

March 2003 Issue



Carla and Doug the bunny invite you to "come on down" to Orting to help clean up the trail. It'll be fun for all

Foothills Trail Work Party By Carla A Gramlich

Last November, several club members helped to pickup litter along the Tacoma Wheelmen's section of the trail. This section is between the trailhead in McMillin and Orting. On that sunny Saturday we picked up 5 garbage bags of litter and one broken bicycle. I would like to thank the following people for taking time out from their busy schedule to help. Rich Walters, Linda Walters, Steve Brown, Bob Myrick, Tom Shirey.

Litter has increased along the trail because of the addition of a couple of fast food restaurants. We also pickup trash that is close to the highway that was probably left there by motorists not trail users. Having the section to maintain that is across

from the highway doesn't help matters. On February 15, Steve Brown responded to an email from a local resident concerning trash along the trail. On that day he picked up three garbage bags of trash. More than half of the trash had the name of some local restaurants.

We will do our spring cleaning of the trail on Saturday, March 15 starting at 9 am. Bring work gloves! Meet at the Bell Tower in Orting. We will then walk towards McMillin picking up litter. We may also use the blower to remove leaves on the section near the trailhead. A bicycle ride on the cleaned trail will follow at 1 pm. Call Carla at 253-879-0115 for more information.

The "New" Daffodil Classic By Carla A Gramlich

A few years ago, Coca Cola decided to fiddle with the recipe for Coke and came up with New Coke. This was an instant disaster. We are hoping that changing the course of the 20 mile route of The Daffodil Classic isn't making the same mistake.

Every year we have heard that the 20 mile course is rather challenging for a new rider. Also traffic has increased on some of the roads that have been used for that route. This year we are trying to address those problems.

The new route will be on the Foothills Trails and a quiet country road to South Prairie. In South Prairie, cheerful volunteers from the Foothills Trails Coalition will handle the rest stop. There are a couple of hills on Pioneer Way E., but it should be an easier option. Again this year the club will offer the Fun Ride that is just on the Foothills Trail in the Orting Valley. That route is 15 miles and is free if you pre-register.

We hope that these changes will help to get out more beginner cyclists or someone that hasn't been on their bike for awhile.

Link to Foothills Trail: <http://www.piercecountytrails.org/index.htm>

The COG Home Page

This month's COG...

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**Next Club Meeting:
 Tues, Mar 18, 2003
 Hear Fitness Coach,
 Walter Evanishyn**



Hey Riders... Use this handy chart to decypher the ride code listed on the Monthly Ride/Event Calendar on page 5....

RIDE CODE CHART

Pace Code: Average mph on flat surface:

- 1 - Easy pace, frequent stops to catch up and regroup, 9-12 mph on flats.
- 2 - Moderate pace, occasional stops to catch up and regroup, 12-15 mph.
- 3 - Steady pace, limited stops, cue sheets or maps provided, 13-16 mph.
- 4 - Fast pace, very limited stops, cus sheets or maps provided, 16 + mph.

Terrain Code examples:

- A - Mostly Flat (Inter-urban Trail)
- B - Gently rolling with one or two steep hills
- C - Rolling steeper hills (Kitsap Peninsula)
- D - Difficult terrain with longer, steeper hills (Vashon Island)



Come to the Monthly Meeting!

Meetings are held at the South Park Community Center, 4851 S. Tacoma Way, in Tacoma at 7 PM. The business (old business, new business, reports, etc) part of the meeting comes first... then after a short break of food and socializing...the entertainment.

Please attend. All members or interested parties are welcome. No meetings in July, Aug, Dec, and January.



club officers and volunteers

PRESIDENT

Ralph Wessels, 253-857-5658, president@twbc.org

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Tim Payne, vp@twbc.org, 360-871-4478

SECRETARY:

Sandy Byrd: 253-474-6721, secretary@twbc.org

TREASURER:

Joy Boolefer: 253-847-1843, treasurer@twbc.org

TOURING CAPTAIN and RIDE LINE Updates

Carol Davis: 253-857-5396, ridecaptain@twbc.org

NEWSLETTER:

Editor: Position Open Reporters: various members.
 Email articles to: newsletter@twbc.org
 Printed by Barb at Ocea Press in Downtown Tacoma.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE and MAILING:

Anne Heller: 253-761-0709, database@twbc.org

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND GOV'MENT RELATIONS and BANQUET COMMITTEE

Bob Myrick: 253-473-7455, gac@twbc.org

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS:

Position is open to volunteers. events@twbc.org

PAST PRESIDENT:

Anne Heller: 253-761-0709, past-prez@twbc.org

MEMBERSHIP:

Phyllis Lay: 253-759-1816

PUBLICITY:

Please contact Ralph Wessels to volunteer.

