



CrankMail

January/February 2003

\$1.50

*Happy New
Year!*



Bi-Cycle?

CENTURY CYCLES Bicycle Maintenance Classes!

Winter 2003

Introduction to Cycling

Basic Skills and tips to help you enjoy cycling more; Safety inspection and everyday maintenance; emergency repairs including hands-on flat tire changing; getting the most comfort and fun from your bike with appropriate position, technique and accessories.

(1) two-hour class - \$15

Session A – Tuesday, March 4

Session B – Monday, March 10

Intermediate Maintenance (Tune-up)

Bring your bike for a hands-on tune-up; clean, lube, inspect and adjust brakes and drivetrain; adjust all bearings; true wheels; and evaluate compatibility of replacement parts and upgrades. Plan to get dirty and leave with a clean bike!

(2) two-hour classes - \$60

Session C – Tuesday, January 14 & 21

Session D – Wednesday, February 5 & 12

Advanced Bicycle Maintenance and Repair (Overhaul)

Bring your bike for a hands-on overhaul; clean, inspect, lube and adjust all bearings; replace brake and derailleur cables; remove and replace drivetrain components; also learn wheel tensioning. Spend some quality time with your bike and it will ride like new – or better! Includes most shop supplies and replacement cables.

(3) two-hour classes - \$125

Session E – Wednesday, January 8, 15 & 22

Session F – Monday, February 17, 24 & March 3

Session G – Thursday, January 23, 30 & February 6

Session H – Tuesday, February 11, 18 & 25

Wheel Building

Learn the Fine Art of Wheelbuilding from some of the best in the business! Use rims, hubs, spokes and nipples provided by the shop or we can help you select your own parts.

(2) two-hour classes - \$60

Session W – Monday, February 3 & 10

All classes are from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. **Participants receive a discount on regularly-priced parts, tool, lubes, repair stands and upgrades purchased during the class.** Sorry, but any missed classes can not be made up or refunded. The classes are geared towards standard bikes manufactured after 1985 and are not suitable for recumbents, tandems, bikes with friction shifting or coaster brake bikes. If you have any questions, please call.

For more information or to sign up, call any Century Cycles:

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PENINSULA 800-201-7433

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Business Matters

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“Year, *n.* A period of three hundred and sixty-five disappointments.”

— Ambrose Bierce

Top Environmental Stories of 2002

from The Sierra Club

The coming of a new year offers an opportunity to review the most significant environmental stories of the past and catch a glimpse of the major issues to be expected in 2003.

ADMINISTRATION ROLLS BACK ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS –

This past year, the Bush Administration led a direct assault on the laws that protect America's water, air, and natural treasures. The record is astounding: relaxing clean air protections for dirty power plants; reducing toxic waste clean-up; pursuing oil and gas development in National Parks and other natural treasures such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and attempting to revoke protections on remaining roadless areas on National Forests. And those are just some of the issues that have been made public. Offering sober look behind the scenes, Eric Schaeffer, the highly regarded Enforcement Director at the Environmental Protection Agency, resigned last February because of the White House's deliberate attempts to undermine EPA lawsuits against nine power companies who were flagrantly violating the Clean Air Act. The Administration's efforts to roll back basic environmental safeguards will inevitably continue in 2003, with a Congress that has empowered notorious, anti-environmental legislators to key leadership positions.

SECURITY DEBATE REVEALS DANGEROUS DEPENDENCE ON OIL –

“We have an insane approach to energy right now at a time when we're enormously dependent on our energy from this unstable region of the world,” states Thomas Friedman, *New York Times* foreign-affairs columnist. Not since the 1970s have we seen so much attention on energy use in America,

especially for automobiles. For yet another year, the average “miles per gallon” of new cars and trucks actually got worse, not better. Despite the fact that we have existing, proven technologies to dramatically improve fuel economy, Congress and the Bush Administration, under pressure from some automakers, missed an opportunity to increase fuel efficiency standards in the National Energy Bill, which will be revisited in 2003. The silver lining from 2002 is that while the “Big Three” car companies remained stuck in the slow lane, Honda and Toyota broke from the pack and found success with their new hybrid vehicles.

CALIFORNIA MARCHES AHEAD TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING –

While Canada recently became the 100th country to commit to modest greenhouse gas reductions under the Kyoto Treaty, the U.S., which emits far more carbon than any other nation, is punting on the issue, merely calling for more research. The Most Valuable Player Award goes to California, which passed a landmark bill to regulate carbon dioxide emissions in cars. Forty percent of the Golden State's carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gases come from cars. As you would expect, auto companies, supported by the Bush Administration, are doing everything they can to keep the new law from going into effect.

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYS HIDE AND SEEK WITH ENERGY DOCUMENTS –

Despite a campaign pledge to “restore trust in government” and a banner year for corporate scandals in the energy industry, Vice President Dick Cheney continued to withhold documents from his Energy Task Force meetings with energy executives. Arguing that withholding such evidence is a violation of federal law, the Sierra Club filed a high profile lawsuit against the Vice President, and in November, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ordered the Vice President to turn over the documents. We'll have to wait until 2003 to see whether the Vice President complies.

FAMILY PLANNING AIR CUT – In a move that affects the health of women and children and the global environment, the Bush Administration sabotaged successful family planning programs in 160 countries when it cut all U.S. support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UNFPA estimates this funding could have prevented the premature deaths of 4,700 mothers and 77,000 children. At the recent Asian and Pacific Conference on Population, the Administration also raised quite a stir when it tried to insert controversial anti-abortion provisions in an international agreement on family planning. Fortunately, all of the more than 30 other countries in attendance overwhelmingly rejected the Administration's changes.

And for a little more good news...

