



Basherama!

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The Official Newsletter of the Kuala Lumpur Mountain Bike Hash

2001 JUNGLE SQUAD:

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KLMBH Annual Dinner 2001

The event that all of you have been waiting for all year is here!

The 2001 KLMBH Annual Dinner is just around the corner and we'd like to invite you to come on over and join in on the food and fun.

No doubt this is just a cover for the KLMBH Annual General Meeting to vote in the 2002 Committee, but think of the bribes! Subsidized food for members! Raffle prizes for members! And a chance to socialize in a clean sterile environment wearing real street clothes! Why, you may not even recognize each other out of Lycra® and polyester!

In keeping with KLMBH tradition, the Annual Dinner will be a buffet affair to be followed by the AGM, which will be rudely interrupted from time to time by the raffle. Due to demands from the members, this year's raffle will be strictly for members only.

To cut a long story short:-

Venue: Liana's Cafe, Taman Megah (just down the row from Bike Pro Centre)

Date: Saturday, 8 December 2001

Time: 7pm or 1900 hours sharp (ouch!)

Members tickets: RM20 per adult/RM10 per junior member (under 18)

Guest tickets: RM35 per person/RM17.50 per child (under 18)

Simply call or e-mail the Jungle Squad above for enquiries or bookings (**Please note that confirmed bookings must be paid for whether or not you show as we have to confirm numbers with the Cafe**):-

See you all there!

DIRECTIONS TO THE CHRISTMAS BASH @ NIRVANA MEMORIAL PARK, SEMENYIH – 9.30 a.m., 9 December 2001

Please note that this is a longer drive than usual bashes. Please allocate at least 45 minutes if you are a speed maniac and an hour for those saner ones. The Nirvana Memorial Park together with Mr. Eric Lim will be providing us with lunch after the Bash.

Option 1 - Via Kajang town:-

Proceed to heart of Kajang by your favourite method. Re-set trip meter at the traffic lights adjacent to the Kajang Police station, also notable for its proximity to the Kajang Stadium. Proceed East towards Semenyih via Route 1. If you are on the right track you will pass Kajang Hospital on your left after 500m. At about 8km you will enter Semenyih; at about 8.8km you will pass a sign for Genting Peras/Kuala Klawang/Sg Lalang; at 9.0km turn left at the traffic lights and proceed North. Follow signboards to Nirvana Memorial Park. Turn left into Nirvana at entrance. At roundabout go across and follow the road markings that will turn left passing the Administration office on your right then go straight till tarmac ends.

Option 2 - Scenic Route via Ampang town:-

Proceed to Ampang town by your favourite method. Please note that the *Ampang-Kuala Lumpur Elevated Highway* is a good option to bypass all the traffic lights on Jalan Ampang. You will pass the Ampang town police station on your right then a Petronas station on your left. At the traffic light junction, zero your tripmeter. Go straight passing all traffic lights then turn right at 1.7km at a traffic light junction. You will be driving along a new highway up a hill. If you do not see this then you are at the wrong turn off. You will see signboards to Kajang. At 4.2km, turn left up the hill. *Remember to check out the panoramic view of KL on your left.* At 12.2km, turn right at traffic light junction. Then take first left passing Batu 14 Hulu Langat police station on left. At 23.5km, turn right at T-junction and follow signboards to Nirvana Memorial Park. *There is a spectacular view of Semenyih Dam on your left.* At 32.8km, turn right into Nirvana at entrance. At roundabout go across and follow the road markings that will turn left passing the Administration office on your right then go straight till tarmac ends.

Please look out for Haremobil, a black Ford Ranger, ADX 26 for registration.

Hares: Matt Schnellar and Melody Tan

www.bikehash.freesevers.com

BITS & BOBS – 1) Swag for sale! **KLMBH Mugs** (RM15), 2nd Annual Int'l Bash t-shirts (Blue; RM12) and 3rd Annual International Bash t-shirts (White RM10) are still available and **make great gifts!** Kindly inquire with Bash Cash. **2) REPEAT! Beer prices for the Bash have increased to RM5.50 each** from RM5.00 due to increased sin taxes levied by the "Powers That Be". **Softies remain at RM1.50 each.** **3)** For all members who have yet to collect their 3rd International Bash t-shirts, you may do so at the next Bash from the registration table. **4)** Could it be the death of bar ends? Ever since I replaced my delaminated and splintered Easton CT2 carbon bar I've been running without bar ends. Now after several months of riding, I can honestly say that I can ride comfortably without the need for bar ends. Having your hands further outboard gives you more leverage and control and at the same time, less tree hooking will occur. A definite advantage when riding Kiara or your local overgrown singletracks. **5)** That's all for Bits & Bobs for now...

