

Chainwheel Chatter



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

Volume 34 Number 4

Established 1972

April 2007

NEXT Meeting!!!

April 26, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Straits of Mackinac Swim Jeff Lounds

Jeff and his two cohorts; Bob Belonga from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and Wayne Blomberg from Ryde Marine will share their story of Jeff's milestone.

Friday September 15, while we were all in bed or at our desks working diligently, Jeff Lounds conquered the Mackinac Straits! With an air temperature of 61°, water temperature of 62°, and winds out of the south at 5 mph, Jeff completed the 4.1 mile swim in just under 2 hours and 20 minutes.

Jeff has now biked (in the DALMAC), run and swam the length of the Mackinac Bridge.



TCBA Family Picnic

June 24, 2007

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 3, 2007 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 1, 2007.

Newsletter/Ride Calendar Deadline

The **deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, April 7, 2007. NOTE: THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLY.** Please send items to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840, FAX to 1-800-480-1146 or send your email to: 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. To be included in the newsletter this information must be received no later than the above-mentioned newsletter deadline.

Cycle Forum

Plan to join Allan Huber at **6:00 p.m.** immediately preceding the membership meeting on **Thursday, April 26, 2007.**

In This Issue

Meetings/Deadlines/Announcements.....	Front Cover
Board Minutes.....	2
TCBA Northwest Tour.....	3
WKAR-TV Auction.....	3
New Members/Change of Address.....	3
Ride Calendar.....	4
Starting Points/Ride Classifications.....	4
Classified.....	5
Member Specials.....	5
The Forces of Nature.....	6
From the TCBA Mail Bag.....	7
The New Bike.....	9
Other Good Numbers/ Membership Application.....	Back Cover

MINUTES OF THE TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Foster Community Center - Lansing
February 6, 2007

Board Members present included Dick Janson, Sue Viele, Dick Sulin, Charla Scheidler, Al Simons, Ellen Lamb and Kris Stairs. Also present were club members Jim Clark, Chris Davis, Katie Donnelly, Tom Hardenbergh, Ed Noonan, Lenny Provencher, Andrea Rybicki, Dwayne Scheidler and Steve Schuesler.

Reports

1. **Minutes/Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the January meeting were presented for review. It was noted that the word "the" was missing from the following sentence in Old Business: "*Dick Janson informed those in attendance of a conversation he had with Darryl Burris whereby Darryl expressed his desire that **the** trailer not have the same exposure as the bike carrying cases and if it did he would no longer be interested in providing storage for the trailer.*" Al Simons made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Sue Viele and carried unanimously.

Charla Scheidler distributed business cards to board members in packets of 100 each. In addition she was asked to get some additional cards printed in a generic fashion with a blank name line for other members to use and write in their name.

2. **Vice President:** Sue Viele asked for ideas for locations to hold the TCBA picnic on June 24. Several suggestions were given and Sue will follow-up to check availability.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Dick Sulin presented a financial report through January 2, 2007. It was noted by Charla Scheidler that the information was the same as was presented at the previous board meeting. Dick will prepare information for the months of January and February for the March board meeting.

Dick Sulin presented a draft of the 2007 budget. Some discussion took place and he agreed to have a final copy ready for approval at the March board meeting.

4. **DALMAC:** Al Simons reported that everything was on target for distribution of the DALMAC applications the 2nd full week of February. He also reported that the crew for all routes was almost complete.
5. **Ride Incentive Program:** Ellen Lamb reported that she was working on award items for the 2007 program, and that Kris Stairs was working on finishing up the 2006 details. It was decided that the unclaimed items from previous years, prior to 2006, would be sold at the swap meeting in March.

Old Business

- New member calls - Dick Janson provided a status report on calls he had made. With 17 calls made, out of 21 new members, he was able to talk to 8 people and was pleased with the results.
- TCBA Northwest Tour - Dick Janson provided a sample copy of the application. This information will be distributed to the membership as an insert in the March Chainwheel Chatter. The insert will be left out of the extra issues that are distributed to various locations around town. One week after the Chainwheel Chatter is mailed the application will be made available on the web site.

