

DERAILLEUR

MAILLEUR

October 2007

Tours de Tiles

BY KATHY SCHUBERT &
GREGG MALICKI

Sixteen intrepid riders followed Kathy Schubert and her faithful companion, Ms. Joey, on a fascinating ride through the north and west sides of Chicago, admiring mosaic tiles on buildings, bridges, and sidewalks. Starting at the Waveland Clock and Carillon in Lincoln Park, Kathy set a good pace, fast enough to be a challenge, yet slow enough for the group to admire the mosaics and the other interesting sites along the route.

The first stop was *Living 2007*, the huge new bricolage mural creation under Lake Shore Drive at Bryn Mawr. Everybody was suitably impressed with the quality of the design and the fact that high school students did much of the work.

The group meandered through some lovely and not so lovely neighborhoods on the way to the Garfield Park Conservatory to see Niki in the Garden, enjoying a picnic on the grass and a viewing of mosaic sculptures by Niki de Saint Phalle. That exhibit is on display through October 31, and you can ride there by bike or take the Green Line.

The group headed into the Loop to see *The Four Seasons* by Marc Chagall and peered through the Marquette Building's doors to see the mosaics in the lobby. Next came the mosaics at the entrance to Navy Pier and the mosaic sign in Yojimbo's Garage (bike shop) window on Clybourn.

At the end, participants thanked Kathy for creating an enjoyable ride. They appreciated the slow pace and the feeling that smelling the roses was allowed. The weather was fine for this terrific day.



Street Food Safari Nabs

80%

At the end of August (actually, at the end of a 12 month idea-germination and procrastination), I led 12 riders/hunters on a Street Food Safari.

The quarry: Chicago street food. Specifically tamales, elotes, horchata, jimaica, mango/chili, cucumber/chili, hot dogs, sno cones, popsicles and "gaspachos". Why put "gaspachos" in quotes? Because I didn't know exactly what this fruit-stand delicacy was going to entail and we never did find out. It is the one that got away.

The challenge: track down mobile food vendors and taste their offerings. I had pre-scouted five locations offering the above foods and, mostly through bi-lingual fellow patrons, managed to ascertain somewhat regular business hours to plan a bike ride around.

The elements: mostly the usual – sun, traffic and a little of the unusual – minor detours necessitated by gigantic trees toppled onto the route.

Happily, we found four out of five vendors exactly where I expected them to be. (And a bonus too – a very temporary-looking green coconut outfit that the group elected to pass by). It is too late to share our plates, our company or our satisfied stomachs, but we can pass along some rewards of the hunt.

Best Tamales in Town – a tamales and elotes stand where a loyal patron witnessed to us that he travels all the way from the southwest side to get these tamales. At six for \$4 we pooled our cash and wolfed them down right there on the sidewalk. Fantastic! We agreed they were the best food of the day. But don't take our word for it. Find your own favorite.

Look Near Stores – most of the vendors we visited were set up on the



sidewalk next to popular stores, mostly grocery stores catering to Latino customers. All locations featured more than one food offering. Sophisticated palates look for variations on a theme.

Mexican or Guatemalan? – did you know there are at least two kinds of tamales for sale on Chicago streets? The Mexican tamale, the one you are probably picturing right now is a firm masa mix about the size of an overstuffed cigar and wrapped in corn husk. The Guatemalan tamale is 'as big as your head'. Almost. Weighing in at about two pounds each, these tamales have a creamier almost pudding-like consistency and are wrapped in banana leaves. We sampled both at different stops.

Savory or sweet? – Another variation on tamales. At one stand we were asked whether we wanted meat tamales or sweet tamales. The sweet version was bright pink, tasted of cinnamon and came peppered with raisins. Kind of like a warm sugar cookie. A worthy discovery.

Ask questions – an observant rider/hunter noticed the fresh tomatoes on one vendor's table. "How are the tomatoes prepared," we asked. Answer: sliced on a plate as garnish to pork rinds cured in brine and accompanied by lettuce and cheese. Hmm... (No takers)

Seek a spot of shade – the rider/hunter needs a rest. A public park seems perfect. Find some shade, (continued on page 3)

PREZ SEZ

BY MICHAEL WASSERMAN



I'm going to start out our conversation this month by suggesting to you that autumn and bicycles are made for each other. And how could any right minded soul disagree? All our cycling miles to this point in the year afford us the physical conditioning we need to pedal easily. Cooler weather and wool jerseys make the ride that much more comfy. The fall colors. It all comes together for us as cyclists. I know I will be out on the roads as much as possible this month trying to soak it all in. Hope you get your fill as well. A good start would be (shameless plug coming): The fall picnic ride. A perennial classic. Share a leisurely ride with your friends and family. Pack a dish to share. Join us on an adventure north into the deepest woods that the Cook County Forest Preserve (North Division) has to offer.

The club ride schedule thins out a bit from here until year's end. It's the natural cycle, if you will. But club activities continue. I encourage everyone to sign up on the CCC Chat list (sign-up instructions are on the Club website) to stay in touch. Impromptu rides are announced on a regular and recurring basis throughout the fall. We will have a special October club event in lieu of our general meeting, and a really special presentation in November. Then, just around the corner from that, our annual Holliday party. We look forward to seeing you at these get togethers as well.

Looking forward, the club will be electing new officers and committee chairs soon. If you have enjoyed your affiliation with the club (heaven knows, we hope you have), perhaps you might consider offering your skills and talents to help sustain us into the New Year and beyond. More detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities will be announced by club emails and

in future newsletters. If you can't wait, drop me an email and we can explore these things a bit at your convenience. We are, after all, an all volunteer operation and as such, we are nothing if without you.

