



#ISSUE83

#MAY2022



#mtb #southkorea

#topoftheworld #tibet

#fatherandson #china



# NBRiders JETPACK



## Materials & Manufacturing

The ramp is made of light yet strong plywood. The right amount of layers means it can withstand years of use without sacrificing weight. The backpack is so comfortable it can even be carried around by a teenager. The hexagonal surface has been chosen to give the rider added grip, this can help with carving and spinning on the lip. We use high precision CNC machining in order to achieve a snappy, solid fit.

## Technical specification

- A new sliding pin system allows for easy out of the backpack assembly in less than 2 minutes.
- Tested with overload at speeds up to 40Kmh (25mph)
- Built for strength, Bike & Rider max of 110kg (242lbs)
- Ramp: L137 x W47 x H44 cm / (54 x 18.5 x 17.3 inches)
- Backpack: L53 x W52 x H10 cm / (20.8 x 20.5 x 4 inches)
- Weight: 8.8Kg / (19.4lbs) (Ramp + Backpack)

Website: [www.nb-riders.com](http://www.nb-riders.com)

Email: [info@nb-riders.com](mailto:info@nb-riders.com)

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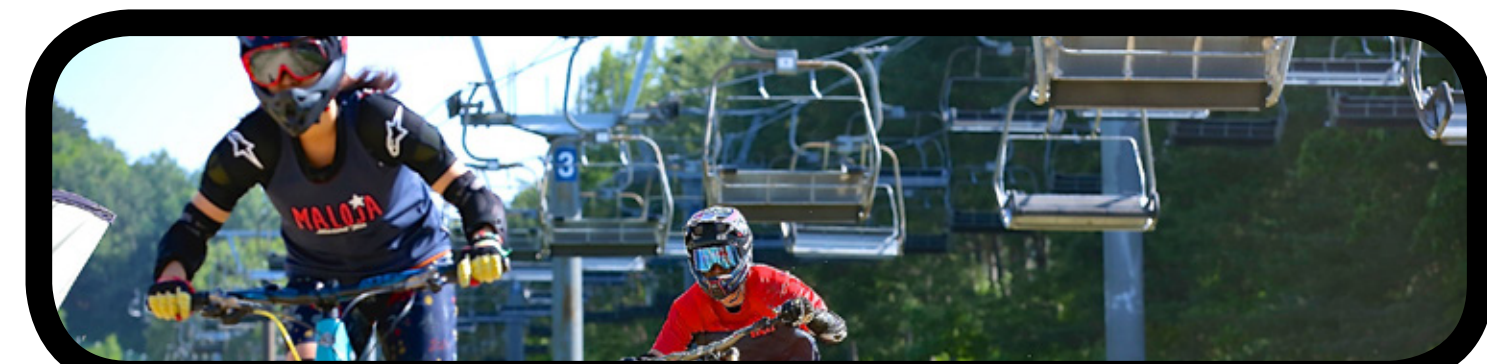