New Business

- Ed Noonan presented a request for funds to purchase a dark colored canopy to be used at Quiet Water Symposium, and other events, for video presentations. It was also suggested that a TCBA banner be purchased and attached in some way for recognition. Dick Janson made a motion to approve \$150 towards the project. The motion was seconded by Charla Scheidler and carried.
- Ed Noonan mentioned that he would like to have pictures of the TCBA board members posted on the web site. He indicated that he would see what pictures he has in his archives and possibly upload some.
- Dick Janson made a motion to place an ad in the Meridian Community Volunteer Guide at a cost of \$50. The motion was seconded by Charla Scheidler and carried.
- Dwayne Scheidler provided a review of the current bonding limits of coverage for Officers and Directors of TCBA. At the current limits there is \$50,000 of coverage on each of the Vice President, Secretary and Board at Large members and \$150,000 of coverage each on the Events Director, President and DALMAC Treasurer. Dwayne mentioned that when the coverage was originally written he felt that it was adequate, but in lieu of the past few years of successful DALMAC's there are times when those coverage limits are too low. Dick Sulin made a motion to direct Dwayne to double all limits of coverage. The motion was seconded by Al Simons and carried.
- Charla Scheidler brought it to the attention of the board that the July meeting will fall on July 3rd. A motion to cancel the July meeting was made by Sue Viele, seconded by Charla Scheidler and carried.

What is the TCBA Northwest Tour 2007?

Our inaugural TCBA Northwest Tour features the convenience of a single camping location in the beautiful Leelanau area west of Traverse City. The Sleepy Bear Campground is our home for the duration of the tour.

The TCBA Northwest Tour is a **FUN** tour with challenging days, great scenery and good roads through many small towns and tourist areas in Michigan's northwest. Riding begins on Thursday, June 14, 2007. Each route will reach out in a different direction, with two medium days and one long day. Each day, you will have a shorter option - the first and last parts of the main route, connected by a shortcut. Sunday, June 17, we'll have a ride after breakfast that can include the Pierce Stocking Scenic Area (\$5 pass fee), then return to pack, and leave by 3:00pm.

This is a bicycle **CAMPING** tour. Our camping area is rustic, with tall, mature trees, and plenty of space. Catered dinners and breakfasts will be served under a large canopy. Lunch is your responsibility each day of the tour. For Wednesday dinner or Thursday breakfast, you will find restaurants in Empire (4 miles) and Glen Arbor (7 miles).

The TCBA Northwest Tour is open to all capable, interested bicyclists. You need not be a member of any organization. The first 150 entries will be accepted.

Included in the fee of \$125 are route maps, tent camping facilities, dinners (Thursday - Saturday), breakfasts (Friday - Sunday), SAG service, and parking (in designated areas) at the campground. Showers are available, and run 3-5 minutes for each quarter. We plan on having campfires with "S'mores" and munchies in the evenings.

For an application visit: www.biketcba.org.



It's almost time for the 30th annual WKAR-TV auction. Each year, the auction offers local businesses and groups an opportunity to get together and have a good time and to provide some exposure for their organizations. Once again, I'm again recruiting members to work as phone bank volunteers. We're scheduled for the second shift (8:30 p.m. - midnight) on Friday night, April 27. If you've done this before, you know the exciting atmosphere that surrounds the auction. If you haven't, here's a great opportunity to have some fun with other members, perform a great community service, and give TCBA some exposure. Your TCBA jersey will really show up well on TV! No helmets, please. April showers bring May flowers; who knows what an April Lightning Round will bring! To participate, you must be at least 18 years old and able to hear under occasionally noisy conditions, write legibly, read information on distant boards, and commit to showing up on time. You will be trained, and voluntarism is rewarding. Sound like fun? Call me (349-5564) or send me an email (DONNEL13@MSU.EDU), and I'll sign you up and fill you in on the details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



John Bach	Keith Bailey
Alex Benikov	Nancy Blaauw
Jean Boot	Pete & Ellen Bosheff
Adam Dobbrastine	Doreen Ellison
Ralph Fogarty	Jennifer Frank
Joel Gorveatte	Shane Gruber
Pam Hinkle	Anna Kaschner
Tina Lamer	Valerie Lange
Ruth Linnemann	Steven Peck
David & Laura Purol	Lester & Carol Rosen
Edward Szpieth	Julie Wilkinson

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.

