Basherama!

The Official Newsletter of the Kuala Lumpur Mountain Bike Hash

2002 JUNGLE SQUAD:

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9.30 a.m. sharp, 5 May 2002

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Hares: Raymond 'Rocketboy' Keys and Matt 'Billboard' Schneller

Directions: Zero trip meter at Jln Kuching Toll (Heading towards Ipoh/Selayang); at 3.7 km take slip-road (on left) up to roundabout; take 3 o'clock heading to Kuantan. At 5.2 km take left slip-road down towards Batu Caves; at 5.5 km take the exit on the left which is clearly signed Hulu Yam. At 6.3km there are traffic light (opposite Milo advertisement board) filter into the right lane & right. Head straight from here onward, passing 3 sets of traffic lights. (the last traffic light will be approx 7.5 km). At 7.9 km there is a junction, take the right, which in reality is kinda straight on. At 8.4 you will pass a mosque and school on the right. At 10.3 km, you will see the Cityliner bus depot on the right & just beyond this there is a large new blue warehouse construction. Turn right at this junction. At 10.6 kms there is a cross roads intersection, take the left turn, and go straight until T junction at 11.0 kms. Ten meters on your right you will see a white iron railing gate with the name Empangan Batu - you have arrived! (Those of you who know the area may choose to go straight on at the bus depot/new blue warehouse junction, but it is actually a third of a kilometer longer if you do!) Drive through the gates (but only if they are open!!!) giving a wave and a pleasant smile to the guard. Drive along the narrow road which bears left up the hill. At the top bear right, and you will see a wide open space by the edge of the dam, park here, (unfortunately it is in the open so bring your sun screen for the vehicle as well as for yourself, although a lot of the ride is in shade). Be careful not to park too close to the edge unless you wish to test the amphibious qualities of your vehicle!

Other Information:

Travel time, at speeds below the designated limits (how the heck did he manage to measure that I hear you ask!) is approximately 17 minutes from the Jln Kuching Toll, or 14 minutes if you arrive on the roundabout by another route. Make sure you arrive early with your 'trusted steed' already fully functioning & serviced (Boon Foo - don't forget my commission), as we will be conducting the briefing at 9.20 for a 9.30 start.

Also please remember to bring your helmet. No helmet - no ride! & lots of Mossie spray, as these little beggars will be hungry have feasted on Matt & myself some 20 hours earlier.

If you possess more than one pair of shoes, don't bring your best Shimano or Sidi versions as they may get slightly wet! I trust they have dried out since the last excellent Bash set by Scott & Paul.

For those of you who have ridden this area before, there are some new exciting trails for you to test your mettle on. For those who haven't you will be amazed that such excellent, scenic single track exists on your door step, and you were not even aware of it.

Matt & I are striving hard to cut new trail, and are confident we can stretch the long ride to an excess of 20 kms, or more if you bother to assist & do your bit at the checks.

Those who like/love Kiara will also be pleased to know that the hills next to the dam offer similar potential to some of the most challenging trails of Kiara, and will exist long after Kiara is completely covered with tarmacadam, concrete & vehicles, but it will require further work to reap the true rewards. This area is after all the water catchment area for the dam. Enjoy!

RocketBoy.

Ulu Rening Bash - The Scenic Ride

"Why are you doing the short run?!" was the question you will be asked most when you choose to do the Scenic Ride. Liz said she was hashing in the area the previous evening and had done a trial ride that morning so she thought she had abused herself enough, Rei said she had not been cycling for weeks and Shi Fun ("Coke") said she was recovering from a cold. My prepared answer was that I had just completed the Eco-X Race (did someone say "but that was three weeks ago"?) and that would have sounded less lame than Coke's excuse if the winners of the same Race, Hui-Peng, Sharon and Mary had not opted for the Long Ride despite arriving late from a car-bash (directions to the bash site were extremely challenging). So, the line I used which I think everyone bought was that Scott had a reputation for setting enormously torturous trails hence I reckoned the Scenic Ride would just about equal that of an ordinary Long Run.

