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ABOUT THE COVER: Our 11th Annual *Bike* issue features an abstract work from celebrated local artist Benjamin Wiemeyer (@benjamin_wiemeyer_arts). His trademark approach to color blending and texture appear here with a loose visual cue toward the geometries of a bike.

Alton Barnhart

Contributor Limelight
Editorial Intern



Alton Barnhart joined our team of Editorial Interns last November, and his incomparable wit has been a fixture of our office life since. In his writing, Alton balances this jubilant personality with a nuanced understanding of journalistic technical processes—he's one of the brightest new voices we have on the team. Read his feature on BikeWalk Provo on pg. 10.

Litzi Estrada

Contributor Limelight
Contributing Writer



Since summer of 2021, Litzi Estrada has been (sometimes singlehandedly) holding down *SLUG's* coverage of metal, punk, doom and other heavy rock genres. We're forever grateful for her studied approach to covering the music *SLUG* built its initial coverage on 34 years ago. Visit *SLUGMag.com* to read her features on this month's *Localized* performers, Snake Eyez and fuckskin.

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REANIMATOR:

The Self-Sufficiency Bicycle Tour

By Jamie Christensen · jamie@slugmag.com

On April 10, 2023, nine individuals began their sewing machine-laden ride from Salt Lake City to Albuquerque, New Mexico, as part of the first REANIMATOR bicycle tour. The group aims to build community, create a model of self-sufficiency through cycling and sewing repairs and enjoy the almost 1000-mile journey of beautiful land and companionship.

The bike tour, an idea that initially began a few years ago, became a reality with the support and funding from **Chauncey Foster** and Foster's Santa Fe-based nonprofit, *we.grow.eco*, an action-oriented coalition that focuses on environmental conservation and education. **Enoch Cincotta**, the facilitator and mind behind the REANIMATOR bike tour, first collaborated with Foster when Cincotta created backpacks out of trash that Foster would use to pick up and carry more trash as he organized community waste cleanup events across the country.

"Before Chauncey stepped in to help with funding this trip, I was imagining doing it by myself," says Cincotta. "It's just

one person and one sewing machine and a bike." With encouragement and direction from Foster to grow the tour, Cincotta realized the ride should become a larger, crew-focused event—the group of nine will now travel with five sewing machines, a number of solar-powered generators and upcycled gear of their own creation. Cincotta says, "Why not turn this into a residency program where we talk about how to get involved in sewing repairs? Learning how to use a sewing machine, how to bike tour and how to coordinate community events ... It's bringing people together and learning how to share an idea."

With an "everything is a material" mentality, the tour group plans to pause along their route and offer multiple, community-centered events. As the group approaches each stop, they mention the resources they offer will depend on the needs of the community. Such resources may include sewing/textile repairs in a "pay what you can" format, educational workshops discussing the significance of sewing and tailoring clothing to fit various body types and the empowerment that comes from

"using garbage as a primary resource for sewing projects." Beyond repurposing trash and scraps into backpacks, clothing and other gear, REANIMATOR also creates junk journals, which transform trash into notebooks. "Biking and sewing are the visual vectors for this idea that you as a person are capable of change," says Cincotta.

"A big part of this project is developing alternative structures that allow us to incorporate reuse strategies," says tour participant **Lena Jaffe**, who has experience repurposing often discarded building materials. "I love all of the metaphors of sewing and building—it's the quintessential act of creation."

As part of the tour, two individuals will be provided a sewing repair technician residency and stipend to cover cycling costs that, through the course of their ride, grants them the necessary skills to build and maintain sewing clinics in their own communities. Jaffe and **Cassandra DePetrillo** are the two members joining the tour as part of the residency. "I'm inspired by [the tour], and working together will give me energy to bring back to my community," says DePetrillo, who has a background in sewing repairs and is an active member of her bike community in Vancouver. "It feels like a pebble in a lake that will continue to ripple out."

Preston Searl, **Ciera Shelling** and **Ben Teames**, three participants from Logan with a background in outdoor product design, are also meeting up with the tour, and **Davi Cheshire** is joining the ride having traveled all the way from Durham, North Carolina. "Investing in something that is seen as disposable and being able to transform it is a big reason I was drawn to this trip," says Cheshire. "I think a lot about the way we treat people and the culture of disposability. I've done a lot of thinking about transformative justice and treating people like they're capable of change. Applying that minutely to this makes me hopeful we can apply that to each other."

Stay up to date with REANIMATOR and the bike tour through their website, reanimator.work, and Instagram, [@reanimateordie](https://www.instagram.com/reanimateordie).



REANIMATOR members (Top, L-R) Erin DeLallo, Lena Jaffe, Enoch Cincotta, Ben Teames, Ciera Shelling, (Bottom, L-R) Preston Searl, Cassandra DePetrillo, Davi Cheshire.

