**Tierra Bella Mechanics Captain - Ed Irvine 408-807-1494**

Final writeup of Procedures as of May 31, 2025

1. **First Announcement to Mechanics**

The first announcement is an email to the mechanics from last year, usually in January of the new year:

Jim Gardner | Good Karma Bikes <jim@goodkarmabikes.org>,
\*Arye Green <agreen1843@gmail.com>,
\*Jay Orbon <jayorbon@gmail.com>,
\*Anna Huynh <budmarc@yahoo.com>,
Craig Jeong <cjeong@sbcglobal.net>,
Rick Gilbert <rbgilbert2@aol.com>,
Dan Freitas <dfreitas.hh@gmail.com>,
\*Karl the Bike Doctor <mobile@cyclesport.com>,
\*Sarah Goldfarb <sng\_panhead53@yahoo.com>,
Gil Takemori <gil.takemori@gmail.com>,

Russ Stevens <russ\_sheila@att.net>,

Matt Witkowski <matt.m.witkowski@gmail.com>,

Bob Berends <chainringbob@yahoo.com>

Cynthia Norwood <cynthiaanorwood@yahoo.com>

(the \* means that these mechanics were unavailable this year but will try again next year)

**Email text to first announcement:**

Hi everyone,

    This is the initial request for our esteemed mechanics to help out with our annual Tierra Bella event, set for May ?.  I'm copying everyone from last year hoping you'll be free this year as well.  These are the volunteers from last year. If you would prefer a change please let me know. We're flexible.

Rest stops        Open     Close      Rest Stop Capt  Mechanics
Christmas Hill    6:00 AM  9:00 AM    Melanie Clarke  Jim / Gil
Gilroy Hot Spr.   7:30 AM 11:00 AM    Roy West        Matt / Bob
San Martin        8:30 AM  12:30 PM   Dave Adler      Rick / Craig
Henry Coe         10:30AM 2:00 PM     Don Axtel/Holly Dan
Uvas Reservoir    10:30 AM 4:30 PM    Barry Chaffin   Russ / Cynthia
Christmas Hill Fin 2:00 PM 5:30 PM    Melanie Clarke  Ed / ?

I hope to see you again this May.  I'll be sending out more info on what to bring, what to expect, etc later. Please reply if you'll be available that Saturday?

Many thanks, and have a great 2025,

Ed Irvine

Bicycle Repairman: Good Karma, TWFK, ACTC,  408-807-1494

* **2. Second Announcement:**

This is send at the end of January to announce who has committed to which rest stops. Usually you’ll have to send a reminder to some to commit, and this year I had some dropouts that required a late request to the e-list for volunteers. If we have one skilled mechanic, we can get by easily with a helper who knows how to replace a flat. Anything else we can refer to SAG.

There are always some riders who want a full rehab on their bike. All you need to do is explain that some requests require more tools and time than we’re capable of offering at TB, and we’re not there to take away business from your local bike stores. Honestly, most riders are happy if you can just give it a quick once-over before sending them on the way.

* **Final Announcement**

Hopefully by now you have all the mechanics assigned to a rest stop, and they’ve all been notified of their commitments. This is where you sent the final text to the wrenches, usually 2 weeks before TB:

**Final text:**

Hi everyone,

     It's less than two weeks until Tierra Bella, so time to go over our MechHanics responsibilities. First of all, thanks so much for signing up! We are particularly proud of our sponsors who provide trucks and tools. **Good Karma** **Bikes** has provided mechanic support for many years now.

We hope that this event will be one that everyone will enjoy. If anyone runs into questions or difficulties, please ask your Rest Stop Captain, or call me (408-807-1494).

Remember that the new start and finish for TB is at **Christmas Hill Park**. The finish will have food trucks and other stuff. I’ll try to hit all rest stops to see if anyone needs help. We plan for 2 mechanics for each rest stop, Here's the current 2024 rest stop lineups:

|  |
| --- |
| **Rest stops      Open     Close      Rest Stop Capt  Mechanics** |
| Christmas Hill P.6:00 AM  10:00 AM  Melanie Clarke  **Jim / Gil / Arye?** |
| Gilroy Hot Spr. 7:30 AM 11:00 AM  Mike Konzem **Bob / Matt W** |
| San Martin      8:30 AM  12:30 PM   Dave Adler **Rick / Craig** |
| Henry Coe  10:30AM 2:00 PM   Don Axtel/Holly **Dan** |
| Uvas Reservoir 10:30 AM 4:00 PM    Barry Chaffin  **Russ / Cynthia** |
| Christmas Hill P.3:00 PM 5:30 PM   Melanie Clarke **Ed** |

**Where are the rest stops located?**<https://tierrabella.org/tb_route.php>.

**Christmas Hill Park has replaced** Gilroy High School **as** the main parking lot for the start and end of the ride – please place the Good Karma van a bit upwind from the porta-toilets! This is where many over-confident riders discover that the bike they haven’t ridden for 2 years needs some chain lube and flat tires patched or pumped. After the riders have taken off, I’ll try to visit every rest stop later in the day, with the exception of **Henry Coe**. It can be a bit treacherous dodging riders from both directions on that road. Do be careful while driving to any of the rest stops!

