

# Chainwheel Chatter



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

Volume 33 Number 4

Established 1972

April 2005

## NEXT Meeting!!!

**April 28, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.**

*Foster Community Center  
200 N. Foster St. – Lansing*

**John Waterman**

### Programs to Educate All Cyclists (PEAC)

Many TCBA members will remember John Waterman who in 1988 co-founded the ARC Bicycle Program. This program began with six students, but has expanded to several hundred per year. The program is now known as PEAC and has attracted national attention.

John's presentation will focus on the role that TCBA played in enabling his program to evolve into an independent nonprofit agency dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities to become cyclists.

### Where Are All My Ride Miles?

Due to a misunderstanding regarding the procedure to obtain credit for TCBA sponsored rides some members were disappointed that they didn't get credit for all the miles they rode in 2004. As a refresher, TCBA does not automatically give a member credit for a ride that they have registered for. Each club member is responsible to ensure that mileage for club sponsored and other invitational rides are posted on a ride roster, or reported to the mileage keeper within 30 days of the ride. Club sponsored rides include T-Shirt Ride, SummerTour, WOW, and DALMAC. Invitational rides are rides that are sponsored by other clubs or non-commercial organizations. These rides are also eligible for incentive mileage credit as long as 75% of your total miles ridden for the year have come from TCBA club rides or TCBA sponsored rides.

Typically, ride rosters (sign-up sheets) are available at TCBA sponsored rides, but if you missed signing one, or you need to report mileage from an invitational ride, you can add the information to the bottom of a ride roster at another TCBA ride, or you can send it directly to the mileage keeper by email to – [mileage@biketcba.org](mailto:mileage@biketcba.org). When doing this you need to include **your name, name of the ride, date the ride took place and mileage ridden.**



### TCBA Family Picnic

**June 26, 2005 – Hawk Island Park**

Mark your calendar now, and watch for details next month.

### Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 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: May 3, 2005.

### Newsletter/Ride Calendar Deadline

The **deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, April 9, 2005.** Please send items to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840, email to: [chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org) or FAX to (517) 339-1758.

**Ride calendar information** should be sent to Wendell Proudfoot, P.O. Box 1628, East Lansing, MI 48826, or emailed to [tbarides@prowen.com](mailto: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, April 28, 2005.** Bring your experiences and stories to share with the group.

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## March Executive Board Report

Submitted by: Charla Scheidler

The TCBA Board of Directors met at the Foster Community Center on March 1, 2005. Board members present included Susan Viele, Ron Claflin, Charla Scheidler, Darryl Burris and Kori Sperling. Also present were club members Cheryl Claflin, Jim Delinescheff, Katie Donnelly, Dick Janson, Lenny Provencher and Wendell Proudfoot.

### Discussion Items/Announcements

Cheryl Claflin advised of her wishes to resign as membership chair. It was decided that an article should be placed in the Chainwheel Chatter to let the membership know of the opening. Cheryl will write a description of the position's responsibilities for the article.

Jim Delinescheff presented artwork for some slight changes to the graphics on the Club Jersey. It was decided that no changes could be made until the current stock is depleted. The matter will be discussed at a later date when a reorder is necessary.

Darryl Burris provided an update on DALMAC applications received to date. After only 2 weeks the 5-Day, 4-West and Quint routes are all over 50% full. Darryl also reported on the status of the online application. Due to programming difficulties with the online application it is not ready to release yet and Darryl plans to have a conversation with those involved to let them know it is too late for this year. An earlier start will be needed next year if it is to be ready by the time applications are mailed out.

Charla reported that the State of Michigan Certificate of Registration for the Women on Wheels Service Mark had been approved. It was also reported that nothing has been heard from the St. Paul Women on Wheels motorcycle organization since the correspondence outlining our history of use was sent by attorney James Duby

An email request from Cori Noga was discussed. Cori is a Traverse City based writer and is requesting placement of an article in the Chainwheel Chatter to promote her new book "Road Bicycling in Michigan." It was decided that Cori should be invited to speak at an upcoming club meeting, and

the article could be used as an announcement for the meeting. Susan will attempt to set-up a date.

