

the cog-nitive courier

tacoma wheelmen's bicycle club newsletter

po box 112078 tacoma, wa 98411 www.twbc.org 253-759-2800

since 1888



December 2008

TWBC's Annual Holiday Party

By Debbie Hushagen



This year's Christmas Party will be a bit different than in years past. We will be having a "party only" event that will not include a Ride to see the lights. Check out the Website in December for the date of that ride (Friday, Dec. 19).

Debbie and Jim Hushagen will be hosting the Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 12th. They are located at 2920 - 84th Ave. Ct. E., Edgewood, WA (north Puyallup), phone: (253) 922-5801. The potluck will start at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite appetizer, main dish, salad, or dessert and the beverage of your choice. Hot-spiced wine, hot spiced cider, punch, tea and coffee will be provided. Since this won't be a riding activity, feel free to dress in your festive best, or your favorite jersey, whatever you prefer.

Hope to see you there with bells on! ☺

Three Great Ride Events

By Joyce Clifford, Director of Special Events

Daffodil Classic, April 19 2009



Peninsula Metric Century, June 7, 2009

PMC



Headwaters Century, September 27, 2009

The planning has started. The TWBC is looking for Coordinators for the Daffodil Classic and the Headwaters Century. What is involved? Work with the Event Team, follow the details for your Ride, and make sure it all comes together for the day of the ride. The Club has been putting on Event Rides for 34 years. You have that foundation to work from and experienced people working on various aspects of the Event.

The Daffodil Classic has a wonderful new start location this year. The brand new junior high school has offered their facility with a kitchen for the pancake breakfast (put on by school staff), a commons room for registration and new parking facilities.

The Headwaters Century will continue to start from its prime location of the Enumclaw High School. The start date has been move to the end of September so that it does not conflict with the Puyallup Fair and other scheduled bike rides.

Is this the year for you to coordinate one of TWBC's Ride Events? Join our Team. Call Joyce Clifford, (253) 759-2393, for more information. ☺

The COG Home Page

Jan. Ride Calendar Deadline:
Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008

Please Note Earlier Dates!
Jan. COG Article Deadline:
Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008

Next Club Meeting:
Tuesday, February 16, 2009

Please keep Database Commander Anne updated as to any USPS/E-mail address changes. It makes her job a lot easier!

The TWBC 'Smiling Bicycle' Logo was designed by member Steve Lay, as are the majority of our Club Ride T-shirts, as well as the Club Jersey.



TWBC Ride Line
253 - 759 - 2800
UPDATED

Sunday & Thursday!

(If you don't receive your newsletter, whatever the delivery method, contact the editor!)

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president@twbc.org

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VICE - PRESIDENT:

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Vern Hase, 253 - 759 - 7246



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daffodil@twbc.org

APRIL 12, 2009

PENINSULA METRIC (2009):

pmc@twbc.org

JUNE 7, 2009

HEADWATERS CENTURY (2009):

headwaters@twbc.org

September 27, 2009

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Ralph Wessels, 253 - 857 - 5658

CLUB JERSEY SALES:

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Peggy Fjetland, 253 - 841 - 4458

BIKE EXPO:

bikebooth@twbc.org

Peggy Fjetland, 253 - 841 - 4458

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC:

(Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008):

Caroline Baker

TWBC Publicity :

Anita Beninger



PMC





December Draft Lines

By President Carol Davis

Winter Cycling is upon us. Much advice has been given recently about cycling safely and dressing appropriately for winter cycling. No excuse exists for not getting out unless you just don't feel like it. I must admit, I have that feeling at times. I have to remind myself how good I will feel and how much better I will sleep if I get out on the road for even just ten miles at times. My main goal for winter is not to get so OUT of shape that it is painful getting back INTO shape in the spring. I'll never forget how I felt after breaking my knee and then getting back on the bike. It wasn't my knee that hurt!!

The Tacoma Wheelmen are not hibernating through the winter! Many rides are being offered. Winter is a great time to start cycling with the Club if you haven't yet. Most rides are at a slower and friendlier pace. We usually stop for lunch or coffee, making it a great time to get to know the people you are on the road with a little bit better.

Winter is our party season! We start with the Halloween Party at the end of October, continue on with our Holiday Party, and the party of the year is our Banquet in January. Our party season is a great time to bring your non-cycling friends and spouses. There are many opportunities for non-cycling friends to get involved with our Club.

