

The week started off in trying circumstances with the tragic news of James's untimely passing in his sleep (while competing at the Cape Epic, with Shaun Lewis). We were all numb with the news from South Africa and trying to respond in some sensible fashion. James and Shaun had wanted to do the epic for a long time and were very excited to be there. We finally decided to make the trip down on Friday to setup and prepare. Mild Canberra weather greeted us, albeit rather dusty, and meant for good 24hr racing.

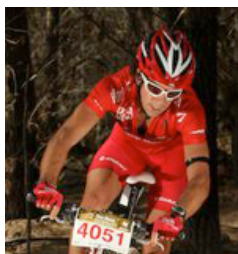


The organisers of the mont dedicated the first hour to honoring James Williamson. Proceedings were started with a minute's silence, and eulogy followed by a ride around sparrow hill in James's honor. Seeing 2000+ riders roll around sparrow in remembrance of a great aussie brought home how many folks he touched. His untimely passing will leave a massive hole in the mtb fabric, and his tireless efforts to further our sport will be missed. Most of all, we will miss a person so full of life always willing to help others while sporting his trademark cheeky grin, and razor sharp wit. A more giving person is hard to imagine. Jimi will be sorely missed, however always in our thoughts and never forgotten!

James Williamsons funeral service will take place on Fri 9th Apr, 2.00pm, Chevalier Chapel, Burradoo, NSW <http://bit.ly/cqjdzA>

Foursomes Open Male Winners: GIANT Drapac Porsche (Stu Shaw, Lachy Norris, Joe Lewis, Michael Phelan)

Joe Lewis started off the le-mans style start with a very fast lap, handing over to Lachy Norris in the lead. The team pretty much held this lead throughout the race (except for a short while), and were never really headed for overall honors. The only team to get within striking distance was the Anytime Fitness/Onya boys who were on the same lap at the finish. The closest foursome however was over a lap behind.



The team also had another secret weapon, Sandy who drove down from Melbourne to oversee the clockwork precision of the team (changes and other preparation including the all important food intake). In the end, 27 laps in just 23hrs of racing is some effort!



The team ran the new 2010 Podda4L Mk2 and the RadXL's to give them the edge in the night. Some quotes from the boys included; "Super mad radical to the max lights", "Wow. Can't believe how good the Radical-Lights are"

Six Packs Open Male - Winners: Anytime Fitness (Nic Menager, Brad Morton with Ben Henderson, Garry James, Richard Peil, Darren Smith)

Nic and Brad ran the '09 and '10 Podda4L and Mk2's respectively for their night time duties and were up the rankings in the fastest night laps too.

Brad Morton

Nick Menager and myself from ONYABike Belconnen joined up with Anytime Fitness. The race started as per usual with a run of a few hundred meters (which always feels much longer running in mtb shoes) and a slightly longer first lap which Nick did at his usual fast past. He then passed onto Ben who posted what I think was the fastest lap and got us up into second place just behind the GIANT team. I managed to pass the Giant rider and our team hit the front of the race, we were all thankful for a great start but we all knew there were many more laps (and hours) to go. During the afternoon the laps ticked over quickly and we cemented a lead in the team of six and follow the GIANT team by a small margin. Night came and we started to do some double laps which gave each other a good break and enough time for a few hours sleep. I unfortunately got a small hole in the side wall of my rear tyre which forced me to stop and repair it, I'm glad I had the radical-lights which made it so much easier to see and to fix my flat in the dark Sparrow hill forest. Morning finally appeared which gave us all a second burst of energy and enthusiasm, the track seemed wider, dustier and also a lot bumpier (luckily the Anthem I was riding didn't seem to mind it too much). Another check of the lap times mid morning showed that the Anytime Fitness team had 1st in the team of six and 2nd overall barring any major incident.





Foursomes Open Women - Winners OnYa MalAdjusted Chicks (Karen Foat with Claire Aubrey, Claire Graydon, Kimberlee King)



Singles Club Mixed Single Speed - Winners Luvnthesinglelife (Trudy Nicholas, Bec Parkes with Dave Sims, Stewart Ward)

22 laps on a single speed, and winning by 2 laps with 1/2hr still to race is a stupendous effort! Respect!

