

Chainwheel Chatter



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

Volume 32 Number 2

Established 1972

February 2004

NEXT Meeting!!!

February 26, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.
Foster Community Center
200 N. Foster St. – Lansing

Speaker: Julianne Pattullo
Tour of Hope



Julianne Pattullo, from St. Johns, MI and a member of the local Saturn Cycling Team, was one of the 26 fortunate riders, selected from more than 1,000

applicants, to participate with Lance Armstrong in the Tour of Hope across the United States from Los Angeles to Washington D.C., October 11 – 18, 2003. The mission of this very select group of riders was to promote greater awareness of the need for "cutting edge" research to find a cure and to also inspire and inform the public about the importance of cancer patients participating in this much needed research.

Julianne is a longtime cyclist who trains five days a week and has competed in numerous cycling events (DALMAC, MS150, Michigander, Mountain Bike Races), Marathons and Adventure Races. She is passionate about cancer awareness and is quite proud of Bristol-Myers Squibb's commitment to cancer research, fundraising and education. The Tour of Hope is but another advocacy in her personal journey toward a cure for cancer.

NEXT MONTH!!!

TCBA Swap Meet

When: March 25, 2004
Where: Foster Community Center

It's time to gather up all your slightly used bike paraphernalia, and plan to join your fellow TCBA friends at this annual event! Remember one man's trash is another man's treasure!



Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 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: March 2.

Newsletter/Ride Calendar Deadline

The **deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, February 14, 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

Plan to join Alan Huber at **6:00 p.m.** immediately preceding the membership meeting on **Thursday, February 26, 2004** for the next Cycle Forum session.

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COMMITTEE & CLUB NEWS

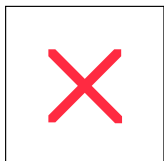
DALMAC Volunteers Meeting

Tuesday Feb. 17 - 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Foster Center

If you are a DALMAC volunteer or would like to consider helping, please plan to attend a meeting at Foster Center on Tuesday Feb.17. Volunteer applications and volunteer ride applications will be available. I will review the plan and status of the 2004 tour. There are lots of opportunities to help. We need SAG drivers, baggage truck drivers, cookie stop workers, and assistant route leaders. DALMAC only happens through the dedication of the volunteers. Come and be part of this great group of volunteers.

Darryl Burris, Events Director

2004 Lugnuts Outing



Regardless of what that Punxsutawney Phil sees on February 2, we know that spring is really just around the corner. That means it's time for spring training rides and making plans for other warm weather activities. Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, June 19**, for the ninth annual TCBA Lansing Lugnuts outing. Once again, game time will be at 7:05 p.m., with fireworks immediately following the game. Fifty box seat tickets have been reserved and are available on a first-come, first-served basis for just \$8 each. There's also an optional pre-game buffet-style dinner at the Tailgate Terrace, located over right field. For \$12 (adults) or \$7 (children 12 and under), diners may select from four meat entrees and an all-you-can-eat buffet of salads, rolls, corn, desserts, and soft drinks. This is a great value, especially when you consider the cost of less healthful ballpark fare. Bring along some wet wipes, because this stuff is finger-lickin' good! Picnic tables will be reserved, so you can enjoy your dinner without having to balance a plate on your lap! Also, both the game ticket and the buffet are still at 2001 prices! These outings make great family events, so bring your family or bring some non-member guests. We might not recognize *you* without helmet hair anyway! If you've attended the Lugnuts fireworks presentations before, you know what a great finale they make to an enjoyable evening. Payment is due to me no later than **Monday, May 3**. To sign up, send your check for the appropriate amount to my attention at the TCBA post office box, OR catch me on a ride!

Katie Donnelly

TCBA Vice President

At the January Board Meeting Susan Viele was introduced and as has accepted the appointment of TCBA Vice President for 2004.

Susan is a fairly new face to TCBA so if you haven't had an opportunity to meet her please take a moment at the next club meeting, or on a ride, to introduce yourself and welcome her.

