



## 2007 Year End Review

By Will Sanford – CAMBC President

2007 has been a very successful year for CAMBC. Underneath a constant flurry of emails, meetings, and conversations with land managers, the CAMBC board and other CAMBC members have worked hard to enhance the mountain bike experience in the Charlottesville area. To the casual observer, it may seem that little has changed, so I thought I'd take a few minutes to update everyone on CAMBC's 2007 accomplishments and give direction to where CAMBC looks to make improvements in 2008.

CAMBC's most important accomplishment in 2007 is an easy pick. After forming the club in 2003, one of our immediate goals was to get night riding access at Walnut Creek. In consideration of CAMBC's work within Albemarle County parks, and after some legal wrangling, CAMBC had the first official night ride at Walnut on August 1, 2007. Night riding is only allowed at Walnut on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. For insurance purposes, all participants must be CAMBC members (CAMBC maintains an insurance policy for group rides). Special thanks to Dave Wotton (green jersey in photo) for his persistence and continued night ride leadership.



The first CAMBC Walnut Night Ride.

New trails are always on our mind. In early 2007, CAMBC completed the construction of the Little Yellow trail at Mint Springs Park in Crozet. Half of the new trail reclaimed an existing road bed while the second half was built from scratch. In June CAMBC continued our partnership with the RTF on National Trails Day and built trail on the east side of McIntire Park. The McIntire Park trails have become a frequent venue for beginner and kids' rides <http://www.cambc.org/rides.php#mcintire> .



Marty Quinn rides a reopened trail at Sherando.

In October, at the Wild Ride Weekend, CAMBC re-opened the lakeside connector along the west side of the Mills Creek Lake at Sherando (the long straight road to the lake off Coal Road). This trail has several stream crossings and connects to Mills Creek/Switchbacks trail. CAMBC's continued work in the GW National Forest also led to our official adoption of Whetstone Ridge.

CAMBC would specifically like to recognize our first ever "Volunteer of the Year," Jerry Mathews. Not only did Jerry show up for most every local trail work event, he almost single handedly re-blazed the color codes at Walnut Creek and assisted Albemarle Parks and Recreation in it's re-mapping effort. For his efforts, CAMBC is awarding Jerry with his very own Rogue Hoe. We're sure he'll put it to good use. I'll also mention that you shouldn't be surprised when Jerry pulls more goodies from the door prize table than you do at our annual meeting on February 5, 2008 at Anna's Pizza. If you have a donation for the trail work door prize table, please contact me directly or email [info@cambc.org](mailto:info@cambc.org).

Overall, CAMBC broke another club record for trail work hours with approximately 850 hour during 2007 (<http://www.cambc.org/trailwork.php>). This does not include many additional hours of effort by Blue Ridge School and the Tevendale family on their private trails that were generously opened to CAMBC for dozens of group rides during 2007. Special thanks to the Tevendale family and Blue Ridge School for hosting those rides.

Throughout 2007, CAMBC raised funds through advertising (be sure to check out our advertising sponsors at [www.cambc.org](http://www.cambc.org)), volunteering at aid stations at the SM 100, and volunteering at concession stands during Fridays After Five. During 2007, CAMBC invested money on tools and gear that will help CAMBC host larger events and ensure satisfied volunteers for years to come. The purchases include hand tools and gear to equip and feed a 20+ person crew on an overnight event.



Happy volunteers. New CAMBC gear in background.

In January, CAMBC began the year by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Albemarle County Parks and Recreation (ACPR). The MOU outlines and clarifies prior verbal agreements whereby both parties will work together creating and maintaining multiuse trails, in Albemarle County. Looking down the road, CAMBC is working with Albemarle County Parks and Recreation on building new trail on nearly 1,600+ acres of new county parks. Early estimates indicate this could yield 50 to 65 miles of new trail. While everyone likes the size of those numbers, frequent trail work volunteers are already grabbing the Advil by the time you read this sentence.

In an effort to increase the productivity of volunteers, CAMBC had its first mechanized rental at Walnut Creek in November. The mini excavator was a great help reclaiming the old trail and cutting in bench cut tread.

In 2008 and beyond, CAMBC hopes to have the funding to use small machines more frequently. Sixty miles of quality bench cut trails will take approximately 20 years to build by hand. We can do it in approximately 6 years if we use a machine. In 2008, CAMBC will apply for a grant to assist in purchasing or renting a small walk behind dozer that makes quick work of cutting new benched trail. We're targeting an amount of approximately \$15,000. The grant will not cover all the machine expenses, and we'll need to have a sizable level of matching funds in order to demonstrate our ability to support and manage a grant of this size.



Mike Lamb operates the rented Mini-X at Walnut.

Right now, we anticipate being able to start construction within Preddy Creek by Fall 2008, but this depends on final approval of parking lots and improvements by the Board of Supervisors. Estimated construction dates within Byrom Memorial Park and Biscuit Run are not yet on the table, but these projects are slowly moving forward and CAMBC hopes for a smooth transition in trail construction from Preddy Creek to the new venue.



Matt Day takes in scenery along the Parkway.

Your annual dues and generous donations are a large part of CAMBC's annual budget. If you have not joined CAMBC or renewed your membership, there could hardly be a better time, and if you would like to make a tax deductible donation, feel free to contact our Treasurer Ted Gayle or email [info@cambc.org](mailto:info@cambc.org).