WILDERNESS QUIETLY SQUEAKS THROUGH – With help from the Sierra Club, three new wilderness bills passed Congress: for James Peak in Colorado (20,000 acres), Clark County in Southern Nevada (450,000 acres), and the Black Hills

of South Dakota (3,600 wilderness addition). In 2003, the Sierra Club will be working to pass other wilderness bills including the Wild Sky Wilderness bill for Washington State and California Wild Heritage Wilderness and Wild Rivers bill.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM – Elections and the environment will get a little bit cleaner since Congress passed a landmark bill to eliminate soft money from campaigns. As a result, polluting industries will no longer be able to dump unlimited funds into their candidates' campaigns. Instead of being influenced by dollars, candidates and political parties will be influenced by voters. The story will continue in 2003 as both Republicans and Democrats work to create giant loopholes in the new law.

The Sierra Club, a 700,000-member environmental group, can be reached at: Sierra Club National Headquarters; 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor; San Francisco, CA 94105. Phone: 415-977-5500. On the Web: www.sierraclub.org

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LAKE ERIE WHEELERS

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www.lakeeriewheelers.org

Affiliated with the Bike Authority

President: Tom Meara – (440) 777-2563 • Vice-President: Bob Parry – (440) 779-8392

Secretary: John Whitaker – (216) 485-9184 • Treasurer: Bob Ugan – (216) 226-9921

Membership Chair: Dan Izuka – (440) 734-5777

LEW Club Weekend & Holiday Ride Schedule

Jan. 1	10:00	Annual New Year's Day Ride starting from Scenic Park: rain, sun or snow. If the weather is truly terrible we meet and go to Einstein Bagels for bagels and coffee.
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26	10:00	Olmsted Falls East River Park – winter ride – weather depending.
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23	10:00	Olmsted Falls East River Park – winter ride – weather depending.

Ride Start Locations

East River Park	Olmsted Falls East River Park is on Lewis Road between Bagley and Water Street, across from Chestnut Grove Cemetery. It has better parking and facilities the Library did not.
Scenic Park	Parking lot at marina in North Rocky River Reservation, off of Valley Parkway, located ½-mile south of Detroit Road, in Lakewood.

The first scheduled club ride will be Sunday March 2, 2003, starting at 9:00 am from Bonnie Park. The schedule of Club Rides, along with the Ride Leaders' name(s), will be published in the March issue of *CrankMail*, and on the Club Web site.

The "winter" rides will continue in January and February starting at 10:00 am from Olmsted Falls East River Park. If there is an overabundance of snow, some Club members may head over to Chapin Woods in Lake County, for Sunday morning Cross-Country skiing on the groomed trails between 10:00 am and noon.

Doug Barr has offered to host the Saturday Morning Urban Assaults, weather permitting. These rides travel through the Westside neighborhoods, through the city center, and over to the East Side for lunch at some of our favorite restaurants like Presti's. The pace is moderate, but be prepared for cold weather and city streets. Riders planning to attend are urged to call a few days in advance to confirm.

Weekday Rides: *Regular Club Wednesday Evenings* – Moderate to fast pace 20-30 mile rides starting at 6:30 P.M. from Kamm's Corner parking lot at Lorain Rd. & Rocky

River Dr. (Rt. 237) in Cleveland (behind Pizza Hut). For details, contact Doug Barr at (440) 734-1715. For the off-season rides thru February, the Ride Leader (and pace) will be chosen by those members attending the ride.

LEW WEB keeps club informed of late breaking news

To keep informed of late breaking news and location of rides during the year check the LEW club site out at: <http://www.lakeeriewheelers.org> (please note, new URL). The LEW club email list is at BikeLEW@adelphia.net. If you aren't receiving weekly ride updates and have email, let us know and we'll put you in the address book.

The November, 2002 Club Meeting

In order to guarantee time for the presentations, the regular meeting agenda was kept brief: the minutes of the previous meeting were waived, as was the treasurer's report. The club briefly discussed the matter of club jerseys for the coming year, and volunteers were requested to assist; Bob Parry agreed to help out. Dale Stalnaker reported that the club web site's new URL (see above) was up and running.

Vice President Jerry Storer inquired about the progress of the New Rider Web site project. Secretary John Whitaker reported that Jim Guilford has agreed to host it as part of the *CrankMail* web site, and that a committee of volunteers (Tom Meara, Dale Stalnaker, John Whitaker) were in the conceptualizing stage of the project.

The club Christmas Party was announced: it would be held at Russ Marx's home, in North Royalton. It would also serve as the December meeting, and for club officer elections as well.

The nominations were held for club officers for 2003. The nominees are:

President:	Tom Meara
Vice President:	Bob Parry
Treasurer:	Bob Ugan
Secretary:	John Whitaker

Tom plans to continue as the Touring Chairman in 2003. He will also seek candidates for the Program Chair position.

The T-shirt committee gave its report. Unfortunately, the price estimates obtained so far have been prohibitively expensive: one supplier required a \$225 setup fee, plus \$25 per shirt. The committee will continue to look for less costly suppliers. Marty Cooperman said that he was in a position to sell waterproof socks to anyone interested. Vice President Jerry Storer announced a rider survey: what's the worst hill in the Cleveland area? Members are requested to send in their choice for the worst hill, whatever the reason, to the club email address, above.

The meeting ended with a quartet of presentations on winter activities (alternatives to bicycling), by the following guest speakers:

John Kohut, Cleveland Hiking Club
Dave Toguchi, Nordic Ski Club
Mike Cross, Cyclocross Series (sponsored by Bike Authority)
Russ Marx, "Spinning" (exercycles at the YMCA)

Holiday Party & December 2002 Meeting

Hats off to Russ Marx for the use of his home for the Holiday Party in December. About 40-50 Club members attended, and enjoyed themselves immensely. The food was in abundance, and excellent, to say nothing of Greg James' mini-sandwiches of herb-peppercorn roasted beef tenderloin (the LEW's Iron Chef strikes again!).