Trudy Nicholas

I was fortunate to make it to the SS Nats in 2009. It was here that I learnt the true essence of single speed riding. Coming from an elite racing background it was a huge culture shock to learn to chill out and enjoy the ride. What beer? Before during and after the race!!!! One gear, one cog, single speed, whatever you want to call it, it's getting back to the basics and enjoying the social side of the ride. Back in the day when you learnt to ride a bike it had no gears, it was so simple, try it, it will all come back to you. That's the only way I can explain the draw to the one

gear. Oh, and someone told me you get big legs from pushing that gear so it appealed to my efficient training sense. When you find that perfect combination, the ratio, mines 32-19 (29er) it likes finding you groove. Man, I am a kid again, racing my dragster through the bush.

The MONT on the SS is like your very own little piece of tranquil heaven on a trail and a camp site with the most chilled out people you can find on a bike. It's guaranteed, it's a given, if you are riding a SS, you get what it's all about. Making the adventure bigger than life, the space between your ears is happy and relaxed. My closing point on this matter to prove how much it is about the fun. Did you see the harems out on the track? Yes them fine bitches where riding single speeds.

See ya all in the Mixed Single Speed Category next year because I hope to be there defending our title.

Mens Open Foursomes - 5th Place: Manly Adventure Racing (Francis LeBrun with Nicho Bailly, Nicholas Arney, Ed Dockrill)

Francis LeBrun

Aby captained by Nicholas Arney, team Manly Adventure Racing found themselves as Top 5 finishers at the Mont. The



team comprising some of Sydney's fittest desk jockeys, plus semi-professional Morewood downhill racer Nicho Bailly, were somewhat confused to find themselves in the Top 10 before nightfall having only turned up for a bit of a play in the woods.

Lights blazing, including an explosive young and dashing handsome rider [artistic license abuse] sporting a sparkling set of Radical's podda lights, they trooped off in to the trees for some high speed racing through the night.

Emerging into the cool dawn air to see bodies littering the ground, they soon realised the battle had been hard fought during the night. With bleary eyes and aching limbs the tribe were fired up to realise that they were advancing up the rankings at an alarming rate to settle in 3rd place.

Despite a valiant effort by the boys, Matt 007 Flemming was sent out to put pay to the podium dreams of these young upstarts. Ed Dockrill did his damndest to hold the wheel of Mr Flemming but the effort was to no avail. They also missed out on 4th place by 10 seconds, but no one really cared as there ain't a medal for 4th place anyway. The boys were all smiles if a little dusty...

Karen Foat



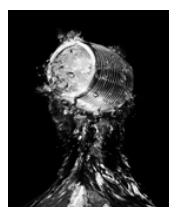
Raised the most funds for the trekkie appeal.

Well done Karen!

Fastest Womens Night Lap -

Trudy Nicholas

On a single speed no less!



Podda Mk2

- 1259 lumens
- 107g incl carbon helmet mount
- 210g battery
- 3hrs run time on fullpower to 25hrs on low power



Chutta

- 910 lumens
- 95g incl carbon helmet mount
- 210g battery
- 4.5hrs on fullpower to 36hrs on low



Other News

Open Mixed Foursome - Winners Merida Flight Centre/Swell Redshift/Enduro Mag (Nick Both with Kath Bicknell, Shane Taylor, Paul Traynor)

Kath Bicknell (provides a few words about Nicks winning team)

2600 24 hour loving mountain bikers pitched their tents at Sparrow Hill, just outside of Canberra, ready to take on the Mont. Before the racing got underway, riders assembled at the start line at midday for a minute's silence, followed by an "Honour Roll" to acknowledge and reflect the recent news about James Williamson. Riding toward the front, it was when I came back down the first fire road, and saw the long line of riders still waiting to head out, the enormity of Willo's influence on the mountain biking community began to hit me...