There were nine Scenic Riders and my ride buddy, Coke and I were the last to set off. Just then I realized that I had to turn back to the car to get my spare tube when Thomas very reassuringly sniggered, "No need-lah, just walk back!". I went over in my mind the trail description; same route as the Long Riders for the first two kilometers then we were to take a right turn from where there would be only four checks till finish. We would also be riding along a stream and at the last crossing the river would be clean and cool to take a dip. The total distance was to be only eight kilometers. Now, wait a minute, did Scott say eight kilometers or eight checks? Coke had to confuse us more by wondering if it was eight kilometers till the next check. We were hopeless as ride buddies and somehow we always ended up being last and cycling together. However there is a certain consolation in that for we could ride at our own pace and stop whenever we wanted, knowing that the other would just as much welcome the break, to adjust the saddle, to reach for trail food, admire the scenery etc. It was quite fun getting lost together (on numerous previous occasions) and being located (we were almost always located, we did not locate the rest).

Just after the second kilometer intersection we bumped into Fuji and Chew who appeared helplessly lost (well, maybe I had exaggerated a little). Up until that point the path was wide open and clearly marked so we wondered how they had landed themselves in that predicament. Well, maybe Scott was being very evil to the Long Riders. Anyway, we did not see any other Long Riders who had inadvertently strayed onto the Scenic Route.

So, off we went anticipating a pleasant Sunday ride and a nice river at the end. Then the trail led us to a tree but very quickly we got back on track because Liz and Rei who were in front of us had connected the trail for the benefit of the back riders. I learnt that this was good bash etiquette.

We were glad for the additional company. Riding in a small pack always gave me the feeling that we were survivors of some lost troop, relying on one another to find our way out to civilization. Each rider played an active part in trail finding, something we would otherwise not get to do if riding in a large group as every possible path would have been checked out by someone else in front.

It seemed we had now done five kilometers but where were the hills? I could not have been so super fit that I had not been realizing that I was climbing. Besides Scott could not really have been that kind. The only time I remember having to come down from my bike was when I almost rode over a decomposing snake. Coke thought Scott might have been saving one major unforgiving climb towards the end.

Somewhere after the fourth check, there was a particularly ingenious route. The trail led off away from the main path and down a slope. Keeping my eyes on where the trail was leading to, I stayed on the main path and went round to the bottom of the slope, to find that the trail had ended abruptly. Approximately two hundred meters to the right was a trail but I was told that that was the Out-trail. I was puzzled why we did not take it if it would lead us out. Instead Liz led us further down the slope where we had to swing our bikes across a muddy creek (we learnt later that this was the nice river Scott was raving about). I wondered if there was an intelligent way to read bash trails that I have not figured out yet, but I will first have to be able to distinguish Out-trails from In-trails.

Since the beginning of the ride, the trail had been very gentle with no technical sections. By now we had been cycling for over an hour and almost reaching the fifth kilometer but the river on which my mind was deeply fixated by now was still no where in sight. We then stumbled upon the fifth check on a narrow single track so we back-tracked to the main path where we found the trail a short distance away. It had re-joined the Long Run. We thought that perhaps we might have mistakenly taken a short cut and ended up back at the beginning of the Route. I have always found that part of the fun in mountain biking and bashing was the uncertainty in the journey and it was this adventurous element which keeps me hooked ride after ride.

The five of us emerged at 11.30 a.m. from the plantation canopy out into the blazing hot sun, with Stephen, Su-Yin and Paul following a short while later. One hour and a half of wonderful leisurely ride. The Scenic Ride is all about enjoying the environment, being aware of everything around you, having time to get to know one another and not having to rush through the ride the way we rush through life Mondays to Fridays. Give me the Scenic Ride anytime, you will see me there at the next Bash, no excuses needed.

Post-Ride Brief by Two Dogs F**ing

During the pre-brief yesterday morning, I forgot to emphasize that there were a few people who unwittingly helped out in setting the ride. Paul was the one noted in the Basharama, but equally important was Chris Williams, Liz Roberts (me wife!), and Jo Williams (Chris' better half!). All four participated in some way, shape or form starting over a month ago. They even agreed to wake up at the ungodly hour of 5 a.m. yesterday for the drive to Ulu Rening to help finish setting the trail! It was a long day, so many humble thanks. A note about the location. This estate extends all the way to Kuala Kubu Baru (KKB), and any deviation from the trail we encountered could have dumped you on Route 1 to Ipoh, or even the back road to Genting. For visualization on where these roads exist in relationship to the trail we rode:

- 1. Estate homes. For those of you on the long ride, remember the estate homes we drove through and the main track we were on for a short bit. This side of the estate is known as Nambi. If you follow that road in the direction we were riding (without crossing the river!!), you will eventually wind up on Route 1. The exit point of this dirt track is between the Shell station and the Chinese cemetery 1/2 way between Batang Kali and KKB.
- 2. Somewhere behind the estate homes. Joe Adnan found a track on the otherside of the rubber trees forward from Check #4. I didn't even know this existed, but now I do! Thanks! This morning I called a friend who knows this estate even better than I do, and it apparently takes you behind the estate kampung and connects with the main artery coming in/out off Nambi. The intersection is just beyond the homes on the left hand side past the boom gate.
- 3. Getting to KKB. You can take the main artery out of the estate and turn right just past a grassy meadow another 1/2 km after our 1st river crossing. This will eventually take you to some small share holdings outside of KKB nearby the fish ponds (for those of you who know that area). The alternative way is via of my shortcuts to get in front of the FROPs yesterday ... in the estate settlement, just prior to the first row of homes, was a right turn. Hidden from your view was a bridge across the river!!! That track will take you to KKB. Eventually, lah. Lots of palm, rubber and orchard holdings back there.
- 4. Eco Resorts. There are two eco-tourism resorts inside of these estates that cater to mostly local residents (i.e. no a/c, mossie netting or other such creature comforts!). They do not advertise it widely, and are very low-key ... don't know how they earn any income! You may have noticed two sign-posts between Checks 5 and 6 for one resort, and after Check #6 for the second resort.
- 5. Genting Reach. Someone told me that there was a way up to Genting this past weekend. Yes, there WAS. However, it was primarily by foot and used by a special police force known as "Vat 69". They were created as a counter communist terrorist group and spent months on end in the outlying hills where we were biking. One of these former commandoes said a trail existed around three years ago, but it has since been overgrown. If I find the trail, and if it can be cleared up, one of those involved will let you know!

What I'm basically trying to tell you is that this is a superb location for a lot longer distances or more opportunities for bashing without doing what we did. There's also an ideal parking venue coming in from the cemetery side. The huge grassy field is a lot more pleasant than where we parked yesterday ... but it's even worse on low-slung Protons!!! Upgrade time, lah! Pajeros rule!!!

Finally, one of the estate workers drove up to me on his motorcycle before we set off on the ride. Apparently we're supposed to get prior notification to riding here! Usual story whereby we think he wanted an ang pow! Make sure you have a foreigner along who stands about 6'3" and can plead ignorant to cakap Bahasa Melayu!!! Just kidding. In the seven years that I've run in this estate, not once have I encountered someone requiring us to contact the estate manager.

Many thanks again to Chris, Liz, Jo & Paul.

Cheers, TDF aka Scott Roberts

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Ed.itorial

- 1. Please note that the April bash has been moved to Sunday, 5th May instead.
- Thank you to Joe, Matt, Sany and Fuji for setting the Special Bash at Kiara, Saturday 6th March on such short notice. Hope the riders that turned up had a good time.
- 3. Congratulations to Vimala on her first project since she started her Production company. *Casa Impian* is aired at 9.30am every Monday on Astro Ria.
- 4. There are chances for one to hone up those cycling skills to be the next FRB. It is the name given to the first basher back the *Front Running Bastard*. Please see Upcoming Events and select a day or evening to spend with your most trusted steed, your bicycle.

Techtips by Casper

No.3

Before cutting gear or brake cable housing, insert a short length of old cable into the housing at the point which is to be cut. Remove the excess cable after cutting. The old cable will prevent the teflon liner from crimping, making installation of a new cable a breeze.

No.4 When changing an old, frayed rear derailleur cable, don't throw it away. If only the end is frayed and the rest of the cable is in good condition, you can still use it for the front shifter.

KOTRT's LANGKAWI ESCAPADE 15-17 Mar 2002

How often do you wish you could escape from the humdrum of your daily routine and get away for the weekend on an exotic island, soaking up the sun and the sea, feasting on grilled fish and tiger prawns and riding new trails on your favorite mountain bike? Well, that's what the KOTRT's Langkawi Escapade was all about. Wish you were there!