Ode To A Volunteer

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there's a special place in
Heaven set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools
Where there's no committee chair,
No group leaders or carpools.

Telephone lists will be outlawed
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
And rare treats fit for a king.

You ask,
Who'll serve the privileged few?
And work for all they're worth?
Why, those who reaped benefits
And not once volunteered on earth.

- Author Unknown

National Volunteers Week – April 15 - 21

April 2007 Ride Calendar

Recurring Rides

Day/Date	Time	Miles	Class	Start Location	Other Info	Ride Leader
Sundays	10:00 AM	25-35	B	Holt Junior High School	Roads must be dry with air temperature above 40	James Blais 517-402-4026
Mondays	11:00 AM	20-30	C	Holt Commuter Lot	Roads must be free of ice and snow, Temp over 35. Food Stop	Jan Koller 517-669-5744
Tuesdays	6:00 PM	15-30	B	Oneida Gospel Church	None	Dennis Stinson 517-543-9432

Wednesday Night Ride - MSU Pavilion

6:00pm 1/2 mi. south of the Y-Lot

Ride Leaders	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25
Katie Donnelly 517-349-5564	No Ride	B; 20-30 mi.	B; 20-30 mi.	B; 20-30 mi.

Thursdays	6:00 PM	15-30	B	Oneida Gospel Church	No ride 4/26: See you at the club meeting!	Dennis Stinson 517-543-9432
Fridays	12:00 PM	20-30	C	Dewitt Township Hall	No ride if rain, wind greater than 25, or temp under 30 degrees. Food Stop	Janice Koller 517-669-5744
Saturdays	8:30 AM	40-55	Z	Sawdon School	None	Dennis Stinson 517-543-9432

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED ON ALL TCBA RIDES!!!

Ride Starting Point Descriptions

Dewitt Junior High Sch, South lot.....Dewitt
 Dewitt Township Hall.....
 1401 W Herbison Rd. 1/2 mi. west of Old 27
 Holt Commuter Lot. East of US127 exchange at Holt Rd.
 Holt Junior High (Former Holt High School).....
 Aurelius Rd, 1/2 mi south of Holt Rd, Holt
 Kipp Road Commuter Lot.....off US127 South of Mason
 Oneida Gospel Church.....
Corner of Oneida and Strange Hwy, Gd Ledge
 Sawdon School..... Lamson Rd., Grand Ledge

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
 ZRides over 40 miles in length to be ridden at the rider's own pace without on the road ride leader supervision. Leader must have detailed map of the ride for all riders.

SUNRISES & SUNSETS FOR APRIL, 2007

Date	Rise	Set	Date	Rise	Set
1	7:21	8:04	16	6:56	8:21
2	7:19	8:05	17	6:54	8:22
3	7:18	8:06	18	6:53	8:23
4	7:16	8:07	19	6:51	8:25
5	7:14	8:09	20	6:49	8:26
6	7:12	8:10	21	6:48	8:27
7	7:11	8:11	22	6:46	8:28
8	7:09	8:12	23	6:46	8:29
9	7:07	8:13	24	6:43	8:30
10	7:06	8:14	25	6:42	8:32
11	7:04	8:15	26	6:40	8:33
12	7:02	8:17	27	6:39	8:34
13	7:01	8:18	28	6:37	8:35
14	6:59	8:19	29	6:36	8:36
15	6:57	8:20	30	6:35	8:37

FOR MORE RIDES CALL:

517-882-3700 - or visit the Web Site: www.biketcba.org

Also check this number for updates-changes on rides listed in this Chainwheel Chatter.

