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# Wheel People



Newsletter Of The Charles River Wheelmen

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On the roads of New England since 1966

Volume XXIV, Number 11 November, 2000

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## To LAB or not to LAB

That is the question that will be discussed at the December board meeting, specifically whether to continue our 100% LAB affiliated status now that we are the only bicycle club that has this distinction. Interested parties can come to air their views or just listen. The meeting will be held Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 PM at the Hancock United Church of Christ, 1912 Mass. Ave., Lexington Center.

## Saturday Rides Coordinator Needed

Barry Nelson will be vacating the position of Saturday Rides Coordinator and we need someone to take his place. Your responsibility is to find leaders for Saturday rides, maintain the schedule, and communicate this information to the VP of rides. This involves somewhat less arm twisting than the Sunday ride series, since the Saturday rides are generally not arrowed. If interested, contact Jack Donohue (781-275-3991 before 9 PM, [jdonohue@world.std.com](mailto:jdonohue@world.std.com)).

## Annual Banquet and Awards Presentation

The annual CRW banquet will be held on Thursday, November 16 at the Yangtze River restaurant in Lexington. We will have a full menu including several vegetarian dishes. Dinner will be served at 7:00 sharp. Arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 for cocktails, appetizers, and socializing. The Yangtze River Restaurant is located in Depot Square off Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington Center. The cost for the banquet is \$15 per person, children nine and under are half price. Please send your reservations by November 9 with your check to Don Blake, One Gleason Road, Bedford MA 01730.



## Bikers with Forks Ride again at Redbones

November 8, 6:30PM

The CRW culinary season kicks off with a dinner at the ever popular Redbones in Davis Square, Somerville. Located on Chester Street, you can stuff your ribs with ribs washed down with a good selection of beers. And they have valet bike parking! The dining starts at 6:30, and if you plan to come, call Adele Ferreira at 617-628-8757 by November 7 so she can give the restaurant a head count. Bon appetit!

## Annual Holiday Party

Our Christmas season party will be held from 7 to 11 PM on Friday, December 8 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 100 Pine Hill Road, Bedford. From route 128 take the 4/225 exit west through Bedford Center. Where 62 and 4/225 split, turn right onto 4/225. At the next split just ahead, stay to the right on route 4. Pine Hill Road is about 3/4 mile ahead on the right. The church is near the top of the hill on the right.

The 2001 ride calendar will be available for ride leader sign-up and for planning purposes. Volunteers are needed for basic tasks like buying food, helping with decorations and, of course, cleanup. Last year's pot luck format produced many delectable treats. Here's your chance to unmask yourself as successor to Julia Child! Bring food based on the starting letter in your last name from the following categories:

A-L: Main Courses

M-S: Desserts

T-Z: Appetizers & Salads

This is a great opportunity to socialize with your riding buddies and see what they look like without Lycra, not to mention getting first dibs on the choice dates for leading rides.

## Board Elections

Since we did not get more candidates for the board than required to fill the three positions available, we won't be having the usual election. We have three candidates, Don Blake, Jack Donohue and Tod Rodger, whose statements are on page 6

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The Charles River Wheelmen is a group of active adult bicyclists which sponsors a year-round program to promote the enjoyment of cycling. During the regular season - early Spring to late Fall - at least two ride loops are available every Sunday, designed to be ridden at your own pace. The Sunday rides, are arrowed in advance, and maps or cue sheets are generally provided. There are also rides each Saturday and during the week. Our Winter rides pro-

gram, The Second Season, is more informal; the route and pace are decided by those who show up. We also hold social events and related activities.

CRW is an LAB 100% affiliated club, so our dues include membership in the League Of American Bicyclists. Members receive *Bicycle USA*, the LAB magazine, as well as *WheelPeople*, the Club's newsletter. CRW is also an associated club of the Adventure Cycling Association. Address correspondence to:

The Charles River Wheelmen - 19 Chase Avenue - West Newton, MA 02465

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	Term Expires	
Don Blake .....	2000 .....	(781) 275-7878
Rosalie Blum .....	2001 .....	(781) 272-7785
Jack Donohue .....	2000 .....	(781) 275-3991
Rich Fields .....	2002 .....	(781) 646-4601
Steve Kolek .....	2002 .....	(781) 674-1090
Bob Sawyer .....	2001 .....	(781) 862-6517
Ann-Marie Starck .....	2002 .....	(617) 923-6409
Marty Weinstock .....	2000 .....	(617) 491-6523
Bill Widnall .....	2001 .....	(781) 862-2846

### OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

President .....	Jack Donohue .....	(781) 275-3991
Executive Vice President .....	Barry Nelson .....	(617) 964-5727
Vice President of Finance .....	Michael Fisher .....	(617) 965-2334
Vice President of Publications .....	Ken Hablow .....	(781) 647-0233
Vice President of Legal Affairs .....	Jeanne Kangas .....	(978) 263-8594
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Insurance Coordinator .....	Don Blake .....	(781) 275-7878
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Touring Information .....	Jacek Rudowski .....	(617) 361-5273
Publicity Coordinator .....	Steve Kolek .....	(781) 674-1090
Merchandise .....	Ken Hablow .....	(781) 647-0233
Mileage .....	Edson Trumbull .....	(617) 332-8546
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Bike Shop Program .....	Ed Hoffer .....	(617) 552-5126
Special Events Coordinator .....	Adele Ferreira .....	(617) 628-8757
Volunteer Committee Chair .....	Linda Nelson .....	(617) 964-5727
Social Committee Chair .....	Barbara Bix .....	(617) 964-8193

### RIDE PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Vice President of Rides .....	Jim Sullivan .....	(781) 245-1772
Saturday Rides .....	Barry Nelson .....	(617) 964-5727
Sunday Rides .....	Tod Rodger .....	(978) 456-8654
Winter Rides .....	Eric Ferioli .....	(781) 235-4762
Ride Hosts .....	Larissa Hordynsky .....	(617) 527-5620
Intro Rides .....	Fred Kresse .....	(781) 444-1775
Century Committee .....	Melinda Lyon .....	(978) 887-5755
Tuesday Fitness Rides .....	Peter Knox .....	(617) 731-5944
Wednesday Wheelers .....	Bill Widnall .....	(781) 862-2846
Wednesday Ice Cream Ride .....	Gabor Demjen .....	(781) 237-0602
	Eric Evans .....	(617) 527-0517
Thursday Fitness Rides .....	Peter Mason .....	(781) 646-5106
Friday Rides .....	OPEN .....	
Saturday Fitness Rides .....	Dave McElwaine .....	(781) 821-8643
	Mark Dionne .....	(617) 965-5558
Sunday Fitness Rides .....	Mel Stoler .....	(617) 277-5180
	Ted Lewis .....	(781) 279-4909

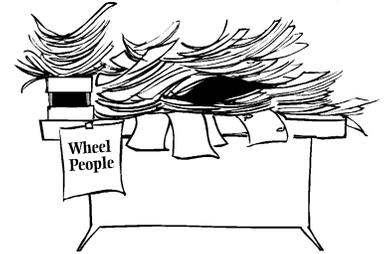
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### INTERNET STAFF

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## Editorial Policy



We welcome contributions to this newsletter, but reserve the right to edit articles in any way that we deem appropriate.

We will make every effort to preserve both the style and intent of the author, but we may rewrite an article to fit available space, to clarify ambiguities in the text, and to correct factual errors.

Articles and other materials which appear in *WheelPeople*, unless specifically identified as editorial policy, represent the opinion of the author, and do not represent the opinions of the editors, coordinators, officers, or board of directors of The Charles River Wheelmen, Inc.



## How To Send Us Your Article

Articles and letters must be received by the 5th of the month to be included in the next issue of *WheelPeople*.

Mail handwritten or typewritten documents or articles on floppy disk to Jack Donohue, 26 Fox Run Road, Bedford, MA 01730. *Note: floppy disks will not be returned.*

Documents produced on computer may be sent electronically via Internet to Jack at [JDONOHUE@world.std.com](mailto:JDONOHUE@world.std.com). Your document must be in "text" mode.

Articles submitted to *WheelPeople* may also be published on the CRW web site unless the author instructs otherwise.

### Insurance

If ride leaders or others have questions about insurance, contact Don Blake at (781) 275-7878. Please do not contact the insurance company.

### Advertising Rates

Half Page	\$65.00	Third Page	\$45.00
Quarter Page	\$35.00	Eighth Page	\$20.00
For more information please contact Marty Weinstock at 617-491-6523 or 617-331-9299			

## Board Meeting Minutes



**October 3, 2000**

**Membership Report:** 903 current memberships, with 25 new, 64 renewed, and 25 lapsed.

Sharon Gowan is replacing Dave Balzotti as membership coordinator.

**Financial Report:** Income was substantial for September due to the Fall Century and a spike in membership dues.

**Elections:** Two candidates for the Board of Directors have presented themselves to date. Barry Nelson will replace Jack Donohue as CRW president in 2001. Bill Widnall will be vice president.

**Government Relations:** Bob Sawyer reported on a bicycle safety conference he attended in Worcester. Topics included bicycle education in schools and a police workshop on enforcing cycling traffic laws. Mass Highway explained its new bicycle facilities, including the refurbishing of the Saltonstall Bikeway. Bob will be reimbursed for conference costs.

