

THE MIGRATION

BMX
ACTION
EXCLUSIVE
test

MOELLER WROTE IT & RODE IT.
SPIKE SAW IT & SHOT IT.

MONGOOSE'S CALIFORNIAN PRO

NOTE: The 'Dog, Chris Moeller, is now working part time for Wiz Pubs in the editorial department. As much as you might doubt it, the following story is true . . . mostly.

It was Friday night and I had just raced at the Orange track. My drive home seemed long and my brain was a bit frazzled. When I turned onto my street, I saw a strange thing—my dad was jumping a bike off curbs and doing

power slides in front of our house. Could it be possible or was I hallucinating? My dad used to ride motorcycles and occasionally rides my bike in the driveway to impress me, but I never figured he rode on his own time.

Mongoose's Californian Pro handles exceptionally good, as demo'ed here by Travis Chipres (swoopin' inside and tryin' his hardest to hold his line) and Sam Arellano (rillin' the top of the berm). One or two degrees less than the stock 74 degree head tube angle, and Sammy would've been over the berm.

OF THE GREY 'GOOSE



I pulled into the driveway and found it to be true—he was rippin' around on the Mongoose test bike. I got out of the car to hear him yell things like, "These grips are junk!" . . . "This bike feels like your old Robinson".

My old Robinson? How did he know what my old Robinson rode like? Dad sprinted past me and continued his loud evaluation. "I think most 17 experts would trash these cranks, son!"

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. "For imitation Comp III's, these tires seem to work pretty good," he screamed as he roosted through the begonias in our front yard.

What exactly was going on here? Was my dad actually soul riding or had

I been driving too long? I had many questions and someone was going to answer them . . . NOW. To my shock, dad skidded up to me huffing and puffing. I began the interrogation.

"After I got home from the beach I decided to ride the Mongoose," he explained.

Whoa. Hold on here. . . when did he start jumping off the curbs?

"I've always taken the test bikes out in the street."

I then asked him what all that stuff was I heard him yelling?

"I just said the grips are junk."

I couldn't believe what was happening . . . since when was my dad the BMX critic? Who made him a grip expert?

"My old 1970 Suzuki Enduro had grips like these and I hated them."

And what was that about Robinson likeness?

"It just felt like your old Robinson a little," he told me. "This Mongoose seems like a bike for a kid who likes Robinsons but can't afford one."

Dad had a point. I'd never really thought about it like that but automatically realized the similarities. The short rear end and the quick 74 degree head angle were quite Robinson'ish. Stunned, I went into the house to do homework while my dad took off riding down the street, kicking out on garbage cans sitting by the curb.



Seeing my dad ride the test bike last night was too much. I awoke wondering if it was all just a dream. My mind was now on the Mongoose and I decided to write down some comments. First of all, I remembered how the fat front tire ripped. Over big jumps, the stability was rad. When I landed going into a turn I never lost traction—just a pure carve. The steep head tube helped a lot in all turns. In big sweepers the 'Goose didn't feel quite at home, but the forks had some rake that helped the situation. The 8½ inch tall bars felt pretty big and the lay back seat post stretched out the knee room. By changing the bars and the post, the Cal Pro could easily be ridden by a 12-year-old. By leaving 'em, a 17-year-old could shred. My stomach was aching and my body was hungry to ride the 'Goose, so I went down to the kitchen to eat before the Saturday session.

For breakfast, a Swanson's fried chicken dinner and a cup of hot tea did my pallet good and a session at Roscoe would fill my real hunger fine.

Roscoe is also known as the land of Travis Chipres, so it was no surprise that the whole Mongoose team showed up—cept for Gary DeBacker. Spike was there to record the action on film. Everybody took their rightful ride on the bike and they all agreed the front brakes took some getting used to. Full helicopters were slightly difficult with a Dia-Compe arm in the way. Sam Arellano stayed awake long enough to

Top 'O Roscoe, said to be in Woodland Hills, has gargantuan sized doubles. Chipres and his personal Cal Pro skyed over 'em.



Angry K-9, Hannah'ized over the "refrigerator jump" at Top O' Roscoe.



The sorta sequential flight pattern of the grey 'Goose—M.D. on the approach, Chipres goin' for the launch, and E. Rupe airborn. This shot takes perfect timing on everyone's part—including Spike the photo-tog.

