

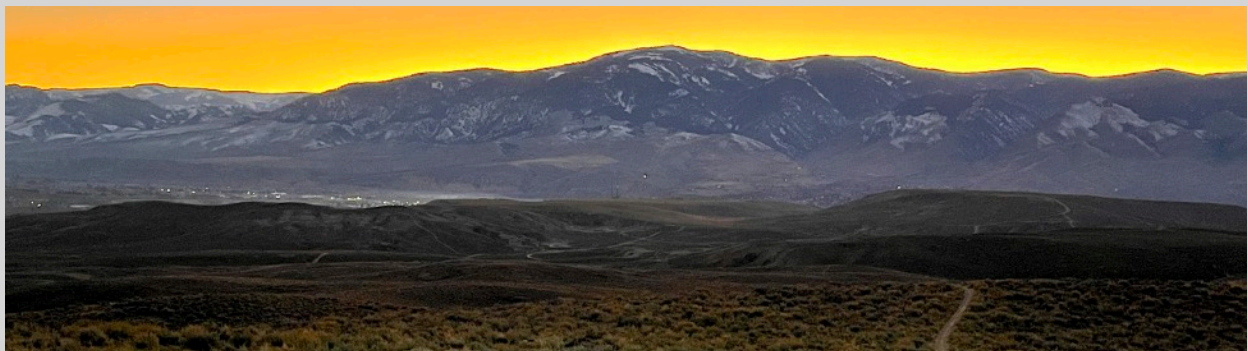
Salmon Idaho Mountain Bike Association (SIMBA)

Fall 2023 Newsletter



Greetings Mountain Bikers!

It may feel more like winter, but this is still our Fall Newsletter! As you're changing gears with the seasons, we hope that you had some epic rides over the summer, and we hope that mountain biking took you to some amazing places. We'd like to reflect a bit on the 2023 riding season around Salmon, Idaho and give you a few updates on what's happening in the world of SIMBA.



THE LATEST SIMBA NEWS

Disco Race Highlights. In 2023, SIMBA brought back the Disco Mountain Bike Endurance Race after a 3-year hiatus. Under a new format, a slightly shorter course, and unseasonably warm weather, the Nine-and-a-Half Hours of Disco was a huge success, with 95 riders riding a combined total of 360 laps of the 10-mile long course, and 13 kids riding 1 hour of enthusiastic laps of the 1-mile Kids Course in the Kids Race. Thanks to all of the participants and volunteers who were part of this awesome event. We hope to see you again next May!



2023 Stewardship Recap. On the trail stewardship front, in 2023 SIMBA held 3 organized trail work days and 32 unorganized trail work days (ie., riding with trail tools), resulting in about 0.3 miles of new singletrack trail alignment, 194 down trees cleared from trails, 76 drainage structures constructed or improved, and 51 new sign posts installed (so far!). SIMBA partnered with the BLM to hold volunteer trail work days at Discovery Hill to celebrate Earth Day in the Spring and National Public Lands Day in the Fall. We're super excited about the new trail alignments that we completed at Disco and the ongoing Disco Sign Project (more on this below). Huge thanks to all of the volunteers who attended these events and helped make it all happen! It was another great summer of riding, and epic rides were had all around!



Disco Sign Project. If you've ever been hopelessly lost on the Discovery Hill Trails, fear no more! While the colored arrow routes were useful in the early stages of trail development at Disco, when mountain bike rides would generally take one of 3 defined routes, the trail system has since expanded to the point where we need to modernize the trail sign system. In partnership with the BLM Salmon Field Office, SIMBA is installing new sign posts and replacing, relocating, or re-setting existing posts where needed during the Fall of 2023. SIMBA will then install new trail signs (which will include trail name, difficulty, and direction) on these posts in the Spring of 2024. Future plans include development of a new trail map at the trailhead. Huge thanks to the awesome community of volunteers that are helping with this project! Check out our website for more information and the latest updates on this project.