Ed.itorial

1. Well folks, the time has come for me to put out my last edition of the Basherama! Basherama! 80 is my 32nd. And what a ride it's been. From Word Perfect 6.0 to Microsoft Word. From 2 pages to 14. From handwritten (Basherama! 53) to stuffed chock-a-block with digital bits and bytes. And from being sent through the post, with its attendant folding, licking and sticking, to delivery via the information superhighway!

I had such grand plans for the Basherama! in addition to what was officially printed. The **Gossip Column** was a brilliant idea until I realized that I was usually the last person to hear all the latest gossip, like who's gotten married recently, who's going out with who, who the parents to be are and so on. There's nothing worse in a newsletter than old news and so that idea was round filed.

An article on **maintenance tips** was mooted but then I realized that I'd have to try all of them out first before publication to ensure that no one sued the pants off of me for not carrying out a proper due diligence exercise. At that rate, it would have taken me forever to publish that article on how to rebuild your XT rear hub or how to completely disassemble and reassemble your V-brakes, even if you lost some parts along the way. Another one for the round file.

The demands on my time also curtailed how much I could put into the Basherama! 12-15 hour days are not uncommon in my profession and then I had to produce the Basherama! That left me little time to enjoy some of the finer things in life, like movies, hanging out with friends, non-bike shopping, kickin' it with my family AND finding that ever elusive soul-mate (this needs some serious time, believe me).

But fear not, for this is not farewell. I look forward to practicing what I've preached and contributing an article or two in the future for the Basherama! to keep it an enjoyable read for all.

2. In recent weeks I've managed to sample a bit of life's little pleasures that I've been missing out on. A movie with some friends, sandwiches and coffee with three ladies in black and dinner with friends both old and new. Hopefully, there's more to come. ☺

3. Saw an advertisement in the newspaper for a book or talk or something entitled "Getting Pregnant Together". Huh? I thought that was the idea!

4. **Stay alert when you're behind the wheel!** While returning to KL from Penang last month, I took my eyes off the road for just a second to take a sip from my water bottle. The next thing I knew was that there was a thick wooden plank lying across my lane in the evening twilight and I was boxed in with nowhere to run.

Luckily I didn't panic. I grabbed the wheel with both hands and let off the gas. Still, I must've been doing at least 100 km/h when I hit it. The impact sent the car into low orbit and it landed with an almighty suspension-bottoming thud. Threw all of the dirt on my floor mat into my shoes too!

Car and driver are shaken not stirred, although car may need alignment job and suspension inspection at the next service. What can I say? Proton boleh!

5. The Malaysian Mountain Biking Association is in the midst of being set up as I type out this edition of the Basherama! Look out for news about it on our webbe site or any other local cycling webbe site soon.

6. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends of the KLMBH who've made my three years as Ed. and a Committee Member such a memorable experience. Some food for thought:- Change is good but it must be implemented properly!

7. Finally, I'd like to wish all Basherama! readers (yes, all five of you) **Selamat Hari Raya, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Ed.

Swap Meet

Property to let - Bangsar Ria townhouse, 1,600-1,700 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 4 split-levels, located near the infamous Tivoli Villa, with back facing the Universiti Malaya reserve land and the Sprint highway (don't worry, far away). 4 units of air cond, semi-furnished, almost ready to move in. RM1,600 per month. Contact Chew at 012 488 3818 or tohhoonchew@yahoo.com.

Pair of Panaracer Fire XC Pro 2.1 inch kevlar bead tires. Black with red sidewalls. Good condition. RM80 ono takes 'em both. Contact Fuji @ 012 307 6815 or ngahfuji@tm.net.my or look for WGK 9898 at the next Bash.

WMF Crystal Glasses - Made in Germany - 15 pieces each for red wine, white wine and champagne for RM18 per piece - 15 pieces each for sherry, liquor, and cognac for RM16 per piece - Contact Fuji @ 012 307 6815 or ngahfuji@tm.net.my.

Lost n' Found at Recent Bashes

Nalini headband. Green. Wet and stinky when found, nice n' clean now. Found after September Bash. Collect from haremobil WGK 9898 at the next bash.

MAA watch. Found some time ago and forgotten for a while. Collect from haremobil WGK 9898 at the next bash.

Yellow Giro Helmet. Found after November Bash. Collect from Bike Pro Centre or call 7805 1989 and speak to Tan Boon Foo.

