



the cog-nitive courier

tacoma wheelmen's bicycle club newsletter

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

TWBC, originally established in 1888 & reinvigorated in 1974, is a general purpose bicycling club in Pierce County that welcomes cyclists of all skill levels for social riding. The COG is issued monthly.



EPW Meeting

December 12, 2012, 4:30 PM

Room 16 Tacoma Municipal Building North

By Janet Higbee

Web Issue: December, 2012

Please show your support for bike and pedestrian Improvements in Tacoma. At this meeting, hear about the Bike Pedestrian Action Committee's goal to seek more formal status as a Commission or Task Force. BPAC wishes to better serve the needs of those of us who love to pedal and walk Grit City. We feel that this transition will ensure our ability to do so. Other cities with desirable bike/pedestrian infrastructure have such citizen advisory groups. Tacoma should too!

Come cyclists and pedestrians, one and all. Your participation will show City Council that you appreciate the projects that Tacoma Mobility has accomplished, hand in hand with the volunteer support of the Bike Pedestrian Action Committee. With greater formality, this body will be poised to continue the work of the last four years by Tacoma Mobility, despite these tough times of job insecurity for city employees. If you want to see the completion and quality of more projects like the ones listed below, PLEASE attend this meeting. Invite your active transportation involved friends too! Council responds to citizens! If you enjoy cycling and walking, help make these healthy options more pleasant and safe for children, family and elderly people. Join the parade of walkers and cyclists that stands for complete streets!

Some of the projects of Tacoma Mobility that Benefit Cyclists and Pedestrians

- Tacoma 13 and the million dollar grant that will enhance its bicycle boulevards
- League of Bicyclists Bronze Award: We are a Bike Friendly City!
- Participation in Cascade Bike/Pedestrian Counts
- Bike Month Activities
- Oversight of the Prairie Line and Water Ditch Trails
- Cooperation among Metro Parks, Pierce Transit, Downtown on the Go and Tacoma Mobility
- Creation of new code to ensure that trails are pleasant and available for all types of users
- Oversight of bike lane maintenance and striping
- Support of city bike map
- Grant Writing
- Parking Day events
- Improvements on Schuster Parkway and Ruston Way
- Regional and national advocacy like Safe Routes to Schools
- Development of best routes to Tacoma High Schools. ☺

Editor's Note: The Tacoma Municipal Building North is located at 733 Market St, Tacoma.

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By Bob Myrick, Director of
Community and Government Affairs

*Actions affecting you
and your community*

Our small, but powerful committee met again on Tuesday, November 6, at the Harvester Restaurant near First and Tacoma Avenues. We will meet there again on Tuesday, December 4, at 6 pm. Staff from Washington State Department of Transportation will meet with us to discuss widening Interstate 5 from Thorne Road to approximately Berkley Road in Lakewood. Increasing roadway capacity will have effects on bicyclists who sometime use the corridor. The meeting may be a little shorter than usual since there is also the Banff Film Festival the same evening.

1. **BAW Legislative Meeting.** Both Ralph and I attended the meeting in Seattle on Saturday, November 3. Topics included the coming State budget woes as well as the lack of adequate funding for transportation. We also discussed changes in the makeup of the two Transportation Committees in the Legislature. Our primary concern will be the Neighborhood Safe Streets Bill which will allow lowering speed limits to 20 mph without having to conduct traffic and engineering studies. Lives will be saved and pavement life will be extended with lower speeds. There may also be Bills introduced regarding school districts having to create school bike route plans and getting schools to increase walking and biking options. The Transportation Choices Coalition will introduce a Bill to include health as a transportation policy goal to allow more people to walk, bike and take public transportation.

2. **Pacific Avenue Reconstruction.** Pacific Avenue will be improved from near Tacoma's Art Museum to the northerly end at Fireman's Park. I attended the ground breaking ceremony on Monday, November 5. Monies for the work come from Federal, State and local sources. The primary expense is creating rain gardens to decrease storm water pollution loads on the Thea Foss Waterway. Early design concepts included a cycle track where cyclists would be in their own lane, but this idea proved to be too costly due to the cost of traffic signals and due to taking up too much space on the ground. Bike lanes were also studied and rejected due to space requirements, so we will have Sharrows and widened sidewalks.

3. **Gravel Road Shoulders.** During the past month, I discovered that gravel road shoulders are considered to be impervious according to the State's Stormwater Control Manual. So, it should be possible to pave gravel shoulders without having to perform stormwater studies. We have had some difficulty getting some jurisdictions to pave fog line shoulders, but I hope we can study this issue a bit more and get some reliable information to pass on to various jurisdictions.

