

FEBRUARY 1977

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 8:00 PM ... Monthly meeting at Harvard Community Health Plan, 1611 Cambridge St., Cambridge, between Harvard and Inman Squares. The program appears further on.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 10:30 AM ... Frostbite ride starting from Waltham Common, corner of Moody and Main (Rt 20) Streets, Waltham.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 10:30 AM ... Frostbite Ride starting from Newton Centre Municipal Parking Lot, corner of Beacon and Centre Streets.

MARCH 6 - 10 L A W WINTER RENDEZVOUS-The eleventh annual L A W winter Rendezvous, sponsored by the Dr. Paul Dudley White Bicycle Club, will be held in Homestead, Florida, from March 6 until 10th with an optional Post-Rendezvous cruise. For details send a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Mrs. Nadine Fichter, PO Box 1368, Homestead, FL 33030

Highly recommended by the editor, a recent participant.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 10:30 AM - Frostbite Ride starting from Arlington Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Avenue.

WHEELPEOPLE

The Charles River Wheelmen
2210 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

NEWS, ARTICLES, CLASSIFIED ADS ... Please send typed copy by the 10th of the preceding month to the editor, Richard Mazeikus, 266 Fellsway West, Medford 02155.

CLASSIFIED ADS ... Free to members, 25¢ per word to dealers and non-members.

Healthful Fellowship Through Bicycling.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 7:00 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Harvard Community Health Plan, 1161 Cambridge St., Cambridge, between Harvard and Inman Squares.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 10:30 AM - Frostbite Ride starting from Dedham Plaza, Rt 1, Dedham, opposite Lechmere Sales.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, ANNUAL CRW AWARDS BANQUET ... an exciting evening featuring Szechwan style Chinese cooking, something very different from the better known Cantonese style, and well worth the experience. More details further on.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - Monthly Meeting - Through the good auspices of Raleigh Industries we have obtained what promises to be a very interesting and informative film for our February meeting. Entitled "Pedal Power", the film is a BBC documentary dealing with the usages of pedal powered vehicles, bicycle construction, etc. The bicycle revolution is nearly 100 years old now and it should be good to get some perspective on where the present day movement fits into the scheme of things. Come join us.

Date: Thursday, February 17, 1977 8:00 P.M.

Place: Harvard Community Health Plan Cafeteria

1611 Cambridge St., Cambridge (between Harvard and Inman Sq.
near Cambridge High and Latin School.

Program: The documentary film "Pedal Power"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: Membership in the Charles River Wheelmen also includes a membership in the national cyclist organization, League of American Wheelmen, and includes a subscription to the monthly newsletters of both clubs.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Single Membership \$15.00

Household Membership \$19.00

Any special bicycling interest? _____

Charles River Wheelmen decal - sheet of three - \$1.00

East Coast Bike Trail, set of 21 maps, \$4.35 postpaid from editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

Elsewhere in this issue of Wheelpeople are two letters from members on the subject of the winter frostbite series of CRW rides. The letters prove that we have a few highly motivated individuals in our organization who see cold weather as just another challenge to winter cycling - like pot-holes, frost heaves, skidding cars and invisible sheets of ice under the snow. For the past few years I have been one of them. But this winter has been different for me, at least, since Christmas.

First of all, I took a bad fall in the November ice storm that left the roads glazed with an icy wetness that was extremely deceptive. This deception contributed to a cracked rib and assorted contusions when the bike slid out from underneath me as I was riding home after work. Several weeks later on the way home from a club ride out to Deer Island, I went down again after hitting an imperfection in the road surface. That fall resulted in a cracked bone in my hand.

About this time I decided to build the clincher wheels I had been talking about for several years. I decided on 36-hole Araya alloy clincher rims, Weyless sealed bearing low-flange hubs, cross-three butted spokes. The tires I selected were IRC 27 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ gumwall 90 psi with Michelin tubes.

My problem now is that I find the combination somewhat skittish and unpredictable in snow and ice. I have tried dropping the pressure to 85 psi with no greater surefootedness. Now this, combined with my being a bit gun-shy after my two recent falls has left me a bit leery of winter cycling. I'm not too happy with the prospect of sliding and skidding my way home in unpredictable conditions of weather and traffic. Not unless somebody out there reading this has some thoughts on how to alleviate the situation as regards the wheel/tire combination (I'll have to deal with my neurosis).

It has occurred to me that any information available on comparative tire traction under varying conditions of pressure, road surface, and tire tread would be of considerable interest to cyclists everywhere. I don't think anything like this has appeared in print in recent years in the bicycle press. If any of you who ride extensively in the winter have any experience or thoughts to contribute on this subject, let's hear from you.

In the meantime, I'm waiting for the roads to clear. Maybe by May first?...

FRIDAY, MARCH 18 - AWARDS BANQUET - The annual CRW awards banquet will be held this year at the Yangtze River Restaurant in Lexington where an "all you can eat" Szechwan style buffet will be served. The restaurant is located in Lexington Center on Depot Street, which is right off Mass. Avenue next to Sundog. Seating is limited to approximately 100 people so the coupon at the end of this issue of Wheelpeople must be sent in with your check for \$7.50 per person, to reserve your place; don't delay as seating is limited. The evening will begin with a cash bar cocktail hour at 7:00 pm and the meal begins at 8:00. The presentation of awards and speakers will be after the meal.

