

TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE  
ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 22146  
LANSING, MI 48909  
(517) 882-3700  
www.biketcba.org

# Chainwheel Chatter

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MEETING	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTER & TOPIC
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	March 31, 2011 7:00 p.m.	Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster St., Lansing, MI	<b>NANCY KRUPAIRZ</b> Will speak on the progressive efforts of the Michigan Trail & Greenways.
<b>CYCLE FORUM</b>	March 31, 2011 6:00 p.m.	Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster St., Lansing, MI	<b>ALLAN HUBER</b> Come in and join the discussion on the topic of interest.
<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	March 1, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Foster Community Center 200 N. Foster St. Lansing, MI	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, please contact the President one week prior to the meeting and ask to have it added to the agenda.



## DEADLINES

### NEWSLETTER MARCH 11

Please send items to Janet Weber, 767 Linden Street, Charlotte, MI 48813 or send your e-mail to [chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org) by the indicated deadline.

### RIDE CALENDAR MARCH 9

Information for the ride calendar needs to be sent to Ed Usewick, 590 Boutell Drive, Grand Blanc, MI 48439 or e-mailed to [rideschedule@biketcba.org](mailto:rideschedule@biketcba.org). So we can include this information in the next newsletter, please note the indicated deadline. Furthermore, please be sure to use the electronic tools to register rides. Please ensure you include critical information such as ride times, mileage, location, and ride leader name and telephone number.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANNUAL TCBA PICNIC:** This year's picnic will be at Potter Park on Sunday, June 26, 2011 from Noon to ????. More information will be forthcoming so mark your calendars.



**MINUTES OF THE TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Foster Community Center - Lansing  
January 4, 2011**

Board members present included Ray Bailey, Steve Leiby, Patricia Trudgen, Linda Antinori, Kris Stairs, and Dean Brailey. Vice- President Ray Bailey presided over the meeting in President Roger Nelson's absence. Also present were club members Katie Donnelly, Lenny Provencher, Wendell Proudfoot, Ken Hendricks, and Janet Weber.

Vice-President Ray Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Linda Antinori made a motion to accept inclusion of the presentation of the DALMAC Financial Reports and change of the DALMAC PO box number to the Agenda. Dean Brailey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Reports:**

1. **President's Report:** Ray Bailey reported that President Roger Nelson had contacted him about further discussion on establishing a bicycling advocacy position within TCBA. Steve Leiby has volunteered be the advocacy person for the TCBA. Lenny Provencher mentioned that the Mid-Michigan Alternative Transportation Committee meets once a month on Tuesdays. The matter was tabled until next month for further discussion. Roger is also interested in establishing a publicity campaign to promote TCBA. Dean Brailey knows someone who may be interested in working on this.
2. **Secretary's Report:** Linda Antinori presented December's Minutes for approval. Dean Brailey made a motion to accept the Minutes with corrections, Pat Trudgen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Leiby presented December's Financial Statements to the Board for approval. Ray Bailey made a motion to accept the Financial Report, Dean Brailey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Board discussed opening an account at Lake Trust Credit Union and changing the type of financial reports presented to the Board. It was agreed that in the future the Treasurer would only present the checking account register, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Detail, and a reworked version of Profit and Loss Budget Overview to the Board.
4. **Events Director:** Patricia Trudgen reported that they are looking for a new printer for the DALMAC application books since INCO's is no longer in business. The application should be available on-line by February 14 and in the mail. She has set up an appointment with TCBA's lawyer on drafting a new minor waiver to keep us in compliance with changes in the law. Ride insurance will available on-line through and independent link.
5. **Membership:** Dean Brailey reported that he and Wendell have a date to go to Ann Arbor to meet with the software developers to see what they can do for us and what the cost would be for a new membership database.
6. **Summer Tour:** Pete Derkos reported that Summer Tour will be starting in Petoskey and participants will be staying two nights at Aloha State Park and two nights at Wilderness State Park before returning to Petoskey. The dates are July 13 through July 17.

**Old Business:**

- Kris Stairs will have the approved Board Protocol to members by our next meeting.
- We are waiting to hear from Dick Sulin on campground changes for Northwest Tour.
- Linda Antinori is to call Edie Belcher to check about the need for port-a-johns for Wednesday night rides out of Alaeidon Township.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

**Board Minutes continued from page 2**

- The matter of use of the DALMAC logo by Nancy Krupriarz is tabled until next month for further clarification.

