

Ben Bishop interview

I interviewed Ben Bishop, a mountain bike trail builder who lives in Jackson, Georgia. A little while ago I read an article Bike magazine wrote about him restoring an olympic racecourse. I decided to see what motivated him and figure out the juicy details of his expedition. Here's what I found:

First of all, he seems very determined to do things that he wants to do, and he seems very persistent in doing that. In restoring an Olympic racecourse, for example, he "had to battle many people, storms, timber cutting... you name it." that seems like a hard thing to do but he persevered. That definitely helped him to get permission to rebuild the racetrack, but "there were many people involved" so he had some help. His motivation was the chance of "having an Olympic caliber bike racecourse in his area. 22 years later they are still the only people that can say it".

Ben works for a power utility designing power lines. He says that all of the mountain biking related things he does are on a voluntary basis. He was introduced to mountain biking when he got hurt and couldn't ride motor cross. He needed to stay in shape. His friend who was a trail builder convinced him to get a mountain bike. He did and "he loved it!" He still loves it after 22 years.

Over this project I learned a lot. I learned that once you get ahold of people they are more than willing to talk a lot about themselves (not in a bad way). Ben was very nice and he just wanted to make sure my interview request was legitimate, than he was glad to answer my questions for me.