

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

February 2008

Little Village Winter Biking Workshop and Party, 1/19/08

BY HOWARD KAPLAN

Out of the blue I was copied on an e-mail from an acquaintance; it seemed an ex of his was working in marketing and charged with setting up a bunch of sponsored parties. The sponsor, a new soft drink product from one of the larger (but not quite the largest) soft drink concerns, was giving the host \$1,200 to spend on the party any way they wanted.

Having often fantasized that I could, like Robin Hood, distribute U-locks and blinkies to cyclists of modest incomes and having wanted to hold a bike winter workshop in my part of town for a while, the idea of a workshop-party with substantial giveaways came together. The venue was obvious: we have probably the most wonderful and unique independently owned Cafes here in Little Village, Cafe Catédral (www.catedral.cc), with a perfect event room in the back, a former greenhouse. Catedral's owner Abraham Dueñas was happy to help in any way, and the food and drink arrangements came together quickly. Die-hard bike winter supporter Martin Hazard and Performance Cycle helped get the party favors together, \$900 worth in all.

My original concept was to just give a little talk on winter cycling, hand out the goods, and have a party, but I put out feelers and quickly a skilled presentation team came together: Blue Island's Super Cycling Mom Jane Healy to talk about visibility and biking with kids, fresh-faced Hyde Park-Bridgeport gal Lauren Sailor to talk about clothing, former Rapid Transit wrench and Little Villager Sarah Kaplan to talk about bike maintenance and modification for winter, and bike-videographer Steven Lane to present his 15 minute film on winter cycling in Chicago and to help present some media clips showing how to use the bus racks we were lucky enough to have available.

Working with the sponsor, I settled on an invited body of 25; I put out feelers and was not prepared for the response, ending up overbooking and explaining that the additional folks would have a shot at some sort of favor but only the original 25 list would get a goodie bag with blinky and U-lock. At some point I started to freak out and decided it was time to start saying no, and ended up turning down about 5 final RSVPs as apologetically as I could the last few days before the event.

On Friday I took the day off, trucking from 24th and Marshall Boulevard to Halsted and Diversey and back to get the goods on one of this winter's colder days. I had my 8-foot trailer in tow (for all my trailers it's the only one that doesn't have a

200 lb. sound system mated to it at the moment) and would guess not much more than 120 lbs of gear to tow back home, but some fairly bulky boxes which ended up justifying the length of the trailer to a good degree. The trip gave me pause to reflect on how my bicycling life has changed over the years . . . 10 years ago I'd find it important to get some sort of exercise in the course of a 'free' day, but in winter it'd been on a Spinning bike with a car trip there and back.



So, Saturday came, and the event went off without a hitch. I devised a sort of lottery to distribute the favors, which worked well and didn't seem to leave anyone feeling cheated. This was the part I had stressed the most about beforehand, and it was great to finally have it out of the way. The presentations flowed nicely, with an informal feel, lots of audience questions and input, and lots of laughter. We had not seen the bus rack films before we showed them so that was a bit of discovery: they turned out to be 4 short clips without sound and we had fun narrating them.

Even though things never seemed to drag, we managed to run the workshop right up to about 6 P.M., and as the event was billed as being from 4-6 P.M., folks didn't stick around long, although I suspect Abe wouldn't have minded if we'd have slept there.

I actually don't care who takes up winter cycling and who doesn't as a result of this workshop (I'm not really much of a believer in trying to influence people, beyond helping them see what the possibilities are) but I like to think some connections may have been made among the 40 or so attendees from which greater things will come. And I'm glad to have had the opportunity to take \$1,200 from a rich corporation and route it to the bike-gear poor.



The CCC's e-mail lists-- everything you really wanted to know, and more

BY HOWARD KAPLAN

It seems we can never do enough to clarify the purpose of the club's two e-mail lists. So here's a brief overview, with some FAQ's and a few fascinating historical bits.

1) Chicago Cycling Club announcement list.
Address: chibikeclub@yahoogroups.com

Purpose: A channel for club announcements to reach the largest portion of club members possible online.

