



CLINTON RIVER RIDERS

Note: This is your last newsletter unless you have renewed CRR membership. See application on back.

February 1995

HB 4864 - Sidepath Bill

The amended bill for repeal of the mandatory sidepath law was signed by Governor Engler on December 12, 1994. Public Act 348 (HB4864) changes the sec. 660.(3) of the Michigan Vehicle code. The code now reads *"where a usable and designated path for bicycles is provided adjacent to a roadway, a bicycle rider may, by local ordinance, be required to use that path. A bicycle rider who is less than sixteen years of age shall use that path unless accompanied by an adult."*

Previously the code read:

"where a usable and designated path for bicycles is provided adjacent to a roadway, a bicycle rider shall use that path and shall not use the roadway."

This bill was introduced by representative James McNutt. The bill passed 79 to 18. Dave Jaye (R-32nd district, northern Macomb county) voted against it. Originally the bill was to remove the entire paragraph about the sidepaths from the Michigan Vehicle code, but it was amended as a compromise to get passed. Time will tell whether Public Act 348 will be an improvement or just lead to more regulations. We learned that letters and persistence can change laws but it's not as easy as it looks to get what you

want. Thank you to all the bicyclists who wrote to their legislator or the house transportation committee to get this passed. Some also went to Lansing for public meetings about HB4864, but several meeting dates were canceled because of long legislative sessions, with no prior warning.

Now bicyclists have a choice to avoid dangerous unmaintained sidepaths with blind corners and intersections at every driveway and street. Pedestrians and roller skaters also increase the hazards of riding on "bike-paths" or "recreational trails" as we prefer to name them. When a path is better than the road, people will ride it, but many paths aren't safer or better

Next Meeting:

**Monday, March 6, 1995 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Clemens recreation center.
300 Groesbeck (at Lafayette)**

President:

Steve Angst (810) 573-8089

Ride Director:

Rick Jones 879-2490

Secretary:

Julie Windhorst 751-2991

Treasurer:

Pennie Morauski 773-2213

Editor:

Ted Gondert 752-7043

LMB Representative:

Warren Berthelsen 781-6706

Hotline:

792-4670

Ride Schedule

Call the hotline (810) 792-4670 for updates. Scheduled events are dependent on the weather. Lights are mandatory for evening rides. Dress warm and ride safely.

Recurring rides/skiing for February

Saturdays 10:00 am: Meet Doug McDermaid at Schultz Funeral home 8½ and Gratiot. If he isn't working overtime and weather is good.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.: Meet Doug MacDermaid at Westin hotel- Renaissance Center, for stair climbing.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.: Meet Gary Haelewyn at Stoney Creek golf course for cross country skiing. Rentals and refreshments are available. If there is no snow, mountain biking will be at the West Branch ski trails. Approximately 1-2 hours skiing/biking depending on what people want.

Scheduled rides/skiing for February

Sunday, Feb. 26 9:30 a.m.: Meet Duane & Elizabeth Nieman at Romeo High school (on 32 mile/W St.Clair, 1/2 mile west of Van Dyke/Main street) for a ride to Dryden VFW for pancake breakfast. Approximately 40 miles round trip, 14-16 mph. Road bikes or mountain bike route optional. The last couple months had bad weather so nobody rode but maybe it will be good this time.

Scheduled activities for February/March

Wally Ball: Saturday 6:00-7:30p.m. on February 11, 25 at Gateway Racquet ball center, 14½ mile and Van Dyke behind the Premier Center. Cost is \$36 per court divided by the number of people. Call the hotline for more information.

Winter Bike!: March 3-5 in Lansing at the Midway Best Western.

This is a club leadership seminar sponsored by League of Michigan Bicyclists. Several workshops available will teach about advocacy, club

leadership, teaching safety, etc. The Clinton River Riders will have several members attending. Contact Diane Baker (810)247-5694(h), Bill Duemling (810)752-6310(h) or Warren Berthelsen (810) 786-6706 if you would like to attend.

