

Chainwheel Chatter



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

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March 2008

NEXT Meeting

March 27—7:00 p.m.
Foster Community Center
200 N. Foster St., Lansing

Tom Maleck

Tom Maleck is a professor and traffic engineer at Michigan State University. He will discuss the upcoming closure of Farm Lane in East Lansing. Additionally, he will provide information on the extensive bike lane system that is being built throughout the Michigan State University campus.

Cycle Forum

Plan to join Alan Huber at **6:00 p.m.**, immediately preceding the membership meeting on **Thursday, March 27, 2008.**

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 e-mail to membership@biketcba.org.

Register Now!

Northwest Tour
June 18-22, 2008



The Second Annual TCBA Northwest Tour will again feature the convenience of a single camping location in the beautiful Leelanau area west of Traverse City. The Sleepy Bear Campground will be our home for the duration of the tour. For an application form, visit www.biketcba.org. Direct questions to (517) 882-3700, ext. 3, or NWTour@biketcba.org.

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2008, 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.

Newsletter/Ride Calendar Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, April 11, 2008. Please send items to Andrea Rybicki, 307 S. Fairview, Lansing, MI 48912, fax to 1-800-480-1146 or e-mail to chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org.

Ride calendar information should be sent to Ed Usewick, 590 Boutell Dr., Grand Blanc, MI 48439 or e-mailed to rideschedule@biketcba.org. To be included in the newsletter, this information must be received no later than the above-mentioned newsletter deadline.

2008 Incentive Awards

Level 1—Lightweight riding jacket with sleeves that zip off to convert to a vest

Level 2—Messenger bag

Level 3—Lighting system for bicycle (front and back)

Level 4—Seat bag for bicycle

Level 5—Mesh hat

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

Foster Community Center—Lansing
January 8, 2008

Board members present included Joe Adams, Sue Viele, Linda Antinori, Al Simons, Kris Stairs, and Herb Drake. Also present were club members Lee Adair, Katie Donnelly, Lenny Provencher, Tom Hardenbergh, Ken Hendricks, Steve Schuesler, Andrea Rybicki, Ed Noonan and Cheryl and Ron Claflin.

Reports

1. **President's Report:** Joe Adams announced that he would be in Florida for the next two months and that in his absence Sue Viele, vice president, would chair meetings.
2. **Minutes/Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the December meeting were presented for review by secretary, Linda Antinori. Grammatical changes to the minutes were suggested and made. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sue Viele, was seconded by Kris Stairs and carried unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Dick Sulin, treasurer, submitted a financial report through November. After discussion, it was decided to table approval of the financial statements until December's bank records became available for inclusion in the financial statement.

Dick presented the 2008 budget for review. After discussion of the events budgets, it was decided that averaging each event's budget over a specified number of years would result in more accurate figures. Approval of the budget was tabled until the next Board meeting.

4. **Ride Program Committee:** Kris Stairs reported that the incentive award letters were almost ready to mail out and that she would have samples of the clothing items for members to try on at the next Club meeting.
5. **DALMAC:** Al Simons, events director, announced that the new DALMAC Box is P.O. Box 24216, Lansing, MI 48909-4216. The DALMAC kick-off meeting is at 7 p.m., February 13 in Room 213 of the Foster Center. The routes still need a little adjusting.

Ken Hendricks, DALMAC Treasurer, presented financial statements for DALMAC 2007.

6. **Northwest Tour:** Dick Sulin reported everything looks good for the tour and the crews are set.
7. **Chainwheel Chatter:** Andrea Rybicki, editor, reported that the newsletter was taking up more of her time than she anticipated. Board members encouraged her to stay on as editor and Herb Drake, board member at-large, volunteered to help her with the project.
8. **Web Site:** Ed Noonan, webmaster, announced that the TCBA Web site had been updated.
9. **Summer Tour:** Lee Adair reported that Larry Tobias of Hot Prospects promised to have the Tour applications to members by February 1.

