

Chainwheel Chatter



Tri-County Bicycle Association • P.O. Box 22146 • Lansing, MI 48909 • (517) 882-3700 • www.biketcba.org

Volume 32 Number 12

Established 1972

December 2004

Holiday Party December 5 – 2:00 p.m.



The Holiday Party is once again at Royal Scot with bowling at 2:00 and dinner at 4:30. The deadline for signing up is November 24. The cost is \$10.00 per person. You can sign up at a club meeting or mail your check payable to TCBA to Sue Vile at 4985 Pares Rd., Dimondale, MI 48821

If you don't want to bowl come watch and have dinner. *This event is guaranteed to be fun whether you're bowling or just watching.*

Next Meeting

January 27, 2005 – Lucinda Means, Executive Director,
League of Michigan Bicyclists

Season's Greetings



Clarence H. White

We're saddened to report the death of long-time TCBA member Clarence White. Clarence died Thursday November 11th at the age of 82. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to Robbins United Methodist Church or Eaton Rapids Lion's Club in his memory.

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at the Foster Community Center.

Members are welcome to attend all board meetings to express their concerns. Due to time constraints, if you have a specific item to be brought before the board it is suggested that you contact the President one week prior to the meeting, and ask to have it added to the agenda.

Next meeting: January 4, 2005.

Newsletter/Ride Calendar Deadline

The **deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, December 11, 2004.** Please send items to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840, FAX to (517) 339-1758, or email to: chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org.

Ride calendar information should be sent to Wendell Proudfoot, P.O. Box 1628, East Lansing, MI 48826, or emailed to tbarides@prowen.com. To be included in the newsletter this information must be received no later than the above-mentioned newsletter deadline.

Cycle Forum

Please note there is no Cycle Forum in December. Plan to join Alan Huber at **6:00 p.m.** immediately preceding the membership meeting on **Thursday, January 27, 2005** for the next Cycle Forum session. The topic will be posted in the January Chainwheel Chatter.

In This Issue

Meetings/Deadlines.....	Front Cover
Executive Board Report.....	2
New Members/Change of Address	2
Member Specials/ Classified	3
Committee & Club News.....	3
Ride Calendar	4
Sunrises & Sunsets.....	4
2004 TCBA Annual Report.....	5-6
Easyspoken	7
Deaborn, MI to Montreal, QC	8
News from the League.....	9
From the TCBA Mail Bag	10-11
Other Good Numbers/ Membership Application	Back Cover

November Executive Board Report

Submitted by: Dave Ford

The TCBA Board of Directors met at the Foster Community Center on November 2nd, 2004. Board members present included Arnie Johnson, Susan Viele, David Ford, John Foltz, Phil Wells, Ron Claflin and Darryl Burris. Also present were club members Charla Scheidler, Katie Donnelly, Wendell Proudfoot, Lenny Provencher, Kori Sperling, Ed Usewick and Lee Adair.

Discussion items/Announcements

John Foltz reported that there is a problem with the incentive items that have not yet been issued. The supplier will not allow us to order small quantities. Club members still needing incentive items will be contacted.

Lenny Provencher reported on some ideas that will make next year's election run smoother.

Lee Adair reported that there was a problem with the DNR and reserving camping for Summer Tour. It was decided that one of the Board Member at Large position would handle incentive items, and the other would help the Vice President with members meetings and other programs.

Action items

Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Ron Claflin presented a financial report for January 1 through November 1, 2004. The report was approved as presented.

The board approved \$600.00 for the Foster Center to be used for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

Charla Scheidler reported that she received an article, for publication in the November Chainwheel Chatter, that she was not comfortable with due to the content and references to nominees in the TCBA election. Prior to the publication deadline, the article was distributed to board members via email for their review. Charla was unable to get a decisive opinion from the board before she had to go to press, so as editor made a decision to reject the article. The author has now requested that the article be published in the December Chainwheel Chatter. Board members agreed that the article is inappropriate, in addition to being out-dated information post-election, and instructed Charla to inform the author that it will not be published.

Note: Information contained in this article is not the official record of the meeting. The minutes of this meeting will be submitted for approval at the next Board Meeting. Any corrections and/or amendments will be noted in next month's edition of the Chainwheel Chatter.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August - October