Karel and Lou Vance put on a spectacular party for Halloween this year. Of course, everyone participated by bringing an incredibly enticing array of food. The Vance's house was decorated with Karel's handmade Halloween quilts. Of course before the party, we went on an invigorating ride through Tacoma's West End. The grand finale was Karel's homemade doughnuts created on the spot! I had never had such a delight before. They were what I thought Krispy Crème's might be before I had one. I'm so sorry if you missed out! Better luck next time!

Our Holiday Party this year will be at Debbie and Jim Hushagen's house on December 12. Our Annual Holiday Lights Ride will be held at a separate time (Friday, December 19). Watch for more information. You won't want to miss this very special occasion.

The Banquet is our annual celebration of all of our accomplishments, big or small. Feel good about whatever amount of mileage you were able to do this year, and at whatever level you were able to participate in helping with our Club Events and activities. Be inspired by those who took on leadership roles in putting on our Events and Rides. Maybe YOU will take on an important role this year! Congratulate those who accomplished great feats in mileage. Reminisce about all the great times we have had together. And the wheels keep on turning!! ☺

Safe Psychling: December

From Bicyclesafe.com by Michael Bluejay

Submitted by Carol Davis



The Left Cross

A car coming towards you makes a left turn right in front of you, or right into you. This is similar to The Right Cross.

How to avoid this collision:

1. **Don't ride on the sidewalk.** When you come off the sidewalk to cross the street, you're invisible to turning motorists.
2. **Get a headlight.** If you're riding at night, you should absolutely use a front headlight. It's required by law in most countries, anyway.
3. **Wear something bright, even during the day.** It may seem silly, but bikes are small and easy to see through even during the day. Yellow or orange reflective vests really make a big difference. Reflective leg bands are also easy and inexpensive.
4. **Don't pass on the right.** Don't overtake slow-moving vehicles on the right. Doing so makes you invisible to left-turning motorists at intersections. Passing on the right means that the vehicle you're passing could also make a right turn right into you, too.
5. **Slow down.** If you can't make eye contact with the driver (especially at night), slow down so much that you're able to completely stop if you have to. Sure, it's inconvenient, but it beats getting hit. ☺

Annual Banquet

By Bob Myrick



Each year our Club sponsors a Banquet to reflect on the past year's activities and accomplishments. It is a great time for fellowship and to honor significant achievements. You are cordially invited to attend. The Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Wild West VFW Post 91, 2000 Union Avenue. This fun event starts at 6:00 pm for socializing with dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. There may be another jam session starting around 5:00 pm, if I can find some TWBC musicians or friends brave enough to show up again. Dean Allen's Catering will again be serving dinner. This will be the twelfth year for Dean Allen's team because they do such a great job. Two year's ago, we had to reluctantly raise our prices to \$20 for adults and \$15 for children, but this is still a bargain as the Banquet is subsidized.

Please look in this Newsletter for the 2009 Banquet Reservation Form (*page 12*). Mail your reservations to the Club address: TWBC Banquet, PO Box 112078, Tacoma, WA, 98411. You will not receive any confirmation so just trust us to the right thing as long as you address your envelope correctly. If you absolutely, positively want to verify, call Dena Wessels at (253) 857-5658 because she is the official registrar, name tag provider and doorkeeper. We generally limit attendance to about 88 people so think about signing up as early as possible.

Dress at this Banquet ranges from your old cycling clothes to your best eveningwear. Some people ride to the Banquet. It is a great time to reflect on the past year and reaffirm your interest in bicycling. We recognize note-worthy mileages (all of them), volunteerism and accidents. There is always good fun, beverages, merriment and good humor. Sometimes, it is the only time of the year when Code 2 riders meet the Code 3 riders, or when the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday riders meet the weekend cyclists and hard-core commuters.

The Banquet is traditionally the largest gathering of fellow Club Members. We limit attendance due to the size of the

facility and to limit our costs. Whether you choose to attend the Banquet or not, please send your Ride Logs, Commute Logs and Ride Leader Sheets to TWBC 2008, Attention: Carla Gramlich, Touring Captain, PO Box 112078, Tacoma, WA, 98411.

Please send your information to Carla by early December so that we can recognize your accomplishments. Carla is also requesting your good digital images from this past year's activities. She plans on preparing another great slide show for your enjoyment.