Safety and Education:

Position Open... Contact Prez Ralph

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

equipment@twbc.org
 John Lea: 253-770-5530

WEB Master:

webmaster@twbc.org
 Ken and Cindy Staggs: 253-752-0925

DAFFODIL CLASSIC:

daffodil@twbc.org
 Team Daffodil: Jim Braine, Bob Myrick, Anne Heller, Dave Parker, Ralph Wessels@253-857-5658

PENINSULA METRIC:

Howie Kaplan: 253-490-3319, pmc@twbc.org

HEADWATERS CENTURY:

headwaters@twbc.org
 Linda Higgins, 253-769-5480

BICYCLE SHOW BOOTH:

Mike Romaine: 253-507-2330
 Peggy Fjetland: 253-841-4458, bkebooth@twbc.org

JERSEY SALES

Peggy Fjetland: 253-841-4458
 jerseys@twbc.org

ANNUAL PICNIC:

Toni Matson and Vern Martin:
 253-212-0781
 amatson1@attbi.com





Ralph Wessels
TWBC
President

The last time there was an increase in Washington's gas tax was 1991, and it took the Legislature 4 years of arguing to pass the 4-cent increase then. Think about it. A child who entered first grade in 1991 would graduate from high school this year and have never known an increase in the gas tax. Ironically, they would know the 40-cent increase in gas prices that has occurred in the last 2 months. It is not realistic to expect needed transportation improvements to be funded from the same amount of gas tax that buys less today than it did 12 years ago. The reduction in licensing fees without a replacement source of revenue was also politically irresponsible.

Currently, the Legislature appears more willing to play a shell game with existing funds rather than make the hard choices that are necessary. SB 5702 is an example of this. Part of this bill would eliminate the State's requirement to fund non-motorized transportation at 0.3% of the amount spent on highways. In 2002, motor vehicles in Washington killed 77 pedestrians and bicyclists. Funding safe places to walk and ride makes sense.

This year, the 6-year federal transportation bill, known as ISTEA, runs out. Political factions will likely also seek to eliminate Enhancement funds that are distributed back to the states as part of the federal gas tax distribution. The Foothills Trail and Cushman Power Line trail have both been past recipients of these funds. How much of these trails would have been constructed without these funds?

Please let your elected officials know your opinion on the importance of funding non-motorized transportation. It is important to our community.

Opportunities Await You!

By Ralph Wessells, TWBC President

TWBC has a few vacant positions that can provide opportunities for you to enhance your abilities. These positions are listed below.

1.. Newsletter Editor – Richard Patrick has given advance notice that he will be concluding his stint as newsletter editor in June. TWBC provided the necessary software. Contact Richard at 274-8657 for details.

2. Director of Special Events – This position coordinates the 3 event rides and Bike Expo. Each event has a director and/or a team supporting it so the workload is spread. Contact Ralph Wessells at 857-5658 for more info.

3. Ride Publicity – This position handles the flyer distribution and other advertisement for the rides. This year's events are already underway and a lot has been completed. Contact Ralph Wessells for details.

4..Club Publicity – This position distributes the brochures about TWBC and initiates other means to promote and advertise TWBC. Contact Ralph Wessells.

5. Safety Director – This position serves as a liaison with the community on bicycling safety matters. Contact Dave Tison at 761-2398 for more info.

but wait... there's more

Daffodil Classic **By Ralph Wessells**

If you would like to volunteer for the Daffodil Classic, please contact Cynthia Hammer at 752-0801. Volunteers receive a free T-shirt, get to ride for free, and can obtain the volunteer pizza party following the event.

The next Rides meeting will be held at the main Tacoma Library on Monday, March 10 starting at 6:30 PM. There will be snacks and refreshments.

New Tacoma Narrows Bridge **Construction Impacts Cyclists**

by Ralph Wessells

Ronald Reagan's one-liner to Jimmy Carter during the 1980 presidential debate of, "Now there you go again" could readily apply to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recent lack of foresight in addressing bicyclists' and pedestrians' needs in the construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB).

Roz Davis was likely the first cyclist to encounter the concrete barrier placed on the shoulder that left the traveled lane as the only place to ride during his early morning commute. To further ensure the work area was secure, six-foot chain link fence topped with barbwire circled the work area preventing access between Reid Road and the bridge.

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Timothy Payne
TWBC
Vice President

TWBC – OPPORTUNITIES TO RIDE!

As you have doubtless read in last month's and this month's newsletter, there are some special club rides in the making. I want to offer a couple more possibilities.

Event #1 The Rhody Weekend – Do you like Port Townsend? Well, here is your chance to get in some camping, cycling and shopping in that neck of the woods. May 9, 10 and 11, I am offering a sort of do-it-yourself "campout" and cycle adventure. First, the "campout." I will be taking my fifth wheel trailer to Fort Worden State Park on Friday, May 9. It would be great to have company at Fort Worden. Bring your tent, your trailer or your tent trailer, stay in one of houses in "Officer's Row", there is even a hostel in the park that can accommodate individuals as well as groups for very reasonable rates. For details and on-line reservations for camping or lodging go to www.olympus.net/ftworden. If that is not attractive, there are lots of options in Port Townsend, as well. Due to the number of options, I will let you have the honors of deciding what works best for you and make your own arrangements. An important detail, if you want to participate in this event — get your lodging arranged soon. Port Townsend

is a popular place. The further ahead you plan, the better.