The first order of club business was conferring well-earned recognition of efforts by various club members. Bob Ugan and Greg James each received a \$15 gift certificate for their efforts in leading the Tuesday Night Rides out of Fairview Park. For leading the Wednesday Night (Kamm's) Rides, among other efforts the club's behalf, Doug Barr was awarded a \$20 gift certificate. Marc Snitzer and John Wasko will each receive a \$15 gift certificate for organizing and leading the Wednesday Night (Ice Cream) Rides. This led up to the main event: granting the "Golden Cog Award" to Bob Parry for his work as past president, organizing the Blue Ridge and New York tours, mapping LEW routes, and other volunteer assistance.

Following this, a slate of [unopposed] candidates was elected to office. The Lake Erie Club Officers for 2003 are:

President:	Tom Meara
Vice President:	Bob Parry
Treasurer:	Bob Ugan
Secretary:	John Whitaker

President Tom Meara announced an officer's meeting to occur on January 5, 2003, to consider club business for the coming year. The meeting was concluded with a holiday season raffle, with prizes donated by the Bike Authority store.

Tom Nezovich brought an unexpected treat: his new 56cm Atlantis frame, made by Rivendell Bicycles, for everyone to drool over. Their products, as one member had described, are made mostly of steel or wool; the Atlantis was judged by Tom to be of the latter material. In which case, Mr. Nezovich may need to put cedar or naphthalene balls in the frame's tubes to deter moths.

The January, 2003 Club Meeting

Will be held on January 14, 2003, the second Tuesday of the month, at the Panera Bread cafe in North Olmsted. Club members attending will consider the ride schedule for 2003, mull over plans for new year, present new ideas, and discuss any related issues. All suggestions are welcome, but please be prepared to lead what you suggest.

Time to renew membership and join LEW

Renewal application forms were sent to all members and should be returned by March to be included in the Club Roster. New members can join at any time but after the publication of the Roster members are listed only in an addendum that can be e-mailed out to members with email addresses listed with the Club.



2003 LAKE ERIE WHEELERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$20.00 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$25.00

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Please provide for club updates & news

Make check payable to and send to:

Lake Erie Wheelers P.O. Box 770744 Lakewood, Ohio 44107

New member Renewal

Interests: Fitness Touring Mtn/Cyclocross
 Road Racing Tri/Biathlons Recreation

2003 LAKE ERIE WHEELERS MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns agree to absolve and hold harmless the Lake Erie Wheelers (henceforth, "said club"), its members, officers, chairmen, sponsors and affiliates, singly and collectively, for any injury, harm, misadventure, loss or inconvenience occurring to either myself or the named applicant (if applicant is under the age of 18 years) during participation in, or travel to the club's functions, rides and activities. Further, I agree to release and hold harmless the said club, its members, officers, chairmen, sponsors and affiliates, for any claims made by third persons arising from any injury, harm, misadventure, loss or inconvenience I may suffer during any of said club's functions, rides and activities. I understand that such dangers include, but are not limited to property damage, serious injury, disability, and death. I also hereby request and consent to permit emergency treatment in case of injury or illness.

Signature of applicant

Date

Parent or Guardian's signature (if applicant is < 18 years) Date

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www.clevetourclub.org

Welcome To New Members

Maureen Schneider of Concord, **Manny Fox** of Mentor and **John Ludway** of Cleveland. Welcome to the club!

Membership Renewals for 2003

Use the enclosed registration form to give yourself a Christmas present and renew your membership now so you don't miss out on the next issue of the Crank.

HELP!

Volunteers are needed behind the scenes to make your club work. We need your help to fill the empty spaces on the attached volunteer form. Where you are available, please fill in the requested personal information and mail to the CTC P.O. Box.

Email Address Updates

Over the next month, I will be putting together a group list of CTC members email addresses. I will use this list during the riding season to remind members of upcoming events, rides, picnics, etc. If you would like to be included, please email me at dwyn127@yahoo.com with your name and email address. I'll also be updating the membership database with this information so if you've moved or had a phone number change, please let me know.

Danny Wynne.

Sunday Ride Schedule

Nov-Feb 10 AM North Chagrin pick-up ride to various locations weather permitting (over 40 degrees & dry) 15-35 miles.

Also some of us are informally riding Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM, as well as Saturdays at 9 AM at North Chagrin. But only if the weather is abominable (see *dictionary*).

CLEVELAND TOURING CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2003

Name: _____ M _____ F _____

Please Print or Apply Address Label

Address _____ Birth date _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: **Please print clearly:** _____

What kind of bike do you ride? Road _____ Mountain _____ Other _____ Tandem _____ What make of bike? _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Membership Level (circle one): **Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 New _____ Renewal _____**

Note: Please copy and submit a signed form for each family member. Please staple and submit together with family fee.

In signing this release for myself or for a named member, if member is under the age of 18, I acknowledge that I understand the intent hereof and hereby agree to and absolve and hold harmless the CLEVELAND TOURING CLUB officers, members, sponsors, affiliates, singly and collectively, for any injury, misadventure, harm, loss, inconvenience, or damage suffered or sustained as a result of participation in any CLEVELAND TOURING CLUB activities. I also hereby consent to and permit emergency medical treatment in the event of injury or illness. I shall abide by traffic laws and regulations and shall practice courtesy and safety in cycling.

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____
Parent/guardian signature if member is under the age of 18

Return this form with your check made payable to The Cleveland Touring Club
Mail to: The Cleveland Touring Club, P.O. Box 32456, Euclid, OH 44132

CLEVELAND TOURING CLUB CYCLE APPAREL ORDER FORM

Please Print or Apply Address Label

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

Jerseys are racing style with three rear pockets, zippered collar, in yellow/blue/white color scheme with Cleveland skyline design and logo on sleeves, front/back/side and collar. Jerseys are Swisstex material. Jackets are Versatech (non-stretch wind & water resistant) and have a full front zipper.

