

DIRT

DIRTMOUNTAINBIKE



DIRT MOUNTAINBIKE
MAGAZINE /
US\$8.99 UK£3.80
CANADA\$10.99 AU\$11.50
NEW ZEALAND\$12.50
THEMAGFACTORY.COM

MOUNTAINBIKEMAGAZINE ISSUE94/DECEMBER2009

Masters World Champs

Big hits & old gits

Vouilloz... NICO

We take his
Lapierre DH920
for a quick spin

Orange Blood

Five inch slayer



Atherton Pro gear

Shimano race-rep kit

Riding in Edinburgh

Road trip elements

Saint Deep Summer



Chris Winter

INTRO: ED HAYTHORNTHWAITE
PHOTO: BLAKE JORGENSEN

I don't know if he was dealt a good hand to start life with, or if he's just worked his arse off, but whatever the case Chris Winter has managed to already achieve more than what most of us would dream of getting done in a lifetime. I mean how many of us could make a living from being a professional freeskiier for several years? And how many of us could be responsible for co-creating the Joyride event in Whistler, which has since gone on to become the legend that is Crankworx? As if that wasn't enough, Chris has now gone on to run his own company called Big Mountain Bike Adventures, which truly lives up to its name. If you and your bike fancy the trip of a lifetime, then Chris is the man you need to speak to. The trips he organizes are to the best riding spots in the world, including some places which had probably never even seen a mountain bike before Chris turned up. With knowledge like his of the most incredible locations in the world it's no surprise to learn that he's also often called upon by some of the sport's top photographers and filmmakers. Before you go and take a look at www.ridebig.com and plan that trip of a lifetime though, here's the endtroducing of the man with arguably one of the best jobs in the business...

WHO IS CHRIS WINTER?

A mountain biker, skier and entrepreneur.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Vancouver and Whistler BC.

WHAT'S YOUR JOB TITLE?

Owner, Big Mountain Bike Adventures.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I research the top destinations for mountain biking on the planet – the best riding, guides, culture, accommodation, food, etc – then I create the ultimate holiday and then market it and sell it.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RUNNING BIG MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURES?

We're entering our 9th year.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Pointing to a far-away place on a map of the world and saying "I want to go there and ride," and actually being able to go, with a purpose, and always with good friends.

WHAT'S THE WORST BIT ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Being self-employed has its challenges. It's a rollercoaster ride most of the time.

WHAT'S THE WORST JOB YOU'VE EVER HAD?

Tree planting in northern BC. Very hard work in a remote mosquito infested sauna.

WHERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE?

Tough call. Considering that it's raining and cold here in Vancouver at the moment, I'll choose Santa Teresa, Costa Rica. I'm not much of a surfer, but it sure is dreamy there.

WHERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO RIDE?

Peru is a whole other level for mountain biking.

WHEN ARE YOU HAPPIEST?

When I'm rolling downhill on my bike with good friends.

WHAT MAKES YOU ANGRY?

Bad drivers.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Bikes, travel, friends.

WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

Don't be late.

WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER GIVEN?

Challenges in life are opportunities to learn. Expect challenges and tackle them with all you have.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXTRAVAGANCES?

My quiver of Trek bikes, especially My Remedy. Wait until the carbon version comes out, then I'll really be extravagant.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE?

My parents. They've moved to Whistler to ski and mountain bike full-time. They're killing it.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE?

My pregnant wife.

WHAT WOULD YOU NEVER THROW AWAY?

Nothing is forever. I'd part with anything material.

WHAT'S YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

Drowning.

WHAT WAS YOUR LUCKIEST ESCAPE?

Filming skiing first-descents via helicopter in Bella Coola BC. Looking back, I was rolling the dice most of the time, but it was the best time of my life.

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO IN THE MORNING?

Brew. Dark. Coffee.

WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU DO AT NIGHT?

Brush my teeth.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM MEAL?

Kobe beef burgers, curly fries and lots of ketchup.

WHAT THINGS DO YOU ALWAYS CARRY WITH YOU?

My iPhone, wallet and keys.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS?

I've never had a threesome and I think that I had some opportunities way back in the day that I should have picked up on. Oh well.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT YOU'VE LEARNT?

Do what you love and the rest will fall into place. After all, we'll all be six feet under one day.

IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH THREE FAMOUS PEOPLE (DEAD OR ALIVE) WHO WOULD THEY BE?

Mahatma Gandhi, Michael Jackson and Lady Diana.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE RIDER?

Brandon Semenuk or Wade Simmons. It's a tie.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BIKE PRODUCT OF ALL TIME?

My purple 30" Chromag Fubar OSX handlebars. They rock.

WHAT'S YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE BIKE PRODUCT OF ALL TIME?

I don't have one. I like all things bike.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MOTTO OR SAYING?

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

WHAT SAYING DO YOU USE TOO MUCH?

What you talkin' bout, Willis?

WHAT BIKE ARE YOU RIDING AT THE MOMENT?

Trek Remedy 9.

WHAT WAS THE LAST MAGAZINE YOU READ?

Bike Magazine.

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO AT THE MOMENT?

Hot Chip's Over and Over.

WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF?

To be more content and satisfied in my successes.

WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES?

Chocolate and a few other vices.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOU?

A kid for one, and travel to faraway places with my bike. Otherwise it's open-game, I'm happy to say that I don't really know.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR MOUNTAIN BIKING?

Bike technology continues to evolve rapidly which is exciting. Along with this, riders will keep pushing – we'll venture deeper to trails that have never seen bikes, slopestyle riders will go bigger, DH riders will go faster, XC riders will keep doing what they do...HA!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

Just as someone who was passionate, innovative, and a good friend. ☐

I've never had a threesome and I think that I had some opportunities way back in the day that I should have picked up on