HARELINE

In order to facilitate the efficient planning of your 2001/2002 cycling calendar, the following Bash dates have been fixed for this year and next year. As in the past two years, your Committee has decided not to adopt a receding hareline, whereby all members are required to set hashes on a rota system, this year and therefore volunteer hares are needed to keep the Hareline going.

Setting a Bash is a rewarding experience as it involves planning, much adventure, camaraderie, some deviant thinking and a great sense of satisfaction when the pack charges off down your false trail and/or your fellow Bashers curse you out at the end of the Bash and then buy you a beer. In fact, setting a Hash is so much fun as evidenced by the Hare Tonic on page 7.

Anyone interested in setting a Bash can **contact the Melody, the Hare-Raiser**, and for those who have no experience in setting a Bash, fear not for your Committee shall pair you up with an experienced Hare who shall pass on his/her wisdom free of charge. **Hares will also have the exclusive use of the KLMBH guillotine and the KLMBH directional signs to help prepare for their Bash (Ooh! Ahh!).**

Bash	Bash #	Date	Hares/Notes
December	87	9 December 2001	Matt Schnellar and Melody
January	88	27 January 2002	Low Min Chee and Eric Teo (tentatively called the Fatt Fatt Bash)
February	89	24 February 2002	Scott Roberts and A.N. Other
March	90	31 March 2002	Hares needed!
April	91	28 April 2002	Hares needed!
May	92	26 May 2002	Hares needed!
June	93	30 June 2002	Hares needed!
July	94	28 July 2002	Hares needed!

2001/2002 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event/Remarks	Date	Event/Remarks	Date	Event/Remarks
8 Dec	KLMBH Annual Dinner	16-17 Dec	Malacca Bike Hash	27 Jan	KLMBH January Fatt Fatt Bash
9 Dec	KLMBH Christmas Bash	23 Dec	KOTRT Fellowship Ride - Gopeng	17 Feb	Singapore Bike Hash
9 Dec	Singapore Bike Hash	20 Jan	Singapore Bike Hash	24 Feb	KLMBH February Bash

The Legend of Botak Hill

And so it was that I decamped to Penang for a long weekend of fun in the sun. Actually, it was more of a getaway from work and family obligations and so the planning was done very discreetly.

Paul Sweeney would be up in Penang around the same time and so we arranged to hook up with Azmi and the Knights for some riding and, as always, delicious Penang cuisine.

I drove up on a Saturday afternoon, hoping to catch the 1700 ride in Balik Pulau which Paul would be riding too. Lunch was a Subway sandwich on the go, which I managed to finish at the Duta toll due to some delay at the Touch n' Go refill lane.

One speed trap roadblock later I was cruising past some of the vintage Rolls Royce's heading to Penang as part of their tour of Malaysia. No signal lights for them. They just stuck out their arms when they had to overtake.

I crossed the Penang Bridge in good order and then discovered that half the population of Penang was apparently also headed to Balik Pulau and caught in the same jam right after the airport.

When I cleared the jam I was late for the ride but my immediate problem was that I couldn't find the On On site and I couldn't raise anyone on my mobile! Since I had to pee really bad, I decided to hightail it over to Georgetown and check into my hotel. They'd find me sooner or later.

The 1926 Hotel was pleasant enough and centrally located on Burmah Road. My mobile rang as I lazed about in my room and Azmi said that he'd swing by and, since his truck was full, lead me to dinner.

When they pulled into the hotel parking lot, I jumped into my car and tailgated them towards dinner. We ended up at a Nasi Kandar joint on McAllister Road. I parked and walked over to the truck.

Missing the Balik Pulau ride may have been a blessing in disguise. The four bikes in the back of Azmi's truck smelt like they'd been ridden through a cow farm, several times over. Luckily Azmi, Paul, Shah and Sup had had time to hose themselves off before heading over to my hotel!

Cont'd >>

The Legend of Botak Hill Cont'd

“What’s good here?” asked Paul. “Black chicken, sotong, mutton tripe” replied Azmi. Paul passed on the tripe (Nancy Boy!) but I had it all. And it was all soooo good. Despite the feeling that my arteries were hardening with each mouthful. During the course of the dinner Josephine and Gary joined us too.

We made arrangements to meet for the next day’s ride and broke up for the evening. We were going to ride a place called Valdor, on the mainland, which even Azmi had not ridden. It would be a day of discovery for all of us.

I picked up Paul at his swank digs (The Northam) and we headed over to Azmi’s house. We loaded our bikes and gear into his truck and off we went, right into a rainstorm. Luckily, things cleared up as we rolled back over the Penang Bridge.