Open to: All CCC members.

Appropriate content: Anything a club officer would typically announce at the beginning of a club meeting. Examples: Upcoming rides, calls for newsletter submissions, manifestos from the president, calls for volunteers and involvement, announcements of newsletter mailing parties, club meetings. Occasional APB's of major import across cycling communities that are not directly club related, such as emergency directives from CBF or LIB to call legislators to get important and pending bike legislation passed. Typically if you're not a club officer or committee chair you won't have a need to post to this list.

Inappropriate content: Anything which begs discussion, anything "chatty," anything politically controversial, anything not immediately for the benefit of the entire club membership, anything which merely mentions the CCC but is not directly a call for involvement or action relating to a club need or activity.

What else- this list is moderated by a team of moderators who receive e-mail alerts when there's a post -- requests must wait for approval, but typically only an hour or two at most and often much less.

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2) CCC-chat list
Address: ccc-chat@yahoogroups.com

Purpose- the chat list came about early in the life of the chibikeclub list, as a response to a long chatty thread (the infamous "Where's Jim" thread) which caused a major blow-up/melt down.

Open to: All CCC members.

Appropriate content: Anything you'd like to share with other club members. Anything you'd typically discuss at an after-ride fiesta. Announcements or questions about non-club rides. Minutia or questions about club rides. By opting to be on a list with "chat" in the title, users are assumed to condone chattiness, should be able to tolerate idle discussion on a variety of topics.

This list is unmoderated. Think twice before hitting the send button-- some questions to ask (continued on page 2)

Prez Sez

BY MICHAEL WASSERMAN



I've been having a curious "internal" debate with myself for the last couple of weeks. I am trying to decide which is my favorite time of year to ride the bike. Do any of you ponder this?

Summer is almost certainly the best time to ride, when I get the most miles and bike time. My schedule allows for more consistent commutes to work and (needless to say) the majority of our club rides occur then. I tend to ride faster when I want to, but am just as likely - and willing - to slow down. Summer's heat cries out for more leisurely expeditions and its long evenings allow me the leisure and freedom to converse with others riders en route, or to stop and smell the roses. I carry less gear. I am more prone to explore new routes. I check out new neighborhoods. Summer is definitely good.

Spring is pretty darn nice too (and it being January and all, I am already pining, planning, not so patiently awaiting its triumphant return). Spring is definitely my favorite. Or at least I think so. The first sunny fifty degree day will get me out of the office early to play hooky and ride the lakefront. The first Easter sale ads in the newspaper and peeps at the checkout line send my mind reeling, looking forward to the Champagne ride, and catching up (or trying to chase down) the riders I see so seldom during the darker winter months. The first ride of the year without a heavy sweater or gloves. The end to the constant bike maintenance attendant to winter riding; no more desalinizing the bike or washing away the road grime built onto my fenders and wheels from miles of winter-slush riding. I like riding my old-standby routes in the spring. The first post-thaw trip up the north branch trail to see the forests before there is too much foliage to block the views. The first rolling deer sightings of the year. The return to Sheridan Road to check out the stately manors, new pre-cast McMansions, and (sadly) the latest and newest postholes. Spring is a time of rebirth, and riding is part of that for me. Never mind Summer, Spring may well be the best of them all.

Riding in the Fall? In a word, it's the best. Most of my favorite organized rides happen in September and October. Invitational centuries in Evanston, Three Rivers, Coal City, and Wilmet. The Hilly Hundred in Bloomington. All that summer-time conditioning pays off on these longer adventures. The crisp air of the early morning starts. The changing colors on the trees. The crackling of leaves under my wheels, even the temptation to smash through the leaves plied curbside in Wilmette. The hearty riders and meals at our club fall picnic ride. They all beg my attention and cause no small amount of joy every time I experience them. The impetus to ride in the Fall is more urgent. I need to ride just a bit further or longer than I intend when I set out. I suspect I do this, knowing how my schedule gets fuller as the

days get shorter and that my riding time will be curtailed. I want to get all that I can out of my Fall riding lest the Winter cold proves to be too much for my weak soul and character.