Wake up call

Tnoot, tnoot, tnoot! What? Morning already (?) as I reached out to turn off the digital alarm clock. It was 5.00am on a Friday morning. Time to get up and get the kids ready for the trip to Langkawi. Plan was to meet up with Rin at Azmi's house to transport his bike and luggage, drop off everything at the Swettenham Pier, park the pickup truck at Azmi's place, and get his dad to drop us off at the pier. We were running late (as usual?). The ferry was supposed to leave at 8.00am and we got a frantic call from Sany at 7.45am, wondering where the heck we were. Made it in time for the ferry though. Phew, some anxious moments as we rushed through the morning traffic.

Le Tour d' Langkawi

Arrived at Langkawi at 10.45am and there to meet us was our hosts, Mr. Wong of the Langkawi MTB group and his riders. We rented a 12 seater for the passengers and loaded up our bikes and luggages on 2 separate vans and proceeded to Dawood restaurant for refreshments and lunch. Seems this place was the regular meeting place and takeoff point for the Langkawi riders on their Fri morning rides. The food was OK but the cold drinks were more than welcome on this very hot and humid day. Don't know why, but it seems to be hotter in Langkawi. Our thoughts shifted to Alan and the Nuikars on their maiden ride in Pos Mensun the following day...riding in the sweltering hot mid day sun, pushing the bikes up the killer stretch towards Lembah Bertam while we were cooling off with ice cold 100plus here in Langkawi.

Checked in at Federal Villa, rested for a while and it was off on a tour of Langkawi. Have to keep the family happy mah! So it was off to the Underwater World, some shopping at the duty free shop, a quick tour of the Anna and the King film site at Pantai Kok and a visit to the Galleria Perdana to view the gifts that was received by our Prime Minister. Alan, you'll drool over the Conalgo road bike that was on display there, man! And then disaster struck. The 12 seater refused to start. In fact along the way, we had already detected strange noises coming from the engine compartment, but pressed on nevertheless. Now the engine gave up on us and we had to call the rental company to get a replacement vehicle. (1st breakdown, more to come!!) It was a long wait and the guards at the museum were ready to throw us out when the rental guys managed to get a hired van to take the children and women folks to Wonderland seafood restaurant for dinner and we guys went in the replacement AD Resort. Do you know that Rin had his dinner here religiously for a year eating the same 3 dishes of fish, fried eggs with oyster and vege?? Of course we had a more sumptuous meal, thanks to Wong and the Langkawi riders who were gracious enough to belanja dinner. Yum, yum!!

After sending the children and women folks back to the hotel, it was teh tarik time at the most happening place in Langkawi, at the promenade in front of the Tiara Hotel. Well it was most happening when Rin was there coupla of years ago, but the place was dark and deserted when we got there. So much for feasting our eyes on the "exotic birds" of Langkawi. Without the distraction, we got a chance to really get to know the Langkawi MTBers, Wong. Sam, Fatt, Seong and a few other riders better, talking about, what else, bikes and trails. Some of them had taken leave to join us for the ride on Sat morning. Thanks guys.

To be continued

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) That's all for Bits & Bobs for now...

Swap Meet

Saddle for sale: Selle Italia Flite Titanium Genuine Gel. RM140 ono. Contact Chew at 012 488 3818 or tohhoonchew@yahoo.com.

Wheelset; Shimano XT hubs, Mavic 618 front and 517 Ceramic rear rims, DT butted spokes and brass nipples; no skewers; RM400 ono. Contact Chew at 012 488 3818 or tohhoonchew@yahoo.com.

e-Trex Summit GPS (reads altitude as well) bought in Feb 01 for RM1,200. Rarely used. Selling for RM500.

Email tohhoonchew@yahoo.com

Property to let - Bangsar Ria townhouse, 1,600-1,700 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 4 split-levels, located near the infamous Tivolli 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 nqahfuji@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 haremobile WGK 9898 at the next bash.

MAA watch. Found some time ago and forgotten for a while. Collect from haremobile 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.

