

# Chainwheel Chatter



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

Volume 33 Number 9

Established 1972

September 2006

## NEXT Meeting!!!

**September 28, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

### Ride Across America

#### Al Simons



You may recall that TCBA Member, Al Simons departed from Los Angeles California on May 15<sup>th</sup> last year on a Ride Across America, sponsored by CrossRoads Cycling Adventures. With mileages ranging from 20 to 120 per day, and 5 lay-over days, the group travelled 3,415 miles to

arrive in Boston, MA on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Come to the September meeting to hear Al's Adventures.

## TCBA Needs You!

### Nominations for Club Officers

TCBA is looking for club members interested in running for club offices. New ideas and fresh perspectives are needed! Please consider taking this opportunity to serve your club and fill out the nomination profile included in this issue. A brief description of the positions and responsibilities can be found on page 6. Completed nomination forms may be returned to any board member or mailed to: TCBA, P O Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909. Nominations will close at the September 28 membership meeting. The election results will be announced at the October membership meeting, and those elected will take office effective January 1.

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## Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 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 October 3, 2006.

## Newsletter/Ride Calendar

### Deadline

The **deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, September 9, 2006.** Please send items to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840, FAX to (517) 339-1758 or send your email to: [chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org).

**Ride calendar information** should be sent to Ed Usewick, 590 Boutell Dr., Grand Blanc, MI 48439 or emailed to [rideschedule@biketcba.org](mailto:rideschedule@biketcba.org). To be included in the newsletter this information must be received no later than the above-mentioned newsletter deadline.

## Cycle Forum

**"DALMAC - Review and the Fall Riding Season" - a discussion of the multi-day ride experience."**

Plan to join Allan Huber at **6:00 p.m.** immediately preceding the membership meeting on **Thursday, September 28, 2006.**

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## Executive Board Report

Submitted by: Charla Scheidler

The TCBA Board of Directors met at the Foster Community Center on August 1, 2006. Board members present included Sue Viele, Ron Clafin, Charla Scheidler, Darryl Burris, Steve Schuesler and Sara Troutman. Also present were club members Thomas Baumann, Cheryl Clafin, Katie Donnelly, Lenny Provencher, Donovan Riley and Bill Savage.

### Discussion Items/Announcements

Sara Troutman commented on an oversight that was made in not ordering the ride leader awards and indicated that the situation would be rectified.

Cheryl Clafin expressed her desire to resign as membership coordinator. After a review of the tasks involved, Steve Schuesler volunteered to take over the responsibility.

Bill Savage brought to the attention of the board that the article that appeared in the July 30 edition of the State Journal had erroneous information pertaining to bicycling, and he intends to send a reply to the editor and author of the article to inform them of such.

### Action items

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer, Ron Clafin, presented a financial report through July 30, 2006 which was approved as presented.

A request from the Rapid Wheelman for a joint ride between their club and TCBA was discussed. It was decided that we would see if there was any interest within the club and if so notify the Rapid Wheelman that we would be interested in pursuing something in 2007.

A letter that was composed by Steve Schuesler and addressed to the Ingham County Road Commission and MSU regarding a redesign of the intersection at Farm Ln. and Mt. Hope to make it pedestrian and bicycle friendly was reviewed. Approval to send the letter was given. A copy will remain on file with the minutes from the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding usage of the club trailer. Charla Scheidler read the motion from the April, 2005 minutes whereby approval was given by the board for the purchase of the trailer, but the usage would be restricted to TCBA sponsored activities only. This decision was made due to liability exposure issues and the lack of insurance for the liability for non club activities. This initial use restriction had been violated by Darryl Burris by allowing someone to use the trailer for moving personal belongings. Statements of concern regarding no coverage for the liability were submitted by Dwayne Scheidler, Certified Insurance Counselor, and Dan McKay, Certified Insurance Counselor and owner of McKay Insurance Agency, the seller of the insurance policy. Both Dwayne and Dan recommended that the trailer use be restricted to TCBA sponsored events only. The recommendation from both of these insurance professionals was disregarded and a motion made to eliminate the prior restrictions on usage, therefore allowing the trailer to be used by TCBA members for personal matters, with first priority being for club functions. The motion passed with one board member in opposition.

**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.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Gary Decker  
Timothy O'Rourke  
Christine Nichols  
William Knapp  
Alec & Kristy Drachman & Family  
Jim & Peggy Thomas  
Clare Luz & Family  
Jim Liesman  
Les Lovoll  
Bill & Jeanne Tressler  
Jennifer Ryan

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## 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](mailto:membership@biketcba.org).



TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP? -  
CHECK YOUR  
LABEL!

## 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 an 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:** 2003 Trek 2300. Excellent condition, blue/silver OCLV 110 fork / 9000 series aluminum frame. Less than 1800 miles. Bontrager Race Lite wheel set, full Ultegra group, new Bontrager Race Lite Lux saddle, triple crank, size 58 Cm. Asking \$995/OBO 517-651-6398

**FOR SALE:** Yakima roof-top rack with 3 SRL bike mounts, 3 wheel fork mounts, 48" roundbars, Q Towers with Q5 and Q28 clips, SKS locks, fairing, and a pair of ButtonDown 6 mounts for up to 6 pair of skis. \$175. Jeff – 517-339-0442 or [jjdilling2@aol.com](mailto:jjdilling2@aol.com).

