

The Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club Newsletter

November 1997

William Hoehne, Editor

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Board meeting

The next TWBC Board meeting is on Tuesday, November 4, 1997, at the Skyline Village Apartments Recreation Building, 5702 N 33rd St., Tacoma, WA.

The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome. Bring your own food and beverage. Call 759-4464 for directions.

October Meeting A Hit -- November Brings Mountain Biking

by Ernie Stephenson, TWBC Vice-President

If you missed the October Club meeting, you missed a really fun experience! Estelle Gray, a Cascade wheel person and co-owner of R&E Cyclery (among many other accolades) shared some of her experience and wisdom about setting up a road bike properly for those really long rides.

She came with a Stellar, the women's bike she designed that has gained international fame, and shared much of the technology and history that went into its design. And the lady fits into a tux far better than I do!

Members had a good time, with several new and inactive members checking in. Must have been all that great chowY

Next month our club meeting should be just as interesting. The topic will be mountain biking as a winter alternative sport. Gordon Swetland will be our speaker.

Gordon founded the Fort Lewis Cycling Club and presently rides with Single Track Mind. He has more than twelve years of riding under his belt, with eight of it of the mountain variety. He has ridden in Europe and several western states, has done a little racing, but is primarily a serious recreational rider.

Join us on November 18, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. Our meetings are located at the South Park Community Center, 4851 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA. In addition to our program, you will find good food, door prizes, and a chance to visit with other members. Call me at 536-0197 for information.

Bicycles From Heaven

This year TWBC will again help the Clover Park Kiwanis Club gather, fix, and redistribute bicycles. Our club has budgeted money for helmets and repairs. Want to help? Call Kent Wienker, 752-0764, or Lee Fowler from C.P.K.C., 565-8592.

Plans Start For TWBC's Annual Banquet

by Bob Myrick

TWBC's Annual Banquet is once again being planned to start the new year. This occasion continues to be the highlight of the social calendar in Tacoma's cycling circles. People cry to get in and then, some cry to get out.

All club members are cordially invited to this event. Our banquet is buffet style and scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998, at the Tacoma Mountaineer's Club, 2302 North 30th Street, in Old Town Tacoma.

The banquet will start off with visiting and refreshments at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m., and will be catered by either Trattoria Grazie, or by Dean Wilkey, who was the chief chef for catering at the old Grazie's Ristorante.

We will have freshly baked breads, Campagnola salad, Caesar salad, hot and fresh seasonable vegetables, a pasta dish, a chicken dish, and dessert.

After dinner, Louis Boitano will present thoughtful reminders of the past year's riding.

You have a little time left to send in your ride logs to Mary Kubiszewski in order to receive recognition. Janice Jensen will thank our Board members, staff, and all of you volunteers. There will also be a great slide show recalling our 1997 adventures. Contact Steve or Phyllis Lay (759-1816) to submit your best slides. If you know something that someone needs to forget, now is the time to call Louie (922-1168).

Help is needed for the banquet. Dena Wessels has volunteered to decorate the tables. We need someone to work on a theme, design a cake, provide refreshments, help Stan Engle set up the room, clean up, and do similar jobs. Call me at 473-7455 to help.

Meanwhile, send in your reservation form, found on page 7 of this newsletter. Attendance will be limited to the first 96 people to register. I really hope to see you there.

[Banquet registration form](#)

Cyclist's Purgatory?

An opinion by Ernie Stephenson, TWBC Vice-President

Some talk around the club puts Tacoma into a cyclist's purgatory relative to Seattle and Olympia. Events can bear this out. Several of my son's friends were killed during their school years. I was hit two years ago, and members have been injured on club rides, sometimes becoming targets. Not only was the STP course tacked in two places this year, but threatening signs were also displayed. More could be added, even if hostile shouts and hand gestures were excluded.

Why do "they" feel so hostile toward us? Surely some, if not most, motorists rode bicycles at one time or another. Being different and fear answers part of the question. Getting on a bicycle makes us different from a motorist, and this can cause fear of an accident, or just not conforming to a driver's image of a grownup. A cyclist, when driving a car, will identify with another cyclist. A motorist will not. Road rage also enters into this scene.

But for the most part, we are in a big rat race between eighteen-wheel rats, and two-wheeled mice. This is intimidating. (Ever wonder why some people are compelled to drive around an urban area in monster tired four wheel drive trucks?) So where does this leave us tree hugging espresso sippers on two wheeled twenty pound toys? "Somewhere else preferably, but if you are going to be here, take your place at the bottom of this rolling hierarchy and be prepared to receive abuse."

So what do we do? Responding with anger increases reciprocal hostility. A better way is to be willing to educate the motorist. We must all be ambassadors. Every time we are on a saddle we need to be selling cycling. Fitting helmets on kids, answering questions at a rest stop, giving directions to a lost motorist, dealing with an angry driver, or writing editorials, can all help. We can show other people why this is such a wonderful sport.

Purgatory will not change overnight. Logical reasoning is often overcome by raw emotion. One attitude converted at a time does add up, and several hundred club members working together on this simple theme can have a profound response.

