

Salmon Idaho Mountain Bike Association

Fall 2026 Newsletter



HAPPY FALL!

Mountain biking season is not quite over yet! We're looking back at another great year of trails, MTB stoke, and awesome people! We hope you are enjoying these clear, blue September days for a few more epic rides into the high country wherever you are. Scroll down for a season recap, some details on a whole bunch of events coming up, and be the first to know the date of the 2027 Nine-and-a-Half Hours of DISCO!



2026 SEASON RECAP

Nine-and-a-Half Hours of Disco 2026. Despite the pre-race snowstorm, we had record levels of stoke at the 2026 Nine-and-a-Half Hours of Disco Mountain Bike Endurance Race. Intense competition, crazy costumes, and unchecked enthusiasm combined to make an incredibly fun day of mountain biking, community, and great trails. Thanks to the 200 participants who traveled from far and wide to join us, all of our volunteers who helped out, and our awesome local sponsors - this would not be possible without all of you! Check out the Disco Race [WEBSITE](#) for full results, photos, and info about next year's race.



Discovery Hill Trail Work. SIMBA is continuing to improve the trail network at Discovery Hill with drainage and tread work. Last spring, SIMBA constructed about 70 new drains and grade reversals throughout the trail network. Huge thanks to the 17 volunteers who joined us for the Earth Day Trail Work Day to give the Owl Canyon Trail some much needed LOVE! It's always amazing how much can be accomplished with a motivated crew. What was once a somewhat sketchy, rutted descent is now fun, flowy, and best of all, sustainable!



Powderhouse Gulch Improvements. The Powderhouse Gulch Trail #079 is one of Salmon's premier shuttleable mountain bike trails. For National Trails Day in June, SIMBA organized a small group of volunteers to re-align a 500-foot section of steep, badly trenched out trail on Upper Powderhouse Gulch. The crew built 8 big grade reversals to manage trail drainage and add some much needed trail flow to the Powderhouse downhill experience. While this section is still steep and rowdy, it now utilizes the existing topography to add some nice flow features to the descent, while making the trail more sustainable. This work will continue this Fall and into next year, as we focus on improving trails in the Williams Creek area.



Year of Deadfall! It was a crazy year for deadfall on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. A warm winter with lots of wind left thousands of trees down across our favorite trails, and then a surprise late June snowstorm brought down a new batch of deadfall. This year, SIMBA cleared over 1,400 downed trees from trails, focusing on the non-motorized trails in the Williams Creek and Lake Creek drainages (Powderhouse Gulch, Thunder Mountain, Lake Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge, and more), some of the Twelvemile trails, and our adopted sections of the Continental Divide Trail. We greatly appreciate the collective efforts of all of the entities and individuals who help to clear deadfall from trails in the Salmon area every year.



TRAIL SPOTLIGHT

Lake Mountain Trail #6080. The Lake Mountain Trail is one of five classic singletrack descents off the Ridge Road just southwest of Salmon, Idaho. This historic non-motorized trail was the old trail to the now removed Lake Mountain Lookout at 9243 feet. Built in 1923, this was one of the most important lookouts in the area, providing views of the Beaverhead Range, the Lemhi Range, the Bighorn Crags, and everything in between. Back in the day, a phone line connected the Williams Creek Ranger Station to the Lake Mountain Lookout, and many of the poles are still present along this trail. The lookout was replaced with a FAA communications site in the early 1970s, along with a road providing easy access.

But the trail remains, and for those with advanced riding skills, this trail provides a quintessential primitive, wild, and chunky backcountry riding experience. The trail is unsigned, and the generally low level of use keeps it feeling... adventurous. Generally ridden as a downhill because of its steep, rocky nature, most riders shuttle this trail and combine it with other trail options. It can also be ridden as part of some long loop options in the area if you're feeling spunky.

As you drop off the top of Lake Mountain, get ready for a few tight switchbacks and plenty of chunky talus. Entering the forested section, just follow the cut logs and the occasional cairn to stay on track. Beware that deadfall is likely if it hasn't been cut out recently. The chunk factor eases off as you descend from spruce/fir forests to sagebrushy meadows in 2.5 miles. For the ultimate experience, continue all the way down to the Salmon River, either via Henry Creek or South Fork-Powderhouse-Williams-Perreau, which will give you over 5,000 feet of descending. We highly recommend checking conditions locally before heading out - [TRAILFORKS](#) is your best bet for the most up-to-date trail info!



COMING UP!

OCT 3, 2026: Powderhouse Trail Work Day: Join SIMBA as we celebrate National Public Lands Day (a week late) with an informal trail work day on the Upper Powderhouse Gulch Trail #079. This is a great chance to dig in the dirt and help maintain a local favorite - we'll be improving drainage, trail sustainability, and flow. 9am at the Williams Creek Picnic Area. Tools will be provided. RSVP for more info.

NOV 7, 2026: Bike for Beef: Join the Mortons at their Carmen Creek Ranch (78 Carmen Creek Rd) for the annual Bike for Beef mountain bike race on a fun 1.6-mile course. Expect great prizes (including BEEF!), campfire, and wood oven fired pizza. This event is a fundraiser to help buy playground equipment for the Fernwaters Charter School. Starts at 2pm. Kid friendly!

JAN 2027: SIMBA Winter Party (Date TBD). Join SIMBA in January for some mid-winter mountain biking stoke, food, and drink. Stay tuned for more info.

APRIL 2027: EARTH DAY Trail Work Day (Date TBD). Join SIMBA in April at Discovery Hill to help get your favorite trails fixed up for Spring riding season. Tools and lunch will be provided. Stay tuned for more info.

MAY 1, 2027: Nine-and-a-Half Hours of DISCO Mountain Bike Endurance Race. The date has been set! Join us once again at Discovery Hill in Salmon, Idaho for 9.5 Hours of early season sagebrushy singletrack riding. Solo, Team (of 2 or 3), Hot Lap, and Kids Race categories. See the [Disco Race Website](#) for ALL the details.

SUPPORT SIMBA!

Join us for the ride! There are many ways to support your local Mountain Bike Association - attend an event, volunteer at a Trail Work Day, make a donation, become a member, or just get in touch and let's chat trails. Membership dues help to fund operating costs and equipment, making this all possible. Membership is through the SIMBA local chapter of IMBA - if you choose to become a member, most of your membership dues stay right here with the local community, and you will get some nice perks from IMBA as well. THANK YOU MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!!

SUPPORT SIMBA

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**WISHING YOU MANY MORE EPIC RIDES...
AND AN AWESOME WINTER!!**



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