As always, we welcome any help. Carol Davis, our President, will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. Steve Brown will be providing refreshments and some light snacks. Wine will come from the Wild Side. Peggy Fjetland will help organize the Event and the decorating and entertainment. Mike Schrumm may be assisting as well. These people are all good company, so come out early and help them set up the place or plan to stay late and help clean up. Please call me if you would like to help in any way. Remember, we really need your digital images. ☺

Subject: Reimbursement

By Treasurer Gus Fant & President Carol Davis

For those seeking reimbursement for monies spent on TWBC activities and/or functions (printing, copying making, food for meetings, stamps, whatever is TWBC related, etc.), please accompany your receipts with the "Check Request Form."

The Check Request Form is available on-line from the TWBC Web Page (<http://www.twbc.org/>). Click on "Resources" tab and the form is available there (<http://www.twbc.org/resources/CheckRequestForm.pdf>). You can also request said form in person from the TWBC Treasurer.



The Check Request Form is important for both you and our treasurer. First of all the treasurer needs to know who to make out the check to, and where to send it. Secondly, the treasurer needs to know what the reimbursement is for to keep our books straight.

Remember, we are all volunteers, and whatever we can do to help each other out is greatly appreciated. Thanking you in advance for your help in this matter. ☺



Ride Captain Report

By Carla Gramlich

November is the start of the New Year for TWBC Members. Print a copy of the Ride Log (<http://www.twbc.org/resources/ridelog.htm>) and start keeping track of your Club Mileage. Also, print the Commute Form (<http://www.twbc.org/resources/commutelog.htm>) and track that Commute Mileage. Attend the Annual Banquet January 31, and you will get a little more motivation with prizes. Many people, put lots of effort into getting their 2000 miles, so they can get the custom t/sweat shirt. Keeping track of your miles, NOW, will help you later in the year. Also, getting out, NOW, will help prevent a mad rush later in the year when you are SO close to those 2000 miles.

The Club recognizes everyone that rides (and turns in their Logs). Maybe your goal this year is a lot lower than the 2000 (miles) goal. Go for it! The Club wants everyone to ride, and we hope to encourage everyone and their personal goals.

In November, I started a Ride for New Members, to help them start riding with a group. After several days of rain, I was really surprised how many showed up. We had 20 hardy riders that sunny afternoon. Half of the group was new or trying out the Club. The other half was veterans that gave support. I appreciated the turn out and will try to offer this Ride once a month.

We started out in the sun and rode the Scott Pierson Trail towards town. Then I showed the group a pleasant way across Hill Top to the North End of town. Down Jackson, in the rain, we regrouped at the trail to cross the Narrows. Some of the group decided to cut it short. I designed the route, for folks to be able bail, if they had enough miles for that day. Also, some people don't want to ride across the Narrows Bridge. Several riders wanted to ride across the bridge. On the other side, the rain and stopped, so we continued to the Olympic Village for coffee.

We arrived back at Skyline Park and Ride, in the rain and it was getting dark. Bob and I escorted a new Member back

to her home, since we had lights on our bikes. Remember it is getting dark earlier now, so be prepared with some lights, (and bright clothes) just in case the ride takes longer than planned. Once home, I took a hot shower. The next, New (and Old) Member Ride will be Sunday, December 7. If winter riding is not for you, check out the Calendar when the weather is nicer and come out on one of these monthly rides.

Gene Smith was happy with the turnout for his November Ride that he is thinking of other creative options for rides. Gene offers slow, steady and training rides. I gave him suggestions like "Get lost with Gene" and "Does Gene really know where he is going". He didn't think those titles would provide many riders. Ride with Gene on December 13 as he tries his "A Musical Ride with Gene". Thanks Gene, for taking the time to lead rides and ignoring my suggestions.

TWBC Members were in the news last month. The News Tribune talked to several Members about riding in the rain and cold. Check out the article for some good suggestions (<http://www.thenewstribune.com/tacoma/24hour/consumer/outdoors/story/535610.html>). Also, Bob "King Solomon" Myrick, was honored in an article in the Volcano (<http://www.weeklyvolcano.com/2008-11-13/cover/2989/>). Just too bad the reporter misspelled his name, but we knew who he was talking about. (Both articles, should be on the web, at least for awhile)

Remember, December can have some sunny days that are wonderful for a bicycle ride. Check out the Newsletter, Web Calendar or Rideline to see what is being offered that week. Take some time out from the holiday rush and go on a bicycle ride. ☺



Renewing Members (Thank You!):

Sue Batali & Fred Knox, Bryce Brown, Karten Comer & Charlie Wolf, William Horn, Dan King, Fletch Kistler, Patsy Lavelle, Bob & Donna Levin, Tom Reardon, and Jane Watson.

