

# THE SPOKE 'N WORD

Volume 32 Issue 12

December 2009

## Commuting & Parade

**Don VanCleave**

The month of November was not as exciting as some other commuting times. November means getting use to cold weather, which is not hard, but takes adjustment. You have to search out all that cold weather gear that you put somewhere several months ago. Once dressed correctly the commute plugs on. I often say you sweat more in November than in June because I wear more clothes to keep warm.

The most interesting part of the November commute is Parade Day. The day of the Wyandotte Christmas Parade where I ride to Riverview Big Boys and meet up with fellow Downriver Cycling Club members for breakfast. After, we go to Wyandotte to line up for the parade. Joel did a great job organizing this. He had 9 cases, or 1620 bags of animal crackers labeled and ready to pass out on the parade route. The bikes were all decorated and bags and baskets installed. Joel rode my Ice Cream bike so it was possible to reload on the route. It was a blast and the people had fun catching those animal crackers. Another fine DCC event. Where else can you enter a parade and pass out over a thousand bags of animal crackers all on your bicycle commute to work? Riding your bike can always be fun with the right people.

Merry Christmas from my family to yours, may 2010 be your best bike riding year ever!!



Club Meeting  
7:00 PM  
December 3, 2010  
Twin Oaks  
Christian  
Church



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## ***Upcoming DCC Events***

### **December Club Meeting:**

Thursday, December 3rd, 7:00 pm

Elections to be held at Meeting

**Location: Twin Oaks Christian Church 22333 King Road at Dix Toledo Road, Woodhaven, MI**

### **Tuesday AM Ride:**

Willow Metropark @ Washago Pond, 10:00 am. C-Ride. Breakfast ride to nearby towns. Ride leaders

Ray Pekarscik and Jack Kelems. Contact Jack at 734-552-2614. Weather Permitting!

### **Saturday Morning Ride**

Willow Metropark @ Washago Pond, 10:00 am, E-Z Pace Ride. Breakfast ride to nearby towns.

Ride Leader Joe Mayer. Weather Permitting!

### **Sunday December 27th**

**Last Dozen and Pot Luck**

Where: Oakwoods Metro Park Nature Center.

Ride starts at 1:00 PM. Pot luck after the ride, bring a dish to pass.

## **President's Spoke, from the Handlebars**

**Don VanCleave**

As we slide into December the cycling season in Michigan has wound down to a brave few. The month however is very important to the club's future. December brings Officer elections. Nominations are light but stay open until the election at the December meeting. The club is loaded with talented and intelligent people who do the club well by stepping up and volunteering to run for an office.

During this year I saw many stand up and volunteer for the various committees that make the club the well oiled machine that it is. So once again I send out the message for those who have strong new ideas to stand up and make a difference. Don't fall into that pattern where you say I could have done a better job. Run for an office.

This past year I served as Vice President and then President and it has been a pleasure offering what I was able to offer. I hope I served you well. May 2010 bring the best of friendship and cycling to you and your families. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good ride.

Peace,

Bicycledon and his lovely wife Debbie

## ***DCC General Meeting order of Business for November 5, 2009***

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Don VanCleave.
  2. **President's Report**
    - A. Excused John Argue and Gary MacGregor
    - B. December meeting at Twin Oaks Church
    - C. Movie Night Tomorrow, Nov 6th at St.Phillips
    - D. Christmas Coat Drive through November 10th, Drop off coats to Al Petri & Sons Bicycle shops.
    - E. Fantasyland (See Santa) November 28th through December 24th.
  3. **Secretary and Treasurer Report**
    - A. **Secretary:** Minutes approved
    - B. **Treasurer:** President gave report
  4. **Non-Permanent Officer Reports**

**Touring**

    1. Joe not present
    2. President reported November 18th Ride through the Lights at Hines Drive.

**MGST**

    1. Cherie not present
    2. Al Petri reported that MGST Application is on Active.com and our website.

3. Newsletter: Pat not present
  4. Banquet
    - A. Date set for Saturday, February 6th.
    - B. Price \$15.00 per person
    - C. RSVP by Jan 15th
    - D. Awards forms have been handed out. Please return by January 7th.
  5. Bylaw Committee
    - A. Tom and Al have talked and are working on some things.
  5. **Old Business**
    1. Christmas Parade, meet at Big Boys at Fort and Sibley @ 8:30 am. Parade starts at 10:00 am. Meet at Northline and Biddle
  6. **New Business**
    1. Nomination of Officers for 2010  
Secretary: Gary MacGregor nominated  
Treasurer: John Argue nominated  
Vice President: Diane Mente nominated  
President: Don Van Cleave nominated  
Cherie Sword nominated
  7. **Evening Program: No program this evening**
- Adjourned at 7:34 pm  
Submitted by: Debbie Van Cleave

Remember when you made your last years resolution? You said you wanted to bike more this year! Well, now it's December and the bike still hangs on your garage wall! You still have time to fulfill your wish! There are still some good riding days left! Get that bike down and come on out! It's not too late!!! Come out and join us!!!!

