

The Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club Newsletter

December 1997

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Pedal Pushin'

Janice Jensen, TWBC President

The holidays are upon us, and so quickly. I, for one, would like to know where the time went.

Thanksgiving has come and gone, with the usual traditions, and Christmas is just around the corner.

Carla is heading up the Christmas parade on Dec. 7 once again this year (a great opportunity for a family event. Get your bikes out, and kids too, and start decorating them. (Editor's note: I want to see those decorated kids.) Be sure to check the ride notes for more details, and give Carla a jingle if you have any questions.

Along with Christmas comes winter riding. For some folks that simply means the indoor trainer gets set up, leaving others to brave the wind, rain, and snow. I prefer fresh air, so I am willing to face the elements.

If you are the outdoors type please remember to dress for the weather. Winter riding can bring many surprises, especially in the great Northwest. You can leave the house with sunshine and a few clouds, which quickly turn to rain, then sleet, and before you know it, it is freezing cold out, all in the same day.

Please remember to bring extra clothing wrapped in plastic so you can change if you have to. Also be sure to charge up those night lights before you head out the door, so you are not caught by surprise in the dark. Add reflective clothing for the longer periods of darkness so motorists can see you. Santa wants to be sure he sees you on Christmas Eve too so(

Ride safe, ride smart. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

New members: Joe Stoddard and Margie Monroe.

Renewing members: Chris and Joel Goodman; Jim Henriot; William F. Hoehne; Lew Jones; Foy Leatherman; Margo M. McClellan; and Joy Roelofsz.

The Galloping Goose Trail

by **Dena Wessels**

Dear Little Sister:

Just got back from yet another Club bicycle trip. Eleven of us drove up to Port Angeles, and took the ferry over to Victoria, Canada. Spent an hour looking over the town, then hopped onto the Galloping Goose Trail.

Now, this is not a paved trail, so mountain bikes are required for the course gravel path. I took my cross bike. Ralph took his mountain bike and had our BOB trailer hooked on the back to carry our stuff.

We went 40K on the trail to get to our bed and breakfast. Lots of pretty countryside! The path is built on an old railroad course, so the trail is mostly flat. Luckily it did not rain, or we would have been in a world of hurt. Guess it was sunny (cause we were all carrying our rain gear. The gravel surface would have made wonderful mud holes, and two of the group did have their back wheels go out from under them in a few of the boggy sections.

The group split up between two bed and breakfasts. I stayed at the Skookum B&B, and it was a nice place for our two nights away from home. It even came with a four year old chocolate lab, who was a very friendly sort and extremely well mannered. Just what I needed since I had kenneled my puppies for this trip.

The lab took an immense liking to the Beanie Baby I had on my bike. She took to carrying it around the house, when she could get her teeth on it. She also liked to sit just outside the dining room for breakfast, hoping for a soft touch among the guests.

The other group stayed at Mrs. Lewer's Farmhouse B&B. It is an actual rural farm, with goats and such. They had several cats upon the property, as well as a dog and a puppy. At both B&Bs no animals were allowed in the guestrooms. The group who stayed here was rewarded with a queen who had just had four kittens a short while ago. Each one of the cats took turns watching over the little ones.

The second day, the group biked up to a location that a wealthy person had intended to use as a convention center (out in the middle of woods). The entire place was framed, had part of the roof, but that was all. It is situated up off a river, so it had marvelous views. The timbers were immense, some of them two feet in diameter. Huge stone fireplaces, made you feel as if you were back in the middle ages, expecting servants to come in and throw another log on the fire.

We continued up the trail, and discovered that no one in the group happened to notice the sign that said the trail was closed. Seven miles later, we ran smack into a chain link fence across the trail. One of the bridges was out, but someone had laid planks over a six-foot section of river.

Since there was a sandy and sunny area here, we decided to have the lunch the Skookum B&B had packed for us. The lady that runs it really goes for customer service. She found out what each of us did and did not like, and then catered to it.

Half our group decided to continue the rest of the seven miles, while the other half (that I went with) decided to head back and go into town.

We visited the Skookum museum that had lots of pictures of 'the olden days.' It had both indoor and outdoor attractions.