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Neptune Skating:

Bringing back the '90s and making room for BMX riders

By: Alexie Zollinger • zollingerlexyi@gmail.com

Ogden's newest attraction, *Neptune Skating*, aims to revitalize indoor skate rinks by bringing the rink's design back to the "best era" in skating—the '90s, according to owner **Kris Operhal**. *Neptune Skating* has been in the works since April 2022 when Operhal purchased the property at 2770 Washington Blvd in Ogden with the intention to finally lay the foundation for his dream venture of opening his own skate rink.

Operhal is no stranger to the world of rollerskating, both indoor and outdoor, as he spent years as a DJ at a *Classic Fun Center* during the '90s, eventually leaving to start his own portable skating company, *DJ Kris Center*. Operhal supplied skates, food and fun to local schools by holding skate events in parking lots and encouraging students to explore the wonderful world of roller skating.

According to Operhal, the atmosphere of the '90s was what made him fall in love with skating, citing the music at the time as a big inspiration. "The '90s was the best era," he says, noting that the skate scene has changed since his DJ years. "Everybody liked that era. Everybody misses that. The new skating rinks are nothing like they used to be." He adds that many other skate rinks now have so many activities that they detract from their primary purpose and what he

really wanted to be *Neptune's* focus—skating. "Our focus is that people here are skating open to close, nonstop. Other places [aren't]," he says.

Operhal wants skating to be accessible to anyone feeling up to it and makes an effort to ensure everyone has a space in the rink by hosting weekly specials such as Tuesday dollar nights, where entry is only one dollar, family specials cost only \$20 and each ticket includes a pair of basic skates. "We do a lot of fun stuff to get people interested in skating and playing games and having fun," he says.

While *Neptune Skating* offers a large center dedicated solely to roller skating, there is another addition to Operhal's rink that allows for a different type of rider. *Neptune Skating* also houses an indoor skatepark, available for BMX riders, skateboarders, scooterists and more. "As long as you wear a helmet and sign a waiver, you can ride," says *Neptune's* indoor skatepark supervisor **Dalton Stone**.

Neptune's indoor skatepark is a large room with high ceilings (plenty of room to get air) split in two portions. One half consists of smaller turns, jumps and technical obstacles and the other half a series

of hills and valleys creating large jumps most often used by bikers. Stone notes he has seen some brave rollerbladers take on the large jumps with style.

Utah-based bike shop *5050 Bike & Skate* designed and constructed the park with the intention of providing a space for visitors to ride and show off their tricks and for *5050's* team of professional BMX riders to practice and hold shows. The indoor venue open to BMX riders is one of only a few currently open across the state of Utah according to Stone. "Nothing lasts out here (in Utah) ... There's been maybe three or four [indoor BMX parks] in the last seven years that have just not been able to make it," says Stone. Though, he mentions that if anyone can keep the park open, it's *Neptune's* owner Operhal.

Neptune Skating officially opened to the public on Jan. 20, 2023 and has been largely successful since in providing northern Utah with an indoor home for classic skating, BMX riding and more. The rink will continue to welcome all riders, scooterists, skateboarders, roller skaters and bikers alike! Check out *Neptune Skating's* Instagram @neptuneskatingofficial to find more information and learn about upcoming events. Visit their website, neptuneskating.com, for more.



Photo: Lexi Kiedaisch

As long as you wear a helmet and sign a waiver, you can ride," says *Neptune Skating's* indoor skatepark supervisor Dalton Stone.

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BikeWalk Provo's Uphill Journey

By: Alton Barnhart • altonboy2009@gmail.com

When trekking onward through your urban expedition, the hive mind state of Utah supplies wanderers with many means of transportation: used car lots on State Street, Ubers or Lyfts for the raging nightlife and the UTA's Trax system of light rails and FrontRunners stretching throughout the valley. The southbound nonprofit BikeWalk Provo engages Provo's community into the earliest forms of "getting a move on" by advocating for the safety and overall importance behind everyday traffic routines.

BikeWalk Provo first began with the resurrection of the **Provo Bicycle Committee** in 2008. Operations Director **Aaron Skabelund** spearheaded the operation while biking to his day job at *BYU*. When he realized how dangerous the lack of transportation awareness made travel, even over a small distance, he knew there had to be a change.

With a helping hand from the mayor's office, the Provo Bicycle Committee became a city priority. It wasn't until 2020 that the committee would take off their training wheels and branch out to form BikeWalk Provo. Former chair and now PR Spokesman (creatively proclaimed as "Propaganda Minister") **Chris Wiltsie** expresses how trailing off to be a nonprofit has allowed for more freedom. "[We became] a nonprofit so we could have more autonomy and do things freely instead of worrying about biting the hand that feeds," Wiltsie explains.

Today, BikeWalk Provo consists of over 40 volunteers and an expansive collection of members. "The team has become a lot more structured," Executive Director **Christine Carruth Frandsen** says, breaking down the seven board members. "State politicians, local politicians, a university professor, middle school teacher [...] all who come with their own set of skills."