David & Louann Gill	Harm Hamstra
Sandra Robinson	John Veenstra
Ralph Lowe	Daniel & Susan Tumenev
Rick Staples	Cyndi Kadzban
Tom & Bunny Patenge	Wally Dobler
Ray & Nancy Kreamsreiter	Dave & Sue Haviland
Terry Habetler	David Fitts
Barbara Tanaka	Stacia Stephenson
Stan & Toba Kaplowitz	Greg Cabose
Julianne Pattullo	Barbara Mutch
Michael Ray Flood	John Gustafson
Kristin Sterner	Todd & Susan Miller
Arthur Slabosks	Scott McCowan
Jeff & Anu Willoughby	Mary Goodhall
Shawn Batt & Nicole Ellison	Jackie Zamojski
Lizabeth Thomas	Pamela Gray
Dale Lienhart	Debbie Burgess
Karen Moubroy	Patrick Lynch
Barbara Hamm	Laura & Luke Huelskamp
John & Cheryl Kruger	Elizabeth Waless
John Mathieson	Teri Roblin
Neil Wright & Christina Chan	Tim Wohlford
Bob & Janet Gwizdala & Family	
Vernon & Bonnie Thelen & Family	
Kathleen Titus & Dave Farmer	
Kelley Wear & Lawrence Maggitti	
Mel & Lois Wade and Family	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



If you move or have your mail forwarded, please notify us as soon as possible. The newsletters are sent bulk mail, and the post office does not forward bulk mail. The post office returns your newsletter to us (we have to pay to get it back), so your membership ends up in limbo until we hear from you. **Please**

send your change of address to: TCBA, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909, or email membership@biketcba.org.



MEMBER SPECIALS



Mike's Firehouse Grill would like to invite the Tri-County Bicycle Association members to come join us for lunch or dinner! We are extending a 10% discount to all TCBA members.

Located at 447 S. Jefferson St., Mason, in the former building of the City of Mason Firehouse.

Our website www.mikesfirehousegrill.com, has directions, menus, and the history of our unique and exciting atmosphere.

We hope that you will take advantage of this offer and we look forward to seeing you at Mike's Firehouse Grill!

SEW MUCH MORE

Cycling wear: jerseys, cycling shorts, tights, and cycling shells.

Reasonable prices. Custom fit.

Gift certificates available.

For more information call Sue at
(517) 627-1411.

CLASSIFIED



This section of the Chainwheel Chatter is published as a service for **TCBA members only**, to advertise cycling equipment free of charge. To place an ad, send email to chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org, FAX to (517) 339-1758, or mail to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840.

FOR SALE: Used ML Red Recumbent Tour Easy bike with the following extras: full fairing, carbon fiber front fender, mirror, odometer, kickstand, rear rack, light and pump. \$1,195.00. Contact Bob Bartlett at 517- 676-9453.

FOR SALE: 2004 DALMAC Rocks! Men's Jersey - Large. NEW in bag, never worn. \$40. George 517-980-4609 or gsiegle@paradise-graphic.com.

FOR SALE: 1995 Fuji Ace, Great bike for an entry level rider. This bike is in great riding condition, the paint has a few nics. New cateye comp. Asking 175.00/BO. Ask for Trent 517-980-1604 or contact me at timewarped@comcast.net

FOR SALE: 1420 Trek road bike, 49 cm, aluminum frame, 21 speed, computer & rear rack. In very good condition. Asking \$300. Call Sheila at (517) 327-0921 or (517) 285-4571.

GIVE OR TAKE. . . Cleaning out your closets or garage? Please consider recycling items you no longer need...biking gear and/or clothing in good condition will be passed on to new riders who need like items. Please call if you have things to donate, or if you wish to be donated to. Overflow will be donated to a charitable Bike Tour going to the Ukraine next spring for the purpose of donating bikes, etc. Thank you very much to those who have already donated. Call Sheri. (517) 323-7487.

COMMITTEE & CLUB NEWS

Election Results

For those of you who were not able to attend the Annual Meeting in October, or have not heard the results of the election, the following members have been elected to represent TCBA for the coming year.

President: Arnie Johnson

Vice President: Susan Viele

Secretary: Charla Scheidler

Treasurer: Ron Claflin

Board at Large: Kori Sperling & Ed Usewick

Events Director: Darryl Burris

Terms of Office to Begin January 1, 2005

2004 DALMAC Jersey Wins at NBTDA

The 2004 DALMAC Jersey was awarded best jersey honors at the National Bicycle Tour Directors Association conference in Des Moines, Iowa on Nov. 4, 2004. Mike Hammond's design was judged to be the most creative among the jerseys submitted from rides across the country. Thanks to Mike for his efforts and creativity.

Darryl Burris

DALMAC Events Director

TCBA Club Jerseys Make Good Holiday Gifts. . .



Show your colors! We have a supply of short sleeve Louis Garneau jerseys with "loose fit" sizing (meaning that you should generally order one size smaller than your regular bike clothing). We also have some "snugger fitting" sizes available if you want a more tailored look. They are the traditional yellow and red brick pattern. To view the design, visit the TCBA web site www.biketcba.org. All sizes from XS - XL are available. They are \$45 each. To order by mail send your check with your size to: TCBA Jersey, P.O. Box 1628, East Lansing, MI 48826. Please include an additional \$5 if you would like your jersey mailed to you and also indicated "loose fit" or "snug fit." Jerseys will also be available for purchase at TCBA club meetings. Contact Charla Scheidler, chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org with questions.

