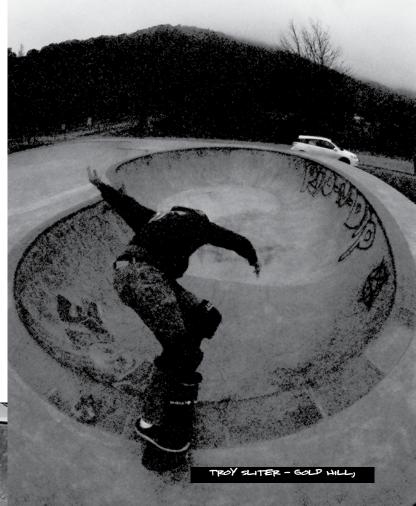




ROAD TO THE N-MEN PARTY

DAMM, IT WAS GOOD TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN FOR A WHILE. NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SKATEBOARD GANG THE HMEN HAVE AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY IN SACRAMENTO AND OUR PAL BRYCE MANGITS (FORMER N-MEN ICON AWARD WINNER) PROVE US POWN FOR A THREE PAY 10 SESSION JAUNT THAT ALSO INCLUDED THE N-MEN PARTY FEATURING THE ICON AWARD TO KEVIN MATCHER AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY THE BONESIAKERS AND JODY FOSTER'S ARMY. BOTH BANDS WERE GREAT. IT





WAS RAP TO SEE I'M LIVE, INCLUPING THEIR COVER OF VINCE GARALDI'S LINUS AND LUTY PEARUTS THEME.

FIRST STOP FRIPAN WAS GOLD HILL OREGON'S RAP LITTLE LIQUID STONE PESIGNS SKATEPARK PHASE ONE WAS BUILT BY DREAMLAND BUT THE RAP NEW LITTLE MINI KIPNEY WAS WHAT WE WERE THERE TO SEE. IT WAS TOUGH AND GO WITH THE RAIN BUT THE PARK WAS DRY AND WE GOT A FEW RUNS SHARING THE PARK WITH SOME VERY OUTGOING LOCAL SCOTER KIPS.

SINSTILE MAIN SKATEPARK IN MT. SHASTA, CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN RAINED OUT THE PAST FEW TIMES I'VE BEEN THROUGH. SO GLAD I FINALLY GOT TO RIPE IT. THERE'S A BIG BOWL SECTION, A SMALLER FLOW BOWL AND A FUN "OVER THE BOULDER" FEATURE.

WE MAPE IT TO GRANITE SKATEPARK IN TIME FOR THE EVENING N-MEN SESSION. A LITTLE SHILLY BUT THEY HAVE LIGHTS!

THANKS STEVE-O AND KRISTIE FOR PUTTING US UP!

DAY TWO STARTED WITH A LONG DRNE TO WILD ROSE

SKATEMARK A BIG LOOP WITH A LEPGE AND RAIL CONDLEX

POWN ONE SIDE AND A LITTLE SNAKE RUN ON THE

OTHER, A BANK AND QUARTER AT THE ENDS. SUPER

FUN TO TAKE A FEW LAPS AFTER BREAKFAST.









AFTER THAT IT WAS BACK TO POWER-INN ROAD AND GRANITE FOR ANOTHER SESSION.

A REAL TREAT TO SKATE ROGER AND MAT'S RAP BACK-YARD VERT RAMP UNDER THE LIGHTS BEFORE PICKING UP WALLY INOUYE AT THE AIRPORT. PACKED HOUSE AT THE BLUE LIGHT INCLUDING N-MEN STEVE O AND RANDY MATEN, BOB DENIKE OF THE BONESHAVERS, GUEST OF HONOR K.T., RICK BLACKIAIT, PETER GIFFORD, JED JERREBOINE, ROBERT SCHAEFLI, BRYCE KANIGITS.

SUNDAY WAS ABOUT SKATING THE IEEBLE BOWL.
THANKS TO ERIC AND ANDREA FOR HOSTING THE SESSION. HIGHLIGHT WAS WALLLY'S IMPRONPTU DOUBLES WITH JOHN WORTHINGTON JR. THE OLD MAN KEPT IT GOING FOR A LONG TIME, BUT COULDN'T SHAKE HIM!