HILL CLIMBING -

The February 7 issue of "Sports Illustrated" magazine tells about a hill in Los Angeles that has a 33 percent grade; Mt. Washington averages 12 percent. The article, "This Sport is Not on the Level", goes on to tell that the annual hill climb ride has become quite an event on the calendar of the Los Angeles Wheelmen. It further goes on to describe one of the hill climb rides. I think it would be quite interesting to find the steepest hill in the Greater Boston area, it need not be long, just STEEP, and have at least one ride to, if not up, the hill. With the geological character of the area we should be able to give Los Angeles an honorable opponent; 33 percent is 19 degrees. Any member is invited to submit a choice of HILL to the editor, or the Rides Committee with the data on the steepness and the length of the hill and how the steepness was determined.

PRESIDENTIAL SPORTS AWARD - Now that we have a new administration in Washington, it is time to get the new President's signature on a Presidential Sports Award. For your copy of the standards and a log book, write to:

Presidential Sports Awards
PO Box 129, Radio City Station
New York, NY 10019

NEW YEAR'S DAY RIDE RECAP -

The following is my unofficial report to CRW members on the Annual New Year's Day Ride.

What better way to become an active member of CRW than take a group ride on New Year's Day? After all, you've been a member for nearly 3 years now - isn't it about time you met some of the membership? Besides aren't you the least bit curious to see what type of person enjoys riding in 14^o weather with 20-30 mph winds? Most of all shouldn't you do something to counteract all that fine eating and spirits you've been indulging in this past week and a half?

With these rationalizations firmly adrift in my mind, I slowly dragged myself out of a comfortably warm bed. Wash. Eat. Dress and took out my valiant steed - hanging idle these past three weeks. All decked out in woolen union suit, layers of flannel and corduroy (six layers), mittens and stocking cap, I set out the door to enthusiastically encouraging cheers of - "You're really going bike riding in this weather?" "Don't look for any sympathy when you have pneumonia!" "You're bananas!" Then it hits me - a bitter cold wind that cuts to the bone. Carrying my machine because no plows have visited my street, I feel much akin to a cyclo-cross rider and wonder about their sanity. Upon reaching a semi-cleared street, I mounted my steed and began a descent down Bunker Hill Street in Charlestown, the wind immediately became worse and I began to wonder about my own sanity.

I pedal along - warming up in the process of dodging clumps of snow, sheets of ice and a driver who was weaving his way home from a New Year's bash. I

arrived at Malden Cycle shop approximately five minutes early and to my surprise how many riders do I find? 5?! 10?! 15?! Nope!! Just me!! Well, give them time, after all this is New Year's Day. National Plop, plop, fizz, fizz day. After a few folks drove by staring unbelievably at this nut standing in the snow with his bike, along came Harold Lewis from Newton and shortly after Dick Mazeikus. As Harold unloaded his bike from his car, I spoke to Dick and quickly met the first disaster of 1977. Dick was canceling the ride due to icy road conditions. How could this be? A frostbite ride canceled due to ice? I simply couldn't believe my ears but muttered a despondent agreement and rode over to talk to Harold Lewis while Dick waited to see if anyone else would show up.

Fortunately, Harold was still willing to ride and I was immediately elevated to position of group leader (Harold didn't know anything about the area). The ride consisted of a short tour through Malden, Saugus, Lynn and back to Melrose for coffee and donuts to counteract icy toes and fingers. The ride totaled 10-15 miles in length on quiet roads.

Although the number of participants was limited, the enthusiasm was not - at least not in this person. If you showed late, sorry we missed you; if not, hope you had an enjoyable sleep and day.

Happy New Year Everyone -

Dennis P. Power

This morning, January 30, we had the best weather yet this season for a good frostbite ride; a nice sunny day with the temperature in the low teens. Last Sunday (23rd) wasn't bad either, but the temperature was well up in the 20s, a bit warm for a real frostbite ride this far into the season when we should be well adapted to such temperatures. Roads were in better shape today, too, thanks to Friday's rainstorm. So, where was everybody this morning at 10:30? I was at the appointed meeting place from 10:25 to 10:45 and saw no one. What's the point of calling them "frostbite" rides if people aren't going to show up when it's cold?

In my opinion anyone who's never tried going out on a REAL frostbite ride is missing out on an important part of the experience of being a New England cyclist. It's a different kind of challenge from that of doing a "century" or riding up a mountain, but potentially no less rewarding.

This winter may not give us many more opportunities as good as this morning so let's take advantage of them.

Richard Buck

FOR SALE - Almost new little used Weyless rollers by worn out overused orthodontist. Call 232-1554 and leave name and phone number. Dr. Norman A. Wilson

23" Atala. Blue with black panels and orange stripes, chrome lugs and legs. D. B. Columbus SP tubing throughout. This bike was the "Professional" model in '68. It has excellent touring geometry: 72° head angle, 2 3/8" fork offset, 41 1/4" wheelbase. Sun tour VGT derailleurs, Svingino Mighty Competition crankset, tubular wheels, and tires, and many new odds and ends make this bike very attractive \$ 225. Call Bob Williamson, 492-1184 (Cambridge).

C R W AWARDS BANQUET RESERVATION

Please reserve _____ seating(s) at the Awards Banquet.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ at \$7.50 per seating.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

7:00 P. M. Cocktails

8:00 P. M. Dinner