We had breakfast at the corner coffee shop next to the shop of our hosts, Viper Cycles. S.T., Julian, Anwar and his son also joined us. Then, after a round of introductions, we were off. The parking lot was a Chinese Clan Association building. We geared up and headed off down the road. 50 meters later, we turned into a chicken farm. 50 meters later, the singletrack began to reach for the sky and I twisted for my granny gear.

Several stops later we reached the top of the ridge and jumped onto the service road for some high-tension cables. The road went down and up and down and up. I watched Azmi climb some major walls on his superlight Cannondale hardtail. Then I watched some of the Viper gang do the same on their heavy full-suspension bikes. My hat goes off to all of them!

Eventually we dropped back to a kampung and hit the road. Paul began to have cramps in his calves so we dropped back a bit.

We came around one corner and the pack was waiting at a junction with an estate dirt road. They immediately took off down the paved road and we obediently followed. We soon found ourselves in resting in a durian orchard.

“We’re going to climb this hill” said someone, “The view is great and it’s worth the climb!”

“What’s it called”, I asked. “**Botak Hill!**”, came the reply. “Botak” means bald. Oh Oh! That didn’t sound too good.

Sure enough, the climb was long, tough and exposed to the sun. All of a sudden the Viper guys were flying past me in the opposite direction.

“Turn around”, they said. It was an out and back ride! Rats! I resolved to reach the summit, even if I had to push. And push I did, several minutes later. But the view was incredible.

Then back down the hill all the way to the junction with the estate dirt road. That was the real way back. They’d decided to show us **Botak Hill** since we’d made the trip all the way from KL.

We were breathlessly honored but Paul’s cramps, a result of the previous day’s ride, were getting worse. The trail wound itself uphill through an abandoned oil palm estate and a couple of orchards. I was almost out of energy when we reached the top.

Someone gave Paul some Deep Heat for his cramps and that, and the coming downhill, did the trick for him. And what a downhill it was!

Super steep long cemented singletrack, wet in some parts, dry in others. I could smell my brake pads burning as I hung back behind the saddle. At the foot of the descent we hit a road and 50 meters later, voila, the cars!

The Nasi Kandar lunch was delecticious as always. After parting ways with Azmi and Paul back on the island, I drove around town to familiarize myself with the roads and the Penang drivers. You think KL’s bad? Go to Penang and you’ll have a whole new perspective. I guarantee it!

That night, Azmi, Sup and Family and Gary took us out for seafood in Teluk Bahang. It pays to go with the locals as they know where to eat and what to order. Crabs, clams, mussels, calamari, fish, vege’s and seafood noodles were tucked away in a safe place.

We then adjourned for coffee and conversation at the Gurney Walk, THE sidewalk café area in Penang.

Gurney Walk was quite happening with all the beautiful people coming out to have a cuppa or a cup of Joe with their friends. The entire walk was lined with every known coffee joint around and some that I’d never heard of and had just set up in Penang.

Gary had brought a mini-bike with him to prove a point. The week before, some security guards had chased off the guys after a nite ride because “bicycles weren’t allowed”. Gee, if only they realized how much those bicycles were worth! And it’s not as if anyone was out there to cause trouble. Obviously, they couldn’t tell the difference between inner city punks on BMX’s and respectable mountain bikers on the best equipment around. Shame on them.

We talked until we were sleepy and then decided to call it a night. By the time I got to bed it was almost 2 a.m.

I had big plans for Monday. I’d ride around the city on my bike, I thought. But after seeing how aggressive Penang drivers were and after almost running over a cyclist myself, I decided to just laze about in the hotel until lunchtime.

Josephine, Paul and I met up at Azmi’s house and we all climbed into Paul’s Cherokee to rendezvous with Sup and Family and Shah for a traditional Malay lunch up in Tanjung Bungah. We took the back way from Mt. Erskine to Vale of Tempe, winding up and down the narrow road.

As we came around one downhill corner, we were confronted by two Kancil’s coming straight at us in line abreast formation. Paul swerved to within inches of the retaining wall on our left and we managed to squeeze by without a scratch. Don’t know about the Kancil’s though. They stopped and it looked like they had collided. Not our problem though.

I knew that Penang drivers were aggressive, but suicidal? Sheesh!

The Legend of Botak Hill Cont'd

Lunch was delicious as usual. Sambal petai, ikan bakar, kerabu, assorted ulam with sambal belacan, fried chicken, udang galah and fish head curry. I ate until I could eat no more. Little did I know that I would pay for it later.

