

Pipasa MTB Marathon Series Creates New Travel & Race Opportunities for North American Mountain Bikers

Endurance

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica -- For those mountain bikers who have heard about the beauty of Costa Rican mountain biking, but would prefer a more recreational getaway rather than the intense challenge of the multi-day endurance events, the Pipasa National Marathon Championships offers six great one-day racing opportunities in 2009, beginning with a UCI sanctioned event (level C1) on March 15th, in Patarrá.

The Patarrá event, is Round One of the series. It is an international challenge, that is expected to attract over 600 competitors from all over Central America, and probably a few dozen from North and South America as well. Some of the U.S. riders headed for the Pan-Am champs a week later in Chile already have this race on their radar.

The race course is one big loop on a 39mile/63km course through the lush tropical forests and farmland surrounding the city of San Jose, Costa Rica's capital. With 6100ft/1860m of climbing, riders will meet a balance of uphill and flats.

This is some of the most sought-after mountain bike racing terrain in the Americas, and the event is sure to make an exotic and memorable mountain bike trip for even the most seasoned adventurer.

Now in its fifth year of running, the Pipasa series has had time to iron out any logistical problems and is running smoothly. "U.S. racers would find this event and the local conditions quite acceptable," says UCI international commissaire, Dean Crandall, a veteran official on the mountain bike race circuit, who officiated at this event last year.

The event organizer, Rafael Pacheco, says there is limited host housing available, and he has negotiated discount rates with local hotels for riders in his events. The Patarrá venue is about 25 miles/40km from the San Jose airport.

What:

Round 1 of the Endurance Pipasa MTB Series. This is a UCI category C1 event.

Lap length: 39mi/63km

Climbing per lap: 6100ft/1860m

Race distance: 39mi/63km

Competitors: Approx. 600

Prize pool: Per UCI guidelines for C1 event

Event website: www.mtbalfa.com

When:

March 15th, 2009 (one week before the Pan-Am Champs in Chile – one trip, two UCI races!)

Where:

Patarrá, Costa Rica, just to the south east of San Jose, the nation's capital.

Who:

Organizer Eventos Deportivos Alfa S.A., led by Rafael Pacheco, has been putting on races for seven years.

Contact:

Rafael Pacheco

+506. 22.34.60.13

sincco@raccsa.co.cr

Media Contact:

Paul Skilbeck

O2 Sports Media and Marketing

pskilbeck@o2sm.com

Tel. 415.359.0730

