

# Passion-Policy

## The Evolution of a Cycling Community.

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Part 1-Grant Lamont

Passion

MBTA Conference

Chase B.C.

The resort community of Whistler is world famous for the incredible mountain bike culture which infests the place 7 months a year.

How did this come about?

In 1989 a bunch of guys got together over a couple of beers pissed off that the man was trying to huck us out of Garibaldi Provincial Park. We formed WORCA, I was member 8.

We didn't spend much time moaning though and quickly and clandestinely helped create one of the most dynamic and varietal mtb trail networks on earth.

Guys like Binty and Big Dan who both like to ride hard and steep were out there hacking away. Building such classics as Binty's, Mel's, Danimal, Shit Happens, Big Kahuna, Beaver Pass and River Runs Through It to name a few!

We started getting lots of trails so Rolo and I got these weekly races going that cost only a Loonie to enter.

One hell of a deal with a couple of beer and some grub at the end that kind of caught on.

All of our 8 guys turned into 50 then 150, then 300, then 500 from all over the community, even girls!

WORCA now boasts a membership hovering around 1200 in a town of 9700 whose back grounds and lives are as diverse as the trails we all ride.

These weekly rides raise over \$300 per week for the club along with providing an excellent source of exercise and interaction within the community.

Now the club not only focuses on races but also our youth, skills development, trail maintenance , risk management and important partnerships with the Municipality through the Whistler 2020 program in regards to managing the trails in Whistler.

We work quite closely with our environmental folks in AWARE. Each year we try to re-route certain sections of trail that are impacting the environment in an adverse manner and work with them in

design plans for new trails.

We embarked on a long range plan in co-operation with the RMOW (Whistler Cycling Plan) which is now bearing fruit as well.

It was important to inventory and identify the missing parts of the mix to ensure that we had trails for all levels of riders while not impacting the existing trail character in many of the local trails.

Youth Programs.

One of the biggest things we are now doing is getting kids out on their bikes riding trails. We have been organizing WORCA YOUTH CAMPS for 3 years now and put close to 200 young, local riders through 5 day, 6 hour camps. Now our family membership is soaring and the support for the trails is stronger than ever.

I will now pass it over to Frank Savage.