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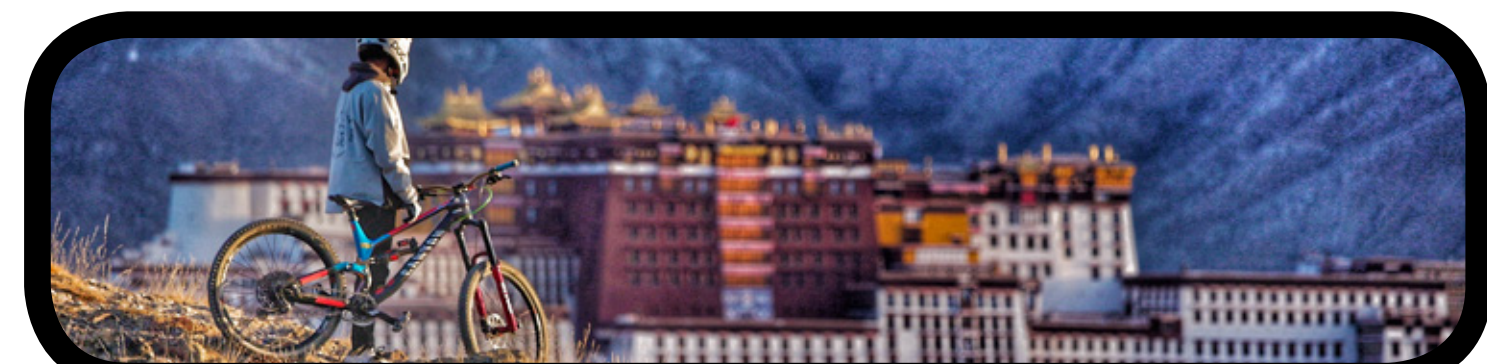
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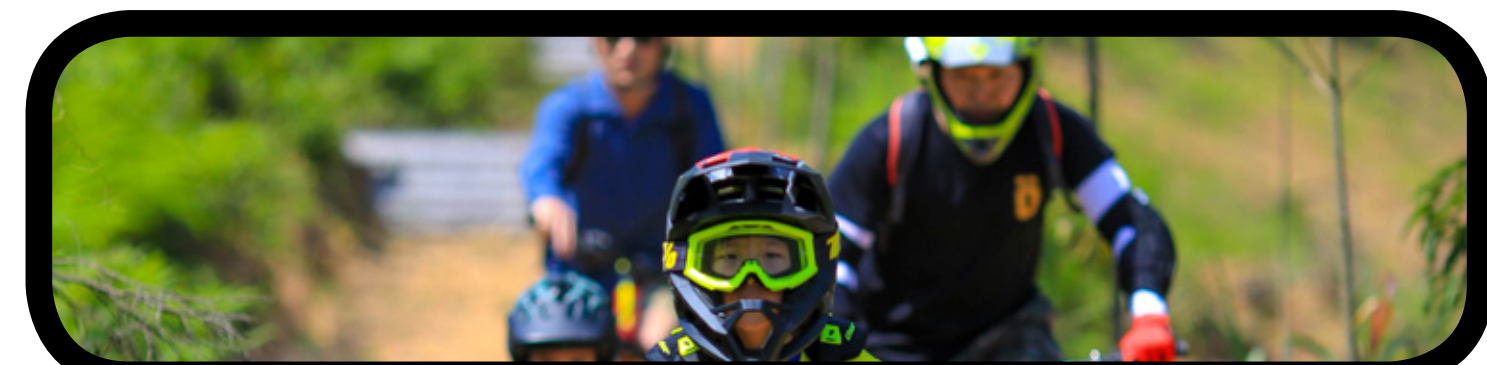
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#MOUNTAINBIKING #SOUTHKOREA



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# TRAIL STORIES

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PHOTOS DYNOZUR, BECK & MORE

WORDS AURELIUS SATLOW

How is MTB riding in South Korea? Is there a lively mountain biking scene? Are there nice trails? What is the best bike park to go to? These were the questions that led to me to do a little research about the sport in South Korea. After a search on Insta, I first came across Bikash, a young and friendly Nepali, who has been living in South Korea for 3 years. He laughed a lot when I asked him about how he started riding MTB. Then Bikash told me a little story about he started on a Hard Tail MTB back in Nepal.

# 한국에서의 라이딩

## RIDING IN SOUTH KOREA





One morning, Bikash and his buddy packed hot tea and biscuits, and pushed their rented MTB bikes for 3 hours up the beautiful mountains in Lakuri Bhanjyang, southwest of Kathmandu. He didn't know much about MTB or Downhill, but when he went down the hiking trail, in just jeans and a cheap helmet, he felt like he'd never had so much fun in his life: "I got so hooked to it and was so in

love with that, I thought, I need to do this again, and so I bought my first MTB, a hard tail Enduro." That was Bikash's story about how he got into the sport.

Shortly after the beginning of that bike-love-story, Bikash moved to Seoul and got a job as a professional welder. At first he had no bike there, but his desire for riding led him to use (or, better,



abuse) another rental bike, this time one belonging to his company. Soon he was shredding down some little hills he found nearby. Then, after buying his first full suspension Enduro, he started searching for trails. That wasn't easy, since he didn't speak Korean and didn't know any riders. So, when seeing a mountain or hill, he just went there and tried to find a trail or a way down. One

day, he even ended up on the highway and the police showed up to tell him that he wasn't supposed to ride there.

Finally, through social media, Bikash found other riders, mostly from the Philippines and some Americans. Now, he meets with them almost every weekend for riding. They go to different places, by bike or sometimes







by car. They mostly ride single trails and sometimes hit the bike park. In Bikash's opinion, the best bike park is the Yong Pyong Bike Park, unfortunately more than 3 to 4 hours by car from his home. Bikash says it's a nice place with many berms and fun lines.

