

The Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club Newsletter

January 1998

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January Is Banquet Month

by Bob Myrick

You late people may have a day or two to post mark your banquet reservations by January 5th (the registration form is at the top of page 6 in this newsletter). I know, with the Christmas holidays, some club members forget to register for our most fun and important social event.

Our banquet is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998 at The Tacoma Mountaineer's Club. Visiting is at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is at 7:00 p.m. Remember that dress at the banquet ranges from your cycling clothes to jeans and sweaters to your best evening dress or tuxedo.

Attendance is still limited to the first 96 people to register, due to space limitations. Call me at 473-7455 if you should have any questions.

Inside: The pedals are still being pushed on page 2. Our ride calendar on page 3 includes the Olalla Polar Bear Jump. Will a psychiatrist and Medic I be present? Also note, for the New Year, our new ride codes-simpler and more specific. Page

4 gives us the ride and activity notes with a blurb at the bottom about photographs for our newsletter. Let us really celebrate the New Year with a variety of articles submitted by club members for the newsletter, as well as a rip snorting, blood circulating "letters to the editor" column. On page 5 Ernie tells us of a missed opportunity with a second chance possibility, and Bob keeps us abreast of government relations. Steven Bowman and Debbie Romaine give us something to think about and something to do, respectively, on page 6, and Adventure Cycling gives us "psyched" and a "panic stop" on page 7. Members are reminded of no club meeting in January. Go to the Annual Banquet instead. Board Members will meet on Tuesday, January 6, 1998, at the Skyline Village Apartments Recreation Building, 5702 N 33rd Street, 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.

Pedal Pushin

by Janice Jensen
TWBC President

Happy New Year everyone. Welcome to 1998! As the saying goes, "out with the old and in with the new."

But first, let us recap a little of 1997. If you missed any of the special events we had in December then you lost out on a great month and great things that cannot be done except at this time of the year. The Christmas Party, the Torch Light Parade, the holiday night light rides, and, to keep our wheels in motion, a little inside skating, were all part of the fun.

There are snowshoes and cross country skiing also, not things you can do in summer.

If you did miss out do not fear, 1998 promises to be a great year! We start it off with the social event of the year with the TWBC Annual Banquet. Make sure you send in those reservations now. You do not want to miss this! More skating is

ahead, along with snowshoeing and cross-country skiing (could use a little snow though).

The rest of the year looks great with the Home and Garden Show, Bike Expo, Daffodil Classic, Peninsula Metric Century, Legislative Day, STP, Carless Commute, Helmets on Wheels, and the beat goes on(endlessly. So do not sit around letting everyone else have the fun. Come out and join us. We will find lots or a little for you to do, and plenty of riding too!

Maybe we can talk some of our own mountain biking experts into some Mountain Biking 101 rides for those of us who are new to this sport. So do not wait, dress warm and come on out and play.

Ride safe and have a great year!

TWBC welcomes and thanks the following new and renewing members for December, 1997:

New members: Mike, Jess, and Kris Keeler.

Renewing members: Derryl L. Finney; Ray, Peggy, and Sonja Fjetland; Jean Graves; Steve Mauer; Karla Maynard; Kevin A. Thomas; and Katharine C. Ward.

Big Sale! Come And Gone

by Ernest Stephenson
TWBC Vice-President

Some of you missed the big news! An after hours sale for TWBC members only happened at the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe in Gig Harbor on December 3, 1997.

Everything in the place, bicycle related or otherwise, was marked down 20% for starters (save 1998 bicycles, which were 10%).

Other special deals included: deep winter Pearl Jumi cycling gloves, down 60%; men and women's clothing at 50%; all 1997 bicycles except full suspension mountain bikes were trimmed 25%, and the latter were knocked down 35%; some Klein and all Bontrager bikes were 50%! Trust me, I could go on.

How good were the deals? Well, despite the sparse showing of about twenty people, they cashed in on enough bargains to make Les, the manager, very encouraged. He said he will probably want to do this again, especially when he found out that the announcement did not make it into the newsletter.

At any rate stay tuned. The first member's only sale was such a success it is bound to happen again!

Government Relations Report

by Bob Myrick

TWBC Director of Community and Government Relations

Our committee met at the North End Juice Bar on Tuesday, December 9, 1997. Carla Gramlich, Janice Jensen, and I could tell it was the Christmas season as we sat waiting for other advocates to appear. I had a delicious turkey "wrap" sandwich with tomato pesto wrap for only \$3.50.

Carla reported that 850 helmets were sold at The Festival of Trees on December 6th. Carla decided to stay at The Bar for a community meeting regarding the high traffic speeds on North 21st Street.

Lakewood non-motorized trail plan

Janice and I went on a field trip to Lakewood's City Hall to watch a presentation on the draft parks plan. Non-motorized trails and routes are presented in the plan.

I indicated the trail on Lakeview Avenue ties in somewhat with the City Water Ditch Trail and both trails were part of Tacoma's system in 1890bc. (before cars).