With each mile conquered by comfortable sneakers or on a 10-speed's tread, the activist group encourages the public to travel by walking or biking and speaks out about



Photo: Maralee Nielson

Friends and family gather at Provo Bicycle Collective to participate in BikeWalk Provo's Family Ride event.

making the streets of Provo safer. Their education efforts vary from the significance of road cleanup to the construction of bike parking, with tasks occasionally as monumental as the tactical urbanism project. Although sounding like a Guerilla warfare operation, Wiltsie describes the project as "prototyping low-cost treatment on how you want the street to look and function." Each project and task, sometimes as simple as teaching kids how to ride a bike correctly, is another step closer to their goal of ensuring Provo traffic safety.

With *National Bike Month* (celebrated every May) sweeping away the blistering snowstorms, BikeWalk Provo has begun cranking out many outdoor events for the whole family to enjoy. Take off the third weekend of every month and meet at *Provo Bicycle Collective* for the family rides—bring your best banana seat or BMX Friday at 10 a.m. or Saturday at 5 p.m. May 5 is the 22nd annual *Bike to Work* (or anywhere) Day, where the local businesses of Provo set up stations throughout the city for treats, drinks and a fun atmosphere to meet new people.

Although BikeWalk Provo generates great

progress daily, it's up to the city itself to catch up with the times. The most ongoing battle comes in the form of content-sensitive infrastructure. Provo is no longer the peaceful Main Street USA of yesteryear—production and expansion staples Provo to the map, bringing in more people and more hazardous roads. "We want [Provo] to be more like building *Disneyland* and less like Hell," says Communications Director **Jacob Brooks**. The city needs to take action with simple tasks such as painting divided lanes for bikes on busy roads. "The intensity of infrastructure should increase as the intensity of vehicles increases," Wiltsie says.

To follow ongoing events and make contributions to BikeWalk Provo, go to their website, bikeprovo.org, or follow them on Instagram @[bikewalkprovo](https://www.instagram.com/bikewalkprovo).



BONNEVILLE CYCLING CLUB

By Rose Shimberg • roseshimberg@gmail.com

Photo: Em Behringer



Founded in 1987 as a small touring club, Bonneville Cycling Club has almost 300 members today and welcomes everyone from seasoned cyclists to novices.

Penny Perkins wasn't always an avid cyclist. When a friend told her about the Bonneville Cycling Club's Southern Utah Parks tour, she was excited about the opportunity. On an old mountain bike, she joined the group for a weeklong journey through Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks. "It was a camping trip, and I hadn't trained for it," Perkins says. "It was a real challenge, but I met a lot of fun people and decided I wanted to be more serious about riding."

I found the Bonneville Cycling Club ... and I just never left."

Founded in 1987 as a small touring club, BCC has almost 300 members today. It welcomes everyone from seasoned cyclists training for big rides to novices hoping to learn more. "I think it's cool because it's not 20 somethings out there," says Clarissa Weir. "It's 45-80 year olds that are out there riding."

BCC's rides can be found on a jam-packed calendar on their website. There's information about each one, including pace, mileage and elevation gain. There's also a map so riders can see the entire route. "Every ride is color coded," says Jason Koon, the Club's IT Director (and Weir's son). "We've got rides that are 100 miles or rides that are social."

Anyone interested can ride with the group, even if they're not a member. Perks of membership, however, include events, shop discounts and awards earned for completing rides. "I think one of the big draws was the social aspect," says Rikki DeMik, the Club's Secretary. "We've met a lot of really nice people ... Not only do we cycle, but in the offseason a group might go to the movies, they might get together for different things."

That was 27 years ago, and Perkins has been a member of Bonneville Cycling Club (BCC) ever since. This nonprofit organization is the largest cycling club in Utah, providing opportunities for cyclists of all abilities. Perkins isn't the only member whose passion for cycling began with a trial by fire—Bee Lufkin started riding in the mid '90s after a friend encouraged her to participate in Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI), a ride across the entire state of Iowa. "I bought a used bike from somebody, and six weeks later I joined Bonneville to ride," Lufkin says.

Current Club President Barbara Kane started cycling in 2017 when she joined her niece for LoToJa, a race through the mountains of Utah, Idaho and Wyoming that clocks in at over 200 miles. "We trained all summer," Kane says. "I didn't finish, but it was great.

Their biggest event of the year by far is *Little Red Riding Hood*, an annual women's charity ride. Through a partnership with the *Huntsman Cancer Institute*, the ride raises money for breast and ovarian cancer research. *Little Red* takes place in the Cache Valley around Logan and began not long after the club's inception. "When I first came into the club ... there were about 60 women," says Perkins. "In 2012, we kind of blew up on the internet and turned the ride into a lottery because we had so many women that wanted to participate."

Riders come from all over the country for *Little Red*, and there are now around 3,500 participants. It's a sprawling, two-day event with vendors, dinner and a costume contest. Perkins estimates that *Little Red* has raised over \$500,000 for their cause. "All these women are there to support each other and have a good time," says Stacy Walker, the Club's Vice President. "You just can't beat that. You can't get that anywhere else."