To receive the Ride Line Transcript by email send your email address to: donnell13@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 an email to chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org, FAX to 800-480-1146, or mail to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840.

WANTED: Road bicycle, late model, triple chainring, of good quality and maintenance for training and participating on the DALMAC and other organized rides. Frame size 23" (58cm) or 24" (61cm). Call Mark at (517) 719-8321 or write to wollensak@voyager.net.

FOR SALE: Trek 2100 road bike, Shimano 105 components, 58cm, Vetta c15 computer, toe clips, 2-H2O cages, frame bag, approx 4,000 miles. Original price \$1,460, asking \$700 or B.O. Call 517/394-1722 or 517- 485-4900 days, ask for David

FOR SALE: 2005 Trek Multitrack 7500 (20") Hybrid Red/Silver + Rock Shock + Cateye Enduro 2 Speed/Odom. Great condition. Less than 500 miles use. Price \$500. Contact Rich at 989-823-8817 or at rlbeaujean@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE: Recumbent, Rans V-Rex, very good condition, low miles, with 12 function computer, mirror, kick stand, rear rack. Asking \$950. Contact Bill 517-627-3350. Email: w.dowling@comcast.net

FOR SALE:

- 1) 2001 Raleigh R300 road bike. 50 cm, suspension seat post, rear rack. Great condition. Excellent touring/DALMAC bike. Very comfy! \$350/BO.
 - 2) Schwinn Criss-Cross 21-speed hybrid bike. Older but very serviceable, in good condition. 17" woman's frame. Good commuter bike. Rear rack. \$100/BO.
 - 3) Giant stunt bike. Needs a little work, but it's a cool bike for a young boy. \$50.00/BO
- Call Beth (517) 651-6437 or (517) 290-7249

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, now known as MSU Bikes, is always looking for donations of old bikes in working or restorable condition (1, 3, 5 speeds are perfect for campus) to fix up and loan out to MSU students/ faculty/ staff/ visiting scholars. Donors are now eligible for MSU donor credits. Details here: www.bikes.msu.edu/donations Email to arrange drop-off or leave on rack a outside the new MSU Bikes Service Center. For directions visit: www.bikes.msu.edu/maps.html.

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, 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

HAPPY EASTER!!



The Forces of Nature

By: Ron Berby

I've long known the forces of nature are against me. In the 45 years I ran, I suffered and was slowed often because of how nature, well, singled me out. If I ran a hill, I found the up-side steeper and longer than the down. The wind would save its most brutal head-on gusts until I was exhausted and my adversary was pulling away. My bowels and bladder saved the greatest crises for the most critical of competitive moments. Bugs sought me out, choosing to light in my eyes, mouth or the sweaty swamp of my skin. It never seemed right.

When a non-running injury turned me into a biker, I sort of guessed that technology would become a factor. I had no idea to what extent. After 10 or 15 tires went "pfffft!", my 60+-year-old brain concluded that continuous movement was much more important than speed, and I spent money on tires made of Kevlar, titanium, granite, and concrete. After I slipped a chain 30 or forty times, I chose to pay different folks to tune up my bike. Toss in a bike seat that suddenly dropped or turned violently left, a cable that snapped while I crossed Grand River Avenue on a DALMAC's first morning, and a myriad of metal and plastic parts that loved nothing better than to rub each other to dysfunction. I realized that when my left knee finally refused to run ever again, it left me stranded under biking's dark, angry cloud of technological woe. Gloomy was my realization that no matter how new, slick, or expensive, that a bike, like a human being, was just another troublesome chunk of nature.

As a biker, I found hills even worse, some causing you to get off the bike or fall, then haul the bike to the top, a delay you'd never overcome on the downhill. Some downhills were worse, so steep or curvy you'd risk life and limb to make up for the uphill delay. I was amazed at how riding your brakes could wear you, not the brakes, out.