### Action items

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Ron Claflin presented a financial report through February 28, 2005. The report was approved.

Kori Sperling presented her committee's recommendations for ride incentive awards for the 2005 riding season. The recommendations were approved as presented, with an addition of a short sleeved jersey as a second choice item for the level 2 award.

An email regarding a nationwide Ride of Silence to take place on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. was reviewed. It was decided that the originator of the email should be invited to put an article in the Chainwheel Chatter to see if a TCBA member is interested in organizing a local ride on that date.

A request from an individual asking permission to add the DALMAC logo and a link to the DALMAC web site on his personal web site was discussed. The request was denied.

An email sent to Board Member from Dwayne Scheidler was discussed. In it Dwayne expressed his objection to the action taken at the February meeting to allow the person using DALMAC in his email address to continue to do so. After further discussion it was decided to notify this person that he needs to cease use of the name DALMAC in his email address.

Dick Janson presented a progress report on the Crosstown Map project, to include samples of maps and quotes from two printers for the printing of 5,000 copies. After discussion and the review of possible distribution opportunities a budget of \$3,500 was approved for the project.

*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

Bill Nash  
Robert DeWaal  
Curt Carl  
Charlie Tadavich  
Bob Bartlett  
Richard & Sandra Stickney  
Ron Monroe  
James Tolles  
Karla Block  
Jim Greene  
Diane Willman  
Pamela Lavender  
Rory Nesbitt

Douglas George  
Joanna & Michael Shields Family  
Patrick Hayes  
Mary Beth Minarik  
Tamara Ann Aymor  
Shawn Rich  
Tamera Adams  
Ilaria Grupido  
John Fitch  
Christie Vlastic  
Steven Robbins  
Johathan Weber  
Judy DeYoung

Steve & Debra Kalis  
Martin Kotecki  
John Kelley  
Bill McDonald  
Tom Robinson  
Dianne Holman  
Ellen Vogt  
Clyde Keep  
Dan Stockwell  
Bill Erickson  
George O'Kon Family

## COMMITTEE & CLUB NEWS

### T-Shirt Ride 2005

All is in order for Saturday, June 11 at Laingsburg High School. We've learned not to mess with success so kept the same routes (and same cooks). The routes have not changed... unless we find some fresh blacktop between now and when the maps are printed! A couple minor route changes coupled with a dry Saturday should make for a great ride. Come on out and see folks that you haven't seen since last fall.

Lunch is served up again by the Laingsburg Police Reserve at the High School. Grilled chicken sandwich with vegetables and soup, yummm-yummm! There will also be some veggie burgers available. And as always, there will be plenty of rest stops on every route with fresh fruit and cookies.

The Laingsburg Police Reserve will also assist riders and motor vehicles at the 4 way stop in Laingsburg. Please take advantage of all the stop signs on this tour, as it's a great opportunity to give your bike a brief rest,

Purchase of a T-shirt is optional. To be guaranteed a shirt, include it on your application before the May 21 deadline. A limited number will be available for purchase the day of the ride.

Remember, all applications post-marked before May 21st will get \$5 off the day of ride adult entry fee.

Come on out!! Saturday, June 11!

Al Simons

### 2005 Incentive Awards

The Incentive Awards for the 2005 riding season will be as follows:

**Level 1** – Long sleeved, lined, riding jacket w/Pockets.

**Level 2** – Long sleeved jersey or short sleeved jersey

**Level 3** – Tire Pump (floor pump that folds up to fit on frame of bike.

**Level 4** – Riding gloves or Arm warmers w/TCBA logo

**Level 5** – Cue Clip Map Holder

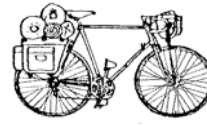
#### Ride Leader Incentive:

Level 1 – Miniature first aid kit w/TCBA Logo

Level 2 – Baseball Cap

### TCBA ACQUIRES BIKE CASES FOR MEMBER USE

TCBA has purchased two hard-shell bike cases for member use. The most common use of such a case is when a cyclist is traveling by air and wants to have their bike to ride at their destination. Phil Wells is storing the cases and handling reservations. The cases include instructions for packing the bike; Phil will be glad to give his advice as well. Contact Phil in Lansing at (517) 267-8971 or [philwells99@yahoo.com](mailto:philwells99@yahoo.com). Also, see related article on flying with a bike in the March Chainwheel Chatter.