If you're interested in becoming a member or joining for a ride, visit the BCC website at bccutah.org. To learn more about *Little Red*, go to lrrh.org.



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BIKEPACKING WITH CRANKY'S

By Dylan Bueche • Dbueche@gmail.com

Clad in full-body lycra and skin-tight ass pads that function as giant sponges more than anything else, I continue to outpedal my own mental health as I summit the hills of the Salt Lake metropolitan area. Narrowly dodging death from a lifted Dodge truck for the third time today (the truck bed weighted heavily with groceries from *Whole Foods*), I ask myself, "How could I make this more difficult?"

The answer, of course, is carrying all my belongings with me and sleeping next to the bike. Bikepacking follows the obvious footsteps of backpacking. But, biking is even more fun given that you're sitting, doing it for several days and carrying everything you need with you.

Long have aerodynamically dressed people been bicycle *touring* long distances on highways, but the nature of bikepacking implies a more off-road nature of travel (not to be confused with mountain biking, which implies that you'll be returning to your condo for a restful night of sleep). Under the framed, watchful eye of Ted Kaczynski—*Cranky's*' Employee of the Month—Owner **Cris Pereira** says, "It's all just travel by bicycle, and that's what's important. You have to be self-sufficient [since] you're limited to what you can carry on your bike." He continues, "If you've ever been backpacking before, you already have most of the gear you need. Just strap it onto your bike instead of your back."

Already digging my daily bike commute and thoroughly convinced that more discomfort will add meaning to my soft existence, I am sold. In that one book where the philosophy professor's kid turns out to be a ghost or something, it's suggested that "driving a car across the country is like watching a movie, but riding a motorcycle is like starring in it." If that's the case, then bikepacking is like being in a documentary about feeling sweaty and tired and consuming huge volumes of gas station candy. Keeping that analogy going, you're also way cooler despite your smaller budget, and you do well at *Sundance*.

Pereira has bikepacked in more places than most have driven and is no stranger to self-imposed discomfort. Living on a bike for long distances in the Arctic Circle, Cuba and Mexico, his travels are a testament to the fact that your bike can take you more places than you can drive. Thankfully, we have so much outdoor access in Salt Lake that you can cut your teeth right here in Utah, and then take your bike further with some hot tips from *SLUG* and Pereira.

Realistically, the minimum you need to break into bikepacking is a bike and a bag. "After that, it really just depends how comfortable you want to be and how far you want to go," Pereira says. The bike is carrying your gear, so the added weight is less significant than when you're backpacking. For a weekender trip or your first overnight, you could get by with a tent, sleeping pad, sleeping bag and all the calories you need, as well as a way to cook them. (*SLUG* pro tip: ditch



Photo: John Barkiple

Cranky's' Cris Pereira gives you the rundown on how to start your bikepacking career.

the extra clothes and bring more SPK*). "Probably the most important necessity is a basic understanding of bike mechanics and a basic tool kit," Pereira says—you'll want to be prepared and trained to fix your bike when it inevitably breaks.

While the sport ("It's a lifestyle, man.") is still relatively new, the community is huge and always sharing new, established routes online. A quick Google search reveals tons of different options ranging from short overnights to odyssey rides. To get involved locally, *Cranky's Bike Shop* hosts group rides in the Uintas throughout the summer. Spring is in full bloom and you can't get hit by a car in the woods, so take what you were about to spend on therapy and start bikepacking instead!

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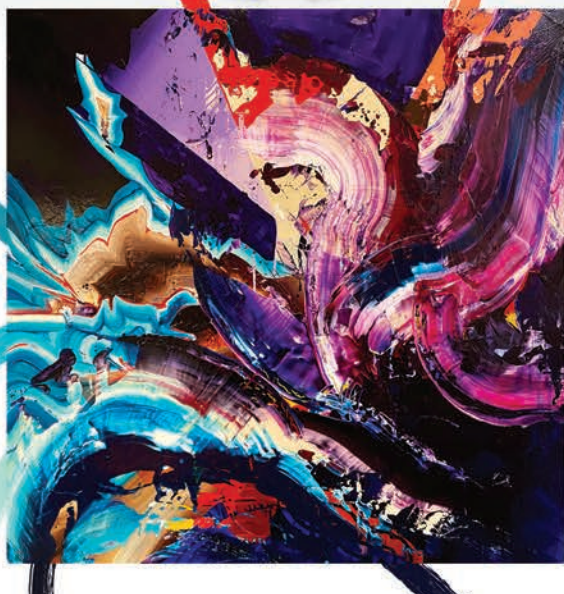
PAINTING THE CITY INSIDE AND OUT

By Carlyle Price
carlylep@gmail.com

With his long, braided beard, Benjamin Wiemeyer is easy to spot in a crowd, and so is his art. Wiemeyer (who designed this month's cover for *SLUG*) has been painting downtown for the past 25 years. Though his early marks were self-described as vandalism, Wiemeyer's graffiti-style paintings are now paid for by the businesses they adorn—you may recognize his colorful work on *Gallenson's Gun Shop*, *Taco Taco* and *Alt/Space*. His piece on the back of *Alt/Space* depicts a galaxy scene reaching down to meet a warm-toned sky lined with treetops.

