

Snowmass Sun

Nobody Covers Snowmass Like The Sun

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FREE

A special type of **ATHLETE**



Enduro World Series set to take place in Snowmass and Aspen on July 30 and 31

Erica Robbie
The Aspen Times

Pedal up a mountain at high altitude. Race down the hill as fast as possible. Repeat. This is more or less the gist of enduro cycling, a form of mountain biking that combines timed downhill racing and uphill cycling over the course of several stages. On July 30, Round 5 of the eight-round Enduro World Series kicks off in Snowmass, drawing 400 of the best mountain bikers across the world to town.

What sets enduro racing apart from traditional mountain biking and other sporting events is that athletes must put their endurance and fitness to work before the games begin.

ENDURO, 9



ABOVE: Enduro World Series competitor Richie Rude, who is leading the overall series rankings, is the man to beat at Round 5 of the competition this weekend. **LEFT:** Cecile Ravanel of France competes in the 2016 Enduro World Series.

PHOTOS BY DUNCAN PHILPOTT/ENDURO WORLD SERIES

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SETH BECKTON/COURTESY PHOTO

Enduro World Series competitor Flynn George rides the Snowmass Bike Park.

ENDURO

From page 1

“These athletes have to put a lot of physical effort just to get to the starting line,” said Snowmass Tourism groups and events manager Dave Elkan, referring to enduro bikers’ ascension to the start of each race.

Because enduro races involve more than one timed

race per day, enduro cyclists’ “recovery” between races is spent pedaling up a mountain in order to reach the next stage of competition.

“That’s what makes enduro so unique. It introduces a level of fitness that perhaps traditional downhill mountain-bike racing didn’t serve,” Elkan said. “It takes a special type of athlete. They need

IF YOU GO ...

What: Enduro World Series bike competition

When: July 30 and 31

Where: Snowmass Village, Snowmass Bike Park, Buttermilk Mountain and Aspen Mountain. See maps for more trail-specific information.

Cost: Free for spectators.

For more information, visit www.enduroworldseries.com.

to be physically fit but also skilled in downhill bike-handling skills.”

The Enduro World

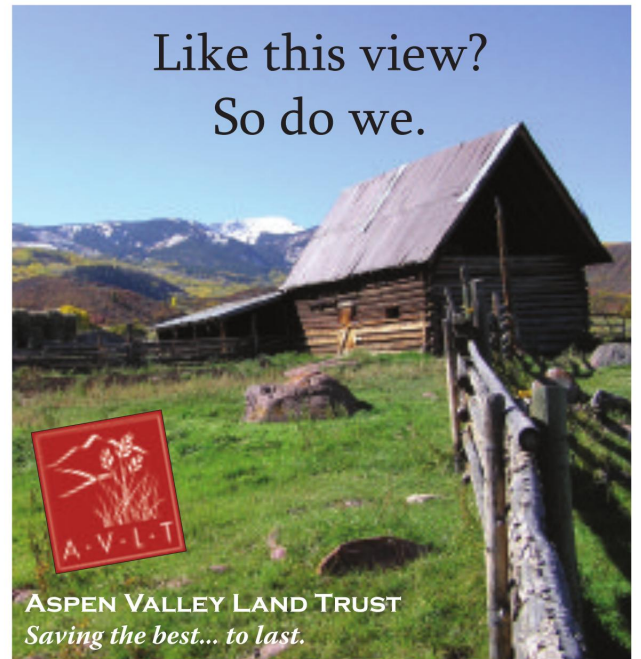
Series offers the highest level of enduro biking.

ENDURO, 10

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ENDURO

From page 9

Aspen and Snowmass are the only U.S. destination to host the 2016 Enduro World Series, which passed through Chile, Argentina, Ireland and Italy for its first four rounds and will travel to Canada, France and back to Italy for its final series.

The two-day Aspen and Snowmass series has six stages and will start and end in Snowmass, with trips to and from Buttermilk and Aspen mountains between. The first three stages will occur July 30 and the final three July 31, Aspen Skiing Co. Director of Event Operations

Buck Erickson said.

Both race days will last from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Erickson said, with an awards ceremony on July 31 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

See map for route-specific information; see sidebar for details on the trail closures that

“That’s what makes enduro so unique; it introduces a level of fitness that perhaps traditional downhill mountain-bike racing didn’t serve.”