**FOR SALE:** Fuji Touring Series bike. 54 cm. frame. Moustache bars with STI levers, but I had downtube shifters put on it. Original drop bars and STI cable housings come with it. Has 28mm tires, SKS fenders, and Jandd rack. \$370 or B.O. Call Gary at 517-882-0903.

**FOR SALE:** 2002 Titanium T-BONE recumbent, 26x20 wheels, SWB, USS, 52-42-30 chain rings, 8 speed cassette. Carbon fiber seat/astro turf cover. Very comfortable. Excellent mechanically. Asking \$1000. Call LeRoy @ 989-224-0204.

**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 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 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.bikes.msu.edu/donations/](http://www.bikes.msu.edu/donations/).

## 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.

Visit our web site: [www.mikesfirehousegrill.com](http://www.mikesfirehousegrill.com), for 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!

**PERSONAL TRAINING** – Benefit from bicycling-oriented fitness training with Audrey Morris, Certified Personal Trainer. Focus is on a progressive training program that strengthens the core and other muscles key to biking, as well as flexibility and aerobic elements. Certified by NASM, one of the top certifying organizations. Gift certificates available. Call Audrey at (517) 712-4678.

### 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.

### SUNRISES & SUNSETS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2006

Date	Rise	Set	Date	Rise	Set
1	7:03	8:13	16	7:19	7:46
2	7:04	8:11	17	7:20	7:45
3	7:05	8:09	18	7:21	7:43
4	7:06	8:08	19	7:22	7:41
5	7:07	8:06	20	7:23	7:39
6	7:08	8:04	21	7:24	7:37
7	7:09	8:02	22	7:25	7:36
8	7:10	8:01	23	7:27	7:34
9	7:11	7:59	24	7:28	7:32
10	7:13	7:57	25	7:29	7:30
11	7:14	7:55	26	7:30	7:28
12	7:15	7:53	27	7:31	7:27
13	7:16	7:52	28	7:32	7:25
14	7:17	7:50	29	7:33	7:23
15	7:18	7:48	30	7:34	7:21

## COMMITTEE & CLUB NEWS

### Another Great SummerTour!!!

#### Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Approximately 75 people were camping at Petoskey Middle School in anticipation of SummerTour 2006. Uncle Milty and Gloria registered about 80 riders.

#### Day 1, Wednesday, July 12

165 riders were on the road by 9:30 am. The route took them to Walloon Lake, Boyne City, Boyne Falls and to Wolverine before getting to Burt Lake. All the riders enjoyed the route with the rolling hills on Thumb Lake Road, and what about that 3 mile down hill into Wolverine? Our camping sites at Burt Lake State Park were close to the lake, and we had great sunsets. Our dinner theme was BBQ: bbq chicken and hamburgers off the grill and all the fixings. It hit the spot.

#### Day 2, Thursday, July 13, 2006

We woke to another great day with temperatures being in high 80's to low 90's. Our first layover day had routes of 54 miles into Cheboygan and back or 40 miles around Mullett Lake. Some say the routes were flatter then yesterday; swimming at Burt Lake after the ride was refreshing. The water was cool on the river for those who went tubing; others just enjoyed sitting around the camp. The dinner was an Italian buffet theme: spaghetti with or with out meat, Alfredo sauce with chicken, cheese-stuffed ravioli and lasagna. At our nightly campfires, we enjoyed peanuts and "S'mores".

#### Day 3, Friday, July 14, 2006

This was our day to move to Wilderness State Park. The riders had 59 miles to ride today. The route took them to Cheboygan, then west to the park. For the most part, the route was flat with a roller or two. What about being passed by a house on Levering Road?!?! Our dinner was a Taco/Mexican theme buffet. It was good!! After dinner we had a wedding to attend on the beach. Two of our SummerTour riders shared their "I DO'S" with us. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Joel Wickham, aka Janet Shoup.

#### Day 4, Saturday, July 15, 2006

On this layover day, the short ride had a lot of riders, exploring Mackinaw City and Mackinaw Island. Many rode to the Old Mill Creek State Park where they saw a demonstration of a late 1800's saw mill and a presentation about wild animals in the area. Others did the 61 mile loop going to Mackinaw City, Cross Village and Bliss. They enjoyed a few larger hills on their journey today. For our farewell dinner we had steaks on the grill, baked cod amandine and cheese stuffed manicotti for those who didn't want steaks. After dinner we had our annual drawing, we gave a way a free SummerTour 2007 and lots of other prizes.

#### Day 5, Sunday, July 16, 2006

Today we headed back to Petoskey. Our route took us to Cross Village, Goodhart, and along Lake Shore Drive to Harbor Springs and into Petoskey. Yes, it was the DALMAC route in reverse. The T-shirts were great. Ida Adams designed the back of the shirt. She has another great looking design planned for next year. All had a great time and we can't wait until next year.