Don't get me going about the wind. Well, you already did, so here goes. It isn't just that aboard a bike headwinds are stronger and gustier than tailwinds. They are also conniving. The elements sense you're on a bike, and winds shift as the ride progresses, defying your plan and all logic, staying headwinds the whole way.

Don't get me going about bowels and bladder. I mean it. Don't get me going there.

Then there's the problem of bugs and bikes, exponential when compared to running. Gnats and other tiny insects hover above the road waiting for you, and then craftily ride air currents around expensive sunglasses to their targets, the eyes. Large, hard-bodied beetles, wasps, and bumblebees see you coming, join with the strong headwind, playing a game of chicken and winning, slamming into your face or any available spot of exposed skin. Medium-sized flies and beetles prefer the mouth, but more often find the airholes in the helmet, where they flit on and off a sweaty bald head, resulting in a stop on the roadway, panicked removal of the helmet, swatting about one's head, and eventual insanity.

Biking's worst feature, however, is the sore butt, which becomes somehow more painful in winter. A measly half-

hour on a trainer in front of a TV produces the equivalent agony of two unrelenting hours on the road.

But enough about biking. This lower-Michigan winter has been different. Snow fell on and off from January through early March, and it stayed cold. The ground remained snow-covered for weeks. Thus, I could ignore the training bike and dig out my 1970s-vintage cross country skis! I've got news for you bikers out there. I encountered not a single bug, wasp or gnat all winter! And the snow fleas left me unmolested.

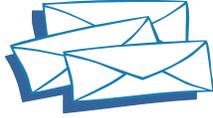
But then nature and its henchman, technology, reared their ugly heads. That first snowfall and each that followed reminded me that slogging through newly fallen snow establishing a "track" is hard work and amounts to walking on skis. Critters in our area loved the tracks, however, and chose to tromp along them as soon as I was out of sight. The next day I could see I had made it easier for pheasants, coyotes, and bunnies to stroll with ease the great outdoors. And until this winter, I had always thought of deer as graceful, delicate creatures that prance on tiny feet. Now I know the truth. They are actually great stompers: beasts with giant hooves, who like nothing better than destroying the fruits of an old man's labor.

I also found that as quickly as a decent track is laid, temperature shifts change the surface, causing snow to cling to skis, amounting to walking on skis with attached anvils. So my jock wife Sally, who has been a decent downhiller as well as cross country skier, tossed her old waxing kits to me, expecting my problems were solved. But late-winter daily temperature swings of 30 degrees kept me tromping along on snow-clumped skis. My problems also arose from the waxing instructions. They seemed to be written in Finnish, Swedish, Swahili, - Something.

The one place wax did its job, regardless of temperature or alignment of stars, was on the steep and curvy downhill through our woods along Mud Creek. Because I never learned to downhill, this was bad. There the skis would launch me with great acceleration downwards. Because I'm lousy at steering, I'd often leave the trail, crashing mightily into briars, brambles, fallen and standing trees. After ten minutes of profanity, when I was freed from skis and poles, back on the trail, and again connected to skis and poles, I'd look back at the large, messy impression I had made in the snow.

I'd remember how Sally, better on skis than her first husband also, would look at a spot where he'd fallen, and say sweetly, "Oh, look. A bear slept here!" I'd cringe, knowing that if she saw this spot, she'd say sweetly, "Oh look, a pack of wolves and two grizzlies took down a woolly mammoth here!"

You know, I'm getting kind of tired of skiing. I can hardly wait until the snow is gone. I can hardly wait until I'm on the road on a bike, warm air streaming by. Neither can a nation of insects.



FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

Try A Tandem ? – Turn a Wrench ?