**Rides:** The Saturday, November 18 ride has been canceled; Jim Sullivan is looking for a replacement. Sunday, November 26 is still open. We need a Saturday ride coordinator to replace Barry Nelson.

**Trips:** Only 17 people have signed up for AppleBike on October 6-9, fewer than in years past. Next year Jack Donohue will probably schedule this event for a regular instead of a long weekend.

**Events:** The banquet is scheduled for November 16. All present voted on awards to be given out at the banquet. Marty Weinstock moved to increase the number of awards from four to six. The motion passed. Proceeds from the banquet auction will be donated to the Major Taylor fund.

**Mass Bike:** Tim Baldwin, new executive director of the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition, attended the board meeting to introduce himself to CRW. Tim would like to change Mass Bike's often adversarial relationship with the state government to a more congenial one. He is writing a grant to Bikes Belong for funding for advocacy work to create a statewide network of bicycle routes. Tim explained that he wants to make the roads safer for cycling, and CRW plays an important role by helping urban riders get started in recreational riding.

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 in the Hancock United Church of Christ, 1912 Mass. Ave., Lexington Center.

## Slide and Sup

**Linking the Americas**  
**Thursday, November 30**

Come see the adventures of two fellow cyclists who pedaled from Fairbanks, Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina—a 14,800 mile journey. Learn about their Grizzly Bear encounters, their brushes with "the law", their climb up to 15,500 feet on the Andean high plains and everywhere else in between. Presenter: Fernando Barrios Host: Jerry Green

**Time:** 7:45 PM **Location:** 28 Winchester Dr., Lexington, MA, 781-862-5971  
Dinner before the slide show at 6:15 PM at Mario's Italian Restaurant, 1733 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA. Please join us for slides and/or dinner. RSVP to [hcmkgplus@world.std.com](mailto:hcmkgplus@world.std.com) by November 28 for one or both.

## Same Time, This Year

*by Ken Hablow*

If it's the third Sunday in September, it must be the CRW fall century.

Once again the Sun Gods shone brightly on CRW with a great day for a bike ride. Other than a few cloudy hours mid morning, the sun warmed the air to a comfortable riding temperature.

In spite of a great deal of competition with the Boston-NY AIDS ride and at least two organized races, we still managed to draw almost 250 riders to Great Brook Farm in Carlisle for this great annual event.

Most people probably have no idea what goes into planning and running such an event, but it all starts in January when

*continued on page 8*

## Winter is coming!

*by Eric Ferioli*

With winter comes cold, snow, ice, sand, and downright miserable riding conditions. But does that stop the CRW? Of course not! We're tougher than that! Or maybe we simply don't know when to come in from the snow. Either way, the CRW has winter rides every Sunday, and we need YOU to lead one. It's simple and easy. You just need a cue sheet and/or map of your favorite ride, 15-20 miles for short and 30-40 miles for long. And, as an added benefit, you don't even need to do the ride. If the weather is not to your liking, simply drive up in your heated car, roll down the window a couple inches and hand out the cue sheets to those rugged individuals (fools) that do show up and wish them a good ride.

We have an extra need for winter ride leaders because we have had another winter ride leader leave the area. Jim Merrick and his family have decided that eastern Mass. is not cold enough and have moved to Maine. So please volunteer to lead a winter ride. The rides that have no leaders will be recycled Gear rides, lead by me, from the Wellesley High School. To lead a ride or just for information, call Eric Ferioli at 781-235-4762. Let it ring, I don't have a machine, if someone other than myself answers, please try again later.

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# November 2000 Recurring Rides Calendar

*These rides are held every week unless indicated*



## Wednesday Wheelers

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Routes: Distance varies, follow the leader, no cue sheet

Description: A group that enjoys exploring a variety of scenic routes and lunch spots, mostly in the western suburbs but occasionally to the north or south. We stay together, following the leader for the day, while being careful not to drop anyone. (Generally there is no cue sheet handed out.) The typical ride distance is about 30 miles. The pace is about 15 to 17 mph on the flats, but slows considerably on the hills, so we wind up with a rolling average of about 13 mph. Start: Location Varies Directions: For more information, including the next ride start location, call the ride coordinator Bill Widnall at 781-862-2846 day or early evening or e-mail to BillWidnall@ibm.net.

## Saturday Morning Fitness Ride at Nahanton Park \*\*

Times: 8:30 SHARP!

Routes: Arrowed routes of 19, 28 & 42 miles. Cue sheet available.

Description: You will ride scenic rolling roads through Needham, Dover, Sherborn, & Medfield. These rides will be set up to run with or without a leader so be ready to go on time. At 8:30 we're gone. This ride runs all year 'round.