Once the racing started at 1pm, it felt great to hit the singletrack, flow through the corners, power up the fire roads and come back to the camp site ready to compare notes with other riders. Our team rode pretty hard but didn't start to take things too seriously until night time when we realised we were in the lead.

Given that radical Nick is in training to hit up the fast-approaching Euro World Cups, we felt it only fair to send him out on lots of night laps to cement our chance at the win.

Along with solid times from everyone else, and unbelievable enthusiasm from Shane Taylor - who we couldn't seem to keep off his bike - we held on to our lead and won the mixed fours category by about a lap. This is a huge achievement to be part of and one that's still sinking in! It was great to see so many people out there enjoying such a well organised, festival style event. If you want an experience that makes you proud to be a rider, (and proud to have friends who are quick in the night), this one's worth putting in next year's diary now!



SPECIAL THANKS to:

Our respective partners for helping out enormously.

Kev & Kendra for setting out the camp site.

Pete for bringing all the gear over from Wagga Wagga and also his large tent which we all enjoyed a few hrs in, at various stages of the night!

Shane at Bike Culture for sorting out my brakes early in the piece.

Jen (of mumnuts fame) for her sensational soup! Loads of smiles and fantastic relaxed vibe around the campsite!

Numerous folks who dropped by our camp to chat. It's always great to put a face to a name too!

Six Packs Mixed - Fourth Mumnuts (Kylie McAvoy, Anne Cornford, Merryl King, Kendra Wells, Jen Carroll)

Kylie McAvoy

The lead up wasn't so great with our fastest rider Nick having to pull out two weeks before with a serious knee injury. The fact that she was our fastest rider really didn't matter that much, that's not what we are about, it was the fact of having no Nick to race with. We are such a tight group of friends it was devastating not to have her there with us. So we were down to 5 girls and we wanted Merryl to go home to rest overnight as she was soloing at the Nationals the following weekend (we didn't want her too tired). That left 4 of us at night but we were pretty sure we were up to the challenge. The race started and Jen came in off the first lap with a smile from ear to ear, from here on the race went like clockwork for us with no one needing any motivation to get out on their lap, even in the wee hours of the morning!

This would be my first race with radical-lights as I had a crash at the Scott and didn't make it to the night laps. The lights were seriously bright and my night lap times were only three minutes slower than my day laps. I was worried the dust might be an issue as it was with my previous lights but the radicals just cut right through it allowing total visibility, it was awesome.

Kendra who is sight impaired went out for two night laps with the lights, recording nearly identical times for each lap, a fantastic and totally inspiring effort!

Thanks to the teams consistency, Anne and Merryl pushing out some seriously fast laps, we ended up 4th, on the same laps as 2nd and 3rd (only 10 minutes separating us from 3rd).

Mens Open Foursomes - 31st radical-lights (Pete Johnson, Ashley Smith, Michael Loughlin, Tim Lehr, Neil Soderlund)

Pete Johnson

This years radical-lights team combined a little bit of the old with a bit of the new, both in terms of escapades with team radical-lights and our ages. Both Ash, myself and H had ridden the Mont previously in the now famous red and white colours of team radical-lights, but Michael, Tim and Neil, while having ridden plenty of 24hr events before, were new to the team.

Kev had marked us out a primo spot and the campsite was set up Friday night. So much less stress to register on the Friday night than on the Saturday morning!

Tim pumped himself up for the first race lap. Not sure how much sleep Tim had on Friday night as he was performing with the band in Queanbeyan, but he managed to spin out the first lap in the congestion.

From there on things got cracking with everyone going out for a lap on the beautiful Sparrow Hill track. H decided to delay his first lap until the night where the Radical Lights come into their own. I think everyone had a ball,

riding fantastic trails in the friendly spirit that is the Mont. The night laps were excellent with the lights. I think any more light coming out of the one H used would have had him banned. Seriously bright. And that's it for another year. Thanks to all for making the effort to ride.



more pics and info at: <http://facebook.radical-lights.com/>
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