In South Korea, home trails and trails in bike parks lead mostly through the

forest, which means they're pretty rooty and rocky, though with a lot of nice berms and some jumps. Bikash normally rides on a home trail in Surisan, where he gets to by a one hour subway ride. Once there, he needs to push the bike uphill for 40 minutes for a 2 to 3 minute downhill ride. It's a technical trail full of roots, rocks and even stairs - it's actually a hiking trail, which makes it a







bit dangerous from time to time. There is even a pump track at the bottom, which Bikash likes a lot.

I also got in contact with Cliff, a riding buddy of Bikash. Cliff recently moved back to the US, but he is full of good memories about his time on the Korean trails. Most of the time, Cliff and Bikash rode in their group of foreign riders,

since the language barrier of course was a factor. To Cliff's impression, there are lots of people riding MTB in Korea, and he told me they'd be "very friendly, when I'd meet new riders; some of the locals would show us new places to ride and they'd have some nice sections or jumps they had built." Also for him Yongpyong MTB Park is the best place to go.







Since Bikash and Cliff both were fond of Yong Pyong MTB Park (YP MTB Park) I contacted Woon-Kwang Beck, who is the owner of YP MTB Park and gave me some basic information. Construction on YMBP started in 2015, and the park is about 4 hours from Seoul, near the east coast of the country. They have a lift and there are 6 main lines with another 6 side lines, mostly pretty

flowy, with some small and medium jumps, and the so called “Ninja Line” offers some nice north shore elements. At the bottom, there’s a pump track and a lounge to rest. A full-day ticket is 40000 Won (about 33 USD) and the season lasts from the end of April to the end of October. I highly recommend watching Cliff’s youtube channel ([here](#)) about his riding there, since it gives a



good visual impression. I mentioned the Gochang Bikepark above, and luckily I found Jong-Woo Park, who calls that bike park in the southwest of Korea his favourite, since it is “Korea’s biggest and most interesting bike park,” as he tells me. Jong-Woo is 34 years old and started riding in 2017. He loves to ride there together with his two younger brothers - not for battling over who is

the fastest, but more in a free and fun atmosphere. Gochang Bike Park has 5 lines, one of them a descent of 1139m over 8 km, and that is the longest bike park trail in Korea. Gochang Bike Park doesn’t have a lift, but it does have a good shuttle service.

Jong-Woo and I talked a bit about the overall MTB situation in Korea. There







are now more riders and bike parks than when he was young. On the other hand, in the area where he lives, they had to close their home trails because hikers were complaining. When it comes to trails, the local government still listens more to the voice of hikers than that of the MTB scene. Jong-Poo also thinks that, although there have been areas officially designated as bike

parks or trails, reaching that goal was super difficult. His hope for the future is “that the perception and image of Mountain Biking culture in the eyes of the normal people could change more to the positive side.”











བད་



ཡེ་ཤེས་པ།



**PHOTOS** DAN ZENG JIMMY & FRIENDS

**WORDS MESUM VERMA**

# TOP OF THE WORLD

འདྲ་གསལ་རྒྱུ་ཡིན།





Hi Jimmy, tell us a bit about yourself? Where do you live, what you are doing for a living, how old are you?

Hello, my name is Jimmy and I am 22 years old. I live in Lhasa, Tibet, and work in a bike store.

Can you tell us how you got into biking? Are there many mountain bikers in Lhasa?

I remember the first time I got into biking was through my mother. At that time, there was a bike team in Tibet called „Yak Team“. Then I kept searching for biking videos on the internet, and it was 2013 right in time for the screening of the documentary “Where the Trail Ends”, and from then on I couldn’t stop riding.

I see that you’ve got several bikes, where did you buy them? Where do you go to fix your bike? Are there many stores in Lhasa for mountain bikes?

Here in Lhasa, a lot of people still have fun with mountain bikes. But there are still very







few people who are involved in the field of extreme sport of MTB. My first bike was a Giant downhill bike that my mother bought for me, and I had a pretty heavy crash in the mountains. After that I slowly started to practice my skills and slowly work on them. I have trail bikes like a BMX street trail bike, YT, Specialized, now I have also a bike from Canyon.

