



TOO HIP

Another popular thing to do at the Bicycle Dealers Showcase was to hang out at the Yeti booth. Don't ask us why, but for some reason you gain some sort of fraternal right of passage by being allowed to step into the cramped quarters of

Southern California's most popular and eccentric group of frame builders.

The newest thing to come out of the Yeti Factory is a carbon fiber racer. There's only one, but plans are to have about 25 framesets by some time in April. Cost will be around \$1500 each for a frame

and fork. What that gets you is an Easton carbon fiber-wrapped E-9 heat-treated aluminum main triangle and Yeti's famous aircraft schedule chromoly rear triangle and forks. There are also plans to make carbon wrapped stays and forks. Chris Herding, Yeti's lead frame builder (and main engineer behind the new carbon fiber frame) then attaches the tubes by way of a special process. The inner surfaces of the lugs and oversized Fisher headset are step cut, and then the outer surfaces of the tubes are scored. They are then thermal bonded with special aircraft glue. Flex and deflection tests show the frame to be as strong or *stronger* than a chromoly Yeti, at about five pounds less, bringing it in around the 23-pound range for a complete bike. Factory pro Russell Worley is putting the pedal to the, uh, carbon with decent results. Watch for Russell and the bike at the '89 NORBA National nearest you!