4. **Forevergreen Coalition.** The monthly meeting was on Thursday, November 8. Our members shared updates on trail progress in Pierce County. The Cushman Powerline Trail is being extended to Borgen Boulevard in Gig Harbor. There is a new 85 foot trail bridge in Sumner across the Stuck River near the golf course and Sumner has provided more pavement along the river near downtown (Sunset Chevrolet). University Place has acquired all the properties necessary to begin developing a soft surface trail from Chamber's Creek canyon upstream along Leach Creek to near Emerson (40th Street) in Fircrest. Pierce County and Puyallup continue their efforts to get the Foothills Trail and the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail connected. Pierce County continues their efforts to extend the Foothills Trail to Buckley.

5. **Tacoma Transportation Improvement District.** Diane Wiatr updated us on the City's proposed \$25 car tab fee proposal to fix our streets. I later learned that Lakewood and University Place have already formed improvement districts, but haven't started collecting fees due to their concerns over the possible reaction from their citizens. A Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, November 13 at the City Council Meeting. The four speakers all called for 20% of any revenues to be directed to non-motorized purposes such as painting cross walks and bike lanes and helping our transit system. Tacoma is also planning on cutting their public works staff by about 30% and this cut includes the folks who patch our pot holes.

6. **Orting's Bridge for Kids.** Somewhat related to non-motorized transportation, I attended the City Council meeting

GAC, continued on page 3

where Orting accepted the 35% engineering design for a \$40 million scheme to allow a practical escape route from a possible Lahar. The Bridge for Kids Committee has been working on this issue for over 12 years and secured funds to allow for this design. The escape route would include a bridge over the highway from the elementary and middle schools and a large suspension bridge almost 500 feet long from near the sewage treatment plant to the high bluff across the Puyallup River. Next steps include finding money for the necessary environment studies and finally finding funding for completing design and building the structures.

7. Carbon River Corridor Projects. About 15 to 20 people met in Wilkerson on Thursday, November 15 to discuss the extension of the National Park boundary and the possible trail extending from Wilkerson to the park entrance. Visions include having a non-motorized camping area near the old town site of Melmont and a similar area upstream near the park. Melmont was just upstream from the one lane suspension bridge you may be familiar with.

8. Coalition for Active Transportation. Jane, Diane and I attended the monthly meeting on Friday, November 16. We were again updated on activities thruout the County and our cooperative activities with the Health Department to improve public health by having more people walk, bike and use public transportation. Our primary Coalition activity is to promote the Complete Streets concept to communities thruout the County.

9. County Parks Activities. On Monday, November 19, the County Council was updated on the progress of the Parks Department in accomplishing their mission. On Tuesday, November, 20, Buzz Grant and I met with County Officials to discuss the possible trail connection between the Riverwalk and Foothills Trails.

10. Swan Creek Park. On Thursday, November 29, the Citizen's Committee was updated on the progress of the consultants working on implementing the park improvement plan which includes hard surface and soft surface trails.

11. Pierce County Public Works. John Ernest Berry III received an email report from Council Member Joyce McDonald based on his inquiry as to non-motorized activities in 2013. Joyce reported the shoulder improvement program is still active with \$600,000 provided next year for fog line shoulder improvements (CRP 5875). Also, construction monies are provided in the amount of \$1,385,000 to construct paved shoulders on Jahn Avenue NW/32 St NW to help complete the non-motorized network in the Gig Harbor area (CRP 5540). There is also money provided for pedestrian improvement near schools in the amount of \$100,000 (CRP 5800), Safe Routes to Schools Program. I am also aware the Pierce County Bike Map is being updated with the latest improvement information and should be published again in 2013.

Please continue to monitor activities near to where you live. There are over 30 jurisdictions in and near Pierce County where we could be working to improve conditions for non-motorized transportation. There is a lot of work to do and your input and monitoring is very important. ☺

**Membership Report by Dave Killen
database & mailing**



*Our Members are what
makes our Club!*

Renewing Members (Thank You!):

Laurie Ducatt, Peg Fjetland, Ray Fjetland, Daniel Jones, Joseph Krezelak, Sue Krezelak, Jim Martin, Ed Orcutt, Harry Simmons, Caroline Warnock, and Michael Wood.

New Members (Welcome!):

Walter Coley, Chris Karnes, Ron Prentice, and Eric Swanson. ☺

Annual Banquet

by Carol Davis

Each year our Club sponsors a Banquet to reflect on the past year's activities and accomplishments. It is a time for fellowship and to honor significant achievements. You are cordially invited to attend. The Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at the Titlow Lodge owned by MetroParks at the westerly end of Sixth Avenue down on the water, 8425 Sixth Avenue. This fun, evening event starts at 5pm for socializing with dinner to follow at 6pm. Your cost for the event is a very low \$20 for adults and \$15 for children.

