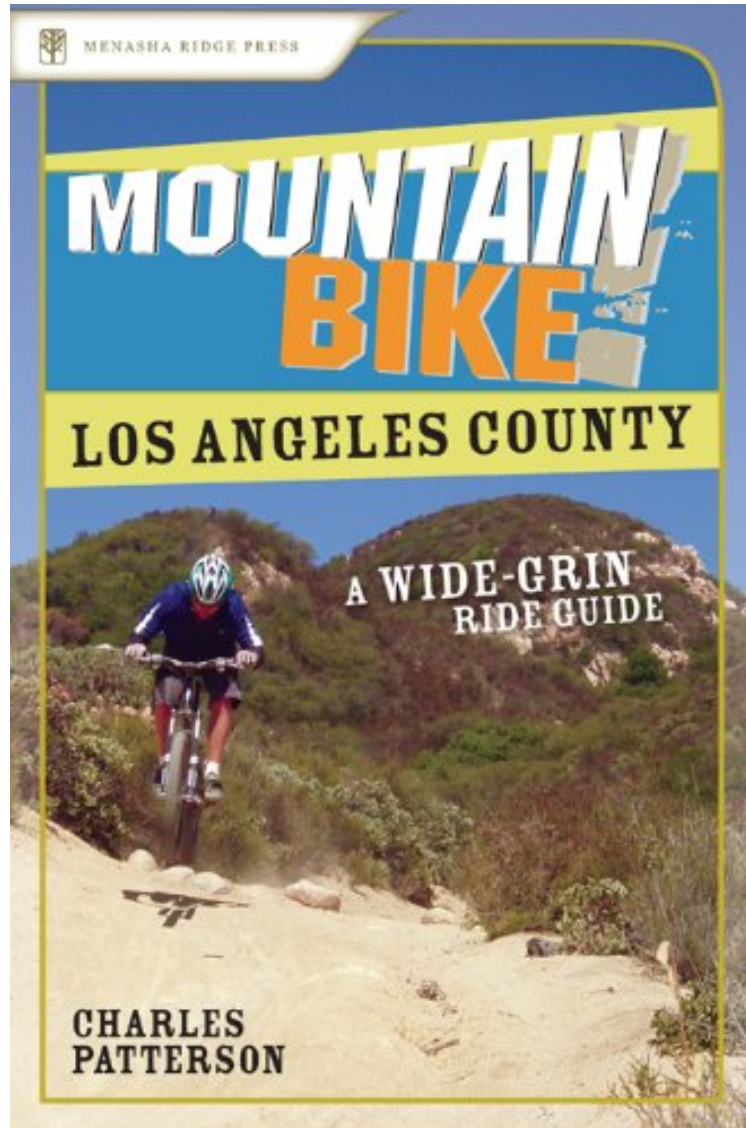


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## Mountain Bike! Los Angeles County: A Wide-Grin Ride Guide

Charles Patterson

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**Charles Patterson : Mountain Bike! Los Angeles County: A Wide-Grin Ride Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mountain Bike! Los Angeles County: A Wide-Grin Ride Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Piece of crapBy BarakI am new to Southern California and usually bike myself as my schedule is hectic.I bought that book so I can pick a trail and ride it.I tried 4 trails out of the book so far. The explanations are either too general or incorrect. In all four occasions I ended up lost.Example - Route #10 - Sullivan Ridge to Sullivan Canyon Loop. Never mind the mismatches between the map and real-life (The return in ON

