

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

August 2008



Adventures in Oregon

By Anne Alt

Portland really earns its bike friendly reputation. I saw bikes everywhere, starting with my train trip from the airport. Portland's light rail cars have hooks to hang bikes vertically near the doors, so more bikes fit in less space. Buses have front-mounted racks, like those used on CTA and Pace. My hotel was only a block from a spot that was definitely a favorite with local cyclists: the Powell's Books mother ship, where bike racks out front sport bike-related quotes and titles.

The hotel where I stayed offers guests a nice amenity: bikes. I took one out for a spin on Saturday morning. This sturdy Dutch city bike (<http://www.jorgandolif.com/>) was a cushy ride, with a heavy steel frame, wide tires and generator lights. I checked out the beautiful park along the Willamette River and crossed the steel bridge to the path along the eastern side of the river. This two-level bridge had vehicle traffic on the upper level, a light rail system running down the middle, and train tracks on the lower level, with a recently added bike-ped path cantilevered off one side, allowing me to cross the river alongside a freight train. Later I visited the Rose Garden in Washington Park, high up in the hills overlooking downtown. Portland seemed to have a more peaceful culture than Chicago. People were friendly and laid back, drivers had more courtesy towards cyclists and pedestrians.

There was a distinct lack of road rage. I got a similar impression of Eugene. Medford is lower density and more car-oriented than Eugene or Portland, but has a decent bus system and many miles of bike lanes with a bike and ped advisory committee (<http://www.ci.medford.or.us>). In the lower density areas on the edge of town, I saw fewer cyclists, but they were out there. I also visited Ashland, home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Southern Oregon University.



Heading back north, I decided to make a detour off the highway to visit Cottage Grove (pop. 9400). Its biggest landmark was a lumber mill, a common site across Oregon cities and towns. I spent a few hours walking around their bike-friendly Main St. checking out some of the cafés and shops.

My next stop was Junction City (pop. 4400), where I visited Sterling and Sandra Rand. Those of you who have been in the club a few years and done invitational rides probably remember Sterling. They are enjoying retirement in their peaceful spot near Eugene.

I ended my Oregon visit in Portland, where I spent an afternoon in the Classical Chinese Garden on my way to the train station. I didn't get to visit the Bike Friday factory in Eugene. I will have to save that and many other destinations for my next trip.



Bike New York

By Julie Sherman

In May, eleven folks from Chicago traveled to New York City via planes, trains and automobiles to converge for the 5 Boros Ride, an annual 42 mile ride that traipses through some part of all 5 NYC boroughs, ending in Staten Island and returning to Manhattan via ferry.

The traveling CCC'ers were myself, Kitty Shanahan, Corina Schusheim, Joe and Phyllis Dickstein, Jim Kreps, Art Gilfand, Paul Pomerance, Brian Bird, Jim Adgate and non-member Barbie Gadzik of Mars Gallery.

Friday, Kitty, Kreps, Paul and I walked from our hotel at 74th & Broadway all the way south to the train station to meet Art and Brian. Along the way we saw actor and comedian Richard Belzar (Law & Order-SVU) and Kitty and I had our photos taken and tushes grabbed by the Naked Cowboy. From our very close perspective, Kitty and I both agreed he is very nicely buff.

Saturday morning was delightful spent by most of us at the Museum of Natural History, then a voyage to enemy territory to see the Yankees game. This is their final year in their Stadium; the almost completed new one is across the street. They stole that idea no doubt from current division leader and 2005 World Champion Chicago White Sox. Saturday night was rainy with gloom projected in the weather forecast for Sunday's ride. Several folks debated riding in the rain, but Sunday morning provided perfect riding weather. A little cool and overcast, we left our hotel (Joe and Phyllis stayed in Brooklyn) riding the quiet, empty, rain-swept streets to the start.

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Bike New York

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Eight of us opted for the VIP package, which included a morning breakfast at the start, line up at the front of the line and post-ride boxed lunch and seating area along with luxury bathroom facilities. Those who do not have the VIP status start to line up as early as 4 am for the 8 am start. Paul said he ended up almost a mile back from us to line up for his start, running into Phyllis and Joe. Those CCC jerseys really do stand out in a crowd!