Still, winter riding is undeniably special. It would be so much easier to simply drop onto the couch and warm up in a warm blanket and good book. I love to nap almost as much as I love to ride. That temptation can be quite a bear. But I don't (always) succumb. If I win the struggle to get out the door, and can get a mile or so out, I know I'll be well rewarded. No matter what my mood is as I start out, I am inevitably happy, ebullient, down right crazed with pleasure once I am warmed up and rolling. Cycling in the Winter just feels good. Add in the sense of accomplishment for having overcome sloth. Exercise, fresh air, and a smug sense of moral superiority for doing so. Winter rides hit the good mental health trifecta for me. No seasonal affective disorder as long as I can get my feet on the cranks and turn them a few times.

The once crowded Lakefront Path becomes my semi-private playground. Winter rides are most often quiet, reflective experiences. The few riders I encounter almost always smile, or wave or toot a horn. In that moment, we share a small celebration; we can exchange knowing glances to acknowledge each other for appreciating the beauty or solitude of the moment.

Winter riding has another special reward of course: snow! Many of you know that I might sometimes grumble and whine when circumstances force me to ride in the rain. I cannot imagine ever complaining about riding in the snow. I feel most child-like when I have to wipe the white stuff from my goggles or when I open my mouth to catch flakes as I spin down the road (stay hydrated, right?). Creating the familiar contrail of thin lines on an otherwise fluffy white snow covered pavement. The sighting of someone else's track. The warm burn on my nose or on my ears when I dismount and get back into the house.

Not so many organized rides this time of year, but ask anyone who has ridden on our just plain fun "weather-be-dammed" New Years Day or Christmas Day "Bagel Ride." Never had a bad one yet.

But even as Winter transitions to Spring, I cannot imagine that I will feel sad. Don't forget, Spring is also my favorite time of the year to ride.

See you on the Champagne ride, if not sooner,

Mike



The CCC's e-mail lists

(continued from page 1)

yourself:

-have I checked my "to" field? Is this who I mean to send to?

-could this post bruise feelings and ultimately hurt the club?

-is there anything in this message, perhaps in some copied-back discussion, which I (or someone else) wouldn't want to share publicly?

Also, both lists are configured to strip attachments, in order to minimize the emotional impact of a suspected virus. Recently, the settings were changed so that replying to a chat list post

replies to only the sender, instead of the list. This doesn't make much sense for a discussion list, but we found we were unable to train some users to check their "to" fields, and could not avoid semi-regular accidental postings and resultant damage to relationships. So now the easiest way to reply to the list for most is to hit "reply all" and remove all but ccc-chat@yahoo-groups.com from the recipients (PLEASE do not forget to remove the other recipients!).

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3) When to post to both lists:

-Never. The ccc-chat list should always be assumed to be a subset of the chibikeclub list. There is no reason whatsoever to post to both. At writing the chat list has 96 members and the chibikeclub list has 123. Although mistakes are possible there should be no-one on the chat list who's not on the chibikeclub list. So, if you're looking for newsletter submissions, announcing club rides, club election results, soliciting for volunteers for club events or announcing a club social event, you will want to post to chibikeclub@yahoo.com and chibikeclub only.

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About the Club

Mission

To facilitate recreational bicycling in a non-competitive environment in and around the Chicago area; to promote safe bicycling habits and proper bicycling etiquette; to provide bicyclists an opportunity to network with other bicyclists; to encourage bicycling as a safe and viable alternative to other modes of transportation.