Men's Apparel

	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Cost per Item	Cost x No. Items
Short Sleeve Jersey						\$45.00 each	
Long Sleeve Jersey						\$50.00 each	
Long Sleeve Jacket						\$50.00 each	
Total Items							Total Cost Enclosed

Women's Apparel

	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Cost per Item	Cost x No. Items
Short Sleeve Jersey						\$45.00 each	
Long Sleeve Jersey						\$50.00 each	
Long Sleeve Jacket						\$50.00 each	
Total Items							Total Cost Enclosed Grand Total

Note: Women's jerseys are cut 2 inches shorter, narrower in the shoulders and fuller in the hips.

Return this form with your check made payable to The Cleveland Touring Club
Mail to: The Cleveland Touring Club, P.O. Box 32456, Euclid, OH 44132

CTC 2003 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Name	Phone #	E-mail
Members, family, members and friends help are appreciated and always need - please consider volunteering.		
Be part of the 2003 ride schedule planning group	COMPLETE NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
TUESDAY RIDE LEADER NEEDED		
Distribute maps for 6:30 P.M. rides every week		
CTC JERSEYS AND JACKETS		
CTC Jersey & Jacket Person - take, place, and distribute orders	Phillip Esempio	
Sell Jackets & Jerseys at club rides & functions	Phillip Esempio	
BIKE EXPO - March		
Set up and/or work at CTC booth		
Help run the bike & accessories swap		
SUNDAY IN JUNE - SUNDAY - JUNE 8th		
Ride Coordinator -	Anastasia Birosch	(216) 297-9172
Arrow Painters - Prior to June	NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	abirosh@voyager.net
Order Food for rest stops - Prior to June		
Pick up cookies/fruit for rest stops - June		
Stuff Pre-registered Rider Packets - Saturday, June 7th		
Registration Crew June 8th		
Parking Attendants - June 8th		
Sag Wagon Drivers - June 8th		
Sell T-shirts and CTC Jersey's & Jackets - June 8th		
ANNUAL PICNIC & PHOTO DAY - SCHEDULE IN MARCH CRANKMAIL		
beverages & supplies		
tables		
Start grills & cook burgers & hotdogs		

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral,
begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy.

Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it.

Through violence you may murder the liar,
but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth.

Through violence you may murder the hater,
but you do not murder hate.

In fact, violence merely increases hate.

So it goes.

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence,
adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967
Where Do We Go from Here?

A Bike Trip to Boston with Tom

by Martin Cooperman

It wasn't the first time Tom had left something behind. Usually it was his wallet. Not that Tom's a disorganized guy. Quite the contrary; he's a firm believer in the adage 'everything in its rightful place'. The problem was that the rightful place occasionally got left behind. Like his wallet. It always went into the main pocket of his belly bag – you know those little packs that you strap around your waist. Then he'd leave the belly bag in the store. Or at the restaurant.

The first time he did this was the worst. We were three, or was it four days into our cycling trip from Cleveland to Boston. I have a brother there and Tom a daughter. What better place to ride given 11 days' time? And 11 days was exactly what we had. Tom's wife is understanding. Very understanding. And what she understood was that Tom's family reunion was taking place 2 weeks to the day after we left. And that Tom had better be home several days early to put the house in order. And so it was 11 days. Tom had a ticket back on Amtrak the next afternoon.

How long was the distance? His computer showed 840 miles when we finished but back on day-3 or -4 we really didn't know. It didn't do any good to just measure the distance on our route. We wouldn't follow the route. Not that we didn't mean to. We earnestly meant to follow the route. But somehow we'd get a bit lost. Not really lost. Not lost like we might starve before we found our way out. More like "displaced." We were just a bit displaced from our route. Just displaced enough to cause a gnawing anxiety in the pit of our stomachs but not enough to verbalize it. So there it sat, like a bad meal, until we got found again.

There was another reason we couldn't just measure the distance along the route. We'd had to backtrack. Like, for a lost wallet. You remember the wallet, don't you. On day-3 or -4? Well we were in the vicinity of Ellacottville, New York in the southern tier of the Finger Lakes. Some of you might have heard of the town. If you did it's because of the skiing. Holiday Valley is there. So was the biggest hill of our trip, and that includes our rides through the states of Vermont and New Hampshire as well.

It didn't look like that big a hill at first. It just went up a ways and then curved out of sight. No big deal. We'd been cycling the Chagrin and Cuyahoga Valleys for years. Upon reaching that curve, however, it was apparent that there was more to the hill than first met the eye. There was, in fact, a further climb and then another curve. And then another. And another. A normal Chagrin Valley climb takes me about seven to eight minutes. Maybe 10 with loaded touring gear. Did I mention that we were on a loaded tour? Tent, sleeping bags, stove, the works. Well I didn't arrive at the top of this hill for half an hour. That's a long climb. It was also a steep one. And it wasn't made any easier by my pig-headed notion of doing it in my middle chain ring. I don't know why I do this. I approach the hill thinking, "it's okay, if I can't make it in the middle chain ring I can always shift down to the granny." That's what I say. But halfway up the hill my ego takes over. And it becomes a challenge, pitting that ego against my increasingly desperate breathing and the lactic acid building relentlessly in my legs. And I don't dare shift into the granny. It's me against the hill. This time it was very close.

Gasping for breath at the top, slumped over the handlebars, I waited for Tom. I hadn't even thought to look for him in the rearview mirror, I was just too focused on the hill. Five minutes later, the sweat having dried, my breathing having returned to normal

I remembered our pact: "Don't leave each other behind; if in doubt ride back until we meet up." This has a noble sound to it. You know – One for all and All for one. But on a more prosaic level it just made practical sense; Tom's got the tent poles and fly, I've got the tent. Tom's got tonight's food. I've got the stove. You get the idea.