30 June

2002 C	alendar	of U	pcoming	Events
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Date
Event/Remarks
Date
Event/Remarks
Date
Event/Remarks
KOM 1 – Tapah to

20 Apr KOM 1 - Tapah to Brinchang 5 May KLMBH April Bash 9 June Malakoff Duathlon Series 20 Apr Body Shop Bicycle Rally 24-26 May KOTRT Sg. Lembing Trip 9 June AXN Eco-Xcapade Adventure Race 21 Apr Tapah to Brinchang with BikePro 2 June KLMBH May Bash

KLMBH June Bash

Weekly rides

Day Venue Remarks

Tuesday

Muhibbah Restaurant, Taman Tun Dr Ismail at 7.45pm 38km-TTDI to Lake Gardens & back via KLGCC, Sri Hartamas and Kenny Hills.

Wednesda

Universitti Malaya, Jalan Universiti Entrance guard house at 7.30pm Cycle laps on a 5km loop and run laps around the lake after. A good *brick* workout.

Wednesday

Puchong Perdana, near Tractors at 8.00pm 40km - Cycle to Putrajaya and back with Boon Foo and gang.

Thursday

Opposite IOI Mall in Puchong at 7.30pm 50km – Cycle to Putrajaya and back with Peloton 2K.

Friday

SJMC, Subang Jaya at 7.30pm 40km – Cycle on bike lane of Kesas Highway.

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HARELINE

In order to facilitate the efficient planning of your 2002 cycling calendar, the following Bash dates have been fixed for 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 Eric Teo, 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!).

ncip prepare for their basis (out, runs).				
Bash	Bash #	Date	Hares/Notes	
Special	90b	6 April 2002	Casper, Matt, Fuji and Sany	
April	91	5 May 2002	Raymond 'Rocketboy' Keys and Matt 'Billboard' Schneller	
May	92	2 June 2002	Nick Smith and Casper	
June	93	30 June 2002	Rainman and Chew	
July	94	28 July 2002	Hares needed!	
August	95	25 August 2002	El Hefe and Thomas	
September	96	29 September 2002	Hares needed!	
October	97	27 October 2002	Hares needed!	
November	98	24 November 2002	Hares needed!	
December	99	29 December 2002	Hares needed!	

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 January 2002 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	15	Melody Tan	3	Angus Knowles	1	Paul Booth	1
Richard Aubrey (Awarded)	12	Matt Schneller	3	Annett Frohlich	1	Peter Pickernell	1
Eric Teo	9	Alistair Swanson	2	S.Y. Chong	1	Phaedra	1
Ngah Fuji Bakri (Oi, where's me mug?)	9	Simon Kenney	2	Chris Williams	1	Pinhead	1
Gordon Fraser	6	Dick Shelly	2	Clara Chin	1	Simon Ng	1
Pat Brunsdon	6	Grant Lee	2	Colin Jackson	1	Steve Ellison	1
Hulk	6	John Hagedorn	2	Dave Baker	1	Kenny Stewart	1
Paul Sweeney	6	John Mugford	2	David Foo	1	Karen Brunsdon	1
Peter Bloomer	5	John Spencer	2	Emma Booth	1	Janie Ravenhurst	1
Barry Hills	5	Kelvin Wong	2	Geoff Stecyk	1	Paul Moir	1
Mike Elliot	5	Noel Brennan	2	Graham	1	Jamie Knowles	1
Denis French	4	Nigel Blott	2	Ian Miller	1	Robbie Knowles	1
Alison Keeler	4	Shariman Alwani	2	James Aubry	1	Charl Bester	1
Shaharudin Damis	4	Speedy the Dog	2	Jeff Dean	1	Ingrid Burke	1
Raymond Keys	4	Tan Boon Foo	2	Jo Williams	1	James Lim	1
Bill Steven	3	Larry Chan	2	Johnathan Startin	1	Gostarnjoe	1
Mark Chaterton	3	Chew	2	Liz Roberts	1	Andy Blake	1
Peter Heston	3	Conrad Fawcett	2	Marie Benedix	1	Nick Smith	1
Animal Elford	3	Scott Roberts	2	Mark Clark	1	Low Min Chee	1
Jake Slodki	3	Mohamad Sany	2	Mike Smit	1	Thomas Fong	1
		Andy Knellar	1	Mike Wright	1		
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