

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

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Coastal Animal Rescue and Education Network hits the road

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The Coastal Animal Rescue and Education Network is taking its animal saving show on the road.

The Network was launched in Tofino in 2012 and has been providing veterinary services along with caring for stray animals through its shelter facility and foster network, finding lost pets and even rescuing wild animals through a committed volunteer team ever since. It recently launched a mobile vet clinic, dubbed Mission Pawsible, to deliver veterinary services, including vaccinations and spay and neuter surgeries across the Island's drastically underserved rural and remote communities in an 18' enclosed trailer.

"Our full-time vet and vet tech are driving down logging roads with our mobile clinic and surgery unit to take vet services where, in some cases, they have never been before," CARE co-founder James Rodgers said through a media release announcing the new program.

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SHARING THE STROKE: Mark Naylor of England, currently living in Vancouver, was thrilled to return to Ucluelet for the second annual Sawtooth Jam on Saturday. The event welcomed BMX riders from across the province and beyond to the community's skate bowl. Read about it on Page 7. (Andrew Bailey photo)



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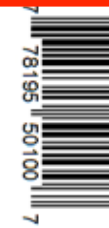
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PROFILE:

Playful vibe stokes BMX love at Sawtooth Jam

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BMX riders from across the province and beyond cranked up the stoke at Ucluelet's skatepark on Saturday for the town's second annual Sawtooth Jam.

The event was launched last year by Chris Denman of Ucluelet and Mike Archer of Tofino.

"They just wanted to put it together and start to build a scene. Riding together is fun. It's always better to ride with other people than ride by yourself," Layton McLeod, who helped organize the event, told the Westerly News at the skate bowl.

There is no official competition at the event as the intent is to provide a venue for riders to get together and enjoy the community.

"It's just a reason for riders to get together and ride together and build the scene," McLeod said. "This bowl is hands down the best bowl on the Island, according to most people who ride. Skate or bike, it's the best bowl on the Island. It's a hidden gem."

He added that Ucluelet's BMX community has been growing thanks to the arrival of Denman from New York about five years ago.

"The scene has just started to build," he said. "(Denman) came out and started riding and people kind of gravitated to that."

He said that he himself picked up the sport alongside his son Hobbes.

"It's not a hard sport to get into. The majority of people grow up learning how to ride a bike and something like this kind of invites those people to see more of what you can do and where you can be on a bike," he said.

Events occur across the Island and Layton hopes that the popularity of Ucluelet's jam encourages other riders to start up similar events in their communities.

"This is the second annual and we're hoping to keep it going," he said. "Hopefully we'll see more events on the Island."

Mark Naylor is a BMX rider from England who's currently living in Vancouver and told the Westerly the Sawtooth Jam is "worth the trip."

"I was here last year and it was an amazing time and this year's amazing again... It's been a right time so far," he said. "It's a cool spot and this just brings everyone together. So many of us live in different spots, but this is by the beach and everybody likes being by the beach..."

It's chill here, but to me everywhere in Canada is pretty chill. Everywhere is pretty easy going."

Brad Hannaford owns Rock Bay BMX in Vic-

"It's only going to bring more attention to Ukee, bring good vibes and lots of talented people."

— Amie Shimizu

toria and was happy to support Ucluelet's jam.

"I'm enjoying it because I enjoy BMX bikes and my BMX friends," he said. "I haven't been to this town a bunch, so I don't know a ton about the vibe here, but I know that the vibe at any BMX event is a good vibe because I love BMX and BMXers are cool. BMXers don't mess around. They're good people."

Jesse Hildebrandt travelled to the jam from Nanaimo and was excited to see the BMX community playing together.

"I'm definitely having a good time. The sun is out. All the riders are here and these are all lifelong friends. We're all having a good time because the BMX community on the Island is pretty tight and we always like to have a good time together," he said. "I'd like to give a huge shout out to the organizers of this event... I'm stoked to see so many people out just riding their bikes, having fun. We're all just here to play so that's probably why we're all having fun."

He added getting riders from different communities together helps keep the riding community close and the sport growing.

"We try to do it to keep the stoke alive. You get to see each other ride and feed off each other's energy and that can allow for growth and progression and that's kind of what it's all about," he said.

Amie Shimizu dropped in on the skatepark with her son Kahn and was thrilled to see the scene, noting how "polite and respectful" the visiting riders were being.

"We just came here. My son was like 'Yo, let's skate at the skatepark together mom and I was like oh, heck yeah and then we roll up here and this is happening and it's just awesome. I'm stoked," she said. "It's always incredibly awesome to see these kinds of events happening. You've got people of all ages, kids coming in and watching these amazing talented riders whether they're biking or skating and getting inspiration. They're really setting the bar high."

She added she's excited to see the jam become a staple on Ucluelet's annual calendar.

"I think it's only going to grow. It's only going to bring more attention to Ukee, bring good vibes and lots of talented people," she said.



Andy McGrath of Shawnigan Lake takes a turn hitting the bowl as his fellow riders watch on.



Spurred on by the jam's vibes, Ukee youth Marshall Reed got creative on his bike. (Andrew Bailey photos)

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