See you next year.

Lee Adair and your SummerTour Committee and Crew

### TCBA Club Jerseys

The new TCBA Club Jerseys have arrived! The design is the traditional yellow and red brick pattern, but new graphics as pictured below have been added to the sleeves. These jerseys are in the Louis Garneau "semi-relaxed" fit which is a cut between the "relaxed fit" and "pro fit" styles that we've had in the past. Sizes available are S – XXL, and they are priced at \$50 each.

Left Sleeve Right Sleeve



In addition, we have a few of the old style "relaxed fit" size XL only, and some "pro fit" sizes XS, S and M are available for \$45 each.

Jerseys will be available for purchase at most TCBA club meetings. 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 be sure to indicate your size and style - "semi-relaxed fit" "relaxed fit" or "pro fit."

If you have questions please contact Charla Scheidler, at: [chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org).

### Let Your Biking Friends Learn Your Name While Promoting TCBA



- 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

To order contact: D-K Engraving, Inc., Leslie Lee – (517) 243-2227. Or visit the web site, [www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org) for an order form. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



## September 2006 Ride Calendar

**Recurring Rides; all rides not started if raining unless noted.**

Day/Date	Time	Miles	Class	Start Location	Other Information	Ride Leader
<b>Sundays</b>	8:30 AM	40+	Z	67th District Court House, Grand Blanc	Touring Pace, No ride on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , or 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ed/Roxanne Usewick 810-694-9919
<b>Mondays</b>	6:00 PM	20-30	B	DeWitt Jr. High	No Ride on the 4 <sup>th</sup>	Deb or Steve Haman 517-669-1978
<b>Wednesdays</b>	6:00 PM	20-30	B	Dewitt Jr. High	No ride on the 6 <sup>th</sup> or 13 <sup>th</sup>	Deb or Steve Haman 517-669-1978
	6:00 PM	20-30	B	MSU Pavilion		Katie Donnelly 517-349-5564
<b>Thursdays</b>	6:00 PM	20-30	B	DeWitt Jr. High	No Ride 21 <sup>st</sup> , or 28 <sup>th</sup>	Deb or Steve Haman 517-669-1978
<b>Fridays</b>	9:00 AM	30-45	B	DeWitt Township Hall	No ride 1 <sup>st</sup> (DALMAC): There will be a food stop!	Janice Koller 517-669-5744
<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30 AM	40+	Z	67th District Court House, Grand Blanc	No ride on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> , or 16 <sup>th</sup> Touring Pace	Ed/Roxanne Usewick 810-694-9919
	8:00 AM	40+	Z	Sawdon School	No Ride 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mark Kappler 517-627-1709
	9:00 AM	12	D	Coaches	Breakfast ride. Bring the kids! New rider-friendly! No Ride 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Milt Gruhn 517-393-1617

### Ride Starting Point Descriptions

**67th District Court House** ..... Grand Blanc  
**Coaches** ..... Corner of M-99 and Bishop Road, SW Lansing  
 former City Limit, Plum Crazy Too, Bishop Inn  
**Dewitt Junior High Sch.** South lot..... Dewitt  
**Dewitt Township Hall**.. 1401 W. Herbison Rd. 1/2 mi. west of Old 27.  
**Holt Junior High School**. Aurelius Rd. 1/2 mi south of Holt Rd. Holt  
**Holt Pro Cycle**..... Cedar, 3 blocks S of Holt Rd.  
**Kroger**, Coolidge & Lake Lansing ..... Parking lot near Coolidge  
**Mega Mall**.... 15487 Old US-27 (Northeast St.) & Northcrest Rd /  
 ..... NE Corner of lot  
**Owosso Fire/Police Station**..... Owosso  
**Oneida Gospel Church** .....  
 ..... Corner of Oneida and Strange Hwy, Gd Ledge  
**Oneida Township Hall**..... St Joseph & Oneida Rd. Grand Ledge  
**Potterville City Park**..... Main Street just west of Hartel (M-100)  
**Potterville High School**..... High St., Potterville  
**Rayner Park** ..... Ash Street M-36, west of fairgrounds, Mason  
**Sawdon School** ..... Lamson Rd., Grand Ledge  
**Williamstown Twp Hall**..... Corner Zimmer &  
 Germany Rds 4 mi east & 1 mi south of Haslett

### 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.

**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)

*No club rides shall take place during the general membership meetings or to conflict with the Women on Wheels ride, the 100,000 Meter T-shirt Ride, or club-sponsored social activities.*

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

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## TCBA Needs You! Nominations for Club Officers

TCBA is looking for club members interested in running for club offices. New ideas and fresh perspectives are needed! Please consider taking this opportunity to serve your club. Also, look around at your fellow members – many may be willing to serve if asked, but would never do so without encouragement from others. You probably know someone who just needs a friendly “nudge” to step forward. A brief description of the positions available and their responsibilities follow. All require that candidates be members in “good standing” (current on dues), and all are one year terms. Board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings.