Leaders: Dave McElwaine (781-821-8643, McElwaineD@aol.com) or Mark Dionne (617-965-5558, mdionne@mediaone.net)

Start: Nahanton Park, Newton.

Directions: Take the Highland St. exit off Rt. 128 toward Needham, take a left at the light onto Hunting Rd, at the next light make another left onto Kendrick St. The park is on your left immediately AFTER crossing the river. Ride leaves from the main parking lot.

## Sunday Morning Fitness Ride - South Shore Coastal Loop

Start Time: 7:00

Routes: Arrowed routes of 37 & 50 miles. Maps and cue sheets available in addition.

Highlights: Are you looking for a ride with shady, quiet roads, beautiful scenery and coastline stretches that will get you home by mid morning every Sunday? The SSCL will take place every week, weather permitting. The 37 mile route includes Rockland, Hingham, Norwell, Scituate, and Cohasset with a coffee stop in Scituate Harbor at mile 15. The 50 mile loop includes Hull with an additional brief stop at mile 30 to regroup. Ideal for fast and moderate riders with pacyline experience or desire to learn. These rides are set up to run with or without a leader.

Leaders: Mel Stoler (617-626-9261(W), 617-277-5180(H), Mel.Stoler@state.ma.us) and Ted Lewis (781-279-4909)

Start: Park'n'Ride lot, Rockland

Directions: Take Rt. 3 to Exit 14 (Rt. 228) in Rockland. Turn left at end of exit ramp and park in the Park'n Ride lot. You won't regret setting the alarm. Call to confirm. Space unlimited.

\*\* CRW's Fitness Rides Program is designed to assist intermediate and advanced riders to improve their skills and learn cooperative pacyline riding techniques.

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## WheelPeople History

### Five Years Ago

The board meetings move from MIT in Cambridge to our present venue. Jack Donohue describes the legendary Tour de Brew.

### Ten Years Ago

Melinda Lyon describes her Boston-Montreal-Boston (BMB) ride, "How I spend my summer vacation." Susan Grieb leads a mountain bike ride in the Fells.

### Twenty Five Years Ago

The club held a fund raising beer party at (CRW founder) Ralph Galen's office in Cambridge. Thanksgiving Day featured a ride from Scollay Square to Lexington with a stop in Arlington to see some of the statuary at City Hall. (Ed: Scollay Square, of Charlie on the MTA fame, is now Kendall Square)

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# The Rides Calendar

November, 2000

On all CRW rides, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the published ride starting time. It is recommended that you bring pump, patch kit, spare tube, allen wrenches, screwdriver, lock, water bottle, some money, helmet, gloves, and a map.



## Sunday Artsy Ride

*November 5 - Sunday*

Times and Routes: 47, 36 or 28 miles at 9:30 AM

Ride Type: Arrowed

Leader: : Charles Hansen (617-734-0720), [velotrain@peoplepc.com](mailto:velotrain@peoplepc.com)

Highlights: This ride goes through Waltham, Weston, Lincoln and Concord, with the longer options adding Bedford and Carlisle. Lunch on all routes is Concord Center. The reason for starting where we do is the post-ride event, which is a self-guided tour of the approximately 40 artists studios in some of the old brick mill buildings in downtown Waltham. The studios are open from 12-5 PM. There is always a very wide range of artwork on display, which can make this event more interesting than a museum visit. The Charles River Museum of Industry, at the site of America's industrial birthplace, is so nearby and includes a 7-person bicycle in their exhibit. NOTE: If you're planning on visiting the studios, have a means for locking your bike!

Start: City of Waltham Embassy parking lot

Directions: Route 95/128 to exit 26 Route 20 east towards Waltham. Turn right on Moody Street at Waltham Common in about 1.5 miles, then left on Pine at first light after the bridge. Left into Embassy parking lot after apartment building - watch clearance on lower level.

## A Really Goode Ride

*November 12 - Sunday*

Times - 9:45 AM for long and 10:30 for short Ride

Type: Arrowed

Leader: Gerry Goode (781-843-6283) [[WSworked@aol.com](mailto:WSworked@aol.com)]

Terrain: Flat Mileage: 44 miles at 9:45 and 30 miles at 10:30

Highlights: The ride includes the waterfront in Plymouth and many cranberry bogs. Lunch will be on the Plymouth waterfront.

Directions: From North or West of Boston, Take either 93 South or 128 South toward Braintree. Take Route 3 South toward Cape Code. Take exit 10 off of Rt 3 and take a right at the end of the ramp. Travel about 300 yards and park at the Bank.

## Bagels and a Buffalo

*November 19 - Sunday*

Times and Routes: 9:30 for 50 or 40 miles. 10:00 for 20 miles.