S P E C S



COMPLETE BIKE PRICE: \$350.00.
FINISHES AVAILABLE: "Dark Platinum Grey" (with chrome rear end) or "Classic Chrome."
COMPLETE BIKE WEIGHT: 26 1/2 pounds.
FRAME WEIGHT: 4 pounds, 10 1/2 ounces.
FORK WEIGHT: 1 pound, 11 ounces.
HANDLEBAR RISE: 8 1/2 inches.
HANDLEBAR WIDTH: 28 inches.
TOP TUBE O.D.: 1 1/8 inches.
BOTTOM TUBE O.D.: 1 1/8 inches.
HEAD TUBE ANGLE: 74 degrees.
SEAT TUBE ANGLE: 75 degrees.
BOTTOM BRACKET HEIGHT: 11 inches.
WHEELBASE: 35 1/2 inches to 37 1/4 inches.
REAR END LENGTH: 14 inches to 15 3/4 inches.

COMPONENTS

FRAME: Mongoose Californian, triple butted, all chrome-moly—cept for bottom bracket and head tube, which is thick walled high-tensile steel.
FORK: Mongoose Californian forks, all chrome-moly.
HANDLEBARS: Mongoose Pro Class, chrome-moly.
HANDLEBAR STEM: SR 427, 4-bolts upside-down, aluminum head, chrome-moly shaft.
GRIPS: Plastic, Mushroom-type.
HEADSET: Tange.
RIMS: Pro-Class, hard anodized, 20 X 1.75.
HUBS: ACS, sealed mechanism.
SPOKES: 36, 14 gauge, chrome.
TIRES: Cheng Shin Comp-III type, 20 X 2.125 in front, 20 X 1.75 in rear.
BRAKES: Dia-Compe MX-901's, front and rear.

BRAKE PADS: Dia-Compe.
BRAKE LEVER(S): Dia-Compe Tech-6.
BRAKE CABLES: Dia-Compe.
CRANKS: SR Cosmolite, boron-steel, 175mm.
BOTTOM BRACKET BEARINGS: Tange BD-220.
FRONT SPROCKET: Tioga CD, 44 tooth.
REAR SPROCKET: SunTour, 16 tooth, chrome-moly.
SEAT: Mongoose, made by Velo.
SEAT POST: Chrome-moly, 30 degree layback.
SEAT POST CLAMP: Lee Chi, alloy.
EXTRAS: Comes with a three-piece Mongoose pad set.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

PURPOSE: Street, race (up to mid level expert), and beginning freestyle (since it has front brakes—heh, heh).
AGE RANGE: 12 to 17 years.
QUALITY OF FINISH: Fine, but could use more of a color selection. Grey or chrome doesn't give you much to choose from.
QUALITY OF WELDING: Not the greatest—pretty sloppy around the seat tube. On the brighter side, the rear dropouts were welded on both sides—rare on most bikes.
QUALITY OF COMPONENTRY: Above average. The rims are killer and the brakes are top of the line. 'Goose skimmed on the pedals but we've seen worse.
GEOMETRY: Very quick. The head tube is definitely steep. This bike is up to date as far as

angles go. On today's track, this kind of geometry is necessary.
HANDLING: Fairly stable. The quickness takes away from the trackability, although the low bottom bracket helps out. In turns, the Mongoose carved. No need to worry in berms. Starts were strong. The tall bars were a little awkward for some, but not for the 5 foot 9 and over bunch.
MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS: "Mongoose's rule" . . . "The best thing about Mongoose photo sessions is that we get free food after each one." . . . "The head tube plate should be eliminated. It's traditional, but falls off easy and adds unnecessary weight." . . . "The bars are definitely PRO sized." . . . "Maybe try to replace the fat chain with a ten speed jobbie." . . . "It should have had a 43 instead of a 44." . . . "I think 43 guys are wimps, the 44 shreds." . . . "Having the rear dropouts welded on both sides is too cool." . . . "With a little bending, the brake lever worked hot." . . . "I like it . . . and most parents will like the price."
TEST AREAS: "Top 'O Roscoe" and "Jay's Backyard BMX," as well as Orange "Y" and Atlanta Ave, besides the parking lot and warehouse of BMXA.
TEST INPUT: Nick Moeller Sr. and his wife, Trav, E. Rupe, Big e, Shelb, Slam, Rocky James, Big G, Spike, M.D., Russ Okawa, Super Dave, and others like Windy.
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