

2020 CHAPTER SLAMS SHUT



RAUSCH CREEK
TRAILRIDERS



2020 year in review; a year unlike any other: COVID made sure of that. It's the story that, unfortunately, won't go away. Covid-19 rapidly spread through every fabric of daily life. It was just the beginning of a long, terrible, insane year – one during which we spent months in our homes, passing the time by watching that awful series about that crazy guy and his tigers on Netflix in between forays to Target and Walmart in search of toilet paper.

January

COVID reared its head in January. The very first case in the U.S. was a Washington State man who had travelled from the city of Wuhan in China, where it all started.

Jan. 1: One of the worst fire seasons in Australian history continues as thousands of people evacuate and millions of acres burn.

Jan. 3: Iranian Gen. Qassem Suleimani, leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, is killed in a U.S. airstrike in Iraq.

Jan. 7: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issues a travel notice for Americans going to Wuhan, China. On Dec. 31, 2019, Chinese authorities had reported a cluster of pneumonia cases associated with a seafood and poultry market in Wuhan. **Jan. 8:** Iran's military shoots

down Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 shortly after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board.

Jan. 8: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle step back from royal duties.

Jan. 15: The U.S. House votes to send articles of impeachment (abuse of power and obstruction of Congress) against President Trump to the U.S. Senate.

Jan. 24: RCTR Newsletter reports new helmet and campsite stickers are turquoise. With temps in the low 40's, many members were still enjoying the brisk ride of "FALL" when it should've been a winter wonderland.

Jan. 26: Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven others die in a helicopter crash near Calabasas.

Jan. 30: The World Health Organization declares the coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency.

Jan. 31: The United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union, making Brexit official. Actual separation will occur Dec. 31.

Jan. 31: President Trump bans travel from China, with a few exceptions.

February

February was consumed with the impeachment of President Trump by the House. He was eventually acquitted by the Senate of charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Feb. 2: The Kansas City Chiefs defeat the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl.

Feb. 4: Impeachment overshadows President Trump's State of the Union address; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tears up a copy of his speech during the last few seconds.

Feb. 14: RCTR Newsletter reports: Trail 3 has

Weather FORECAST

Fri Cloudy 33° F | 22° F
 Sat Sunny 41° F | 26° F
 Sun Partly Sunny 40° F | 25° F



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RIDING OR NON-RIDING ALL GUESTS MUST BE SIGNED IN UPON ARRIVAL! THE GUEST WAIVER IS ON THE OUTSIDE OFFICE WALL 24/7.

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been rerouted to bypass the black coal dirt playground that was active with coal refuse removal.

We enjoyed offering sweets and free coffee and hot cocoa to our members on Sweetheart Day in the office.

Feb. 17: The Boy Scouts of America seeks bankruptcy protection under a new wave of child abuse claims.

March

In March it was back to COVID. The World Health Organization declared a global pandemic, and the 2020 Olympics was officially postponed.

March 9: Italy places itself on a nationwide quarantine to slow the spread of coronavirus. The Dow Jones industrial average plunges more than 2,000 points.

March 11: The World Health Organization declares the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

March 11: Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is sentenced to 23 years in prison for rape and sexual assault.

March 11: Actor Tom Hanks announces he and his wife, Rita Wilson, tested positive for coronavirus in Australia.

March 11: The NBA suspends its season indefinitely over the pandemic...other national sports leagues follow suite.

March 13: President Trump declares the coronavirus a national emergency.

March 13: RCTR announced our policy to keep staff and our members safe by closing the office and working through our "drive-thru" window at the door starting the 17th...little did we know. Our highly anticipated GREEN ride to O'Neal's Pub in Tower City was cancelled.

March 14: Spain goes into a nationwide coronavirus lockdown.

March 14: Pennsylvania Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores in southeastern PA are forced to close as the coronavirus outbreak reached the Keystone State.