December Ride Calendar

Recurring Rides

Day/Date	Time	Miles	Class	Start Location	Other Info	Ride Leader
Tuesdays	10:30am	25+	B	Holt Commuter Lot	Roads must be clear of ice & snow No ride on 12/21.	Edie Belcher
Saturdays	10:30am	25+	B	Holt Commuter Lot	Roads must be clear of ice & snow No ride on 12/25.	Edie Belcher

Ride Starting Point Descriptions

Holt Commuter Lot	US-127 & Holt Rd., Holt
-------------------	-------------------------

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED ON ALL TCBA RIDES!!!

FOR MORE RIDES CALL: 517-882-3700 - or visit the Web Site: www.biketcba.org
Also check this number for updates-changes on rides listed in this Chainwheel Chatter.
 To receive the Ride Line Transcript by email send your email address to: donnel13@msu.edu

RIDE CLASSIFICATIONS

- A+.....19+ MPH
- A..... 17-19 MPH
- B..... 14-17 MPH
- C..... 12-14 MPH
- D..... Under 12 MPH Fun and Social Group Ride
- F..... Family Fun & First-Timers Ride
- M Mountain Bike.....N/A
- Z.....Rides over 40 miles in length to be ridden at the rider's own pace without on the road ride leader supervision. Leader must have detailed map of the ride for all riders.



SUNRISES & SUNSETS FOR DECEMBER, 2004

Date	Rise	Set	Date	Rise	Set
1	7:49	5:05	17	8:03	5:06
2	7:50	5:05	18	8:04	5:06
3	7:51	5:05	19	8:05	5:07
4	7:52	5:05	20	8:05	5:07
5	7:53	5:05	21	8:06	5:08
6	7:54	5:04	22	8:06	5:08
7	7:55	5:04	23	8:06	5:09
8	7:56	5:04	24	8:07	5:09
9	7:57	5:04	25	8:07	5:10
10	7:58	5:04	26	8:08	5:11
11	7:59	5:05	27	8:08	5:11
12	8:00	5:05	28	8:08	5:13
13	8:01	5:05	29	8:08	5:13
14	8:01	5:05	30	8:09	5:14
15	8:02	5:05	31	8:09	5:15
16	8:03	5:06			

Mileage Incentive Awards Program !!

Accumulation of mileage for the 2004 Mileage Incentive Awards Program ceases at midnight November 30! Be sure you have all ride reported and all your ride sheets turned in.

December 2004 rides will be eligible towards incentives in the 2005 program.

2004 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION

Page 1 of 2

Web Site - biketchba.org

Outstanding job by Ed Noonan and Wendell Proudfoot. Wendell and Katie Donnelly enter the ride information.

Chainwheel Chatter- Charla Scheidler

About 9 to 10 thousand copies of our newsletter are mailed each year to the membership. In addition, about 2,700 copies are distributed to local bike shops, retailers and related exercise facilities such as the YMCA and the MAC.

Membership: Cheryl Claffin

We currently have 542 single and 320 family memberships or over 1200 total members.

Communication of Club Rides

"Recurring Rides" – web site, Wendell Proudfoot & newsletter, Charla Scheidler. "Called In Rides", Katie Donnelly.

Rides & Mileage's: Steve Schuesler

We have stopped entering mileages for people that are not TCBA members.

TCBA RIDE DATA - OCTOBER				
YEAR	MILES	RIDERS	RIDES	LEADERS
2000	274,000	470	900	110
2001	267,000	490	775	90
2002	312,000	560	820	85
2003	343,000	550	873	86
2004	325,000	424	877	82

T-Shirt Ride: Al Simons

The 100,000-Meter T-Shirt Ride for 2004 was held at the High School in Laingsburg. This is an excellent facility that offers plenty of parking with kitchen, cafeteria and shower facilities. There is easy access to Shiawassee County roads. The volunteer staff did a great job. It was a success even though the rain reduced the number of participants.

SummerTour – Lee Adair

This year's SummerTour started and ended in Hillsdale, Michigan. The route took us to Harrison Lake State Park in Ohio and Walter J. Hayes State Park in Michigan. Everyone enjoyed spending 2 days at each park. The highlights were good weather, great food, cold lemonade and campfires with s'mores. Our donation to each park will allow them to purchase bike racks and benches at the shower buildings.

Women on Wheels: Judy Miller and Joane Gruizenga

The Women on Wheels ride was again blessed with perfect weather, a great course, over 500 participants and a terrific group of volunteers. We had 16, 32 and 50-mile routes and a return of the popular "wrap" sandwiches plus pizza for lunch. As an added attraction, we sold 300 Yellow "Livestrong" Bands, raising \$375.00 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation for cancer research. This ride is put on to encourage women to participate in cycling.