Earlier this year, as the new Touring Chairman for 2009, I asked myself, "What type of rides should we have this year?" What will our members want? I had to get back to basics and ask this simple question. What is a cyclist? I turned to my good friend Merriam Webster. In 1882, he answered, "One who rides a cycle". A later, American Heritage Dictionary, has updated the meaning to, "One who rides or races a bicycle, motorcycle, or similar vehicle". I think with today's technology we need to update that!

What I learned is DCC cyclists come in all shapes and sizes. They are limited only by their ability, desires, and their bike of choice. Let's break this down a little further.

**Shapes and sizes** - Well, that should be self explanatory. They range from young athletic riders, to an old weight challenged fart like me!

**Desires** - Some of us are in training for triathlons and marathons, while others would just like to take a toodle-de-do around the park. Some are comfortable riding at 8mph while others want to do 28. Some riders like to stop, to eat and socialize, while others find a Club ride difficult to fit into their busy schedules. Others are content, talking about cycling, without actually riding with the Club. Their bikes are made of googlenium with a comfortable micro-soft saddle.

**Bike of choice** - This selection greatly influences the riders ability and desires. It can make for a cushy comfortable ride around the block, fast road racing, long distance touring, training, to off road biking. There are so many types of bikes out there. To name a few, there are Utility bikes, Mountain Bikes, Racing bikes, Touring bikes, Randonneur bikes, Recumbent bikes, BMX bikes, Cruiser bikes, and Messenger bikes.

There are many variations of each of these types as well. They vary by number of riders, construction type, gearing, sport, and rider position.

Wow, I thought! It still isn't clear! There are so many types of riders in our club. How could we possibly offer rides, that will satisfy every riders needs, exactly. There isn't enough room on the calendar to list them all, or Ride Leaders to carry them out.

In the end, I asked the members at Club meetings and the Club newsletter for ride suggestions and volunteer Ride Leaders. We ended up with day and evening rides that were geared towards the needs of the beginner through challenging performance rides. I hope that you have found your niche in this years DCC calendar.

What have I learned in this process? Cycling is not just making the wheels go round. It is an entity that is fused into us! It is a state of being! It exists in our hearts and minds!

By the way, there is another class of bicycle, I like to call, Frankenbike. On a Tuesday morning Club ride last year, we were stopped at an intersection, waiting for the right of way, to turn left. We were passed by a rider on our left who didn't seem to care about bicycle safety. This guy was sitting atop of a "Tall Bike". Hey! How does he get on and off that thing! Tall bikes are made by welding two or more bicycle frames on top of each other, and running additional chains from the pedals to the rear wheel. None of us had ever seen a bike like this before. Later, I found that Tall bikes are a popular mode of transportation for 'modern bicycle clubs'. Groups that have a large pile of bike parts at their disposal and an equal amount of free time. They make many styles of "Freak Bikes", limited only by their imagination. On the same note, I remember seeing a bicycle built in 1896 at The Henry Ford, that would seat 10 cyclists. I recently found out that the largest multi-bike on record would hold 40 cyclists!!! Hey, our whole club could fit on that one!

#### **Upcoming Rides** -

**DCC Last Dozen and Pot Luck** - Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> Oakwoods Metro Park Nature Center. Ride starts at 1:00 PM, Pot Luck after the ride! You're not riding? Too cold you say? Come on out anyway and enjoy the company of your fellow members for the last time this year. Discuss new resolutions, that Shiny New Bike Santa brought, and your training plans to get you through this winter. Bring a dish to pass!

**First Dozen** - The 38<sup>th</sup> annual First Dozen Ride is being held on January 1<sup>st</sup> by the Cycling Saddlemen of Dearborn. Check their website for information and an application.

<http://www.saddlemen.org/index.php?module=home.inc.php>

**May You and Your Family Have a Very Blessed & Joyous Holiday!**

**See you out there!!**

***From the Editor***

***by: Patrick Manick***

*Thank you to all the pleasant people I have had the pleasure of meeting this past year on the trails and paths. May all your families have a safe holiday with the thoughts of a healthy and prosperous 2010.*

*Merry Christmas.*

# *DCC Annual*



## *Awards Banquet*

*Saturday, February 6, 2010*

*Portofino on the River*

*3455 Biddle*

*Wyandotte, MI 48192*

*\$15.00 per person, cash bar*

*5:30-6:00pm Registration and Cocktails*

*6:00pm Dinner*

*7:00pm Awards Presentation*

*Please see co-hosts*

*Maureen Baker*

*or*

*Debbie Lance*

*for your RSVP*

*Checks will be accepted if written out to DCC. Please send to Maureen Baker, 1441 19<sup>th</sup> St,  
Wyandotte, MI 48192 or Debbie Lance, 2104 18<sup>th</sup> St, Wyandotte, MI 48192.*

**From the Annual DCC Banquet Co-Chairperson: Debby Lance**

Please mark your calendars to return your nominations via hand delivery to: Debby Lance – 2104 - 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192 -- zoophile@wyan.org -- at the January 2010 meeting or U.S. mail no later than January 7, 2010.