New Business

- **Computer and Printer for Treasurer**—A motion to approve \$800 for a new computer, printer and software for the use by the club treasurer was made by Joe Adams, seconded by Al Simons, and carried unanimously.
- **Mail Policy**—After Board discussion, a motion was made by Dick Sulin to amend the Board privacy policy to allow promotional mailings to be decided on an individual case basis with Board approval. Sue Viele seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Al Simons to approve Hot Prospects to do a one-time promotional mailing for Denny's Central Park Bike's Pre-Season Sale. Dick Sulin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with Al Simons abstaining.

Approval was given to Dick Sulin to get his own key to the Club P.O. Box.

- **Membership List**—Andrea Rybicki needs the membership list to ensure the *Chainwheel Chatter* mailing list is accurate, as does Dick Sulin. Board members are also entitled to a copy of the list. Sue Viele is to talk to Nancy Johnson, membership director about the matter.
- **DALMAC Fund**—Tom Hardenbergh proposed changing the DALMAC grant to one large award per year instead of several smaller ones. This would entail reducing the dollar amount of the 2008 grants to allow carry over to fund the 2009 grant. The philosophy behind the proposed change is that we could do more good with one large grant to a group working on a project. Tom was instructed to e-mail a proposal to Board members before the next Board meeting.
- **Public Comments**—Public comments are not to be used by club members to introduce new business. If they have business to be discussed at Board meetings procedure is to contact a Board member by phone or e-mail to have the item added to the agenda.

**Congratulations to the
2007 TCBA Ride Leader of the Year
Katie Donnelly!**

Bike Safety Poster Contest

TCBA is sponsoring its fifth bicycle safety poster contest, open to Clinton, Eaton and Ingham County students in Grades 3 and 5. Entries are limited to 10 per grade level per school and must be submitted through the school. Home-schooled student entries will be accepted individually. Only one poster may be entered per student.

Posters will be judged on creativity, expression of the theme **“I’m a smart and safe cyclist,”** and consistency with instructions. There will be three cash winners per grade level, and schools of first-place winners for each grade will also receive cash awards. In addition, first-place winners will win gift certificates to bicycle shops near their homes, while all winners will receive one-year family TCBA memberships.

Formal rules and entry instruction information is available on the club Web site, www.biketcba.org. The entry deadline is Friday, March 28.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Buchholz
John Carey
Deb Esneault
Jeffrey Lock
Bonnie Mernitz
Curtis Miller
Ashley Murray
Tina Patrick
Faith Reed
Sue Ritter
Erick Shepard
Debrah Villegas

From the TCBA Mailbag



LAGBRAU V

The Legacy Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Utah, LAGBRAU V, is scheduled for September 2008. The 3-day and 10-day options will start on Thursday, September 4. The 7-day option will start on Sunday, September 7, in Blanding, Utah, where the 10-day group will meet

up with the 7-day group for the opening ceremony on Saturday, September 6. Visit www.lagbrau.com for more information.

2008 LifeRide

Please join us in the annual Liferide on June 14. This is a great way for riders of all skill levels to enjoy a great ride for a great cause. The ride benefits the Lansing Area AIDS Network to support prevention and care of HIV locally. There will be several routes from 15 to 80 miles, and riders enjoy meals and fantastic sag support. Please e-mail mboudreau@laanonline.org or call (517) 394-3719, ext 12 for more information.

***Special Thanks to Dave Smith of Smith
Printing in Owosso for donating the 2008
Ride Mileage Charts***

Lucky Sevens

Rick Oberle

Sometime during my ride on the Fourth of July, it occurred to me that I would turn my odometer to 7,777.7 on July 7 – or 7/7/7. Spending the week near all the casinos of Northern Michigan must have tuned me into this luckiest of all days. All sorts of ways to increase my “7 count” wandered through my mind, none very exciting. Within a few miles, I met a pal and we began to fabricate more 7s together.