Now the cycling – Saturday, May 10 — Come join me and ride the Port Townsend Rhody Ride, Sponsored by Port Townsend Bicycle Association. You will have a choice of four routes 32, 45, 55, and 62 miles, following the rural roads of East Jefferson County. I will be on the 62 mile ride. I did this ride last year, the scenery is exquisite. The registration fee for the Rhody Tour is \$15.00. (Families are \$30.00 for two or more family members). Look for more details in the Ride Calendar published in April.

Sunday, May 11 – Join me for a TWBC ride from Fort Worden to Fort Flagler 40 miles with fairly gentle rolling hills. Another scenic ride with very little overlap from the Rhody Ride the day before. Details will be in the ride calendar.

Shopping – Downtown Port Townsend offers one of the most eclectic collection of shops, all within walking distance, of any place I know of in the Puget Sound region. Enjoy yourself or let your significant others enjoy themselves while you cycle.

Event #2 – Circumnavigate Hood Canal – There is a lot less detail available on this ride because I am seeing if anyone is interested before getting it organized. I have in mind a two or three day (that would depend on the desires of the participants) ride around Hood Canal, about 180 miles. This would be a sag-supported ride so, unless you wanted to, all your camping gear can be transported in the sag wagon. I am currently thinking either June 7 and 8, June 21 and 22, June 28 and 29 or September 13 and 14 as possible dates. Due to the popularity of Hood Canal with motorists I am trying to stay away from the more popular times of the summer. I am thinking this ride would be camp-out style as there are some beautiful camping areas on the Canal. Although, there is also the possibility of going lodging-style, as well. If you are interested please let me know your preference for

the length, 2 or 3 days, the possible dates and whether you would like camp-out style, or lodging style. I want to get started with the organization so if you are interested please drop me an e-mail at paynet@msn.com not later than March 31, 2003.

In a recent article, "Joining the Club," published in the Bicycle Paper, author Elizabeth Outlaw, puts forward the idea that there are four good reasons for belonging to a Bicycle Club, meeting new riders and finding new rides, discounts and special events, clinics and classes, and advocacy. The two ride opportunities I have outlined above will provide many of those benefits. Hope you will join us!

A last note, I am very sad, but understanding, concerning the announcement that our newsletter editor, Richard Patrick is resigning his post. Editing and publishing this newsletter is a labor of love and a time consuming responsibility. Richard has done wonders with the newsletter and I (who regularly push the deadlines) will really miss Richard's leadership and deadly wit. But as my mother always said, "All good things must come to an end." Tim's corollary, "When one good thing ends another is sure to start!" That is where you come in. We need another person willing to dedicate their time to being newsletter editor and we need them very soon. Here is the chance all you "cub reporters" have been waiting for ... the "big" chair is empty. Take up the challenge!

MEETING PROGRAM PREVIEWS

Nothing on Tuesday night TV, bored with basketball and baseball, looking for something really different? Come join us at the monthly TWBC meetings, food, friendship, humor and scintillating programs. "Be there or be square."

The program at the March 18 meeting will feature a presentation by a personal trainer/coach, Walter Evanishyn. Walter will offer us advice on getting

