

DELAWARE VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB

P.O. Box 274, Drexel Hill, PA 19026

NOVEMBER 1996

RAILROAD TRACKS FADING INTO HISTORY

by John Roman

Tom Sexton, director of the Rails to Trails Conservancy's Pennsylvania Chapter in Harrisburg, says there were some 300,000 miles of railroad tracks in the heyday of the iron horse, but they are quickly disappearing.

He cited the need for converting the remaining 140,000 miles nationwide into useful recreational trails or greenways before they are obliterated or washed away into history, or decay, or appropriated for private construction.

Nationally, Rails to Trails has assisted in establishing 822 bike trails covering 8,300 miles since it was formed as a non-profit organization about 10 years ago.

These figures are "pretty substantial although only a tip of the iceberg," Sexton told some 20 DVBC members and guests at the Oct. 7 meeting. Such trails and greenways are helping to reconnect America with positive recreational and physical fitness inspiring activities.

In Pennsylvania, the conservancy provides technical assistance in planning the conversion of unused railroad beds into bike trails; 73 rail trails are now in operation which cover 600 miles, he said.

The biggest obstacle in implementing such trails with the assistance of local government officials and residents is that federal officials believe our economy is dominated by the gas-consuming automobile. The highway building lobby gets a large slice of the transportation budget pie.

The conservancy also often receives opposition from homeowners or farmers who are apprehensive about potential vandalism from riders and pedestrians using the trails abutting their properties.

In the five years he's been at this office, however, Sexton says he has never received a complaint or call about trespassing or noise from trail users.

In fact, one farmer previously against the establishment of a rail trail has placed a fruit stand along the route and is no longer apprehensive.

There are also other auxiliary activities along a trail, such as a biology class that surveys a nearby stream for research. Trails can also be used for the installation of utilities and fiber optics for phone companies.

Besides recreational use, the trails also help create economic benefits in the form of bike shops and other

stores that cater to bike buffs, hikers and roller bladers. Bicycle manufacturers and retailers need to become more involved, he said.

The support of a local borough or township is necessary for a trail to be accepted by the community at large, Sexton said. For example, in York County a countywide campaign raised a half million dollars through such activities as bake sales and raffles.

The highest concentration of projects is in the Pittsburgh area because of the availability of old short lines that were formerly coal transportation routes.

Other trails nearby include the Schuylkill River, Perkiomen Valley, Fox Chase-Newtown, Bucks County Greenway, and the Chester Valley Trail that connects Chester County with Atglen in Lancaster County, of which 18 miles have been finished of the overall 40 mile project.

After quite a struggle with opposition from adjacent residents, a bike trail in Radnor was approved in a public referendum, and PennDOT is squarely behind it, Sexton said.

Sexton also handed out copies of the "Bicycling Directory of Pennsylvania," first published in March, which lists bicycling opportunities and services for the state's eight regions, including our premiere bicycling club on page 15.

Unfortunately, the 28 page directory doesn't include maps of the bike trails because PennDOT is worried about being held liable in the event of accidents or injuries, Sexton said.

Also on page 14, bike shops are listed.

"Except me," commented club treasurer Frank Havnoonian, longtime owner of a Raleigh bike shop that was founded by his father across from the Drexel Hill Post Office. His comment brought laughter from his friends in the audience.

"You hung up on them, Frank, don't you remember?" joked Ira Josephs, club ride coordinator.

NOVEMBER'S GUEST SPEAKER

Curtis Anthony, the knowledgeable, interesting expert on antique bikes and related memorabilia, who is the owner of Via Bicycles in Philadelphia, will be the guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting on Nov. 4, the first Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. at the Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield and Old Marple Rds., Springfield, PA.

FREE!

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Ride Coordinator

All Rides: Ira Josephs
10 Applebough La.
Rose Valley, PA 19065
(610) 565-4058

*Please contact the Ride Coordinator
before the 7th of each month.*

Club Addresses

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Items for Sale & Ride Reports:

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, nor do we endorse products or services advertised.

Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered for publication.



League of American Bicyclists
The National Organization of Bicyclists
190 W. Ostend St., Suite 120
Baltimore, MD 21230-3731

DVBC Meeting Place

Delaware County Peace Center, 1001 Old Sproul Rd. (near car wash at Rt. 320 & Old Marple Rd.). First Monday of month. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome.