TCBA Club Jerseys

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). 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 22146, Lansing, MI 48909. Please include an additional \$5 if you would like your jersey mailed to you. Jerseys will also be available for purchase at TCBA club meetings. Contact Charla Scheidler, chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org with questions.

Map Booklets

Did you get your new TCBA Map Booklet? Each paid TCBA membership is entitled to receive 1 "free" map booklet. If you attend TCBA membership meetings you can pick-up your copy there. If you would like one mailed to you, please forward your request to: Map Booklet, c/o Tri-County Bicycle Association, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909.

Let Your Cycling Friends Learn Your Name While Promoting TCBA Order A TCBA Name Tag



- * Durable Laminated Plastic
- * Double Clutch Fasteners
- * Yellow Background
- * Logo and Lettering Engraved in Black
- * 18 Characters Maximum for Name
- * Overall Size -- 1-1/2 x 3 inches
- * Price \$6.50 Each
- * Shipping \$2.00 for one/\$2.50 more than one
- * Visit the TCBA web site for an order form, or contact Kimberly Lynn, D-K Engraving, 517/321-2229

MEMBER SPECIALS

*Mark your calendar so you won't miss this important event!!!
19th Annual Open House*

Denny's Cycling & Central Park Bicycles
Sunday, February 15th
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location – Central Park Bicycles
1805 Central Park Dr., Okemos

Members save 10% off all new products, including 2004 bicycles, and bikes already on sale.
Plus, bigger savings on other select products.
Featuring: Trek, Specialized, Yakima, Pearl Izumi, Burley and more.
Factory reps will be available for the latest info!
Hourly Drawings for Prizes!
Refreshments Provided – Don't Miss It!!

Holt Pro Cycle

4170 Charlar Dr. – Holt

2003 Inventory Clearance

One week only, January 31 – February 7.

Sale only to TCBA members and guest. Must show this Chainwheel Chatter.

Store Winter Hours: Monday – Friday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Savings up to 50% on bikes, helmets, clothing, shoes, car racks & more.

2003 Fuji Marseille Road

- Shimano Ultegra - Ritchey equip.
- 853 Reynolds frame, carbon fiber
- 17.5 Lbs. List: \$2,000
- Sale: \$1,117

2003 Fuji Roubaix – Pro

- Shimano 105 – Ritchey equip.
- 853 Reynolds frame, carbon fiber
- 18.5 lbs. List: \$1,550
- Sale: \$920

Fuji Finist – AL

- Shimano Sora – 24 spd.
- Altair Alum. frame
- 21 lbs. List: \$660
- Sale: \$460

2003 Fuji Ace

- Shimano Sora – 21 spd.
- Elios Cromoly frame
- 24 lbs. List: \$520
- Sale: \$380

2003 Rans Rocket

- Short Wheelbase
- Silver - List: \$1,000
- Sale: \$750.

2003 Tour Easy Gold Rush

- Fairing, mega range
- Cool back seat
- Black, medium – List: \$3,392
- Sale: \$2,500

2003 Fuji Roubaix Frame set

- 853 Reynolds frame
- Carbon fork, headset
- 52-58 cm – List: \$800
- Sale: \$450

2003 Bell & Giro Helmets

- 50% off

2003 Rhode Gear Car Racks

- 50% off

2003 All Road Jerseys

- 50% off

2003 Inventory Sale is limited to availability. After February 7th sale will be open to the general public.

SEW MUCH MORE

Cycling wear: jerseys, cycling shorts, tights, and cycling shells. Reasonable prices. Custom fit. Gift certificates.
For more information call Sue at (517) 627-1411.