As we said, you have several bikes, for different disciplines. Which discipline you are most into it? And why is it so?

Because I love to mess around, I love to do different kinds of biking styles, so, haha, I break my bike all the time. But I am lucky, I know a person who is very impressive in this area of bikes in Tibet. He is also known as one of the top Tibetans in the field of mountain bikes and road bikes—Zaton. He is also a senior technician at Shimano. So we have no problem with bike maintenance.







When you go for a downhill ride, where do you go? How long does it take you to get from Lhasa City to the trail? Are there any trails? If yes, how do they look?

I've ridden various bikes, but never found the right one for my style. I have watched the climbing style of the Chinese Jin-Kun Zhang, and I have also watched the biking videos of downhill biker Cam Zink. Until I saw a biker named Fabio, who could ride all kinds of bikes and add different skills to one bike, which is exactly the kind of freestyle I was looking for, then I added it too. I've been practicing under the guidance of a Bro here who loves climbing bikes, although progress is slow. Although there is no venue nor professional coaching, but I still keep on trying. There is also a Tibetan „Fabio Wibmer” who loves biking at this altitude of over 3700m!

High altitude is not so easy to ride a mountain bike. Do you feel it, does it make it difficult to ride a bike in such high altitude above sea level? How many times per week do you go riding? Do you often go alone, or do you go with others?

I rarely ride my bike since I started working.







I also teach the children to ride the pushbike on Saturdays. I just usually bike on Sundays. My buddies and I built a small downhill trail at a spot called Niangregou, which is about 4700 meters above sea level. There are no professional downhill trails in Tibet. We usually bike in the Wild Mountains. There aren't any planned trails on the mountain, so it's all based on a trail inside your mind. Tibet is very isolated, many mountains are more than 4600 meters above sea level. We sometimes have brake problems, such as swelling, abnormal damping, which may also be due to the high altitude. If we are lucky enough we might also encounter some natural jumps. Tibet is not a good choice for biking because there are full of bramble thorns. After biking on the mountain we have to always patch the tires, which is also a big trouble!

Are you also doing other sports? If there was no biking, which sport you would be interested?

If there was no bike, I would probably choose motocross or car drifting, that kind of thing.







Even if it's probably not the easiest place to ride a bike in terms of getting around and because of the high altitude, but I guess it is still pretty nice! But if you could choose a location in China, where you want to ride your bike? Where would this be around the world?

After a brief introduction of Tibet, I guess you all are aware that Tibet is not really a good biking place. If I had the chance to go somewhere, I prefer to go to the downhill venue in Guide, Qinghai, because it was built by foreign professional trail builders, and I would be able to meet and talk with many Profis if they have again a downhill race there. Or maybe Austria, where I might have a chance to meet Fabio. Haha.. I would love to have an autograph from Fabio.

Why do you ride bikes? What's it all about?

I feel very free to explore more amazing trails on my bike. I hope that I can participate in a race to exchange biking skills with all the Profis!





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150mm	31.6mm	440mm	573g	07561

