

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

April 2010



Randonneuring (An Invitation) By Thomas Bérubé

What is “randonneuring” you might ask (if you already know you may skip to the next paragraph). Succinctly put, it is the doing of “randonnées,” non-competitive rides over proscribed distances and courses within set time limits. Riders are expected to be self-sufficient. A support car is a big no-no. Organizers do not provide much more than a route sheet and a brevet card which participants must get stamped at control points along the route to verify completion of the course. Common randonneuring events include the “brevets” which cover distances of 200, 300, 400 and 600 kilometers. These rides serve as qualifiers for participating in the 1,200K “long brevets” such as Boston-Montreal-Boston, the Cascade 1200 and, of course, the venerable Paris-Brest-Paris. Unlike racing the emphasis is not on crossing the finish line first, although this will give one some bragging rights, but to reach the finish line no matter what. Doing a randonné is about battling bad weather, bad pavements, bad equipment, bad food and charging farm dogs rather than other riders.

The de-emphasis on competition is something that makes randonneuring so much fun.

On a randonneuring event, the other riders are not the enemy but comrades in arms who may be called upon for assistance in changing flat tires in a cold rain or providing moral support when riding in the middle of the night. There's plenty of time to talk to interesting people, make new friends and drive your riding companions insane with an endless litany of complaints about broken pavement, inaccurate weather forecasts, obnoxious suburban utility vehicle drivers and the quality of bicycle components.

Does this sound like fun to you?

I hope so. Because I'd like to see you on the road when the 2010 brevet season gets underway.

There is a long-standing local brevet series run by a group called Great Lakes Randonneuers and over the years various Chicago Cycling Club members have participated in their events. Routes and starting locations have varied some over the years but the courses have always run somewhere through northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. The starting location is typically somewhere around the Illinois/Wisconsin state line and is currently the town of Delavan, WI. The 2010 brevet schedule is:

200k & 300k 7:00 a.m. May 1, 2010

200k & 300k 7:00 a.m. May 15, 2010

400k 6:00 a.m. June 5, 2010
400k & 600k 6:00 a.m. June 26, 2010
600k 6:00 a.m. July 17, 2010

It is great to see CCC members participating in these events. A bigger participation in the local brevet series means more interest in our club having more long-distance rides and more people to lead these rides. I hope to see you on the road.



Bike the Northwest

Why spend your vacation lounging when you can soak up the picturesque beauty of the Pacific Northwest from the seat of your bicycle? Join the 28th Annual Trek Tri Island, September 11-13. See eagles soar overhead. Watch orca whales play in the bay. Drink in uncompromising scenery, all while touring Washington's San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands. Choose from 20 or 50+ mile-per-day journeys. Three islands. One breathtaking adventure. Now, that's what we call a vacation.

Ferry fares, overnight camping accommodations, gear transportation, medical and mechanical support, healthy breakfasts and dinners are provided. Trek Tri-Island's "ride at your own pace" philosophy makes this the ideal adventure vacation for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

For more information visit
www.cleanairadventures.org
or call (800) 732-9339.



PREZ SEZ

By Anne Alt



I recently attended the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council meeting and learned about lots of bike-related progress planned for the near future. These items will make cycling conditions better for us, which will help us on club rides and when we're riding individually.

An updated city bike map will be printed this year. Release is targeted for the Bike to Work Day rally on June 18. Repairs are planned for early spring at Oak Street Beach. A new "comfort station" will be built in Lincoln Park. The Burnham Park area is being reconstructed. The city has committed to creating a pilot location for the Bike Boulevards concept by Spring of 2011 - location to be determined.

More bike lanes and sharrows will be added this year. The 42nd Ward will have maintenance re-stripping of existing lanes, and new and improved lanes at several locations this year. "Buffered" bike lanes may be introduced, similar to this example: <http://bit.ly/cDXut2>. The road would be striped so that the traffic lane is narrower, and the bike lane would have a buffer zone on the left, allowing cyclists to ride on the left edge of the bike lane with more separation from traffic and further from the doors of parked cars. The 32nd Ward will have maintenance re-stripping of existing lanes. Alderman Waguespack and Alderman Reilly deserve our thanks for allocating some of their menu money to these projects. Perhaps more of our aldermen can be encouraged to follow their example.

The Chicago Climate Action Plan had a presentation. Goals include more investment in public transit and bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The transportation piece of the plan is described here: <http://bit.ly/dcT4KW>

The Navy Pier flyover project is starting to move forward, as funding has become available. It is likely to happen in 3 phases, with possible construction on the north end (first phase) in 2011: <http://bit.ly/EdQrk>

Congressman Blumenauer of Oregon introduced a bill to promote active transportation through a federal grant program. More info here: <http://bit.ly/aDD1R0>

I've started working on the problem of inadequate bike parking at some common destinations in the city, particularly grocery stores, drugstores and public libraries. In some cases, inadequate means that good racks are incorrectly installed, making them useless. I put a discussion topic on the Chainlink (<http://bit.ly/bxGEYY>) to get some feedback from people about problem locations and details. If you have info to add on this topic, please log in to the Chainlink and share it. This information will be used to work through legit channels to help get more bike parking where it's needed so that shopping and dining by bike is feasible in more places. If you're not already a member of the Chainlink, I encourage you to join. It's a great resource for Chicago's cycling community to exchange ideas and information.

Join at <http://www.thechainlink.org>

By the time you read this, our first two CCC rides of spring will already be past, and the Champagne Ride (our traditional season kick-off) will be upon us. Our next club meeting will visit the new Revolution Brewpub.

See you on the road!



April Club Meeting

Our next club meeting is a social meeting at Revolution Brewery, Logan Square's celebrated new brewpub founded by cyclists, at 2323 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago on April 13, 2010. We'll have a couple of tables set up, starting at 7 p.m. Revolution is around the corner from the California blue line CTA station and a block from the Milwaukee, California and Fullerton buses. Metered street parking is also available. Questions? Contact AnneAlt@chicagocyclingclub.org



Shellac Your Ride

By Tom Grose

A few club riders have asked me if my handlebars are leather. They are actually tan cork wrap that has been shellacked. Shellac is a natural resin dissolved in alcohol. It was the preferred finish on fine wood products in the early part of the 20th Century. It forms a waterproof shiny film that is flexible so the handlebars retain any cushioning provided by your wrapping tape. Most hardware & paint stores carry shellac. I use the amber shellac but a clear variety is also available. The coating lasts about one riding season at which time you can just touch up the shellac finish with another coat and you're good to go another season. It works on cloth tape also. (see the above photo)



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: Anne Alt
 Vice President: Julie Sherman
 Treasurer: Brian Bird
 Secretary: Jim Adgate
 Member at Large: Justin Sondak,
 Julie Hochstadter
 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 April 2010



Southside Architectural Tour, Fall 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR

April 2010

P. O. Box 1178
Chicago, IL 60690 - 1178