Until our next ride together, it's time for me to make like a tree and ... 🐼

October Club Meeting

The CCC's October 9 club meeting is a social one. Drop by the DePaul University Ray Meyer Center, 2235 N Sheffield, Chicago, between 5-7 p.m., when club members will participate in the school's blood drive. Even if you can't give blood, come by to hang out with your CCC friends. We'll move to a nearby restaurant to be determined for dinner and drinks. Check the club website closer to the date for more details. 🐼

October Mailing Party

The next CCC mailing party is Sunday, October 24, 4 p.m. at Mike Rogus and Jennifer Mach's "Bungalair," 2958 N Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago. Mike and Jen will be keeping the autumn spirit, serving vegetarian black bean soup, apple crisp and ice cream. Ample indoor bike parking available, people are encouraged to come in costume. Anyone who does not RSVP (to jennifermach@yahoo.com) will be sent home with a complimentary* iguana.

(*That is free; the reptiles are not likely to say anything nice about your tie.) 🐼

Street Food Safari Nabs

80%

(continued from page 1)

close your eyes... what is that tinkling sound? Popsicles in a little wheeled cart. A lesson for the patient. Sometimes if you sit still, the food comes right to you!

Glossary:

Tamales

See above

Elotes

Corn (fresh or boiled) served (on the cob or in a cup) with mayonnaise, parmesan cheese and chili spice (powdered or sauce)

Horchata

Sweet rice milk with cinnamon

Jimaica

Robust sweet fruity drink made with hibiscus flowers

Mango/chili; Cucumber chili

One and/or the other sliced fresh to order and sprinkled with salt, chili powder and fresh squeezed lime

Hot dogs

Chicago style of course

Sno cones

Order "Blue" if you want to go classic

Paletas

Icy milky popsicles in beguiling flavors – coconut, tamarindo, rice...

Pork rinds

Bagged hunks of chunky fluffy pork fat, squirted with hot sauce on request (or, apparently, served pickled. See above)

Gazpachos

If you find out, tell us! 🐼

Ho Ho Ho: CCC Holiday Party

Save the date for the annual Chicago Cycling Club Holiday Party

The party returns to the swingin' Mars Gallery, 1139 W Fulton Market, Chicago on Saturday, December 1, 7 p.m. to midnight. Friends and guests are always welcome to the potluck affair, the more the merrier. Bike racks available in front of and near the gallery and the area has ample street parking.

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





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.

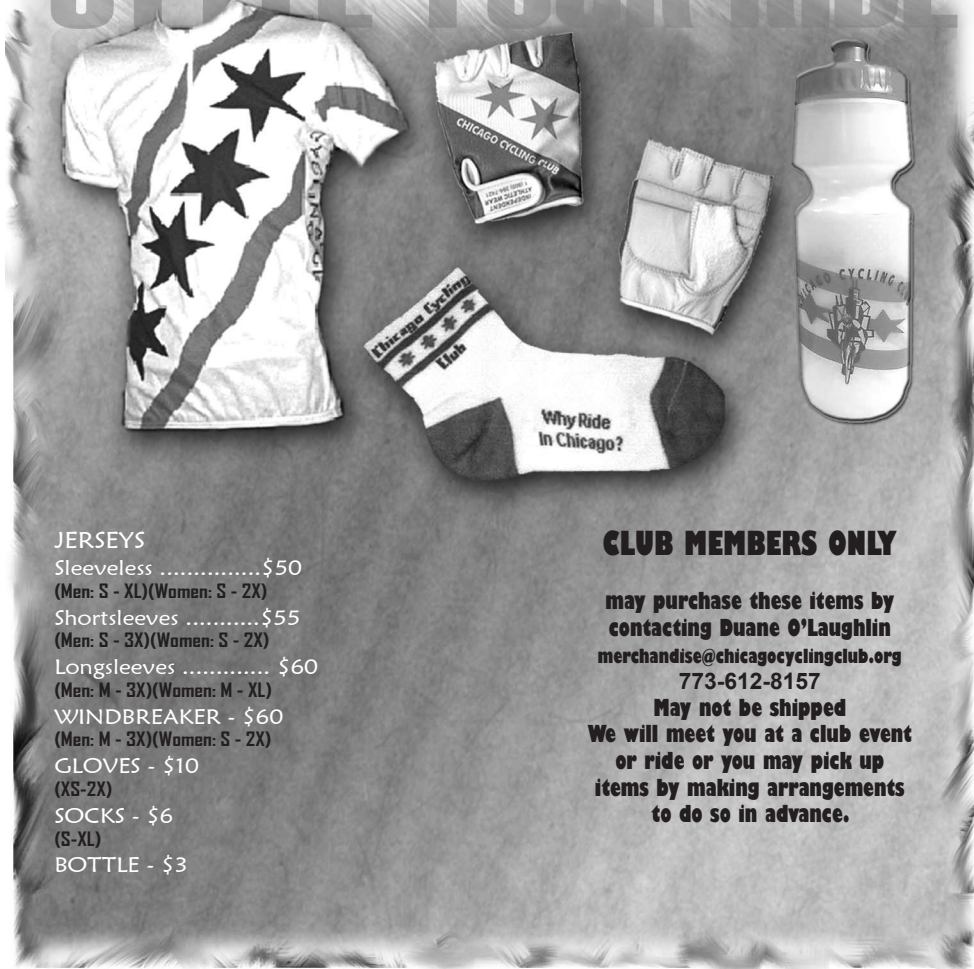
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Officers

President: Michael Wasserman
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Treasurer: Alice Kroman
Secretary: Jennifer Richards
Member at Large: Art Gilfand, Joseph Dickstein
Education: TBD
Newsletter: Justin Sondak, Karmen Lei
Rides: Duane O'Laughlin

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
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

October 2007



Tour de Tiles Ride, September 2007

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

October 2007

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