

NIWOT GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Niwot Historical Society

May 2024

P. O. Box 354, Niwot, Colorado 80544

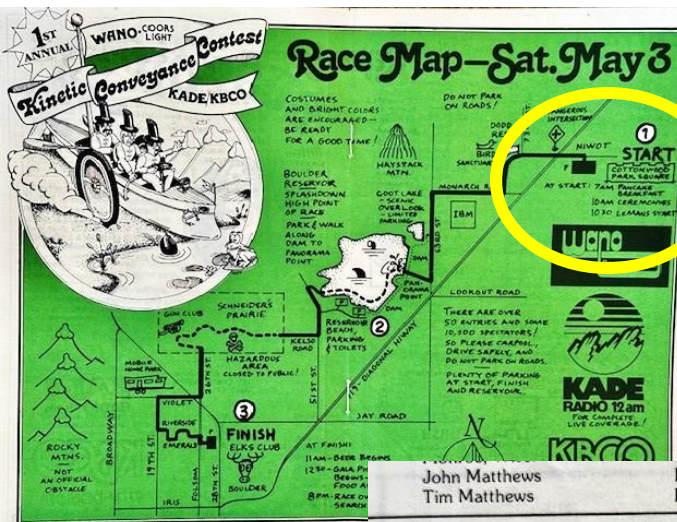
niwothistoricalsociety.org



Be a part of Niwot's future, by helping to preserve our past.

The First Kinetic Conveyance Contest ~ May 3, 1980

The Contest started in Niwot with a pancake breakfast and the inspection of the entries.



John Matthews
Tim Matthews



7:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast at Cottonwood Park Square. Store up carbohydrates before the race begins.

8:00 a.m. Inspection and assembly at Cottonwood Park Square. Traffic congestion is a great possibility. Traffic wise contestant will be here early. Official inspection of conveyances and personnel. Checkpoint for certification, lien waivers, entry fee, and issuance of identifying numbers.

9:00 a.m. Race begins. Last minute announcements, changes, advice — short, but necessary. (The usual B.S. that makes the organizers feel worthwhile.)

10:00 a.m. Speeches by the famous and soon-to-be-famous.

10:30 a.m. Bang! The starting gun sounds for the LeMans, Niwot start of the race.

**David Holmes
Jesse Holmes**

Where it all began . . .

I just knew that question would come up. Where did the idea for this insanity originate? Wouldn't you know it'd be in California?

It all began on Mother's Day, 1969, in the small hamlet of Ferndale, California (get out those maps, it's near Eureka). Metal sculptor Hobart Brown was welding together a tall, red pentacycle for his son Justin. Artist Jack Mays pronounced the contraption laughable and, with typical one-up-man-ship announced his own intentions to build a better sculpture. In fact, he is quoted as saying, "I'll build a kinetic sculpture and we'll race them." Other friends joined in. On Mother's Day morn, a handful of sculptures assembled on Main Street to the cheers and jeers of onlookers.

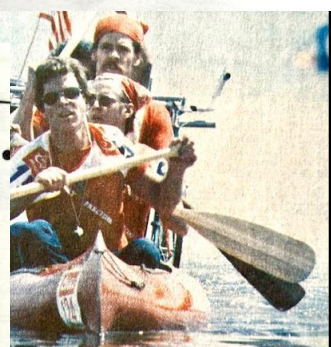
In succeeding years the race has grown, outdistancing even the fondest hopes of race founder Hobart Brown.

The years 1970-1973 saw more and more participants in the annual event with names that will live into infamy — "Tyronosaurus Rust," "Red Bird," "Ricketty Chicadee," and the all time local favorite, "Ferndale Area Rapid Transit."

In 1974 the race was expanded to surrounding Humboldt County. Field's Landing, a local fishing port, would be the launch site for the cross-country Kinetic Sculpture Race.

The race grew and grew until . . . The 1980 Arcata to Ferndale Cross Country Kinetic Sculpture Race, 77 sculptures racing over a thirty-four mile course in a three day event over land and swamp from Arcata to Ferndale.

And now, the first annual WANO-COORS Light Kinetic Conveyance Contest is about to begin.



SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Items you find in a drawer or a box in the shed may be artifacts for Niwot history preservation. The official 1st Annual Kinetic Conveyance Contest souvenir program and newspaper articles are located in the Tharp Collection in the Niwot Historical Society archives.

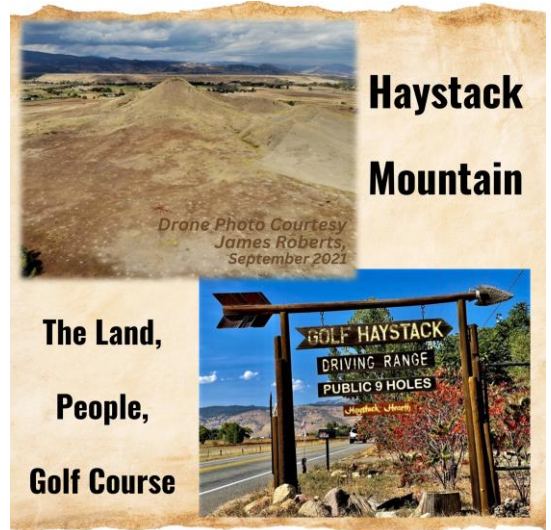
The latest lecture videos added to our YouTube Page are:

- Haystack: the land, people, golf course
- Arapaho Culture with Fred Mosqueda

Lecture videos can be reached on our website

niwothistoricalsociety.org

Or via the QR code on the right



Fred Mosqueda shared Arapaho Culture to a full house at the Left Hand Grange Hall. He shared stories about the culture, he taught us language and how to pronounce Nawath, performed a ceremony when accepting a Teton Honor Blanket. We are looking forward to learning more about the Arapaho people in the future.

With new audio/video equipment installed in the Left Hand Grange Hall, the Niwot Historical Society will no longer have need for our audio equipment and the projector.

? Please let us know if you know a non-profit organization to whom we could donate the equipment ?

Equipment is in good working condition with a new backup/replacement bulb for the projector. If you need more details about the audio and video equipment, please send your inquiry and specifics to: info@niwothistoricalsociety.org

Members, Volunteers and Friends are our most valuable resource.

Niwot Historical Society

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