Continued on page 7, column 3



twbc monthly event schedule

call the ride line for the latest additions and corrections...253-759-2800

Day	Date	Time	Dist- ance	Ride Code	Leader	Call me at	Ride or Activity
Sat Sun	3/1 3/2	8AM- 1 PM	15	1A	Joy Roelofsz	253- 847-1843	Volks Bike at Ocean Shores. Flat and Fun. Call Joy for more details.
Sun	3/2	9:25 Ferry	25 or 40	2A or 2B	Roz and Carol Davis	253- 857-5396	Ride to Bike Expo. Start from at Southworth and ferry to West Seattle... or meet at Lincoln Park at 10 AM to cycle to Expo.
Tues	3/4	Call	Call	Call	Call Ride Line	253- 759-2800	Tuesday Morning Ride. Call Ride Line for details
Weds	3/5	6:00 PM	20 to 30	2B	Joyce Clifford & Peg Winsewski	759-2393 475-3625	Wednesday Knight Riders- ..Meet at Proctor Starbucks: N26th and N Proctor, Tacoma. Your bike must have lights.
Sat	3/8	9:15 Ferry	45	2C	Roz and Carol Davis	253- 857-5396	Vashon Isl to Gig Harbor Loop. Start at Pt Defiance Ferry, ride across Vashon, ferry to Southworth, lunch in Gig Harbor, back to Tacoma via Narrows Bridge. Sound exciting? You bet!
Sun	3/9	9:30 AM	40	2B	Louie Boitano	253- 922-1168	Ride to Orting. Maybe Lunch? Meet at Freighthouse Square, Door #3.
Mon	3/10	6:30 PM	0.0	0A	Ralph Wessels	253- 857-5658	Special Events Meeting at Downtwon Tacoma Public Library
Tues	3/11	Call	Call	Call	Call Ride Line	253- 759-2800	Tuesday Morning Ride. Call Ride Line for details
Tues	3/11	6:30 PM	00	00	Ralph Wessels	253- 879-7455	Board Meeting at Kim Ahn Restaurant
Weds	3/12	6:00 PM	20 to 30	2B	Joyce Clifford & Peg Winsewski	759-2393 475-3625	Wednesday Knight Riders- ..Meet at Proctor Starbucks: N26th and N Proctor, Tacoma. Your bike must have lights.
Sat	3/15	8:00 AM	25 to 35	2B	Steve and Phyllis Lay	253- 759- 1816	Ride to Spanaway for breakfast - \$3,at the Senior Center. Meet at Proctor Starbucks, N 26@ Proctor in N Tacoma.
Sat	3/15	8:00 AM	40-50	2B 2C	BIKES	www.?	McClinchy Mile in Monroe. This is an organized ride sponsored by the Everett Bike Club, BIKES. See flyer in Feb newsletter.
Sat	3/15	9AM	40-50	2C	VP Tim Payne	360- 871-4478	Black Diamond Bakery. Meet at Sumner Library. Ride to gorge on cinnamon roles, or toasted cheese and pea soup, or you choose
Sat	3/15	9 AM 1 PM	20	1A	Carla A Gramlich	253- 879-0115	Orting FH Trails Work Party On. Meet at Orting Park Bell tower at 9 to clean up trail. Then lunch. Then at 1 PM a 20 mile ride.
Sun	3/16	10 AM	40	3B	Robert Deehan	253- 272-9682	Ride to Dupont Starbucks for coffee, tea? or?? Meet at UPS Field House for this ride.
Sat Sun	3/15 3/16	?	?	2B	Jill Priest	360- 698-3876	West Sound Cycling Club. http://home.attbi.com/~westsounders/
Tues	2/18	Call	Call	Call	Call Ride Line	253- 759-2800	Tuesday Morning Ride. Call Ride Line for details
Tues	3/18	Call	Call	Call	Call Ride Line	253- 759-2800	TWBC Club meeting of 2003. See pg 2 for location, time, etc.



twbc monthly event schedule

call the ride line for the latest additions and corrections...253-759-2800

Day	Date	Time	Distance	Ride Code	Leader	Call me at	Ride or Activity
Weds	3/19	6:00 PM	20 to 30	2B	Joyce Clifford & Peg Winsewski	759-2393 475-3625	Wednesday Knight Riders- ..Meet at Proctor Starbucks: N26th and N Proctor, Tacoma. Your bike must have lights.
Fri	3/21	4 PM	20	2A	Carla A Gramlich	253-879-0115	Susie Stehpens Memorial Ride. Meet at UPS Field House. Dinner at Engine House 9 after the ride.
Sat	3/22	9 AM	50	2B	Jan Brame Bayou Babe	253-759-6984	Meet at Orting Park Bell Tower. Ride the Daffodil Classic Kapowsin Loop. This is an annual tradition ride led by Jan. Remember?
Sat	3/22	8 AM-1 PM	15	1A	Joy Roelofsz	253-857-1843	VolksBike. Meet at the Dupont City Hall for this fun flat family style ride. Call Joy for details.
Sun	3/23	9 AM	50	2C	Iowa Bob Vogel	253-756-9984	Ride to Thurston County. Meet at Pt Defiance Park entrance. Will Bob stop at Dupont Starbucks for java? Go and see.
Tues	3/25	Call	Call	Call	Call Ride Line	253-759-2800	Tuesday Morning Ride. Call Ride Line for details
Weds	3/26	6:00 PM	20 to 30	2B	Joyce Clifford & Peg Winsewski	759-2393 475-3625	Wednesday Knight Riders- ..Meet at Proctor Starbucks: N26th and N Proctor, Tacoma. Your bike must have lights.
Sat	3/29	8 AM-1 PM	15	1A	Joy Roelofsz	253-857-1843	VolksBike. Meet in Woodinville, WA...North and West of Seattle. Call Joy for more details.
Sat	3/29	9:30 AM	15	2B	Anne Seago	253-761-0709	Meet at Skyline Park n Ride, 7000 block of W 6th Ave, Tacoma. Near Pao's doughnut shop. Maybe Homer Simpson will show for doughnuts
Sat	3/29-4/5				Carol and women	253-857-5396	Meet in Texas for wildflowers and search for Lance Armstrong.
Sun	3/30	9 AM	50	2B	Ralph Wessels	253-879-7455	Daffodil Classic Pre Ride. Meet in Orting Park Bell Tower and ride the Buckley Loop.
Sat	4/5	10 AM	20	??	Jim Deyoung	info to follow	Ride around Olympia. Start ride at I-5 exit 106 Park n Ride.
Mon	4/6	6:30 PM	0.0	0.0	Jan Brame	253-759-6984	Rides meeting at Jan's House
Sun	4/13	7 AM-10 AM	varies	2??	TWBC	253-759-2800	TWBC's DAFFODIL CLASSIC. Orting Elementary School
Sun	4/20	9 AM	51	2?	Ralph Wessels	253-857-5658	Prez Ralph Turns 51 Birthday Ride. Meet at Purdy Park n Ride
Sat	4/26	9 AM	60	3B	Wayne Vanderpol	253-219-7140	South Pierce County Ride. Meet at Roy Park n Ride. Limited facilities. Hard Rain cancels.
Fri, Sat, Sun	5/9, 10, 11	??	60 40	2?	Tim Payne	360-871-4478	Fort Flagler Campout and Rides. Rhody Ride on Saturday... Ride to Fort Warden on Sunday. Call Tim for details. Sounds fun.