I have a couple of these rascals that TCBA Members are welcome to take on tour this year – both are road touring styles, one with a rear mixte frame triangle – I'm interested in bartering "my bike for your labor" in helping recycle bikes for our community's kids & adults via The Kids Repair Program & Share A Bike, (that TCBA & The DALMAC Fund have assisted over the years)... Contact Pat Harrington at 517-322-0899 or pathemail@yahoo.com (Canoes & Kayaks are also available)...

Quiet Water Symposium Report

Despite a snowy blustery day, about 900 people attended the Quiet Water Symposium at the MSU Pavilion on Saturday, March 3 this year. TCBA owes special thanks to Steve Schuesler, Jan Koller, Jamie Allman, Ken Hendrick, Lenny Provencher, and Ed Noonan, the six TCBA members who staffed the TCBA booth and talked to hundreds of attendees. Bicycling was represented there this year by TCBA, LMB, the MSU Bike Project and the Towsley/Collins family. TCBA members Shawn Towsley and the rest of her family (four generations) presented slides of their bicycle trip across America. In addition to the usual water sports exhibits, there were quite a few booths devoted to the environment. Clearly, the event has evolved away from focusing on water sports, but even where that's the focus, we fit in. As one QWS leader put it, "don't all TCBA's multi-day tours go near the water?"

Though I did not keep a head count, the TCBA booth handed out a hefty pile of DALMAC apps, Chainwheel Chatters and membership apps. Three attendees completed membership applications and paid their TCBA membership dues. Bicyclists that I talked to at the TCBA booth came to QWS from as far as Gulais River, Ontario, Hessel, Hastings, Birmingham and Grand Rapids. A huge percentage of the folks who attended appeared to be baby-boomers, many of whom expressed interest in taking up bicycling now that they're experiencing difficulty with impact sports like running. I'm certain that we planted seeds in those minds and that they'll be joining us on the road. Similarly, I encourage cyclists to take up canoeing and kayaking for upper-body conditioning.

Ed Noonan

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 12th the Michigan Recumbent and Tandem Rally East will be held in the southwest Detroit area. New this year will be the addition of tandem bicycles at the Rally East, with the event being cosponsored by the Program To Educate All Cyclists (www.bikeprogram.org), a group that teaches disabled people to ride bicycles, often on tandems. PEAC is hoping that people will attend the May 12th event and volunteer with the organization. This May rally will be followed by the Michigan Recumbent Rally Central near Lansing on June 30th and on July 14th the Michigan Recumbent Rally West at Kentwood (Grand Rapids area).

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 on the rallies, the Wolver-Bents, or recumbents in general, visit the Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists website at www.wolverbents.org, e-mail 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 its annual rally on June 23rd and 24th at Waterford, Michigan (northern Detroit suburbs). For more information on the MHPVA event, visit www.mhpva.org or contact Wally Kiehler at 313.884-0109 or WKiehler@Comcast.Net

May 19 - 4th Annual Farm Daze Tour

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Farm Daze Tour featuring indoor registration, hot showers and a hot lunch. There will again be 25, 50, 75 and 100 kilometer routes. A registration form is available at:

[http://www.bikes.msu.edu/events_news/farm-daze-07/Application 2007.doc](http://www.bikes.msu.edu/events_news/farm-daze-07/Application%202007.doc)

This is a fund-raiser for both MSU Bikes and the MSU Cycling Club.



FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

(continued)

Ride of Silence

Hello Tri-County Bicycle Association,

Please join thousands of cyclists worldwide in the Wed. May 16th 2007 Ride of Silence, the ride that honors cyclists who've been injured or killed by motorists while riding, and who's goal is to help educate motorists and the public that we as cyclists have the same rights and follow the same rules, to please Share the Road with us. The 2007 Ride of Silence will start globally on Wed. May 16th, at 7:00 PM in the northern hemisphere. Rides in the southern hemisphere will take place on Sat. May 19th at 10 AM, for rider safety, and greater visibility to the public and media. Sydney, Bendigo and Melbourne Australia have already confirmed. As of Mar. 21st, there are 150 confirmed locations on our website for this years Ride, in 5 countries, on 4 continents, with the list growing daily and will continue to grow up until the day of the Ride. We expect to exceed the 250 locations last year, hoping we'll have over 300, again making this logistically the largest sporting event of it's kind. (though not in effect a sports event, but a silent procession)

In the Lansing area, you'll have two locations to choose from:

In Haslett, from the Haslett Middle School, which is being organized by TCBA member Lenny Provencher.