I mused, “Gee, if I were 52, 5 plus 2 would be another 7. But that won’t happen for another 2.1 seven-day periods.” Even though this was a long ride with nothing but the hills near Torch Lake to distract us, we weren’t coming up with any more 7s. It was embarrassing. Good thing we weren’t playing the puzzler. Perhaps the fortunes of the nation would be even greater if the founding fathers had gathered a year and a few days later on 7/7/1777.

This was not my first pondering of strings of identical digits. The coolest coincidence of numbers was in Japan in November 2000. Sitting in the Shinagawa Prince Hotel, I realized there would be an entire decade where every year had a straight shot of the same numbers. How cool would that be? I could hardly wait! The very next day, 11/11, the *Japan Times* reported that the rail system had a momentary blackout as hordes of people rushed to purchase tickets at 11:11 on 11/11/11. Japan uses two “year” formats—the same one we use and also the year of the Emperor, which happened to be the eleventh in 2000.

Due to the 96 miles of the fourth, I took the next day off. Out on those hills, it looked like I would have about 60 miles to spare enough for two easy 25-mile rides before “the day.” The morning of the sixth, I mounted and looked down in horror and did the math to discover that I didn’t have enough “spare” miles for two 25-mile rides. I only had enough for ONE 30-mile ride. What had gone through that abacus of a brain of mine?

During that ride, all I could think of was sevens. The energy was so intense that I wondered how I could harness it to mow grass, leaving me even more time to ride. Would tomorrow be a lucky day or would my fortunes go contrary to the numbers?

All I can say is that this was a great ride. The biggest stroke of luck occurred on Mancelona Road, a wide-open county road that carries a lot of rednecks in pickups festooned with gun racks, lumber trucks, and vacationers with trailers of all dimensions behind every sort of vehicle. Since those fudgies don’t usually tow anything, they often don’t realize how little room their toys afford the cyclist on the road’s white stripe.

A long winding section rises to the weather station high above Gaylord. This mile is especially hazardous as passing is often done, regardless of what unseen conveyance might be hurtling toward us from behind the bend ahead. (Drivers must be thinking, “It’s just a little bicycle. Surely it will get out of my way.”) I am not allowed to gloat about my many near-misses, but I could see another in the making—a fully-laden garbage truck! At that moment, a huge kaboom went off and the truck limped onto the comfort of the road’s soft shoulder a hundred yards behind me. “A guy doesn’t get any luckier than this,” I

thought with a wry smile of relief. When I leaned the bike against the house, I was at 7773.7. Only one digit to go!

Saturday, the seventh dawned and I awoke shortly before 7 a.m. It was sunny and calm although strong westerly winds were predicted. This was to be another 100 mile ride. DALMAC and its back-to-back-to-back-to-back centuries is coming! About 77 calories into the ride, I reached the top of a .7 degree rise to behold all sevens. It was a glorious, but short-lived sight. This is the third time this odometer has had all sevens, but for some reason, I don’t recall even noticing any of the others. I can only wonder what the numbers were on 6/6/06.

Sometimes on a long ride, I will play odometer poker either with myself or anybody who will be a fool with me. 7777.7 is all sevens to be beaten only by all 8s, 9s and the ultimate of them all, all 0s. You win two hands in a row as 9999.9 yields to 0000.0. Those zeros that come with a new battery don’t count. The numbers on the big odometer count more than those on the trip meter, but there is more action on the smaller counter, especially on a Cateye that measures hundredths of a mile. I rather preferred playing on the original Avocets of the early ‘80s since the digits were larger and you could actually see them change.

The alert reader will have noted that a lot more was going to happen on this ride. My goal was to be home by 2:30 p.m. The legs were feeling good so I thought I would tempt fate and take a route I had never traveled before. This was a small gamble since the few extra miles would take me north, with the wind, to the top of Torch Lake where I could go the entire distance back south sheltered by the trees that line that bluest of lakes. Heading back to the east, I climbed the hill taking me away from Torch and toward Bellaire. The legs were still feeling fine but the fuel in their tank was of noticeably thinner octane. Other than the water refill in Central Lake, there had been no stops until mile 65.