After lunch we headed back to Azmi's house where we parted ways with Paul and Josephine. They were checking out and heading back to KL that afternoon. Azmi and I paid Gary a visit at his shop.

We also paid a visit to Chin Aik's shop a few doors down. I spied some 8-speed shifters in his display case. Woo Hoo!

That night Azmi invited a whole bunch of people to his house for durians, including Alan, who related his experiences from the PCC's Genting Highlands ride. We chatted and chomped away and later adjourned to Azmi Tom Yam (no relation to Azmi) for a drink.

That's when lunch caught up with me, if you know what I mean! That cut the night short in a real hurry. Sorry Guys!

The next day I had some work done on my bike at Gary's shop before checking out of the hotel and heading off on a leisurely drive back to KL.

Many thanks go out to all the guys mentioned in this story who made our trip up to Penang so enjoyable through their friendship and hospitality. Hopefully we can reciprocate when they all come down to KL next.

And what does this story have to do with the Legend of Botak Hill? Nothing, really. ☺

Ed.

Election Fever @ the KLMBH!

Election fever shall once again upon us @ the KLMBH as the present committee gets kicked out unceremoniously at the conclusion of the Annual Dinner.

The Committee positions up for grabs and their responsibilities are as follows:-

Basher-in-Chief

- Leader of the bunch who requires great organizational, (crisis) management, and logistical skills to keep the KLMBH alive and kickin'

Hare Raiser

- Responsible for raising the hares for the hareline
- Responsible for light secretarial duties as well

Bash-Cash

- Responsible for the cash ("dosh") of the Bash
- Responsible for the Habedashery ("stuff")

News-Bash

- Responsible for producing the **Basheramal** on a monthly basis

Bash-Piss

- Responsible for liquid refreshments @ the On-On Site
- Requires vehicle large enough for the "C****n" (preferably 4wd)
- Knowledge of where to obtain ice on festive weekends and to accurately predict the number and type/breakdown of drinks required per Bash is an added advantage

www.Bash

- Responsible for constant updating of the KLMBH webbe site with news, gossip, pictures, information, links, and amusing/informative stories
 - Required to entertain e-mail queries from around the globe
- Happy voting!

Ed.

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 or exclusive Jerseys) with the intention of presenting them to the deserving hares as soon as possible (whenever that is!).

The score as it stands as updated by Speedy the Dog on our very own webbe site and further updated by my own count as at 1 December 2001 is presented below. As mentioned before, if you feel that you've set more Bashes than listed below, kindly contact Ed. or Speedy the Dog to set the record straight.

Azizul Adnan	14	Jake Slodki	3	Andy Knellar	1	Paul Booth	1
Richard Aubrey (Awarded)	12	Alistair Swanson	2	Angus Knowles	1	Peter Pickernell	1
Eric Teo	8	Simon Kenney	2	Annett Frohlich	1	Phaedra	1
Ngah Fuji Bakri (Oi, where's me mug?)	8	Dick Shelly	2	S.Y. Chong	1	Pinhead	1
Gordon Fraser	6	Grant Lee	2	Clara Chin	1	Simon Ng	1
Pat Brunson	6	John Hagedorn	2	Colin Jackson	1	Steve Ellison	1
Hulk	6	John Mugford	2	Dave Baker	1	Kenny Stewart	1
Peter Bloomer	5	John Spencer	2	David Foo	1	Karen Brunson	1
Barry Hills	5	Kelvin Wong	2	Emma Booth	1	Janie Ravenhurst	1
Mike Elliot	5	Noel Brennan	2	Geoff Stecyk	1	Paul Moir	1
Paul Sweeney	5	Nigel Blott	2	Graham	1	Jamie Knowles	1
Denis French	4	Shariman Alwani	2	Ian Miller	1	Robbie Knowles	1
Alison Keeler	4	Speedy the Dog	2	James Aubry	1	Charl Bester	1
Shaharudin Damis	4	Tan Boon Foo	2	Jeff Dean	1	Ingrid Burke	1
Raymond Keys	4	Larry Chan	2	Johnathan Startin	1	Scott Roberts	1
Bill Steven	3	Melody Tan	2	Marie Benedix	1	James Lim	1
Mark Chaterton	3	Chew	2	Mark Clark	1	Gostarnjoe	1
Peter Heston	3	Conrad Fawcett	2	Mike Smit	1	Matt Schnellard	1
Animal Elfrod	3	Andy Blake	1	Mike Wright	1	Nick Smith	1