Twelvemile Trails Project. The Salmon Challis Trails Group first began talking about trail development in the Twelvemile Creek drainage south of Salmon in 2021 as a way to improve trail connectivity and provide additional recreational opportunities within close reach of Salmon Idaho. Twelvemile is known as a mountain biking hot spot near Salmon, but its use is limited by poor access. As part of this collaborative, SIMBA put together a proposal for new trail development that would include a network of non-motorized trails connecting the lower part of the Twelvemile Creek drainage to the existing trail network in the upper drainage, which is currently only accessible via 9 miles of bumpy Forest road. These trails would provide/expand a variety of recreational opportunities for mountain bikers, hikers, trail runners, horsemen, and other users in an awesome forested backcountry environment via a new, highly accessible trailhead only 2 miles from Highway 93. We are currently working with the Forest Service to advance this proposal, and we hope to make it a reality in the near future. Check out our website for more information about the project.



TRAIL SPOTLIGHT

Thunder Mountain Historic Trail. Although somewhat obscure, remote, and poorly marked, the Thunder Mountain Trail (Trail #6040) in the headwaters of Lake Creek just southwest of Salmon Idaho is a gem of a trail for the advanced mountain biker and one of our favorites. This trail loosely follows a portion of the historic miners' route from Salmon City to the Thunder Mountain mining district located in the rugged backcountry of the Middle Fork Salmon River. Lured by rich deposits of gold, miners flocked to the very remote Thunder Mountain from all parts of Idaho during the gold rush that started in 1901, and to say that this was not an easy journey is a testament to rugged terrain that also lures present day mountain bikers to the trail that now shares the same name. Learn more about this trail on Trailforks at <https://www.trailforks.com/trails/thunder-mountain-14473/>.

Generally ridden as a downhill starting from the Ridge Road (FR020), the Thunder Mountain Trail drops down 1700 vertical feet of forested switchbacks and rocky ridge lines to the Lake Mountain Road. To continue this historic journey, use Trailforks to find the Lower Thunder Mountain Trail, where the trail is no less rugged and even more obscure, but drops another 1400 feet as views of Williams Lake open below you. Or take the Lake Creek Road on over to the Henry Creek Trail (Trail #128), where you can complete a singletrack descent all the way to the Salmon River and call it a 5300-foot day. While shuttling Thunder Mountain Trail is always an option, it's a long one. The more uphill-oriented bikers might enjoy riding up Rattlesnake Ridge Trail #085 ("Double R") and down Thunder Mountain for the yet to be deemed classic "Double Thunder" ride. Check Trailforks before you go for the latest wood report!



COMING UP

SIMBA Mid-Winter MTB Film Fest and Bike Party. January 20, 2024 (6-9pm - location TBD). No better time than the middle of winter to celebrate trails, community, and epic rides! More information to come, but expect there to be food, drink, inspiring movies, and prizes.

Nine-and-a-Half Hours of Disco. May 4, 2024 (10am-7:30pm - Discovery Hill). Join us for one lap or ten. This is a great early season endurance race to get you fired up for riding, or for some, to ride on dirt for the first time after a long winter. Challenge your endurance, or just hang out with awesome people. Always a good time. More information on our website.

Earth Day Volunteer Trail Work Day at Discovery Hill. April 20, 2024 (tentative date). The primary objective will be to install the new trail signs on the Discovery Hill Trail Network, but trail work and trash pickup will also be involved as usual!

SIMBA Group Rides. Our next group ride will be "DISCO WOLF MOON" on January 25, 2024 (5pm - Discovery Hill Trailhead). Join us on fat bikes for winter singletrack and howling at the Full Moon! SIMBA will also be hosting monthly group rides at various locations around Salmon this Spring and Summer (schedule TBD). This is a great way to learn some new trails and meet other local mountain bikers.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

Join us for the ride! Your membership helps to fund operating costs and equipment, and makes this all possible. When you join, you become a member of the SIMBA local chapter of IMBA. Most of your membership dues stay right here with the local community, and you will get some nice perks from IMBA as well. To join, visit [our website!](#)

GET IN TOUCH

By email. Contact us at salmonidahomtb@gmail.com
Facebook. We are Salmon Idaho MTB at <https://www.facebook.com/SalmonIdMBA>
Instagram. Check out our instagram page [@salmonidahomtb](#)
Website. Visit us at <https://salmonidahomtb.org>

HAPPY WINTER!

And as always, we wish you many, many epic rides, no matter what season!



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