***New Business:***

- Ken Hendricks presented the DALMAC Financial Statement to the Board. The DALMAC Fund split was \$81,643 and the TCBA split was \$86,943. In 2009 the Board moved to not transfer the DALMAC funds into our account until March to allow the DALMAC Committee the use of these funds as needed for early expenses. This move eliminated the need for the previously retained earnings of \$10,000 that DALMAC held back from the club. Linda Antinori made a motion to return the \$10,000 retained earnings figure to the TCBA accounts from DALMAC, Dean Brailey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The Board discussed the purchase of a new computer for Janet Weber, *Chainwheel Chatter* editor, and the software she would need. The matter was tabled until our next meeting.
- Wendell Proudfoot would like to list the Volunteers of the Year on the web page as a tribute to them. The Board agreed.
- Linda Antinori will email ride leaders of the Northwest Tour, T-Shirt Ride, and WOW asking them to attend our next Board meeting to give us updates on their rides or email their updates in if they can't make the meeting.
- DALMAC has a new mailbox number as the renewal notice for the old one was not received and hence not paid in time.
- The consensus of the Board was to open accounts at Lake Trust Credit Union and change signers on the Independence Bank and MSU Credit Union accounts. Authorized signers Roger Nelson, President (when he returns from Texas), Ray Bailey, Vice President, Steve Leiby, Treasurer, Patricia Trudgen, Events Director, and Ken Hendricks, DALMAC Treasurer.
- Lenny Provencher reported that we had 74 people attend our Christmas party and we had 12 no shows.

Dean Brailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m., Linda Antinori seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

**DALMAC Volunteer Meeting  
Wednesday March 9, 2011  
7:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.  
Foster Center Room 211**

The purpose of this meeting is to have each volunteer complete the necessary forms needed to become a volunteer. If you are part of a crew and are unable to attend, you can contact your Ride Leader for the forms. This is being done to organize our crews and to make sure we have all the necessary paperwork.

## Smart Cycling – Traffic Skills 101 Class

Saturday, May 21, 2011  
MSU Pavilion – Room A

By Bill Savage

A “Smart Cycling – Traffic Skills 101” Class will be held at the MSU Pavilion from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The class will be taught by a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) and other experienced TCBA members.

The course will cover: Safe Riding Practices, Scanning and Signaling, Lane Changing & Positioning, Emergency Maneuvers, Traffic Laws, Knowledge of Bicycles & Bicycle Maintenance.

Approximately four hours will be held in the classroom, and four hours outdoors developing riding skills such as Scanning, Emergency Stopping, Quick Turns, and avoiding obstacles on the road.

The cost of the class is \$25 (with all profits being donated to the “Share a Bike” program. If interested contact Bill Savage at [MSUSavage@aol.com](mailto:MSUSavage@aol.com), Steve Leiby at [leiby2691@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leiby2691@sbcglobal.net) or Dick Janson [dickj@tds.net](mailto:dickj@tds.net).

## TCBA LOSES A SPECIAL SOUL

By Patricia Trudgen, Events Director



Our good friend Donovan Riley passed away on January 17 at Sparrow Hospital following a sudden illness. He is survived by his wife of 33 years and best friend Suzanne.

After retiring from teaching in 2000, Donovan became a member of the Tri-County Bicycle Association. He rode several DALMACs and then became one of our most devoted volunteers. Donovan was a volunteer on all of our tours and sometimes wore several hats on tour. He enjoyed capturing images of ride participants in casual moments and shared his beautiful photos with club members, crew members and our newsletter staff. Most recently Donovan served on the TCBA board, where his tenure was characterized by exceptionally thoughtful consideration of matters under discussion.

As both a DALMAC Route Coordinator and as Events Director, I had the special opportunity to benefit from Donovan’s expertise and counsel. As Route Coordinator, he provided each member of his crew with a “survival kit” that included items to make their jobs easier. He scheduled regular meetings to keep everyone informed. I was impressed and amazed by his organizational and people skills.