DALMAC: Darryl Burris

DALMAC was again a great success. All routes were filled by June 1st. Minor changes were made from the 2003 format. Rider count for the 5 Day and 4 West routes were increased to 500, which made the total rider count over 1750. The East route went to Shepherd, which made each day's ride a similar length. The weather was excellent. The bridge crossings went very well. The volunteers did an outstanding job.

Club Records

We have a system for backing up all of our club computer records each month. The back-ups are stored at a different location.

2004 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION

Page 2 of 2

Cycle Forum/Maintenance: Allan Huber

Allan's programs covered many bicycle-related discussions for beginning cyclists and members who want to know more about bicycles. The programs occur at 6:00 PM at Foster, before each monthly meeting.

The DALMAC Fund: Tom Hardenbergh

Eleven grants totaling \$57,700 were given to the following organizations –

- MSU Bike Project
- Kids Repair Program
- Safe Kids of Clinton County
- Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation
- Polly Ann Trailways Management Council
- MMBA – Holly/Flint Chapter
- Noquemanon Trails Network Council
- Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail
- Program to Educate All Cyclists
- City of Novi, Recreation & Forestry Dept.
- Special Olympics Michigan, Inc.

Ride Program: John Foltz

The following 2003 incentive items were earned this year.

- Level 1 - Jacket - 59
- Level 2 – Long Sleeve Jersey - 26
- Level 3 - Short Sleeve Jersey - 28
- Level 4 – Bike covers - 31
- Level 5 – TCBA Socks - 65

TCBA Meeting Programs: Susan Viele

- Jan: Lucinda Means, LMB
- Feb: Ed Noonan, bicycle trip
- Mar: Annual TCBA Swap Meet
- Apr: Dale Hughes, The Velodrome
- May: Sarah Colegrove, Attorney at Law
- June: Julianne Pattullo, Tour of Hope
- July: John McPhail, training & safety
- August: Darryl Burris, DALMAC
- Sept: Dan Caulkett, Bicycle Safety Concerns
- October: Annual Club Meeting, Open Mic
- November: Lee Perrine, Ireland

Financial – Ron Claflin

- The budget process makes it easy to follow our financial transactions. We are in excellent financial condition.
- Our books are audited each month.

Other Events: Susan Viele

- June 19, Lugnuts outing – Katie Donnelly
- June 27, Club Picnic at Birchfield Park
- October 1, Dinner on the “Michigan Princess”
- October 8, DALMAC Volunteer’s Dinner
- December 5, Holiday Bowling Party with Dinner at Royal Scott

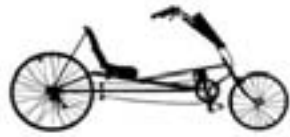
Community Activities

- Our first Bicycle Safety Poster Contest for third and fifth grade students in all of the 100 Tri-County area schools. \$2500 in awards was presented to the winners.
- Donated \$1000 for bicycle related projects at each of the State Parks that we visited on our SummerTour.
- Purchased bicycle-parking racks that were used at the Folk Festival. LMB will manage their use for any future functions in the Tri-County area.
- Helped at the WKAR Auction in April.
- Donated 8 bike racks to local businesses.
- Donated \$499 to help promote the bicycle pathway program in Meridian Township.

Administration

- President: Arnie Johnson
- Vice President: Susan Viele
- Treasurer: Ron Claflin
- Secretary: Dave Ford
- Events Director: Darryl Burris
- Board At Large: John Foltz
- Board At Large: Phil Wells

Arnie Johnson – President
October 19, 2004



E A S Y S P O K E N

You Shouldn't Need Bag Balm for This

With shorter days and cooler weather, many have put away their bikes. The rest are riding less frequently. But that doesn't mean we can't think about riding until the Spring thaw. Now, there is time for reading, and I've got two recommendations.

Lenny Provencher, after reading a book, was so excited about it that he wanted to loan it to me. First, the book is related to a project I'm becoming involved with; finding the best routes across the Lansing metro area that avoid the busy roads. Just as important - I figured the book must be good because Lenny has never offered to loan me a book before.

The book is "the Art of Urban Cycling - Lessons from the Street" by a veteran bicycle messenger with over 150,000 miles of experience - Robert Hurst.

He invests the first 40 pages in a history lesson. Although it doesn't help you navigate the streets, it may reshape your attitude about cycling in the city. Along the way, you learn some amazing stuff, like: The first high-wheelers (Penny Farthings) cost around \$300 (in 1880 dollars), making them very expensive. They had one speed, no suspension, and an inclination to send their riders over the front and onto their faces. As a comparison, in 1927 a new Ford Model T could be bought for less than \$300.