March 19: All 'Non-Life-Sustaining' Businesses In PA Must Close By 8 PM. This headline comes five days later, as Gov. Tom Wolf orders non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania to close their physical locations to slow the spread of coronavirus. Pennsylvania Expands Mask-Wearing Requirements. Gov. Tom Wolf issues a "Stay At Home" order across seven counties in the state's ongoing effort to stem the spread of COVID-19. The order was later expanded to the entire state.

March 20: In response to the Tom Wolf's announcement, RCTR scrambles to ensure this is the case for the trail system and ultimately must close. Let me tell you that was one of the scariest; saddest times for staff. All staff members were laid off.

March 16: The Dow Jones industrial average falls by 2,997.10, the largest single-day point drop ever, amid the coronavirus outbreak.

March 19: Gov. Gavin Newsom announces extraordinary

measures directing all Californians to stay at home because of the pandemic. Los Angeles city and county officials issue sweeping new rules to limit the virus' spread. **March 20:** The worldwide coronavirus death toll passes 10,000.

March 24: President Trump tweets that the "cure" cannot be "worse than the problem itself" and calls for country to reopen on Easter Sunday.

March 25: The Senate and the White House agree to a \$2-trillion stimulus package to boost the economy, the largest stimulus package in U.S. history. **March 26:** Global coronavirus cases top 500,000. The U.S. reports 82,000 infections — more than China or Italy — and passes 1,000 deaths.

March 26: The Labor Department reports that a record 3.28 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits in the previous week.

March 27: House and Senate pass a coronavirus relief and stimulus bill that includes expanded unemployment benefits and cash payments to those eligible.

March 31: New York passes 75,000 coronavirus cases. The U.S. has more than 163,000 reported cases, as COVID-19 death toll reaches 3,000. Seventy percent of the U.S. population is under lockdown.

Think about it just 9 months ago, grocery store shelves were barren as people stocked up on food, preparing to stay home for what was then thought to be just a couple of weeks as the spread of the virus waned. Toilet paper, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes were in short supply.

April

Tensions over COVID took center stage in April, when armed demonstrators took to the Michigan State Capitol to protest stay-at-home orders.

April—RCTR hung in the air as staff watched from our homes (collecting unemployment for the first time ever...not paid for months (can we never do that again)) day in and day out...hoping we could safely bring our members back home.

April 2: The number of coronavirus cases worldwide passes 1 million. More than 6.6 million workers file for unemployment in the United States.

April 3: The CDC recommends that everyone consider wearing cloth or fabric face masks in public.

April 13: The IRS begins sending stimulus checks to Americans.

April 16: The Trump administration issues guidelines for a phased reopening of schools and businesses for parts of the U.S.

April 17: Texas becomes the first state to begin easing pandemic restrictions.

April 30: Armed protesters enter the state Capitol in Lansing, Mich., to demand an end to the pandemic lockdown.



MAY

In May the nation's focus shifted to justice and inequality, after the death of George Floyd, sparking protests all around the country.

May 3: The U.S. faces invasion of “murder hornets,” which threaten domestic bees.

May 8: FINALLY RCTR is free to open. After much concern and speculation, we reopen in the PA yellow phase. No guest riders were permitted but strict regard to staff safety was enforced.

May 8: The U.S. unemployment reaches 14.7%, with more than 33 million jobless claims filed since mid-March.

May 15: The Trump administration announces Operation Warp Speed, a public-private partnership to speed up development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

May 22: After 2 weeks of working with no days off...RCTR staff were stressed and busy with members daily. Trailriders was the place to be FREE for our members. A reminder was sent that if just one of our staff had gotten we would be forced to shut down again...a reminder to be mindful and follow all procedures.

May 25: Minneapolis police officer is filmed while pressing his knee on the neck of George Floyd for about eight minutes, killing him, as three other officers stand by. Video of Floyd's death goes viral; the four officers are fired the next day.

May 28: A state of emergency is declared in Minneapolis-St. Paul as protests over the death of George Floyd and racial injustice spread nationwide.

May 29: Fired Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin is charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter in the killing of George Floyd; the Minnesota attorney general increases the charge to second-degree murder on June 3. Charges against three other fired officers are filed.