**2009 DCC SILVER CYCLIST AWARD**

The Downriver Cycling Club is proud to honor those members who have participated in a wide range of club and cycling events. The award is open to all members who have at least 1,000 points and meet the minimum point total in each category.

**2009 MGST Participation (minimum 150 points):**

Chair or co-chair of the event	300
MGST Committee Member	150
Baked Cookies (@ cookie bake night)	75
Worked Day of Event	75
Worked Envelope Stuffing Night and/or Flyer Labeling Night	75 each
Map Master	150
Route Master	150
Mailing List Coordinator	150
Route Marker	150
Registration Flyer Coordinator	150
Shirt/Patch Master	150
Your MGST total points: _____	

**Club Activities (minimum 250 points):**

Club Officer	250
Newsletter Editor or Touring Chair	150
Attended Club Meetings	10 each
Wrote Newsletter Article	25 each
Hosted a DCC event other than MGST (Freeze Ride, Birthday Ride, Ski Trip, etc.)	250 each
Worked a DCC event other than MGST (PEAC repair nights, cooked or set up club picnic, Parade or Banquet Committees, etc.)	100 each
Ride Leaders	
Weekly for entire season	250
Occasional/Fill-In	25
Your club activities total points: _____	

**Club rides (minimum 200 points):**

Each scheduled club ride attended and Rode at least half the distance	10 each
Your club ride total points: _____	

**Other Rides / Affiliations:**

Other ride participation (i.e. BWR, COC)	25 each
Memberships (LAB, LMB, other clubs)	25 each
Your "other" total points: _____	

\_\_\_\_\_ is a SILVER CYCLIST with \_\_\_\_\_ total points.  
(Your name here)

SIZES PLEASE: jacket \_\_\_\_\_ jersey \_\_\_\_\_

## 2009 DCC Awards Banquet Nominations

Since none of us are in attendance at every DCC function, we rely on the observations of the membership to recognize the achievements of other members and nominate them for some of the "standard" and "non-standard" awards. Here is your chance to give recognition to actual or dubious achievements to others or yourself. Don't be shy. Step right up. Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to Debby Lance -- 2104 – 18<sup>th</sup> Street – Wyandotte, MI 48192 -- zoophile@wyan.org

STANDARD AWARDS	NOMINEE
<b>Member of the Year:</b> The person most responsible for DCC's success in 2009. This member represents the club spirit and participates on many levels in order to promote and support the club in actions and words	
<b>Cyclist of the Year:</b> A strong smooth rider who takes leadership on rides.	
<b>Good Samaritan:</b> A person who helps out on the road the most.	
<b>Youth of the Year:</b> Most outstanding young rider (18 and under).	
<b>Most Improved Cyclist of 2009:</b> Riding technique and mileage	
<b>Draft Horse:</b> A strong rider who helps the rest by pulling the rest of us.	
<b>Best Dressed:</b> The most stylish riding attire	
<b>Phantom Rider:</b> An active member who is noticeably absent for rides	
<b>Techno weenie:</b> A person with all the latest gadgets.	
<b>Wrong way Ray:</b> A rider who is consistently navigationally challenged.	
<b>Sweep Award:</b> The person who makes sure that all are in, and leaves no rider behind.	
<b>Most Graceful Dismount:</b> The person who got off the bike in the most unorthodox manner	

NON-STANDARD AWARDS	
Here is your opportunity to nominate and award another member for an individual act, a year of exemplary behavior or something that is just plain funny. If you make nominations in this category, you will be responsible to prepare and present the award. Get creative. Get revenge. Get mushy. Some of our best and most honored awards are in this category.	
<b>AWARD:</b>	<b>NOMINEE:</b>

NOMINATE YOURSELF	
<b>The most spills:</b> I fell off the bike _____ times in 2009.	
<b>Bullet Bill:</b> Highest mileage for a male rider. Trainer miles count. I rode _____ miles in 2009.	
<b>Bullet Betty:</b> Highest mileage for a female rider. Trainer miles count. I rode _____ miles in 2009.	
<b>Most flats:</b> I had _____ flats in 2009.	
<b>First Century:</b> I rode my first century in 2009 _____.	
<b>Mileage Maker:</b> My total miles for 2009 were _____.	
<b>Ice Biker:</b> I am an Ice Biker after riding in weather of 32 degrees or less in 2009 _____.	