After a quick break, I was back on the road only to be nearly swept into the ditch by a right-turning vacationer towing a party barge. Fortunately, my expletives prompted him to halt his turn and I passed in front of his stopped-but-still-turning SUV with a glare that might have melted cheese in another situation.

That was to be the end of my misadventures. Now it was back to the hills and the miles ahead. The stop had given my propellers time to ponder their fatigue and they didn’t seem to be interested in recovering. This could be a long ride with a lot of long hills, one of them a mile long. But the wind was at my back. Flags were flying everywhere and the stiff breeze made them form sevens on their masts. If I couldn’t think about the triumph of a great ride, the least I could do was ponder the luck that all these sevens would bestow upon me.

I arrived home an hour later than projected, as battered as I had ever been by any century. My final mileage was 107.7 and my average 17.7. Those were sevens I had not even contemplated—total bonus points! I celebrated with a 7-Up.

The final coup de grace came as I was putting my bike away. Glancing at the downtube, it was, after all these years, I finally understood why, on a scale of 1 to 10, that I ride a Seven. And if anybody was playing mileage poker with me the day after, they would have had to beat a natural straight on the big odometer: 7-8-9-1.0.

March 2008 Ride Calendar

Date	Time	Miles	Class	Start Location	Other Information	Ride Leader
Tuesdays	6:00 p.m.	10-18	C	Oneida Gospel Church	Roads must be dry and temperature at least 32 degrees; no ride March 4	Dennis Stinson (517) 543-9432
Thursdays	6:00 p.m.	10-18	C	Oneida Gospel Church	Roads must be dry and temperature at least 32 degrees; no rides March 6 or March 27	Dennis Stinson (517) 543-9432
Saturdays	8:30 a.m.	40-48	Z	Sawdon School	Roads must be dry	Dennis Stinson (517) 543-9432

Ride Starting Point Descriptions

- **Oneida Gospel Church**, Corner of Oneida and Strange Hwy, Grand 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
 Z* Over 40 miles at 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 March 2008

Date	Rise	Set	Date	Rise	Set
1	7:13	6:28	17	7:46	7:48
2	7:12	6:30	18	7:44	7:49
3	7:10	6:31	19	7:43	7:50
4	7:08	6:32	20	7:41	7:51
5	7:07	6:33	21	7:39	7:52
6	7:05	6:35	22	7:37	7:53
7	7:03	6:36	23	7:35	7:55
8	7:02	6:37	24	7:34	7:56
9*	8:00	7:38	25	7:32	7:57
10	7:58	7:39	26	7:30	7:58
11	7:56	7:41	27	7:28	7:59
12	7:55	7:42	28	7:27	8:00
13	7:53	7:43	29	7:25	8:01
14	7:51	7:44	30	7:23	8:03
15	7:50	7:45	31	7:21	8:04
16	7:48	7:46			

*Daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m.

FOR MORE RIDES

Call (517) 882-3700 or visit the Web site at www.biketcba.org. Check this number for updates and changes to rides listed here. To receive the Ride Line Transcript by e-mail, send your request to donnel13@msu.edu.

Helmets are required on all TCBA rides.

CLASSIFIEDS

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 e-mail to chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org, fax to 1-800-480-1146 or mail to Andrea Rybicki, 307 S. Fairview, Lansing, MI 48912.

MEMBER SPECIALS

PERSONAL TRAINING—Benefit from bicycling-oriented fitness training with Audrey Morris, Personal Trainer. Focus is on a progressive training program that strengthens the core and other muscles key to biking or to meet your other goals, as well as flexibility and aerobic elements. Design your program with me from one-session orientations to ongoing training sessions. Gift certificates available. Contact me at (517) 712-4678 or AGMorris@SBCglobal.net.

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Reasonable prices. Custom fit.

Gift certificates.

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