family and they'll be happy. Neglect your pets and incur the wrath of your pets (and neighbors)!

2. The Flying Wild Bunch Road Ride to Shah Alam on Sunday, March 12, 2000 was, unfortunately, a wash-out. Ed. had been looking forward to the ride to help rebuild Ed.'s mileage base but it was not to be. Ed. would like to share the lessons learned that rainy morning:

- Always pack your mobile phone in a plastic bag (Duh!). Luckily, Ed.'s Motorola is still alive (but not too happy). Any lesser phone would have died.
 - Heavy Rain = Poor Visibility. When the rain gets heavy, pull over and take shelter lest you get hit from behind by a car, as someone did that day.
 - Pack a windbreaker/vest if you can, as it will keep the chill factor down after you get soaked. A rain cape is the best if you can find one.
 - Be cautious when approaching standing water. There may be big potholes underneath.
 - Expect the unexpected and prepare accordingly.
 - Your cyclocomputer will not work in the rain.
 - Rain = less traction & increased braking distance for road bikes. So no heroics, please!
3. **Remember**, the Basherama is not only a source of information and goings on, it is also a portal for the members to air views, tell stories, sell excess parts/stuff and to publish general notices/announcements. So, contact Ed. for your 15 minutes of fame in the Basherama.

Ed.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MARCH BASH (# 65) @ Bukit Cahaya – 9.30 a.m. April 2, 2000

Ok, here it goes man:

Take the NKVE towards Klang. Take the Bukit Jelutong (Shah Alam) Exit (the exit is actually the first exit on the ELITE Expressway that leads to KLIA from the NKVE). After the toll you will see a roundabout. Take 9.00 towards Sg. Buloh. Go straight through two traffic lights until you see a mosque with blue roof. Turn left up a steep slope 500m after the mosque towards **Bukit Cahaya**. Find parking along the road next to the haremobil: Isuzu Trooper BCM 5715. Cheers.

Hare: Larry Chan

www.bikehash.freesevers.com

February Bash @ Ladang Bukit Lagong, Rawang, March 5, 2000 – The Long Run

Hares: Pigpen and Casper

Was slightly apprehensive when I first got to know who the hares were gonna be. Pigpen and Casper - the Princes of Pain, no less. Going by past experience, one thing's for certain, gotta have bucketloads of painkillers ready! Also prepped myself by cutting down on the pre-ride smokes. Cut my cigarette ration to two sticks from the usual four.

The ride started off in pretty much the usual manner for me – Bashers zooming past me left and right, beating me to the trailhead. Yep, I was the last guy in. Not a bad thing being last y'know. For one thing, the chances of being run over by an over-enthusiastic (but technically inept) Basher is virtually nil. Unless the Hare decides to do you in, that is. Going slow, you also get to enjoy the scenery more.

O, speaking about “scenery” brings to mind an incident from a ride we had a coupla years back. (Dunno if I'm gonna be doing another piece for the Newsletter in future so might as well say this now). Not ALL the view from the back is swell. You guys out there, when your bike-tights start going threadbare, especially at the back, STOP WEARING 'EM! Or at the very least, do the decent thing and wear something underneath. Sheeesh! Some things I just don't wanna see.

Ok, ok, enough with the fluff. How's the route, you ask. Well, if you're looking for a blow-by-blow (inch-by-inch?) account of the route, boy, did you guys get the wrong guy to do this write-up! Some guys have the ability to commit to memory all the twists and turns of a trail. Me, I have trouble remembering my name sometimes.

Since my memory's worth jack ****, how about I jot down what vague recollections/thoughts/whatever I have of the Bash/Long Ride:-

- **The heat.** Jeez, it was one heckuva hot day! So hot that I think I heard the fat 'neath my skin sizzle!
- **Those singletracks with super-twisty downhill sections.** Man, some of those downhill singletracks really gave me the heebie-jeebies. On one particular tight section, it was like – you dodge/bounce-off a rubber tree, desperately try to control the bike to stay on the terrace, pause for a second or two, then drop-off onto the next terrace. Repeat that sequence four or five times and you'll get a picture of how that section was like. Scary.

- **The climbs.** Pigpen does have a heart after all. There were none of his usual mega-long climbs in this ride. Dunno, maybe I've become fitter since the last Bash because none of the climbs bothered me much. Or maybe I'm just plain delusional.
- **The downhill.** Most were of the “not-too-twisty double, tripletrack” sort which you could really race down on. Nice! Of course, no downhill ride would be complete without my having a few sketchy moments where I'd inadvertently lock-up my wheels and nearly lose control of the bike. For some reason, those moments came aplenty in this ride. Darn V-Brakes.
- **The stream crossings.** For a change, clear water! These I liked. My shoes never looked so clean.

Like I always tell my friends – all two of 'em, one of the reasons I mountainbike is because it brings me closer to God. (Another is because I pretty much suck at everything else). Every time I hurt or scare the beejezus out of myself, I'll have mini one-way “conversations” (if you could call 'em that) in my head with the Big Guy. “O God, that rock sure's hard!”. “Thanks for listening Chief, I'm still alive!”. “Omigod, hope that wasn't the sound of my nuts squishing!”. Stuff like that.