-member specials continued on next page-

MEMBER SPECIALS

-continued-

Velocipede Peddler

2758 E. Grand River - East Lansing

- * All indoor trainers from Blackburn, CycleOps, and TREK are 20% OFF for the month of February.
- * All winter clothing in store is on sale for 20% OFF for the month of February. Check out hats, gloves, shoe covers, jackets, vests, tights, long-sleeve jerseys, and high-visibility clothing from CRAFT, TREK, NIKE, and now DESCENTE!
- * TCBA members can enjoy 20% OFF any labor charges for tune-ups, overhauls or other repairs.
- * GET READY FOR RIDING SEASON! ALL TIRES ON SALE: 10% off any road or mountain tire. Check out the newest tires from Continental, Michelin, Hutchinson, Vredestein, Bontrager and Panaracer. Regularly priced from \$14.99 - \$49.99.

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: '03 Trek 7300 hybrid, 20" women's, Centera grip shifters, 8sp, triple chainring, suspension seat post, front suspension fork, Oasis comfort seat, SPD pedals. Only 20 miles on bike. \$400. Call Marty, 517-694-1602 anytime.

FREE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT: Must be picked up from Williamston, MI.

- 1) Lifegear 91500 Stair stepper, good working condition.
- 2) Linex 3.28 Recumbent style exercycle with magnetic resistance and heart monitor, excellent condition
- 3) Lifestyler Cardiofit exerciser (pull with arms, push with feet), excellent condition.

E-mail Jun Nogami at: nogami@msu.edu to arrange viewing and pick up.

The History of the Valentine's Day Card

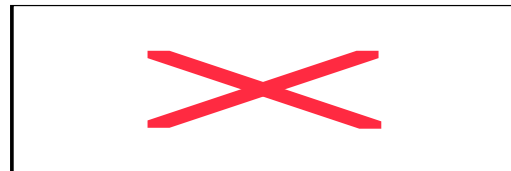
Verses and Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, when lovers said or sang their valentines. Written valentines began to appear after 1400. The oldest "valentine" in existence was made in the 1400's and is in the British Museum. Paper valentines were exchanged in Europe where they were given in place of valentine gifts. Paper valentines were especially popular in England. Early valentines were made by hand and were made with colored paper, watercolors, and colored inks.

There were many different types of handmade valentines, including:

- ♥ *Acrostic* valentines - had verses in which the first lines spelled out the loved one's name.
- ♥ *Cutout* valentines - made by folding the paper several times and then cutting out a lacelike design with small, sharp, pointed scissors
- ♥ *Pinprick* valentines - made by pricking tiny holes in a paper with a pin or needle. Creating the look of lace
- ♥ *Theorem* or *Poonah* valentines - designs that were painted through a stencil cut in oil paper, a style that came from the Orient
- ♥ *Rebus* valentines - verses in which tiny pictures take the place of some of the words. (an eye would take the place of the word I)
- ♥ *Puzzle Purse* valentines - a folded puzzle to read and refold. Among their many folds were verses that had to be read in a certain order
- ♥ *Fraktur* valentines - had ornamental lettering in the style of illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages

In the early 1800's, valentines began to be assembled in factories. Early manufactured valentines were black and white pictures that were painted by workers in a factory. Fancy valentines were made with real lace and ribbons, with paper lace introduced in the mid 1800's. By the end of the 1800's valentines were being made entirely by machine.

In the early 1900's a card company named Norcross began to manufacture valentines. Each year Hallmark displays its collection of rare and antique valentines at card shops around the country. Museums and Libraries also offer antique valentine exhibitions around St. Valentine's Day.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



EASYSPOKEN

Escape to Northern Alabama

Just hours before November, my client told me they had some internal politics to work out before I could proceed further. I was on hold.

I hadn't expected this time slot to be available. That's why I took those two weekend October trips in the thumb of Michigan.

Why Alabama? I'd never seen it, but my wife Kathy was born there. Ten years later, mom and dad brought their ten kids to Michigan, looking for something better than picking cotton and raising livestock.

Kathy hadn't been back since, so you would think she would want to go to visit her oldest living brother, and see where she grew up.

