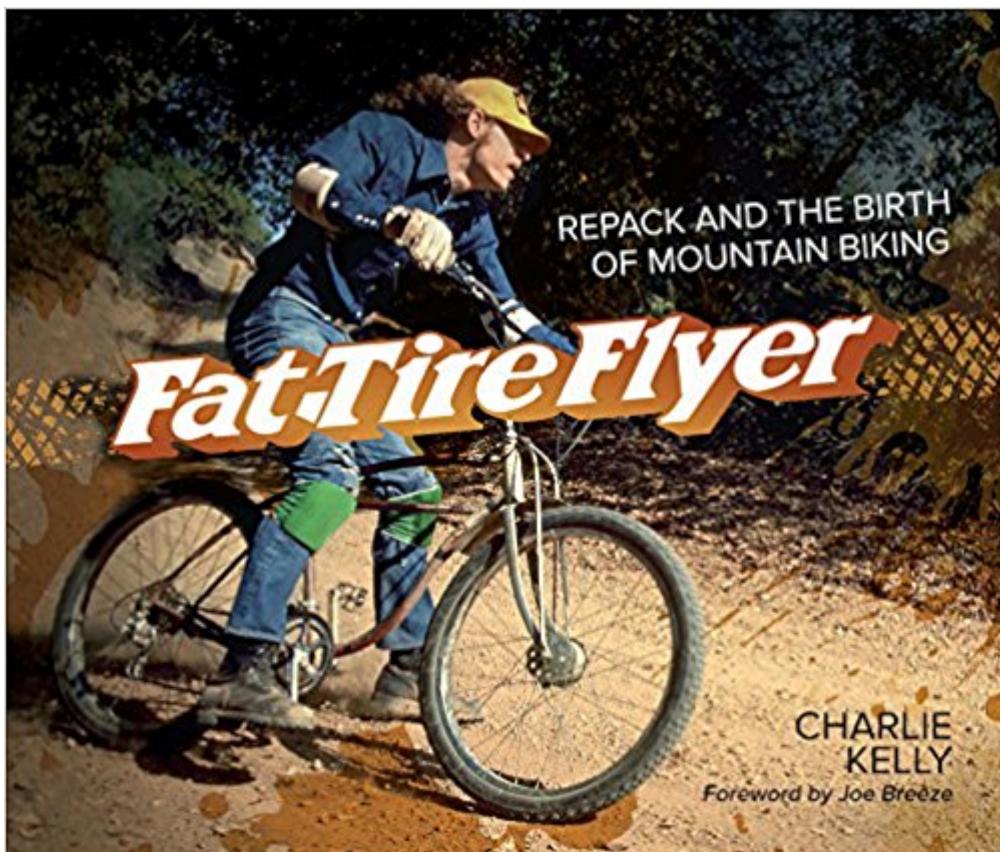


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# Fat Tire Flyer: Repack And The Birth Of Mountain Biking



## Synopsis

It all started with a small crew of bicycle-obsessed hippies bombing the downhill trails of Mount Tamalpais, in Marin County, California. As the friendly competition intensified on the steep dirt trail they called Repack, history's first mountain bikers began craving an upgrade from the old Schwinn cruisers they had rescued from the junkyard. With the single-minded focus found only among the truly obsessed, this rag-tag group sparked a rapid evolution that transformed the castoff Repack bomber into the modern mountain bike, a refined and elegant machine that quickly became the top-selling bicycle in the world. Charlie Kelly -- co-founder of the MountainBikes company with Gary Fisher, organizer of the Repack races, and chronicler of the sport -- now delivers the true, complete, and often unbelievable history of the rise of mountain biking and its lasting culture. Rich with first-hand descriptions and bursting with original photographs, drawings, and memorabilia, *Fat Tire Flyer* is the definitive history of one of the most significant inventions of the 20th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Some books are meant to happen, They rise up out of a culture and embody that zeitgeist. Then they shine like the tip of an iceberg, and all kinds of things are suddenly obvious. The book is destined because it needed to be written. I met Charlie Kelly at the late lamented Coors Classic through Mike Neel, a legendary road racer of the period who became the best manager of any nationality I ever got to know, and over time I spent time with a lot of them. I had just hooked up Neel with G.S. Mengoni, and indirectly, Alexi Grewal, Gold medalist at the '84 Olympics whom I

didn't know but had seen in action. These were smooth cool people, members of the cycling elite. Kelly was not smooth, nor was his bike, a fat-tire creation that reminded me of my old Schwinn. He was preoccupied with a new pedal he was testing, and not very sharp about road racing. I'd have thought him a bent crank except that he knew Neel. Wrong. Kelly was a prophet, and they can be hard to recognize. His clunky bike with its weird pedals was the future, coming from California as usual. All the best riders were westerners – Neel, George Mount, Harve Nitz, and of course Greg LeMond. Mount had tipped me to Kelly's fat-tire world years before, talking about having fun taking old ballooners down Mount Tamalpais through the brush and boulders. We were in Italy at the time with a pioneer US team managed by Neel, and Mt. Tam seemed damn far away as I looked over the results sheet for a stage race we were not winning. But over the next years as I traveled Europe and thought I was seeing history, Charlie and his Fat Tire Flyer journal and his ballooners were making history.

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