Why am I telling you guys this? Well, I normally rate rides based on how close they get me to The Man. Having said that, today's ride rates very, very highly in my books. Can't recall exactly how many mini “conversations” I had this time, but it sure was a heckuva lot. So kudos Pigpen and Casper for getting me to “converse” big-time with the Man as well as for a most heavenly ride.

O, a word of advice before I end this piece. When after a long uphill climb any of you guys get to a check that hasn't been closed, go check! Don't do like what some guys did at this ride and just hang around and wait for me to come up. Then ask me to check! You gotta know that I'm almost always in a foul mood after a long climb. And paraphrasing what my namesake's alter ego always says, “... you won't like me when I'm angry”.

HULK

LIFT NEEDED

Alison Keeler will occasionally require a lift for herself and her bike to the Bash every now and then as Denis has moved to Malacca. She is presently living in Damansara Heights and will need a lift to the next Bash on April 2nd. Anyone with extra room can contact Alison via mobile (012 378 6737), at work (202 4130) or via e-mail at alison.keeler@acumenint.com Thanks.

Ladang Bukit Lagong – The Short Run

The bash started one fine morning, lots of new people were here and had just signed up and some old people who also had to sign up since it was a start to a new term. After everyone had signed up they were explaining the rules and were asking for any volunteers to be hares because they are out of stock and need new ones.

The long riders set out first and the short riders stayed behind to give them a head start because the track was single file forest. When the short riders set out and this boy did not do what he was told and got hit on the head with a spanner, but he was wearing a helmet! We then were on the track but it got quite annoying because you couldn't overtake and you had to get on and off of the bikes to get over big logs which had fallen down, (we should have brought a chainsaw).

Any how once we were out of the jungle it was a great track, lots of uphill and lots of down hills, once even my Dad went flying head over heels by going too fast, and luckily enough he didn't hurt himself. It was a great day and was very sunny.

It was very nice and quiet until this MASSIVE wasp came speeding at us making us ride as fast as we could, it chased us for a while then went past us (dad and I) and into the same tunnel we were riding into. There were a few tunnels, which was a very new idea for hashes I have been on. After the wasp and the tunnels was the biggest hill of all, the steepest hill yet which was quite steep. But we made it up without getting off, we finally had got to the end and I was exhausted, it may have been just a short hash but it was a very tiring one and I was looking forward to a nice cold 100plus.

REMEMBER: if you ever go there again, be sure to bring a chainsaw.

By Robbie Knowles (Junior Member)

SwapMeet (Everyone's stuff welcome!)

Easton Monkey Riser Bar - 2.5 inch Rise - 8 degree sweep - 27 inches wide - weighs 250 grams (2nd lightest riser bar after Easton Carbon Monkey Lite!) - silver - RM160 o.n.o. - Contact Fuji @ 012 307 6815 or ngahfuji@tm.net.my

Specialized Suspension Skewers - Steel Front; Ti Rear Rods - Red Anodized - Good Working Condition - RM80 o.n.o. - Contact Fuji @ 012 307 6815 or ngahfuji@tm.net.my

A superlight Vitus aluminium road bike for sale. Shimano 600 components with some mix of Dura Ace. Comes with aerobar and grip shift and ultegra spd pedals (worth RM400). It is in excellent condition with tubular rims. Asking RM1500 o.b.o. - Contact Larry at larryballz@pd.jaring.my

HARELINE

BASHES don't set themselves, they need **YOU!** So don't delay, join today and be all that you can be!

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| #65, April 2, 2000, March Bash | Larry Chan |
| #66, April 30, 2000, Labour Day Bash | King Richard "Ye Crafty Bastarde" of Aubreye |
| #67, May 28, 2000, ? Bash | Moir Family (Tentative) |
| #68, June 25, 2000, ? Bash | Volunteers kindly contact Pigpen (remember the Hare Tonic!) |
| #69, July 30, 2000, ? Bash | Volunteers kindly contact Pigpen (remember the Hare Tonic!) |
| #70, August 27, 2000, Merdeka Bash | Knowles Family (Tentative) |

BITS & BOBS - 1) KLMBH polo t-shirts (RM15), Int'l Bash t-shirts (RM5) and water packs (RM90) are still available and **make great presents!** Kindly inquire with Committee members at the next Hash if interested. **KLMBH Mugs** are also available. 2) **Coming Next Month - Why do we ride? E-Commerce** sites reviewed! More stuff for sale! 3) **Thumbnail Thrash Test.** Hutchinson makes some good tires. They offer good traction and durability at an attractive price (around RM90 apiece). Just don't go too narrow in width unless you're racing. Ed. has had good luck with the Chameleon on the rear but it has now been discontinued. Instead, Ed. has just picked up a Python Gold (2.0 Front) and a Mosquito Gold (2.0 Rear) and is happy with their performance after a muddy and root infested ride in Bukit Kiara. They gripped tenaciously and were predictable despite being on their first ride (!). Bike Pro just got a shipment in so go check 'em out before they walk out of the store. 4) The 2nd KLMBH International Bash is scheduled to be held sometime this year! The plan is to hold a two-day Bash (i.e. one Bash per day; shorter on one day, longer the next) outside of the Klang Valley (Gasp!) so that it will truly be a Bash to remember for everyone. Potential guests are the Singapore Bike Hash and the Bangkok Bike Hash. We'll keep your posted. 5) Always carry patch kits for your tubes when you ride. 6) That's all for Bits & Bobs for now...