She didn't have a single problem with this; there were eight of them. The first was that for her, a visit to Kalamazoo is a long trip. The other 7 problems look like a dog and six cats. I'd be going alone.

I'd leave on Tuesday – four days from now - and be away two weeks, or more. There wasn't much time to plan and pack. The forecasts showed I'd be 20-25 degrees warmer, and dry, the first week.

Using my Map Point CD, I printed maps in enough detail so most roads had names. A brother-in-law pinpointed where they had lived, about 7 miles northwest of Moulton. Just 4 miles south of Moulton is the 750 square mile Bankhead National Forest.

For the past 16 years, I've run my business from my home. When I go on a vacation, that's also a vacation for Kathy – from me! By Sunday, she was disappointed I hadn't left yet, so I left Monday afternoon.

Valley Bikes in Carmel, north of Indianapolis, features recumbents. Across the street is a rail trail. Mike McDowell, the owner, had bought a lot of RealLITEs from me in the past year, so I decided to visit, then stay at a nearby campground.

It turned out that he had a building behind the shop I could stay in. He gave me a key to the shop for access to the bathroom and a shower. After he closed, Sarah and I took a 15-mile tour around Carmel. Next morning, Mike and I had breakfast.

It was after dark in northern Alabama when I drove into the Joe Wheeler Campground. As the only primitive camper, I got my choice of sites. That didn't mean much in the dark. All I could hope for was a level area without acorns or rocks, and no widow-maker branches above.

Wednesday was a day when Sarah's rubber wouldn't hit the road. The old tin-roofed building where Kathy's grandparents lived still stands, a mile up the road from where Kathy had lived. Mrs. Craig, whose mother babysat Kathy, still lived across the street. She could name all of Kathy's brothers and sisters, even though they hadn't been around for over 50 years. Kathy's cousin Odean lives on the property where Kathy had lived, and could do the name thing – and she would be 80 in a month.

I went into Moulton to the Lawrence County Archives until

they closed at 4pm. I'd be there a lot, discovering the branches of Kathy's family tree.

So where to stay tonight? I thought I'd give a try in Bankhead National Forest to the south. At the edge of the forest, shoulder less roads go from level to steep. Along the way, I waited while they dealt with a logging truck that had tumbled off the road and down the embankment. It was then I decided I wasn't going to ride the Forest.

By the time I got to the Forest office, it was closed. A map outside helped me decide to backtrack a bit, then head for a campground.

Soon after I got lost, I met Bennie Egle. He and his wife own a gas station / convenience store / eating place. He gave me directions to the campground, then said I could stay with them. I set my tent beside his semi-tractor. His wife fixed me a sandwich, and Bennie and I sat on the store's front porch. I ate; he told stories and chain smoked.

Bennie has a little half-acre garden. The government said he couldn't have it because the fertilizer would wash down into the creek a mile away. He said the garden provides half of their income. He still has the garden. His friends said if he owed any money, and couldn't pay it, they could take his land, so he owns everything, free and clear.

I think he thinks like many who live there in Winston County. During the Civil War, they weren't for the South, and they weren't for the North. They declared themselves part of the free state of Winston.

Bennie had another problem with his garden - raccoons. Bennie's answer was to trap them, and give them to men who teach coon dogs to hunt.

When his daughter was younger, there was a need for some creative discipline. The bus was coming before she got outside. He got her up an hour early for a while. When words weren't working, he told her to get three hickory sticks, because if he wore out the first one, it would save time. For some reason, he never needed to use them.

Just before 7:30, they closed the store and went church. His wife said since Bennie started going, he's cut way down on his drinking and swearing. Now, she wants him to cut down his smoking, too.

Bennie warned me that his wife gets up early to fix biscuits and other food for the truckers that come by before dawn. I slept soundly and missed all of that.

The Egle eating place is actually their personal dining room, equipped with one booth, and one round table. I had Mrs. Egle fix my breakfast of bacon, eggs, and of course, biscuits with honey.