Donovan will be missed by the many people he touched at TCBA.

Those desiring, may make contributions to the Richard Mills Scholarship Fund, c/o First Presbyterian Church of Mason, 131 E. Maple Street, Mason, MI 48854 or, the Tri-County Bicycle Association, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909.



## 2011 Michigan Bicycle Summit

The 2011 Michigan Bicycle Summit will be Friday March 25th and Saturday, March 26th, 2011. We will again be hosted by Peckham, Inc. in Lansing. Jim Sayer, Executive Director of *Adventure Cycling*, will be our keynote speaker on Saturday. Gregory Johnson, Chief Operations Officer of MDOT will be our kick off speaker on Friday.

Friday's sessions will offer 6 workshops in addition to lunch and our Kick Off Speaker. The sessions on Friday are designed for engineers, planners and other professionals.

Friday night will again feature our Annual Award Presentations as well as a panel discussion with Jim Sayer (ACA), Gregory Johnson (MDOT), Nancy Krupiarz (MTGA) and Rich Moeller (LMB).

Saturday's sessions will offer 15 workshops in addition to lunch and our Keynote Speaker.

For more information, go to <http://www.lmb.org/index.php/Events/2011-michigan-bicycle-summit.html>.



A  **Friendly Michigan**  
is a \_\_\_\_\_ **Michigan**

- Livable
- Attractive
- Accessible
- Prosperous
- Safe
- Strong
- Healthy
- Sustainable

*Define your Bicycle-Friendly Michigan at the:*

### Michigan Bicycle Summit

March 25 & 26, 2011 - Lansing, MI

Featuring:

-  Jim Sayer - Adventure Cycling Assoc.
-  Gregory Johnson - MDOT
-  21 Workshops

[www.lmb.org](http://www.lmb.org)



### U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT RECALL

#### Snow Bikes Recalled by Tech 4 Kids Due to Fall Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

**Name of Product:** OUTER EDGE Snow Bikes

**Units:** About 2,100

**Manufacturer:** Tech 4 Kids Inc., of Canada

**Hazard:** The front ski can crack or break, causing the snow bike to stop suddenly and posing a fall hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Tech 4 Kids has received three reports of consumers falling off the recalled snow bikes and sustaining injuries as a result of the defective front ski cracking or breaking. Injuries included a cut requiring stitches and a dislocated shoulder.

**Description:** The recall includes OUTER EDGE brand Snow MX-Ski-Doo® and the Snow MX-X Games™ snow bikes. The Snow MX-Ski-Doo snow bike is yellow and black with "Ski-Doo" printed on the steel frame and on the front ski. The Snow MX-X Games snow bike is blue and black with "Snow MX," a skull and swords printed on the steel frame and on the front ski. "OUTER EDGE" is printed on the snow bikes' packaging.

**Sold at:** Costco, sporting goods stores and other retailers nationwide and online at Amazon.com and Walmart.com from September 2010 through January 2011 for about \$150.

**Manufactured in:** China

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled snow bikes and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact Tech 4 Kids toll-free at (866) 287-4761 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit the firm's website at [www.outeredgeindustries.com/safetynotice/](http://www.outeredgeindustries.com/safetynotice/).



## March 2011 Ride Calendar

Recurring Rides; No Ride if Rain, unless noted

DAY/DATE	TIME	MILES	CLASS	START LOCATION	OTHER INFORMATION	RIDE LEADER
<b>MONDAYS STARTING MARCH 14</b>	6:00 P.M.	15-25	B	Oneida Gospel Church	No ride if pavement is wet. No ride March 7.	Steve Hollington 517-256-0550
<b>TUESDAYS STARTING MARCH 15</b>	6:00 P.M.	10-15	C	Oneida Township Hall	No ride March 1 or 8.	Leslie Miyasato 517-927-8953
<b>WEDNESDAYS STARTING MARCH 16</b>	6:00 P.M.	15-25	B	Oneida Gospel Church	No ride if pavement is wet or temperature is below 32° F. No ride March 2 and 9.	Ralph Bednarz 517-321-4790
<b>THURSDAYS STARTING MARCH 17</b>	6:00 P.M.	10-15	C	Oneida Township Hall	No ride March 3 or 10.	Leslie Miyasato 517-927-8953
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	8:30 A.M.	40-45	Z	Sawdon School	No ride if pavement is wet or temperature is below 32°	Ralph Bednarz 517-321-4790

### Ride Starting Point Descriptions

**Oneida Gospel Church**.....Corner of Oneida and  
Strange Hwy, Grand Ledge  
**Oneida Township Hall**.....11041 Oneida Road, 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  
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.