HARE TONIC

In Basherama! 48, Hare Tonic was introduced in an effort to encourage more members to step forward as hares. The idea was to reward hares who had set 5 or more Bashes with Pewter Mugs. The Committee is currently sourcing the rewards (which may or may not be in the form of Pewter Mugs) with the intention of presenting them to the deserving hares at the 2001 Annual Dinner to be held in... 2001.

To keep score, presented below is the updated Hare League Table as at March 15, 2000. As mentioned before, if you feel that you've set more Bashes than listed below, kindly contact Ed.

Azizul Adnan	12	Animal Elford	2	Clara Chin	1	Mike Smit	1
Richard Aubry	10	Dick Shelly	2	Colin Jackson	1	Mike Wright	1
Gordon Fraser	6	John Hagedorn	2	Dave Baker	1	Noel Brennan	1
Eric Teo	6	John Mugford	2	David Foo	1	Paul Booth	1
Peter Bloomer	5	John Spencer	2	Emma Booth	1	Peter Pickernell	1
Barry Hills	5	Mark Chaterton	2	Geoff Stecyk	1	Phaedra	1
Mike Elliot	5	Nigel Blott	2	Graham	1	Pinhead	1
Ngah Fuji Bakri	5	Shariman Alwani	2	Ian Miller	1	Simon Ng	1
Pat Brunson	4	Tan Boon Foo	2	James Aubry	1	Steve Ellison	1
Bill Steven	3	Grant Lee	2	Jeff Dean	1	Annett Frohlich	1
Peter Heston	3	Denis French	2	Johnathan Startin	1	Kenny Stewart	1
Shaharudin Damis	3	Alison Keeler	2	Kelvin Wong	1	Karen Brunson	1
Simon Kenney	3	Andy Blake	1	Larry Chan	1	Your Name Here	?
Hulk	3	Andy Knellar	1	Marie Benedix	1		
Alistair Swanson	2	S.Y. Chong	1	Mark Clark	1		

www.Ed.com

One of the most important pieces of equipment on a car would be wheels and tires, as they are what connect you to the road. This month, Ed. introduces two websites relating to wheels and tires.

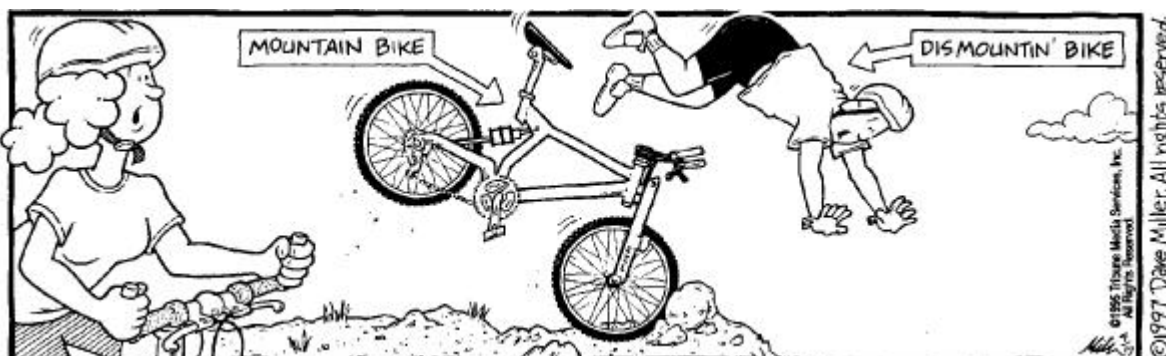
The first is www.tirerack.com, which provides insights into wheels, tires and suspension through its rigorous testing of almost everything it sells. One cool feature of this web site is the Wheel Search feature that lets you see what your car (if it's on the list – remember that this is an American web site).

The feature articles and tests make for good reading and are a good source of general information on wheels, tires, suspension and driving in general.

www.tswnet.com is the web site of TSW Wheels, manufacturers of baddest lookin' sports rims around (for now, anyway), the VX-1. TSW has a wheel wizard which goes one step further than Tire Rack's by having the ability to lower and raise the car. Now I'm convinced that my Mum's Volvo will look good with 17 inch wheels as long as I lower (also known as "slamming" as in "Wow! That car is slammed!") the car.

Ed.

EYE CANDY



Note: Kinda reminds Ed. of the last Bash

www.bikehash.freesevers.com