Before his artwork plastered buildings, Wiemeyer started his life as a creator in his childhood home. He grew up painting alongside his grandma and watching his parents use other artforms (his dad built model homes and his mom worked in interior design). "They were really supportive of art and always encouraged me to make artwork," says Wiemeyer. His parents offered a "woodshop" in the basement to combat boredom.

Despite this artistic childhood, Wiemeyer didn't view himself as an artist until he studied Sculpture at the *University of Utah*. He began creating installation art by building machines that would destroy his paintings or make residue. During this time, he got into graffiti and fabrication, which he eventually turned into part-time and commission jobs. This included working in art museums such as *The*



Leonardo, which he helped open in 2011. "I think everything in my life has kind of informed my style," says Wiemeyer. His background in different mediums and styles has helped him to create images that are loud, evocative and attention grabbing.

Wiemeyer creates layers and texture within his pieces that are apparent in every medium he uses. "I've just been stoked on mark-making for a while; manipulating the material over the medium," he says. Rather than sketching and planning, he takes a freestyle approach, allowing him to follow the flow of whatever canvas is in front of him. He uses acrylic paints and aims to make large impacts with minimal effort.

This ideology has pushed him to experiment with a new method that resembles Rorschach Test images—folding paper and foil in half to push paint outward. Then, he adds on paint and different washes, sometimes using knives to manipulate the material. "I feel like I've gotten a little looser in my approach. I'm trying to be a little bit more painterly," Wiemeyer says. "I'm not really pushing the boundaries and things in my mind; I'm just making really cool compositions with color and texture."

Abstract compositions have become an identifiable component of Wiemeyer's artwork. His design for this month's cover includes geometric shapes layered over interesting textures. He takes inspiration from recognizable bike logos and uses Procreate to layer images over past pieces. "I don't really sketch prior to

making artwork, and I've been trying to use computers more this year," he says. He hopes that Utahns will see his abstract vision and the symbol in motion.

Alongside new mediums and programs, Wiemeyer is pursuing new personal ventures to develop and indulge in his craft. Starting May 19, his work will be featured in his own gallery at *cityhomeCOLLECTIVE* titled *Exorcise through Exercise*.

The artist describes his new paintings as rowdy and expects the space to feel unique and lively to match the art on the large canvases he plans to hang, with *Joshua Payne Orchestra* performing at the gallery opening.

Wiemeyer's art is less about making a statement and more about making an impact. He relates his art to images found in comic books that jump out at you with intensity. "You want your piece to be big and loud and proud and feel good," he says. "Good artwork is generally visceral."

You can see more of his artwork on Instagram @benjamin_wiemeyer_arts.

Photos by Benjamin Wiemeyer



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Jedari is the latest voice in the ever-growing Silicon Slopes tech haven brewing in Utah County. Put simply, the company aims to alleviate the troubles businesses, influencers and other internet communities experience on mainstream social media platforms through the creation of self-directed, private platforms for communication, conversation and collaboration. Co-founded by **Greg W. Anderson** and **Sean Whalen**, Jedari soft launched in January 2023 and just held the grand opening for their Lehi office in mid April. Already hosting nearly 50 clients and more than 5,000 users, the Jedari model provides an avenue for independent community building.

Over the last 13 years, Anderson worked on nearly 100 tech builds related to communication management, answering the question of, “How does somebody who has information sell that to somebody who wants it?,” he says. Alternatively, Whalen had been attempting to run his coaching community off of Facebook (with intermittent success) for nine years and was looking for a way out. “I thought, ‘There’s no way that I’m going to be able to scale a business through this platform,’” he says. “I started my quest of trying to find a different medium that allowed me to have my own community, run my own group, say what I wanted to say.”

A few years ago, Whalen approached Anderson about the idea of creating a model with “more robust” business functions. Anderson says, “Traditional social media isn’t built for businesses,” citing a lack of monetizing and client response integrations as a prohibiting factor. “If you’re a musician and you want to create a safe space for your fans to come and communicate ... but you’re also streaming a live jam session once a week and you want to charge for it, that doesn’t really belong on social media,” he says.

In contrast to social media, Jedari describes their work as “community management.” The company aims to “give all the communication tools that we’re utilizing in multiple different ways but give it to them in a white-label platform,” says Anderson. This

means that, instead of building a page on an existing website, Jedari users can fully build out their own, fully functioning platform—“It’s their logos, their brands, their URLs, their iOS/Android applications,” says Anderson. “Everything ... gives them and their users the feel that they just built this project. We want to prop them up.”