### 12th Annual Brint Donalson Highland Festival Weekend Ride

Baggage Truck Provided

The Highland Festival Ride honors the originator and long time TCBA member the late Brent Donalson. Ride from DeWitt Middle School parking lot (west from Dewitt Rd. on Herbison) to Alma and attend the Highland Festival. Camp at the Gratiot County Fair Grounds within walking distance of downtown Alma and the festival at Alma College.

TCBA is offering baggage transport (**reservation required**).

Departure dates - two available: Rain or Shine

**Friday** May 27th at 9:00 AM

**Saturday** May 28th at 9:00 AM

Return: **Sunday** May 29th at 8:30 AM

Ride distance: 50 miles one way, 100 miles total

Ride Class: Z

Ride information and **Baggage Reservation:**

Contact Darryl Burris: 517-394-1617 or [bikenote@aol.com](mailto:bikenote@aol.com)

### BAGGAGE RESERVATION REQUIRED

This is a class Z ride: "rides over 40 miles in length to be ridden at the riders own pace without on the road ride leader supervision." Riders must be self sufficient, as no SAG support will be provided. The campground at the Gratiot County Fair Ground offers open grassy camp sites or camping in a covered animal show ring. Camping fee is \$5 per tent for each night. Last year festival entry tickets were \$12 each day. If you would like to stay in an Alma College dorm room, check out the festival site at

[http://www.almahighlandfestival.com/house\\_meals.htm](http://www.almahighlandfestival.com/house_meals.htm).

Many varied festival activities are available with the peak on Saturday. The return ride early on Sunday morning allows us to avoid the worst of the holiday traffic.

Food is each individual's responsibility. Restaurants are available within walking distance. Riding up, we stop at the Middleton Diner for lunch and riding back we stop there for breakfast. On Saturday, May 28th Alma College offers a splendid breakfast at the Hamilton Commons on campus 6:30 to 8:30 AM. Last year the cost was \$7.

The Highland Festival is a unique experience and gives you an activity coupled with a club ride.

Darryl Burris

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## DALMAC 2005 - The 4 Day West

The 35th Annual DALMAC continues the 4 Day West Route. This is the "Traditional" 4 Day Route. The Quad Century riders will be with you only until Turner Road south of Dewitt and the 4 Day East riders are there until they end their day's ride at Shepherd. Don't follow either route or you won't be with your bags at the end of the day.

You'll begin at the MSU Pavilion on Thursday, September 1, 2005. Your route will follow the 5 Day to the Central Michigan Campus. See last month's Chainwheel Chatter for the description of Thursday's route. You'll encounter easy, rolling hills the first day. There is also a lot of flat. Like the 5 Day route, you also will have an opportunity for a good lunch in Perrinton. Alma and Shepherd are next. Don't follow the arrows to the 4 Day East camping area in Shepherd, continue to the C.M.U. campus. Today's mileage is 81.0 miles. There is a minor route change near the end. Instead of following W. Campus Drive west to Broomfield Road, follow it east to E. Campus Drive then to the camp site.

On Friday, you get out of Mt. Pleasant to the northwest on the way to Beal City. The store there has been part of DALMAC routes for many years. Next is Farwell. On the way, you ride over gently rolling hills. Farwell is a good place to take a break. Another 12 miles is the Lake George Campground. These nice people have provided lunch for many years just outside their general store. The food is very affordable. There are also food options in Lake George about a mile farther. As I write this, there is a real possibility that Clare County will take away Bringold Road north of Lake George. If this does happen we will take an alternate route. I won't describe it now, but if it does need to happen, I will try to update this route in a future edition of the Chainwheel Chatter.