Ride Type: arrowed, white standard

Leader: Melinda Lyon (978-887-5755, [melindalyon@juno.com](mailto:melindalyon@juno.com))

Highlights: Short ride includes Boxford, Topsfield, and Rowley. The long and medium rides include N. Andover, Ipswich, Newbury, and Newburyport. The short ride lunch stop is at Topsfield House of Bagels. The long and medium ride lunch stop is in downtown Newburyport at Abraham's Bagels. Additional side trip is out and back to Plum Island for the long and medium rides before the lunch stop. Start: Masconomet High School, Boxford

Directions: Rte. 95N to Exit 51 "Endicott Rd., Topsfield". High School is on the right at the end of the exit ramp.

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## Board Election Statements

### Jack Donohue

I've been a CRW member since 1983. I was membership coordinator for six years, then became WheelPeople copy editor which I still am. I've been a board member and club president for the past two years.

I have an almost fanatical interest in bicycling, and in addition to CRW am active in the Northeast Bicycle Club, and the Appalachian Mountain Club, as well as the tandem group TBONE.

I've seen CRW membership grow from 400 to over 1000 and back down to 900. One of the recurring themes is trying to figure out what members want and how to attract new ones. We've got a superb rides program and social calendar, but we need to figure out how to tell the world. I can help preach the gospel of CRW to the masses.

### Tod Rodger

Although I have ridden 125,000 miles, organized and led 2 to 5 week tours for high school students and adults, and written a Bicycle Guide to the Lewis & Clark Trail, I did not join CRW until 1996— mostly because I have been living in the far west (Harvard) for 23 years and riding with friends here. As our local group lost interest in riding, I joined CRW to meet other riders and to share the joy of riding.

Getting involved in CRW has not been easy, but it has been rewarding. I met very few people the first year by just showing up for rides. My second year I volunteered to help lead rides. My third year I led a ride. My fourth year I added the role of Sunday Rides Coordinator. And now I am offering to serve on the Board. I would like to maintain the very strong rides program and weekend events program that others have developed. I would also like to make CRW more welcoming to new members and help more people reap the rewards of deeper involvement.

### Don Blake

My name is Don Blake. I reside in Bedford, MA., have four children and six grandchildren. Although officially retired, I am now working a 40 hour week.

My bicycling interests are many and varied: - When I was younger I owned and operated the "Bedford Bicycle Shop". I gave up the business when I found that I could not combine bicycling as a vocation and as a form of recreation. - I am a life member of LAB (#294) and AYH. and a member of MassBike. - Since the early '80 I have been involved in the Minuteman Bikeway and am a past Chairman of the "Bedford Friends of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway" and a member of the "Lexington Friends of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway" - I am a bicycle commuter. For 22 years it was 18 miles each way but is now only four. - I have been Bedford Coordinator of pledge rides with the American Diabetes Association, and a Merit Badge Councilor for the Boy Scouts.

I have been an active member of CRW for 31 years, seen the "good times" as well as the "not so good." I can bring before the Board an active knowledge of our past history. The past, modified by the present can guide us in planning our future goals. Our financial position is strong, but to remain profitable in today's uncertain economy requires much study and determination. I believe that I can provide the Board with the necessary tools and knowledge to attain our future goals.



## Stand By Your Bicyclist

*By Andy Meyer and Renée Le Verrier*

It was one of those rare New England days that remind us why we live here: brilliant sun reflecting autumn's colors and a mild sea breeze to keep it from getting too warm. Just right for a bike ride on the new recumbent tandem.

It had given us some problems on earlier outings. But, since it was so much fun to ride, we tried to work through the skipping chain and fix the continuously loose handlebars as best possible.

After 26 miles of the 55-mile loop on that glorious Sunday, however, we noticed the familiar chain skip. Uh oh. More problems, we thought. Just under 200 miles on the bike and it was acting up again. Cyclists behind us commented on the rattle. Then out shouted that we'd dropped the chain.

Dropped the chain was a mildly appropriate description. Dropped the entire piece of frame holding the rear derailleur that held the chain would be more appropriate. Pieces of metal dangled precariously close to the spokes. Frames aren't supposed to break on smooth, fairly flat pavement. Bikes weren't

the only machinery on the roads. Leaf-peeping Sunday drivers abounded. Had one of those dangling hunks of metal met the spokes, we might have met the tires of one of those tourists driving beside us.

That's it, we thought, we have to take it back. We could've died. Fat chance a bike shop will take it back, one rider commented. Good luck, another said shaking his head.

We itemized the problems in the taxi on the way home. We were anxious, determined not to ride that death machine, ready to argue our point with the bike shop. The next day, we took it back, prepared for the fight, armed with our list of the bike's issues.

