

December 21, 2008



Dear Members of Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol,

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Diamond Peaks meeting on Monday, December 15th. We had some great discussions and it was great to see everyone. If you weren't able to attend, here's a brief summary of what we discussed. After reading these, if you have comments, questions or suggestions, please let me know by January 5th, 2009.

At the September patrol meeting, surveys were handed out to each member. As the survey results were compiled, a few common themes became apparent. Members showed a strong interest in attracting younger riders and educating them through the schools and by doing more outreach activities. Members also showed a strong interest in trails – construction, maintenance and offering grants for such projects. And, members showed a strong interest in recruiting more members especially in light of the fact that DPMBP has more trails to patrol and maintain. As the board took a more in-depth look at the surveys, it became apparent that DPMBP needs to grow in order to accomplish all that we want to. In the words of John Heywood, 'Many hands make for light work.'

Over the past couple of seasons, we have consistently heard from people that the word 'patrol' can be intimidating to new and prospective members. If you remember, we developed the 'member' level a couple of seasons ago in order to encourage new members who weren't necessarily interested in becoming a patroller. Last year, we called that membership the 'Outreach Membership'. The creation of this new level has helped attract some new members but the word 'patrol' still seems to be a stumbling block for many as it implies 'enforcement'. We've heard from members and non-members alike who have expressed an interest in getting involved but haven't because they don't want to become a 'trail cop' and therefore have stayed away from meetings. Unfortunately, we're losing prospective members before they even get a chance to come and find out how great our organization is.

As we discussed the direction we needed to go, the Board agreed that holding some sort of 'retreat' would help us take a more in-depth look at our organization. We invited long-time mountain bike advocate, Bob Moore, to moderate a day-long meeting in late November. As the day progressed, it became evident that DPMBP needs to become more than just a patrol in order to meet the needs of the local mountain biking community. Our goals, by the end of the day, ones we all agreed upon, were to maintain the integrity of the patrol while expanding and diversifying the organization. One of the first steps we will take in order to do this is to create an 'umbrella' organization with a new name. Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol will serve as a service of this new organization thus keeping its good name and the goodwill it has achieved over the years. So, don't worry. DPMBP is not going anywhere. We will continue to do all the great things we have done over the years, but, we will be doing so in partnership with a new organizational name and structure that will allow us to be more flexible as an organization and attract new members.

At Monday's meeting part of our discussion focused on creating a new name for this umbrella organization. Listed below are a few ideas. If you have other name ideas, please submit them to me no later than **January 5, 2009**. We will decide on a new name shortly thereafter.

Ideas for names:

- T.R.E.A.D. Mountain Bike Alliance (Trails. Riders. Education. (or Excitement) Advocacy. (or Adventure. or Action.) Diplomacy.)
- Overland Trail Blazers (OTB)
- Overland Trail Riders (OTR)
- DPMBA/DPMBC (Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Association or Club)
- Something with the word Promotion or Society
- Peaks to Prairie Mountain Bike Association/Club/Alliance
- Bikes without Borders (or Boundaries)
- Foothills Mountain Biking Association
- Blue Sky _____ Singletrack
- Rocky Mountain (or Diamond Peaks) Trails Tribe
- Rocky Mountain Singletrack Alliance
- North Front Range Mountain Bike Association
- Northern Colorado Mountain Bike Alliance/Association

Members of the Board are excited to begin moving DPMBP into a more 'all-purpose' mountain biking organization. Based on the feedback from the meeting and the surveys we collected, we believe this is the direction the organization should move in.

Thanks again to all who were able to attend during this busy time of year. If you weren't able to attend and have more questions, please give me a call or shoot me an email.

Sincerely,

Barb