

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

August 2011

Canadian Caper (Part 2)

by Joe Dickstein

Faithful readers of this newsletter will remember last year's description of our Canadian cycling vacation. So taken were we with the charms of Montreal that we almost immediately began planning a return trip this time to include the Montreal Bike Fest which occurs the first week of June. Returning this year, in addition to your author, were Phyllis Dickstein, Rebecca Tung, Dave Skogley and Tom Grose. New for this journey were Barry and Susan Feinberg.

Leaving the Saturday before Memorial Day, we drove to an overnight stop in Toronto. As we did last year, we were able to meet up with and go on a Sunday morning ride with the Toronto Bike Club. Yours truly followed this with a pilgrimage to the Hockey Hall of Fame in downtown Toronto (by bike of course).

The next day we drove through Montreal and on to Quebec City, the provincial capital, the oldest city in Canada and the only remaining walled city in North America. We stayed in a bed and breakfast in the old city that night and the next morning rode on a series of bike paths along the St. Lawrence River to Montmorency Falls, a popular tourist attraction east of the city. We spent that night in Trois Rivieres, the second oldest city in Quebec and about halfway between Quebec City and Montreal.



We spent the following day riding on the Route Verte (Greenway), one of a series provincial bike trails. This part of the trail turned out to be a shoulder of the old Montreal-Quebec highway. High temperatures and bad headwinds cut our riding short and, after a lunch at Louiseville, we drove on to Montreal.

This year we were able to rent a house for an entire week. The highlights of the Bike Fest were the Tour de la Nuit (Tour of the Night) and Tour d'Ile de Montreal (Tour of the Island of Montreal). The former occurs on Friday night and the latter the following Sunday morning. The night ride is about 20 miles long and had about 15,000 riders. The big Sunday ride is 30 miles and had 25,000 riders. In both cases we found the rides to be very well organized though it was somewhat disconcerting to have volunteers at just about every corner shouting encouragement and/or instructions in a language we couldn't understand. The biggest differences between these rides and the similar rides we have here in Chicago were the start times. The night ride started at dusk-8:30 p.m. and the day ride at 9 a.m.

We returned to the summit of Mount Royal, this time finding a more gradual trail to the top. At week's end, we were able to ride on a rail to trail route that goes from just north of Montreal into the Laurentian Mountains. Once again we found Canada in general and Montreal, Toronto and environs in particular to be great biking destinations and look forward to our next expedition to our neighbors to the north.



Thanks to Our Volunteers

By Anne Alt

On behalf of the club's steering committee, I'd like to offer a big thank you to everyone who has led a ride so far this season. I'd also like to thank Anissa Huggins for representing the club at the REI Bike Fest and Greg Borzo for representing us at Bike the Drive, Printers Row Book Fair and the 2nd Ward Bike Fest.

We wouldn't get very far without our volunteers. Everything you do makes a difference.

August Club Meeting

The Bike Fashion Panel returns to the Cycling Club's monthly meeting on **Tuesday, August 9**. This year's discussion focuses on men's clothing and accessories for stylish two-wheeled travel.

The meeting is at **Schuba's, 3159 N Southport Avenue** (at Belmont), Chicago. Social half-hour begins at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7. For further details, visit www.chicagocyclingclub.org.

PREZ SEZ

By Justin Sondak



At press time, Chicago and the U.S. are still facing a recession, weak job market, and a protracted argument in Washington about the federal budget and the debt ceiling. As many of us scramble to find online discounts, we're less certain about what things should cost and what things are worth.

We're all looking for ways to save money, whether we're pinched for funds or we're looking for a smarter way to spend.

In good economic times and bad, the Chicago Cycling Club remains the best deal in town. An hour or few riding with friends to all corners of the city and suburbs is absolutely free. This year I've ended my own rides with brunch at Mitchell's. A couple hours on the bike, fun conversation with friends and a stack of delicious pancakes costs less than \$10. Once you've decided you like what we're doing, joining the club will cost you an Andrew Jackson. Sign up your entire household for only a Lincoln more.