On the final leg of today's 77.5 mile journey you will cross the Muskegon River on M-61. The next stop is your last for the day. You'll leave the 5 Day route about 2.5 miles after the turn onto Temple Road. Don't miss the turn at 5th Ave. Falmouth is just off of Forward Road. Lake City High School is your overnight site. The downtown area is less than a half mile away.

Your 79.2 mile third day starts by riding north to Fife Lake. This is at 22 miles. Maybe you need a second breakfast. From here, there will be many climbs and downhills on the way to Elk Rapids. Be very careful crossing M-72 at Williamsburg. Elk Rapids will have places to eat, rest and swim (weather permitting.)

Ride on to Alden, the home of The Muffin Tin. There are rest rooms just north of Helena Street on East Street. After Alden, it's all down hill. Well, not really. You ride along the east shore of Torch Lake then turn left at Bellaire Hwy where the 5 Day turns right. The Quad Century will be coming this way, too. Don't turn into their campsite. Your day ends in Central Lake at the Central Lake High School. Downtown is about 2 blocks away.

Sunday is your last day on DALMAC 2005. Remember, you will ride nearly a century (92.5 miles) today. Because of all the things to do, see and eat, it won't seem like 100 miles. You begin by riding on the hills of Old State Road. Then a zig-zag climb before a long downhill to East Jordan. You will encounter the biggest hills of the trip today - both up and down. Also, you get your first look at Lake Michigan.

Has anyone ever heard of "**The Wall**"? You can ride it today just after East Jordan. The challenge awaits those with the drive and willpower to overcome "**The Wall**." The alternate route is available for those who don't care to partake in the adventure of "**The Wall**." This route doesn't go over "**The Wall**", but it's no walk in the park. Boyne City is a way point between East Jordan and Walloon Lake. Lots to do here. Because your day is just starting, don't stay too long, because you still have nearly 70 miles to go.

After a short climb, you head into Walloon Lake. Well, not the lake itself, but the village. You can swim in the lake if you want. The route then follows the Bear River almost to Petoskey. We'll ride near the Petoskey Middle School where the 5 Day riders left hours before.

If you read last month's Chainwheel Chatter, then I don't have to go into much detail about the remaining 50 miles. Just remember the following: Harbor Springs mansions, the food stop at the bike shop, the "Tunnel of Trees", Goodhart, Leggs Inn, Lake Michigan and the Mackinaw Bridge. The route will be the same except for the crowds. You will be joined by the Quad and Quint Century riders as well as the Century riders from the 4 Day East.

The 4 Day West route looks like it will be exciting as usual.

Next month: The Quint Century

Joe Adams (I don't name my bike)  
DALMAC Route Chairman

## April Ride Calendar

### Recurring Rides

Day/Date	Time	Miles	Class	Start Location	Other Info	Ride Leader
Sundays	10:00am	25-35	B	Former Holt High School	No ride if roads are wet.	James Blais
Mondays	11:00am	20-30	C	Mason Middle School	South parking lot. Roads must be dry and temps over 30 deg.	Janice Koller
Tuesdays	10:00am	25-40	B	Holt Commuter Lot		Edie Belcher
Wednesdays	6:00pm	20-30	B	MSU Livestock Pavilion	<b>No ride on 4/6.</b>	Katie Donnelly
Fridays	11:00am	20-30	C	Dewitt Township Hall	Roads must be dry and temps over 30 deg.	Janice Koller
Saturdays	10:00am	25-40	B	Holt Commuter Lot	<b>No ride on 4/2.</b>	Edie Belcher

### Other Rides

Saturday, Apr 23, 2005	9:00am	100	Z	Holt Commuter Lot	Century to Concord	Darryl Burris
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### Ride Starting Point Descriptions

Dewitt Township Hall	1401 W. Herbison Rd. 1/2 mi. west of Old 27.
Former Holt High School	(Holt Junior High)Aurelius Rd, 1/2 mi south of Holt Rd, Holt
Holt Commuter Lot	US-127 & Holt Rd., Holt
MSU Livestock Pavilion	Farm Lane, s. of Mt. Hope, MSU Campus
Mason Middle School	235 Temple Street, Mason