Most of the technology needed to make the first cars was learned by making bicycles. The components like the pneumatic tire and chain gearing, as well as the testing and assembly techniques came from the bicycle industry. Shoot, many of the first car manufacturers were former bicycle manufacturers, and the mechanics were former bicycle mechanics. "William S. Knudsen, head of production first at Ford, then at Chevrolet, and later president of General Motors", was first a bicycle mechanic.

Barney Oldfield was a 24-year-old bike racer in 1902. In his first race in Henry Ford's souped-up race car, he accelerated into the first turn at the dirt horse race track. His rear wheels went into a skid, so he turned his wheels in the direction of the skid, just like he had done so many times on his bike, and skidded around the track. He won the 5-mile race by almost a mile, keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats. With the PR Ford got from the race, he was able to borrow cash to start the Ford Motor Company. Without that bike racer ... who knows?

The meat of this book talks about the riding environment and techniques. He recommends an

intelligent mixing of two riding approaches: Vehicular Cycling, and The Invisible Cyclist. In all cases, he advocates taking full responsibility for what happens, and leaving little to chance.

Some of the topics are really interesting and thought provoking. They include "The Myth of Lane Ownership", "Running Green Lights", "The Gap Effect", and "Momentum". Others include "Seeing without Looking", "The Door Zone", and "How to Fall".

There are chapters on Accidents and Injuries, Air Pollution, Punctures, and Equipment.

Although his vocabulary is larger than mine, the book is an easy read - even amusing in places. He doesn't just tell you what to do, but why you should do it. It is priced at \$14.95 for about 250 pages. ISBN 0-7627-2783-7.

Now, for some arm chair action on a grander scale, I want to tell you about a couple in our club's age group. He was about 60; she was younger. Ten years earlier, before they were married, he had done a solo bike ride across the Soviet Union, before it was "the former". Well, since it was the Soviet Union, you had to have a native with you, but that's not important.

Pat Patterson had always wanted to ride through Africa, but Catherine had done little riding. She needed some practice. So ... the decided to practice by riding from California across the United States and eastern Canada, then fly to Europe and do it first.

Well, one thing led to another when they tried to figure what to do from the tip of South Africa. Of course, we'll zip down to Antarctica for a few days, then head for the southern tip of South America to ride the rest of the way home.

After seeing a TV infomercial about the Landrider Bicycle, they bought two. They are unique in that they have automatic shifting on the rear wheel and two chainwheels up front. They sell for about \$600 each.

So, 18 months and a day after Cat had a heart attack, they were off on a 1000-day trip around the world. They are still out there - it's not over yet.

You can catch up with them at: www.worldriders2.com/default.asp. There are lots of pictures, and even some movies. They don't seem to leave anything out - even the bad times.

Dick Janson
Just Me and Sarah Dipitee

Dearborn, MI to Montreal, QC

by Ron Truax

This year the destination was Montreal, Quebec, and the weeks of planning are over. It was a dream bike ride that began on a clear, cool Saturday. Bob and I met up at Tom's Restaurant for breakfast before heading up Michigan Avenue across the city, the Detroit metropolitan area, and the border into Canada. Thirteen days, three border crossings, 850 miles and we were there, Montreal. Was it really that simple?

When I return home; details of; these trips remain a blur. I'm only sure I left home with my gear and arrived at the final destination. I know it sounds absurd, but a great deal of living had been compressed into a short span off time. Weeks, some times months after I've returned, memories still continue to surface. I've often wondered why it takes so long to refocus, and the only thing I've come up with is that there are two trains of thought taking place simultaneously. The first is logistics, all the cold facts of a trip. How long did it take, where were the overnights, average daily travel? Where did we eat, how often did we do laundry? What roadside repairs were made? Was it cold, hot, rainy, sunny, windy, or calm? So! It took 13 days, we camped two night and moteled the rest except one. Friends from home that now live in Quebec, put us up and fed us one night. We averaged 71 miles per day, ate in restaurants, and did laundry every three days. We had three flat tires, none of them mine, and it was cool, hot, rainy, sunny, windy, and calm, though we never got wet. Whenever it rained we were either asleep, eating, or doing laundry. We left the U.S. in Algonac, road across southern Ontario to Niagara Falls where we crossed back over the border at Lewiston, New York. We skirted Lake Ontario around to and up the St. Lawrence River to Ogdensburg, N.Y. From there we turned north across the border back into Ontario. We continued north to Ottawa, hooked a right, and headed for Montreal. We did a semi circle of the city, found our hotel, and located our ride home. So much for logistics and that half of the story.