May 30: A state of emergency is declared in Los Angeles County and city of Los Angeles because of protests over the death of George Floyd and racial injustice. Curfews are also declared in Philadelphia and Atlanta.

JUNE

Summer came and we thought the worst was over. The governor eased restrictions.

June 1: President Trump threatens to deploy U.S. troops to quell protests across the country and subsequently stages a photo-op at St. John's Episcopal Church after federal officers and other law enforcement personnel forcefully clear peaceful protesters from Lafayette Square in front of the White House.

June 5: Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser designates a section of 16th Street NW as Black Lives Matter

Plaza.

June 5: The NBA votes to restart its season in a “bubble” setting in Orlando, Fla.

June 8: Protesters in Seattle declare an “autonomous zone” in the city's Capitol Hill area.

June 20: RCTR newsletters announces Brads Way trail entrance that connects to Trail 1 is CLOSED due to the mine subsidence located on the trail. PA moves into Green Phase—Guest riding is reinstated!

JULY

We got a bit of normalcy in July, when Major League Baseball finally returned, in front of cardboard cut-outs, but it was better than nothing.

July 10: California officials announce that as many as 8,000 prisoners could be released ahead of schedule in an unprecedented attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus inside state prisons.

July 10: RCTR Newsletters: announced Brads Way trail is reopened. Showing diagram of what a mine subsidence is.

“Working Land, Where Riders Play” our slogan — environmental surveyors were on trail checking the MET towers. These towers measure wind and other data for the future wind turbines.

Timbering on Trail 9 and Trail 6 occur...staff and members are not happy but that's the name of the game on “working land.”

June 20: Comet Neowise shoots through the sky.

July 14: The Trump administration orders hospitals to bypass the CDC and send all COVID-19 patient information to a central database in Washington.

July 17: Secretary of Defense Mark Esper issues a memorandum to the military on the appropriate display of flags — excluding the Confederate battle flag and essentially banning it.

AUGUST

As if 2020 weren't hard enough, Hurricane Laura slammed into the Louisiana Gulf Coast in August – it was one of 12 named storms to hit the United States this season.

Aug. 2: Firefighters continue to battle the Apple fire that burned 20,000 acres in Cherry Valley and surrounding areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties, destroying one home and prompting evacuations of thousands of others.

Aug. 11: Joe Biden announces Sen. Kamala Harris of California as his vice presidential running mate, the first woman of color to appear on a major party's presidential ticket.

Aug. 13: Plans are announced by the U.S. Postal Service to remove hundreds of high-volume mail-processing machines from postal facilities across the country.

New Year Continued...

Aug. 16: Thunderstorms trigger hundreds of wildfires in California, prompting evacuations as a record-breaking heat wave taxes the state's power grid. The August Complex fire starts in Northern California; by Sept. 9 it becomes the largest fire in California history, burning more than 1 million acres.

Aug 22: RCTR has our annual Bonfire for a welcome of some sort of normalcy. Business is at an all time high and we are busier than ever. After much discussion between staff, an announcement is made of our guest sign in policy and kids riding under 12 enforcement. To our surprise it only took a few weeks to kick in...thank you to many members who pitched in to help staff be "all over" the campground.

SEPTEMBER

September saw the makeup of the highest court in the land change, with the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and President Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace her.

Sept. 5: The El Dorado fire erupts in San Bernardino County, sparked by pyrotechnics that were part of a gender reveal party. California sets a new record for destruction by wildfires, with 2.1 million acres burning.

Sept. 7: Oregon wildfires start amid severe drought and severe winds; by the end of October, more than 1 million acres will burn, more than 4,000 homes will be destroyed, and at least 10 people will be killed. **Sept. 10:** More than half a million people in Oregon, more than 10% of the state's population, are reported to be fleeing wildfires.

Sept. 12: Two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies are shot and critically injured while sitting in their patrol car near the Compton Metro station. The agency's response to the attack raises alarm among some activists, lawmakers and Sheriff's Department watchdogs.

Sept. 18: Long-serving Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies at 87.