### 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.

**HELMETS ARE REQUIRED ON ALL TCBA RIDES!!!**

### SUNRISES & SUNSETS FOR APRIL, 2005

Date	Rise	Set	Date	Rise	Set
1	6:20	7:05	16	6:55	8:22
2	6:18	7:06	17	6:53	8:23
3*	7:17	8:07	18	6:52	8:24
4	7:15	8:08	19	6:50	8:25
5	7:13	8:09	20	6:49	8:26
6	7:12	8:10	21	6:47	8:27
7	7:10	8:11	22	6:46	8:29
8	7:08	8:13	23	6:44	8:30
9	7:06	8:14	24	6:42	8:31
10	7:05	8:15	25	6:41	8:32
11	7:03	8:16	26	6:40	8:33
12	7:01	8:17	27	6:38	8:34
13	7:00	8:18	28	6:37	8:35
14	6:58	8:19	29	6:35	8:37
15	6:57	8:21	30	6:34	8:38

\* Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m.

**FOR MORE RIDES CALL: 517-882-3700 - or visit the Web Site: [www.biketcba.org](http://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](mailto:donnel13@msu.edu)



## 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](mailto: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. Contact Bob Bartlett at 517- 676-9453.

**FOR SALE:** New Commotion Nor'Wester. Handbuilt cromoly 56cm frame with Shimano 105 triple group. King headset, Michelin tires, Bontrager Select wheelset and Blackburn rack. Asking way less than cost at \$1,300. Call Chris at 517-789-6077 days, or 517-750-2859 evenings.

**FOR SALE:** New, assembled 4-bike Saris T-Rax 200 1 1/4" hitch rack – Sturdy arms fold down, tilts away for access to rear of vehicle, soft rubber hold downs and anti-swags to protect bikes. Hitch Tite base secures rack solidly to vehicle. \$225 or B.O. Sheri – 517-323-7487

**FOR SALE:** Giant Innova (2001/02 Model) Hybrid. Men's Frame (17.5 in.) RSM Red. Shimano Deore 27 speed with SRAM Attack twist shifters. Giant enhanced comfort package. Extra set of tires for pavement riding. CatEye cyclocomputer. Water bottle cage. Approx. 1800 total miles. Asking \$400. Call Ralph at 517-321-4790 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Tandem - 1997 Cannondale RT2000 – Los Dos tandem. This Metallic Blue tandem has an Aluminum Alloy 20" x 16" frame, 24 gears with a Shimano Deore XT gear shifter with click shifters on handlebar ends. It has less than 1000 miles on bike and also comes equipped with 20 X 1.50 smooth road tires, a Blackburn back rack, CatEye bike computer and 3 water bottle cages. Asking \$1600 OBO. Call Catherine at (269) 781-4457 or email: [cathayes@voyager.net](mailto:cathayes@voyager.net)

**FOR SALE:**

- Trek 520 Touring Bike, 21" Frame, about 12 years old, well-maintained. \$250, or make offer.
- Performance hard-shell travel case \$25

Contact Bob 517-351-1577 or [BobLovell@Comcast.Net](mailto:BobLovell@Comcast.Net)

**FOR SALE:**

- Yakima Bike Rack, car top rack system with short tray mounts for two bicycles. Can be adjusted to fit most any vehicle with the appropriate "Q" clip from Yakima or a bike shop. System includes rack and tiedown straps for a kayak or canoe. A steal at \$95.
- Yakima Bike Rack, trunk rack, fits most bikes. Easy on/off; light but sturdy. \$40.

For info about either/both racks contact Warren at 517-323-2972 or email [millett@msu.edu](mailto:millett@msu.edu).

**FOR SALE:** Trek model 1420 Road Bike, 52 cm, triple chainring, clipless pedals, aluminum frame, silver, low miles, new tires, well maintained, many extras. \$300 or best offer Contact Cyndi Kadzban 231- 889-4915.