In E. Lansing, from MSU Campus (exact location is still being worked out) by Tim Potter of the MSU Bikes Service Center.

I'd personally like to thank both Lenny and Tim for organizing these.

Michigan will be well represented this year. We may again be the #1 location in the world, thanks to the support and dedication of all our cyclists statewide who are organizing Rides in their location, who fully understand the importance of the Ride of Silence. The Ride of Silence website currently lists 12 MI locations, though it's above 20, as a number of new locations have recently joined and not posted their information on line yet. Plus I'm hopeful a few more locations will join in the next couple of weeks.

MI CONFIRMED RIDES OF SILENCE FOR 2007

(* new for 2007) Supporting Clubs and Shops

Adrian MI, behind Crosswell theater in the city lot

Ann Arbor MI, Ann Arbor Bicycle & Touring Society,

Intersection of 4th St. and Depot St

Battle Creek MI, Battle Creek Bicycle Club, from

Getaway Sports, located at 636 Capital Ave

Bay City MI, Tri-City Cyclists, Bicycle Headquarters Inc,

start location to be determined – Tentative

Big Rapids MI, Big Rapids Bike Club, start location TBD

Boyer City MI, North Country Bicycle Club, from

Veterans Park

Detroit MI, Team Comcast,(and multiple Detroit area

clubs) from Belle Isle, fountain area

***East Lansing MI**, MSU Bikes Service Center, from MSU

Campus

Grand Rapids MI, Rapid Wheelmen, from Riverside Park

on Monroe

Grattan MI, at Grattan Wed. Races Series, Racers riding 1

slow lap in Silence

Haslett MI, Tri-County Bicycle Assoc., from Haslett

Middle School

***Holland MI**, Macatawa Cycling Club, start location to be

determined

Houghton MI, Cross Country Sports, from Michigan Tech

MUB center

Jackson MI, Cascades Cycling Club, start location to be

determined

Kalamazoo MI, The Chain Gang, from W. Michigan

University parking lot # 10

Lennon MI, Genessee Wanderers Bicycle Club (Flint

area), from OK Ind. parking lot, corner of Oak St &

Lennon Rd

***Marquette MI**, Kitchi-Mi-Kana Bike Club, Quick Stop

Bicycle, start location to be determined

Menominee MI, Cycle Path Bike Shop Spokes & Folks,

start location to be determined

Midland MI, Tri-City Cyclists, Midland Civic Arena on

Fast Ice Dr

***St. Joseph MI**, Cycle Fitness, start location to be

determined

Saulte St Marie MI, Pro Sports, Soo Bike Club, from Pro

Sport

***Spring Lake MI**, (Muskegon area) West Michigan Coast

Riders, start location to be determined

Westland MI, (Dearborn-Livonia area) Team Tree Farm,

from Nankin Mills Pavilion, Hines Dr

Refer to the Ride of Silence website for specific details for each location: www.rideofsilence.org.

Again please join us in honoring our friends who can no longer ride with us, and in making the road safer for all cyclists.

And please let all your cycling friends know about the Ride.

Sincerely,
Mark Hagar

FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

(continued)

Help Save Lake Lansing Park Ski and Hiking Trails

*Reprinted from: Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council Monthly
E-Newsletter April & May 2007*

If you have ever experienced the wonder of the blue and orange trails at Lake Lansing Park, you know what a gem these trails are for Mid-Michigan. Sadly, this land may soon be turned into a private residential development by the owner of the land, Roger Drobney of HDI builders. Ingham County Parks was unable to purchase when Lake Lansing Park was created, and Mr. Drobney has generously allowed public access to the land and trails for many years.