***President.*** The President presides over all membership and board meetings. He/she prepares agendas for board meetings and prepares an annual report for presentation to the membership at the Annual Meeting (October). The individual in this position would benefit from previous organizational leadership experience, practical knowledge of or experience in running efficient meetings, and the ability and willingness to delegate responsibility to others.

***Vice President.*** The Vice President acts in the President’s absence and performs such other duties as delegated by the President. To that extent, the personal characteristics described for that position apply here as well. In addition, the Vice-President has, in recent years, been charged with developing club meeting programs and social activities (picnic, hayride, holiday party). He/she may establish and lead a Program Committee to assist in this function, so the ability and willingness to delegate responsibility to others is especially beneficial to provide back-up support for these activities.

***Secretary.*** The Secretary records and files the minutes of all meetings, prepares and conducts the annual election of directors, and performs such other duties as delegated by the President. In addition, he/she prepares and submits documents to government agencies on an annual basis and handles all official correspondence for the club, including get-well and sympathy notes. The individual in this position should be a good listener in order to take notes at meetings and should have better than average writing skills in order to accurately record the actions taken. A working knowledge of word processing and email capabilities is especially useful as minutes have, in recent years, been sent electronically to board members for review prior to board meetings.

***Treasurer.*** The Treasurer is responsible for the funds and financial records of the Association, prepares and delivers an annual accounting at the annual membership meeting, and performs such other duties as delegated by the President. He/she presents a draft budget annually for board consideration as well as monthly reports documenting cash flow and adherence to the approved budget. This individual works with the Events Director and an appointed DALMAC treasurer to establish procedures and to maintain accountability for all transactions. Previous accounting experience and working knowledge of accounting-related computer software are desirable.

***Events Director.*** The Events Director prepares and conducts the annual DALMAC bicycle tour, delivers monthly and annual reports to the Board of Directors to account for all bills and receipts, and performs such other duties as delegated by the President. He/she appoints and chairs the DALMAC Committee and DALMAC volunteers. Previous experience as both a DALMAC volunteer and DALMAC rider benefits this individual by providing an appreciation of the breadth of the DALMAC operation as well as rider needs. Experience working with volunteers or with a volunteer organization is desirable; an ability and willingness to delegate tasks to others is essential.

***Director-at-large (2).*** The Directors-at-large have no specific duties, but have full voting rights as members of the Board of Directors. These individuals are often assigned to lead or serve as a liaison with club committees. The Ride Program Committee has generally been led by one of these board members. A director-at-large position would be especially useful for an individual who desires to learn more about the operation of the club before serving in other elected positions.

If you have other questions about these positions, contact any current or former board member for more information. A nomination form is available in this issue, on the club web site (<http://www.voyager.net/TCBA/board/NomineeProfile.pdf>) or from any board member. Completed forms may be returned to any board member or mailed to TCBA, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the September membership meeting, at which time nominations will close. The election will be conducted by mail and at the October membership meeting. Those elected will take office effective January 1.



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## A Danube Adventure With Lee And Carol Perrine On Their Cannondale Tandem – Part II

(Continued from last month)

Starting out this morning the roadway diverts onto the road and up a hill to get around the Schonbuhol castle. We also notice there is a geocache behind the castle and DOWN the hill along the river. We find it easily behind an old stone wall.

We are entering the scenic Wachau valley with its many terraced vineyards, orchards and castles clinging to the sides of the mountains. There are also many excursion boats plying the river with tourists. At Spitz we decide to join them and roll the bike onto the AUSTRIA for an hour and forty minute cruise down to Krems. We crossed the river on a very energy efficient fahre. It had NO engine. There was a cable stretched high across the river and the fahre was attached to it by another cable and pulley. When the captain turned his rudder one way or the other the river current would push the fahre across the river sideways.

We stopped at a zimmer for the night but they were full and the owner wasn't able to give me directions, so he offered to drive me over to his friends in a nearby village. I left an electronic trail on the GPS and we easily found our way back the 4 miles on our bike.

The castle Grafenegg dominated the village of Camp as we rode back to the roadway the next morning. The road was lined with 13 little stalls depicting the Stations of the Cross.

Arriving back on the roadway we met a large group of German cyclists resting. Some of them could speak English and we had a great conversation. We had washed our bike the night before and they noticed the chain needed oiling and proceeded to fix us up. This was our first really sunny day since arriving in Europe and everyone was out enjoying it. (but we'll get rained on before it's over) We even saw a few private boats out on the river. We found our easiest geocache only 100 yards off the roadway and then on to Tullin with an interesting fountain featuring Atilla the Hun and his band of cohorts.

We are getting close to Vienna and prices are going up and at 84 Euros (\$110.00) the hotel staff didn't mind as we wheeled our tandem bike through their lobby to an inner court yard. 41 miles, 1 geocache and a rain.