Whalen says, “We have everything that community manager or a community organizer ... wants. Instagram’s great; it allows us to intermingle with tons of different people, tons of different ideologies, tons of different thought process. But, the Beanie Baby people don’t care about guns, and the furniture people don’t care about sports cars.” Jedari builds out a self-contained home for these communities where leaders and organizers can forge a space that works for their needs rather than trying to adapt their needs to the restrictive profile settings on an existing social site.

Though newly available to the public, Jedari’s extant success speaks to a need in online communities that was previously left to fester behind the barrier of programming labor. “We did all the hard work that no one wants to do in building technology, where you can say, ‘I really love Facebook, but I want my own private deal,’ and you come to Jedari ... [and] you can have your own portal or site by the end of the day,” says Whalen.

This model sets up limitless applications, with Anderson and Whalen pointing to parties as divergent as fitness influencers, political figures, sales teams and more finding their new home through a Jedari template. “It’s really meant for a community—whether that’s 50 people or 50 million, it’s bringing them together and give them a safe environment,” says Anderson. Anyone pursuing their own brand of connection and promotion has a potential future at Jedari.

Find more information and inquire about setting up your own platform, site or app at jedari.com.



PREMIUM NATIVE



(T-B) Co-founder Sean Whalen, CEO Greg W. Anderson, Master of Business Development Blaire Thomas, Chief Technology Officer Nick Garza and PR Master Charlene Brown.

Photos by Ashley Christenson

Photos courtesy of Jedari

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Stoke in Stills

An Interview with Ethan "E-Stone" Fortier

By: Steve Goemaat • Stgoemaat@gmail.com

Not many have had a career trajectory as unique as Ethan "E-stone" Fortier. As a snowboard pro, owner and operator of **Technine**, accomplished photographer and now co-host of *The Bomb Hole* podcast with **Chris Grenier**, Stone's existence within snowboarding is boundless, ever evolving and driven by a culture-first approach.

Stone's snowboarding journey began from a place of necessity within the Technine universe. "In the early days of Technine, **Blotto (Dean "Blotto" Gray)** was our Team Manager as well as a rider on the team. When he left, he sat me down and handed over the camera—I grabbed it and never put it down. I'm so thankful that photogra-



Cedar City's own Pat Fava ollies off of a building.



Chris Grenier jibbing a snowmobile next to the legendary Ken Block.

Photos by E-Stone



Brandon Davis boosting a kicker in the backcountry.



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Photos by E-Stone

Lucas Magoon 2-piece, alt-angle off the lip-slide.

Lucas Magoon 2-piece, mid-wall ride.

phers Kevin Zacher and Nate Christenson were down to show me the way around a camera," he says. Stone took the opportunity to be a part of a snowboard brand, shoot for their marketing and run with some of the most prominent snowboard crews around.

Stone's role in the most iconic snowboard days to date allowed him to work with the industry's best and travel the world while doing it. "I was involved with some of the heaviest videos in the sport from 2005-2019," he says. "If you watch videos put out by F.O.D.T, Videogress, Kids Know, Absinthe, Kingpin Productions and X Games: Real Snow edits, there is a 100% chance you will see me in the mix shooting photos and an 80% chance you will see my funny-looking mug somewhere in the credits."

Stone's photography genius lies in understanding location and a rider's capabilities and talent. "What I look for specifically is a situation where you could remove the rider from the photo and it'll still be insane and something you want on your wall," Stone says. "It's not always the scenery that makes the shot. It can just as easily

be the lighting on the scene that turns an average shot into something extremely special." For Stone, a good photo is about picking angles that cleanly show the trick and give context to the rider's direction in the moment.

