



VORBA MEMBER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



NEW ALLIANCE ASPHALT PUMP TRACK TO OPEN AT BROWNSVILLE'S PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES PARK

The Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association helped connect Cameron Commissioner Sofia Benavides, the Cameron County Parks and Recreation team, and Alliance ASE USA to build the RGV's second asphalt pump track project. The pump track measures 492 linear feet, and has a footprint of 4,695 cubic feet of total area. The track is located across from Benavides Park on 2055 Browne Road in southeast Brownsville, Texas.

This is the first asphalt pump track built by world-renowned European company, Alliance Action Sports Experts (ASE). Alliance ASE has completed over 220 projects in over 350 locations across the world, and has been in business for over 15 years. They bring a pedigree of expertise in building the increasingly popular asphalt pump tracks worldwide.

The project was brought to reality through a series of meetings between VORBA, Cameron County Commissioner Sofia Benavides, and the Cameron County Parks and Recreation director, Mr. Joe Vega. Meetings were hosted in fall of 2024, with the project greenlit in December.

Jake Carsten, Alliance ASE USA President, was consulted and soon joined in the planning and scheduling construction of the project. Jake is well-known in BMX, mountain biking, and trail building circles. He is a master trail builder who has been involved in the industry since 2011, and authored the book, *Mountain Bike Trail Development Guidelines for Successfully Managing the Process*, for IMBA.

VORBA and Cameron County Parks and Recreation are expecting to host a grand opening of the Benavides Alliance Asphalt Pump Track in June 2025 (date TBA).



VORBA Events Calendar

WEEKLY MTB RIDES- LOWER VALLEY

SATURDAYS, 8:30 A.M.
HARLINGEN ARROYO TRAILS (MTB)
MEET AT BICYCLE WORLD HARLINGEN



WEEKLY MTB RIDES - UPPER VALLEY

MONDAYS, 6:30 P.M. - MISSION LEVEE RIDE
(GRAVEL)
MEET AT TREK MISSION

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00 P.M. - MISSION TRAILS NIGHT
RIDE (MTB)
MEET AT MISSION TRAILS PARKING LOT

SPECIAL EVENTS AND MTB RIDES

MAY 1-31, 2025 - **IMBA SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**
MAY 24, 2025 - **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MTB DAY**
(EDINBURG DOOLITTLE TRAILS)
JUNE 2025 (DATE TBA) - **BENAVIDES ALLIANCE PUMP TRACK
GRAND OPENING**



UPCOMING MTB AND GRAVEL RACES

JULY 6, 2025
EHOTS 2025 EDITION
KLUB NAUTIQUE, MISSION, TX

SEPTEMBER 2025 (SUNDAY - DATE TBA)
BENAVIDES TRAILS MARATHON MTB NIGHT RACE
BENAVIDES MTB TRAILS, BROWNSVILLE, TX

OCTOBER 11-12, 2024 (SAT-SUN)
SHOWDOWN AT THE ARROYO IV
HARLINGEN ARROYO TRAILS
(TMBRA FALL CUP XC MTB SERIES RACE/USAC
SANCTIONED)

JANUARY 2026 (SUNDAY - DATE TBA)
CHAINBREAKER 10/50 MARATHON MTB RACE
MONTE BELLA TRAILS, BROWNSVILLE
(LOCAL UNSANCTIONED MTB RACE)
2026 SOUTH TEXAS MTB RACE SERIES - RACE #1

MARCH 2026 (SUNDAY - DATE TBA)
THE CACTUS CUP @ MISSION TRAILS
MISSION TRAILS
(LOCAL UNSANCTIONED MTB RACE)
2026 SOUTH TEXAS MTB RACE SERIES - RACE #2



Fast Cholo Racing Presents
SUNDAY 7/6/25



E.H.O.T.S.
TRADITIONAL - GRAVEL - MTB

7:00 AM
KLUB NAUTIQUE
E CHIMNEY ROAD
MISSION, TX 78572



Logos on the right side of the poster include: Fast Cholo Sealant, Nautique Klub, Shimano, Texas, and Formula 360.

MAY IS THE IMBA SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND WOMEN'S MTB DAY



The IMBA Spring Membership drive begins runs May 1-31st! There are some great prizes being given away to anyone who renews their membership or joins as a new member, including a chance to win a Yeti SB120 or SB135 mountain bike!!!

More people mountain biking is a good thing for our community and having trails for everyone is important. Protecting and maintaining the trails we all enjoy is just some of the necessary work that we do. Help support your IMBA local chapter, the Valley Off-Road Bicycling Asc and work we do to build, maintain and sustain the sport of mountain biking in our community.

Renew your lapsed membership or tell a friend to join us today! [JOIN VORBA](#)



International Women's MTB Day is 5/24/25!

International Women's MTB Day is celebrated annually in May. This year, the ladies from the Suicide Squad will be hosting a ladies only ride at the Edinburg Doolittle Nature Park and Trails.