New York does a great job with this ride, closing city streets and providing a strong police and volunteer presence to maintain order, people watch and cheer along the route. Traffic going into Central Park and some of the bridges are stopped and controlled to better space the cyclists and verify riders are registered. We traversed five bridges including the 59th St Bridge (feelin' groovy), the George Washington Bridge and the very long and seemingly endless Verrazano-Narrows Bridge onto Staten Island. Rest stops and water stops are plentiful and seemed to be well stocked. Volunteers walked through the crowd with food to help disperse the lines. Most of us ended up separating and reconnecting along the route.

Leaving the festival area, we rode through Staten Island, much more charming than I ever imagined, to the ferry landing. Patience here is needed as this can be a long wait and it is easy to separate from your group. Brian, Art and I boarded together and were close enough in the lower carport to get outside the deck to watch as we chugged past the Statue of Liberty to the impressive and approaching skyline of Manhattan. A comedy club show at Dangerfield's ended the evening on a light note with our own Dr. Joe Dickstein called to the stage to relay one of his many sick and degenerate STD jokes. Joe was a good sport as he was selected to be picked-on by each and every comedian who performed.

Over 30,000 riders sign up for this ride and yes, they do sell out. If you plan to do the ride, don't procrastinate. Manhattan is in the process of completing a bike path around the entire island, of which we rode a good portion. So after the ride, keep your bike and ride NYC some more.

Ride for AIDS Chicago 2008

By Robert "RJ" Hadley

This year's Ride for AIDS Chicago 2008 had 64 riders peddle off from Evanston to Lake Geneva, WI on June 7th & 8th. This two-day, 180-mile bicycling event was created by volunteers and designed to raise needed monies for TPAN and BEHIV.

Day 1, Saturday at Northwestern University: Meeting at 6 a.m. with volunteers checking in riders and gear, followed by a rousing cheer group who not only lifted our early spirits but helped us with some needed stretching. By 8 a.m., we took off on our 90-mile journey. Some speed ahead while a fair portion of us meshed into smaller groups keeping this a fun event.

By 10:30 a.m., the heat started kicking in and by 11, humidity kept us moist! Fortunately, that's when we found our first "pit stop." Juice and bananas served by GREAT volunteers gave us an energy boost. Twenty miles later at Lambs Farm in Libertyville (where the fire hydrants are painted blue), we did the same.

Lunch at Volo Bog was just right. For me, my double insulated Camel Back became so overheated; it felt as if I had a radiator on my back. Not thinking, I pulled a quick swig only to find boiling water in my mouth. Thanks to a SAG vehicle nearby and a freshly filled water bottle, I was able to pass off the Camelback and keep going.

Riding country roads for miles, you have plenty of time to absorb the surroundings. Fields of very short corn due to lack of rain (this was just before the big floods) gave me time to think and be grateful for what I have and where I live.

Some 70 miles into our journey, I don't recall what small town it was, but the population sign said "Several." Too bad my batteries failed my camera. At about 83 miles, we could see clouds moving in and winds picking up. SAG vehicles were staged on the route and volunteers tried to get us off the road for our safety. Well, if you've met me, you know a few broken bones and crashes don't stop me. So a friend and I "peddled down" and hit about 18mph into camp, beating the bad rain & Wizard of Oz storm.

The camp we've been using in Williams Bay is, well, it is. I'm sure in its heyday it was THE place to go.

Great views of Lake Geneva, a short path through the forest, and a dining hall with pretty darn good food made for a wonderful place to relax. On previous Rides for AIDS Chicago, the campfire at the end of the day wasn't well attended. This year, since there was a great mix of new riders and us "lifers," we all spent time around the fire pit. Thank goodness none of us former camp counselors sang camp songs! Friendships blossomed and stories of biking adventures were told.

Early Sunday morning, it was a hearty breakfast and off to the road before the rain. Not too bad, just a drizzle at first. Somewhere after the first pit stop, the rain came down harder but it was warm and welcomed. At our lunch stop, Volo Bog, lighting and thunder got us to huddle in the shelter. After about an hour, it was safe enough to head back to the road, so off we went. Leaving the Lambs Farm stop on Sunday was different, from there on in the trail along Rt. 176 is crushed stone. Most of us don't have fenders on the bikes we were using (including yours truly) so that white stripe along our backs was like the "White Badge of Courage."