Prez Ralph's Bridge Construction, continued....

Roz contacted Dennis Engel's project engineer's office to voice his displeasure with WSDOT's inattentiveness to cyclists and the creation of a hazardous condition. I also spoke with Mr. Engel who thought the barrier was 2 feet from the fog strip (it wasn't) and that access could still be made via a pathway to Reid Road (fenced off). I informed him that other WSDOT offices have signed detour routes for cyclists and requested that the same occur at the TNB. A week later, after no action and no contact, I contacted TJ Nedrow, WSDOT's Bike/Ped Coordinator for the Olympic Region regarding the shoulder closure. That afternoon, both Mr. Engel and Bill Elliot from the same office left messages for me.

Mr. Elliot and I connected with each other the next day. Despite WSDOT having taken the shoulder and not having provided a detour, Mr. Elliot felt there was no safety hazard. When I asked if he would allow his survey crew to work in traffic with no warning signs, he stated he would not do so. Still, he claimed that putting cyclists into the traveled lanes of SR16 was not a hazard. I invited him to meet on site at 4 PM for a short ride but he declined. Mr. Elliot sent me an email at later that day stating detour signs had been installed to direct cyclists onto the 24th Street off ramp, left onto Jahn Rd, left onto Reid Rd., and left onto a pathway that leads to the bridge. They had also cleaned the pathway.

WSDOT has additionally closed the westbound off ramp at 24th Street. Cyclists will need to use caution in exiting at or crossing the off ramp immediately off of the bridge.

The permanent connections to local streets and the Cushman Power Line Trail are currently being designed. I have asked that WSDOT provide TWBC with a preview of the proposed design so we can insure the facility will meet the needs of bicyclists.

For info or to express concerns about WSDOT projects, contact:

Dennis Engel, Project Engineer, 253-534-4644, EngelD@wsdot.wa.gov

Bill Elliot, Civil Design Review Mgr., 253-534-4645, ElliotB@wsdot.wa.gov

TJ Nedrow, Regional Bike/Ped Coordinator, 360-357-2728, NedrowT@wsdot.wa.gov

Paula Reeves, Bike/Ped Program Mgr., 360-705-7258, ReevesP@wsdot.wa.gov



Check out this picture... it's what Prez Ralph is talkin' about. Looks pretty unsafe to get by that concrete barrier to the left of the 18 wheeler in the right lane.

and staying fit and how to avoid some of those nagging injuries (like, "stay away from the paper mill tracks as you head into Steilacoom" ... just kidding, Walter.)

The April 15 program will be a perennial favorite, a visit with Spoke and Sprocket. While we are still finalizing the precise details it is guaranteed to be entertaining, informative and just plain fun. One of the items they will be covering is how to recover, mechanically, from one of those unexpected roadside disasters, like your chain breaks or your derailleur decides it is time to fall apart. Fix it, walk, or use your cell phone? So get your taxes done a day early and come join us for a great program.

CALIFORNIA DREAM CRUISE July 19-August 3 By Ride Capt'n Carol

Sail down the coast of California (on your bike) with the wind at your back from San Francisco to the Mexican border. Numerous legendary spots will be visited along the way including Monterey, Carmel, Big Sur, the Hearst Castle, Ventura, Santa Monica, to name a few. The itinerary is designed to allow for either train or plane travel (or bike travel) to and from the beginning and end of this trip. Accommodations will be mostly camping at California State Parks with a few motels in key spots. We are planning to have a SAG vehicle with participants taking turns driving unless someone comes forth who would like to drive the SAG for us. A smaller, self-supported group may be riding bikes to San Francisco, going through the Willamette Valley and cutting over to the coast around Ashland. If you are interested in either leg of this journey contact Carol Davis, 857-5396, or e-mail, bicyclguy@aol.com.