Contact

Snailmail: P O Box 1178, Chicago, IL 60690-1178

Website: www.chicagocyclingclub.org

General: info@chicagocyclingclub.org

Newsletter: editor@chicagocyclingclub.org

Rides: rides@chicagocyclingclub.org

Telephone: 773.509.8093

Officers

President: Michael Wasserman

Vice President: James Adgate

Treasurer: Alice Kroman

Secretary: Jennifer Richards

Member at Large: Art Giffand,
Joseph Dickstein

Education: TBD

Newsletter: Justin Sondak,
Kamen Lei

Rides: Duane O'Laughlin



Rolling Along: Calendar of Events

2/8 – Break the Gridlock: Show and Tell at Bloom Inn, 2418 W Bloomingdale
(more info at www.bikewinter.org)

2/12 – February CCC membership meeting at Mercury Cafe

2/15 – Pedestrian Hell's open rant night at Efebos Cafe, 1640 S. Blue Island
(more info at www.bikewinter.org)

2/29 – Chicago Critical Mass and CCM Art Show closing party
(more info at chicagocriticalmass.org)

3/7 – Frozen Snot Century
(more info at www.bikewinter.org)

4/6 – CCC Champagne Ride
(more info at www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides)



The CCC's e-mail lists

(continued from page 2)

4) How to join:

For those who did not get invited or added as part of the membership processing, send a message to either ccc-chat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or chibikeclub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. The subject line is unimportant but in the body it would help if you would include a short note stating that you're a member, and who you are.

Thanks for reading!

Howard



February Club Meeting

The CCC's February 12 meeting will be held 7-9 p.m. at the Mercury Cafe, 1505 W. Chicago Ave., where we will view the 11th Annual Critical Mass/Bike Winter Bicycle Art Show of anti-car and pro-bicycle sculpture, paintings, and photography. Steven Lane will be screening his video about last season's Mini-Ride for Climate (a.k.a. "The Green Ride"), which was led and organized by club member Kathy Schubert.

Club members are invited to purchase food and drink from the Cafe and encouraged to continue the club assessment discussion started at last month's meeting. Cyclists will find ample bike racks and parking meters for locking their ride. Mercury Cafe is convenient to the CTA's Blue Line and the Kennedy Expressway.



STYLE YOUR RIDE

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JERSEYS
Sleeveless\$50
(Men: S - XL/Women: S - 2X)
Shortsleeves\$55
(Men: S - 3XL/Women: S - 2X)
Longsleeves \$60
(Men: M - 3XL/Women: M - XL)
WINDBREAKER - \$60
(Men: M - 3XL/Women: S - 2X)
GLOVES - \$10
(L-S-2L)
SOCKS - \$6
(S-M)
BOTTLE - \$3

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY
may purchase these items by contacting Duane O'Laughlin merchandise@chicagocyclingclub.org
773-612-8157
May not be shipped
We will meet you at a club event or ride or you may pick up items by making arrangements to do so in advance.

League of Illinois Bicyclists Mileage Logs

Do you want to see how your mileage stacks up against other riders in Illinois and around the country? Check out the Mileage Logs at www.lepirtle.com/lib/milelog and add your name to the list, on which you'll probably recognize a few names. More information is at www.bikelib.org



BECOME A MEMBER FILL OUT THE FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB

I, for myself and for any other minor on whose behalf I sign this membership application, agree that 1) bicycling is a potentially hazardous activity and that accidents can occur from negligence or carelessness; 2) ride leaders' maps and/or written directions are provided for my convenience only and not to guarantee a safe route or trip; and 3) I voluntarily participate in club events and assume all risks associated with participation therein, including but not limited to injury, falls, contact with other participants, weather, traffic, and road conditions, all such risks being known and appreciated by me.

Name(s) _____ Birthdate(s) _____

Name(s) _____ Birthdate(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Primary phone _____

Secondary phone _____ E-mail _____

Emergency contact/phone _____

I obtained this membership application from _____

I want to receive a paper copy of the members' directory Yes No

I would like to help with the following: ride planning newsletter publicity meetings social events

Annual dues: Individual (\$23) Family (multiple individuals at one address \$25)

Do not share my contact information: within the Chicago Cycling Club with other bike-related organizations

Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL FORM TO: CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB, PO BOX 1178 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1178

Chicago Cycling Club Newsletter

February 2008



Jessica Weisbach, Joey Feinstein and Kathy Schubert at Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hannukkah, Come Ride in the Winter, December 2007

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR February 2008

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