Mandeville fireroad and NOT next to it as one might derive from looking at the map in the book), the explanations go the other direction of this loop ride than the markings on the map! Another Example - Route #6 - Santa Maria Trail - "... The unmarked trailhead starts on the right (east) side of the road, right across from Pat's Topanga Grill, on the left (west) side of the road". Across from Pat's grill there is a fenced area. You can go either 0.1M before or 0.2M after Pat. I picked the first and ended up in people's backyard with a woman yelling at me that she is calling the police. One might read this review and say, well this guy is a klutz. The thing is that when we lived in Northern California (East San Francisco Bay) I used Lorene Jackson's (AFalconGuide publishing) "Mountain Biking the San Francisco Bay Area: A Guide to the Bay Area's Greatest Off-Road Bicycle Rides (Regional Mountain Biking Series)" and found my way every time. DO NOT BUY THIS BOOK. If you did, you better check the route with Google earth or Google map before hitting the trail. I have wasted 4 precious riding Fridays and I hope I have just saved yours. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Inconsistent maps and directions By dubik99 The problem with this book is exemplified by the map on the inside cover: an overview map of the LA county rides. It has the Pacific Ocean on the right (yes, right, not left). I looked at it for a while. Flipped it sideways, but then you have to read names sideways. Weird. Then I went to check out a ride I know well (Bulldog Loop) to see if the description makes sense to me. Again, it took me a while to figure out what the author is talking about, because the ride direction arrows on the map are reversed relative to what is described in the text. "Must be a typo", I said and went to look at another ride I know very well "Sullivan ridge to Sullivan Canyon...". Here things got even more weird. The arrows are reversed again. He really describes a ride up what is commonly known as Westridge Road (properly labeled West Mandeville Fire Rd on their map), but the text refers to the Sullivan Ridge Fire Road "...the Sullivan Ridge Fire Road provides a great warm up for this ride... and "the entrance to the Sullivan ridge Fire Road" which is really ways away on Amalfi. And the funny thing is that his map does have Sullivan Ridge Fire Road, not being part of this ride. Very confusing. I wonder how screwed up the rest of the ride descriptions are. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sloppy lay out, very little for the beginner or low intermediate By G. Takade I would have to agree with Serge's review above. I have not done Sullivan's Canyon, but when I read the text, I could see that it did not match what was laid out on the map. It makes me very hesitant to do other trails for the first time based on this book, as they might not be labeled properly. Also, the "Key-At-A-Glance" section is sloppy. On some rides Technical Difficulty is listed on the third line and Aerobic Difficulty is listed on the fourth line, but on other rides they are reversed. This could get you into trouble if you confuse the two and do what you thought was a 5 aerobic difficulty that is actually a 5 technical difficulty you are not ready for. And on Sullivan it is inexplicably rated as "Moderate" with no number or aerobic rating at all. My second complaint is which trails were chosen for the book. I say there are only 33 rides listed because I am not counting the 7 non-LA County rides in here. There is a section called South Bay/Cleveland National Forest. It should really be marked Orange County/San Bernardino County. There are no South Bay rides listed in here (Torrance, Rancho Palos Verdes, etc.). There are other LA County proper rides which are not listed at all in here for some reason, such as Turnbull Canyon. If one had to include some OC rides, why not list some of the plenty that are way closer to LA than El Moro or San Juan? My third complaint is that most of the rides in this book are geared for the advanced rider. The back cover of this book says "whether you're new to mountain biking or an experienced downhiller". I counted 33 LA rides with say 14 being advanced (either having at least one 5 rating or double 4s), 10 rides being high intermediate (at least one 4 rating), 7 rides being low to moderate intermediate (at least one 3 rating) and only two beginner rides, one of which looked like you could do it on your beach cruiser. As an intermediate rider there's really only about 10 rides I'd attempt in here. I would not recommend it for the beginner as there's barely anything in it for you. If you are an advanced rider that will try anything, you'll probably be fine with this book. But then again, if you are an advanced rider, you probably don't need this book unless you just moved here.

Mountain Bike! Los Angeles County has every conceivable type of mountain bike accessible terrain, from remote, loamy oak forest floor singletracks without a person in sight, to roller coaster, rock-garden filled chutes that will give you plenty of thrills. This is must-have literature for the cyclist who is eager to explore the wonderful terrain that housed the genesis of mountain biking in the late seventies. In this trail guide you'll find detailed maps of carefully planned routes, some popular and some unknown to many, as well as comprehensive descriptions of what hazards and delights you'll encounter along the way.