Bike Feast: Sunday, March 12 1995 4:00 p.m. social hour 5:00 p.m. dinner. Melvin G. Bailey Rec. center in Westland, 36651 Ford Rd. This is big party get together for bike clubs in Southeast Michigan to reminisce about past years and look towards the new riding season. Pot luck appetizers with main course provided. Tickets \$3.00, are limited. Contact Bill Cleland 775-5125(h) to get tickets. Slide show will be presented and fashions and bike gadgets demonstrated. Wear your favorite bike jersey or T-shirt.

Cycle Nova Scotia

Contact Dan or Beverly Feucht (810) 528-0557 if you are interested in going on two week bike tour in Nova Scotia from July 22 to August 6. Plans call for camping with sag van carrying gear and drivers rotating with bicycling alternative days.

Square Dancing: Friday, April 21, 1995. doors open at 7:00 p.m. dancing starts 8:00p.m. sharp! Clawson K of C Hall, 870 Main St (Livernois) between 14 & 15 mile rd. \$7.00 per person, includes snacks-beer-soft drinks. Reserve tickets by Monday, April 17. Call John Gentilia (810) 879-7660 for more information.

Blue Water Ramble

Diane Baker has volunteered to chair the BWR committee. It's time we start planning BWR 1995, Oct 1. The CRR needs the help of all it's members to make the BWR the best ride it can be. Thanks to members who worked on previous years. But, the same members shouldn't have to do everything every year. Please contact Diane Baker (810) 247-5694(h) (810)756-3131(w) to volunteer for sub-committees or other ways you can help.

CRR Elections

The elections for the Clinton River Riders club officers are over and a mandate has been established for the new leaders. But what is it?

President: the race was closely contested between *the dark horse candidate* Steve Angst who unexpectedly announced his candidacy at the last meeting, and Diane Baker, retiring from her CRR service as ride director. Steve's ballot stuffing paid off with enough votes to win.

Ride Director: Rick Jones got a tire width over Glen Drellishak at the finish line.

Treasurer: Incumbent Pennie Morauski bribed enough voters to win reelection.

Secretary: Julie Windhorst edged out No-one.

Newsletter Editor: Ted Gondert got the winning vote over Nobody.

The preceding comments were in jest.

Thank you to the retiring officers.

President: Elizabeth Nieman

Ride Director: Diane Baker

Secretary: Laurie Brickner

Editor: Lorie & John Kamm,

Asst. Editor: Vicki Malloch.

Their work as Clinton River Riders board members for the last year has helped the club serve it's members and promote cycling. We need more involvement from others in the club too. Contact the club officers with ideas and with ways **YOU** can help improve the Clinton River Riders bicycle club. The club officers can't do it alone without involvement from the members.

Club Jerseys

New club jerseys have been ordered from Louis Garneau. Tentative date for arrival is mid March. Call Steve or Pennie Morauski (810) 773-2213 if you want to reserve one.

Club ID Cards

Identification cards are available from treasurer Pennie Morauski at club meetings or by sending SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) to: Pennie Morauski, 14207 Castle Dr., Warren, MI 48093. Back of card has space for emergency information, phone #, allergies, blood type, etc.

Bike shops with discounts for CRR card carrying members.

Contact the store for details.

Prestige Cycles (810)792-4040

Pavlat's Two Wheel Authority (810)542-7182

Pointe Cyclery (313)886-1968

Mountain's of Bikes (810)412-0500

Antoon's (810)247-9240

Sterling Schwinn(16 mi&Dequindre)(810)979-7570

Sterling Schwinn (Rochester Hills) (810)652-1555

Big Ralph's (810)772-3258

Macomb Schwinn (810)756-5400

Happy Birthday to:

Bradley Ackerman 3-16, Pamela Beaujean 3-1, Toni Cleland 3-18, Bill Duemling 3-30, John Gentilia Jr. 3-19, Michael Guy 3-14, Jason Haelewyn 3-24, Teresa LoPiccolo 3-27, Cecelia Maliszewski 3-22, Pennie Morauski 3-26, Phyllis Mottershead 3-18, Claudia Neumann 3-31, Gene Petrovich 3-02, Curtis Pytell 3-20, Steve Smith 3-30, Sarah Sproul 3-1, Thomas Weber 3-20, Emily Wright 3-4, Trevor Wright 3-28

Condolences offered to:

Mike Holden, who's father passed away.