We spent an extra hour at breakfast visiting with a couple from Toronto while we waited for the morning rain to end. Today we will ride right through the middle of Vienna, usually a daunting task but not here. A long island in the middle of the Danube has been preserved as a recreation park and the roadway gets you through the city without a single bit of auto interference. There was a triathlon going on so we did have to zig-zag a little bit to keep from becoming involved with it. Several bridges give access to the island with one even having two 720 degree circular ramps leading from the rivers edge up to the overhead roadway and its separate bike lane. We got a fine view of all the beautiful churches and buildings on both sides of the river.

We had a major distraction (for me anyway) while sitting at a picnic table writing a postcard when a young lady stopped her bike nearby, got off, proceeded to disrobe and partake of some nude sunbathing which is common practice on the island. A little further down the river we caught up with a group of elderly folks out for a ride and they wanted us to know that President Bush had been at a meeting at the palace in their village the week before.

We rode past a geocache only a half mile off the roadway but decided to park and start from the recommended starting point and wound up with a 3 mile hike along the river, bad choice, but we did find it.

We arrived in Hainburg only to find all the rooms were full so we had to go back to the last village and there we could only find a single room. Either Carol would have to sleep on the floor or we would have to be very cozy. She took the cozy choice. 43 Miles, only one rain

It is a bright and sunny Sunday morning on what would be our first rain free day. We are a little apprehensive as we approach the border crossing to Bratislava, Slovakia, a former communist country and a part of Czechoslovakia, but it turns out to be no more difficult than going into Canada. As we had more or less planned to go to Hungary instead we were a little lax in our homework preparation for Slovakia and did we pay for it. Arriving on Sunday morning everything was closed. The language and money were completely different and what little German we had picked up was useless here. We couldn't identify a bank or ATM and with no usable money and not being able to speak to anyone we didn't want to leave the city, but we finally found the train station and an ATM.

In an earlier time in our lives, there was no way, in our wildest imagination could we see ourselves ever traveling in this country, but now at 74 years of age, here we are. Not only about to travel, but head off on a bicycle with no itinerary except "follow the river". But with 9,000.00 SK Krone in our pocket, our confidence soars.

We bought a city map and soon were back on the river and headed East on a high dike. At the edge of town we came to the Danubainig (some sort of a charity -thon event) and for the next 24 kilometers (16 miles) it was bumper to bumper traffic with bikes, roller skates and blades, walkers, baby buggies and runners. We finally came to a dam and crossed over the river and there were still some people going on, over there.

For several miles the dike was between the river and a large lake. There were many different species of ducks along the shore which we were able to enjoy but not identify.

We finally pass the lake and leave the roadway to look for a place to stay for the night. Not knowing what we were looking for we go through two villages without finding anything we recognized so stopped at a little eatery with lots of activity. While trying to ask the waitress about a

(continued on next page)



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## A Danube Adventure

(continued)

room, one of the other customers who could speak a little English, came over to help us. She knew of a place on the other side of the river and offered to call them on her cell phone, and yes, they had a room available, but were away for the evening and wouldn't be home for a few hours.

Luckily there was a ferry dock just a few blocks away so we head for Kyselica to find the pension. It was only a few miles away and easy to find so we decided to sit on the lawn and wait for the owner to come home. We had only been there about 10 minutes when a beautiful young lady comes riding up on her bicycle and asks us "would like a place to sleep for the night?" "Follow me out to the edge of town". Certainly we were, but is this risky or not. Of course it is, but a pretty girl makes it worth it and pretty soon we are at Zuzanna Miklosova's, Pension and Ranch Arkadia. She and her mother had just had a new home built for patrons of their horse riding and training enterprise and were planning to rent the rooms to their customers and travelers. We must have been one of their first customers and they just couldn't do enough for us. Definitely our best overnight yet. 40 miles, a 40 step highway overpass, a dam and a ferry, but our first all day with no rain.

Most Europeans eat a cold breakfast of bread, thin sliced lunch meat and cheese with coffee so my eyes must have really lit up when Zuzanna asked how I would like my eggs fried and if ham was alright. Wow, our first hot breakfast since arriving in Europe.

We spot several huge nests atop telephone poles and chimneys, most with a mother stork and a couple chicks residing. They are large white birds with some black markings and about the size and shape of our sandhill cranes. The roadway goes back up on a high dike and away from the river but many homes back up to it and we enjoy peeking into their backyards, most of which have beautiful vegetable gardens, much to our interest. A large apiary (honey bee yard) also abuts the path and calls for a photo stop. Many of the hives are on wagons ready to be towed to an orchard or field in need of pollination. We had a nice talk with Jon Pierre from France. He had been riding for 26 days. We ride the last 10 miles on a paved highway shoulder into Komarno and supper at a sidewalk café in the ancient Centrum. Hey, this riding in Slovakia is kinda fun. 53 miles, no river crossings and no rain.