For that low membership fee, you'll get a lot in return. Members enjoy access to the club library of dozens of rides, which you can do on your own or adapt into your very own club ride. New ride leaders can drop a line to our experienced ride leaders, who will help them devise and lead their first rides. New this year, your membership card earns you discounts at the many Kozy's bike shops across Chicagoland.

Being a CCC member also means giving back. Our club put together the "Ultimate Neighborhood Ride" route for Active Transportation Alliance's upcoming Four Star Ride. At the risk of sounding repetitive, I encourage everyone reading this newsletter to ride or volunteer for the August 28 event, whether you're

assembling packets pre-event, staffing a rest stop during the event, or helping clean up afterwards, club members will help make the Four Star a fun, friendly invitational.

It's never too late to join us and make the best investment of the year. See you on the road!



The Four Star Ride Rolls Our Way

The Boulevard Lakefront Tour is now the Four Star Ride. **The Chicago Cycling Club has partnered with Active Transportation Alliance to design routes for the event and provide volunteer support.** Feed your need for excitement and exploration with the 23rd annual edition of Chicago's longest-running ride!

Four stars. Four routes. Sign up for the Four-Star Bike Tour Sunday, Aug. 28-- and choose from four different routes, ranging from 12 to 65 miles, each exploring Chicago's vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, lush parks and historic architecture.

Chicago Ramble (12 miles)

The Ramble is great for families and newer riders who prefer a leisurely pace. Expect to see a distinct Chicago neighborhood every two miles as you ramble through the UIC campus, Pilsen, Bridgeport, Chinatown, Prairie Avenue and Dearborn Park to see lovely green spaces, historic homes and a variety of architectural gems.

South Side Jaunt (21 miles)

Not feeling quite up to 35 miles? Then the South Side Jaunt is for you. This route shares 21 miles of the southern portion of the 35-mile ride. Starting at UIC, riders pass through Pilsen, take Oakwood and Drexel Boulevards south through the beautiful and historic Kenwood and Hyde Park neighborhoods, home of the University of Chicago.

Boulevards & Beyond (35 miles)

This route has elements of the classic Boulevard Lakefront Tour with plenty of new sights rolled in. You'll travel through many of the same Chicago neighborhoods as the Chicago Ramble, also riding through Bronzeville, Hyde Park, South Commons and the Near South Side. You'll explore Garfield and Humboldt Parks before following Oakwood and Drexel Boulevards south to soak up the beautiful, historic Kenwood and Hyde Park neighborhoods. In Hyde Park, you'll head east through the Midway Plaisance, and then continue south on Woodlawn to Jackson Park where you'll pick up the Lakefront Trail for the return trip.

Ultimate Neighborhood Ride (65 miles)

Ready to go the distance? This ride takes you through more than 30 Chicago neighborhoods and introduces you to little-known gems of the Windy City. You'll follow the Boulevards & Beyond route before splitting off to the historic company town of Pullman. On your way to Chicago's southernmost neighborhood, Hegewisch, you'll be surprised to learn you're still within Chicago city limits as you explore the wild landscape near Lake Calumet. On the way back, you can visit Chicago's new velodrome at Chicago Velo Campus.

Gain confidence riding in the city with Safe City Cycling

Have you ever wanted to participate in a ride such as this one, but were hesitant because you don't regularly ride in city traffic? We understand and we're ready to get you informed, empowered, and on the road to city biking! For newer riders, the Four-Star Bike Tour can be a challenging first step. For an extra \$25, you can get bicycling instruction while participating in the 12-mile Neighborhood Ramble. The Safe City Cycling program includes pre-ride instruction from a trained cycling instructor who will lead you in a group of 20 people along the route.

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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.

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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

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)

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.

The Four Star Ride Rolls Our Way
 (continued)

If you want to volunteer for the event, please mention that you are a Chicago Cycling Club member. The Four Star Bike Tour is a benefit for the Active Transportation Alliance, Chicagoland's voice for better biking, walking and transit.

For more information, please go to the Active Transportation website at www.activetrans.org, or to www.fourstarbiketour.org or call the Active Transportation Alliance at 312-427-3325.



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 August 2011



Randy and John discuss Walk Bike Transit
at the CCC's July 2011 Meeting
Photo by Serge Lubomudrov

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
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