

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

December 2009

Honeymooning on Four Wheels in Puerto Vallarta

By Nick and Samara Romo

Who says you have to stay in your bed all day on your honeymoon? Nobody believed us when we told them about our mountain biking adventure through the Sierra Madre Mountains on a 95 degree day in sunny Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Although the beaches were beautiful with warm water and white sand, we couldn't live a week without cycling.

We started our morning waiting for the Puerto Vallarta city bus, featuring no air conditioning, no marked bus stops, and a non-existent suspension. The CTA didn't look so bad. When we finally arrived at the Eco Ride "office" (Rogelio's house) we didn't know what to expect. Our guide Rogelio greeted us at the door with Zuca, his dog, following closely behind. In exchange for 1100 pesos (about \$100) we rented two full suspension mountain bikes, two helmets, a few water bottles, and took a private tour through the mountainous jungle of the Sierra Madre.

Imagine the hottest, most humid August day in Chicago and multiply that by 10. Nick looked like he had just climbed out of a sauna after our first uphill climb. Samara was a little less sweaty, but much more tired. How many more kilometers of this? Our uphill portion turned out to be 5K, but felt more like 50!

After building up a sweat and an appetite, we reached our destination, the Jungle Café, situated next to a beautiful and refreshing waterfall. Our lunch consisted of ham and cheese sandwiches, lots of Gatorade and a whole pack of Oreo cookies.



Nick cooled off and relaxed in the fresh waterfalls while Samara took a nap in a hammock.

An hour later, well-fed and recharged, we began our descent back to town. On our way down we encountered a cattle herder and his dog, who were trying to move some cows down the mountain, but the cows had different plans. We watched as the dog futilely jumped and nipped at the leader of the herd and wondered if it would cause a stampede. After about ten minutes of not knowing how to get around this, our tour guide Rogelio decided that we just had to ride through it. Nearing the bottom of the mountain we came to a river. We picked up our bikes, walked across to the other side and finished our ride back to Rogelio's house. Even though it took us half the day to climb to our destination, we were back to the bottom in less than an hour.



As we waited for the bus again, we laughed at our muddy clothes and water-logged sneakers. We never expected that a 10K ride through the jungle would leave us as tired as completing a century, but we enjoyed our adventure and hope to ride it again.

Autumn Picnic Ride Report

By Anne Alt

Mother Nature smiled on us, giving us a break from the rain and gray skies for our traditional end-of-season picnic ride. Art Gilfand led our merry band from the Clock Tower across the north side. We had a pleasant start, until the dreaded flat tire happened. With a bit of teamwork and a new tube, the flat was fixed and we continued.

We rode a section of the North Shore Channel Trail, appreciating how all those underpasses allowed us to ride straight through without any road crossings. Cruising near the water's edge gave us a good look at exactly how much rain we had in the weeks before the ride. The river was much higher than normal and parts of the trail were barely above water level. A few more inches would have set us up for some amphibious cruising.



A stop at Jewel for picnic provisions led to a nice surprise: meeting up with Rick Harnish and his family, who were also headed to the same destination for a picnic. We invited them to join us, adding 4 more to the group.

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PREZ SEZ

By Anne Alt



Let it snow! Let it snow! 'Tis the season for snow and all things winter. Please watch your e-mail for an Evite to the CCC holiday party - **Sunday December 13 from 4-9 p.m. at Mars Gallery**, 1139 W. Fulton Market. It will be a creative potluck dinner with drinks. Mars has plenty of bike parking if you want to ride there.

This year, we'll have ride leader appreciation awards. If you've led a ride this year but haven't gotten around to sending in your sign-in sheet from the ride, please do so by the end of November. Each ride sign-in sheet gives you one entry in the ride leader appreciation prize drawing.

Please join us for our traditional winter rides: the Bagel Ride on Christmas and the Weather Be Damned ride on New Year's Day. Ride distance depends on the weather, and may be fairly short if the weather is less than inviting. Both rides are fun excuses to get outside and ride with old friends and new ones, and enjoy a hearty lunch afterwards while you're warming up.

If you'd like to organize a non-bike winter social event, such as cross-country skiing, ice skating, a game night or another activity, please send a message to the CCC chat list with details. It's great to have alternative social events during the colder months.

It's also time to think about next year. Please take time to complete and return your election ballot by the date of January's meeting, when ballots will be counted. We're also seeking candidates for some key support positions. Would you like to organize meetings for the club? Do you have a flair for P.R.? Please contact me at pres@chicagocyclingclub.org if you're interested.

Remember that December does NOT have a regular meeting. I hope to see you at the Holiday Party, our January meeting and a winter ride. More riding in 2010 is a great New Year's resolution.

See you on the road!



CCC Rides in the Winter!

Another official club ride season is in the books, but that doesn't mean you have to stow your ride until spring. On short notice, Club members schedule informal "Show and Go" rides from the Waveland Clock Tower when conditions permit. Keep an eye on the CCC website's rides page for last minute additions.

Two traditional holiday rides return this year:

The Bagel Ride - Skokie Edition

Friday, December 25, 2009

10 a.m., 10 miles, 10-12 mph

REMOTE START: Robert Crown Center at 1701 Main Street, Evanston, east of the intersection of Main and Dodge.

This year's Christmas Day tradition won't end at The Bagel Restaurant in Lakeview. Instead, we're going to check out The Bagel Restaurant at Old Orchard Shopping Center. We'll start from the Robert Crown Center in Evanston; from there we'll meander through Evanston and Skokie. This is the last CCC ride of 2009, so come on out and help celebrate both the holidays and the end of another year of great Chicago-area rides. Contact Paul Pomerance at (847) 275-9094

Weather Be Damned - New Year's Day Ride

Friday, January 1, 2010

10:00 a.m., 10 miles, 10 to 14 mph

START: Clock Tower at Waveland and Lake Shore Dr. (3700N)

An annual tradition, the first club ride of 2010 returns to the Clock Tower. We'll head to a local eating establishment. Depending on temperatures and weather, the ride may be shortened.



Autumn Picnic Ride Report

(Continued from page 1)

Our meander through the Gompers Park trails afforded us gorgeous views of fall color and peaceful green spaces. We headed west on Foster Avenue to LaBagh Woods, where we discovered that the Forest Preserve had taken away all the picnic tables for winter storage. We improvised, using a plastic tablecloth, and enjoyed our potluck feast.



Thanks to Sharon Kaminecki for putting those bike repair skills to good use on the road. And thanks to Art Gilfand for leading a fine ride that took us through a beautiful variety of park and forest trails much more green than we get to see on the average ride within the city limits.

If you weren't able to come along this time, please join us for next fall's picnic ride. It's a different experience each year, and there's always good company and tasty food.



Your Membership Is About To Expire!

A reminder that Chicago Cycling Club memberships expire at the end of the year. If you joined prior to September, 2009, your membership will lapse in January, 2010. You can renew via the membership form in this newsletter or by visiting www.chicagocyclingclub.org/renew



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: Anne Alt
 Vice President: Julie Sherman
 Treasurer: Alice Kroman
 Secretary: Michael Wasserman
 Member at Large: Jim Adgate, Art Gilfand
 Education: TBD
 Newsletter: Justin Sondak, Tom Grose
 Rides: Jim Adgate

STYLE YOUR RIDE



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)

SOCKS - \$6
 (S-XL)

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.

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 December 2009



Riders visit "Old Comiskey Park" on
Joe Dickstein's Baseball Nostalgia Ride, August 2009.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
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