Back down the hill I rode expecting to see him at every turn. Desperate to see him at every turn. The further I went, the further up that dreaded hill I'd have to climb. First there was annoyance: "WHERE is he?", then anger: "where the *&#!% IS he?", then alarm: "WHERE IS HE?" It took considerably less time to descend the hill than climb it. But it was a long ride on level terrain half way back to the last town until Tom suddenly appeared around a bend in the road, looking sheepish: "I left my wallet back at the lunch stop" was all he could lamely offer.

It was shortly thereafter, as I struggled to climb that miserable hill outside Ellacottville, this time firmly in my granny gear, ego be damned, that I realized that what Tom left behind was not his problem, but our problem, and I resolved to make sure he didn't leave anything behind again.

Which brings us back to the present, at least the present of this story. We're in Vermont now, Bennington to be exact. We've come most of the way and tackled most of the hills and we're feeling pretty good about ourselves.

We were in Bennington seeking our second breakfast of the day. We always had two breakfasts: one at the campsite, usually coffee or hot chocolate and oatmeal, and then a later breakfast in a local diner. We had found the local diner in Bennington. But so had all the tourists. (We were NOT tourists. Nope. We were cyclists. Don't you *ever* forget that). All the tables were taken and a line had formed out the door. By luck we spotted two free stools at the counter and figured if we could stand a bike seat for 10 hours we'd survive the stools. Midway through the pancakes I spotted Tom admiring his coffee mug. Cyclists on tour often exhibit bizarre behavior, but this piqued my interest. "What's so special about that mug?" I inquired. It was, after all, just a plain cream-colored mug with a handle, the kind you'd been drinking coffee from in every cheap diner across the land and never looked at twice. But Tom proceeded to tell me about a favorite pair of coffee mugs he had bought long ago and how one had slid off the trunk of his car and smashed. He had been looking for a replacement ever since. I gradually began to realize that far-off look in Tom's eye when we'd spend a winter's evening talking about cycling trips was not about great roads, distant lands and exotic cultures but the opportunity to find a replacement for that mug. "It's just like the one I broke," he smiled at no one in particular, nodding his head knowingly, fingering the mug lovingly and staring distantly out into space. Tom's life was apparently near fulfillment.

Beckoning to the waitress, he inquired as to whether she'd sell him the mug. She went into the kitchen to find out and returned with an apology: "the restaurant's here to sell food, not mugs," she replied, repeating the owner's comment. Tom was crestfallen. But only temporarily. I went back to studying my pancakes but noticed out of the corner of my eye Tom finishing his coffee down to the bottom of the mug and wiping it clean with his napkin. Unusual behavior even for such a fastidious fellow, I thought. He then did something even more puzzling. He took out his belly bag, removed his digital camera, placed it on the counter and in its place stowed the mug. I became alarmed. Tom is an honest fellow. As honest as they come. He teaches Sunday school! He played in Little League! Now, under the stress of the trip he had turned into a brigand.

Quietly Tom arose, left a tip, took the check and headed to the front to pay the bill. We alternated days, and it was his day to pay our daily expenses. I looked at the tip; it was for \$5, a considerable amount given that the bill was only \$10. It was then that I realized that Tom had decided to make off with the mug and leave a big tip to cover it.

Only Tom's habit of leaving things behind tripped him up. He had left his digital camera on the counter.

Used to checking for things like this, I deftly pocketed the camera expecting to surprise him somewhere down the road when a photo opportunity set him reaching for the camera and coming up short. I'd then dangle it by its strap and we'd have a good laugh. Or at least I'd have a good laugh.

But this time Tom realized his error while still paying the bill. With great trepidation he returned to the scene of the crime, hoping against hope that the waitress hadn't yet cleared the counter and noticed the missing mug. Our plates were still there. But where was the camera? Tom turned to me and asked in a desperate whisper: "Did you see my camera?" This was a golden opportunity granted perhaps once in a lifetime. I was not to let it pass. "Tom," I said with a grave voice and grim face, "the waitress said when you give back the mug, she'll give you back the camera." For just a moment Tom's face turned white; his eyes doubled in size; his breathing stopped. Then he drew his head back, reached out his hand and said "Give me that camera." And so I did.

As for food, we ate well. Or at least we ate a lot. Tom, a fine cook, would carefully browse the supermarket shelves with the eye of an epicure picking just the right kind of canned vegetables to go with our gourmet Lipton dinner packets. "No, no, canned potatoes don't go with Chicken and Rice," he'd admonish, and I'd slink back down the aisle and return the can, head down in disgrace. But that was on day-1 or was it -2? By now we'd hit a supermarket and be out the door in under five minutes. Chicken and Rice now went perfectly well with canned potatoes, garbanzo beans, carrots, corn or just about anything else we could find on the shelves. Canned peaches were our standard dessert, heavy syrup and all.

Tom handled the route planning with great aplomb. He used three separate sets of maps each showing terrain, towns or overviews in greatest detail. We only really got turned around once. That was on the second day of the trip just after having camped at Pymatuning Lake. At the lovely town of Linesville, Penn. we mistakenly took Rt. 6 back towards Cleveland. We might have wound up at Terminal Tower had it not been for a basic tenet of Euclidean Geometry: parallel lines do not intersect. And yet, as we came to an intersection, our road (or at least the road we thought we were on) did indeed intersect another one parallel to it. Now Tom and I have both taken extensive math courses where we had learned that very important principle. So either we had just revoked a fundamental mathematical law or we were on the wrong road. A brief check of our map proved Euclid correct. We turned on to the right road.

I won't bore you with the details of the trip: how we met **Mark and Andrea Hoberecht**, two LEW cyclists on an auto vacation at a campground/hostel in Vermont, when the owner told us there was another Ohio couple camping there. It turns out Andrea had ridden from Cleveland to Vermont along Rt. 6 in Pennsylvania during last year's very hot summer.

Nor will I mention the photograph I got inside an Amish kitchen whose roadside sign for baked goods for sale enticed us in, and how I feigned interest in photographing the pies in order to get a picture of the old cast-iron stove and sink with a water pump in place of faucets.