This Thursday would not see me riding my bicycle. I spent much of the day at the Archives. In the afternoon, I went back to where Kathy's grandfather had lived.

Across the street, there is a zoo. It isn't an ordinary zoo. It looks like little more than an expensive house, back away from the road, with a chain link fence around the front yard.

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Easyspoken - (continued)

A lady had started caring for exotic animals that were injured, or that other zoos no longer wanted. When the cost of caring for them rose, she started giving tours to school kids.

A faded sign in front says not to enter without a guide, but no one was in sight and, darn it, I wanted a tour. Their web site says there are daily tours. So I drove up the drive to the house, past lions, and tigers, and ostriches, and more. All were on the proper sides of their fences. I got out and hollered. No response. I left, unsatisfied.

I found Kathy's family cemetery and visited the man who lives beside it. He has family there too, and said it would be OK for me to set up my tent there. I camped under a tree next to Kathy's Uncle Dallas, who hadn't said a word for nearly 40 years.

Next morning I just had to RIDE MY BIKE. As I was getting ready to leave, a car came into the cemetery and headed straight to me. It was the lady who runs the zoo, and I had been caught on video. After she explained how bad I had been, I figured right then and there that I wasn't going to get that tour.

I pedaled to Hatton, where Kathy had gone to school. At the gas station / convenience store / eating place, I ordered a cheeseburger. At the cooler, I had to decide between a 20oz, or a 1 liter, Coke. It was good I got the larger one. When my burger was ready, I got up in such a hurry that I spilled a third of my drink.

In the countryside, roads are marked as you approach them, so if you want to know what road you are on, you have to turn off of it.

There are quite a number of "storm shelters", with entrances near the road. There are different designs, but all seem accessible to anyone needing them. I'll bet they were "fallout shelters" in the 1950s.

I wandered over 30 miles, then went back to Odean's. When two of her sons soon stopped by, they said Sheriff cars were at the cemetery and they had my tent surrounded. They refused to drive me the mile to the cemetery, saying everything would be OK. It was. However, I decided I'd sleep better at the Joe Wheeler Campground.

The weekend arrived, and the Archives were closed. Near Huntsville, there is a 40-acre, indoor flea market where I actually found things I could use. Then it was south to Hartselle to visit with Kathy's brother, then north to the Point Mallard Campground at Decatur, where I was to stay two nights.

The first night, as Sarah and I raced around the grounds with the younger kids on bikes, one little boy bragged "I went in the women's bathroom, and I saw EVERYTHING". I didn't ask for details.

Saturday morning, I rode around Decatur. The first guy I met was out riding bicycles with his daughter. Lawson Fletcher mentioned that he had been inducted into the football hall of fame. "If you need anything while you are here, just call or stop by." He gave me his phone and address.

A guy who exterminated bugs had set up Cook's Natural

History Museum. Besides insects, there were also mammals, rocks, and coral. He also had a piece of the Berlin Wall, but that wasn't natural. It took me two hours to get through it all.

This town is the home of Decatur Radiator Service. The motto on the side of their building is "Best Place in Town to Take a Leak".

That night, one of the campground 'regulars' told me of a nearby bike trail running along the Tennessee River. He took me to the start, but left me there – he had no headlight. To tell you that twisty, leaf covered, limestone trail was exciting would be understating the situation. To get back, I rode the regular roads.

I slept late this morning; the kids and I had raced around the campground again last night. My friend and I rode it in daylight – both ways. It was fun, but not quite the same. This time, I noticed the sign that says the trail is closed after dark. So that's why I didn't see anyone else last night!

With Huntsville not so far away (by car), I decided to see the Space Center. The I-Max Theater is huge, the lunar lander is tiny, and there is a large collection of enormous rockets. The 2-man lunar rover folds into a package small enough to fit into a child's playpen. And how many of us remember that there were six lunar landings?