## RIDE OF REMEMBRANCE

By Rebecca Baughan

As the weather turns warm and days lengthen, we turn our thoughts to things bicycling. We may work the year around on various committees, planning club events or maybe we are just club riders. Whatever our involvement with TCBA, our thoughts often turn to remembering our fellow members who have passed away. We have worked hours on end and ridden shoulder to shoulder with club members who have died. And we miss them.

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Bicycle Association has made a provision to hold a Ride of Remembrance every

year on the weekend following Mothers Day.

This year the Ride of Remembrance will be Saturday, May 14. We will meet at noon for a brief time of sharing to be followed by a self-paced ride, not exceeding 30 miles. Start location to be announced in the May *Chainwheel Chatter* and posted on *Ride Line*.

Our club Ride of Remembrance is not to be confused with the Ride of Silence. We are gathering to remember our club members and celebrate how their lives touched ours.

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*.



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



**CHAINLINKS**

The below links are provided as an informational tool to allow our members to get additional information from local bike organizations who offer information, rides, tips, training, or other benefits to TCBA members.

[www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org) Tri-County Bicycle Association

[www.lmb.org](http://www.lmb.org) League of Michigan Bicyclists

[www.bikeleague.com](http://www.bikeleague.com) League of American Bicyclists

[www.bikes.msu.edu](http://www.bikes.msu.edu) Michigan State University (MSU) Bikes

[www.walkbikelansing.com](http://www.walkbikelansing.com) Lansing's Walking and Bicycling Network

[www.capitalareasmartcommute.com](http://www.capitalareasmartcommute.com) Smart Commute Program

[www.midmeac.org](http://www.midmeac.org) Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council

[www.bikems.org](http://www.bikems.org) Various rides throughout the country

[www.mmba.org](http://www.mmba.org) Michigan Mountain Biking Association

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) TCBA is there as a group...check us out!



**Sunrises & Sunsets for March 2011**

DAY	RISE	SET	DAY	RISE	SET
1	7:15 AM	6:26 PM	17	7:48 AM	7:46 PM
2	7:14 AM	6:28 PM	18	7:46 AM	7:47 PM
3	7:12 AM	6:29 PM	19	7:45 AM	7:48 PM
4	7:10 AM	6:30 PM	20	7:43 AM	7:49 PM
5	7:09 AM	6:31 PM	21	7:41 AM	7:50 PM
6	7:07 AM	6:32 PM	22	7:39 AM	7:51 PM
7	7:05 AM	6:34 PM	23	7:38 AM	7:53 PM
8	7:04 AM	6:35 PM	24	7:36 AM	7:54 PM
9	7:02 AM	6:36 PM	25	7:34 AM	7:55 PM
10	7:00 AM	6:37 PM	26	7:32 AM	7:56 PM
11	6:58 AM	6:38 PM	27	7:31 AM	7:57 PM
12	6:57 AM	6:40 PM	28	7:29 AM	7:58 PM
13	7:55 AM	7:41 PM	29	7:27 AM	7:59 PM
14	7:53 AM	7:42 PM	30	7:25 AM	8:01 PM
15	7:52 AM	7:43 PM	31	7:24 AM	8:02 PM
16	7:50 AM	7:44 PM			

“THINK OF Bicycles as rideable art that can just about save THE WORLD.”

~ Grant Petersen

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

The TCBA would like to remind our valued members to please submit your change of address (form is included on the mailed newsletter) whenever you move, or temporarily relocate for lengthy periods of time. We no longer have the post office forward our mailings, such as newsletters, ride notices, etc. To insure you receive your TCBA correspondence, it is imperative you keep us informed on where you want your mail sent. The cost to the club to receive notices of undelivered mailed is starting to add up. In addition, we cannot be responsible if you do not receive an application to a desired ride which fills up due to our inability to provide you an application in time. Thank you for your assistance in resolving the issue from both perspectives. Please notify Dean Brailey of your address change at membership@biketcba.org.