Once in town, we decided to hit a small restaurant for a quick bite, since it was pretty cold out. I discovered on my second ride with the Club that the main destinations for Club rides appear to be somewhere to eat. Have to fuel the body to be able to put in those miles, I guess.

Anywho, this place served slabs of pies, not pieces of pies. A few pictures of these beauties will be turning up at the Club Banquet.

We then ran into the other part of our group on our way back to the B&Bs. After everyone had cleaned up for the day, the group decided to get together and have pizza delivered. Luckily it was a good number of hours after we had eaten pie, so we were ready for it.

I countered my 'habit' of puppy withdrawal and took the B&B's puppy outside for a pit stop. While there I saw young deer grazing on the lawn. You could tell when these creatures came near the house at night, as the security motion lights would come on when they were out there. Oh yeah, the owner's husband had warned us in the morning that a cougar had been sighted in the area a few days ago, but we never saw any evidence of it.

The next morning the other group got to feast on fresh fruit and cream, in addition to fluffy omelets with wonderful fillings. The owner's husband fed my group. I forgot to mention that he use to be a cook in the navy. Talk about light pancakes.

Everyone chowed down, packed up, saddled up, and hit the trail to head back. Took a lot of pictures on the way back in, since on the way out, I was concentrating more on keeping my wheels upright, rather than taking advantage of the scenery.

Got back into Victoria, and the group split up to go have lunch in various locations. Four of us went to one restaurant which seated us immediately, delivered good food promptly, and had warm bathrooms. It was still a little bit cold, and we had to have beer with our meal (Canadian, of course, eh?).

The ferry ride back in the early evening was highlighted by a full moon. We didn't have any trouble with Customs-guess we didn't look like some rag tag outfit. But then most of us were wearing Club jerseys, so we were easily identifiable. All in all, it was quite a trip, eh?

TWBC's 1998 Banquet

by **Bob Myrick**

TWBC banquet tickets make a great Christmas present for your cycling family friends. You are cordially invited to this event.

Our banquet is buffet style and still scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998, at The Tacoma Mountaineer's Club, 2302 North 30th Street, in Old Town Tacoma.

The banquet starts off with visiting and refreshments at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is at 7:00 p.m., and will be catered 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 seasonal vegetables, chicken parmesan, penne pasta primavera, and dessert.

After dinner, Louis Boitano will present thoughtful reminders of the past year's riding. Mary Kubiszewski will recognize members who have reached milestones in their ridership. Janice Jensen will thank our Board members, staff, and all of you great volunteers.

The highlight of the evening is always a great slide show recalling our 1997 adventures. You still have time to submit your best slides to Steve or Phyllis Lay, 759-1816.

Help is still needed for the banquet. We need someone to work on a theme, help with award presentation, 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 and support your club.

Dress at the banquet ranges from your cycling clothes to jeans and sweaters to your best evening dress or tuxedo.

Now is the time to send in your reservation form, found below. Attendance is limited to the first 96 people to register. Your fellow cyclists, board members, and myself really hope to see you there.

ISTEA Enhancement Projects In Pierce County

by **Ralph Wessels**

The table on the following page shows what projects in our area were recently selected by the Puget Sound Regional Council for funding. Funds for these projects are a result of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which requires 10% of the funds to go to enhancement projects. Both bicycle and pedestrian projects have been popular funding targets as a result.

The act, which expired September 30, 1997, has been temporarily continued through a six-month bill. This will allow our elected officials to resolve a difference of opinions when Congress returns next year. Interestingly, both the Senate and House draft versions of ISTEA2, (sometimes called BESTEA or NEXTEA), would have provided funds to continue the enhancement program.

If you believe that the funding of enhancement projects is important to you and your community, you should contact your elected officials and let them know you would like their continued support.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) projects for Pierce County

Firecrest:

- Regents Boulevard. Minor widening, sidewalks and lane widths for bicycles. During 1998. \$212,000.

Lakewood:

- Bridgeport Way: Sidewalks, I-5 to Steilacoom Boulevard. During 1998. \$590,000.
- Bridgeport Way: Sidewalks, 300 feet south of 75th St. SW to Lakewood Dr. During 1999. \$509,000.
- Oakbridge Community Ctr. Pedestrian access, Briggs Lane to Weller Road South. During 1998.