Is there a better way to approach this issue as a group?

Ride well, have fun, be careful and sell.



Any Accident Can Ruin The Rest Of The Day

In Memory of Bernie Dixon

The Foothills Coalition is establishing a memorial fund for Bernie Dixon. Bernie was a Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club member who recently died after a short battle with cancer. Bernie was a Foothills Board member and the Secretary who helped in many ways to build the trail. Some members may remember Bernie's help with setting up the Mountaineer's Club House for the TWBC Annual Banquet.

Send contributions for the memorial fund in Bernie's name to P. O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021.

Helmets On Wheels Over 2000 Served!

by Carla Gramlich

Helmets on Wheels recognized all the volunteers and companies that helped to provide over 2000 helmets to families in Pierce County.

Just recently, club members helped fit 69 helmets in Spanaway. The next day, while riding in Sumner, we saw a family of five riding with new helmets purchased the day before. This is a positive example of our helmets being used in the community.

The following volunteers spend many hours helping Helmets on Wheels:

Jan Brame, Steve Brown, Bob Myrick, Bob Vogel, Peggy Fjetland, Karen Forbush, Jim Powell, Jan Wieser, Steve Kubiszewski, Scott Kubiszewski, Mary Kubiszewski, Joy Roelofsz, Joyce Clifford, Doug Jackman, Ralph Wessels, Dena

Wessels, Ernie Stephenson, Dave Tison, Reggie Tison, Janice Jensen, Connie Reitzug, and Mat Reitzug.

Helmets on Wheels will meet in November to start making a schedule for 1998. The goal is to distribute 3000 helmets. Locations will be based on need, funding, and volunteers. If your community wants to be a part of this program, contact me at 253-752-4038.

Government Relations Report

by Bob Myrick, TWBC Director of Community and Government Relations

Our committee met at the North End Juice Bar on Tuesday, October 15, 1997.

LeAnna Waite from the Metropolitan Parks District (Metroparks) explained Metropark's mountain bike program for young people. LeAnna is the Recreation Supervisor for the Outdoor Adventure program.

She is interested in helping to implement the City of Tacoma's Parks and Open Space plan, which calls for some mountain bike use in McKinley Park, the Swan Creek area, and at Point Defiance.

We indicated our full support for allowing reasonable mountain bike use on some existing trails, along with helping develop reasonable rules and regulations. The Outdoor Adventure program reaches 3000 young people each year. Dave Tison will provide LeAnna with contacts at the IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association).

Bob Vogel from Pierce County Public Works presented a new draft version bike map for our review. Ralph Wessels will review the routes on the Gig Harbor peninsula. Kent Wienker will be asked to review Lakewood. Carla Gramlich will review Tacoma, and Janice Jensen will review University Place. Louie Boitano will be asked to review the Puyallup area and I will review the South County area. Janice Jensen asked Bob Vogel to investigate the status of the Puyallup River Bridge on Orville road leading to Lake Kapowsin. The bridge is being replaced

and needs to be available for the Daffodil bike ride in the spring. Otherwise a detour will be necessary.

Carla Gramlich sent out surveys with four topical questions to 34 political candidates. She hopes to get some responses in time for the November newsletter.

Steve Brown has been watching the debate over the congestion problems with the Narrow's Bridge. The Peninsula Neighborhood Association (PNA) made one recommendation that could be adverse to cyclists.

The PNA suggested one sidewalk could be removed to create an additional traffic lane. We all know the existing sidewalks are too narrow already. An additional lane would probably cause both side-walks to be removed. We have continuously asked for a bike path to be incorporated into any new bridge and the Department of Transportation (DOT) has indicated a bikeway would be incorporated in all their designs.

The DOT is almost finished with its interchange improvements on Interstate 5 at Dupont. Some club members are concerned that one at the new on-ramps heading south to Olympia will be a serious hazard to cyclists. There is a retaining wall that may block visibility just before a cyclist would need to move across the on-ramp to the road shoulder.

Pierce County's regional trails plan included a trail from the Nisqually Delta to Point Defiance. We will follow this matter closely and again try to get the various parties to squeeze a trail in between the freeway, railroad and Fort Lewis golf course.

Pierce County's transportation plan also called for a trail between Ponder's Corner and the Tillicum area due to the closure of Woodbrook Road to civilian traffic. We will also pursue this matter.

Since our committee meeting, I took some time to check out a several acre vacant site across Pacific Avenue from Puget Sound Hospital. This site appears to be owned by several governmental agencies, and looks like it would make an

excellent mountain bike park with a possible looped trail incorporating some challenging terrain.

Our next meeting will be at the North End Juice Bar at N 21st and Anderson, Tacoma, WA, on Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. All club members are invited to attend. We will be planning a NowBike legislative conference to be held in Tacoma on Sunday, November 23rd.

Reflective Items

by **Dena Wessels, TWBC Secretary**

Bicyclists can utilize many accessories for higher visibility at night. Items run the gamut shoe and helmet stickers, spoke reflectors, zipper pulls, action bands, and reflective vests and shoelaces. A company called The Reflecory in New York has a lot of these items, offered in quantities starting at 250.