Bob is outa the country. This blurb from Bicycle Alliance will substitute. This is important stuff... so please read further. ...Your Editor

Legislative Update Regarding Bicycling From Bicycle Alliance

The legislative session is underway in Olympia and the Bicycle Alliance of Washington is following many bills that could impact bicyclists. Here is a brief synopsis of some of them:

SB 5702. Proposes to reform transportation governance by abolishing the Transportation Commission and makes the Secretary of Transportation a gubernatorial appointment. Among other proposed changes, this bill would also eliminate

the minimum .42 percent of the Motor Vehicle Fund for local expenditure and 0.3 percent of highway funds expenditure for trails and paths. The Bicycle Alliance will oppose this bill.

HB 1409 creates a definition for "potentially dangerous litter" as litter that is likely to injure a person or cause damage to a vehicle or other property and includes glass, nails and tacks, among other things. Its intent is to address the public safety problem created by such debris along roadways, bike lanes and trails by imposing a higher fine (up to \$500) and deterring this behavior. We support this bill.

HB 1874 requires kids under 16 years of age to wear a helmet when operating a bike, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard or wearing skates on a roadway, trail or sidewalk. The Bike Alliance currently has the following concerns regarding this bill: how enforcement will occur; how this bill might impact existing local helmet

ordinances; no mechanism to direct violators to sources of cheap/free helmets.

HB 1592 establishes an application process by which constituent groups can seek recognition and funding through the establishment of special license plates. Historically, the legislature has resisted attempts to establish special license plates because of costs the state must incur. This bill would reduce the State's financial risk. The Bike Alliance supports this bill. (We tried unsuccessfully to get a Share the Road license plate approved last year that could generate funds for bicycle/pedestrian safety education.)

SB 5770 adds a definition for "motorized foot scooter" and allows them to access state highways to the same extent as bicycles. It also gives them access to local bike lanes and

Continued on next page



Week-Long Adventures.

Adventure Cycling events are perfect for the cyclist that wants to spend a week riding in some of the most scenic spots in America and have a few creature comforts along the way. We offer five events on paved roads and two that follow dirt roads along the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. New routes in Virginia and Montana will highlight the adventurous journey of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. All of our events provide excellent catered meals, rest stops with snack and drinks, luggage, mechanical, and SAG support, and more. Sign up today for a week-long ride with Adventure Cycling this summer. For more info, visit us at: www.adventurecycling.org/te09 email: tours@adventurecycling.org or call (800) 755-2453.

- Cycle Utah June 7-13 and Sept. 6-12
- Cycle Montana July 19-25
- Cycle Washington July 26 - Aug. 1
- American Explorer - VA Sept. 13-19
- Cycle the Divide - CO July 12-18
- Cycle the Divide - MT August 9-15



**Adventure Cycling
Association**

multi-purpose trails unless restricted by local jurisdictions. As worded, we oppose the bill. It puts the burden of restriction and responsibility of signage on local jurisdictions. The Bike Alliance would like to see the bill state that access to trails and bike lanes is restricted unless allowed by the local jurisdiction.

We will send out an email alert if quick action is needed. Don't forget to stop by our booth at Bike Expo! We'll have a phone available for you to call your legislators on important issues.

Bicycle Alliance of Washington
PO Box 2904
Seattle, WA 98111
206/224-9252



Up and coming TWBC member super-star. See Perry White's Bunk predictions for more info.



Get yourself a new jersey!
Call Peggy... the Jersey Lady at
253-841-5548 or jerseys@twbc.org

Bike Tech by Eddy Johnson

I'm a gear head. Let me just clear the air here and let it all hang out. Gear ratios dance through my head and consume my bicycler brain on a regular basis. If I could convert just one person into a fellow gear head, my contribution to a greater enjoyment of cycling would be fulfilled. There's just nothing more satisfying than having "all the right gears." That's not to say that more is better. More gears do not a perfect ratio make.

Of all the articles I've written, I get the most response when I talk about gearing. It is a rather obscure topic to most and rightly so. The cycling industry does not really give you a choice or even let you think you have a choice. As the industry moves on, the less choice you have. Gearing has become much more generic and more difficult to customize to one's needs. A frame can be specially made to your exact fit and riding style and purpose. There are so many different combinations of rims, spokes and hubs that it's mind numbing. As a matter of fact, just about every system on a bike can be custom assembled to your particular desire except your gearing. Okay, you do have some options but most are not readily available or kept on a shelf waiting for you or me.

It's a sad state of affairs because gearing is so important for efficiency, joint health and one's enjoyment of riding.

