

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

July 2011

Bike the Drive. Repeat.

By Brian Bird

5:30 a.m. on Sunday May 29 found yours truly with six other motivated early-birds on the northwest corner of Columbus Drive and Jackson Boulevard to see if an earlier start time for Bike the Drive x 2 would allow us to finish the 60-mile circuit. We decided on the same route as last year. First, southbound to the Museum of Science and Industry, then a U-turn to head back up Lake Shore Drive north to the Bryn Mawr rest stop for a short food-facilities stop, then back down south to the end point at Grant Park (Columbus & Jackson), then repeat that route again.

Weather was foggy, misty, damp throughout the ride but no rain with a temperature probably in the low to mid 50s. Our group set out about five minutes after the route officially opened and we soon found ourselves riding at a brisk pace past cyclists of all types. The U-turn at the Museum was well-marked and easy to go through without having to deal with the rest stop crowd (Thanks, Active Trans!). The northbound trip was relatively uneventful except for one participant losing a water bottle after hitting a pothole just past the Belmont street exit. After overshooting the Bryn Mawr exit to the rest stop (I told you it was foggy outside!), we doubled-back and got to the stop where we took a short 15-minute break to refill water bottles, fill up our stomachs with food, fill the port-a-johns, and discover that one group participant had ridden the



23-mile stretch without safely securing the bicycle's rear wheel (OMG doesn't begin to describe everyone's reaction). Then, southbound back to the start site without incident to arrive there by 7:25 a.m.

We added two more cyclists who decided once on BTM that day was enough and we were off again. As expected, there were LOTS more cyclists on the road than during our first leg and we found ourselves carefully navigating the traffic southward to the Museum. Another cyclist from our group ran over a number sticker that had fallen off a rider's jersey, which got stuck on the front wheel and, without impeding the wheel's movement, made a sound like my childhood single-speed bike when I stuck old baseball cards to touch the rear wheel spokes (c'mon, we all did it at least once, right?).

Another successful U-turn, then northbound into a slight wind that wasn't there on our first leg (but the fog, mist and damp still was) where we crossed LSD and Jackson Boulevard about 8:20 a.m. where the route announcer stated 40 more

minutes before access would be closed. Cut-off time more than made: Yee Haw! No major incidents on the northbound leg - heck, even our rider who lost the water bottle found it near the same pothole. We correctly exited Bryn Mawr this time and took another short 10-15 minute break, then rode south back to Grant Park where we arrived around 9:15 a.m.

Sites I saw on the route include: lots of children riding bicycles, lots of parents pulling Burleys with future Tour-de-France winners in them, lots of enthusiastic volunteers on the roadside cheering us on, a ratbiker or two riding their distinctive skyscraper-sized bicycles, the Voice of the CCC in full camo, two superheroes riding to make BTM safe for all good citizens (you can't make this one up), Paul P. wide awake at 5:15 a.m. giving directions and orders, a guy riding a unicycle with built-in handlebars (you can't make that one up either), and Sarah Palin riding a low-rider (OK, I did make that one up).

First, a special note of appreciation for those members who worked the CCC table at the event (Anne Alt, Julie Sherman, Kitty Shanahan, and Greg Borzo come to mind - apologies to those I didn't name) giving our club visible presence at this event. Next, many thanks to the following riders who showed up and helped me break my two-year losing streak: Mary Gallagher, Mike Schwanderlik, Jen ("On your left!") Welch, Howard Lo, Michelle Beaulieux, Peter Sormaz,

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PREZ SEZ

By Justin Sondak



"Get on the sidewalk!"

If you've biked around town for long enough, you've heard this delightful greeting from drivers unfamiliar with Chicago's transportation laws which require cyclists over the age of 11 to ride in the street. Educating your new friends doesn't have to be tedious. Some of my favorite responses:

"I'm too old to bike there. I'm flattered you think I look that young!"

"Law says I have to bike in the street. Don't like it? Call your alderman."

"On the sidewalk I'd be breaking the law, and I promised my friends they'd never have to bail me out of jail again."

Cyclists have made great strides in asserting their rights and needs on the road. We've done this by staying visible, by sharing the road without yielding our ground. As a club, we do this every weekend by cruising (or bolting) down the right side of the lane and making our presence as normal as a car's or pedestrian's.