HDI recently applied to Meridian Township to "up-zone" the land (to allow 140 homes on the lot instead of 40, under the current rural-residential zoning), and provided a land plan for development.

If you feel strongly about preserving this natural beauty for public access, consider writing or calling Roger Drobney asking that he explore selling or donating the land to Meridian Township or Ingham County Parks rather than turn the land into private residences. Roger Drobney: 1775 Noble Road, Williamston, MI 48895, 517-655-3568.

Smart Commute Classes, Competition, and other Events

*Reprinted from: Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council Monthly
E-Newsletter April & May 2007*

Get ready for Smart Commute '07! The schedule for this year's program is: bike commuting classes from May 5-12, company challenge from May 14-25, and awards ceremony during the week of May 28. Stay tuned for the date of the kick-off festival (mid-May), and registration forms for classes and competition. This year's program will again include T-shirt give-aways, a new Guide To Smart Commuting in the Capital Area, and other great prizes and incentives. For additional information contact: Jessica Yorke, email: yorke446@cs.com; phone: 517-214-5684.

Why Are Bike Lanes So Great?

*Reprinted from: Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council Monthly
E-Newsletter April & May 2007*

As Mid-MEAC and other groups work to create a network of bike-lanes in the tri-county area, we have learned that there are a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings about the purpose and benefits of bike lanes.

For example, you probably didn't know that a signed and striped bike lane is statistically THE SAFEST place to bicycle--- far safer than cycling on the sidewalk! The Jackson Fitness Council has put together an excellent website with this information, which we urge you to browse at: www.fitnesscouncil.org/supportbikelanes.htm. We like this approach to building support for bike lanes so well, that Mid-MEAC will soon have a similar "log your support" section on our website. Stay tuned for updates!

The New Bike

By: Ron Truax

No, this isn't an article about what's new in the market, and no, I don't have a new bike ordered and on the way. But I have come into possession of, and am working on, a bike that's new to me while being far from it. Hopefully, when I'm finished, it's going to look the part. It arrived from a friend that didn't have the heart to put it to the curb, and hoped I could find it a new home.

Let's just say, I picked up an old but solid quality frame set. It was originally built as a mountain bike back in the late 80's, early 90's, and came with nothing but a lone headset. Well, I'm not into mountain bikes, so my mind was toying with the idea of building a touring bike with 26-inch wheels. What would I have to lose?

Over the years I've collected a lot of miscellaneous parts, but not nearly enough to build this into a completely finished bike. So for a time it looked as though this old frame was headed for the curb at my house in time for the trash pickup.

Wrong! A puppy with big watery, brown eyes couldn't have gotten to me more. So I've been taking inventory of everything I have, and from there, I've been on the phone trying to fill-in the *gray* areas.

Backing up a bit, I first checked the frame for alignment. It looked fine, but a string and steel ruler would remove any doubts. If the frame wasn't right, it all ended there. But it fell within the manufacturer's specs and with a couple of tweaks, it's now perfect.

All the parts needed are coming together. They're coming together as I sit here. But the priority right now has gravitated to its "appearance." It's red, a nice shade of red, but to put it mildly, it has seen better days. It looks as though everything in the universe has either been hung up on or propped up against it. Something needed to be done; hence, more decisions.

Jumping forward now, I found a place and made a decision. I found Exotic Coatings in Romulus, MI, and decided to let them handle the refinishing. For \$160 they stripped and gave it a two-step application of powder coating. First came the coating of color, brilliant red, followed by a coating of high-gloss clear. I ended up with two really durable coats to decorate and protect the frame, it looks great, but that's just my opinion. Oh yah! And everyone else that's seen it so far.

I'm still waiting for some of those pesky, missing parts, but progress is moving forward. It's also helped me to keep one thing in mind it ain't rocket science and it sure ain't brain surgery.

If this project comes together and I get it wrapped up, I'll give you a progress report. I guess you could call it a *bike report*. The pressure is on now.