Even if you really aren't dedicated to that perfect ratio it's important to know what you have. Have you ever had your bike into the shop and found that after a new cassette was installed, something had changed? Gee whiz, it's sure a big jump from my lowest gear to the next one. You don't remember it being that way before. You look at your cassette and it seems the same.

I fell victim to a similar situation. I needed an 11X34, 9 speed cassette. The shop had a Sram in stock but not a Shimano. I said okay, as long as it's an 11X34. What a fool! Most manufacturers have a core of gears that stays the same no matter what the high and low are. It's cheaper that way (for them). Say you have a 12X28 and you want a 12X32. You may have to settle for a 14X32 because they're just going to knock off the 12T and add the 32T. This is especially true for 7 speeds.

I have to give Shimano some credit here which is really hard for me to do. Shimano redesigns their cassettes, at least the 8 and 9 speed models, when they change the high and low. The Sram cassette I bought was an 11X34 but the gear before the 34T is a 28T. That's a 6 tooth jump. Why bother with a 9 speed if that's what you have to endure. If I bought a 12X32 I would still have that 28T in there. Shimano, on the other hand, replaces the 28T with a 30T. Now that makes sense and a world of difference.

While recently performing a brake pad replacement, I realized my rear rim had worn dangerously thin. Not wanting to go through the expense of building a new wheel at this time, I put on another one I had with a 7 speed freewheel. When I jumped on the bike Monday morning to head to work I noticed that my #3 cog felt way too hard. It was a big jump from that gear to the 4th cog. I had to know just what that gear was. I immediately stopped and counted the teeth on that cog. It's a 16T. Then up it goes to 20, 24, 28, and 32. You wouldn't think that would be so bad since every cog is 4 teeth apart but I hate it!!! Now I remember why I went to a nine speed hub and cassette. I like my climbing gears to have a close ratio.

It's important to know what each and every cog is. Do you have a gear you don't use much because you just can't spin with it the way you like? Which one is it? Would your reply be "My 4th gear" or would it be "the 20T cog?" If you know it's the 20T then you can do something about it or at least try. Next time you need a cassette you can research what is available in your particular set up. You don't have to match an Ultegra cassette with an Ultegra hub or derailleur. Sram and Sunrace will fit a Shimano hub and you can use just about any model you choose as long as your derailleur meets the requirements of your biggest cog.

The few inquiries I have had about gearing usually ask about lower gears. What can one do to get lower gears without changing the whole drive train? My first question is, "What do you have now?" I stumped the caller. If you don't at least know what your high and low are, you cannot know what is available to you for options. What are your ring sizes on your crank? Now if I was in a shop and you rolled your bike in and said, "I want lower gears," I would ask you these questions:

How do you shift your bike?

Do you ever use your big ring, big cog combination and vice versa?

What don't you like about your gears? Do you ever have problems shifting to your lowest gears?

You may be surprised to know that many times a request is made for lower gears that one already has, but there's a problem with the shifting and the person doesn't realize it.

A common question I've been asked is, "I'm getting a new bike, what can I do to modify the gearing?" That's next to impossible to answer unless you and I know what is there and what you like or don't like about it. It's also very helpful to know the gear inches of your Ring/Cog combination. A 1:1 ratio such as a 34T ring by a 34T cog is 27gear inches. For me that's a standard I use when I am asked about lower gears. A 1:1 ratio is achievable without changing a double crank to a triple providing the crank has a 110mm bolt pattern. I consider a 27 inch gear to be the best

all round climbing "granny" for unloaded touring, commuting or just riding around the Peninsula. I may change my mind once I reach retirement or gain a bunch of weight.

Look at your big cog and count the teeth and look at your small ring and count the teeth or find the stamp on the ring somewhere and see how close it is to a 1:1 ratio or 27 inches. Just divide your ring size by your cog size and that will give you the ratio. For gear inches multiply the ratio times 27.

Here's a brain teaser for you. I'm trying to put a 32T ring on the inside of a 110mm bolt pattern, double crank. Anyone got any ideas how I can do that beside welding it on? This isn't a trick question, I really would like to know.

Here are my predictions for 2003. I know I'm a month late but I couldn't find my magic eight ball before the deadline for February's newsletter.

Tyler Hamilton will be Lance's big contender in this year's Tour de France. That would mean 2 Americans on the podium in Paris.

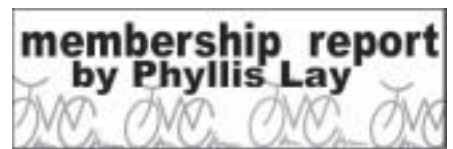
Hummer will start selling mountain bikes and Lexus won't be far behind.

Kingsford charcoal will start putting a free bicycle mold kit in every bag so you can make your own carbon fiber frame out of briquettes.

EDDY
(EDDYJ@galaxy-7.net)



Get a new jersey to show your club's colors at the Daffodil Ride on April 13.



