
BIG's News Letter 2007_06 (English Version)

Introduction:

It's the last newsletter of this year and it's of course time to look back on 2007. So here is a quick overview that shows how much alive our challenge is. And you get the chance to look back yourself if you follow the links ;-)

- We started 2007 with 545 members
<http://odupeyroux.free.fr/index.htm>
- A diaporama was added to our webpage, did you see it?
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/big.ppt>
- We welcomed our first Romanian member Claudiu MOGA and our first Portuguese member João LOURENCO.
- Newsletters are now available in 5 languages: English, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch!
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/newsletters/newsletters.htm>
- A web page was added that shows the signs of the BIGs.
<http://bigascensions.free.fr/panneaux/panneaux-tablmat.htm>
- We had a great rendezvous with the UIC in Trento!
<http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/trento.htm>
- We have 2 new GPS managers Marnix VANHECKE and Wouter DE RUYCK.
Check out our BIGs on GoogleEarth at the top of the topographic page:
<http://bigascensions.free.fr/topographs/topo1000.htm>
- We have our own Forum now. You are welcome to join if you have not done this already.
<http://big-forum.forumsmotion.com/>
- Our website got a new look!
<http://users.swing.be/danielgobert/>
- And after intense discussions and voting, we now have a stable BIG list called "Superlist".
<http://bigascensions.free.fr/topographs/topo1000.htm>
- The setup of the BIG comity has changed as we now have a stable "Superlist".
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/comity.htm>
- And we have closed the year with about 635 members. (about + 90)
<http://odupeyroux.free.fr/index.htm>

That's it, 2007 in a nutshell seen from a BIG Challenge point of view. And 2008 will also be very interesting. Do you want to know why? Well, read on.....

Chapters of this newsletter

1. TOP5 BIG news.
2. The 2008 Review.
3. The BIG is online!
4. About a BIG.
5. Conclusion.

1. TOP5 BIG news.

TOP 1: New website!

Thank to the enormous work of Wouter De Ruyck (thank you Wouter), helped by the leading comity, the new website, so longly waited, more dynamic and extremely richer in efficient usage, will open its doors the 1st of January in the evening.

- What will you always find inside like before ?
 - A homepage with general information.
 - The main pages about the BIG in your language.
 - Links to the current pages like jerseys, newsletters, rendezvous,....
 - Datas, roadsigns, topografic maps, statistics...
- What do you find that you've never found before ?
 - For each visitor:
 - Location of the 1.000 BIGs on a Google map, with extreme precision (thanks to Marnix Van Hecke).
 - Profiles of 75% of the 1.000 BIGs, and who has already climbed them.
 - Thousands (yes !) of pictures.
 - The members with the complete list of their BIGs claimed.
 - A search tool to find easily each BIG or each member.
 - Homepages in your own language.
 - Materials in your own language,....
 - For each registered member:
 - The ability to claim directly your new BIGs throughout the year.
 - The ability to upload photos from your PC.
 - For each contributing member:
 - The ability to include his personal file.
 - The ability to include personal descriptions.
- What will you find in the future ?
 - For the registered member:
 - The evolution profile of each member, year after year.
 - For the contributing member:
 - The download of his diplomas when reaching a new step
 - The calculated time he/she will ride for a climb based on his/her times for other BIGs ridden before,...
 - The BIG's review.

As you may have noticed, we have made a division now between visitors (people who are not a BIG member), registered members (people who have registered as a BIG member by registering BIGs they have cycled) and contributing members (these are BIG members that pay a contribution and hence have some more priviledges). The contribution will be €10,-

TOP 2: The three BIG tours confirm our Superlist.

The Giro d'Italia has shown its 2008 travel. Inside the Giro, there will be no less than 13 BIGs:

- Stage 06: BIG 799: Monte Vulture.
- Stage 08: BIG 784: Forca d'Acero.
- Stage 11: BIG 769: San Marino
BIG 787: Monte Carpegna (our new change 2008 : yeeaaah!)
- Stage 14: BIG 707: Passo Manghen
- Stage 15: BIG 713: Passo Pordoi
BIG 716: Passo di Giau
BIG 715: Passo di Falzarego (Passo di Valparola)
- Stage 17: BIG 688: Passo dello Spluga
BIG 590: Passo del San Bernardino
- Stage 19: BIG 693: Passo del Vivione
- Stage 20: BIG 696: Passo di Gavia
BIG 694: Passo del Mortirolo.