**WANTED:** Your used bike, Share-A-Bike gives old bikes to folks in the Lansing area that need transportation. Got one that is working or fixable, bring it to the East Lansing Fire station on Abbott Road, in the back parking lot on a Saturday 9-11 AM starting the first Saturday in April. We could also use some help fixing bikes. For details call June 517- 267-9822.

**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.

**OLD BIKES/TOOLS HANGING AROUND?**

The MSU Bike Project (grateful recipient of \$ from the DALMAC fund in '04) is looking for old bikes in working or restorable condition. Ideal bikes are 1 ~ 5 spd. with fenders/ chain guards, baskets, etc. but newer are great! Tools & parts for all types of bikes much needed. Full details on donating:

[www.msu.edu/~bikes/donations.html](http://www.msu.edu/~bikes/donations.html).



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## E A S Y S P O K E N

### Crosstown Bike Route Maps

It all started after the Open Microphone session last fall. The initial roads were laid out. They were ridden, and changes were made. The committee made contributions. Rough maps were produced. The routes were again independently test ridden again.

Distribution was arranged. Bids from printers were obtained. The Board reviewed the prototype, contributed their experience, then approved the budget.

By the time you read this, the routes will have been tweaked, finalized, and carefully transferred to the electronic form as required by the printer.

They will be printed and available in the next month. A free copy will be mailed to every paid-up membership address, and each new member will get a copy. All the local bike shops will have enough to give one away with each adult bicycle they sell, and more for anyone who asks for one. Every library branch within the area will have them to give away.

We'll try to get them into neighborhood organizations and assisted living facilities. Some health-oriented organizations have asked for some to pass out. If they are printed in time, participants in the Smart Commute event will get copies. Shucks, we may just give some to lawyers who have clients with a need to trade their car for a bike. There will be ways to contact me for anyone who needs a copy mailed to them.

The area covered includes over 130 square miles. All four Meijer stores are within its boundaries. The centerfold is the Capitol in downtown Lansing. The best roads are green, there are 150 miles of them, and every one is named. The busiest roads are indicated in red except, when you need to use them to get from one green line to another, they are orange. Several trails are included, including the Lansing River Trail, with indications of each access point.

This map book may be useful to many of you. If you don't like riding on the busiest roads, these routes will have alternatives 80%-90% of the time. If you are looking for a calm commute route, away from morning or evening traffic, look in the book.

Even if you have lived in the area for a long time, I'll bet there are parts of the Lansing area you have not seen on a bicycle. Give it a try. You will not be disappointed. In the event you can't use it, please give it to someone who can.

We plan to have this map on the BIKETCBA.ORG website in PDF format at some time in the future. We may also have a facility for you to indicate, from a selected list, two locations and get two cue sheets printed - one going in each direction.

But wait, there's more. Or there will be if we can get some help from some of you. We want to produce another mapbook that extends the range of this one. It will extend about 30 miles in each direction to cover an additional 3500 square miles.

It will extend north to Belding and Maple Rapids, west to Hastings and Lowell (almost), south to Olivet and Stockbridge, and east to Howell and Cohoctah. The best and most scenic roads will be included. For when you are outside of populated areas, locations of cafes, convenience stores, and public toilet facilities will be indicated. Perhaps we'll also include other locations of interest.

For this next phase, be thinking about what you would like to see included, and how you can help. Send me an eMail or call me. We can make it happen.

Dick Janson  
Just Me and Sarah Dipitee  
dickj@tds.net (517) 675-7340

## 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.

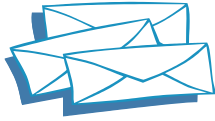
For directions, menus, and the history of our unique and exciting atmosphere visit our website [www.mikesfirehousegrill.com](http://www.mikesfirehousegrill.com).

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.

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



## FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

### Smart Commute Week '05

Smart Commute Week '05 is a week long campaign to encourage people who live or work in the capital area to bike, walk, bus, and carpool to work and school during the week of May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. Activities will include group bike commutes along designated routes, bike commute preparation assistance, group bike parking in city centers, Smart Commute check in points, a Smart Commute Festival, and more.