New Members:

Molly Johnson, President of Seattle Bicycle Club, and Scott Ruffner.

Renewed Memberships:

Moreen Light, Mike & Nancy Henderson, Thomas Harrison, John Vipond, Louis W Boitano, Jim DeYoung, Henry Reiailliau, Greg Grenier & Family, Jim Eanes, Paul Jakeman, Conrad & Jerry Cinq-Mars.



Anne Seago at the 2002 Daffodil Classic Bike Ride. Here, Anne, samples the victuals at the annual pancake feed before she heads out on her bike.

The DEADLINE for newsletter submissions is the third Friday of the month at 11:59:59 PM.



That's Bunk!

From the COG Editor's Cubicle



**R. "Perry White"
Patrick
COG Editor**

Everyone who reads this newsletter is familiar with the February missing pages problem. I just want to let you all know that the printer made a mistake and has apologized a thousand times. End of story regarding that issue.

Hey everyone! Eddy Johnson is back in the COG this month. Check out his excellent column. Having bicycling related info come into the newsletter from folks like Eddy, Carla, and the usual contributors- Prez Ralph, VP Tim, and Capt'n Carol... make the job of creating this newsletter very easy.

Prez Ralph and VP Tim have mentioned in their respective columns this month that I am stepping down from the newsletter editor job. My last newsletter will be the July 2003 issue. I announced my departure in January to the TWBC board of officers. At that time I offered to assist the new newsletter person with training on how to use the current software and how to interface with the printer. Now, I am offering my assistance to you, whoever you are out there, who wants to be the new newsletter person. So... perhaps some of you are wondering just what does the newsletter editor do? Well, in a nutshell ... this is what I do:

The third Friday of the month is the deadline for submissions to the newsletter. Prez Ralph, VP Tim, Captain Carol, Eddy, and other members submit their columns, announcements, or stories to me via email by the cut off date. These articles usually come to me as MS Word documents. I convert the articles that come in as an email document to MS Word. Sometimes pictures are sent in. All of these files are saved in a folder on my PC. This month's folder is called: 03_2003 Newsletter.

Carol Davis sends me a list of upcoming rides. I transcribe them into a "spreadsheet" type of program called Adobe Table. Table outputs a "picture" of the spreadsheet. This picture will be pasted into the newsletter publishing software- called Adobe PageMaker 7.0. All article files are pasted into the PageMaker layout, moved around until they fit, and that's it. I print it out to double check how it looks and make changes if necessary. I send that file to Ken and Cindy Stagg, the TWBC webmasters. That's the file you see on the Internet. But wait... there's more.

The printer needs to have 11 X 17 inch copy. So I then paste two 8 ½ X 11 inch pages into one 11 X 17 page in the PageMaker software. When complete... I print it to make sure it looks OK and make adjustments if necessary. Then this 11 X 17 format file is copied to a CD-ROM that goes to the printer in Downtown Tacoma. Three or four days later the printer calls Anne Seago to pick up the copies for mailing.

But wait... there's more. More predictions, that is.

An aspiring TWBC member who has just retired or will soon retire will convert an old Burley child bike trailer into a Meals on Wheels delivery system to deliver lunches to the elderly.

continued on next column

A newer TWBC member will lead at least three overnight-loaded touring trips during this bicycling year. All trips will begin at the UPS Field House and head South, West, and east, but not north. On the southerly trip, while riding through Yelm, the cyclists will be invited by JZ Knight, who was shopping at the QFC store, to camp overnight at the palatial Ramptha compound.

Martha Stewart will return to Tacoma and stay at the Flying Dutchman bed and breakfast while she searches for the "just perfect" home to purchase in the North End Neighborhood. A TWBC member who is part of the North End



Neighborhood council will escort Ms Stewart around during her home shopping spree.

During Don Izenman's sabbatical in Colorado, another TWBC member will emerge as a local entertainer. This member will revive the old Gong Show character, **The Unknown Comic**, at many local comedy clubs. The new comic will bring bicycling and specific TWBC members into his/her comedy act. Much embarrassment will be felt.

Because of the Y2K scare (remember that?), a software fix that was supposed to alleviate problems will cause problems at the end of 2003. This bug will

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March, 2003



mail to:



Please note: You can become a member at www.twbc.org. Click on 'Online' under the Join heading.

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Work Phone (optional): _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

Check Box: New Member Renew Addr Chg

Individual person membership \$15 _____

Family membership \$20 _____

One-time initiation Fee for new members \$ 5 _____

Optional subscription to Sports Etc \$18 _____

Optional subscription to The Bicycle Paper \$12 _____

Total Membership Fee: \$ _____

Send this form and a check for the total \$ amount to:

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 PO Box 112078
 Tacoma, WA 98411**

Check box if you do not want your phone # or address in the membership listings.

Also...Check boxes if you are interested in volunteering for:

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Becoming a club officer