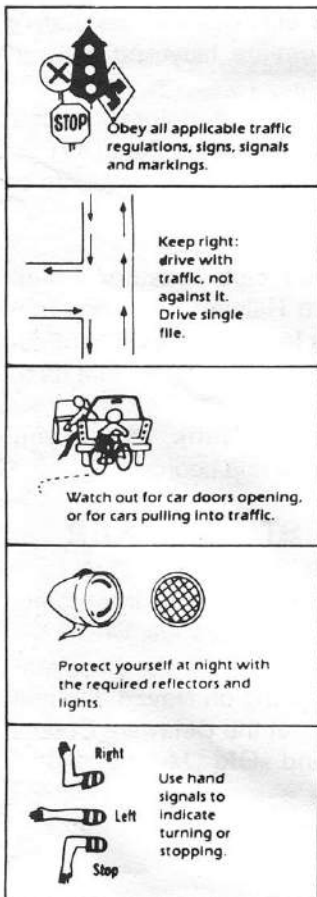
DVBC Newsletter Staff

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Rich Patterson
Special Events Rich Patterson
Advertising Richard Hoell
Rides Ira Josephs
Assembly Frank Havnoonian
Mailing Labels Mike Keating

Ride Guidelines

1. Arrive 10 to 15 minutes early and be READY TO LEAVE ON TIME! Rides will start no more than 5 to 7 minutes late!
2. Make sure your bike is in proper working order BEFORE you arrive.
3. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, pump and water bottle.
4. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
5. Wearing a helmet is usually not mandatory, but is encouraged. (A helmet is mandatory for all rides.)
6. Do not "bike off" more than you can do. Go on rides within your ability, interest and experience.
7. **RIDE CLASSIFICATIONS:**
 - CLASS D:** For new, inexperienced riders or families: speed 5 - 7 mph, frequent stops, as few hills as possible. Group will wait for all riders. Mileage usually less than 10 miles, but longer distances permissible.
 - CLASS C-:** For average riders: 7 - 8 mph, rest stops as needed. Group will wait for stragglers. Distance recommended: 10 - 30 miles.
 - CLASS C+:** Also average riders: 9 - 10 mph, rest stops every 45 - 60 minutes. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided by the ride leader.
 - CLASS B-:** For more experienced riders: 11 - 12 mph, stops every 15 - 20 miles. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
 - CLASS B+:** For strong riders: 13 - 15 mph, stops every 20 - 30 miles. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
 - CLASS A:** For very strong riders: 16 - 20 mph, stops every 30 - 50 miles. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
- TIME TRIAL:** Timed event. Again, you must obey all traffic laws. A hard helmet is mandatory. You must yield the right of way at all times. Club time trials should not be regarded as races, but as training rides.
8. Each rider assumes his/her own risk on all time trials and touring rides.
9. Those who ride ahead of the group are on their own ride.
10. Always notify the ride leader before leaving the group.
11. Ride leaders should adhere to the advertised speed of the ride.
12. Ride leaders are not expected to be bike mechanics.

NOTE: In the case of questionable weather or road conditions, the Ride Leader may decide to cancel the event. Call the Ride Leader if in doubt. All Club rides are rated according to degree of difficulty. If you're in doubt about your cycling ability, try out a ride one class below the one you're not sure about and then work your way up. The general public is invited to all events organized and conducted by Delaware Valley Bicycle Club. A program is presented by the Club for bicyclists of all ages, all abilities, and all interests. Except for the Freedom Tour, Brandywine Tour and Club picnic, all club events are free to the general public. The general public is welcome!