I also indicated we supported a trail on the north side of Interstate 5 and we wished it would extend to the Dupont business park and on to Mounts road.

The old State Game Farm would make a good, small mountain bike area on the upper grass lands if the State fish and wildlife officials would only allow limited bike access in the park. A short paved trail exists, but it is not open to bikes.

Several citizens urged the city to purchase a 25-acre estate surrounding Ward's Lake near S. 84th and I-5. I will be checking out this area soon.

Mr. Worth Gurley, a retired friend of mine from the county transportation plan, made sure that Lakewood's bicycle plan still followed the recommendations made by the citizen's focus group that met before Lakewood became a city.

I would like to follow-up on our past reports.

- The 24 bike lockers at Freighthouse Square are available for \$15.00 for 3-month rentals. Steve Brown is working on providing covered and secure lockers at the Wheelock Library.
- The trail patrol in Orting is a lot of fun because I have discovered it is very easy to rollerblade while holding a high quality "Rubbermaid" push broom.
- Skip Ferruci is sending me forms so that we can adopt Fort Steilacoom Park and the "Oranegate" property near E. 80th Street and 46th Avenue E. "Oranegate" is on Tacoma's pipeline road.
- Phase II of Federal Way's powerline trail is finished. Check it out near the Aquatic Center or near the Federal Way Shopping Center.
- Carla still needs help for our booth at the Tacoma Home and Garden Show from January 28th to February 1st.
- The new Pierce County and Tacoma bike map should be published and available sometime in January. Look for it, possibly at the banquet.
- Our next GAC meeting will be at the North End Juice Bar at N. 21st and Anderson, on Tuesday, January 13, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. All interested club members are invited to attend.

Members Needed For RTAC

by Bob Myrick

I have been a member of the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Regional Trails Advisory Commission (RTAC) for the past six years.

There are now 4 miles paved near Orting and about 2 miles paved at Buckley. Next year, the Foothills Trail will add 3 to 4 miles toward South Prairie, and a 4 mile paved section will be provided near Gig Harbor on the Cushman Power Line trail. The RTAC also provides citizen input to Pierce County's non-motorized plan.

My two, 3 year terms are now completed and I cannot be re-appointed to the RTAC. New people are needed to fill 6 vacancies. If you are interested in this

public service, call me or contact Paula Rius at Pierce County Parks at 253-798-4177 for an application.

I suspect the RTAC will meet on a quarterly basis to provide advice to the staff and the County Council.

Hit Again Down But Not Out

by **Steven Bowman**

I must be riding around Tacoma with a big bullseye on my shirt. This is the second time in three years that an automobile has hit me, and with this out of proportion game of Demo-Derby I lose both times.

The first time was much worse—a shattered Tib-Fib, broken elbow, and a rattled brain. These time just multi-fractures of the same left leg, femur broken in two places, and the Tib Fib in two or three places, finishing with a broken shoulder. Thankfully, no head injuries because of a cool bike helmet. So I am OK, just a little sore.

I must express my feelings that I might be in danger of losing my right to a shared road—to be able to quickly ride across town without fear, the hassle of traffic congestion, and gaining a great workout so I might be able to keep up with the younger guys on Sunday mountain bike excursions.

Furthermore, the idea of driving my truck just because I have this protected shell around me seems such a backward type of thinking. I feel that I should be able to ride my bike for health and well being, not to mention the lack of pollution.

I rode six or seven thousand miles this year with relative safety. I follow the rules of the road with the idea that I will be safer. Visibility must be the problem since this woman who hit me yielded to traffic, but did not see me at all.

Maybe a red neon vest, flashing lights all over the place, and a big air horn will protect my rights as a cyclist. I should not have to (friends do not let friends ride neon), so in conclusion I plead my case of educating motorists and cyclists to share the road with safety.

I also exhort the city to hurry up with signage and bike lanes to make people aware that I and other cyclists will be out there.

In other words there is no way motorists will stop me from my pleasure and right to share the road. I WILL BE BACK!

Bike Expo: We're Looking For A Few Good Volunteers

by Debbie Romaine

It is time again for Puget Sound's big Bike Expo. Dozens of vendors showcase the hottest bikes and gear at the two-day event, which draws thousands of visitors to the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall. The Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club will once again host a booth to give out information about club-sponsored rides and activities.

This year's Bike Expo is the weekend of February 14 and 15. We need volunteers to staff the booth in two-hour shifts each day, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. All you have to do is wear your volunteer T-shirt, smile once in a while, and answer simple questions like "when is the Daffodil Classic?" and "what's a century?"

Volunteers enjoy the prestige of being behind the scenes, the envy of all who pass by the booth. And as if that is not reward enough, volunteers also get free admission to the Expo, so when your tour of duty is up you can cruise the show for demos, bargains, and free Power Bars.

Join the few, the proud, the special, and the ones who have nothing better to do. Contact co-organizers Mike Romaine (253-537-2330) or Peggy Fjetland (253-841-4458) to schedule your two-hour stint. Reluctant volunteers could face frantic, pleading last minute phone calls attempting to draft their services.