New Members (Welcome!):

Tricia Garcia, Al Knopik, and Leonard & Rebecca Throop.



twbc monthly event schedule

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

Day/ Day	Time	Ride Code	Dist- ance	Leader/ Contact @ (253)	 Ride or Activity 
12/01 Mon	9:30 AM	1 C	22 (13)	Joyce Clifford 759 - 2393	Hail, hardy & ready for coffee. Loop Pt. Defiance. Someone will stay with the slowest rider. Regroup at Ft. Nisqually, then onto Fircrest for espresso/ raspberry scones. You can shorten to 13 miles by cutting out Fircrest. Rain/Freezing Cancels. Start: Starbucks @ 26th & Proctor. 
12/02 Tues	9:30 AM	2 B	30 - 50	Call Ride Line 759 - 2800	Tues. Decide to Ride. Note later winter start time. Start: Call Ride Line or check Club Website for details.
12/02 Tues	6:00 PM	00 Meet	00 & Eat	Bob Myrick 473 - 7455	Government Affairs Meeting @ Guadalajara Taqueria in the Stadium H.S. area @ 1st & Tacoma Ave. Work on bicycle problems around Pierce County. All are invited to participate.
12/03 Weds	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lou & Karel Vance 921 - 4847	Foothills Trail Ride. Ride the paved trail w/ the Vance's. Start: East Puyallup Trailhead. 
12/04 Thurs	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lonna Cain 475 - 8853	Silk Road Smoooothly. 100% paved trail w/ very few road crossings;. No hills, no unpleasantries or your money back! Smoothies or beverage of your choice in South Prairie (no host). Rain Cancels. Start: East Puyallup Trailhead. 
12/04 Thurs	4 - 7 PM	00 Meet &	00 Plan	Jayme Gordon Pleasants 845 - 2973	4th Annual Pierce Country Trails Conference. Updates on local trail projects, trail related topics, speakers. Start: United Methodist Church, Puyallup.
12/06 Sat	9:30 AM	2 C	30 - 35	Gene Smith 272 - 6747	Gene's Steady Ride. Freighthouse to Auburn, w/ hills. Start: Freighthouse Square. 
12/07 Sun	1 PM	1 B	21 (12)	Carla Gramlich 879 - 0115	Sunday New (& Old) Member's Afternoon Ride. Tour 12 miles via the Scott Pierson Trail. Add 9 more miles w/ the Narrows Bridge, the Cushman Power Trail, & stopping in Gig Harbor for coffee. Start: Skyline Park & Ride. 
12/08 Mon	9:30 AM	1 C	22 (13)	Joyce Clifford 759 - 2393	Hail, hardy & ready for coffee. Rain/Freezing Cancels. See 12/01 for Ride Details. 
12/09 Tues	9:30 AM	2 B	30 - 50	Call Ride Line 759 - 2800	Tues. Decide to Ride. Note later winter start time. Start: Call Ride Line or check Club Website for details.
12/10 Weds	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lou & Karel Vance 921 - 4847	Foothills Trail Ride. Ride the paved trail w/ the Vance's. Start: East Puyallup Trailhead. 
12/11 Thurs	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lonna Cain 475 - 8853	Silk Road Smoooothly. Rain Cancels. See 12/04 for Ride Details. 