Yummee, Omelet's for breakfast. These Slovaks eat a better breakfast than the Austrians. About 5 miles out of town we come to the ancient Kelemantia archeological site, with the remains of an old Roman fort. There was also a geocache hidden out behind it which we found easily. The pathway along the river was beginning to deteriorate so we diverted to the adjacent, quiet country lanes. As we rode into Sturovo we could see the Burda mountain in the distance and just knew the Study trail Burda geocache would be at the top. This time we got a room first before riding out the 4 miles to Kamenici and the ascent up Mt. Burda. We left the bike in town and started the steep mile long hike up the mountain. Carol gave up about halfway and returned to the bike. Soon 2 young girls, Henna and

Erica, came over to talk to her and when they learned she spoke English they wanted to practice what they had just learned in school. They had a good time while waiting for me to come down with the geocache find. Would you believe, even on this beautiful sunny day we got rained on before getting back to our room in Sturovo. 45 miles and 1 rain shower.

Wow, ham & eggs cooked together in a small frying pan for breakfast. Very good and interesting. Today we will finally cross back over the Danube and into Esztergom, Hungary, with its' domed Basilica looming from atop a high hill. At least we didn't have to hunt for a geocache up there but as luck would have it the road from the customs station to the river went up over and behind it. Again, no problems crossing the border.

Once again the culture changes and we need to learn some new nouns and verbs. Finding the 1<sup>st</sup> ATM and some new money was a challenge, but being early in the afternoon on a weekday and with some Euro's and Kroners in our pocket we leave town with no Hungarian Florints.

The bike path had taken a real beating during last spring's floods and was either covered with mud or washed away so we rode on the quiet road to Visograd where we were able to get some money and snacks. With 54,238.00 Hungarian Florints in our pocket (about \$180.00) we figured we could afford to have lunch with a couple Germans who were riding about the same route we did except they were doing it in the opposite direction. They had started from Budapest that morning. That lifted our spirits. With our slow start 2 weeks earlier we had almost lost hope of going all the way to Budapest but now it will be a sure thing.

At Kisoroszi we hop a small ferry over to the island of Szentendre and a 20 mile long ride through fields of ripening strawberries. With freshly picked berries for sale at 300.00 fl./kilo all along the way we couldn't resist. When we could only find space on the bike for about half the berries the farmer lady was quite perturbed when we tried to explain in a foreign language why we were leaving some of them with her. Later we shared our berries with a sweet, toothless little old lady while we waited for another ferry boat. Another couple, also waiting for the ferry in their car recognized our Dalmac jerseys and came over to visit. They were living in Budapest now and told us where and how to get to the Hydrofoil boat dock in downtown Budapest.

We stopped at the Irisz Panzio on the outskirts of the city where the bicycle enthusiast owner welcomed us in and assured us it would only take about an hour to make the 10 mile ride into downtown Budapest in the morning. He also forgot to tell us about all the utility construction going on under the roadway and the many detours we would need to take. 47 miles, 2 ferries, no rain and 488 miles so far. Our trusty old Cannondales computer turned up its' 25,000<sup>th</sup> mile today.

The expected 10 mile, 1 hour ride into downtown lasts till well past lunch time as we detour around and over the

(continued on page 10)

**It Ain't Like It Used To Be**

I planned my day well. I was off to the Great Lakes Folk Festival to see the Bluegrass group called the Lovell Sisters, to deliver more CROSSTOWN mapbooks to the Bike Corral there, and to check out changes recommended by another cyclist for the mapbook. As many of you know, I believe that when things don't go according to plan, it becomes an adventure, and it did.

I loaded my bike with plenty of time to spare, and hit the road thinking about the day that was in store. My rearview mirror soon revealed a cyclist wearing a TCBA jersey. As he got closer, he magically turned into two people - on a tandem. They too were going to the Folk Festival. He wanted to talk about ... rearview mirrors. They were faster riders than I, but I was able to keep up for a while. Maybe it was because I hadn't ridden in nearly a week. After a short while, they split off to meet someone else.

Since I had extra time, I routed myself through residential areas to look for yard sales. I seldom find anything, but I never tire of rolling up and instructing the residents to "Just load the heavy stuff on the back, and the lighter stuff on the front." Never mind that there are likely to be dinette sets, exercise equipment, bicycles, and piles of clothing for infants.

Soon after leaving my first yard sale, I was on Green Road headed toward the railroad tracks. As I crested that last hill, a deer wandered across the road. I stopped, then struggled to get my camera out. The slow deer was too fast. But wait; there's more. Another, then two more, came cautiously into view. This time I was able to click the shutter three times before they disappeared. Quickly, I went to change from "Snap" to "View", and discovered I was already there. I had nothing.

Once in Haslett, I noticed Sarah (my bike) was a little light headed, responding more quickly than normal to my every turn of the handlebars. That's the first time I noticed that my two front panniers (saddlebags) were GONE. Only once before had they come off without my help. I was quickly crossing ML King at a signal, hit a bump, and both of them fell off in the middle of the intersection. This time, the might have come off when I stopped at the yard sale. A quick call home revealed the truth: I had been so pre-occupied with leaving that I never put them on. Because they had tools and tubes, I went back for them, adding 17 miles to what was to be a 35 mile trip.