It's all about attitude. I believe pedal-powered transport is the most enjoyable way to bridge points A & B- faster than walking, more engaging than transit and more enjoyable than driving. If you're nodding along with this paragraph, recognize that our attitude comes from our habits and choices to spend more months braving the elements, more hours biking to work or errands.

The same is true with the Cycling Club. Whether you're riding to learn the history of Chicago's south side and Northern Indiana- or to learn proper paceline etiquette, we give you a space to develop two-wheeled habits and foster a pro-bike attitude. Over lunch or a post-ride

beverage, we may encourage each other to take the next step: ride new routes, try an invitational, or outfit ourselves for the long haul.

How we response to that next challenge, or that insistent driver, depends on the attitude we choose to adopt. We'll discuss that attitude, and how it helps us advocate for our causes, at our next club meeting on July 12. I invite you to bring that attitude to attending any of our hundreds of club rides and to developing a ride or event of your own. Keep that attitude rolling and you might find yourself writing a cycling guide, developing a cycling community, or running a bike-friendly business. How will you respond?



Ride leaders needed!

It is super easy to lead a CCC ride. Pick your day, pick your route. Sign into the CCC member website and propose your ride. Or you can check out the ride library for inspiration and to view past rides. There are about 100 rides in the library. You can also see many ride leader resources. If you've never lead a ride before, an experienced leader will help you out.

Past ride leaders: Don't forget, if you have a ride route, you're invited to submit it into the ride library.

To access or contribute to the ride library, email rides@chicagocyclingclub.org



Bicycle Political Advocacy: Chicago's 2011 municipal election ... and the next four years

The CCC's July meeting is Tuesday, July 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., and will feature a panel discussion concerning political advocacy efforts during Chicago's 2011 Municipal Elections as led by Walk Bike Transit (WBT), a political action committee created as a means of engaging voters, candidates and campaigns on active transportation issues. A key goal of WBT was to begin and/or enhance the dialogue between voters and politicians about the ways in which the two can work together to improve walking, biking and transit options throughout Chicagoland.

John Lankford and Randy Neufeld, co-founders of WBT, will provide an overview of WBT's election strategy, achievements and results. In addition, they and the other panelists will discuss the implications of Chicago's new political leadership, as well as to highlight some specific goals and methods of advocacy to practice during the next four years and beyond.

Additional panelists to be announced. Meeting is open to the public.

New location: **Kozy's Cyclery, 3255 N. Milwaukee, Chicago.**

Socialize from **6:30-7:00pm**
Program from **7:00-8:30pm**

For more information, contact Greg Borzo at (312) 636-8968



CCC Financials: 05/16/2011 - 06/17/2011

Total Assets as of 05/16/2011: \$10,047.68

Total Income: \$787.88

Total Expenses: \$131.97

Total Assets as of 06/17/2011: \$10,703.59

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

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Officers

President: Justin Sondak
 Vice President: Julie Hochstader
 Treasurer: Brian Bird
 Secretary: Jen Welch
 Member at Large: Greg Borzo, Kitty Shanahan
 Rides: Julie Sherman
 Publicity: Anne Alt
 Education: TBD
 Newsletter: Justin Sondak, Tom Grose



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

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY
 may purchase these items by contacting Julie Hochstader merchandise@chicagocyclingclub.org

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.

Bike the Drive

(continued)

Mari Anne Wohlfeil, and Mike the Banana Killer (dirty deed done cheaply just after the Museum U-turn on the second run).

Lastly, a thank you very much to newly-elected City Clerk Susana

Mendoza for stopping by our table after her BTM ride, sporting her version of the City of Chicago flag jersey and chatting with us for 5-10 minutes about cycling, Mayor Rahm, vehicle stickers, and her colleague's pending trip to Colorado to Ride the Rockies.



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 the club newsletter Yes No
 I would like to help with the following: ride planning newsletter publicity meetings social events
 Annual dues: Individual (\$20) 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 _____

Chicago Cycling Club Newsletter July 2011



The Cycling Seniors ready to ride
at North Ave. Beach House.
They ride every Thursday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR  July 2011

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