twbc monthly event schedule

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Day/ Day	Time	Ride Code	Dist- ance	Leader/ Contact @ (253)	 Ride or Activity 
12/12 Fri	6 PM	Meet &	Greet & Eat	Debbie Hushagen 922 - 5801	Holiday Party. Bring your favorite potluck dish to Debbie's lovely house. Call her for directions. 
12/13 Sat	9:30 AM	2 B	20 - 25	Gene Smith 272 - 6747	A Musical Ride w/ Gene Smith. Celebrate Beethoven's Birthday (12/16). Multiple loops of the park; music provided. Optional coffee stop at Cavanaugh's. Rain/Snow Cancels. Start: Point Defiance, near the Rose Garden. 
12/14 Sun	12:30 PM	2 A	25	Ron Nowicki 661 - 2664	A Sunday Afternoon Ride w/ Ron, from Sumner to Kent for coffee. Start: Sumner Library. 
12/15 Mon	9:30 AM	1 C	22 (13)	Joyce Clifford 759 - 2393	Hail, hardy & ready for coffee. Rain/Freezing Cancels. See 12/01 for Ride Details. 
12/16 Tues	9:30 AM	2 B	30 - 50	Call Ride Line 759 - 2800	Tues. Decide to Ride. Note later winter start time. Start: Call Ride Line or check Club Website for details.
12/16 Tues	6 PM	00 Meet &	00 Plan	Carol Davis 380 - 8819	Board Meeting @ the Kim Ahn Restaurant across from TCC on Mildred. Guests & Club Members welcomed.
12/10 Weds	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lou & Karel Vance 921 - 4847	Foothills Trail Ride. Ride the paved trail w/ the Vance's. Start: East Puyallup Trailhead. 
12/18 Thurs	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lonna Cain 475 - 8853	Silk Road Smoooothly. Rain Cancels. See 12/04 for Ride Details. 
12/19 Fri	5:30 PM	2 B	20	Carla Gramlich 879 - 0115 	Night Ride Around Town. Meet for a bite to eat, then meander around town to see the holiday lights; return for a nightcap. Decorate your bike w/ lights & such prior to meeting--there will be a prize for the best decorated. Rain/Snow Cancels ride, but not the nightcap. Start: The Hub, 203 Tacoma Ave. S.
12/20 Sat	8 AM	2 B	30 - 40	Steve & Phyllis Lay 759 - 1816	Pancake Breakfast Ride. Bring \$4 for a lovely breakfast in Spanaway. Start: Starbucks @ 26th & Proctor. 
12/21 Sun	12:04 UT	7:04 AM	Fun Facts	Sunday	Winter Solstice. Beginning of the winter/summer in the Northern/Southern Hemisphere. Here, the shortest day & longest night of the year. 
12/21 Sun	9:30 AM	 2 A	 10	Louis Boitano 922 - 1168	Happy Birthday Louie. Ride 73 Furlongs or 9.125 miles. If the weather is nice, there may be more Furlongs/miles (a furlong is 1/8th of a mile). Start: Sumner Library.



twbc monthly event schedule

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Day/ Day	Time	Ride Code	Dist- ance	Leader/ Contact @ (253)	 Ride or Activity 
12/21 Sun	1 PM	1 B	20	Bob Myrick 473 - 7455 	Family Blues Vespers Pre Ride. This ride will include an afternoon lunch/snack stop. Adults may make another stop @ Park Ave. Tavern. Vespers will follow @ 5 PM, featuring Little Bill & the Blue Notes. Start: Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N "J." St.
12/22 Mon	9:30 AM	1 C	22 (13)	Joyce Clifford 759 - 2393	Hail, hardy & ready for coffee. Rain/Freezing Cancels. See 12/01 for Ride Details. 
12/23 Tues	9:30 AM	2 B	30 - 50	Call Ride Line 759 - 2800	Tues. Decide to Ride. Note late winter start time. Start: Call Ride Line or check Club Website for details.
12/26 Fri	10 AM	2 B	25	Carla Gramlich 879 - 0115	Boxing Day Ride. Same some money and ride your bike instead of shopping. Start: Freighthouse Square. 
12/27 Sat	9:30 AM	1 B	18 - 20	Gene Smith 272 - 6747	A Casual Ride w/ Gene. Come along w/ Gene on the Scott Pierson Trail & then around town w/ a stop for coffee. Start: Skyline Park & Ride. 
12/28 Sun	1 PM	2 A	25	Carla Gramlich 879 - 0115	Ride the mostly paved Cedar River Trail. Rain/Snow/Ice Cancels. Start: Gene Coulon Park, Renton. 
12/29 Mon	9:30 AM	1 C	22 (13)	Joyce Clifford 759 - 2393	Hail, hardy & ready for coffee. Rain/Freezing Cancels. See 12/01 for Ride Details. 
12/30 Tues	9:30 AM	2 B	30 - 50	Call Ride Line 759 - 2800	Tues. Decide to Ride. Note later winter start time. Start: Call Ride Line or check Club Website for details.
01/01 Thurs	9:30 AM	2 A	30	Lonna Cain 475 - 8853	Silk Road Smooothly. Rain Cancels. See 12/04 for Ride Details. 