Look in this Newsletter for the 2012 Banquet Reservation Form. Mail your reservations to TWBC Banquet, PO Box 112078, Tacoma, WA, 98411. You will not receive any confirmation so just trust us to do the right thing. We must limit attendance to about 88 people so think about signing up early. If you are not dining with us, feel free to come by after 7pm for the Annual Awards Program.

Dress at the Banquet ranges from your old cycling clothes to your best evening wear, your choice. The Banquet is the time to reflect on the past year and reaffirm your interest in cycling. We recognize note-worthy mileages, volunteerism and accidents. There is always good food, beverages, merriment and good humor. Sometimes, it's the only time of year when the Code 2 riders meet the Code 3 riders or when the Monday riders meet the Tuesday riders, weekend cyclists and hard-core dedicated commuters.

The Banquet is traditionally the largest gathering of your fellow Club Members. We limit the attendance due to the size of the venue and our budget. Please send your ride logs to Richard Walter, Touring Captain, so that we can recognize your accomplishments. If you have good digital images from the past year, save them, until we announce who will be presenting a slide show of the past year's fun times.

As always, we welcome any help. Our President, Tom Reardon, will be the Master of Ceremonies. I expect that someone (need a volunteer here!) will be providing some refreshments and light snacks for the social hour. Carol Davis will be providing wine for our dinner. I think someone (need a volunteer here!) will be helping to organize the event in several different ways. These folks are all great company, so come out early and help them set up the place. Please call me at 253-380-8819 or 253-460-5622 if you have questions or would like to help. We really need your images and someone (need a volunteer here!) who can organize the slide show. ☺

☺ Your article could have been here
for Members to read! ☺

Mission

*The Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club
welcomes bicycle riders of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced.
Founded in 1888, TWBC serves to promote
"... cycling for Fun, Fitness and Liveable Communities."*

**TWBC
ANNUAL BANQUET
RESERVATION FORM**

**Saturday, January 26, 2012
Titlow Lodge
8425 - 6th Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98406**

(Attendance limited to the first eighty-eight people to sign up!)

(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:

Annual Banquet, TWBC, PO Box 112078, Tacoma, WA 98411

For TWBC Monthly Ride/Event Calendar

RIDE CODE CHART, TERRAIN

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)

RIDE CODE CHART, PACE

Pace Code Examples: 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, 13-16mph.
4 - Fast pace, very limited stops, cue sheets or maps provided, 16+ mph.



twbc monthly event schedule

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

Saturday Rides

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29: @ 8:30 AM, 3 D, 50 - 60 miles, **Spokie Cycling Club Ride**. Average for entire ride is 17 mph w/ 20-25 mph on the flats. Route decided at start. No lunch, but coffee & conversation @ the end. **Start:** Forza Coffee, 2700 Bridgeport Way, University Place.

@ 9 AM, 3 B - C, 60 - 100 miles, **Tacoma Bike Shop Ride**. Fun but challenging road ride to destinations from Gig Harbor to Bonney Lake & Dupont. Note: This is not a TWBC Ride, but a Tacoma Bike Shop Ride. **Start:** Tacoma Bike, 309 Puyallup Ave., Tacoma.

Sunday Rides

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30: @ 11 AM, 2 B, 25 - 35 miles, **Sunny Sunday Ride**. A chance to ride somewhere fun, provided there is a chance of sunshine and not too much rain. **Start:** 12/2: Starbucks @ 26th & Proctor; 12/09: Wildside Wine @ 608A S. Oxford; 12/23: East Puyallup Trailhead, 13900 - 80th St E, Puyallup; 12/30: Starbucks @ 26th & Proctor.

More Sunday Happenings:

Dec. 9: @ 2 PM, **Beans, Bread, Beer, Bikes**. This will be a fund raising event for the Hospitality Kitchen. A suggested donation of 10 dollars will get you two drink tickets and food provided by TWBC and members. People can ride to the event and get home before dark. This will be similar to last year's Cranksgiving. **Start:** Wildside Wine @ 608A S. Oxford.

Dec. 16: @ 2 PM, **Club Holiday Event**. The food plan would include Italian fare. Anj wants to try out her pasta maker. People can bring a few things if they want. **Start:** Anj & Ed's home, 11602, 136th Ave. E., Puyallup.

Monday Rides

Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31: @ 9:30 AM, 1 C, **Hail, Hardy & Ready for Coffee**. Loop Pt. Defiance. Someone will stay w/ the slowest rider. Regroup @ Ft. Nisqually., then onto Fircrest for espresso/raspberry scones. You can shorten to 13 miles by cutting out Fircrest. **Start:** Starbucks @ 26th & Proctor.

Tuesday Rides

Dec. 4, 11, 18, & 25: @ 9:30 Am, 2 C, **Tuesday Decide to Ride**. Meet w/ friends & go to lunch. **Start:** to be announced. Call the Ride Line, 253 - 759 - 2800.