R I D E C A L E N D A R

**Free membership for ride leaders*
Helmet use is mandatory on all rides!

Fri, Nov 1 • 12:30 p.m. Miles: 15-25 • Class B+ <i>November Daily Dose</i>	*** NOTE: This ride will be done each day in November, usually around lunchtime. Leave from Drexel Hill and take various local routes. The pace is about 15-16 mph for an hour to an hour and a half. A friendly fast ride. Call for time & location. Tom Sota: (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi: (610) 789-0187.
Sat, Nov 2 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 20-40 • Class B <i>Weekends w Dan & Tom</i>	Come out for the slightly longer, weekend version of the Pre-work ride. Starting time is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Call Tom Sota at (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi at (610) 789-0187 for starting time, location and ride distance.
Sat, Nov 2 • 9:30 a.m. Miles: 40-50 • Class B <i>Brandywine Ramble</i>	Start at Rose Tree Park on Rt. 252, just north of Rose Tree Rd. and Rt. 1, Media. Enjoy spectacular fall scenery throughout the Brandywine valley. See some of the same route that makes our Brandywine Tour so popular. For more information call Bob Leon at (610) 833-2096.
Sun, Nov 3 • 9:30 a.m. Miles: 20-25 • Class C <i>The Country Deli</i>	Meet at the Acme in the Woodlyn Shopping Center (Fairview Rd. & MacDade Blvd. - just off the MacDade East exit of the Blue Route) in Woodlyn. Ride an easy pace to Ridley Creek State Park & just beyond for breakfast at the Country Deli. Call Bob at (610) 833-2096 or Cassie at (610) 833-2365.
Mon, Nov 4 • 12:30 p.m. Miles: 15-25 • Class B+ <i>November Daily Dose</i>	*** NOTE: This ride will be done each day in November, usually around lunchtime. Leave from Drexel Hill and take various local routes. The pace is about 15-16 mph for an hour to an hour and a half. A friendly fast ride. Call for time & location. Tom Sota: (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi: (610) 789-0187.
Mon, Nov 4 • 7:30 p.m. <i>DVBC Meeting</i>	Antique bike collector/rider Curtis Anthony is guest speaker. Doors open at 7:00, meeting starts at 7:30. Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield Friends' Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Rd., Springfield.
Thu, Nov 7 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 5-30 • Class C <i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	Meet at Manhattan Bagel in the Manoa Shopping Center (W. Chester Pk. & Eagle Rd., Havertown). Most Thursdays enjoy an easy-paced ride to various restaurants for a pancake breakfast. Bring money for breakfast. Please call if you are coming and get details then. Joel and Kate Perlsh: (610) 789-7673.
Sat, Nov 9 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 20-40 • Class B <i>Weekends w Dan & Tom</i>	Come out for the slightly longer, weekend version of the Pre-work ride. Starting time is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Call Tom Sota at (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi at (610) 789-0187 for starting time, location and ride distance.
Sat, Nov 9 • 9:00 a.m. Miles: 45 • Class C <i>French Creek</i>	Meet at the Downingtown Super Fresh (Greene St., just off Business Rt. 30). An easy 10 mph pace with moderate hills. This is a joint ride with other clubs. Bring lunch and call if the weather is questionable. For more info call Fran at (610) 431-2675.
Sat, Nov 9 • 9:30 a.m. Miles: 45 • Class B <i>Valley Forge Park+</i>	Meet at Rose Tree Park on Rt. 252, just north of Rose Tree Rd. and Rt. 1, Media for a brisk ride to Valley Forge Park. Then, if the group wants, we can ride the bike path to Manayunk for lunch (bring money for lunch). For more details call Bob at (610) 833-2096.
Sun, Nov 10 • 9:30 a.m. Miles: 25-30 • Class C <i>Brandywine Creek</i>	Leave from the rear of the Wawa in Chadds Ford at Rt. 1 & 100 South. Enjoy this rolling and scenic ride along the Brandywine to Northbrook for a snack (bring money). Call Bob at (610) 833-2096 or Cassie at (610) 833-2365 for more information.
Sun, Nov 10 • 10:00 a.m. Miles: 56 • Class B- <i>Oaks</i>	Meet at the Delaware County Peace Center/Springfield Friends Meeting at 1001 Old Sproul Rd. Enjoy this somewhat hilly, faster-paced ride to Lower Perkiomen Park. Bring lunch. Cue sheets will be provided. For more info call Walt at (610) 543-2608.
Mon, Nov 11 • 12:30 p.m. Miles: 15-25 • Class B+ <i>November Daily Dose</i>	*** NOTE: This ride will be done each day in November, usually around lunchtime. Leave from Drexel Hill and take various local routes. The pace is about 15-16 mph for an hour to an hour and a half. A friendly fast ride. Call for time & location. Tom Sota: (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi: (610) 789-0187.
Mon, Nov 11 • 7:00 p.m. <i>DVBC Board Meeting</i>	DVBC Executive Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield Friends' Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Rd., Springfield.
Thu, Nov 14 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 5-30 • Class C <i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	Meet at Manhattan Bagel in the Manoa Shopping Center (W. Chester Pk. & Eagle Rd., Havertown). Most Thursdays enjoy an easy-paced ride to various restaurants for a pancake breakfast. Bring money for breakfast. Please call if you are coming and get details then. Joel and Kate Perlsh: (610) 789-7673.
Sat, Nov 16 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 20-40 • Class B <i>Weekends w Dan & Tom</i>	Come out for the slightly longer, weekend version of the Pre-work ride. Starting time is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Call Tom Sota at (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi at (610) 789-0187 for starting time, location and ride distance.
Sun, Nov 17 • ? Miles: 35-62 • Class B/C <i>Mexican Metric Rerun</i>	Two rides: one 35-miler, one 60-miler. Meet at Lower Perkiomen Park. Take Rt. 422 West to Oaks exit; turn right (onto Egypt Rd.). Turn right at the Park and go all the way back to lot on left. Bring lunch. Cue sheets provided for both rides. For more information call Walt at (610) 543-2608.