For TWBC Monthly Ride/Event Calendar

TERRAIN CODE CHART

- A - Mostly Flat (Interurban 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)

PACE CODE CHART

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

TWBC Members' To Do List

By Dena Wessels

In last month's Cog, I requested that Members have the following on hand, or easily accessible during the month of December.

1. Your Memory.
2. Your bicycle(s).
3. A recent daily newspaper.
4. Time of 5 or 15 minutes (per bike).
5. Friends helpful – perhaps after a Club Ride.
6. A camera.
7. Your patience.

My reasoning is thus: during the holidays in November, most of us have the cameras out for family gatherings. Fortunately, they (the cameras, well, maybe the family members as well) are all charged up and ready to go. They are accessible. You will need them for the following.

Unfortunately, the holiday season is one where a large number of thefts occur (knock on wood, i.e., kow). People have hectic schedules, and are out shopping with mile-long lists. Vehicles are left unlocked (“It was only for a second...”), gifts are left in plain view instead of being locked away, covered, or carried with you. You may park away from sidewalks & well-lit areas, near dumpsters, large vans or trucks, that provide good hiding places for thieves (“around the corner & out of sight, who’s gonna know when they mess with my bike?”). All of these provide a great opportunity for thieves to wisk away your personal items, a purse, a backpack, CD’s left out in plain view, your bicycle (kow). It’s time for you to take preventive measures.

Most cop shops give the usual spiel during the holidays. Keep items under cover & out of plain view. Park where you & anyone around you can be plainly seen. Lock, lock & lock your vehicle. If you see suspicious activity, call police immediately. Don’t be afraid to make noise & attract attention of those around you (thieves like to be out of sight, out of hearing & out of mind). If threatened, back off, give up packages &/or your vehicle—your life is worth more than a misdemeanor theft (items totaled below \$2,500) or a felony theft (items totaled above \$2,500).

So, you’re asking, what’s with the camera & newspaper & stuff? Preventive measures, my friends, preventive measures that take just a little time and energy that may make things easier for you in the long run.

When you purchased that nice bicycle, did you, somewhere, record the year, brand, model, color, or size? What about the serial number (SN)? That last one can be found under the bottom bracket, where the two pedal cranks meet (turn the bike upside down to see it). Other locations can be the headset at the front (where the handlebars go into the front fork), or at the rear stays (where the rear wheel is attached to the bike). Vintage bikes may have the SN’s in other locations, under the plastic cable guide on the bottom bracket, or maybe even on the lower end of the seat tube.

So what you say? You need that SN in order to provide positive proof when your bike is found (kow). Most bike shops will keep the SN in their databases. The bike shop went out of business? So sad, too bad. Hey, the SN was in your paperwork!

Most bike theft lists kept by police stations list the SN’s on the bikes they have in hand. Don’t know the SN? How can you prove that candy apple red, 23” Rodriguez bike is yours & not someone else’s? Bike shops, pawnshops & cop shops all deal with SN’s. But there are other things you can do if the worst happens, & that beautiful steed of yours is stolen (kow). Here is where the camera comes in.

...To Do List, continued on page 10

...To Do List, continued from page 9

You need to document, document & document! Take an old sheet (plain, not one with a pattern) & tack it up or lay it against an object. You want a clear, non-distracting background to place your bike up against. The focus of the pictures should be the bike, not the monkeys or rainbows or plaid designs on the sheet. Photo your bike with all of your usual stuff on it, lights, panniers, fancy seats, that TWBC Bike Buddy (rear fender), etc. Take overall shots, then go in for close ups. That newspaper I spoke of earlier? Place it against your wheel, so that you can see the picture on the front page clearly. Why? It is an old forensic trick—it successfully dates the picture(s). The paper can't have been manufactured prior to that date, regardless of how you can manipulate the date feature on your camera to display on the picture.

So, overall shots first, then zoom in. Photograph one side of the bike, and then do the other side. Photograph each end, coming and going. Take close ups of decals or labels. Zoom in on what type of wheels, hubs, spokes, cassette (count the teeth on each spline & record them someplace), single, double or triple crank sets, type of pedals. Do you have unusual handlebars? Photograph the top & front sides of them (mine look like the horns on a ram's head, spiraling out from the bike). Seat bag, classy panniers, or some old backpack slung over a rack? Shoot 'em (I mean photograph them)!