Stair Climbing:

The Clinton River Riders helped out at the "Race to the Top" stair climbing event at the Westin Hotel in the Detroit Renaissance center on Feb. 4,5. This event was benefiting the American Heart Association. **Doug McDermaid** organized the volunteers who helped the racers with timing and passing out water for the event. Our relay team wasn't the first overall but decreased their total time to the top by two minutes from last year. **Diane Baker, Steve Angst, Doris Mulligan** and **John Tarantino** ran up 18 flights of stairs each.

Doris Mulligan ran up the 72 flight "Race to the Top" with the third best time for her age group.

Ron Dosenbach, a Canadian ultra marathon cyclist who may be familiar to some of you, set a new world record for 24 hour stair climbing on the weekend before. 78 times up to the top, 85420 steps.

Stair climbing continues at the Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center Detroit. 9:00 a.m. Sundays, contact Doug MacDermaid for more information.

Editors Note: Nobody else wanted the job so I guess you are stuck with me again. Will try to get the newsletter out on time but need information submitted by Wednesday after the meeting. Send articles and information of interest to our club and bicyclists to put in the newsletter. You can mail articles/information for the CRR Rambler to me or send a 3.5" IBM disk written in WordPerfect 5.1 or ASCII or other standard formats if my computer will read them. Also can modem or Fax me if you call first so I can get the FAX or computer turned on.(810) 752-7043.

Or my Internet E-mail address:

ac557@detroit.freenet.org

Ted Gondert

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Other Bicycling Events

1995 Midwest Consumer Bicycle Show -

Saturday, February 25, 10am-6pm
Sunday, February 26, 10am-5pm

Rosemont Convention Center
5555 North River Road, Rosemont, IL (near O'Hare)

Admission:

Adults \$6

Children under 12 \$4

Children under 6 FREE

Bicycle Show Hotline - (312) 777-0974

See the newest and the best in road, mountain and specialty bicycles along with hundreds of accessories and components. Take advantage of seminars, clinics, and test rides, and enjoy shows by a team of stunt performers.

The Midwest Bicycle Show is brought to you by CABDA Midwest, a nonprofit organization (Midwest Bicycle Dealers Association).

TOSRV95

The Tour of the Scioto River Valley

Columbus, OH May 13-14, Mothers Day weekend. Join 6000+ cyclists for 210 mile ride from Columbus to Portsmouth and back again Sunday. Luggage is sent by truck, with sleeping bag space assigned in gymnasiums, etc. in Portsmouth. This ride fills up fast, you probably should have already filled out application by now. For application Send SASE to: TOSRV95, Columbus AYH, P.O. Box 14384, Columbus, OH 43214-0384. Applications might be available at Prestige Cycles on Moravian.

Olympic Watch

Tickets for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta will go on sale May 1, 1995. Brochures and order forms should be available in January 1995. For information on how to obtain brochures, call the ACOG at (404) 224-1996



by Joe Kubera of the Staten Island Bicycling Association

RIDER'S BLOCK

Utility cycling is becoming a hot topic--even the glitzy bike mags and equipment catalogs have taken notice. So why aren't more of us doing it? I believe there are subtle (even subconscious) barriers to day-to-day cycling. Fortunately, a little thought and planning can eliminate these.

First of all, few of us have escaped an all-American car-oriented upbringing. Part of that upbringing involves what *Effective Cycling* author John Forester calls the "cyclist inferiority complex," a set of misguided assumptions about cycling manifested in fear-motivated childhood cycling training, dangerous and inefficient road use, etc. No wonder it's so much easier to reach for the ignition key than your helmet.