\$79,000. Pierce County:

- Foothills Trail: Orting to South Prairie. During 1998. \$411,000.
- Foothills Trail. Design and right-of-way, South Prairie to Buckley. During 1998. \$310,000.
- Foothills Trail: Paving and trail head, 1600 ft., South Prairie. During 1998. \$240,000.
- Puyallup River Trail: Design 1.7 mile segment, 54th Ave. to 66th Ave. East. During 1998. \$110,000.
- Puyallup River Trail Phase 1 construction, W City limit to 5th St N.E. (1.34m). 1998 \$504,000
- Cushman Power Line Trail 14th St. (Narrows Bridge) to Park & Ride, Kimball Drive. 1999-Design, \$60,000. 2000-Const. \$340,000

- Spanaway Loop Road Paving, to include 4ft. shoulders, sidewalks on N side. During 1998 \$767,000

- Parkland Trans. Center: Provide, safe, unobstructed access along SR7. During 1998 \$350,000

- Commute Trip Reduction Education, marketing, assistance, incl. Carless Comm. By the year 2000 \$200,000. **Puyallup Tribe**

- Lister Gulch Bike/Ped bridge & path to link Portland Ave. with the tribal campus. During 1998. \$42,000. **Sumner**

- Sumner Transit Station Transit center, including ped., bike, and transit access. By year 2000. \$816,000 **Tacoma**

- Lincoln Avenue: Portland Ave. to Marc Ave. Incl. ped/bike path on bridge and trail to Gog-Li-Hi-Te wetland. Part of Puyallup River Trail. By 1999 \$955,000

\$318,000.

- Puyallup River Trail: E. 11th St. to Lincoln Ave. Bridge right-of-way, construct. During 1998. \$450,000

- Thea Foss Waterway Public Esplanade, Chihuly Ctr. Ped/bike access & rec. During 1998. \$1,459,000.

University Place

- Bridgeport Way: Sidewalks, bike lanes, ped. refuge in center lane. Signal improvements from 40th St. W to Cirque Dr. W. Design/right-of-way/construct. By year 2000. \$937,000

Government Relations Report

by Bob Myrick

TWBC Director of Community and Government Relations

Our committee met at the North End Juice Bar on Tuesday, November 11, 1997.

Thirty bike lockers are available for long term monthly rental at the new Pierce Transit transportation center at Freighthouse Square. Carla Gramlich suggested that lockers should be available for short-term use. I agreed to contact Vicki Cannard with this suggestion, and discuss long-term rental costs and forms.

I received a letter from Elton Gatewood, coordinator for the City of Tacoma's Neighborhood Council office. He indicated the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council had approved a \$1000.00 grant request to provide signage for Tacoma's City Water Ditch Trail. The City Council will consider approval of this and other grants in December.

Carla provided us with a copy of the North End Neighborhood Council's newsletter, which listed the council's project list for spending \$750,000.00 over the next three years. The list was amazing in that it included many motorized projects as follows:

- 1. Mason Trail: Finish a pedestrian walkway through the center of Mason Avenue's median and expand to run from North 9th to North 27th.
- 2. Union Ave. bike lane, walk and lights: Provide this enhancement along Union from North 9th to North 30th.
- 3. 9th Street sidewalk: Add sidewalks to link the Mason loop with Union.
- 4. Union, Mason enhancements: Provide benches, signs, and trash receptacles to the loop.
- 5. Alder bike lane: Mark bike lane from North 21st to North 26th.
- 6. Stevens bike lane: Mark bike lane from 6th Avenue to North 39th.

Numerous crosswalk and sidewalk improvements were also listed.

I indicated we would continue our efforts to improve bicycle facilities in the Dupont I-5 corridor, possibly contacting Intel Corporation.

Carla has obtained a booth at the Tacoma Home and Garden Show, from January 28th to February 1st. The booth will have TWBC, Foothills Trail, and NowBike people available to share our interests.

The booth will be part of the sustainable living section of the show. We need volunteers to work the booth. Please call Carla at 752-4038 to volunteer.

Our next meeting will be at the North End Juice Bar at N 21st and Anderson, on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. All club members are invited to attend. We will be following up on a number of our concerns in the community.