I won't bother you with tales of Tom's Ten Flats (he only got nine, but 10 has a better ring to it) and our desperate efforts to find out why and failing that, replacing his thin, light tubes with my beefier one which seemed to solve the problem. (Cycle tourists beware – thin tubes inside large touring tires must creep their way around the edges and eventually wear out in abrasive spots. Use a tube sized to fit your tire. This from the exceedingly non-mechanical Marty's very short list of technical advice).

About most of our campgrounds, the less said the better. Except for a few places, most were RV parks, really just old farms that found a more lucrative crop in metal campers than in soy beans and corn. The people were quite friendly, but we were baffled as to why anyone would want to spend "two weeks every summer for the last 20 years at this place" when this place consisted of a handful of trees, a bulldozed pond and dozens of other RVs in close proximity. My apologies to you if you are one of THEM. Do enlighten us.

I'm sure you want to know our daily average distance and to save you the arduous chore of dividing 840 miles by 11 days it's: 76.3636363636363636...miles per day. On average. Your results may vary.

The most important piece of equipment is not: your bike, your panniers, your tent or sleeping bag or cycling shoes or gloves or helmet or sunglasses. It is you. If you want to go touring take anything, any old bike, any old gear, but make sure you're in good shape. Or go west. As in Westlake, or West Olmsted. Or Toledo. There's not a hill within miles. Except for the highway overpasses. Those will keep you up nights worrying.

Tom Meara and Martin Cooperman rode to Boston in mid-July, 2002. They were still speaking to each other when they arrived a week and a half later and are still speaking to each other now...er...Tom, aren't we? ... Tom?

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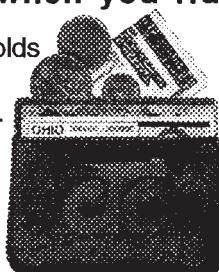
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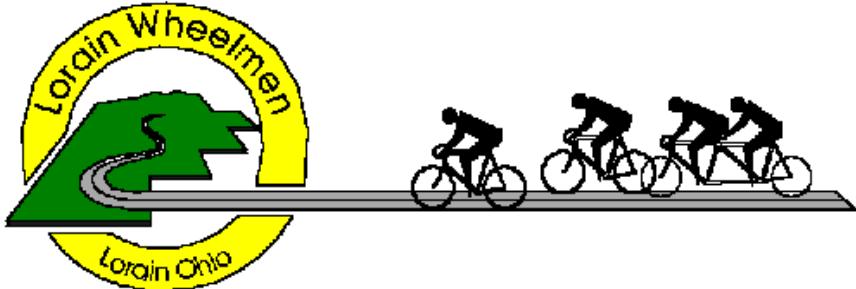
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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2003 CALENDAR

Below are the STARTING points for the next two months. Note there are NO destinations! See the notes on this!

01/01	ABC ... Medina	02/02	Oberlin Inn
01/05	Oberlin Inn	02/09	Amherst Shupe
01/09	Rollers & Pizza Meeting	02/13	Meeting Night (rollers)
01/12	Amherst Shupe	02/16	Oberlin Inn
01/18	Banquet @ Foxgrape	02/17	Amherst Shupe (Pres Day)
01/19	Oberlin Inn	02/23	Amherst Shupe
01/19	Amherst Shupe (MLK Day)	02/26	Oberlin Inn
01/25	Some are off to ski!	03/02	Amherst Shupe
01/26	Amherst Shupe		

Notes:

- 1) The **January meeting** will be preceded by a prolog roller/trainer ride at 6:30 at the Depot. We'll change the venue to the Ole Town Pizza House at 7:30 for the meeting (and a little food & drink).
- 2) The **February meeting** will be proceeded by a prolog roller/trainer ride at 6:30, followed by the usual meeting at 7:30
- 3) **Note that 15 bonus miles will be awarded for participation in these rides!**
- 4) The banquet (in January) will be in Oberlin at the Foxgrape and will be free to members.

Rides start at 9:00A.M. Destinations will be determined by wind, weather, and who does or doesn't want to eat where. **Saturday rides** will be from Prospect School in Oberlin, at 9:00A.M., usually. Call Clyde or Ralph to confirm.

Next page... Red Flannel raffle winners listed!

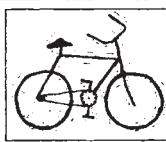
Red Flannel News

Here are the winners of the raffle at this year's Red Flannel!

Ticket Number	Item	Name	
8871-252	Map Holder	Robert Wulff	Amherst OH
8871-253	Chain Care Kit	Patrick Baker	Oberlin OH
8871-254	Lorain County Bike Book	Sean Heffernan	Lakewood OH
8871-277	Pump	Jeff Hiestand	Toledo OH
8871-289	Anybody Bike Book	Lynn Kenchel	N. Ridgeville OH
8871-291	Saddle Bag	James Pojman	N. Royalton OH
8871-307	Bicycle Gloves	Joe Wilkinson	N. Ridgeville OH
8871-319	Neoprene Booties	Steve Woosley	Elyria OH
8871-324	Midwest Bike Guide	Guy C. Krause	Amherst OH
8871-325	Front & Rear Lights	Garry Sherrill	Avon OH
8871-341	Balaclava	Ken Barcus	Cleveland Hts. OH
8871-353	Multi-Tool	Tom Beres	Norwalk OH
8871-421	Helmet	Frank Hill	Massillon OH
8871-425	Midwest Bike Guide	Steve Hranilovich	Phoenixville PA
8871-427	Multi-Tool	Todd S. Jackson	Cleveland OH

We had just shy of 200 riders! The weather was a bit crisp but the sun was out and there was a bottomless bowl of soup at the food stops. Of course, some didn't get the black bean soup at Milan, but the chili did last.