Then there's the other side, the compressed living side. The side where things happen when you least expect cause you're not paying attention. For example, only a half-mile into the trip a buddy unexpectedly rode up next to us. He was on his way to the Criterion races in the next town. He rode along till his turnoff, expressing how much he wished he was coming along. A couple days later we met some friends that were on their way to Niagara Falls, ten on bikes and two driving support vehicles with all the gear. They were traveling light and fast. We spent two nights with them, the later being at their final destination. On their last day, we had to travel 20 miles further to catch back

up. You can't imagine the look on their faces when they pulled into camp and found us sitting there with our tents up. It was the story of the hare and the tortoise. In the morning they would bid us farewell as we kept going while they enjoyed a day of rest before heading home. They were tired and beginning to show the signs of the "end of the ride blues." But I couldn't understand their mood regarding the two of us. You'd have thought they were never going to see us again. I didn't know what to think, but was able to raise their spirits by pointing out that we weren't leaving to meet our maker, this was a vacation. "We'll be back"! And with that, we were off.

Then there was the farmer's wife that had stuck a garden tractor in the ditch by the edge of the road. She waved us down and asked, pleaded for help, to get it out. Her job had always been to take care of the animals and to leave the equipment alone. It was easy to see that the plan had been to "show him", but quickly became, "Oh! Jesus! What do I do now?" I don't know how long she'd been working at it before we got there, but when the tractor came free, the poor lady burst into tears. We spent more time: convincing her everything was all right than we had freeing up the tractor.

And there was an old couple we shared stories with at a laundromat. You could tell the old boy had worked hard all his life. His hands were gnarled, he was worn thin, but still had that spar of life in his eyes. It was raining out and he wondered how miserable it must be to ride on days like these. I assured him that that usually wasn't the case, but when it was those were the days you always remembered. With that, he began telling us a fishing story about him and his kids when they were small, a boy and a girl. They were way out on the lake in a small boat when a sudden storm blew in. The water got rough and the kids were scared. So he put them up under the deck to stay dry, kept reassuring them, and promised that everything was going to be okay. They made it back safely. He said that they've never forgotten that day. Then he said, "My daughter is gone now, but I know she never forgot." We talked till they were done, loaded up, and ready to leave. At the last moment he came back in to say goodbye, shake hands, wish us well, and offered us god's blessings. Little more than an hour earlier we had been total strangers.

There are more stories, but my point was to show how living can be compressed in time. All this activity and nobody is watching the clock. On a bike, people want to approach and chat awhile, and that's reassuring for the human condition. Touring isn't an object lesson on tire wear, it's an adventure.



NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE

San Luis Obispo County Residents Give Up Cars And Bike First

Some 23 residents of San Luis Obispo County, California—who have pledged to replace car trips with bike trips—have been offered \$1,200 worth of bikes, gear, and maintenance for just \$200 under a new program called "Bike First." Bike First, sponsored by San Luis Obispo (S.L.O.) Regional Rideshare and the S.L.O. County Bicycle Coalition, to help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, is supported by a grant from the Air Pollution Control District.

"We are very excited to kick off Bike First and award the winners a brand new Breezer Bike along with a host of accessories for only \$200," said John Donovan, Rideshare program manager. The program includes a year of free maintenance from Cambria Bicycle Outfitters, a helmet, and other gear. Participants are required to take a bike commuting safety class. Donovan added, "We are confident that the people we selected will follow through on their commitment to replace routine commute, shopping and other trips normally taken by automobile with a healthy bike ride instead."

Joe Gilpin, S.L.O. County Bicycle Coalition executive director and bike safety coordinator at Rideshare, said the program provides, "a total solution for the 23 selected recipients. We expect tangible air quality benefits as well as permanent lifestyle changes among the participants." Mayor David Romero of San Luis Obispo commented, "We are hopeful that S.L.O.'s Bike First program can serve as a model for cities across the U.S. Bike First promotes healthier transportation choices, better air quality, less traffic and preserves our parking for the people who really need to use cars." For more information, visit www.slobikelane.org.

World Health Organization Helmet Initiative

According to the World Health Organization Helmet Initiative, "A needlessly large number of cyclists are killed or permanently disabled as a result of a head injury received from a fall or during a crash. Regrettably, many of these head injuries could have been prevented or their severity reduced through the use of a simple and inexpensive helmet."

Created in 1991, the WHO Helmet Initiative promotes the use of motorcycle and bicycle helmets worldwide and serves as a resource for those wishing to learn more about helmets and to promote their use. The Helmet Initiative stimulates and provides a resource to public health agencies, safety organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other agencies to promote the use of helmets. Visit www.whohelmets.org/ for more information.

Interested In Serving On The League Board Of Directors?

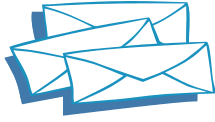
Or do you know someone who would be a good representative for cyclists in your region? In the spring of 2005, the League of American Bicyclists will hold elections to fill four seats on its 12-person Board of Directors; in addition, the Board will fill one seat by appointment. The Board is responsible for setting broad policy and direction for the League. Please see www.bikeleague.org/members/electionstoboard.htm for details.

