

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

November 2007

Milestone

BY STEVE KRAMER

A couple of months ago I was casually reviewing the totals on the bike computer (remember when the word 'cyclometer' sounded exotic?) on my commuter bike and I noticed I was about to pass 1,000 miles for the year. What struck me about this number was not so much its value. Some in our club get close to that in a week, others would take years and, I expect, an even larger group of folks don't care and might be happier because of it. What made the number interesting to me was what it represented. This was my commuter bike after all, the bike I use for short, utilitarian trips, mostly around the city. This was not the summation of a few endurance events or a larger collection of club touring rides. This didn't even include a season's worth of training rides.

For the vast majority of the time on this bike, I wasn't even keeping track of distance at all. I simply don't use this bike for that type of riding. Keeping track of average pace or distance or accumulated time was never of much interest. Mostly, I used the computer as a clock, to let me know if I was keeping on schedule to where I was headed. I'd be lying if I said I never looked at my speed, but it was mostly as observation, like the temperature or wind speed; a number to



occasionally be aware of but rarely to adjust my effort or use as inspiration. This is not the bike I choose to try to go far or fast, and yet here I was nearing 1,000 miles. It's an old Schwinn, with a rack and fenders and a paint job that doesn't cause me to run for the polish after every ride. I've often said it's the cheaper bikes that get ridden the most and that's certainly true for me this year.

But this isn't so much a story about my bike (or bikes), and exactly how many miles I've put on them over a particular time period. Much unlike some of my other goals and

challenges, I got to this milestone without really trying. That's not to say it didn't take effort. There were all those times when the weather was cruel and I'd fight a headwind in both directions or get caught in a shower part of the way home. To say nothing of the mental battle to get on the bike when it was so tempting to sleep a few more minutes and take the "L." This larger milestone was truly about the many small steps that got me there. It's a good lesson to learn that sometimes great things aren't achieved by taking on epic challenges or putting forth heroic efforts. No, sometimes it's doing small things, maybe not regularly, or consistently, but when you can and when you want to. So fellow club members, I encourage you to keep in mind that sometimes you can reach significant milestones when you don't even try and when it was only for the fun of it.

P.S. I'm now up to 1376 miles, not that I'm keeping track.



Rolling Along: Calendar of Events

11/3 – Lakeview Pantry donation drive (pg. 1)

11/10 – Lakeview Pantry donation drive (pg. 1)

11/10 - Chicago Community Bike Project's Collaborative Bike Clinic at West Town Bikes (more info at www.westtownbikes.org)

11/13 – CCC Monthly Meeting (pg. 2)

12/1 – CCC Holiday Party (pg. 3)

12/9 – Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, Come Ride in the Winter Ride (more info at www.bikewinter.org)

12/25 – CCC Bagel Ride (more info at www.chicagocyclingclub.org)

1/1 – Weather Be Damned Ride (more info at www.chicagocyclingclub.org)



Bike Against Hunger

BY ERIN STEPHENS

The Lakeview Pantry is a food pantry in Lakeview that serves about 25,000 individuals per year, relying heavily upon donations to serve our clients. One way we do this is through neighborhood bag drives. While these are very helpful in keeping our shelves stocked, we have always used cars to collect the food. The amount of fossil fuel needed to transport food is mind-boggling, so we are trying a more environmentally-friendly option.

This time, we are asking people to show up on their bikes (or any other type of alternative transportation), with trailers, baskets, or anything else they may have to haul food.

We are looking for volunteers to participate on either (or both):

Saturday, November 3, 11 a.m. to distribute the bags or

Saturday, November 10, 11 a.m. to collect the donations. 

A Call To Action - the Fall Edition

BY MICHAEL WASSERMAN

It's still too early for year-end recaps, but we're approaching the time of year where we need to start looking ahead to the club's future and more specifically, to next year's riding season.

We are an all volunteer organization. Everything that you have seen or done in a club setting this year has happened because a volunteer, someone just like you, envisioned, designed, and implemented that activity or action. Our club exists and prospers because of the energies and talents of cycling enthusiasts like you who want to share their time and talents with our membership, to give something back to the Chicago cycling community.

We will welcome, with gratitude, anyone who will take up this challenge. If you are willing to pitch in, regardless of past experience or tenure with the club, we would like to include you in our ranks. The club is looking for help with several

(continued on page 2)

Prez Sez

BY MICHAEL WASSERMAN



As I write this, our state government is still fighting over the budget in Springfield, five months after they were obligated to pass one. The County and City are faring no better. Funding for our transit systems is in shambles. Our City teachers all have contracts, but the schools don't really have the funding to cover their budgets. All our local governmental authorities are threatening (and implementing) tax and usage fee increases of ever flavor and variety. The twin-headed monsters of corruption and waste loom large over the whole lot of them. It would be easy to conclude that nothing good is coming from our elected officials and to despair of the whole process. Pretty hard to fault anyone who feels this way and most people I have been speaking with are rapidly growing weary of the process.

So let's remind ourselves that at least, in some measure, government IS actually doing things to improve life for cyclists.