A good route profile can be found at: <http://www.steePhill.tv/giro-d-italia/ - route-profile>

The Tour de France has shown its 2008 travel. Inside the tour, there will be no less than 12 BIGs:

- Stage 06: BIG 246: Col de la Croix-Morand.
- Stage 07: BIG 255: Pas de Peyrol.
- Stage 09: BIG 348: Col de Peyresourde.
BIG 344: Col d'Aspin.
- Stage 10: BIG 341: Col du Tourmalet.
BIG 337: Hautacam.
- Stage 15: BIG 687: Prato Nevoso (the proof that our Italian list is not so bad).
- Stage 16: BIG 309: Col de la Lombarde.
BIG 308: Cime de la Bonette.
- Stage 17: BIG 291: Col du Galibier.
BIG 287: Col de la Croix-de-Fer.
BIG 290: Alpe d'Huez

Only one regret: the Cadoudal climb, arrival of the first stage in Bretagne, isn't in our list.

The Vuelta , at last, offers 9 BIGs in its tour, and what BIGs !!!!

- Stage 07: BIG 441: Bosc de la Rabassa (Andorra).
- Stage 08: BIG 428: Coll de Cantó.
BIG 426: Collado de la Bonaigua/
- Stage 12: BIG 407: Portillo de Lunada.
- Stage 13: BIG 393: L'Angliru (the terrible one and back in the Vuelta!)
- Stage 15: BIG 390: Puerto de Somiedo.
- Stage 16: BIG 389: Santuario del Acebo.
- Stage 18: BIG 466: Puerto de Guadarrama (Puerto de los Leones)
- Stage 19: BIG 467: Puerto de Navacerrada

A good route profile can be found at: <http://www.cyclingnews.com/road/2008/vuelta08/>.

TOP 3:

Our members have traveled in summertime and now, the souvenirs are in their pages.

- Olivier Dupeyroux and the glacier de Moiry: http://panneauxcols.free.fr/Cols_en_photos/011-glacierdemoiry.htm
- Video on Holme Moss: <http://www.holmfirth.tv/tv/4holmemoss.htm>
- Gabor Györgyi in the Pyrenees: http://www.gyorgyigabor.hu/2007_raid_pyreeneen_eng.php
- Anders Wånell and his 2006tour: <http://web.comhem.se/wanell/>

TOP 4: Iberic boom

After the CIMA challenge creation, many Spanish or Portuguese webpages about regional climbs were born:

- Duros de Pedal in Portugal: <http://durosdopedal.blogspot.com/>
- Aragon province: <http://www.adrianlorente.com/puertos/>
- Leon province: <http://perso.wanadoo.es/eldeligny/index.htm>

TOP 5: Statistics

Interesting statistics about our members' evolution have been added:

<http://bigascensions.free.fr/stats-big.htm>

2. The 2008 Review.

Also in 2008, a small booklet will be available called the BIG Review. It contains besides general BIG information such as the "Superlist" and "Ranking of BIG members" also cycling stories, including colorful pictures, written by BIG members in their native language or in English.

I can really recommend this booklet and it only costs you €10,-. This money will not only buy you a nice souvenir of BIG for 2007 but you also support the BIG so we can claim our own domain name (see chapter x for more information).

To be able to create the 2008 Review, we need your help. Here is the call for help that I received from one of the editors: Martin Kool.

Dear fellow members,

This is the time of the year to trust your minds to patience of paper! Therefore we would like to ask all of you to produce an article (or articles), ready to publish in the new BIG Review.

The Review (<http://users.belgacom.net/bn014220/articlesrevues.htm>) will appear in March of 2008 and contains as usual several rankings, experiences and news about BIG-activities. It is important to get a good overview of all the zones, so don't hesitate and start writing down

- *your personal opinion about BIG*
- *your latest climb*
- *your biggest effort ever*
- *your tour in a bizar environment*
- *the time you fell in love on a bike*
- *your personal frustration*
- *the day you met the pro when you where training,*
- *or share your knowledge about hard to find climbs, beautifull tracks, undiscovered websites etc.*

Off course it will take some time for me to edit your articles, so please make sure that I receive your data before the 15th of January 2008

Please send your article in MS-Word and your pictures in JPEG-format.

Hope to hear from you soon,

*Martin Kool,
email: mm.kool@quicknet.nl*

3. The BIG is online!

When you have cycled 500 BIGs, you get a BAG. What's a BAG? Good question. A BAG is a "Brevet Adventurous des Grimpeurs". Yes, tough we are a very international organization with over 600 members in more than 20 countries, our roots are French. Or Wallonic to be precise. "Brevet Aventureur des Grimpeurs" is in plain English the adventurous cycling certificate.