No one (to our knowledge) was hurt or got seriously lost. For that, we are thankful. Thanks to all of you that supported the ride this year!



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Yo, Wheelers!

This will probably be my last column for *CrankMail* as a new correspondent will be appointed by our leadership committee. It's been fun but now it's time to move on.

Our season, for all intents and purposes, will be over by the time you read this as only the most stalwart of riders will continue when it gets cold. I hope most of you made it to our annual dinner — always great fun at a top-notch restaurant. Hopefully if you missed it in 2002, you will attend in 2003.

Watch your mail for notice of our annual meeting usually held in February at the "J" and accompanied by reports and the latest in bike "stuff." Dues are due again. Non-payers will be removed from the *CrankMail* mailing list. Don't let that happen to you! Send in your 2003 dues with the accompanying application *and* signed release. You will now receive a membership card and club discounts at participating bike stores.

I close with the express hope that those of our riders who missed all or part of the 2002 season will rejoin us in 2003.

May the Wind Always be at Your Back

— Ed Reichek



COMMITTEE

Ellie Einhorn - 216-464-0495
Bernard Greenberg - 216-751-4673
Louis Klein - 216-752-4123
Bernard Kotton - 216-292-3998
Mitch Kursh - 330-405-6155
Alvin Magid - 440-498-2228
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2001 Dues (Individual/Family)

\$ 20.00

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WRW Water Bottle(s) No. _____ @ \$2.00

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ALL ADULT RIDING FAMILY MEMBERS MUST SIGN AND DATE THE RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

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RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AND PARENTAL CONSENT AGREEMENT
("AGREEMENT")

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in _____ (Name of LAB Club) ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity"), I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the Activity and upon which the hazards of travelling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if, at any time, I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that (a) BICYCLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEEES" NAMED BELOW; (c) there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at the time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation or that of the minor in the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Club, the LAB, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, members, volunteers, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEEES OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such claim.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE, AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

PRINTED NAME OF PARTICIPANT: _____

ADDRESS: _____
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PHONE: _____

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE (only if age 18 or over): _____ I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE

DATE: _____

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AND I, THE MINOR'S PARENT AND/OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF BICYCLING ACTIVITIES AND THE MINOR'S EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES AND BELIEVE THE MINOR TO BE QUALIFIED, IN GOOD HEALTH, AND IN PROPER PHYSICAL CONDITION TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITY. I HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEEES FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON THE MINOR'S ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND FURTHER AGREE THAT IF, DESPITE THIS RELEASE, I, THE MINOR, OR ANYONE ON THE MINOR'S BEHALF MAKES A CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF THE RELEASEEES NAMED ABOVE, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEEES FROM ANY LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY FEES, LOSS LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR COST ANY MAY INCUR AS THE RESULT OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

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The OCBC is a nonprofit, volunteer-run bike education center. Our Earn-a-Bike program takes donated used bikes and helps kids earn one for themselves while they learn bike repair and safe cycling. Surplus bikes are fully refurbished for sale to support the program.

OCBC is beginning 2003 with lots of news, including this regular page in *CrankMail*. Coming up first are two classes, presented at our new shop. Either three-hour class is \$25 (with discounts to members) including handouts and refreshments. **Ten-student limit — please prepay to reserve your place.**

The **Basic Shop Class** covers the skills needed to qualify for OCBC members' free shop time: how to evaluate, rejuvenate, and tune up a bike, plus hands-on training in emergency repairs and preventative maintenance.

Mondays: Jan. 27, Feb. 24, 6 - 9 PM

Thursdays: Feb. 6, 20, 6 - 9 PM

Saturdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 22, 1 - 4 PM

The **Winter Cycling Seminar** presents the many details of cycling in Cleveland winter weather safely and comfortably: dress, equipment and attitude.

Mondays: Jan. 13, 20, 6 - 9 PM

Thursday: Jan. 30, 6 - 9 PM

Saturday: Jan. 25, 1 - 4 PM

Apply your new (or old) winter biking skills at the **Marmots' Meander** on **Groundhogs' Day** Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10 AM - 1 PM, on a snowy (?!?) group ride to search for groundhog shadows and cyclists' microclimates, and to encourage and learn from year-round bike commuters. Some old timers will recognize in this ride the last vestiges of Bike To Work Days past (without the work)! \$15 includes lunch, prizes, and a useful souvenir.

Membership

\$50 (or 10 hours of volunteer time) per year:

- 10% off all products and services
- Half-price Basic Shop Class
- Qualify for free shop time by taking or testing out of Basic Shop Class
- Free media and fit (seat, stem and clip-in pedal) libraries
- *CrankMail* newsletter subscription with members' coupons

***CrankMail* club members' specials:**

- \$10 off membership, since you won't need two *CrankMail* subscriptions!
- \$5 off any product or service for every item donated to our library.

A Letter from Vetter

by Lou Vetter

SEASON WRAP-UP: The season is almost at an end and Christmas is upon us. Yeah! I don't have any new bike stuff on my list for Santa because I haven't even installed the bobbing head hula dancer I got for my handlebars last year. Oh, well. I did achieve my goal of getting the Presidential sports award for bicycling this year. The only problem is that they spelled my name wrong on the certificate. The patch is impressive with gold lettering on a red, white and blue background. Qualifying for the award was great and not at all hard to do but it created another problem. The problem is my end of season dilemma. Now I have 2,930 miles and three weeks left in the year. I need just 71 little miles to exceed 3,000 miles for the year. You see how this goal thing messes up your life. You achieve one goal only to realize that there is another level of achievement just a little further up the ladder and if you reach up and take that next step, not only have you attained your goal you exceeded it. Oh my, this is starting to sound like a college management class.

