

## READINGS



## SECOND ANNUAL BETRI BIKE BASH A HIT

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Race doesn't have to be a four-letter word according to the Yeti Betris, a women's racing team based out of Golden, CO. After observing how few women participate in mountain bike races when compared to their male counterparts, the Betri's decided to take matters into their own bike-gloved hands and organize a women's-only mountain bike race.

Amy Thomas, organizer and Yeti Betri team member, discussed the importance of a women's-only event. "At the starting line, I rarely see any new female faces lining up. It's the intimidation factor of racing that keeps more women from trying it and seeing just how fun it can be," said Thomas.

With that challenge in mind, Thomas and the Betri's worked tirelessly to create an event that provides a fun way to check out bike racing, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Mountain2Mountain. M2M, founded by Shannon Galpin, is a non-profit dedicated to bringing education and opportunity to women in conflict regions such as Afghanistan.

Held on June 12 in scenic Bear Creek Lake Park in Morrison, CO, the Betri Bike Bash drew more than 230 riders. In keeping with its goal of making bike racing accessible, the beginner category had the most entrants, with many first-time racers (including yours truly). With the help of presenting sponsor Stan's NoTubes, the Betri Bike Bash also offered a juicy \$3,000 cash purse for top finishers in the professional category.

The course was a 4-mile loop, consisting primarily of flowy singletrack with a few quick climbs. Shortly after the beginner riders cleared the trail, the pros lined up and wowed the crowd with their athleticism and super-speedy race skills. The top three pro finishers were Georgia Gould (Team LUNA Chix), Katie Compton (Rabobank-Giant) and



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