Secondly, we've been sold many times over on the idea that cycling is a leisure-time, sporty, somewhat exotic activity. Utility is a dirty word in the U.S. bicycle industry. Since at least the late 60's, its emphasis has been on bikes designed for sport or recreation--racing, light touring and off-road use--notably not utility.

Another problem is that your bike's setup or storage may actually discourage utility riding. Let's say you suddenly have to run down to the deli for a half-gallon of milk. Quick, which vehicle is instantly available and up to the task? It's not your bicycle if:

a) you have to drag it up or down stairs, get it down off a ceiling hook, or retrieve it from an obscure corner,

b) you have to don special apparel to mount it,

c) you're concerned about darkness or rain,

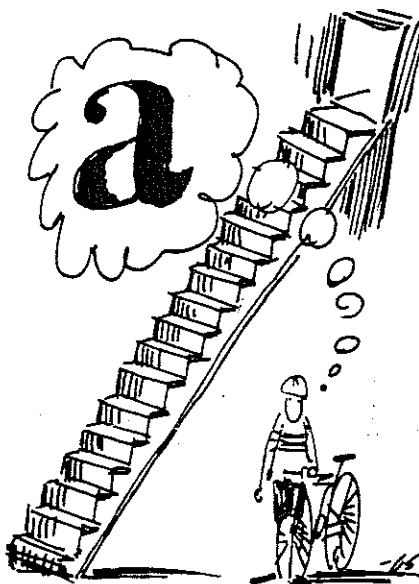
d) there's no place on the bike to conveniently carry your purchases,

e) you're worried about theft,

f) you feel you don't have the time.

It's easy to skim over these points, but they are precisely the subtle kinds of things that affect your decision whether to drive or bike. Let's look at these items individually and see how we can correct them to make it easy to "think bike."

a) If at all possible, keep your bike right near a home or garage entrance. Believe me, it makes a big difference.



After all, your car is already at street level, and never more than a few feet from the roadway; that's why it's so easy to use. Theft worries keep us from leaving our bikes outdoors or on the front porch, so take a tip from our Manhattan friends whose bikes are poised just inside the apartment or loft door. Corollary: Keep your helmet, pump, trouser bands, maybe a jacket, with your bike--again, make it easy.

b) Clothing. You don't need cycling gloves; you're not going that far. And if your pedals require you to change out of your street shoes into bike shoes, forget it--you'll never do it. Get plastic or padded toe clips to protect your street shoes; consider platform or double-sided ATB pedals.

c) You really do need lights for riding after dark; it's not a lot to ask. Inexpensive battery lights are fine in

my experience. And rain riding is more pleasant if lightweight, plastic fenders are installed. (Blackburn makes fender attachment points for frames without eyelets). A bike poncho is a good idea for rain, too.

d) Use a serviceable handlebar, or a rear rack with panniers or brackets (permanently attached for easy on/off). For big shopping trips, consider a trailer. I do grocery shopping with one, and my U-lock secures both bike and trailer to the shopping-cart barricades.

e) The time factor. Your bike may well be faster than the car for a quick local trip. For longer trips (since you already enjoy cycling) think of extra riding time as a bonus, not a deficit. As you use your bike more, you'll easily make mental "room" for this activity.

f) Security. I keep my Kryptonite lock bungeed to my rear rack. Or use a cheap bike.

The type of bike you use is up to you. Many riders like doing errands on a mountain bike equipped for utility. Used bikes can be had through classifieds (I once bought a handsome Schwinn 5-speed for \$80 this way), garage sales, or the police auction in your city. It's fun to search out the ideal accessories for your ultimate utility bike, like racks, lights, internal hub gears, etc.

A final note. I feel utility cycling can really enhance our visibility in public. Cyclists are pretty easy to ignore if we're only out on weekends, in exotic clothing, on back-country roads. By being out on the main streets, day in and day out, and in increasing numbers, we are demanding respect for our right to the road.

ADVENTURE CYCLING

association

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(406) 721-1776