Why take as detailed photos as I suggest, besides having clear, defining as well as identifying photos of what type, brand, etc? Here's the main purpose: it helps to establish value. My handlebars are from a different manufacturer than the company that custom built my bike; they are hard to get any more. Being short, the bike is short; the top tube is the same length as the seat tube. The rack for the trunk is a mt. rack, not a regular rack. My bike has bar end shifters—those are also hard to get nowadays. My cassette is a 7; most today are 8 or 9's. Do you have Shimano or Campagnolo components? Is your bike of a vintage age? What would it cost if you had to replace the bike? Could the parts be found today? Could you come close to duplicating your bike if it vanished (kow)?

Then there are the things you added on, after you purchased that beautiful steed. Take photos (long shots & close ups) of anything added. Did you get a special front light over in Idaho during the NW Tandem Rally? Could you find it again, locally? Did you switch out to a new fancy seat w/ a hole in it, or are you an old-time leather fanatic? What type of pump is on your bike? How many rear lights do you have attached? Is (are) there pannier(s) that you haul stuff with? Photo, photo & photo!

It's been claimed that some Members in our Club carry everything but the kitchen sink in their panniers (or maybe someone does carry one). Now, place a part of that sheet on the ground & lay everything in your pannier(s) or seat trunk on the sheet. Shoot it! Some Members carry just a patch kit, tire irons, & maybe some CO2 cartridges in a little seat bag. That's not too much an expense to replace. Me, I carry up to, but not including that kitchen sink.

My bike tool has 11 parts to it (I don't have the 14 part tool as yet). I carry two different pairs of tweezers, blunt & pointed ends—some work better getting either glass or wires out of the tires; one pair has a magnifying glass. First aid kits, latex gloves, tire kits, tools, collapsible drinking cups, shoe covers, an old rain coat, arm warmers, extra gloves, tubes, a spare tire (650's that you usually can't just walk into a bike store & find on the shelf), plus other odds & ends. How much would you have to spend to replace all of it? How many bike shops would you have to visit to replace everything? How long would it take you (time is money!)? Photos help document.

Why know the cost? Most police departments, sad to say, are cutting back, due to budget constraints. You may have to do a phone report on your stolen steed (kow), rather than in person (& personally). Let's face it; the bike is worth more to you than anyone else. And, felony thefts warrant more slightly more attention than do misdemeanor thefts. Hence totaling of the cost of your steed (& it's accessories). You also have definitive proof of it (photos vs. receipts), by spending some time & taking those photos.

Now here's a little help. If you ever find yourself in the situation of having to report that missing steed (kow), there is a web site that can help. Sure, you can register your bike with the bike shop, the local police station or even the National Bike

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Registry (www.nationalbikeregistry.com for \$10/ten years, \$25/five years/ five bikes). Our local bike shops are more than willing to keep an eye out if they are notified. Or you could use the Stolen Bicycle Registry (www.stolenbicycleregistry.com) for free.

This is a national listing for stolen bikes started by a guy (formally from Akron, now in Portland), who, as a public service, created this site as a response to having more than five bikes stolen in nine years. The site has been featured in League of American Wheelmen, Adventure Cycling, & our local (Seattle) Bicycle Paper. It has a Watch List, a free bimonthly email list of stolen bikes locally, by city, state or zip code. The only cravat is that the bike has to be stolen for you to register it on the site (kow).

See a bike that fits your stolen steed's description on a local Craig's list (kow)? Have someone sit by the phone & computer while you arrange a meet. Call your friend with the SN when you flip that bike over. Your friend can instantly tell you if that little pony is stolen, by checking on this web site. If the person you're meeting with is on the up & up, they won't mind if you call the cops there & then. If not, call from the sidewalk down a ways, but as an eyewitness, call!

The Stolen Bicycle Registry has a number of stories from different people who have used it, or have just been frustrated by having their steeds stolen (kow). An interesting one is where a victim turned vigilante & worked with local law enforcement to shut down a local portion of a national bike theft ring.