This free event open to the public will be hosted on Saturday, 5/24/25. The park offers parking, portable restrooms, and a covered area with shade. The Doolittle Trails are a 3-mile trail system, made up of two 1.5 mile segments. There are a variety of different trail features, such as rollers, berms, and some fun punchy climbs and drops. The trails offer fun for all skill levels, from the beginner rider to the veteran racer.

Come by the VORBA tent as we will be offering free giveaways and prize raffle. If you are not already a member, we will be offering membership drive sign-ups for our spring membership drive.



International Women's MTB Day at Edinburg Doolittle Nature Park.

Women will be taking over
May 24th
to celebrate women in mountain
biking!

Join in on the connection,
community, and
CELEBRATION!

Expect good vibes, group rides,
and full-send fun!



#WomensMTBDay



May 24, 2025
8:00am
1300 N. Doolittle Road
Edinburg Tx, 78542

VORBA VOLUNTEERS RESURRECT THE HARLINGEN ARROYO TRAILS AFTER HISTORIC FLOODING

Much of the mid-Valley received historic rainfall on March 27, 2025. Continuous downpours quickly flooded highway frontage roads, then quickly overwhelmed local drainage districts. The City of Harlingen received over 3.72 inches of rain, breaking a 102-year record set in 1923.

Due to surrounding neighborhood flooding and runoff, this caused the Arroyo Colorado to rise over 30 feet according to measurements taken that week. The Harlingen Arroyo Trails, an almost 10-mile system of primitive trails, built and maintained by VORBA, that weave along the Arroyo Colorado now found several segments underwater.

As the water receded, our trail stewards and volunteers quickly assessed the damage. Multiple sections had extreme erosion, with several parts still with standing water. Erosion, damage to several of the wood bridges, and a sinkhole of the land bridge that connects Henry Roberts Loop were quickly assessed as priorities.

VORBA hosted a trail maintenance volunteer meeting at Bicycle World in Harlingen on 4/5/25. During this meeting, coordination efforts were outlined for each of the sections that comprise the Arroyo Trails. Estimates were 3 to 6 months to repair the trails.

Several trail maintenance days were scheduled to get as many volunteers as possible to attend. The first day was 4/12/25, then a week later, 4/19/25, and the final date being 5/3/25. In between scheduled trail maintenance days, several volunteers provided tens of hours of dirt work, trimming, weed eating, lopping, and berm construction.

The Harlingen Arroyo Trails are 95% rideable thanks to our trail maintenance volunteers. Special thanks to the team at Bicycle World RGV for putting in the hours of work to save our local trails. Big shout out to Steve Guillot, who brought his personal tractor and zero-turn mower to help.

VORBA is excited to be working with the City of Harlingen to install brand new trail marker signs throughout the trail to designate trail segment names, IMBA trail difficulty rating, distance, and direction. We will announce once these have been installed!



VORBA

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES



Discounts on over 400 brands of bike and outdoor gear through

ExpertVoice.com.

Sign up for a free account and upload your proof of membership with VORBA/IMBA. Visit www.expertvoice.com



Sign up for BikeInsure at a special member price, and cover your new or used bicycles and eBikes against riding, transit, or theft risks.

Find out more at <https://www.bikeinsure.com>



Club Ride offers a variety of clothing for mountain bikers.

Enjoy 30% off with their membership pro program.

Learn more at <https://www.clubrideapparel.com>

CHECK YOUR INBOX!

With your paid monthly or annual membership fees to VORBA/IMBA, you receive an annual subscription to Mountain Bike Action Magazine. This digital edition showcases the latest bike reviews, gear and trails from around the world to ride on!

Check your e-mail inbox (or spam) for a link to your monthly issue.



SUBARU VIP PROGRAM

The Subaru VIP Program provides eligible IMBA members with the opportunity to lease or purchase a new Subaru with no haggling, no negotiation, and no pressure, just a great deal on a new Subaru!

For more information on your IMBA benefits, visit <https://www.imba.com/member-benefits>

Meet Your **VORBA** Board of Directors



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VALLEY OFF-ROAD BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

The Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association (VORBA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization under the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) local chapter program. Its mission is to create, enhance, and preserve great trail experiences for cyclists in the Rio Grande Valley, and to preserve, protect, and promote mountain and gravel bike access for diverse riding opportunities on Texas's public and private lands through education, communication, and unified action. Our organization is made up of mountain and gravel bike riders, trail builders, trail runners, and community volunteers who want to create and preserve primitive, singletrack off-road trails in the four-county area of the Rio Grande Valley. Trails include but are not limited to Brownsville's Monte Bella, Brownsville's Benavides Park Trails, Harlingen's Arroyo Trails, Mission Trails, and Edinburg Doolittle Nature Park and Trails. In addition, VORBA has helped establish asphalt pump tracks at Harlingen Arroyo Park and Brownsville Benavides Park. VORBA was formed to serve as a voice and to best inform local municipalities and private landowners about trail building and access. As an IMBA Local Chapter, VORBA has unique access to federal grant opportunities only offered to such organizations.



Local Partner