

Dear BIKES,

Spring is nearing its end, but the cycling season is taking off. This newsletter includes some great articles for your summer newsletters and website.

- Biking the Outback
- Club and Shop Donors
- 2008 Awards Program
- Clipart for you

Ride On!

Joshua Tack  
Club Coordinator

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## THE BIG PICTURE

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### BIKING THE OUTBACK

[There's great riding to be found in AusTRAILia](#)

*By Michael McCoy, Adventure Cycling Field Editor*

In October 2002, I had the pleasure of “springing” Down Under, where I took part in the event ride known as 2002 Bicycles: An Outback Odyssey. I, along with a couple of hundred other riders—mostly native Australians—bicycled the Mawson Trail, which goes from Adelaide, South Australia’s seaside capital city, to the Flinders Ranges settlement of Blinman, a distance of more than 500 miles. Much like Adventure Cycling’s Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, the Mawson Trail connects an assortment of dirt paths, gravel roads, single-track trails, and hard-surfaced byways to create a through route between its two end points. (Those who crave only single-track riding will find that in the Adelaide Hills, the Mawson Trail links up with the Mt. Crawford-Cudlee Creek Forest Trail Network, offering a wealth of trails rated beginner to advanced.) The Mawson Trail dished up an unforgettable two-week ride full of fantastic scenery, exotic wildlife, and great people. The adventure is written up in the May and June 2003 editions of *Adventure Cyclist* magazine, accessible online at [www.adventurecycling.org/library/](http://www.adventurecycling.org/library/)

The Mawson is not the only long-distance mountain bike trail that’s either been completed or is under development in Australia. For instance, also situated in the state of South Australia is the Kidman Trail—designed for cyclists, equestrians, and hikers alike—which spans some 150 miles, linking the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Peninsula to the Barossa Valley in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Beautiful country.

Meanwhile, the in-progress Munda Biddi Trail, beginning in the hills north of Perth, Western Australia, will ultimately bear south for some 550 miles, wending through scenic river valleys and spectacular eucalyptus forests, ending at Albany on the southern coast. The Munda Biddi (which translates in the Nyoongar Aboriginal language to “path through the forest”) is made up of bush tracks, fire breaks, and rail-trail conversions. It’s approximately half finished, with long sections presently available for riding. Go to [www.mundabiddi.org.au](http://www.mundabiddi.org.au) for current information.

Western Australia is also home to the 1,250-mile Canning Stock Route, which—though considered one of the longest and most difficult tracks on Earth—has successfully been negotiated by a mountain biker. For an account of that adventure, see “Crossing the Canning” in the January 2008 *Adventure Cyclist*.

The trails mentioned here merely scratch the surface. Home to just 20 million people, Australia covers 95 percent as much land area as the 48 contiguous United States. Obviously, that translates to a lot of wide-open spaces, where you can find a bonanza of great cycling, both on and off the pavement. Any cyclist searching for

new horizons would be well advised to make the long flight to the Australian continent some day, mountain bike or road bike in tow.

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## CLUB TO CLUB

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### Give A Little, Change A Lot

Clubs and shops are strong supporters of Adventure Cycling Association. In addition to being members, many take an extra step to support the mission of Adventure Cycling – they make a donation. As a nonprofit 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law. We wanted to take a few lines to recognize these recent contributions.

Here are the member clubs and shops that made a contribution of \$50 or more to Adventure Cycling Association between March 1, 2008 and April 30, 2008:

- \$100 – Campus Cycles, Denver, CO
- \$100 – Earl's Cyclery & Fitness, South Burlington, VT
- \$100 – Sockeye Cycle Company, Haines, AK
- \$100 – Holland's Bicycles, Coronado, CA
- \$150 – Slow Spokes – Macomb Inc, Sterling Heights, MI
- \$200 – Arlington Heights Bicycle Club, Arlington Heights, IL

These donations help to fund many of our projects that help inspire people to travel by bicycle, including:

- *Pedal Pioneers: A Guide to Bicycle Travel with Kids*, a first-of-its-kind, in-depth guide on how to organize youth bicycle trips.
- Routes and mapping: Help keep our routes updated to ensure cyclists have the most current information available. In the past year, we created new routes like the Allegheny Mountains Loop (in Virginia and West Virginia); the Adirondack Park Loop in upstate New York, and the first spur on the UGRR route – a 152-mile route from Pittsburgh to Erie, PA. In addition, we created our first-ever day-trip map, highlighting a portion of the UGRR route around historic Ripley, Ohio.
- New Routes: With financial help from members like you, we completed the Washington Parks, an amazing 2-map set that travels through some of Washington State's most scenic areas including the Cascades, the Olympic Peninsula and the San Juan Islands. In 2008, we'll begin research on an epic route that will follow the Pacific Crest. We'll also celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, the longest dirt route in the world!

Thank [you](#) for your support!

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## ACA UPDATE

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### 2008 Awards Program

What do 11,000 cookies, free laundry, and the 350 miles of continuous trail have in common? All are generous acts and accomplishments of past Adventure Cycling Awards winners. We are ready to recognize another round of dedicated bicycling advocates, so think back over your years of adventures, and send us your nominations. Every nominee will be thanked with a certificate and letter of appreciation.

Four awards make up our program, and they include the Pacesetter Bicycle Travel Award, the June Curry Trail Angel Award, the Sam Braxton Bike Shop Award and, the Adventure Cycling Volunteer of the Year Award. These awards are celebrated by the bike industry, cycling groups, local communities – and especially by the many thousands of traveling cyclists who benefit from the selfless actions of these award-winners.

The Pacesetter Bicycle Travel Award recognizes and applauds the efforts of those who, through extraordinary efforts, have contributed to the success of bicycle travel in the U.S. This could be accomplished by creating an interconnected set of bicycle routes in a state, designing a touring-length rails-to-trails route, a national bicycle travel resource directory, and much more.

The June Curry Trail Angel Award goes to individuals who have gone out of their way to help traveling cyclists while on route.

The Braxton Bike Shop Award honors a shop that goes above and beyond the call of duty in providing service to bicycle travelers.

The Adventure Cycling Volunteer of the Year Award is our way of saying 'thank you' each year to a volunteer who has helped the organization further its goal of inspiring people of all ages to travel by bicycle. Nominations for this award are accepted from Adventure Cycling staff, leaders, and Board of Directors.

Nominations for 2008 awards will be accepted July 1 through September 30. For further details visit [www.adventurecycling.org/outreach/awards](http://www.adventurecycling.org/outreach/awards).

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## ARTWORK FOR YOU

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If your weather has been anything like ours recently, it can be described in one word, WET!! Get clip art for any mood in our Library Archive at [www.adventurecycling.org/library](http://www.adventurecycling.org/library).

You can search for images and articles to include in your next newsletter or on your website.

Stay dry!

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BikE-News is a monthly publication of Adventure Cycling Association ([www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org)) which comes out the second Tuesday of each month. Our goal is two-fold:

- to provide you with industry information and graphics to share with your members and
- to connect your club with others from around the country for your benefit.

Use this information for your website or put it in your newsletter... anything that helps you get the word out. Just give us a little by-line. If you do use our information, we would love to hear about it.

You can email me at [jtack@adventurecycling.org](mailto:jtack@adventurecycling.org), tell me how and when you used it. Thanks!

If you no longer want to be on this list or if you have an updated contact person, email me, [jtack@adventurecycling.org](mailto:jtack@adventurecycling.org). Thanks!