To our surprise, Belmont Wheelworks took the bike back. No questions asked.

Walking back outside, squinting into the autumn sun, we realized: Belmont Wheelworks is one of those rare New England bike shops that remind us why we shop there. They stand by their customers.

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## Bike Night

November 20, 6-10 pm



Supporters of the bicycling movement in Massachusetts are invited to Bike Night, presented by MassBike, on Monday November 20, 6 PM - 10 PM, at the West Street Grill in Boston. A brief meeting on the state of MassBike and the bicycling movement will be followed by keynote speakers and a fundraising auction. Delicious appetizers and a cash bar will be accompanied by musical entertainment.

Expected amongst attendees are MassBike and ride club

members and their spouses, transportation agency officials, politicians and bike industry folks. The business meeting will look at MassBike's recent accomplishments and the challenges facing the organization. Questions will be taken from the audience. Keynote speakers have not yet been announced, but will include representatives from government and industry.

The fundraising auction will feature a wide range of items such as bicycles and frames, all types of accessories, bicycle vacations, books, tuneups and training classes... and much much more.

Valet bicycle parking will be provided on-site. The West Street Grill, located at 15 West Street, is accessible by the MBTA's Park Street and Downtown Crossing Stations. The Red, Orange and Blue lines may be used with your bike, without need for a pass, at the end of the evening.

All proceeds from Bike Night will benefit MassBike for the purpose of increasing staffing so that it can be more effective in its mission to improve conditions for cycling in Massachusetts.

For more information visit [www.massbike.org](http://www.massbike.org). Tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 for you and a guest. Credit card orders can be called in to the Bike Night Hotline at 617-973-9438. Tickets will be held at the door.

Consider joining our Host Committee: If you are interested in purchasing several tickets for friends or colleagues please contact Larry Slotnick at 617-437-6680 or [slotnick@thecia.net](mailto:slotnick@thecia.net)

## The Bicycle Takes Off: From Boneshaker to Boom

October 21, 2000-April 22, 2001

Early bicycles with lyrical names like "Phantom," "Star," and "Rover" evoke the age-old yet elusive quest for a practical human-powered vehicle-one that culminated in the 1890s with the great bicycle boom. The Museum presents this colorful success story in "The Bicycle Takes Off: From Boneshaker to Boom" on view October 21, 2000-April 22, 2001.

This unique exhibition offers a fresh and compelling overview of bicycle development, from the first fanciful "self-acting" carriages of the seventeenth century to the modern safety bicycle. About 25 historic machines from French, English, and American collections will be on view, including three of the oldest and rarest forms of human-powered vehicles: an 1819 kick-propelled hobby horse, an 1850s English quadricycle, and an 1865 wooden bicycle from France-possibly the oldest bicycle in existence. These machines are complemented by numerous interactives and period objects never before exhibited.

The emergence of the modern bicycle is an engaging tale, rich in human drama and social significance. Although this ever-popular vehicle continually reinvents itself (e.g. the mountain bike), it is, in essence, a triumph of nineteenth-century technology. "While most bicycle histories examine only the boom years as a prelude to the automotive age," says curator David V. Herlihy, "that is only part of the story. We explore the years of quiet yet significant development that ultimately triggered the boom." Relying on Herlihy's extensive research, the exhibition's ten sections reveal how the bicycle's basic form, utility, and appeal were all firmly established during a frenzy of development between 1865-1900. "The Bicycle Takes Off" devotes special attention to the much-maligned "boneshaker" of the 1860s, the crucial stepping stone en route to the modern bicycle. Despite its heavy and crude construction, this original bicycle established the principle that a two-wheeler could be steadily and continuously propelled by means of foot-cranks (attached, in this case, directly to the front axle). Arti-

facts from the original bicycle company, Michaux of Paris, underscore the boneshaker's enthusiastic reception around the world. Observes Herlihy, "At last, a practical mechanical horse seemed within reach."

As it turned out, a generation of intensive development still lay ahead. The exhibition chronicles key advances made in Britain in the 1870s that led to the fleet yet precarious highwheeler. The 1871 Phantom shows the first production model with iron spokes and solid rubber tires. Racing artifacts from the early 1870s attest to the growth of the sport in Britain. The 1877 Weston bicycle, one of the first highwheelers imported to the United States, shows how designers settled on a maximized front wheel to improve gearing. This machine also incorporates the significant material improvements that helped spawn a small but vigorous cycling community composed primarily of upper-class males. Mark Twain's personal mount from 1886-modified to suit his tastes-is also on display.