I found an item I would like members to know about. The item is a reflective vest I found in the running section of a catalog from Eastbay out of Wisconsin. This is a catalog company that mainly sells various types of sports shoes (though no bike shoes) at a fairly good price.

Now, this is not the reflective vest that you zip up, does not have arms, and sells for about \$40.00 on sale. It is the type of "slip over the head" vest that has a front, back and Velcro tabs at the sides. It sells for just under \$20.00.

Normally you could pick up one of these vests just about any place, and at a cheaper price. What made me take a closer look at this one is that the material the entire vest is made of appears to be similar to the "illumiNITE" material used in zippered vests. I have only seen the zippered vests in yellow or purple.

These slip over vests come in yellow, blue and black, and made of "Scotchlite reflective materials", a good alternative to the higher priced reflective vests and coats. This would make a great holiday gift.

Insurance Matters

by Bob Myrick

Recently, several questions have been raised with regard to our club insurance, and to your own personal insurance for bicycle related matters.

The club no longer has excess medical insurance coverage for its own members and paying riders in the Daffodil Classic and Peninsula Metric Century. In the past several years such insurance was available through the McKay-Fee agency, but it was not available for club rides this past year. Before that time, insurance was written through The League of American Wheelmen, and the League did not have medical coverage.

Excess medical insurance covered expenses up to \$5000.00, or \$10,000.00 above other coverage that a person might have, such as regular medical or auto insurance.

The club continues to have liability and malfeasance insurance to protect the club and its officers. Liability insurance is required to obtain permits to put on the Daffodil Classic and the PMC. Malfeasance insurance protects the club assets from inappropriate actions of its officers.

For your own protection, you may need personal medical insurance, auto insurance with medical payment coverage, and homeowner's or apartment dweller's insurance. Your medical insurance covers you for most self-inflicted accidents. If you should be hit by a car while walking or cycling, your auto medical coverage will pay for medical expenses, as well as lost wages while you are recovering and while the blame is being determined.

Your standard collision, comprehensive coverage will most likely pay for equipment damage pending recovery from another responsible party.

Homeowner's insurance usually covers bicycle theft and damage, even outside the home.

Recently, I found out that my homeowner's coverage would pay for airline damage beyond the limits available from the airlines. Homeowner's liability coverage should protect you in case your bicycle riding causes an accident. Your auto insurance will not cover your liability except when you are driving your car.

Please feel free to call (473-7455) me if you should have any further questions with regard to our insurance or related bicycle accident matters.

Mini-Minutes

by Dena Wessels, TWBC Secretary

A quorum of Board members met at the usual location on October 7, 1997. The previous minutes were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

President's Report: Janice said that helmet laws are working. Two cyclists, not wearing helmets, were stopped by police and found to have committed other offenses. At the Mary Bridge Puyallup Fair booth, Janice handed out rulers with bicycle safety rules printed on the back to children. She will try to get more rulers for the bike trail patrol.

Vice-President's Report: Ernie said a discount bicycle shop asked him about an after hour 20% discount shopping spree for TWBC members. All items would be available with membership cards shown at entry. Details will be worked out.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance was \$16,588.75. CD account was \$27,475.37.

Editor's Report: Print run will be 400 until next change. New cover is being designed. Need well written articles and good contrast, black and white photographs.

Government Affairs Report: Pierce County has a new bike map and has requested donations. Motion passed to donate \$500.00.

Banquet plans are underway.

An application to reserve the Orting Park for the 1998 Daffodil Classic has been received. If a bridge is out, the route may be changed.

Clubs and the state are considering bicycle road racing regulations.

Special Events: Carla has sent out 34 surveys to candidates running for offices in Pierce County, asking about their level of support for bicycling. She will submit a report.

The Foothills Rails to Trails has two new bridges. One is toward South Prairie near the hatchery, and one is at the trail head in McMillin.

Our 1998 Bike Expo team will be Team Rs Reitzugs and Romaines.

Steve Lay designed the 1998 Daffodil T-shirt. The 1998 PMC still needs a design, by the end of December.

Mary Bridge will have a helmet fitting at the Festival of Trees on December 6, 1997, at the Tacoma Dome.

TWBC welcomes and thanks our new and renewing members:

New Members: Rock & Road Cyclery; Geralyn de Jesus; Sue Hanson; Bob & Jean Leffler; and Margie Monroe. **Renewing Members:** Lonna Cain; Susan Hardie; Jim Henroit; William Hoehne; Foy Leatherman; Peter Lindahl; M. McClellan; Dave Parker; Terry Roseberg; Suzanne Schodlbaur; Maggie Sheppard; and Sue Yerian.

Cycling Ad For Sale:

1991 Cannondale Tandem, 21/19, Suntour components, drum brake, low mileage. Health forces sale.

Asking only \$2300.00, compared to \$4000.00 original price.

Call Bill Barker, 759-4045 or Bob Myrick, 473-7455.