I had told the Tandem Team that Burcham had fresh blacktop. As it turns out, I was only seeing one part of the elephant. The west end is done; the east end was still torn up. As a former boss, noted for stretching the truth used to say: "I wasn't lying; I was just telling the truth in advance."

I got to the festival five minutes before the Lovell Sisters were scheduled, but they were not set up yet, so I went on to the Bike Corral. This secured parking lot for bikes, manned by LMB and TCBA people, was doing a brisk business. I checked-in my bike and dropped off some maps.

Back to the Lovell Sisters, I found a seat at the packed stage area where I could see more of their behinds than anything else. Hey, I said it was packed, didn't I? I was fortunate to find a seat on the concrete abutment, shaded from the afternoon sun by a light pole. I stayed for the first four songs, never once hearing anything resembling the Bluegrass I heard in West Virginia. They did have a lady on stage, doing sign so the deaf spectators who couldn't hear the music would at least know the words. Disappointed, I got up and left.

I went to hear the Greeks. There were 5 of them. I instantly liked them - three were wearing authentic Hawaiian shirts, just like me. The handsome lead singer had learned to play his unique instrument as payment for doing janitorial work. From his performance, I would say he must have been one hell of a janitor. He did ask us to notice when one song changed from 9/8 time to 7/8 time. For this old high school marching band baritone horn player, anything more than 4/4 time was incredible. The other vocalist never sang; he just rapped his tambourine against various parts of his body. The bass guitarist had an unusual instrument. It looked like the string tightners (please excuse the technical jargon here) were gone. Looking closer, I discovered they were tightened at the other end, at the bottom of the big part (more technical jargon - I just can't help myself).

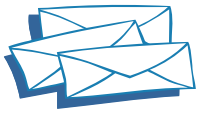
It was time to go to Aurelius and Mt. Hope and check things out. My correspondent had started her eMail with "I am not much of a bicyclist. I have a bike. That's about the extent of it. Lol. However, I just picked up one of your maps (Riverfront West) and I must say it has inspired me." At that point, I just knew I had to do my best.

On the way there, I rode down Michigan Avenue, where a car show was winding down. There was a Cord (luxury roadster from the 30's), and Isseta (a one-door, two skinny person car - the steering column was hooked to the front door), a travel trailer large enough to hold a bed - no room for a floor, and a horseless carriage.

Heading south on Clemens, which becomes Aurelius, I was to notice that Aurelius north of Mt. Hope has "a very wide multi-use paved path on both sides of the road." I found it to be narrow at the overpasses, with frequent deposits of broken glass. Entries and exits were nearly all way too narrow to allow one to maintain speed, and at one point, branches from shrubs invaded half the width of the path. I told her no change would be warranted. She wanted a section of Mt. Hope to be upgraded to green, but it has too much traffic.

She also made what appeared to be a good recommendation. Getting onto the Rivertrail in the Potter Park area means you need to use either Aurelius or Pennsylvania, both busy roads. She described a bridge half

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## FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

### Thanks To All

This year's Summer Tour included more than just the advertised riding, camping and "smelling" of the roses. This year on the beach of Lake Michigan, Joel and I (Janet) were married on Friday night of the tour. Joel and I would like to thank everyone that attended and offered their support and friendship. Also, thanks to those of you that offered help (Patty) and for the final life preserver (Pete?), to Lee, Milt and his lovely wife and everyone else I am forgetting to mention.

This Tour for us will be remembered not just for our union but for the friendships we made.

A few of you asked for our e-mail address because you took pictures and wanted to be able to send them to us. Again thank you and our address is: [janetandjoel@hotmail.com](mailto:janetandjoel@hotmail.com).

### Kudos to Sue & John Schrock

Thank You to Sue & John Schrock for their recent "gratis" contribution toward DALMAC. They repaired the canvas on the tent that was torn... (Sue is the proprietor of Sew Much More) - the work they did was not easy and they did not charge for it...

### Attention MSU Students and Friends!

The MSU Cycling Club is always looking for new riders, both for road and mountain. You must be an MSU student to race, but all levels of experience and ability are welcome! More information can be found at our website, [www.msucycling.org](http://www.msucycling.org). If you have general questions about the club, please contact Alan Antonuk ([antonuka@msu.edu](mailto:antonuka@msu.edu)). This year one of our goals is to expand our women's racing team. Anyone interested in women's road riding or racing, contact Kristin Bott ([bottk@msu.edu](mailto:bottk@msu.edu)) or Emily Flynn ([flynnem3@msu.edu](mailto:flynnem3@msu.edu)).

### Discover Bicycling, in Florida

The new Florida Discovery Bicycling Center (FDBC) in Lake Helen, Fla. will roll out its inaugural training and touring program this November. The Center combines adult bicycle safety training and touring into vacation-like packages along the St. Johns River region of western Volusia County. FDBC is sponsored by the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA), the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor, and the City of Lake Helen. The FDBC's first five-night, six-day program will begin November 12, 2006, with a full day of cycle training by League of American Bicyclists-certified safe cycling instructors. for additional information. visit the web site: <http://www.floridabicycle.org/discovery/>.