At the state level, two significant laws have been enacted this year to our benefit. Effective January 1, the Motor Vehicle Code will mandate that drivers allow a three foot clearance when passing cyclists. Sure, cabs and sport-utes will still likely buzz past us, way too close on our morning commutes and Sunday tours, but now police will have authority to ticket such reckless conduct (don't laugh, it could happen), and injury lawyers prosecuting cases on behalf of our fallen brothers and sisters will have another arrow in their quiver as they fight for due restitution (compensation for anything bad that follows). Admittedly, traffic ordinances do not, in and of themselves, change driver conduct, but they (a) send a strong signal to the citizenry that our state policy favors protection of bicyclists and pedestrians and (b) impose penalties for failures to abide by their terms. This State law (finally) counter-balances the inane City Ordinance that requires us to yield to all other vehicles on the roadway. (An ordinance that is due for repeal in the near future).

More significant was the State Senate's October 10 override of the Governor's veto of the "Complete Streets" initiative. In Illinois, all new road projects MUST be designed and operated to enable safe access for ALL users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus riders of all ages and abilities. We will all be able to safely move along and across the roadways.

At the County level, we are eagerly awaiting completion of the North Branch Trail

reconstruction project. This link between Caldwell Woods and the Botanic Gardens in Glencoe is a long time favorite bike route that had fallen into a critically dangerous state of disrepair. This is a long overdue improvement and I, for one, cannot be happier that the County has finally allocated funds to accomplish this.

Even closer to home, we see the City continuing to promote bicycle facilities including ongoing development of bike lanes, off road bike paths such as the Valley Line Trail, and continued improvement of the highly traveled Lakefront Path.

In the larger perspective, there is much to be unhappy with in the way our political leaders conduct themselves and discharge their duties as our elected officials. But as Thanksgiving approaches, let us acknowledge with gratitude these positive developments.



A Call To Action - the Fall Edition

(continued from page 1)

functions:

+ Our primary activities are rides. Consequently, we seek help with Ride Development and schedule coordination for all of our ride classifications (Social, Touring, Training).

+ We would like to designate coordinators and assistants to work on Membership recruitment, benefits, communication, and the annual directory.

+ We could use some help with our Newsletter's content, layout, publication and distribution;

+ We would like to have a Meetings coordinator to identify programming topics and presenters and to help schedule dates and locations.

+ In the coming year, we also hope to increase our visibility by means of Publicity and Media Communications liaisons;

+ We could also do with a coordinator and support staff for next year's Ultimate Neighborhood Ride.

+ There are also two general Steering Committee positions for anyone interested in overall club stewardship and policy.

If you are willing and able to help us in the coming year, or if you would like to know anything more about these or other opportunities to serve, please email me at pres@chicagocyclingclub.org.



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: Michael Wasserman

Vice President: James Adgate

Treasurer: Alice Kroman

Secretary: Jennifer Richards

Member at Large: Art Gilfand,
Joseph Dickstein

Education: TBD

Newsletter: Justin Sondak,
Karmen Lei

Rides: Duane O'Laughlin



Treasurer's Report

For the month of September 2007

Beginning Cash Balance	4,615.29
Income	192.00
Expense	(592.24)
Ending balance(9/28/07)	4,215.05

November Club Meeting: Chicago Fire Department Bicycle Paramedic

For the November Chicago Cycling Club meeting, our speaker will be Chicago Fire Department bicycle paramedic Elvis Falbo. Hear from someone who not only gets paid to ride his bike for work, but in the process, helps maintain public safety for all.

We will meet Tuesday, November 13, at the Chicago Public Library Lincoln Park Branch, 1150 W Fullerton Avenue (at Racine), 3 blocks west of the Fullerton CTA station serving the brown, red and purple lines. A pre-meeting social half-hour begins



Mark Your Calendars!



The 2007 CCC Holiday Party will be in full swingin' gear on Saturday, December 1, at the ever-happening Mars Gallery located at 1139 West Fulton Market, Chicago, from 7 p.m. to the witching hour.

Bring a dish to share and lots of friends to join the fun. The gallery is an amazing and fun space featuring pop art and outsider art. Enjoy the artwork, music and the company of your fellow CCC riders and friends for an evening of fun and frolic.

Questions? Contact Julie Sherman at bikegoddess@hotmail.com or 847-332-0100.



STYLE YOUR RIDE

STYLE YOUR RIDE

JERSEYS
 Sleeveless\$50
 (Men: S - XL)(Women: S - 2X)
 Shortsleeves\$55
 (Men: S - 3XL)(Women: S - 2X)
 Longsleeves \$60
 (Men: M - 3XL)(Women: M - XL)
WINDBREAKER - \$60
 (Men: M - 3XL)(Women: S - 2X)
GLOVES - \$10
 (S-2XL)
SOCKS - \$6
 (S-XL)
BOTTLE - \$3

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

may purchase these items by contacting Duane O'Laughlin merc handise@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 _____ Primaryphone _____

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

I would like to help with the following: ride planning newsletter publicity meetings social events

Annual dues: Individual (\$23) 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 _____

MAIL FORM TO: CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB, PO BOX 1178 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1178

Chicago Cycling Club Newsletter

November 2007



CCC Members explore exotic lands on the Apple Cider Century

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB

DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR

November 2007

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