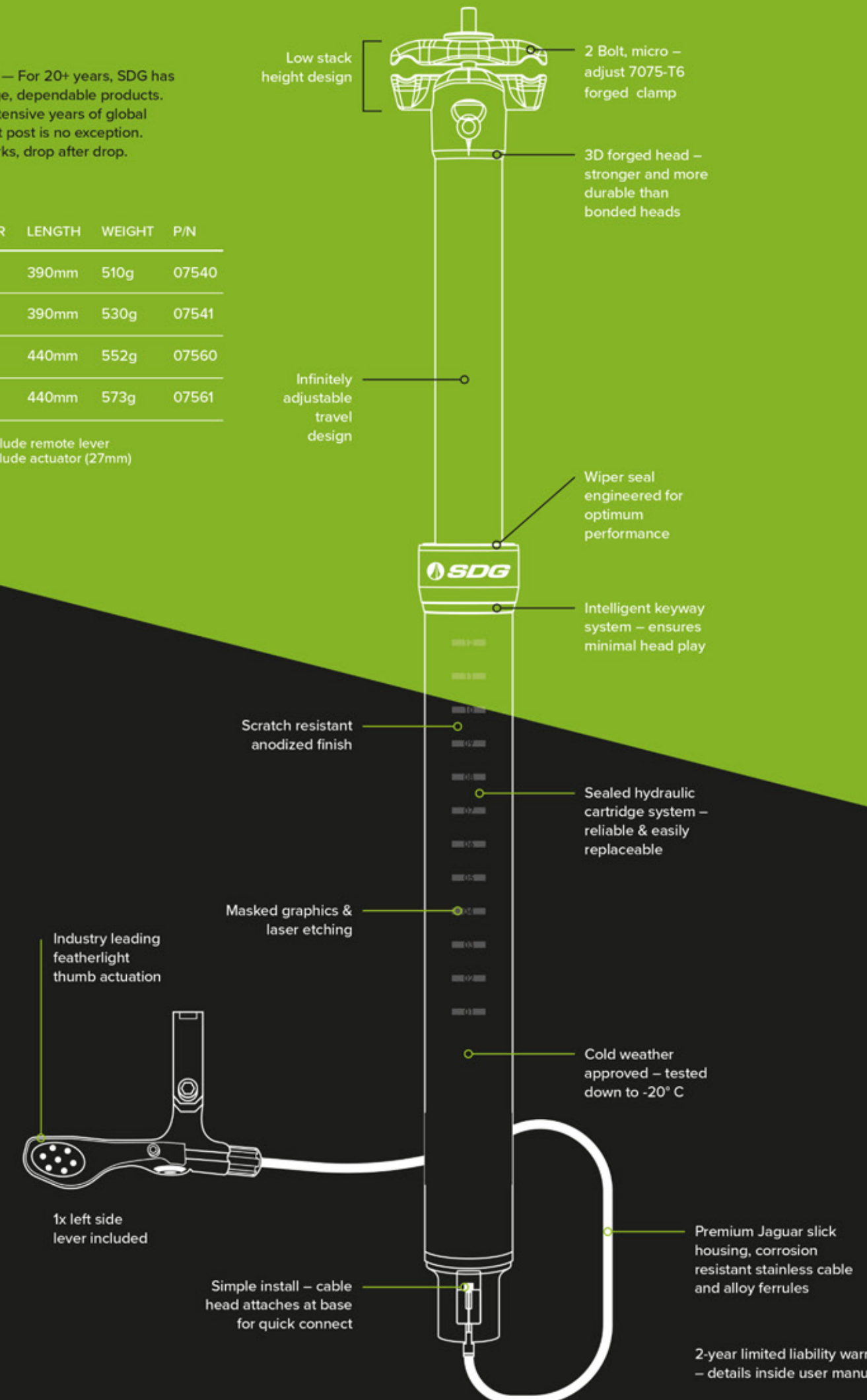
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# 赵启和爸爸

ZHAO QI AND HIS DAD



PHOTOS HUNAN CAT/HOTWHEELS CLUB, ZHAO SHENG & WU BING LI

WORDS AURELIUS SATLOW





Although it was just 8 o'clock in the morning, it was one of these really hot late summer days, already hitting 28 degrees, here in south-east China in October 2020. My friends and I were outside on the hill of the Dirtpark Ningbo for the last preparations for the "Ride Your Bike" Mini Festival. Then, about 9 o'clock, the first riders arrived, and to my surprise one of them was only about 1.15 meters and just 5 years old!

It turned out the little Chinese boy had come with his dad. The boy was super shy, at least with me when I asked him for his name. Perhaps it was because it was the first time a foreigner had ever talked to him. So, his dad told me his name is Zhao Qi, or in English Dan, and he comes from Dongyang Town here in Zhejiang Province, about 1.5 hours south-west of Ningbo. That day was one of the first times Dan had ridden his kids' mountain bike in a bike park. So, he chose the beginner area, and rolled bravely over all table jumps and obstacles there. After he got confident he even started riding one of the table jumps on the Advanced line. Finally at the end of the day, Dan even got airtime and almost cleared the 3m long jump. For his eagerness and enthusiasm at



riding, the jury of the “Best Style Contest” gave the third place copper medal to him. Now, 2 years later in 2022, I did a little interview with Dan, where he told me that he started riding bikes at 3 years of age, a pushbike at that time. His father Zhaosheng, a doctor, explained that he started out teaching his son bike riding. It is a trend in the developed big cities of China that some kids from richer parents learn to ride in so-called pushbike clubs, from more or less professional trainers, who earn a pretty good sum of money by doing so. In Dan’s case there was no such pushbike club in their city, so his dad trained him and is still training him - at that time in 2019 on a specially prepared large-size pushbike.