As for the other rest stops, the captain will usually have a reserved spot for us. You might want to recommend a place away from the loudspeakers if you hear music! It can be difficult adjusting for noises on the bike if you’re right under the Led Zeppelin speakers.

**What to expect:**
I've done the San Martin stop for 6 years. Being the second stop, flat tires and shift adjustments are the primary problems. It’s safe to assume that many chains can use some fresh lube.

Broken chains, spokes, sliced tires, wobbly wheels and other more difficult problems are time consuming and up to the mechanic and your parts cabinet. The easy solution if you're busy, or don't have the right parts, is to pass the rider onto the SAG group.  If the bike has serious problems, we can't be responsible for them. Call the SAG Coordinator (Jim McCann at 669-234-8488, or call me - 408-807-1494)

 These are what we suggest our mechanics bring to their rest stops. If you need anything, let me know and I’ll provide it to you!  I’m always the first one you see when parking at Christmas Hill Park, so you can meet me there if necessary.

**For parts (it's ok and expected to charge your expenses for these items to the riders!)**

* Bring some Tubes!: 700 x 25 and 700x35 are the popular ones. Bring at least 3.
* 26" x 2-3" mountain bike tubes are less likely, but you might bring one.
* Other sizes are more rare (27 x 1.25 tires can handle 700 tubes).  For unusual sizes, I just recommend bringing a patch kit.
* For sliced tires, bring either a boot or cardboard to cover them temporarily. If you have extra 700x25 tires, you can offer to sell them to the rider.
* **Old Rags** & Gloves (if you use them). Rags are always useful!
* **Lube/oil** for chains/derailleurs
* isopropyl alcohol & brushes for cleaning helps
* Penetrating oil spray to adjust seat posts, etc.(WD-40)

**For  tools,**the usual suggestions:

* Bike stand (at least one) - makes you look official – Good Karma can provide!
* A folding table is very useful if you have one
* Folding chair! (for long waits with nothing to do)
* Standalone bike pump for schrader and presta valves
* Tire levers & patch kits
* Wrenches: both hex & open box (some bikes aren't quick-release!)
* An apron with the label "Max" helps you look official, but not necessary

 **Optional Stuff (that I always try to bring):**

* Shift and brake cables are helpful, but I rarely see these problems at rest stops - and they might take longer than the rider cares to wait.
* Cable cutters & cable ends
* Truing stand - You can often fix out-of-true wheels using the brakes as a gauge

I'm also including a small poster with lawyer-ese that might protect you - hang from your bike stand at your discretion if you'd like.

Please let me know what I left out, or if you need anything in advance? I defer to your experience!

Many thanks,

Ed Irvine
ACTC, TWFK and Good Karma Bicycle Repairman

408-807-1494



If you want to print this out and tape it to carboard and

Hang over your worksite it is adviseable, from a legal standpoint.

It might protect us a little…

* **4. End wrap-up and report**

This is where you send a note to all the mechanics, usually the day after the event, asking for their thoughts and experiences. Also be sure to invite them to the worker’s ride, usually the weekend after. Put them together in a report to the TB director and you’re done!

**My last report wrap-up for May 3, 2025:**

     It seems we're receiving a lot of praise from happy riders of yesterday's Tierra Bella.  I especially wanted to thank you all for offering to help out after some stores and members had to drop out of the event.

    Please consider joining our TB worker's ride on Saturday, May 10. There will be rides and a free picnic afterwards (though the rides haven't been posted yet, they should show up on [our calenda](https://www.actc.org/ridestats/calendar/calendar.php)r by Friday). Even if you can't ride, consider joining the picnic at 12:30 where they'll offer regular, veg and vegan fare. They're asking to [make a reservation for it](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4AA4AF2AA3F94-56360046-volunteer#/)by tomorrow evening, so they can prepare.

I hope we can do this again next year, if planning and expenses allow. I will probably be contacting you again to beg for volunteers - so forewarned is four-armed!

Thanks again for all your help, and I hope to see you Saturday. All the best,

Ed Irvine

ACTC, TWFK and Good Karma Bicycle Repairman

408-807-1494

“As the Mechanics Captain, I try to assign an experienced bike mechanic with a helper to each rest stop. In earlier Tierra Bella times, we would often find stores were eager to work a reststop in exchange for advertising their name at the event. Stores have had a tough time lately, and Good Karma Bikes is our only remaining sponsor of ten years now. Fortunately, several ACTC members jumped at my last-minute request and helped us get through successfully.

“I was at Gilroy Hot Springs meeting our newest mechanic: Matt Witkowski - who works for [bikebluebook.com](http://bikebluebook.com/). He's not with ACTC yet but we'll work on that. Anyway, a female rider asked if someone could look at her Di2 issue. The other wrench, Bob Berends, and I said "No way, never seen them before!" but Matt said he worked on them every day! He explained the problem and she was happy. Seems like destiny drove them and us to meet!

“We had a few new helpers who felt they lacked confidence to cover a rest stop. But you'd be surprised how accepting riders are in these cases. There are occasionally some who want a full rehab at a rest stop, but usually they will understand that some things require time and are left to their local bike store, and are happy if we can call SAG for them. Other things like flat tubes, broken cables, etc., are happy if we can get them further down the road. It's all a roll of the dice, and ACTC members almost always come thru. And if not, that's what SAG is for!”