**2011 TCBA RIDE DATES**

**100,000 METRE T-SHIRT RIDE — June 11**

**NORTHWEST TOUR — June 15 — 19**

**SUMMERTOUR — July 13 — 17**

**WOMEN ON WHEELS RIDE — July 23**

**DALMAC — August 31 — September 4**

Applications and additional information can be found at [www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org).

**2011 Ride Incentive Awards**

- Level 1 -- Long sleeve, heavy riding jacket
- Level 2 -- Bicycle pedals
- Level 3 -- Winter gloves and heavy socks
- Level 4 -- Rain jacket
- Level 5 -- Heavy socks



## MMATC IS DOING A GREAT SERVICE FOR OUR FUTURE AND OUR NON-MOTORIZED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

By Pat Harrington

The Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition is actively promoting cycling in the Tri-County area. Many TCBA Members have joined this Google group for previews and action calls toward the planning of our communities non-motorized infrastructure. It's simple to see the outline of the groups purpose and to request being included in the discussion:

Just search Google groups for TCATC – (The previous name “Tri-County” ATC, and/or “Google group search us” at Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition or email Pat Harrington for info: [pathe@mail@yahoo.com](mailto:pathe@mail@yahoo.com),

### The mission statement:

The Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition is a volunteer organization that promotes bicycling, walking and other means of transportation and the policies to facilitate use of these

modes in the Mid-Michigan region. The Coalition believes that active transportation enhances the living environment in our communities.

### Activities:

- Monitoring relevant developments in existing transportation infrastructure, governmental activities, and future planning.
- Advocating the needs of active users to government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and businesses. Key activities would be participating in public hearings and providing support to communities attempting to implement transportation policies that support our mission.
- Publicizing the benefits of active transportation and activities to general and specialized audiences.
- Acting as a watch dog on proposed

governmental activities, such road projects and policy formation.

- Sharing expertise and information resources to coalition members and the broader community.
- Supporting and promoting the activities of local affiliated groups.
- Acting as a forum to discuss and debate active transportation options.
- Encouraging active transportation through special events and services such as valet bike parking, community-organized short walks and bike rides.
- Highlighting transportation “trouble spots” within the region and developing action plans to rectify these situations.

## MARCH 5, 2011 MSU PAVILION/COME TO THE QUIET WATER SYMPOSIUM

By Pat Harrington

An annual event where those who share a love of outdoor, non-motorized recreation come together to share:

- Our Experiences and Adventures in the great outdoors

- The Equipment we build and use
- Our Concerns for our waters and related resources

[www.quietwatersymposium.org](http://www.quietwatersymposium.org)

Program feature / Panel Discussion with representatives of TCBA/ DALMAC, The League of Michigan Bicyclists & MI Trails & Greenways Alliance

10:00 AM: Organized & Supported bicycle Touring for a Great Vacation

## VALET PARKING

By Pat Harrington

Valet Bike Parking simply provides guarded bike parking in the most visible community events to show the efficacy of cycling to the event.

Valet Bike Parking began in our area at the National Folk Festival, through the sponsorship and participation of Tri-County Bicycle Association. The equipment is owned by MSU Bikes. Valet Bike Parking in our community has also enjoyed significant support from The League of Michigan Bicyclists. Since it's inception, Valet Bike Parking provided

significant services for our cycling community.

An example of our planned events in 2011 include: East Lansing Art Festival / The MI Bicycle Summit / Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day / The 2010 BWL Chili Cook-off / Tourist in Your Own Town – Hunter Park Festival with Allen Neighborhood Center / Festival of the Sun / The Great Lakes Folk Festival and many other events

To become informed of events, and to offer your participation – please send an email to: [valetbikeparking@gmail.com](mailto:valetbikeparking@gmail.com) / Contact Persons: “Patman & Robin” – Phone 517-202-0812

So – ride your bikes to these events and look for us – better yet – get on the email list and join in on this active method to promote cycling in our community.



