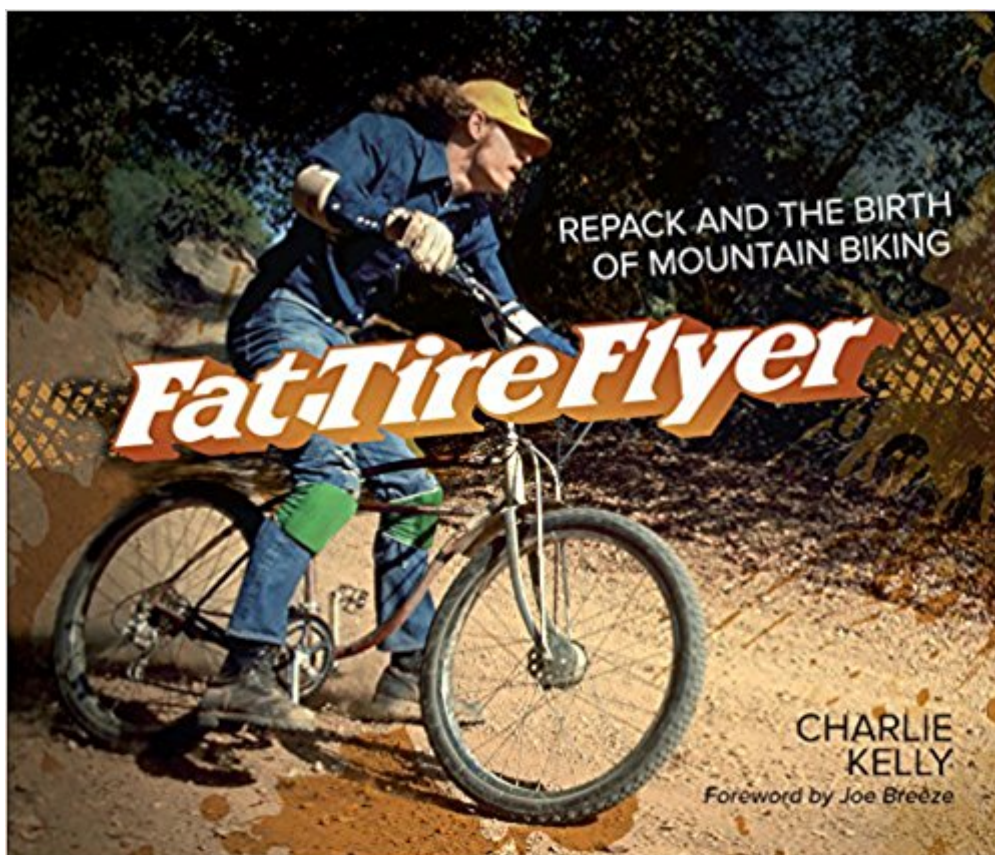


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# Fat Tire Flyer: Repack And The Birth Of Mountain Biking



## Synopsis

It all started with a small crew of bicycle-obsessed hippies bombing the downhill trails of Mount Tamalpais, in Marin County, California. As the friendly competition intensified on the steep dirt trail they called Repack, history's first mountain bikers began craving an upgrade from the old Schwinn cruisers they had rescued from the junkyard. With the single-minded focus found only among the truly obsessed, this rag-tag group sparked a rapid evolution that transformed the castoff Repack bomber into the modern mountain bike, a refined and elegant machine that quickly became the top-selling bicycle in the world. Charlie Kelly -- co-founder of the MountainBikes company with Gary Fisher, organizer of the Repack races, and chronicler of the sport -- now delivers the true, complete, and often unbelievable history of the rise of mountain biking and its lasting culture. Rich with first-hand descriptions and bursting with original photographs, drawings, and memorabilia, Fat Tire Flyer is the definitive history of one of the most significant inventions of the 20th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the mountain biker on your gift list, grab a copy of Charlie Kelly's Fat Tire Flyer. One of the sport's founding fathers, Kelly tells the most honest and complete history of the sport's earliest days, dating all the way back to the days when mountain biking was nothing more than a bunch of hippies bombing down Marin County's Mount Tamalpais. The sport has come a long way since those days, but the story of how it all got started is one not to be missed.

Several histories of the invention of the mountain bike have been published, but

Charlie Kelly is indisputably the man to tell the story. In *Fat Tire Flyer*, he relates it with attention to detail and storytelling flair. It is the definitive account.