# December 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>Ride Classification</b> A-Ride 18 mph+ B-Ride 14 to 18 mph C-Ride 10 to 14 mph D-Ride 6 to 10 mph		1 <b>10:00 AM C-Ride</b> Willow, Metropark	2	3 <b>Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Twin Oaks Christian Church	4	5 <b>10:00 AM EZ-Pace Ride</b> Willow, Metropark
6	7	8 <b>10:00 AM C-Ride</b> Willow, Metropark	9	10	11	12 <b>10:00 AM EZ-Pace Ride</b> Willow, Metropark
13	14	15 <b>10:00 AM C-Ride</b> Willow, Metropark	16	17	18	19 <b>10:00 AM EZ-Pace Ride</b> Willow, Metropark
20	21 <b>Brrr!</b> <b>First Day of Winter!</b>	22 <b>10:00 AM C-Ride</b> Willow, Metropark  The days are getting longer now!	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>	25 <b><u>Merry Christmas</u></b>	26
27 <b>DCC Last Dozen Ride</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>Oakwoods Nature Center</b>	28	29 <b>10:00 AM C-Ride</b> Willow, Metropark	30	31 <b>New Years Eve</b>	<b>January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010</b>  <i>First Dozen Ride Cycling Saddlemen Dearborn, Mi.</i>	

All rides start at Washago Pond, Willow Metropark, unless otherwise specified

**All Rides are Weather Permitting**

Check our e-mail site for confirmation or cancellations during questionable weather!

## ***Bike Shorts***



ITEMS FOR SALE: 2007 Mens's Specialized Expedition 26 inch x 1.95 tires. Tan color, medium size bike with black plastic fenders. Sigma bike computer Model 506, handle bar mounted rear view mirror, rear bike bag rack, rear light, water bottle cage and kick stand. Perfect Condition. Price reduced to \$280.00 SARIS bones car/suv carrier with bar component for transporting low cut female bicycle. Both items for \$105.00  
Contact: Bob Wickenheiser [bobbb@chartermi.net](mailto:bobbb@chartermi.net) Phone: 734-241-2546



P.O. Box 811  
Trenton , MI 48183

# December 2009

**We're on the web**  
<http://www.lmb.org/dcc/>

Our club list-serve e-mail list may be joined by sending a blank e-mail message addressed as follows:  
[dcc-mich-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dcc-mich-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) Once subscribed, send email messages to [dcc-mich@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dcc-mich@yahoogroups.com)

The SPOKE 'n WORD Newsletter is published for distribution to DCC members and related organizations. Members ads are welcome at no charge. **Deadline is the 15th of each month.**

Established in 1978, DCC promotes bicycle safety, education and all forms of cycling. DCC is affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists and the League of Michigan Bicyclists.

The Club's Metro Grand Spring Tour is held on the first Sunday in May of every Year.

Meeting are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Membership dues are \$10.00 per calendar year or part thereof, and include all household members. Members are entitled to the monthly newsletter and voting privileges.

#### **State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator**

Todd Kauffman (517) 335-2918 days [Kauffmant@michigan.gov](mailto:Kauffmant@michigan.gov)

**LMB Regional Director, Region 4** (Monroe and Western Wayne Counties)  
- Jim Carpenter e-mail: [jc.animal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jc.animal@sbcglobal.net)

**LMB Executive Director** Rich Moeller, Michigan Only, toll free phone:  
(888) 642-4537, email [Office@lmb.org](mailto:Office@lmb.org)

President - Don Van Cleave  
313-381-2833 (Work) [bicycledon@comcast.net](mailto:bicycledon@comcast.net)  
734-560-5739 (Cell)

Vice President - Diana Mente  
[dmente8759@yahoo.com](mailto:dmente8759@yahoo.com)

Treasurer/Membership - John Argue -  
734-771-3446 [johnargue@att.net](mailto:johnargue@att.net)

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734-363-3065 [gmac01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmac01@sbcglobal.net)

Newsletter Editor - Pat Manick -  
734-771-6541 [pmdte@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmdte@sbcglobal.net)

Touring - Joe Mayer [jomayer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jomayer@sbcglobal.net)

2010 MGST Chair - Cherie & Bruce Sword  
[alicebtoeclips@widepenwest.com](mailto:alicebtoeclips@widepenwest.com)

MGST Pre-Registration - Gary MacGregor  
734-363-3065 [gmac01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmac01@sbcglobal.net)

Webmaster - Al Petri, Jr.  
313 971 6691 [aljr@petribikes.com](mailto:aljr@petribikes.com)

2010 Banquet Chair - Maureen Baker and Debby Lance