Smart Commute Week '05 planners are looking for folks to sign up as route leaders. Route leaders would be responsible for leading a group of bicyclists from a check-in point along the designated routes. Beaner's gourmet coffee will be available at each check in point.

If you are interested in finding a route please visit the Smart Commute Week '05 website at [midmeac.org/smartcommute](http://midmeac.org/smartcommute). This site provides routes from Delta Township into downtown Lansing, Okemos into downtown Lansing and East Lansing, Haslett into downtown Lansing and Holt into downtown Lansing.

If you are interested in route-leading, please contact Melissa Lott at 517-775-2042, or email her at [melissa@midmeac.org](mailto:melissa@midmeac.org). to get your name on the mailing list for Smart Commute Week '05, to register and other information, contact Jessica Yorke 517-214-5684 or email her at [yorko446@cs.com](mailto:yorko446@cs.com).



"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

-- Mark Twain

### Ride of Silence

On May 18, the Ride of Silence will roll across the country, starting at 7:00 PM. In more than 50 cities in the U.S. and Canada, cyclists will take to the roads in a silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. The ride, which is being held during Bike Safety month, aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for those who have been killed or injured. Riders are encouraged to wear black armbands if they knew a cyclist who was killed on the roads, and red armbands if they've been harassed by motorists themselves.

Chris Phelan organized the first Ride Of Silence in Dallas, Texas in 2003, with over 500 cyclists, after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was hit by the mirror of a passing bus and was killed. In 2004, the Ride of Silence expanded to include over 2,000 cyclists in Dallas as well as thousands more in over 50 cities across the country.

The Ride Of Silence is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph and remain silent during the ride. There is no brochure, no sponsors, no registration fees and no t-shirt.

If you are interested in organizing a ride in your city, there are details and guidelines on the official website (see link below). The website also includes pages for you to add your city to the list, in addition to "In Memoriam" entries.

For more information, the official web site is [www.rideofsilence.org](http://www.rideofsilence.org).

### Recumbent Rallies Return

See what all those recumbent riders are smiling about by taking some test rides at one of the Michigan recumbent rallies this year. For those not familiar with the bikes, recumbents have the rider sitting in a chair-like seat with the result being the lack of back, neck, seat and wrist pain.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> the Michigan Recumbent Rally East will be held in the southwest Detroit area, followed by the Michigan Recumbent Rally Central near Lansing on June 25<sup>th</sup>. In September there will be the Michigan Recumbent Rally West at Hastings (south of Grand Rapids) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the Fall Recumbent Rendezvous in the northern Detroit region on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Rallies are free, one-day, no registration events that include recumbent dealers, displays, test-rides and used bicycles for sale. "Buying your first recumbent" talks are given, as well as group rides. For more information the Rallies, the Wolver-Bents, or recumbents in general, visit the Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists website at [www.wolverbents.org](http://www.wolverbents.org), e-mail [wolverbob@cs.com](mailto:wolverbob@cs.com), or call 734/487-9058.

For those interested in a more competitive event, the Michigan Human Powered Vehicle Association (MHVPVA) will be holding it's annual Rally on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Waterford, Michigan (northern Detroit suburbs). For more information on the MHPVA event, visit [www.mhpva.org](http://www.mhpva.org) or contact Wally Kiehler at 313.884-0109 or [WKiehler@Comcast.Net](mailto:WKiehler@Comcast.Net)



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## FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

(continued)

### Bike Switzerland with an Iowa Native !

Thirteen years ago John Klemme discovered Europe on a University of Iowa study abroad program. The vineyards, green pastures and small villages of the Alps won him over, and he's been there ever since. He was recently back in Iowa on RAGBRAI XXXI to promote his tour company: Bike Switzerland.