- *Wall Street Journal* "Fat Tire Flyer is the best first-hand account of the dawn of a new era for bike riding."
- *Velo* magazine "Kelly's new book, *Fat Tire Flyer* is a true, firsthand look at the wild beginnings of the sport of mountain biking with never before seen photos, artwork and memorabilia."
- *Dirt Rag* magazine "Best known for chronicling the early days of mountain biking as publisher of the sport's first periodical, Charlie Kelly is legitimately one of the handful of Founding Fathers of the sport."
- *Bicycle Retailer and Industry News* "The firsthand account of the sport's early days | Regarded as a leading archivist of mountain biking, Kelly rounds out his 264-page hardcover history with a wealth of original photos, drawings, and memorabilia."
- *Bicycle Retailer and Industry News* "An excellent book on the birth of mountain biking | Filled with great stories, tons of information and historic photos."
- *Mountain Bike Action* "Fat Tire Flyer is a fresh look at the awesome band of crazies who created the sport."
- *MTBR.com* 2014 PubWest Book Design Contest Gold Award Winner: Historical Books "Just like the biking; [*Fat Tire Flyer* is] too good, too fast, and waaay too much fun."
- *Jersey Pocket* "Fat Tire Flyer is the first book to provide a detailed insider's account of the birth of the mountain bike, a machine that had numerous fathers but was the product of a very particular time and place. *Fat Tire Flyer* may not be about road bikes and Euro-style but it is not just about a new technology coming to life. It is about unforgettable characters, good friends, good times and having fun on your bike. That is something all cyclists should be able to relate to and enjoy."
- *PezcyclingNews.com* "Illuminating and inspiring."
- *Mountain Flyer* magazine "Fat Tire Flyer is a trip down memory lane for Charlie Kelly, the guy above whom the tornado formed. His is a collective memory, nearly omniscient in scope, the masterful narrator whose voiceover takes in a sweeping view of Northern California at a point when it was still Redwoods and hippies, pot and touring rock bands. *Fat Tire Flyer* will go down as the definitive history of mountain biking's start, a book indispensable to any cyclist's library."
- *Red Kite Prayer* "Kelly candidly tells the story of the rock-n-roll-soaked years that led up to [Repack], as well as the business he started a few years later, MountainBikes, with his other roommate, Gary Fisher | *Fat Tire Flyer* is a terrific read, although it'll probably make you want to put the book down, dust off that clunker that's been buried in the garage, and head for the hills."
- *WinkBooks.com* "Packed with color photos, posters, cartoons and pictures of early mountain bikes from Kelly's extensive archives, *Fat Tire Flyer* is being billed as 'the definitive history of one of the most significant inventions of the 20th century.'"
- *Marin Independent Journal* "Fat Tire Flyer argues that it was Kelly and his crew who spurred the sport until it caught

onâ •and then rode the wave as first-generation mountain bike manufacturers.â • â • Colorado Springs Gazetteâ œWith Fat Tire Flyer, we now have the most complete, first-hand documentation available of the mountain biking culture that resulted in a movement and industry that, even today, sees more mountain bikes being sold than any other type of bikeâ |Fifty years from now, this book will still be the definitive work on the roots of mountain bikes.â • â • USCyclingReport.com â œFew people will be better equipped to give a first-hand account of how mountain biking developed in the early years, and Charlie Kelly has done the job justice.â • â • Cycling World

THE TRUE, COMPLETE, AND EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF THE INVENTION OF REPACK AND THE RISE OF MOUNTAIN BIKING "It's a cool, clear morning in Northern California, but the five young men are sweating profusely as they push strangely modified bicycles up the steep hill. They are discussing the dirt road surface, which re Â–sembles a moonscape more than it does a road. "These young men belong to the same breed that skis down cliffs, jumps out of airplanes, or rides skate Â–boards down Everest. They have developed their own unique athletic challenge, a race which is known only to a few dozen locals and is referred to as "Ã•Ã•“Repack.' The road they are on is the racecourse."The sport that is going on here may never catch on with the American public, and its originators couldn't care less. They are here to get off." &#x9D;

I bought this book for a fellow mountain bike fanatic here in the intermountain west where riding in the mountains and desert borders on obsession. I stayed up late to read almost the entire book before I delivered it for his 50th birthday the next day.Charlie has clearly honed his skills as a writer through the years. His prose is straightforward, entertaining, and absent any irritating quirks or repetitiveness. The book tells the story of the birth of mountain biking in Marin County very effectively. It is a first person account which concentrates on Charlie's own experiences, not interviews and research, which is what makes it so effective. Charlie richly illustrates his book with pictures, posters, and printed artifacts that bring this story to visual life for the reader. There are interesting side articles in the body and an appendix that augment the tale. It appears that Charlie carefully preserved notes and materials through the formative period of mountain bike development with an eye to posterity and we are the lucky benefactors.My first full-suspension mountain bike was a Gary Fisher and I now know about its early origin. I am ordering a second copy of Fat Tire Flyer for another friend today. There is a reason why it is sold out as I write this review. I will be back out on my bike this afternoon with a persistent chuckle and newfound appreciation as I ride.

The book was kind of a disappointment to me. I wanted more pictures and I wanted the history to continue up to current days. If you have mt biked for a long time you have heard some of the stories and maybe lucky enough to be part of some of them. ....this is a good start but keep going.... I have recently bought several bike books...Cyclepedia is AWESOME if you love bikes. It isn't about mt bikes but it is a great book if you love bikes. This book was just too specific to a very short time period and did not do a great job linking to modern day. I know it was about the beginning of mt biking but I was looking for the beginning and the link to today. Light on photos....which is too be expected from this era.

Excellent book for the fans! Packed with tons of information and great photos of the bikes and people. Charlie Kelly does an excellent job of sharing the story of this group of riders that changed the bicycle world with recounts of their lifestyles, home spun races, the history and evolution of the bicycles, the frame builders and the beginning of a new sport and industry. Very engaging for cycling fans and anyone interested in how this whole mountain bike thing came about.

I could not put this book down. Amazing detail about the origins of mountain biking in this country. It is amazing to me to follow the story of a couple of pals who took the sport to where it is today. The evolution of technology is so richly detailed by Charlie and the fun stories of a free spirited group of people from NorCAL was entertaining for sure.

Wonderful book on the beginning of mountain biking. The book that I bought was used but looks just like new.

Great history of the creation of the mountain bike by one of the real-deal pioneers. There are lots of legends, rumors, tall tales about this period, but Charlie Kelly was THERE and in the middle of it all. The book is well-written and chock-full of great, historic even, photographs. If you are a mountain biker, or any kind of cyclist this book deserves a place in your book collection.STP

Fun book for our collection!

When Charlie Kelly tells his story you feel that he's an old friend sitting right next to you, It's a very engaging style, easy to read and full of the anecdotes of his own life. Those personal episodes, while they are Charlie's own story, are also the story of a time and place that was unique and that

changed the world. "You had to be there" - - and now you can!

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