I asked Dan what he finds so interesting about riding bikes and he said: “Riding bikes is so cool! I’m a sick boy when I ride,” and in his opinion, compared to other sports like basketball or football, it takes more courage to ride MTB or BMX. When he can’t go outside to ride, he likes to watch MTB videos sometimes, and the clip he is the most fond of at the moment is “Urban Freeride” from Fabio Wibmer.



趙啟明





In the beginning, his father was the one who trained Dan. But after Dan got better at riding, his dad thought he couldn't be his trainer anymore, and decided to send him to a pushbike club 200km away in Ningbo, where Dan received 1:1 lessons from a trainer. After one year of riding pushbikes, Dan switched to a small-sized BMX bike. Zhaosheng thinks his son can now ride even better than him in some respects, and the only thing he can do now is be a riding buddy for his son - a training partner, but not a trainer. Meanwhile, Dan switched to a kids' mountain bike, also because "mountain biking is better for parent-child riding," as his father says.

Finally, in April 2021, Zhaosheng could start riding MTB with his son Dan. And yes, his father, who is now 39 years of age, also just started riding MTB at the same time! For their first ride in a bike park near Hangzhou, they took another friend, who is a bike trainer. Zhaosheng recalls the time: "Dan felt it was a little difficult after the first MTB riding, but I thought it was so interesting. Afterwards, we spent more time on riding MTB. It became our favourite sport instead of snowboarding." For now, Dan and his



縱騎無忌



趙啟明



dad enjoy the more relaxed way of riding, and they would rather take the pickup Jeep to the peak than climb up for a long time.

Another super unusual thing about Dan's father Zhaosheng is this: he's built a kind of mini indoor bike park with a start platform, jump ramps, a quarter pipe to turn and a roller to push over. I asked him how he came up with that project, and it turned out he first just cleared the basement for Dan to ride his pushbike in 2019. Later he bought different elements, like landings and ramps, and installed them to improve the space, because there's neither a bike park nor a skate park in their city. His friends think he's a crazy father, but with a cool super special basement! And of course his son Dan likes that little training centre a lot: "It gets 9 out of 10 points, if I was to rank it!"

Then I talked a little bit with the dad about the current situation of MTB riding in China, and wanted to know if there are many dads like him: "There are few other







從騎車開始



parents who motivate their kids to ride MTB. Many children ride pushbikes in China, but after they grow up, only a very small part of them follow that hobby or start riding MTB. It's not a popular sport in our country. Some people like to ride a kind of AM MTB or XC on the roads, instead of off-road. Real off-road MTBing like Downhill and so on is regarded as 'too dangerous for Chinese children.'" So, what luck that I could get to know to one of the exceptions!

In 2021, the 6-year-old Dan and his dad participated again at the "Ride Your Bike" Mini Festival in the Dirtpark Ningbo. That year Dan showed no less enthusiasm than the last year while riding, and at the end of the day the crowd gathered at one of the biggest jumps, a 1.80m high kicker. Dan wanted to try it and everybody was nervous about his attempt. But his dad was pretty calm and just let him go, and eventually after some moments of hesitation the little rider took the huge ramp and made it exactly over the gap into the landing, where some riders stood ready to catch him in case of a crash. For his bravery and non-stop riding Dan again ranked second in the



“Best Style Contest”.

Dan and his dad’s personal favourite places to ride are the Brave Peak Bike Park south-west of Hangzhou, and the Lake Songhua Resort in the Jilin Province, which Zhaosheng describes as a “glamorous bike park with very beautiful scenery.” They also go there for snowboarding every winter. Dan’s dad thinks there are enough and good enough places for his son to ride and practice, it’s just enough free time that they are lacking. That’s why Dan’s dad at moment doesn’t have a specific plan for Dan’s riding in the future, except just having more free time and chances to enjoy riding together.

I asked little Dan about his dream place to ride a MTB, and he had a fascinating answer: “riding down a volcano and snow mountain”. So, let’s see, perhaps here is a real Chinese Freerider in the future!? However Dan will develop in the future and what kind of way he will choose, his dad tells me, “I will respect his decision.” But he is also sure that his own passion for riding will affect him for a long time.



趙啟明





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