Cyclists: What To Do In A Traffic Crash

A League member who is an attorney in North Carolina urges cyclists: All bike-car collisions should be reported to police officers immediately for safety as well as insurance reasons, even if you don't think you are hurt. If you're involved in a hit-and-run crash while riding your bike, be sure to file a police report that same day. Your own auto insurance may cover you. If you delay and injuries crop up at a later date, you risk losing the benefits you've paid for under your own auto policy.

Recently, a North Carolina cyclist was struck and brushed off the road by a passing motorist. Initially, he thought he'd merely sprained his wrist and did not call the police. Five days later, however, when his pain worsened, he discovered he'd fractured his arm. He asked his own auto insurer to pay for "uninsured motorist" benefits, which cover your personal injuries when another at-fault motorist is uninsured or when a hit-and-run motorist cannot be located. The cyclist's insurer denied the claim and the North Carolina Court of Appeals agreed, because the state's controlling statute says you must file a police report within 24 hours of the accident. For more information on the case, see www.aoc.state.nc.us/www/public/coa/opinions/2004/030947-1.htm.

These articles were reprinted from "BikeLeague News" the League of American Bicyclists electronic newsletter. *The League of American Bicyclists is the national membership organization of cyclists. Founded in 1880, it promotes cycling for fun, fitness and transportation, and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle friendly America. Membership includes 35,000 individuals, 455 recreational clubs, and 50 advocacy organizations. For more information, or to subscribe to "BikeLeague News" send an email to bikeleague@bikeleague.org.*



FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

A Special Offer to Your Friends and Family

By Hanz Scholz

Cycling is a social sport for most of us. Last year over 1,000,000 people took all or part of their vacation on a bicycle. This is quite a contrast with what I remember of the sixties when, if we saw anyone riding a 10 speed, we either knew them already, or stopped and turned around to meet them, hoping that maybe we'd meet a potential riding partner. Those were the lonely days of pre-oil crisis cycling; when every serious cyclist in the US knew weeks ahead of time that network TV would be showing two minutes of Olympic cycling at 3am, and we stayed up to watch.

I was growing up during that period in the late sixties and early seventies, when my father Dr. Earl Scholz started a family oriented bicycle club. Although we raced, it wasn't about racing and although we did tours it wasn't about touring either. It was about doing something together as a family and spending time with other families in a healthy and active environment. I secretly suspect that my parents hoped to focus our energy on something constructive and to keep us out of trouble. If that was the point, I didn't care. Those bike trips with my friends, my family and my friends' families were some of the defining moments of my life. I feel blessed by cycling and what it has brought to my life. It packed my childhood with the greatest of memories.

I'm raising a family of my own now; I have one child (Gretta) who is just getting to the age where she is interested in riding with Dad. At almost three, she's too young to be let out to try a bike on her own. Instead, we have a tandem for her. She's small; even for her age, but by lowering the seat as far as it goes and blocking up the pedals she can just barely fit in the stoker seat. She's always ready to ride whenever I want to go and can take the time. She's turned into a great riding partner too, even if speeds over 8 miles per hour scare her and she thinks two miles is a long ride. It's OK, we aren't trying to win any medals; we just want to be together doing something we both love. It brings us together like no other activity.

Gretta, like most other children, is more interested in other kids than she is in her parents. Her Mom, Lisa, and I are both hoping to get other families to join us in cycling, as

Gretta gets older so that we can share the experience. There is something about sharing good times that makes your own personal experiences better. Not just a little better but many times so. My goal is to bring those old memories of cycling with our club to life, dust them off and share them with Gretta.

So, why the long letter about family and friends? I went into business making travel bikes in part because of my interest in people and my desire for community. I believe business is as much about relationships as cycling is. My thought was, maybe I could make it a little easier for you to share these kinds of experiences with someone special. For years, Bike Friday has thanked you, our customers, with referral rewards for sending a friend or family member to us for a bike purchase. So it occurred to me that we could give something to those people to make it easier for you both to ride together. If Bike Friday is about anything it's about community and sharing the cycling experience. So here is an early holiday present from us at Bike Friday that you can share with your friends and family: If your friend or family member purchases a Bike Friday by December 21st 2004, they will get \$50 in free accessories for every \$1000 dollars they spend. All this person needs to do is call and mention the Friends and Family program number 1131, and that they are a member of the Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) and we'll take it from there. Our toll free number is 800-777-0258. Why ride alone when you can share the ride with someone special?

Note from TCBA Member Ken Hendrick: Hanz didn't mention it, but all Bike Fridays are custom built for each individual and are only sold direct from their Factory--they don't sell through dealers. If anyone wants to test ride one, I have a recumbent, a touring bike and a tandem. Please contact me at 517-627-4865 or by email at klhendrick@msn.com. I want to emphasize that I AM NOT LOOKING FOR ANY COMMISSIONS--just want to share a product that I really enjoy.



CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY WEDS!!!

Dave & Judi Mordis

MARRIED - OCTOBER 23, 2004

FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG (continued)

Dodge Tour de Georgia

Last year 750,000 visitors witnessed Lance Armstrong win the 2nd annual Dodge Tour de Georgia (DTdG) (www.DodgeTourdeGeorgia.com). It wasn't without effort, as portions of the Southern Appalachians wreaked havoc on the peloton with steep uphill grades of over 20% on Brasstown Bald separated the men from the boys.

The third annual event, again sponsored by Dodge, is expected to draw more people, more coverage, and another top notch field of teams. The race is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 19th in Augusta, GA (home of The Masters) and conclude on Sunday, April 24th in Alpharetta, GA (a northern suburb of Atlanta). The race will have seven stages, including a world-class time trial course in Rome, GA and two significant mountain stages through the Chattahoochee National Forest. Fans that lined the ascent to Brasstown Bald truly engaged in a domesticated version of Alp d'Huez in France, with crowds reaching three and four people deep for the brutal two mile climb.

The Dodge Tour de Georgia organization has licensed Discover Adventures, a tour operator based in Atlanta, GA to provide several events and tours associated with the 2005 DTdG.

To kick your Spring training off, **Frankie Andreu** will be directing the **P.R.O. Series – Part I (Proficient Riding Outdoors)** designed for recreational riders desiring cycling savvy. Base camp for the 6 day, 5 night spring training clinic on March 13-18th will be at one of Georgia's most beautiful state parks, Unicoi State Park & Lodge. The daily rides will be 3-4 hours long, encompassing many of the same roads as the 2005 Dodge Tour de Georgia will be on a month later. The P.R.O. Series will feature several of Frankie's colleague's from the US Postal Service team to fill out the coaching roster. In addition to the daily rides, there will be lectures, massage therapy, one-on-one coaching with Frankie, video taping sessions, and group coaching sessions as well.

For the 2005 Dodge Tour de Georgia, Discover Adventures has posted five tours from which to choose from during the race. As the official tour operator of the Dodge Tour de Georgia, Discover Adventures is afforded privileges for their guests that are not available to the general public. Each day, ride the actual race course fully supported by a seasoned guide team. At each stage finish, after riding the race route, step up to the exclusive race observation area reserved for our guests. And sit down next to one of your favorite cyclists during the team dinner we're invited to.

The **Luxury Tour** is for couples only, and accommodations will be in bed & breakfasts throughout Georgia. The **VIP Tour** will be hosting celebrity riders each day whereby this group will ride and eat shoulder-to-shoulder with cycling VIP's throughout the week. Two standard tours, the **Weeklong and the weekend version**, will follow each stage and finally, on the **Economy Tour** guests will ride two stages, watch 2 stages and sleep two nights before heading home.

Full details can be found online at: www.DiscoverAdventures.com/tdg.asp.

Should any members of the Tri-County Bicycle Association choose to participate in any of the Dodge Tour de Georgia events, please mention your association with your club, and Discover Adventures will credit 5% off the trip of their choice.

CPSC, Cannondale Bicycle Corp. Announce Recall of Certain Quick-Release Handlebar Bags



WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firms below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: "Crossroads" and "Perimeter" Handlebar Bags

Units: About 2,600

Manufacturer/Importer: Cannondale Bicycle Corp., of Bethel, Conn.

Hazard: The plastic, handlebar-mounted, quick-release bags can fall off the bicycle while it is being ridden, causing the rider to crash.

Incidents/Injuries: Cannondale has received one report of a rider crashing when a bag fell under his front wheel while he was riding, resulting in him suffering serious injuries.

Description: The recall involves 2004- and 2005-models of black handlebar bags. They are the quick-release-type bag, with a support and sleeve to secure it to the bicycle. The "Crossroads" model number is BHB322 and the "Perimeter" model number is BHB320, which can be found on the packaging. The model name and number is not written on the product. The Cannondale logo is on the front of the bags. Only bags with the pattern of reflective material and logo shown below are included in the recall. Older bags that have an American flag sewn into an outer seam or have a "Cannondale Made in USA" tag on an inner seam are not included in the recall.

Sold at: Cannondale bicycle stores nationwide from September 2003 through August 2004 for about \$35 for the Perimeter and about \$60 for the Crossroads bag.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the bags immediately, and return them to a local Cannondale store or contact Cannondale Bicycle Corp. to get a replacement bag fitted with a corrected sleeve and support system.

Consumer Contact: Call Cannondale toll-free at (800) BIKE-USA between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit Cannondale's Web site at www.cannondale.com

View this recall online at

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05039.html.