Sept. 28: The Tampa Bay Lightning defeat the Dallas Stars to win their second Stanley Cup championship in a season disrupted by the pandemic.

Sept. 29: Shouting and insults dominate the first presidential debate.

OCTOBER

COVID hit the Oval Office in October. President Trump was diagnosed, hospitalized and released, all in the waning days of his campaign.

Oct. 6: Eddie Van Halen dies at age 65 after a long battle with cancer.

Oct. 8: FBI announces that 13 men have been charged in a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Oct. 10: Armenia and Azerbaijan agree on a cease-fire in the ongoing Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Oct. 11: The Lakers defeat the Miami Heat to capture a record-tying 17th NBA title.

October RCTR Highlights: A new mask and gator sporting Rausch Creek's logo is released...Very cool. Riding restrictions begin due to hunting activity by local hunting clubs on RCTR trails. The annual Dual Sport breezes through RCTR trails on the 11th. Our annual Trick or Treat day was a little different but enjoyed by many members and their children. A list of campsites handing candy out was distributed and members of all kinds dressed in costume stopping by each site for a treat. Our campsite decorating contest was just as good this pasted year, with more sites and members signing up than ever.

Oct. 27: The Dodgers defeat the Tampa Bay Rays to win the team's first World Series title since 1988.

NOVEMBER

In November, of course, we voted. Joe Biden won. President Trump disagreed, and tried to overturn the result both in the courts and in certain state legislatures. **Nov. 7:** After days of waiting, major news organizations declare that Joe Biden has secured enough electoral college votes to win the presidency. Pennsylvania was ground zero in Trump's legal battle to overturn the results of the election.

Nov. 8: "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek, 80, dies following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Nov. 16: Moderna announces that its COVID-19 vaccine appears to be 94.5% effective, according to preliminary data.

Nov. 16: Hurricane Iota makes landfall in Nicaragua as a Category 4 storm, just two weeks after Hurricane Eta hit, devastating the same areas.

The end of November the new 2021 rates were finally announced.

DECEMBER

Mercifully, the year ended with some positive news on COVID: the vaccines were finally here, much-needed shots-in-the-arm that will continue far into the New Year.

Dec. 1: Atty. Gen. William Barr says the U.S. Justice Department has uncovered no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could change the outcome of the 2020 election.

TIP OF THE DAY

Shampoo warning! It's so good to finally get a health warning that is useful. It involves the shampoo when it runs down your body while you are showering. I don't know why I didn't figure this out sooner! I use shampoo in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this claim: FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME. No wonder I have been gaining weight. Well, I have gotten rid of that shampoo and I am going to start showering with Dawn® dish soap instead. Its label reads: DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE. Problem solved!

LOCAL TO DO'S



2021 Event Schedule

COMING NEXT ISSUE



Dec. 4: Protests against COVID-19 safety rules continue, as some restaurateurs defy the mandate to close outdoor dining (or look for “work-arounds”), and parents rally to keep playgrounds open.

Dec. 7: Universal Music Publishing Group announces it is acquiring Bob Dylan's entire catalog of songs, which spans 60 years.

Dec. 8: Britain becomes the first Western country to start inoculating its residents against COVID-19.

Dec. 14: The first COVID-19 vaccinations start in the United States. The first doses are expected to go to front-line healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities, followed by other at-risk groups.

Dec. 17: The availability of intensive care unit beds throughout Southern California hits 0%.

17th: RCTR members enjoyed about 10" of snow with a slick ice layer underneath. Oh what fun it was! That coating lasted for about 2 weeks and it now down to a few straggly snow piles.



Phew. No wonder we're exhausted.

And now, as 2020 slouches toward its close, the virus appears to be out of control. New records for cases, hospitalizations and deaths are seemingly reported daily. In recent weeks, more people are dying every day than died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. America seems to be on the edge. Nobody can agree about anything — even reality. To paraphrase what everyone's been saying, everybody seems very angry about everything all the time.

This recent history has led a lot of people to declare that 2020 was the worst year ever.