

Fairfield County

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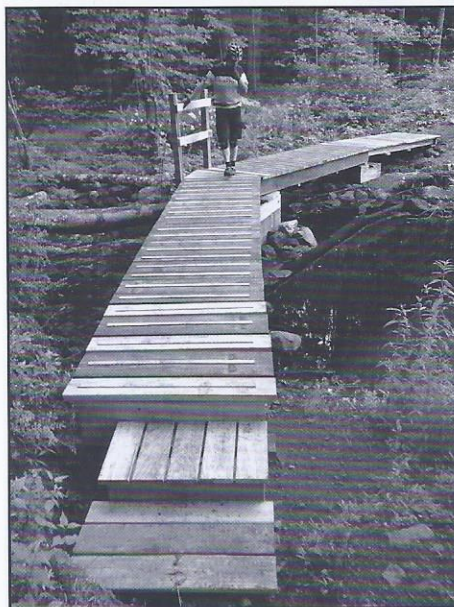
Website: www.fcnemba.org

The Summer riding season is drawing to a close. It's been a rather hot and wet summer so we're all looking forward to cooler temperatures, less humidity and bugs here in Fairfield County.



Our Sunday morning rides are well attended by advanced and social riders alike. Check our FCNEMBA FB page for locations and wheels-down times. It's great to see some women and younger folks starting to join our rides! The trails in Fairfield County are steep and rocky, but they are rideable if you have some basic skills, and our Sunday morning rides are a great way to learn.

The new bridge near Rt. 7/Bennett's Pond State Park is getting rave reviews. Riders like that they



Rich Coffey inspects the new bridge at Bennett's Pond State Park
Photo by John Sweeney



Monika Stokes and Pamela McGrath at the Sunday ride at Troutbrook.
Photo by John Sweeney

can avoid wet feet, or a dangerous highway crossing, to get into Pine Mtn. Many thanks to the Ridgefield Boy Scouts for getting this done.

The new bridge also allowed us to complete the first phase of our "Tour de Bennett's" vision. It's a 10-mile singletrack loop that includes Bennett's Pond and Wooster Mountain State Parks, plus Ridgefield's Hemlock Hills and Pine Mountain open space areas.

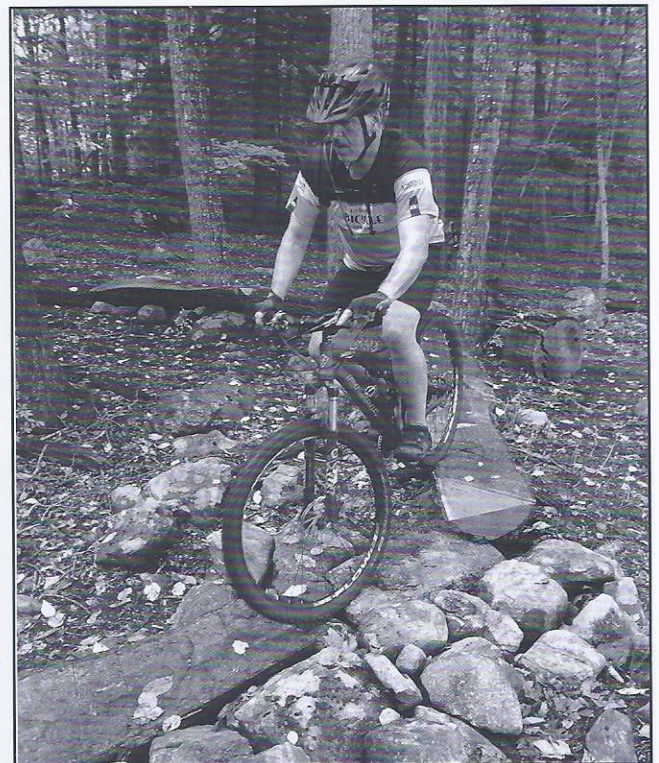
We're working on adding new trails to the GPS-enabled Trailforks application. Tour de Bennett's trails have now been added, and Trumbull is next. This will help new riders navigate our twisty trails.

We're scheduling our Fall trail-maintenance projects now. Check our FCNEMBA FB page for locations and dates.

The CCAP Fairfield County Youth Cycling team has started their Fall season and is already competing. FCNEMBA members have been helping out with practices and races for the next generation of bikers.

A "bike swap" was held in September at a local rock-climbing facility. A great time was had by all. We're considering making this an annual FCNEMBA event in the Fall.

On the advocacy front, we started seeing more unauthorized trail braids and "go-arounds" on our trails. FCNEMBA members are constantly trying to



Ray Garst tests out the log ride at Bennett's Pond,
Photo by Mike Malwitz

close them down to avoid proliferation, and to avoid complaints from land managers. We remind everyone to "improve your skills, not the trails."

—Mike Malwitz

