

ALABAMA SKATE REPORT

"By skateboarders, for skateboarders"

*(The ASR is a non-profit paper printed quarterly by a group of Alabama skaters. Send stories, letters, and information to: Alabama Skate Report, 1937 Greenbriar Rd., Florence, Alabama 35630.)

INTRODUCTION: The Alabama Skate Report is a low-budget paper put together by a group of skaters from the Alabama skateboard scene. ASR will keep skaters informed on what is going on and will also feature interviews, stories by skaters, contest results. Be part of it. Send us a letter.

ASR:ODDS AND ENDS

The sport maybe suffering a little, due to the economy, but in Alabama we're still giving 100% effort..... Recently, Flying Wheels Skatepark (Gadsden) was heavily vandalized. The idiots spray painted vulgarities in the runs, and dumped wheel barrow loads of dirt in the pool. How lame. Geeks, we know who you are, don't come back to Alabama..... Hot Huntsville local, "Buddy Rawls," was seen acid dropping Get-A-Way's 13 foot keyhole lately.... Hey Mobile boys, how's the surf on the Gulf this winter.... The Florence Skateboard Club (sponsored by the city) is working on getting a community half-pipe at one of the city park. Good Luck skaters..... Birmingham's Wheel-A-Weve Skatepark was bulldozed recently..... During the holidays, Jeff "Bunnz" Held was seen pulling off 10 foot frontside curb grinds (no coper), for the Christmas shoppers at the mall in Florence,,, Up in Muscle Shoals there's been some good downhill racing happening on the TVA bike trial... Sims Pros, Brad Bowman and Mike Folmer stopped in Mobile, to blaze Skate Wave Park, during a recent tour.... Skaters are trying to get an amateur association together for a state series this summer. Get-A-Way (Huntsville) is planning three contests. No word yet from the parks in Gadsden and Mobile.... With Kevin Thatcher at the controls, the new mag out of California is WAYHOT.... Masked Man, Roger Hickey recently phoned Alabama to check up on the downhill scene....

EDDINGS COMES NORTH

Mark Eddings jumped off the Greyhound about 9:30, Friday night, looking like the "Corduroy Kid.". All decked out in cords he explained that his license had been pulled due to bad driving habits. Throwing his stick in Squit's truck, he told about the skate scene in Birmingham, as the much abused truck headed to Mark's week-end residence. Mark was then introduced to the Florence skate scene.

After a night of partying, the 10 o'clock skate session came early. Upon arrival at Heritage Village, local downhillers were gearing up. The state slalom champ had finally come to check out the racing up in Florence. The newspaper was even there getting it all on film. Photographer, Shannon Brown (she's way hot) added to the excitement with her presence and her motordrive.

Max Russell and Patrick Wachter were laydown racing. Scott "Squit" Sloan, Tyler Ledbetter, and Troy Russell, were going for it with Mark; stand up. On the hottest race of the day, Squit and Mark were drafting each other heavily down the first hill, the lead changing several times. Squit took the inside on the sharp left turn, they were neck-n-neck coming down the main drop. Mark beared down and nudged Squit out on a fading right turn to take it. Mark pretty well edged out the stand up locals at Heritage Village. Max's new leopard skin laydown stick proved too much for Patrick's laydown skate. Along with some tight racing was one gnarly crash.

With the session over, Mark then checked out the local skate shop. Hobby and Cycle owner, Steve Doster and Mark rapped about what's planned for this summer. Mark copped a few good deals and cruised to Huntsville for some vert skating.

At Get-A-Way Skatepark (Huntsville) Mark sessioned with local Buddy Rawls on a cool Saturday afternoon. Buddy has the park wired. Mark's lay back rollouts were looking hot.

Sunday morning found Mark and crew back in Florence, ready for more racing. Mark was stoked as he checked out the TVA bike trial. The part of the trial chosen for the informal racing is a 12 foot wide, smooth quarter mile run. The start is marked with concrete pilings (used as gates) accommodating 2 skaters. The first part of the run is straight and drops steadily into the S turn. Into the S turn the run drops again, then goes into a right turn and the biggest drop of the run. The run ends with a small S turn over a creek. Fast and Fun.

Locals, "Squit" Sloan and Patrick Wachter and area skatepioneer Jeff Held showed Mark the hill's fastest lines. For the next few hours, head to head racing dominated the bike trial. "Hut" tucks and lots of drafting was observed by a small group of joggers gathered on the maindrop. Jeff was the only skater using the oldhand in front fairing. With a good knowledge of the course and tight tucks, Patrick came out in front. Mark concluded, it was the hottest head to head racing he had done yet.

After the downhill session, Mark and crew decided to bank skate awhile. Locals, Tobey Robertson and Tim Cox were jamming, upon their arrival at "The Ditch". Mark displayed surf inspired moves that reflected his years of bank surfing at Whee-A-Wave in

Birmingham. With a hour to spare before Mark's bus departure, he gathered his gear, said his good-byes and split for the ride back to Birmingham.

ASR

ASR: Alabama Club Bands

The Invaders from Birmingham

Jim Bob and the Leisure Suits from Birmingham

The Rakes from Auburn

The Executives from Tuscaloosa

ASR: In Future Issues

Interviews:

Legendary Downhiller, Roger Hickey

Birmingham Freestyler, Andy Spinosi

Huntsville Crazy Kid, Buddy Rawls

Stories:

Alabama, The Early Days

Bad Bart's Column

More Odds and Ends

and more.

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ROGER HICKEY; 3rd place Lagune Seca., 5th place Capitola. Coming soon, the Roger Hickey Concave Team Downhill Board. MADRID SKATEBOARDS, P.O. Box 2845, Santa Fe Springs, CA. 90670, (213)921-0133

We have the new Clash album, "Sandinista" on sale. Was \$14.98, NOW \$11.57. Get it now at OZ Records, Parkway shopping City, Florence, Al. 767-3428