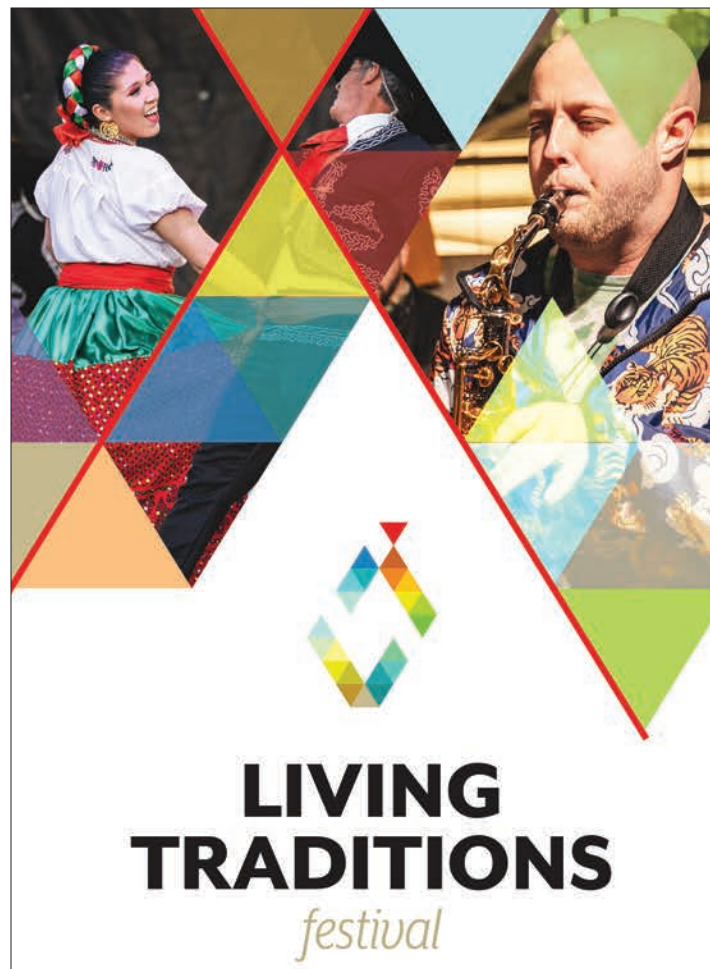
When transitioning from photopro to podcast host, Stone relied on practice and consistency. "We had just got the ball rolling on the concept of *The Bomb Hole* when the pandemic hit and we had two options: push forward as we had originally planned or, out of fear of the unknown, pack it up and give up while we still could." Stone and Grenier got the first 15 episodes under their belt, which served as the litmus test of whether the podcast had legs. At over 150 episodes, more than 10 live shows and a plethora of event recaps and watch parties, *The Bomb Hole* has steadily become a staple in the snow sports world.

With *The Bomb Hole* in full swing and the western U.S. snowboard community having one of the best seasons in decades, Stone has no plans of slowing down. "I have been working hard on my personal website where I sell prints

from my career. It has been super rad to see the support and to know my images are finding a place in people's personal lives," Stone says. "I have also been really stoked on sharing my photo knowledge with up-and-coming photographers that reach out to me on social media. Anything I can do to help usher in a new guard of shooters that will carry the torch and keep documenting this amazing sport is something I'm down to focus on!"

Stone's charisma and dedication to snowboarding is felt from his photography to his podcast hosting. Keeping the grassroots culture within the snowboard world alive is key to the sport's progression and integrity, and Stone exemplifies that to a T. Be sure to check out Stone's website, *e-stonephoto.com*, as well as *The Bomb Hole* podcast on all major platforms or *thebombhole.com*.

Park City pro rally car driver Ken Block (pictured in this article), friend of Ethan Stone and Chris Grenier, passed away early January 2023. We would like to take a moment to honor and thank Ken for his contributions as a legend in action sports.



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Photos by @slc_bites

Snowmobile Pizza knows that no pizza outing is complete without some wings.

The '80s are back, dude—and they've been back for what feels like an eternity. As a middle-of-the-road millennial, my 1980s experience is almost entirely crafted from TV shows, movies and fashion that patchwork the top hits of the decade together. *Snowmobile Pizza* is the culinary equivalent of *Stranger Things*, mashing bits and pieces of half-remembered cultural touchstones together to create a fresh experience that is palatable for all—but, you know, with pizza.

Walking into *Snowmobile* is like stumbling into a DeLorean that transports you back to the '80s. The *Nickelodeon* slime-green walls and Barney-purple accents delightfully assault the senses with a nostalgic and gratingly ironic style. You and your homies can find retro Easter eggs in each nook and cranny. My sister and I had our phones ready to snap some great shots of laser-eyed kittens on the ceiling and on the Insta-worthy snowmobiles. Projections of music videos add to the experience, featuring '80s hits from artists such as **Cindy Lauper**, **Metallica** and **Van Halen**. Since we came early in the evening, we had our pick of the place and took seats on the custom ski lift seating after ordering at the counter



Snowmobile Pizza's Supreme pie has, fittingly, a little bit of everything.

Snowmobile is not a bar (it even has the ubiquitous paper sign on the door to prove it), but it makes some pretty sweet cocktails. I had The Grimace (\$7), and it's straight-up rad, man! A callback to the heyday of the *Mcdonald's* characters, this li'l purple brew is a wicked mix of vodka, lime juice, grenadine, blue Powerade and Sprite.

For an appetizer, I tried the Arancini balls (\$11). The two golf ball-sized Italian rice balls are perfectly crispy on the outside and soft and creamy on the inside. The peas add a nice sweetness to the dish, while the cherry pepper comes around the back with a subtle kick of heat. The Parmigiano risotto is the undisputed star of the plate, adding a rich and savory flavor.

The Six Wings (\$9) we ordered were delightfully crispy and generously coated with either Buffalo, Caesar, Honey BBQ or Calabrian hot sauce. I stuck with the classic Buffalo and loved how tender and juicy they were. The tangy, mild heat serves as a nice contrast to the cooling ranch.

Snowmobile takes it slow with a 72 hour-fermented dough, making for a crispy, New York-style thin crust perfect for folding and munching. I savored The Supreme (\$29),

featuring a combination of toppings that meld together in perfect harmony of flavors and textures. The pepperoni gives the dish a spicy kick, and the Calabrian sausage and wild mushrooms provide a hearty meatiness.

