



First and foremost, Elke Brutsaert is a Mountain bike rider. The love of single track and surfing her bike on the natural features of dirt is her passion. In spending many years racing the national and international mountain circuits and riding the wave of the mountain boom in the early to late 90's, Elke spent hours perfecting her riding skills. Actually being employed by Schwinn Cycling and Fitness, to represent their bike line and hone in her skills, was icing on the cake. Upon retiring from racing in 2001, Elke began working for Durango mountain camps, where she started developing her ability to teach and convey to riders of all levels, how to ride their bikes better. By analyzing and taking apart her own fundamental skills, she came to realize that this was the key to learning to convey and teach to others, the fundamentals of mountain riding. Simply being a great rider does not instantly make some a good teacher, but through her humble beginnings with DMBC and former director Dave Hagan, she found a calling of sorts, in the ability to deliver and share her skills with other aspiring riders.

Elke has worked with mountain riders of all levels, from first time beginners to Elite level pro's, where no matter what your ability is, everything comes back to the basic fundamental skills taught to first timers. Her patience, calm nature and good humor bring an ease to the learning environment, which helps to pacify riders fears and anxiety sometimes developed in and around mountain biking. Elke understands that crashing really hard and not knowing why, is both frustrating and difficult to overcome. By learning the basic fundamentals of mountain riding, Elke hopes to help you overcome your fears, regain your confidence on your bike and take your skills to a new level.

Aside from riding her own bike and occasionally teaching others to improve their skills, Elke has dabbled in cycling coaching and personal training; she is a certified massage therapist, teaching Kinesiology and sports massage at Rocky Mountain Institute of Healing Arts. She has recently retired from Race team management and Soigneur duties with Giant Bicycles, so she can spend more time at home in Durango and less time on airplanes. She also has a small dog named Peanut, who can sometimes be spotted, roosting along behind her, surfing the dirt.