## TOURING THE WHITE PINE TRAIL

By Dave Mordis

On October 2-3, 2010 I took part in my first Tour of the White Pine Trail which is sponsored by the Friends of the White Trail who maintain the 92-mile trail, spanning 92 miles between Grand Rapids and Cadillac. The trail consists of four paved sections, about half the length of the trail, with the rest a hard-packed, two-track. Typically, I ride on the paved portion between Riverside Park in Grand Rapids and Sand Lake. However, during a few DALMAC rides, I have ridden the paved portion between Big Rapids and Reed City.

I completed this tour using my cyclocross bike, which I think is the ideal bike for the ride, but a majority of riders used mountain bikes. The one road bike belonged to TCBA member Jim Steenwyk, from Dorr, who would leave the trail on the non-paved part and take parallel roads to get back to the paved part of the trail.

Saturday morning I woke to a temperature in the 30's with the high slated to be in the low 40's, about 15-20 degrees colder than usual. Therefore, I opted for my winter weight biking clothes and carried my fall stuff on the bike to change into later. I strapped on my backpack that held my evening clothes and change of bike clothes, which would be hauled up for me in the baggage van, as well as putting on some lights. From my house it was only 4 miles to the start of the ride, of which the first third was downhill. It's worth noting that the wind chill going down a long steep hill had to be close to zero which I wasn't ready for this early in the year.

The ride started at 7 a.m. at the Fifth Third Ball Park, along the banks of the Grand River. I rode with Jim and Dennis Hammel, who a few of you met when he replaced me as a SAG on DALMAC two years ago, after my collar bone incident.

After 4 miles, the trail follows the Rogue River with scenic views from 2-3 hundred feet above the river which remind me of Appalachia. As you approach Rockford, you cross the Rogue over the old Railroad Trestle, a scenic dam, and then a pond with several geese and a pair of swans, as well as the old Wolverine World Wide Tannery, which they had started dismantling and will be gone by next year.

By 8:30, we reached the end of the first 16 paved miles at the first rest stop in Sand Lake. It was at this point I found out how well organized the ride was. As I came in, they asked for my rider number, where I was checked off and this was repeated at each stop. After a cup of coffee and some cookies, I took off.

The winds were reportedly 25 -35 mph out of the north and I was beginning to feel it. The heavier bike and lack of smooth rolling surface seemed to balance with Jim having more distance and more wind out in the open

since we would keep running into him at the rest stops and paved portion of the trail.

The start of the brief 1-mile paved portion at Howard City was a welcome site since I knew there was a nice restroom at the trail head there. I briefly considered switching to my fall weight coat, but decided against it. As the weekend turned out, I never did use it until the end.

The next stretch of unpaved trail after Howard City was in good shape considering it tends to be rutted from Amish Buggies and if wet, poses a bit of a challenge. After Morley, there's a bridge over old HWY 131 that I recognized as the Railroad Trestle that we bike under on the Quad Century. I realized a couple miles later that I was biking right behind Morley Stanwood High School which is often where the first night of the Quad is spent. As I was daydreaming about the DALMACs past, an Amish Wagon pulled onto the trail. Dennis had to quickly hit the breaks and swerve to avoid the first horse.

Another couple miles, we hit a flock of 20 turkeys, which may be the same flock we saw near the same spot the next day. The wooded area got pretty thick in that stretch, which provided us a welcome protection from the wind. There was one stretch that opened up enough to afford a view of the Muskegon River in the distance before plunging into the woods, downhill towards the river and into Big Rapids. The stretch of pavement south of town was out in the open and exposed but soon we found ourselves along a pretty stretch along the Muskegon River Rapids where lunch awaited us along the river. The Ruben Sandwich I ordered at registration was mighty tasty.

After remounting, we followed the river a couple miles before crossing it. Another few miles, we came to Paris where there was a fish hatchery and a Mecosta County park along the river where Dennis and I left the trail to see the replica of the Eiffel Tower. It looked like a nice spot for a Summer Tour stay since the trail was still paved and it was a large enough campground; although the bathrooms were locked for the season, so I can't vouch for them being adequate.

When we reached Reed City, there was a marker where the Pere Marquette Trail crossed. I realized I had been there before on DALMAC and hadn't realized that significance of the spot. Rather, it was a point where I was always confused as to where I was to go to stay on the WPT which seemed to be splitting.