The social side of highwheeling led to the establishment of numerous bicycle clubs. An interactive section features a stylized wheelmen clubroom equipped with period cycling literature, memorabilia, and a stereopticon. Videos explore club life, as well as contemporary highwheel riding, collecting, and restoration. George Hendee's trophy and medals from the annual meets in Springfield, Massachusetts, form the backdrop to a discussion on highwheel racing. Visitors can climb onto a reproduction highwheeler to experience its challenging mount and feel the thrill of riding high.

Despite its success, the highwheeler's high price and its propensity for tipping effectively locked out legions of would-be cyclists, particularly women. "Throughout the 1880s, many alternative schemes were proposed to create a safer bicycle," said Herlihy, "but the allure and simplicity of the highwheeler proved difficult to surmount." By the late 1880s, however,

*continued on page 8*



There are many different attitudes toward riding in the rain. My attitude is just stay home and drink beer.

Despite this healthy outlook, I inevitably find myself riding in the rain quite a lot.

There are those who just gird their loins and ride in whatever weather. They usually have closets full of foul weather gear of every description. Now, I've heard of the great technological marvels of Goretex, Latex, Permatex, etc. that are supposed to make riding in the rain a pleasant if not ecstatic experience. They are said to "breathe" thus letting moisture (sweat) through, while keeping bad rain out. I don't think so. Basically, we are dealing with immutable laws of physics. You're exercising hard, you sweat. If you seal yourself up to keep the water out, you keep the sweat in, no matter what the Tex advertisers say. The only

## Little Jack's Corner - by Jack Donohue

useful invention in rain gear for cycling in the last century is pit vents. Of course, these have drawbacks, too. I have an old rain jacket with mesh sides that I carry in my commuting bag for emergencies. It works fine, except when you have windswept rain in which case the vents don't provide very much protection. My favorite article of rain gear is an old yellow rubberized jacket. In a former life, I was on assignment at a chemical plant in Houston, and after wearing it a while, thought it would make a fine souvenir. Some people collect Disney memorabilia, or Elvis relics, I collect rain jackets that say "Gulf Cedar Bayou Chemical Plant." Anyway, it is extremely effective at keeping rain out. As far as the sweat issue, it is about three sizes too large (they didn't have a lot of choices at the plant boutique) so there's plenty of room for sweat to circulate, if not escape.

A lot of people swear by fenders. They are supposed to keep rain from being

thrown up at you from the front tire. So, maybe they do, and I actually have a front fender on my rain bike. But if you're out in the rain for more than about five minutes, your feet are going to get wet, fender or not. The only time I really felt the need for a fender was riding the Proflex in the winter with the studded front tire. There was quite a collection of salt, sand, and other debris on the road, and that tire was quite effective at flinging it all into my face at any speed greater than about 5 mph. So I had to say "no mas" and rush over to the bike store for a front fender. But fenders for rain protection, nah.

So, if you ride in the rain, you will get wet, period. No amount of technology will prevent this. But the good news is, once you're wet, you won't get any wetter. Saturation is a wonderful thing. And as long as you stay warm, and try not to think too much about the comfy chair you could be in at home, it can be a, well, not awful experience.

### *Bicycle takes off from page 8*

the British-designed, chain-driven Rover finally toppled the elitist highwheeler. The introduction of the pneumatic tire shortly thereafter helped spark a worldwide boom.

Women in particular seized the newfound opportunity to cycle, and helped propel sales to dizzying heights. The exhibition discusses the social impact of the safety bicycle on women in the late nineteenth century. Audio presentations explore the controversies surrounding female cyclists, including concerns about the propriety of their dress and the consequences of their increased mobility. "The triumphant two-wheeler ultimately revolutionized personal transportation," explained Herlihy, "and bicycle manufacturing became one of our nation's largest industries." More than 300 firms, such as Arnold, Schwinn and Company of Chicago, rushed into the business and produced some two million units during the peak year of 1897. Many cycling innovators-including Henry Ford and the Wright Brothers-went on to launch our nation's automotive and aviation industries. "Although the boom subsided before the turn of the century," observes Herlihy, "the bicycle left an indelible impression and a profound legacy that continues to this day." A 24-page catalog by Herlihy will accompany the exhibition. A web site, [www.bicycletakesoff.org](http://www.bicycletakesoff.org) will be in operation starting in February 2000 to provide an overview of the show and links to sponsors and cycling resources. It will also be linked to the Museum's website. "The Bicycle Takes Off" was organized by the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum of Norwalk, CT and directed by Cathie Zusy.

