

World's Longest Bike Race

By LISA TILSON

The third annual world's longest bicycle competition, The Great Divide Race, started June 23 in Port of Rossville, Montana and ended in Antelope Wells, NM. According to Tom Purvis's website, <http://greatdividerace.blogspot.com/>, eight riders entered the com-

petition including Matthew Lee, Matthew Chester, Kevin Montgomery, John Noble, Rudi Nadler, Kenny Maldonado, David Nice and Mike Gibney. Chester, a Sandpoint, Idaho native, was the only rider from the Pacific Northwest. For the first time in race history, three riders attempted the race with fixed-gear bikes, although none of them finished.

"The diverse nature of the regions makes it a special, sometimes spiritual not only do they have to ride, but they have to sustain these programs. A donation doesn't necessarily have to be a whole bike. You can also give parts, tools, lube, rags, storage bins and tires to most organizations."

"Since 1996 nearly 1500 youth have learned safe riding skills on rides and rodeos at Bike Works," says

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the longest mountain bike route in the world, was first time trialed by John Stamstad in 1999. He held the record of 18 days and five hours until 2004, when Mike Curia finished the first annual race in 16 days and 57 minutes.

"In terms of athletic performance it blows the Tour de France out of the water," says Adventure Cycling spokesman Aaron Teasdale. "It's a whole other level."

The race is not a flashy, media driven event,

when he ran into monsoon weather in Colorado and a slide blocking the road on the border of New Mexico. Although he did not post a new record time, it still placed him ahead of Stamstad in the record books at 17 days, 22 hours and 30 minutes.

Six of the eight who started on June 23rd did not finish the race. Nice was one of the racers who pulled out



Adventure Cycling's Great Divide Route, the longest MTB route in world, here riders near Glacier National Park.

Photo by Aaron Teasdale, Adventure Cycling