#### Why did you start Bike Switzerland ?

I wanted to influence the way Americans discover Switzerland and Europe. For many, coming to Europe is the trip of a lifetime. Some leave immensely satisfied while others depart disappointed, feeling their trip was anticlimactic. Why these differences ? It's their introduction to the country: some experience the culture from the "inside" while others remain outside.

Most tourists see things from the outside. Through no fault of their own, well-intentioned travelers end up being tourists. Americans crave contact and long for authentic experiences, but the tourism industry is designed to make a profit, not to make a difference. I found this situation unfortunate and created Bike Switzerland as an alternative.

#### How are you an alternative?

First of all, we're non-profit. We all have full-time teaching jobs and so are not looking to start a full-time business. We'd simply like to cover our promotional costs and benefit from the experience of organizing such a tour. The only person getting paid is our Scottish van driver, Roddy and he certainly earns every penny.

Otherwise, we have developed strategies that allow our guests to interact with the Swiss and experience their culture authentically: we plan nights out to bring our guests and our Swiss friends together, bike with neighborhood clubs when possible and associate with town organizations. We time our itinerary to correspond with local community events and we try to make the most of each region's offerings. You can't expect that kind of planning from people working out of Denver or Chicago, you need to be here on the ground. Living here also gives us budgeting insight that we pass on to our guests: our tours are 1/3 less than comparable outfits.

#### How much is it ?

We've managed to price this year's tours at \$2,500. That includes everything but the flight and the souvenirs: 10 nights of lodging, all meals, all transportation, all entries and the bike.

#### Where do you stay ? What do you eat ?

I have a lot of fun making those decisions ! I do various parts of the route once a month or so for my own training and so I'm always on the lookout for interesting hotels, inns and chalets where we can stay. All the hotels are at least 3-star, usually with lake and mountain views. As for the food: Roddy lays out a great picnic spread for lunch. In the evening we eat hearty plates of typical regional cuisine at a local restaurant. There's always lots of wine on the table, and no one loses weight.

#### What kind of bikes do you provide ?

Aluminum-framed, 24 speed hybrid bikes made by Canyon. We can provide something else upon request. You can also bring your own bike and we'll put it together and take it down for you for no extra charge.

#### Where does the trip go ?

We cross Switzerland from east to west. We start in Geneva which borders France and end up on Lake Constance which borders Austria and Germany. But Switzerland is a small country: the total mileage is around 350 miles. You can find out more about each day of the itinerary on our website: [www.bikeswitzerland.com](http://www.bikeswitzerland.com)

#### How big are the groups.

We limit groups to 15 or 16 people.

#### Is it a tough tour ? Aren't there a lot of mountains in Switzerland.

Switzerland is full of mountains, but there are also just as many valleys. We pretty much stick to the valleys. There are a few 1,000 meter climbs, but less serious riders will avoid those ascents with short train or cogwheel rides. Otherwise, all days are divided into two parts. We do about 25 to 30 miles in the morning and then everyone meets up for lunch. At that point, people decide if they want to continue riding or shuttle to the next destination for a shower and sightseeing. If your spouse isn't a biker, he or she can meet you for lunch and then spend the entire day sightseeing, swimming, shopping, etc..

We carry all of your luggage in our van and then put it in your room. That kind of support allows for carefree riding.

#### Do you ride together ? What about mechanical problems ?

We sometimes ride together, but everyone goes at their own pace. We keep in contact with planned stops and cell phones. Also, there are more bike shops in Switzerland than in all of the United States ! Repairs are never a problem: you call the van with the cellphone and we come looking for you. Our van driver is also a professional mechanic.

#### Is it safe riding on the roads there ?

You'd be amazed by how respectful Swiss motorists are with cyclists; and it's probably because everyone here is at least an occasional cyclist. That said, we're seldom on a road with major traffic: 90% of our itinerary is marked out on paved paths reserved for bikes, local residents and farm equipment. The Swiss are proud of these cycling paths, and have erected a whole series of signs to keep you going in the right direction.

#### How do I sign up ???

The application and registration information are on the website: [www.bikeswitzerland.com](http://www.bikeswitzerland.com). Or, send me an email and we'll talk about it -