The rain let up as we came back into the northern suburbs and by the time we all rode into Northwestern campus, back to where we started; we were treated to pizza and showers. Once we all had our showers and our "Victory" shirt (I treat mine like a TDF Yellow jersey) we rode en masse to a cheering crowd.

Overall, we riders and our volunteer crew raised over \$120,000 for two AIDS service organizations. You may be thinking, "Can I do this next year?" Of course you can! The dates are June 6-7, 2009. Registration opens December 1, 2008 at www.rideforaids.org



Be Heard on Bike Commuting

We need your input on a study that will examine the role bicycle facilities play in decisions to commute to work by bike. Our goal is to increase the number of bicycling commuters in Illinois. In connection with this project, the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and Shaw Environmental, Inc. invite you to take part in a brief online survey of your bicycling habits, interests and needs. Participants completing the survey will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to Kozy's. Visit www.biketraffic.org/commutersurvey to get started, and thanks in advance for your help. This project is funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Boulevard Lakefront Tour Registration Now Open!

Celebrate Chicago by touring our great city on your bicycle. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's 20th Annual Boulevard Lakefront Tour, on Sunday September 7, 2008, is a great way to explore our spectacular boulevards, parks, lakefront and neighborhoods.

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Boulevard Lakefront Tour

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The three routes the traditional 35-mile, the 15-mile south side ramble and our CCC metric century (62 miles) start at the University of Chicago's Ida Noyes Hall in Hyde Park.

The 35-mile route highlights our boulevard and park system, including Washington Park, Douglas Park, Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, and Logan Square. Later we visit Goose Island, with a rest stop at the brewery, then cruise the Loop without all the usual traffic. The 15-mile South Side Ramble offers a more leisurely and scenic ride, highlighting many beautiful new and old homes on Drexel Boulevard and in Bronzeville.

If you want a longer ride, try the Chicago Cycling Club metric century route. For the first time, this route explores far south side neighborhoods, including South Shore, South Chicago, Avalon Park, Chatham, Morgan Park, and Beverly, exploring part of the Major Taylor Trail before meeting up with the traditional 35-mile route.

All routes have a rest stop in Chinatown's Ping Tom Park, followed by a ride along the scenic south side lakefront path back to the University and post-ride festival. The ride is fully supported by SAG and volunteers along each route. Enjoy a picnic lunch by Goose Island Brew Pub and delicious Goose Island beer and soda.

Your registration includes: Event T-shirt, ride support from friendly volunteers, rest and water stops along the course, post-ride festival with live entertainment and picnic lunch, ride guide with points of interest and neighborhood notes, and an all-new scavenger hunt with prizes.

For more information, please visit www.boulevardtour.org or call the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation at 312-427-3325.



July Club Meeting at Pritzker Military Library

By Jack Labolt

Approximately fifty people, many new faces, attended our July 8 meeting at the Pritzker Military Library on North Fairbanks Court. Guests dined on thick and thin crust Giordano's pizza and salad, generously donated by our host and fellow club member Jim Pritzker. Our guest was Sergeant Joseph Andruzzi of the Chicago Police Force on Bicycles who, if he ever considers switching careers, could easily become a star on the bike club comedy circuit. He brought down the house on more than one occasion. This member particularly enjoyed his story about the bike riding bandit, a felon who always locked his two-wheeler before every robbery. The robber had been under surveillance for long enough that the investigators knew he was a skilled rider who purchased a high end bike from a local cycle shop. After capturing the perp, Sgt. Andruzzi asked him what he was thinking on a ride when he turned to find twelve bike riding officers in pursuit. He responded that he thought the bike patrol was out on a leisurely jaunt!

On a more serious note, Sgt. Andruzzi spoke at length about the intensive training program for officers interested in joining the bike patrol. Since Chicago has one of the leading bike units in the country, many patrols from the suburbs and throughout the country come here to learn the ropes. Sgt. Andruzzi also discussed the effectiveness and practicality of bike patrols in various types of city neighborhoods, budget and mechanical training issues.

I yelled a hearty thanks as Sgt. Andruzzi passed when I was unlocking my bike after the meeting. He did a quick policeman like pirouette and flashed a big smile before disappearing around the corner into the night. Nice guy. Chicago is lucky to have him.



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.

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

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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 2008



Thursday Morning Cycling Seniors Ride

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR August 2008

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