TIME TO LIT THE ROAD BACK TO OREGON. ON A
TIP WE CHECKED OUT THE NEW SKATEPARK IN LITE OAK,
CALIFORNIA. MEH, CROWDED WITH BIKES AND SCOOTERS
AND THE SUN WAS AT A BAD ANGLE.

STOPPED AT CORNING, CALIFORNIA ON THE WAY BACK JUST AFTER SUNDOWN. WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE A FEW RUNS, MIGHT BE WORTH A RETURN VISIT. *











AMELIA & PER BJESSE

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE BIOGRAPHI(AL INFO? AMELIA: A high school special education teacher. I grew up in the Gorge, and moved to Portland when I was 18. While working at a used book store in Hood River, I had started reading zines, and was first exposed to bike punk culture. When I moved to Portland, I sold my car, got a bike, and joined the scene. Actually, Per and I met at an epic bike punk party back in 2003. We may have smoothed out a bit with age, but I feel like we're still pretty badass.

PER: Both my parents worked a lot, and had very limited time to get me to activities. That meant that I got used to entertaining myself and in that I got an appreciation for open ended activities that you could do by yourself. I was really into reading at an early age, and when we got a home computer in the early &Os, I got very into programming and building electronic gadgets. I think skateboarding is one of those perfect activities that you can do by yourself and that there is no end to. You can always work on something new. I really love this aspect of skateboarding. The other cool thing about skateboarding is that as soon as there are other people around skating, you can socialize even if you are working on different things and are at different levels. Hanging out with someone just starting out can be as fun as skating around someone that is a hundred times better than you.

HOWOLD ARE YOU AND WHEN DID YOU START SKATEBOARDING? P: 44, A: 35, We started skateboarding 5 years ago.

YOU WERE (OMPETITIVE TRACK (Y(LLISTS, RIGHT? DO YOU STILL RIDE? P: We both got really into fixed-gear velodrome racing in the early 2000s. There was a big fixed gear bike thing going on with messenger culture, and



there was some cross over between messenger alley cat racing and real velodrome cycling. We went out to the Alpenrose track outside of Portland and tried a beginner class, and got hooked. The obsession grew, and we both ended up training and racing very seriously in sprint length events. The culmination was several masters national championships, a track record and a Masters worlds silver medal for Per, and a track record, a national bronze medal, and a few collegiate medals for Amelia. After six years of racing, we decided to retire. It was the training load, and Amelia going back to school, and it also was not socially the funnest scene. We don't really ride other than for bike commuting. It's hard to ride "recreation"



ride "recreationally" when you have focused so hard on competing. We wanted to find something fun we could do together to replace track cycling. Amelia suggested skateboarding, and here we are.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TRY SKATEBOARDING? HOW DID YOU START? DID YOU SKATE UP AND DOWN THE SIDE WALK? A: We started with the idea of just being able to skate around for transportation. We got cruisers, helmets, and pads, and started skating in the evenings at the local school yard. After a month or so, I could skate to the store without being hyper-focused on foot placement and balance. A month later, I was to getting comfortable with foot braking, so I could go a bit faster and farther. One day we skated from North Portland to Southeast — 17 miles total. It was so freeing. We got curious about skate parks and got popsicle boards and learned to pump and drop in at TRON. Bowl skating was immediately fun and exciting.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR SKATEBOARDING? A: My immediate goal is to recapture the acceptance of risk that I had when I was more of a beginner. I used to let myself get hurt much more than I have lately, and that's meant that my progress has plateaued. So I'm trying to get over that, take more risks, have more fun, and make more advances. Trick-wise, I'd like to get airs above coping on vert someday. Oh, man, that would be the best!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'LL KEEP SKATEBOARDING? For forever, or however long it is fun. 25 more years? I don't know. As long as it's fun.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SKATEBOARDING (OMPETITION? AMELIA: Nope. Not only do I believe wholeheartedly that I will never be competition-good at skating, I genuinely don't want to get sucked in again. I don't want to do that with skating. I did love bike racing when I was doing it, but I really don't want to do anything like that again.



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