Monte Sano State Park is just east of Huntsville, and it has a campground, so that's where I went for the night. In the last few miles, my car struggled enough for me to understand that "Monte" means mountain. On that hill, the speed limit is 50, or 40 when it rains.

Near the campground, there are several bike trails. In the morning, I went down, then back up, the old entrance road, now blocked off to traffic. They call it the Mountain Mist Trail. With 2.5 miles of 8% grade, they rate it as moderate. If it had been 2.6 miles, I wouldn't have made it back to the top without stopping.

At the office, I met another cyclist and his mountain bike. He would lead me along a real trail through the forest. A 2-mile round trip of frequent twists and turns around trees, it was new enough not to be on the park map. Half way through, my guide left me, but the last half is just the first half in reverse.

Close to the end, I met Jackee, another cyclist. She thought there was a bike tour going on in downtown Huntsville, and that all the turns would be marked, if I missed the riders. When I got back to my campsite, there were a lot of yellow jackets on my car. I decided to pack up the tent and head for town; I'd had my fill of the trails of Monte Santo.

Well, I wandered all over Huntsville for nearly an hour, seeing no cyclists at all. Then, a single cyclist was coming toward me, quite fast. I turned around and followed her home to ask about the organized ride.

She knew Jackee, invited me into her home to check their club web site, but there was nothing happening. So, she found a map from a ride several weeks earlier, printed me a copy, and I was on my way.

(continued on next page)

Easyspoken - (continued)

As it was mid-afternoon, I decided to eliminate the 10-mile segment in downtown Huntsville and just do the remaining 20 miles. Only one problem – she didn't tell me how to get there from her place, so I started wandering around again.

When my car started overheating, I pulled into the parking lot of a paint store and went inside to get directions. Their only customer was a cyclist who knew the gal that had made the map for me. He told me how to get to where I wanted to start. The ride was very nice, but as I approached Ditto Landing, my front tire went flat. It was a thorn – probably from the Monte Santo trail. I was able to patch it without removing the wheel. A check of my computer showed my max speed for this ride was over 30mph. Whew! Before I finished the ride, I needed my lights. I went back to Point Mallard Campground for the night.

For my last two nights in Alabama, wet and cold weather was predicted, so I decided to stay in a motel. I like tenting, where a night costs under \$20, and sometimes nothing. When I need a motel, I'll shop for cheap, but I have rules. I sniff the room for mold or smoke, listen to the heater or air conditioner, lie on the bed, and test for hot water.

There were three nearby motels. The first was OK at \$32 a night, but the lady wanted to whine about the video tape she had that the government took and hasn't returned showing JFK selling drugs, or something like that. The second place was a chain with a better facility, for \$55 a night, plus tax. As I went for the door, it became \$45, including tax. The third place said \$32 a night, and I offered them \$50 for two nights, and I would pay cash. That did it, I paid, but they didn't want to give me a receipt, so I said I couldn't stay. The clerk disappeared through a door, came back, and wrote me a receipt. That was fun!

The next day, I became obsessed with getting a sample of a cotton plant to show my kids. Problem was, most of the fields had been harvested. Finally, at an intersection, I found some plants that had been missed. I picked the best example and put it in a large plastic bag.

At that corner was a building with a sign that read "Yeager Gin Co". On the chance that they weren't making an alcoholic beverage, I drove up and met Romero, the manager, who showed me how cotton is processed.

In the fields, it is tightly packed into huge bails the size of a semi-trailer. Each bail is brought in and unloaded from the truck. A guy climbs up a stepladder to the top of the

bail. With a 2-foot diameter movable pipe hanging from the roof, he vacuums layer after layer of raw cotton into the processing plant until there is none left.

It is sent through two huge blow driers, then a couple machines that separate the good part (the lint) from the bad part (stems and other pieces). The lint is then blown down into a compactor, 500 pounds at a time, where it is pressed into bails. Two samples of each bail, each bigger than my forearm, are packaged, labeled, and sent to the government for control and testing.