My vegan sister was thrilled that *Snowmobile* is groovin' toward a plant-forward future by having her New York pie (\$21) substituted with a vegan cheese option for an additional charge of one dollar. She quickly proclaimed that *Snowmobile* produces the best vegan pie she's had in Utah yet. Their fermented crust stands up to the flames providing a crunchy and chewy base for a generous portion of vegan cheese and herbaceous sauce. Fortunately for her, she had plenty of leftovers from her 18" pie, as the pizzaiolos are unable to provide specialty slices. If you're not a leftover person, bring your own group of out-of-town visitors to share in the treasure trove of tasty flavor combinations after burning calories on the slopes.

Snowmobile Pizza is located in the up-and-coming Granary district steps away from the 900 S. Trax station. Check out *Snowmobile Pizza's* menu at snowmobilepizza.com and on Instagram @snowmobilepizza for nostalgic vibes with a New York flavor.

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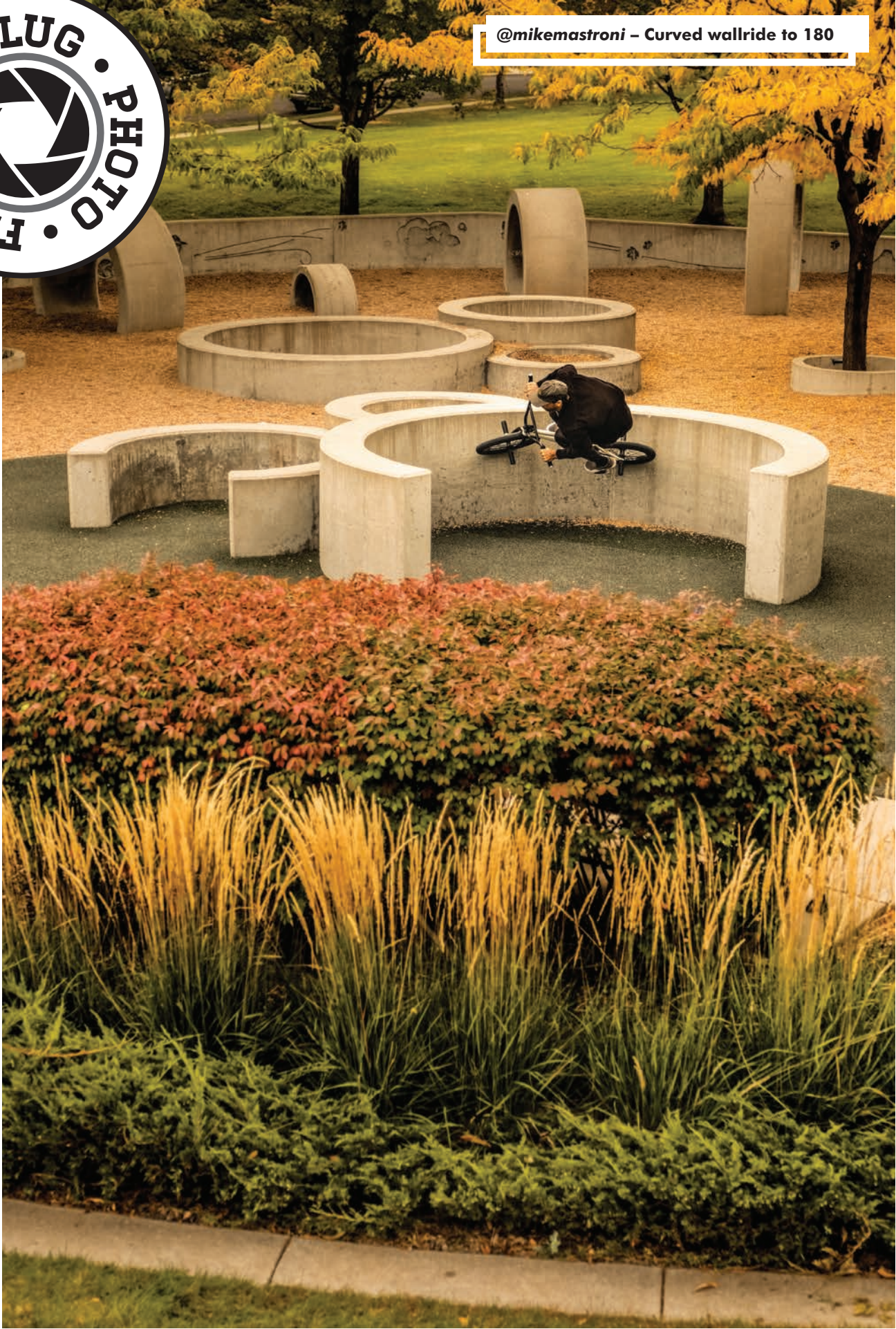
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By Jon Tinsley • @jontinsley



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