More Tuesday Happenings:

Dec. 4: @ 6 PM, **Government Affairs Meeting** @ the Harvester Restaurant in the Stadium H.S. area @ 1st & Tacoma Ave. Work on bicycle problems around Pierce County. All are invited to participate.

Dec. 11: @ 6 PM, **Board Meeting** @ the Kim Ahn Restaurant across from TCC on Mildred. Guests & Club Members welcomed.

Wednesday Rides

Dec. 5 & 19: @ 9 AM, 3 C, **Ride to Dupont** for coffee via Steilacoom for a nice workout. **Start:** Skyline Park & Ride (6th & Skyline).

Dec. 12 & 26: @ 9:30 AM, 2 B, **Ride the Chehalis Western Trial**. Rain in Tacoma Cancels. Ride from Chambers Creek Trailhead to Tenino to stop & buy lunch. **Start:** Trailhead in Lacy, past Josephine Ct SE & 14th Ave S.

Thursday Rides

Dec. 6, 3, 20, & 27: @ 9:30 AM, 2 - 3 A or 2 - 3 D, **Silk Road Smooothly/Over The Hill Gang**. Ride to S. Prairie via Foothills Trail. Paved trail w/ very few road crossings. Beverage of your choice in S. Prairie (no host). Or, for a challenging 1000 ft of climbing, go over Victor Falls. **Start:** East Puyallup Trailhead, 13900 - 80th St E, Puyallup.

The COG Home

TWBC Ride Line : 253 - 759 - 2800
Updated Sunday & Thursday!

The 'Smiling Bicycle' Logo, the Club Jersey
& a majority of Club Ride T-shirts were
(are) designed by Member Steve Lay.



Next Club Meeting: 6 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013

Jan. Ride Calendar Deadline:
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012

Jan. COG Article Deadline:
Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012

*Please keep Database Commander Dave updated as to any USPS/E-mail address changes.
It makes his job a lot easier! (If you don't receive your Newsletter, contact the Editor!)*

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events@twbc.org

Daniel Jones

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Sue Coley

Assistant: Peggy Fjetland

TWBC PUBLICITY:

publicity@twbc.org

Anita Beninger

DAFFODIL CLASSIC (2012): APRIL 15

daffodil@twbc.org

--Unfilled @ this time--

PENINSULA METRIC (2012): JUNE 3

pmc@twbc.org

--Unfilled @ this time--

RAPSody Contact:

(2012): Aug. 25 & 26

rapsodybikeride@comcast.net

Ralph Wessels, 857 - 5658

BIKE EXPO:

(2012): March 10 & 11

bikebooth@twbc.org

--Unfilled @ this time--

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC:

(2010): Sept. 26 (?)

--Unfilled @ this time--

CLUB JERSEY SALES:

jerseys@twbc.org

--Unfilled @ this time--

Advertisement Requirements: TWBC Members may place ads in the COG for free that are directly related to bicycling. All ads must be accompanied with contact information (i.e., name, address, phone number, email) of the person submitting the ad.

Local bicycle shops that offer a discount of at least ten percent (10%) to TWBC Members may place ads or flyers in the COG for free. "Local" is defined as within the Puget Sound area. Each bicycle shop may place up to two ads for free in a calendar year.

Non-members, agencies, businesses and bicycle shops that do not offer discounts of at least ten percent (10%) to TWBC Members will be charged for placing ads in the COG. Payment for the ad must be received prior to inclusion into the COG. The fee shall not be less than \$10 for a 1-line text ad and will be a minimum of \$50 for quarter page ads or more. The Newsletter Editor will determine an appropriate fee based upon the size and complexity of the ad. All ads are subject to editing and space limitations as deemed appropriate or necessary by the Newsletter Editor. ☺

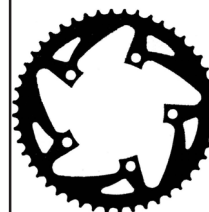


**December
2012**

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

mail to:

Please Note: The COG is now available electronically via the Club Website only, as there is not an elected Editor to produce a USPS issue.



Please Note: You can become a Member at www.twbc.org. Click on 'Membership' on the left side.

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!)

Please Check Those That Apply:

New Member Renew Addr Chg

Please Note: *COG* delivery is now electronically via E-mail, as there is not an elected Editor to produce a USPS issue.

Individual Person Membership Fee \$15 _____

Or, Family Membership Fee \$20 _____

One-time Initiation Fee \$5 _____

Total Membership Fee(s) \$ _____

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

**TWBC Membership
PO Box 112078
Tacoma, WA 98411**

Check the following boxes if you are interested in volunteering for:

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

**Thanks for becoming
a Member of TWBC!**