I called home and Kathy told me there were problems. The refrigerator had stopped working, but started again the next day. And she was having enough problems with her car that she didn't want to drive it. I was looking forward to a few more days, but it was time to go home.

Mammoth Cave was half a day away, so I headed for Cave City. At the Welcome Centers for each state, there are booklets with motel coupons. I found one for a Knights Inn for \$22.95. When I got there, I got bad news – it had recently been sold. The good news was the sign in front showing a \$19.95 price. I didn't shop. I moved in, then Sarah and I toured the area.

The next day, I took the 3-hour Violet City Lantern Tour at Mammoth Cave. They had a 2-hour tour, but it started an hour later. I spent the rest of the day driving home.

I was gone almost 14 days, spending \$100 on gas, \$150 on lodging, \$80 on food. Not counting discretionary money, I figure the trip cost me about \$18 a day, plus \$75 in round trip gas, priced as low as \$1.33 per gallon.

Here are some more ways to share in the experience of other tourists:

Books:

Riding Outside the Lines by Joe Kurmaskie ISBN 1-4000-4798-6

Spokesongs by Willie Weir ISBN 1-891369-17-2

Websites:

Judy Colwell's trips <http://www.stanford.edu/~jcolwell/>

Fools on a Mission – retired bridge tender and wife see U.S. at 10mph <http://www.garringer.net/foam/>

Dick Janson
Just Me and Sarah Dipitee
dickj@tds.net



**Chase Winter's Shadow Away,
Let's Celebrate Groundhog Day!**



FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

To: Tri-County Bicycle Association

The Board of Directors and staff of the Kids Repair Program would like to thank the Tri-County Bicycle Association for so generously donating funds to continue our project for greater Lansing area children. Each child participating in the program will receive a bicycle, helmet, reflectors, bike lock, and graduation party including their family.

The funds donated will be used to purchase needed bicycle parts, locks and consumable materials for participating students. The average expense per student is \$60, which includes instruction, snacks, repair materials, and graduation supplies.

Again, we would like to thank TCBA for continued support of our program.

Most sincerely,
Curt "Granddad" Eure

First Ride: Teaching Bicycle Safety to Preschoolers

The Kids Repair Program has produced a brochure directed at the parents of young children who are learning to ride their first tricycle or bicycle. The brochure informs parents about how to purchase a bicycle, informs how to teach children to ride safely, and lists tips about Michigan laws. The brochure was developed as a public service to promote bicycle riding by families. The brochures will be distributed to pediatrician offices throughout the area. To receive a copy of the brochure e-mail granddad@yahoo.com.

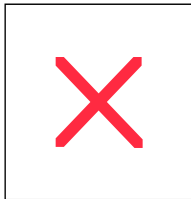
Call (517) 485-8956 for more information or to get involved. Better yet, stop by and meet the staff in person at 208 Museum Drive, Lansing. Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays for 9 AM to 7:30 PM on. The office is also open on Wednesday and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Squeeze in a workout without ever leaving the couch!



Brent Curry, owner of Bicycle Forest Inc., a Canadian company that specializes in renting unusual spoked vehicles, created this customized sofa. In August 2002 Brent and Norwegian friend Eivind Meen rode the human powered couch through Maritime Canada. During their trip they were stopped by Canadian police three different times. One wanted a photo for his wife and kids, another ordered them to ride with helmets and the third was concerned by the sofa's width. For details about the other encounters of their trip visit the web site: www.bikeforest.com.

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.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Linda Konu
Rod & Irene Schaaf
Sandra Hiatt
Tom & Ellen Baird
Vern Cascaddan
Kendra & Jubin Cheruvellil
Richard & Katherine Godbold

Jim & Deb Hafke
Samuel Corner
Bill Landis
Stan McCoy
Ken Peterson
Cindy & Ian LeVine
Sarah Erwin