### *Same time from page 3*

Lyn Pohl applies for the permit to use the Great Brook parking lot for the day. In February or March we need to arrange for the Porta-Johns for all three of our century events. And before the end of March we need to order the water bottles we give to every entrant. Protocol dictates the route designers check the routes and note any changes that need to be made. Arrowing, again usually under the direction of the designers, usually takes three days including the last minute arrow checking. The rest of the planning falls on the Century Committee and our Committee Chairwoman, Melinda Lyon. For as long as I can remember, the same three women, Rosalie Blum, Janet Blake and Delphie Andrews get up earlier than most of the riders and arrive in time to perform their semiannual registration tasks; Ann-Marie Starck has run everything on the Day Of The Event and assembled her revolving check-in and cleanup crew, and Don Blake has arranged to bring the tables and chairs we need. Thankfully these people are so well programmed and "trained" that these processes are quite seamless to the casual observer. Thanks to Bill Haynes who volunteered to run a water stop at the 50 mile point in New Hampshire and to Tom Lynch and Larissa Hordynsky for providing and monitoring all the great food. A special thanks to Cycle Loft for loaning us Fred who did a great job on tech support, especially since they already had two trucks on support for the AIDS ride. Nothing but high marks for Fred and the services he performed that day. A big "THANKS!" to the rest of the people who made this event possible: Arrowing: Jack Donohue and Ken Hablow Water Stops: Mary O'Brien, Peter Stokes, Bill Haynes and Susan Grieb Water supply in Carlisle: Lyn Pohl and Jim McGarry Check-in: Jeff Stone, Arnold Nadler, Jean Orser, Paul Corriveau, Robin Inman Sweeps: Peter Mason, Al Navarro Cleanup: Robin Inman, Larissa Hordynsky, Don Blake, Ken Hablow, Ann-Marie Starck Of special interest, the fall century route was originally designed six years ago by Ken Hablow and Jim Cavanaugh. Most of the administrative work this year was done by Jack Donohue and Ken Hablow - including this article.

# September Mileage Totals

**1 5 8 6 7 3**

	Miles	M	C	K		Miles	M	C	K
Melinda Lyon	12226	6	6	5	Bill Widnall	2950	9	9	-
Pamela Blalock	9135	9	5	7	Marc Baskin	2944	2	-	-
Jack Donohue	8500	-	-	5	Dave VanAmeyden	2384	5	4	-
John Bayley	8474	9	5	4	John Allen	1728	-	-	-
Martin Estner	8291	9	9	5	John Kane	1643	-	-	-
Mike Kerrigan	7882	7	6	4	Susan Grieb	1507	-	-	-
Bruce Ingle	7811	6	4	5	Harry Wolf	1313	-	-	-
Irving Kurki	7606	7	6	3	Cynthia Snow	1296	-	-	-
Larry Dolinsky	7287	9	7	-	Elisse Ghitelman	1157	-	-	-
Tod Rodger	6730	5	4	1	Elaine Stansfield	1134	-	-	-
Ted Hamann	6259	-	-	-	Jim Broughton	1055	-	-	-
Robin Schulman	5218	3	3	1	Phyllis Mays	839	1	-	-
Joan Dolinsky	4709	9	-	-	George Caplan	785	-	-	-
David Wean	4334	2	-	-	Jeff Luxenberg	738	-	-	-
Dick Arsenault	4224	6	1	-	Ed Trumbull	735	-	-	-
Bob Sawyer	4065	1	-	-	Cynthia Zabin	371	-	-	-
Gabor Demjen	4051	4	2	-	John Loring	344	-	-	-
Joe Repole	3977	9	9	-	Jared Luxenberg	254	-	-	-
Christine Weiniger	3895	-	-	-	Jacob Allen	170	-	-	-
Kitty Farago	3792	1	-	-	Katie Caplan	101	-	-	-
Ed Hoffer	3535	1	-	-	Tracy Ingle	94	-	-	-
Doug Cohen	3056	3	1	-	Sara Luxenberg	74	-	-	-

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### Mileage Table Explained

Miles are year-to-date totals. The M column indicates the number of months the rider reported completing a metric century. The C column shows the number of months with a hundred mile century, and the K column is the number of months with 1000 or more miles.

Report mileage by the fifth of each month to: Ed Trumbull, 19 Chase Avenue, West Newton, MA 02465 (617) 332-8546.

CRW members may submit ads at no charge. Submit the copy to the editor as described on page 2.

### For Sale

Pinarello racing bike, 59 cm, Columbus SL tubing, Campy Nuovo Record gruppo, tubular tires, excellent condition, \$600. Specialized Hardrock mountain bike, 18.5 inch (47 cm), butted cromo tubing, Shimano Acrea X components, almost new, \$175 Call Eric Ferioli at 781-235-4762, let it ring.

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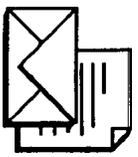
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