



Dave **st** EDITORS' CHOICE

'You chopped the hard bit out of the pic'

Photo: Simon D Barnes

Introduction:

My name is Dave. I like bikes. I like riding. I like riding bikes.

Bikes Of The Year:

Santa Cruz Jackal. Anyone who says the sea is a harsh mistress obviously hasn't ridden a Jackal. It's too short to pedal efficiently even with a 440mm seatpost, it's heavy for a hardtail, some might say it's ugly (though I have a soft spot for its quirky looks). But it's the bike that has put a smile on my face every time I've ridden it, it makes me find reasons to need to ride it, and it makes that snatched quick hour of riding feel like it's been much, much, longer.

Pace 405 Free Floater. A very capable bouncy bike both up and down. A pleasure to climb right up to the point that it made you admit that traction wasn't going to be an issue, your legs were. And made the climbs worthwhile by being so very, very good when heading back down. It falls happily into whichever role you want it to; mile eater or hooligan.

Best Bits of the Year:

Icebreaker Bodyfit I 50 Atlas T. I was lucky to get an Atlas T to test back in February and I haven't stopped wearing it since (well occasionally it's been prised off me to wash it but you know what I mean). Light enough to wear year-round, warm enough in spring/autumn and an ideal base layer for winter. It's the most versatile item of clothing I own.

Hope Pro-II Singlespeed Hub. Reliable, easily serviced and lets everyone know when you're not trying.

Howies Outback Jacket. Schoeller 3XDry and merino, genius. Allows you to laugh in the face of winter as you head out on yet another sub-zero night ride.

Event Of The Year:

Dyfi Enduro. I'm a sucker for the community feel of this event. It's how all events should be; gruelling climbs, cheerleaders, great descents, cheerleaders. Of course this year had the added bonus of watching Matt suffer on the tandem.

Trail Of The Year:

The 2007 **Singlespeed World Championships** race course, near Aviemore. Tight, twisty, technical, testing, erm, treelined. A course that tested fitness and bike handling skill. A sublime riding experience in the middle of proper scenery. What more do you need?

Looking Forward To In 2008:

Building up 'Project New Black'. My new/old Kona Kilauea singlespeed. A new interpretation of an old faithful. It's just back from having the Paragon Machineworks dropouts and some hose guides fitted. Now begins the tricky job of choosing the 'just right' bike parts in time for spring riding.

Adventure riding. Multi day rides with suitably rugged stopovers. I've got a couple of caves and other scenic spots in mind. Of course half the fun is poring over the maps to plan the route.