Hopefully, your steed will never be stolen (kow). You will lovingly keep it, as your one and only, or it may become one of many in your stable. Regardless, since the camera comes out during the holiday season, take some time (and a sheet, a newspaper & some patience), and take pictures. It could be a good activity at the end of a Club Ride. And, needless to say, your insurance agent will love you, especially if a copy of the photographs are put somewhere safe. There is an old saying that if you take preventive measures, expecting a potential event, that the potential event may not happen, because you already took preventive measures (kow)! ☺



A Fantastic Holiday Gift; Show That You Care

by Dena Wessels

I want to personally recommend Road ID (<http://www.roadid.com/common/gc.aspx>) to Members of the Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club. Even if you carry your wallet or Driver's License on your bike, in an accident, your bike doesn't go with you in the ambulance; only you do. Sometime your shoes may not even go with you, if you are hit hard enough that they come off of your feet.

If you were an unconscious accident victim brought into an ER, you may not be able to convey any pre-existing medical conditions that could make a huge difference in the kind of treatment you receive. A Road ID could do that for you.

Unfortunately, it is possible in today's economic climate that only the 'basics' will be given to an unconscious, unidentified, uninsured (?) accident victim. More extensive treatment (better for future procedures) may only given to such

a person brought to an ER if a family member can be contacted & a 'go ahead' acknowledgement (i.e., agreement of payment for the treatment) is made. This is a very harsh, but true situation that exists, that no one likes to acknowledge. If you were found on the road, separated from your (wallet on your) bike, would ER staff know whom to contact? A Road ID could do that for you.

Road IDs make functional, practical & caring gifts for any active person in your life. Available as wrist, shoe or ankle IDs, 'dog tags', or as shoe pouches. Road ID Gift Cards can be redeemed on www.RoadID.com, by phone, mail, or fax. Gift cards are available in any amount.

Do you need that last minute gift? You're in luck. When you purchase a Road ID E-Card, the gift certificate will be immediately E-mailed to the E-mail address you provide @ the time of purchase.

Go to the web site & read the testimonials. Road ID's can make a difference to a person you care about. ☺

TWBC BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Wild West VFW Post 91, 2000 South Union Aveune



Please list the names in your party for name tags
so you and others will know who you are...
(please print clearly!)

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____



Number of adults _____ X \$20 each = \$ _____

Number of children _____ X \$15 each = \$ _____



Total Enclosed = \$ _____

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

TWBC Banquet, PO Box 112078, Tacoma, WA 98411

Waste Free Holidays:

**Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club offers discounts
on 'experience' gifts.**

By Carol Davis

wastefreeholidays.com



TWBC is offering customers a 15% discount on Registrations for Daffodil, PMC, and Headwaters Century as part of Waste Free Holidays, a City of Tacoma-sponsored program that encourages gift giving without the trash.

By giving an 'experience' gift such as a registration for TWBC Events you'll not only create a lasting memory for your special someone, but you'll also help reduce holiday waste (wrapping paper, product packaging, etc.).

Take advantage of the TWBC special Waste Free Holidays discount offer(s) through Dec. 31, 2007. Find details at www.twbc.org. Also, visit www.wastefreeholidays.com for a complete list of hundreds of other discounted offers throughout the Puget Sound region.

For more information, call Carol at (253) 380-8819. ☎



Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club
PO Box 112078
Tacoma, WA 98411

E-mail Delivery

December
2008



E-mailed to:

Your computer or electronic device!



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

B e c o m e a m e m b e r o f T W B C

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone (optional): _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

(all info. is for Club use only--please print clearly!)



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

TWBC Membership
PO Box 112078
Tacoma, WA 98411

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

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

- Leading Bike Rides
- Events (Daffodil, PMC, Headwaters)
- Newsletter
- Club Meeting Programs
- Becoming a Club Officer

Please Check Those That Apply:

- New Member
- Renew
- Addr Chg

Please Note: COG delivery is now electronically via E-mail, unless you indicate here for the more costly, less 'Green' delivery method through the US Postal Service.

Individual Person Membership Fee..... \$15 _____

Family Membership Fee..... \$20 _____

One-time Initiation Fee\$5 _____

Total Membership Fee(s)\$ _____

Thanks for becoming a Member of TWBC!



Above: The November New (& Old) Member Ride
(Photo taken by Carla Gramlich)



Right: A new bridge being
hoisted into place
in Lower Burnett!
(Photo taken
by Dawn Frazer)