WINTER HIKING: If you are interested in hiking this winter the Cuyahoga Valley Hiking Association provides a list of scheduled hikes from October through March at their web site. You can also get the schedule from another great site called "Why Not." Both groups are informal with no dues, no meetings and no officers. It's anarchy at its finest. People get along following the golden rule and the rules of common sense and courtesy. Many people even bring their dogs, but those critters live by different rules. To connect to these sites just type in either of the following links: <http://www.whynotadventure.org/index.html> OR <http://pw1.netcom.com/~tph/cvha.html>

FFF(ffff): This year's ride was memorable. Every once in a while a rider rides in costume. A few years back we had bike-chickee, the bicycle riding chicken, and this year we were fortunate enough to host the naughty librarian. Her ensemble included a devil red helmet complete with horns, a matching jersey with black tights and accented with a chain for a belt, ooh my. Our librarian wore a naughty looking black leather jacket and completed the naughty look with handcuffs and a riding crop (horsewhip), ouch-ee. A picture is available on Tom's web site at <http://users.zoominternet.net/~tlw>. As host it was merely a common courtesy to be the one to get whipped once or twice. How I felt about it is a whole "nuther" story best left untold. I am looking forward to next year's ride though.

ANOTHER ANIMAL ENCOUNTER: A few Sundays ago Tom, Kate, and I opted to hike closer to home and missed the CVHA's scheduled hike that day. We parked at the picnic shelter just South of route 82 in Strongsville/Middleburg Hts. The plan was for Tom and I to show Kate a structure, we call the teepee, built by local neighborhood kids. Well we hiked around for a couple of hours and never found it. As we were bushwhacking through the forest we saw numerous deer. It was quite a sight to see the herds moving through the woods single file. Tom and I may search again in the coming weeks.

After our hike, Tom dropped me off at my house, I remembered my wife would not be home until later in the evening so, I jumped in my car and drove back to the same park determined to find the teepee myself. I walked up and down every streambed expecting to find the teepee but it just isn't there. I did see a tree that looked like it may have been the site of the structure I was searching for but the topography didn't seem right. As I was walking along the top of one ridge I heard noises down below and off to the left out of sight around the base of the hill I was standing on. I waited to see who was coming and it turned out to be a six point buck all by himself. He just kept walking right under me then he froze as he spotted me looking down. We both just stood there looking at each other for what seemed like a long time before I moved my hands to the sides of my head and waved my fingers at him. The deer must have seen enough because he turned and trotted off back

CYCLOTOON

BY NEAL SKORPEN



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Wednesday, March 12 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. (see class description above)

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WHEELS: Campy Chorus sew-up wheelset, 36 Alpina spokes, 330 gm., Victory Strada rims, extra new rim, 5 tires, 2 mounted, New Wolber Neo-Pro, \$75. Call John: (440) 871-5211.

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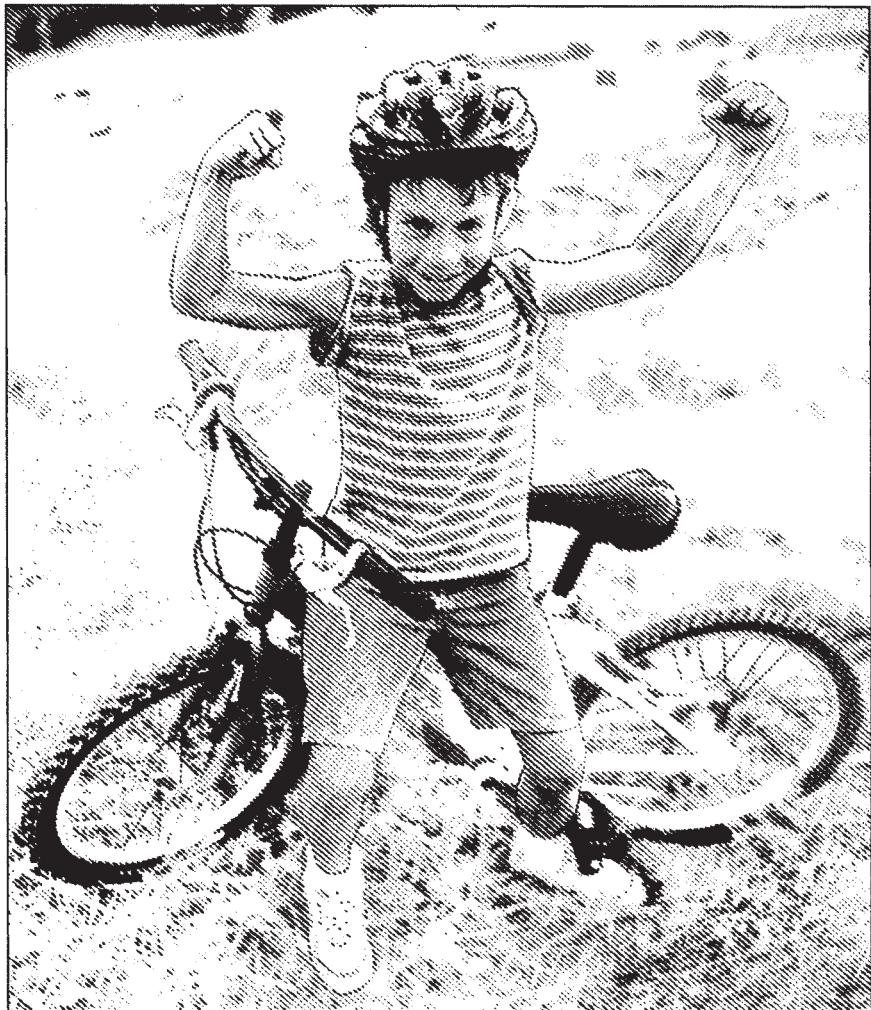
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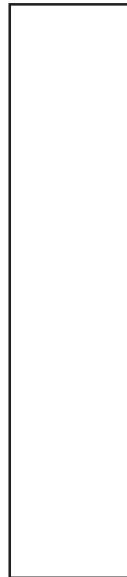


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