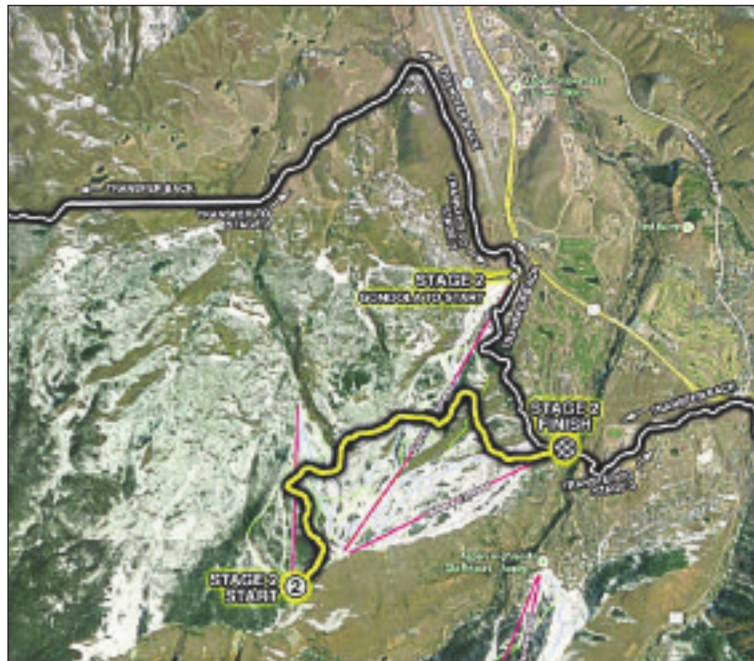
Dave Elkan

Snowmass Tourism groups and events manager

will take place from July 28 to 31.

PAVING THE PATH FOR THE SPORT LOCALLY

At the forefront of enduro biking — and prior to the October 2012 inception of the Enduro World Series — are Elkan and Erickson, who started the first enduro race in Aspen and Snowmass five or six years ago,



ASPEN SKIING CO./COURTESY IMAGE

The two-day Aspen and Snowmass series is six-stage event that will start and end in Snowmass, with trips to and from Buttermilk and Aspen mountains between.



NICK ONTIVEROS/BIG MOUNTAIN ENDURO

The Enduro World Series offers the highest level of enduro biking.

Elkan said.

Elkan reported that 75 local cyclists participated in the first local enduro race, which is roughly one-fifth the number of athletes he expects to compete in the local World Series event.

“Aspen (and) Snowmass (have) always been on the cutting edge of mountain-bike competitions,” Elkan said. “The sport of enduro has really exploded and become, in my opinion, the focal point of mountain-bike racing in the world.”

Enduro athlete and cycling enthusiast Flynn George, who has competed in enduro bike races since the first local competition five or six years back, said he has been “very impressed” watching the sport grow within the community and also on a national level.

BIKE-TRAIL CLOSURES

Snowmass (non-bike-park) trails

Sequel Trail and equestrian access below Tom Blake Creek:

- ▶ July 28, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- ▶ July 30, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Power Line Trail:

- ▶ July 28, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ July 30, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Starks Trail:

- ▶ July 28, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ July 30, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Snowmass Bike Park

For information on day-of trail closures in the bike park, check

www.aspensnowmass.com/our-mountains/snowmass/snow-and-grooming-report/snowmass-summer-trail-status.

Buttermilk Government Trail from West Buttermilk to Tiehack

- ▶ July 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ▶ July 30, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Aspen Mountain East Rim Trail and Power of One

- ▶ July 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ July 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Source: Aspen Skiing Co. Director of Event Operations
Buck Erickson

“Snowmass has made great strides in developing trails to suit the growing need to the mountain-bike and enduro race scene,” said George, who intends to compete this weekend. “I

cannot wait to see Snowmass and Aspen continue to bring international racers and tourism to this amazing area.”

erobbie@aspentimes.com

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The Town of **SNOWMASS** Village

Snowmass Village Education Grant Committee

TOSV now Accepting Applications for the Education Grant Committee

The Town is seeking applicants to serve on a committee tasked with appropriating the funds raised from a potential new property tax that will be dedicated to education. The 5 member committee will be selected by the Town Council and placed on the November ballot.

INTERESTED?

Additional information is available at tosv.com
Applications Due by 8:00am Thursday, August 4th

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- Edward Abbey

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