



Brian Goldstone photo courtesy Test of Metal

CRANKIN' OUT A DECADE

BY BRIAN RAISER

BUSH AND YELTSIN HUGGED AND MADE UP. Silence of the Lambs began a long tradition of award-winning cooking shows. The Blue Jays beat the Braves at their own game as Johnny Carson said farewell to his late night friends. Then, just as REM lost their religion, 15 bike lovin' fools decided to change the face of mountain biking in Squamish and The Squamish Off Road Cycling Association was born.

As legend has it, the first SORCA meeting was a humble affair of 15 people kibitzing at a coffee shop to discuss the future of their whopping six trails.

Their progress was slow but steady as they began building the trails that now make up the heart of Squamish's network. They were also quick to host bi-weekly events, called Loonie races [now Toonie races due to inflation] to give everyone an excuse to come out and get the blood pumping.

SORCA is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an aptly named celebration "Crankin' out a decade!" This milestone allows time to reflect upon the rocky road that now leads to one of the premier mountain bike destinations in the world.

Over the years, SORCA's greatest accomplishment is their incredible working relationship with both BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests. Confrontations between trail users is unfortunately commonplace in many communities. Thankfully Squamish has been untouched by this because of Park's and Forestry's involvement, respect and cooperation with SORCA: the incredible Squamish trail network would look very different if not for the generosity of spirit and support of both BC Parks and the local forest district.

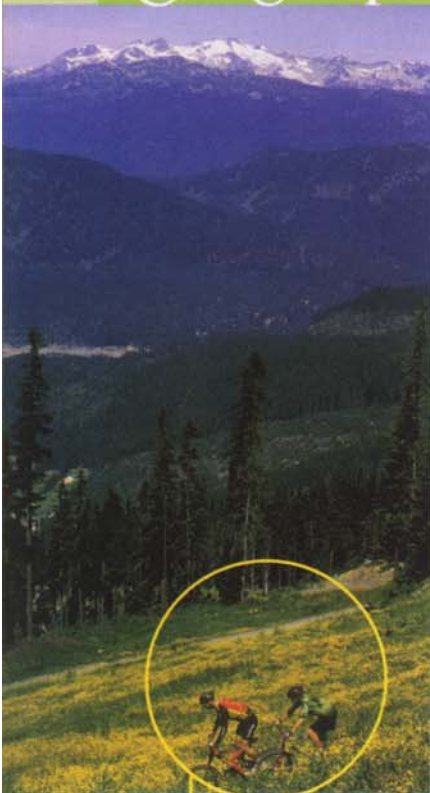
Working with the logging community, SORCA was able to construct the 60-foot Ring Creek Falls

Bridge, which remains one of the key links in the extensive Squamish trail system. As well, with a \$60,000 donation from BC Hydro came the famous Powersmart trail network and \$55,000 from the Ministry of Forests helped construct the classic Squamish downhill, the Powerhouse Plunge. And how's this for a "perfect world" scenario? Now when a wood lot is scheduled for processing, SORCA is one of the first to be consulted to see if any trails will be affected and to look at minimizing impact, or consider alternate trails.

Perhaps the most well-known SORCA event is the Squamish Mountain Bike Festival featuring the legendary Test of Metal, which was brought to Squamish in the summer of '94.

As we now know, this is just the tip of the ever-evolving mountain bike iceberg. With a sport that's constantly evolving, so too is SORCA. This year's festivities will include the classic toonie races throughout the entire mountain bike season from April to October, and maintenance days, as well as the Squamish Mountain Bike Festival. But this year things are going bigger with two endurance races and no less than three life changing epic rides showcasing all that the area has to offer.

So saddle up and hold on tight, the next 10 years are no doubt going to be the best yet! ☺



[Top] the start line at the Canadian Epic Test of Metal Mountain Bike Race
[Above] Clear cuts provide spectacular views for riders after the lush confines of the forest.



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