We then went through a covered bridge over Hersey Creek and the end of the pavement again. The next stretch was out in the open where we could see Jim off to our left on old 131 until he turned left to go on the other side of the new 2-lane HWY 131, which appeared on our left. We followed it for several miles. This was the least scenic part of the trail. It occurred to me I had driven over there many times, not realizing the trail was right next to

me. I'm sure that stretch is hardly ever ridden so there probably wasn't anyone on the trail when I drove by.

We eventually entered the woods again, passing a pond where Dennis pointed out that a beaver dam, at one point, had washed out the trail. We went under a couple of short tunnels that went under the old highway along that stretch. The last tunnel was before Leroy, where we happily picked up the recently paved trail, as well as another well decked out rest stop. This was another spot where I had ridden before without realizing that the WPT was there. This was also where we met a bicyclist from Traverse City who'd come from Cadillac to check out the new pavement. He passed us with his fresh legs and light road bike, but Dennis and I felt the need to pick up the pace to keep up with him and hence the chat with him.

As we pulled into Cadillac, I realized we were routed off to our hotel before the trail actually ended. It didn't take any arm twisting to talk Jim and Dennis into going to the end before going to the hotel. Although this added a couple miles and a big hill, it was worth it, since in my mind, that was the point of the previous 90 miles.

A lot of people hit the pool and hot tub at the hotel, but I opted to head to the Mexican restaurant next door for an adult beverage and to watch the last half of the Michigan Football game. Eventually, everybody ended up over there. We all had dinner in the banquet room and talked about the routine for leaving the next day.

The next morning we left with frost on the ground and rode in the dark for the first half hour with our lights. Jim somehow got a half mile head start and I never did close the gap to his blinking red light until the first stop. The hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and hot coffee in Leroy were welcome, as was the tail wind, although it was half as strong as what we'd ridden into the previous day.

After another nice lunch in Big Rapids, including hot soup, we took off. At the final rest stop in Howard City, I break out my fall weight jacket and gloves. The final stretch of pavement was welcome to tired legs as well as the fact that it was down hill. As we pulled into Comstock Park, Dennis offered to give me a ride back to my house since it was on his way home. I had to admit I wasn't looking forward to going up hill with my backpack after 190 miles of trail riding, so I whimped out and took the ride.

Looking back at it, it worked out well that I couldn't ride prior to this past year. It would have been a more difficult ride before the 16 miles between Leroy and Cadillac had

**STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 10**



# 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](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org), fax to 1-800-480-1146, or mail to Janet Weber, 767 Linden St., Charlotte, MI 48813.

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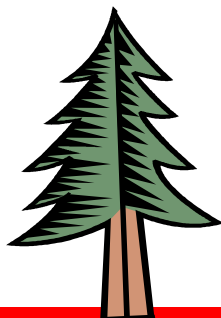
## CLUB JERSEYS

Available for purchase at monthly club meetings. Sizes from XS to XXL cost is \$55 while supply lasts.



## Touring the White Pine Trail Continued from Page 9

been paved. It was very satisfying to finally complete riding the entire trail, and I hope to see more fellow TCBA members on the ride in 2011 when I plan to do the ride again, with a tailwind both days and wearing my summer jerseys. Anyway, I hope that many of you put this ride on your radar since even if you don't have trail bikes; you can still do it as Jim did or in the future when it is fully paved and the start of the ride is only an hour away from Lansing.



**Daylight Savings Time begins March 13, 2011. Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour! More riding time.**

## BIKE MAINTENANCE CLASS @ MSU BIKES

By Tim Potter

We've opened online registration for our upcoming basic bike maintenance classes taught by our experienced staff. There are 2 classes on the following dates with one being for women only (all classes are from 1- 4 pm): Mar. 12 (Women-only), and Mar. 19.

Go to this page to register: <https://noncredit.msu.edu/listSections.action?catalogid=9&offeringid=159>

Non-MSU people can also use this system. Everyone will have to register in the Non-Credit Registration System (unless they've already registered). There are only 6 places per class so bear that in mind. You can bring your own bike or we can provide one for you to work on.

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**Your respect is requested when using any of the numbers on this page. Phone calls during family time and at late hours can be intrusive.**

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