We only have 3 members who have earned a BAG and one of them is well on his way to become one. I guess we will announce it in 2008 (<http://users.swing.be/danielgobert/big/classement.htm>).

So this time we will highlight a web site of one of the BAG members: Eric Lucas. This guy will perhaps be the first one to reach the 1.000. He is on the good way. The diploma for 1.000 is called BEG (brevet Extreme Grimpeur). In fact, with him, everything is extreme, his way of life, his way of cycling, his relationships,... Eric is not like another one. Sometimes strange, sometimes up the most intellectual ones (he is twice a master in the university), sometimes completely out of the brain, but he is a great cycloclimber indeed... It's Eric himself. With him never say why, nor how, don't ask questions, it's more simple...

He reached the level B.A.G at 23.00 PM on the 2nd of August of the year 2005 (still during daylight as he crossed the arctic circle) when he reached the summit of Saltfjellet (Polarsirkelstotte).

His web site can be found at: <http://membres.lycos.fr/sommets/>

On the site you can find the following cycling trips:

- Scandinavia 2005 (Written in French and English)
11.000km by car - 500km climbing and 22.000m difference in level by bike.
- Britannicus 2006 (Written in French but you know the trick by now to translate a page !)
Covering 21 BIGs in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland and Whales.
- Suisside (Swiss side, written in French)
(Sounds like suicide, is that coincidence?)
- Deutsche Berge (German Mountains)
- Corsica 2006
- Irish Coffee
- Israël 2004-2006
Rises and Pentecosts out of the Promised Land
- Championnats du Monde 1927-2009
An overview of the Championships of the world for road cycling.
- Mes 561 BIGs
This is an impressive list to look at, and it goes on and on and on. And imagine that this figure of 561 is out of date! Eric Lucas is at 694 BIGs by now and on his way to the number one position of BIG. Currently it's Etienne Mayeur who owns that position. When will he pass Etienne and be our new number one? We'll let you know if it gets that far of course.

Though Eric's webpages cover BIGs also, they are covering much more climbs. These are cyclo-climbing webpages in general and worth having a look at.

4. About a BIG: "The sanctuary".

Among our 1000 BIGs, there is one that looks like no others. All our Italian friends know it but I suppose that numerous biggers ignore the existence of the Patron Saint of cyclists. Indeed, there is a sanctuary dedicated to cyclists: our Lady from Ghisallo (Madonna del Ghisallo BIG 741). This small church is located in Italy in Magreglio at the top of a road which goes from Milan to Bellagio (through Erba). It is its geographical position in overhang of the lake of Como, at the 754 metre height which gave this chapel the honour to be from the beginning of cycling the theatre of numerous races and competitions, among which the famous tour of Lombardi.



In 1949, the Pope Pie XII decreed that the Blessed Virgin Mary from Ghisallo will patronize cyclists. She is since worshipped by all the international cyclists and gives place to numerous pilgrimages.



surrounding summits is remarkable.



On the square we can admire a monument dedicated to cyclists, the busts both campionissimi : Bartali and Coppi.

The panorama on the lake of Come and the



Finally a museum of cycling is born near the sanctuary.



Good piece of news, cycles are looked after for free!



The chapel is filled with numerous memories (shirts, trophies, cycles) given by the most famous champions to their Patron Saint.



We find side by side Gino Bartali's frame and that of Francesco Moser during its world record in an hour. Opposite, here is the machine of the "cannibal" Eddy Merckx and of regretted Fabio Casartelli.

Among shirts, we find those of Bernard Hinault, Miguel Indurain, Ercole Baldini, Guiseppe Saronni, Ivan Basso, Maria Canins, Mario Cipollini, Alfredo Binda, Gianni Bugno

...

By the way, there is a climb to come there, but thanks to the madonna, it left me no particular memory. The passacol indicates us an average 5,8 % when coming from Bellagio and a 3,8 % if coming from Erba (and I came from Erba!)

François CANDAU



6. Conclusion:

I want to thank all members who have been so kind to react on our newsletters. And once more I want to express my thanks to the newsletter team who have helped to create and translate the newsletters. It's real team work and I hope the team will be able to provide you with interesting newsletters for the year to come. For now I want to wish all members "A very good 2008 together with the people who are dear to you" on behalf of the newsletter team.

Best regards,
The newsletters team

José CASAS-ARAGON
François CANDAU
Helmuth DEKKERS
Daniel GOBERT
Piero ROTA
Nico STAES