### Easyspoken

(continued)

way between. I wanted to add it, but every road and pathway from the south end of the bridge to the Rivertrail was marked prohibiting bicycle use.

She did find a spelling error of a street name, though. We have it as Clemons.

As I approached the parking lot entrance to the Rivertrail, I saw a female cyclists having some mechanical trouble, so I went to see if I could help. Her chain was jammed. Her husband, who had ridden ahead, rejoined us. They had recently moved here from the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, and had gone to the festival to hear the group that was also from there. We talked about TCBA rides, instructions for beginners, and I gave them a CROSSTOWN map booklet. Perhaps we'll see them on some D rides.

I returned to the festival to wander and listen. Water was selling for \$1 a bottle, and up. I bought dinner (a quarter of a pizza for \$2.50, then asked the seller how much for some ice for my insulated bike water bottle. He had an extra bag open that he wasn't going to use and said to take what I wanted. I did, went to listen to more music, then stopped back again for another free ice refill.

It was getting time to leave, so I checked my bike out of the corral one last time, but stopped at the Dance tent for a bit more music. An Ethiopian student had never seen a recumbent before. He was a bit hard for me to understand, but was pleased I could eventually answer all his questions.

The trip home in the cool, dark evening was pleasant, but uneventful. How could I possibly expect more - I had a great adventure with my bicycle.

Dick Janson  
Just Me and Sarah Dipitee  
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### A Danube Adventure

(continued)

construction, jump up and over curbs, dodge the horrific traffic and try to get away from the traffic by riding on 2 different islands which both turned into deadends. Of course if we could have understood any of the signs I'm sure things would have been much easier.

We have a little trouble finding the Hydrofoil dock amongst all the tour boat offices lining the river. (it had a different name than the one we had expected). Lucky us, they had seats available tomorrow for only about \$100.00 each plus another \$30.00 each for the bike (s). Would you believe we had ridden 503 miles from Passau, Germany to here without seeing another tandem along the way but there would be another one on the 5 hour boat ride back to Vienna tomorrow with us.

We had time for a beautiful afternoon bus tour of the city and an evening walk along the Danube as twilight faded and the lights from the ancient buildings began shimmering on the water.

The hydrofoil hull actually rose a few inches above the water and left little wake. We must have had the fastest bike on the river today as we "flew" up the river at 40 miles/hour all the way to Vienna with it strapped to a mast on the roof.

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**Senate Bill 1224**  
**Signed by Governor Granholm**

On August 15, 2006, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed SB 1224 and it became effective immediately. Senator Michelle McManus is the primary sponsor of this bill and Senators: Wayne Kuipers, Patricia L. Birkholz, Tom George, Valde Garcia, Jason Allen, and Burton Leland were all co-sponsors.

The main points of SB 1224 pertaining to bicyclists are listed below. Detailed information on the bill, can be found on the Michigan Legislature web site at: [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(h5t0gz301crrb355jgpm0n55\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2006-SB-1224](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(h5t0gz301crrb355jgpm0n55)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2006-SB-1224).

**Sec. 660a.** A person operating a bicycle upon a highway or street at less than the existing speed of traffic shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except as follows:

- (a) When overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
- (b) When preparing to turn left.
- (c) When conditions make the right-hand edge of the roadway unsafe or reasonably unusable by bicycles, including, but not limited to, surface hazards, an uneven roadway surface, drain openings, debris, parked or moving vehicles or bicycles, pedestrians, animals, or other obstacles, or if the lane is too narrow to permit a vehicle to safely overtake and pass a bicycle.
- (d) When operating a bicycle in a lane in which the traffic is turning right but the individual intends to go straight through the intersection.
- (e) When operating a bicycle upon a 1-way highway or street that has 2 or more marked traffic lanes, in which case the individual may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of that roadway as practicable.

**Sec. 660b.** Two or more individuals operating bicycles upon a highway or street shall not ride more than 2 abreast except upon a path or portion of the highway or street set aside for the use of bicycles.

**Sec. 660c.** (1) An individual operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

(2) An individual shall not operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk if that operation is prohibited by an official traffic control device.

(3) An individual lawfully operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk has all of the rights and responsibilities applicable to a pedestrian using that sidewalk or crosswalk.

**Sec. 660d.** (1) An individual may park a bicycle on a sidewalk except as prohibited by an official traffic control device.

(2) An individual shall not park a bicycle on a sidewalk in such a manner that the bicycle impedes the lawful movement of pedestrians or other traffic.

(3) An individual may park a bicycle on a highway or street at any location where parking is allowed for motor vehicles, may park at any angle to the curb or the edge of the highway, and may park abreast of another bicycle.

(4) An individual shall not park a bicycle on a highway or street in such a manner as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual parking a bicycle on a highway or street shall do so in compliance with this act and any local ordinance.

*Please take a moment to thank our legislature for their support of this bill!*