*Free 1996 membership for anyone leading 4 or more listed rides in 1995. Call Ira (610-565-4058) or Doug (610-543-4664) for details.

Sun, Nov 17 • 9:00 a.m. Miles: 25 • Class C <i>Gladwyne</i>	Meet at the Drexel Hill Cyclery at 703 Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill. Enjoy a hilly, but easy-paced ride to Gladwyne through some very scenic areas. Call Saturday night if you are coming. Frank Havnoonian: (610) 449-3305 (evenings) for more information.
Mon, Nov 18 • 12:30 p.m. Miles: 15-25 • Class B+ <i>November Daily Dose</i>	*** NOTE: This ride will be done each day in November, usually around lunchtime. Leave from Drexel Hill and take various local routes. The pace is about 15-16 mph for an hour to an hour and a half. A friendly fast ride. Call for time & location. Tom Sota: (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi: (610) 789-0187.
Tue, Nov 19 • 7-9:00 p.m. <i>Delco Cycling Committee</i>	Delaware County Cycling Committee Meeting, Helen Kate Furness Library, Providence Rd., Wallingford, PA. For more info call Ira at (610) 565-4058.
Thu, Nov 21 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 5-30 • Class C <i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	Meet at Manhattan Bagel in the Manoa Shopping Center (W. Chester Pk. & Eagle Rd., Havertown). Most Thursdays enjoy an easy-paced ride to various restaurants for a pancake breakfast. Bring money for breakfast. Please call if you are coming and get details then. Joel and Kate Perlsh: (610) 789-7673.
Sat, Nov 23 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 20-40 • Class B <i>Weekends w Dan & Tom</i>	Come out for the slightly longer, weekend version of the Pre-work ride. Starting time is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Call Tom Sota at (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi at (610) 789-0187 for starting time, location and ride distance.
Sun, Nov 24 • ? Miles: 20 • Class C <i>Ridley Creek St Park</i>	Meet at the Drexel Hill Cyclery at 703 Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill. Enjoy this leisurely ride to scenic Ridley Creek State Park & back. Expect a few hills. For the starting time, other information, or if the weather is questionable, call Bob Martin at (610) 352-2114.
Mon, Nov 25 • 12:30 p.m. Miles: 15-25 • Class B+ <i>November Daily Dose</i>	*** NOTE: This ride will be done each day in November, usually around lunchtime. Leave from Drexel Hill and take various local routes. The pace is about 15-16 mph for an hour to an hour and a half. A friendly fast ride. Call for time & location. Tom Sota: (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi: (610) 789-0187.
Thu, Nov 28 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 5-30 • Class C <i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	Meet at Manhattan Bagel in the Manoa Shopping Center (W. Chester Pk. & Eagle Rd., Havertown). Most Thursdays enjoy an easy-paced ride to various restaurants for a pancake breakfast. Bring money for breakfast. Please call if you are coming and get details then. Joel and Kate Perlsh: (610) 789-7673.
Sat, Nov 30 • 7:30 a.m. Miles: 20-40 • Class B <i>Weekends w Dan & Tom</i>	Come out for the slightly longer, weekend version of the Pre-work ride. Starting time is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Call Tom Sota at (610) 789-7248 or Dan Coraluzzi at (610) 789-0187 for starting time, location and ride distance.
Sun, Dec 1 • 10:00 a.m. Miles: 34 • Class B <i>Wintry Westtown</i>	Meet at the Moylan-Rose Valley train station (Manchester & Woodward Rds.) in Moylan. Enjoy the wintry scenery of western Delaware County. A short snack stop is included. For more information call Ira at (610) 565-4058.



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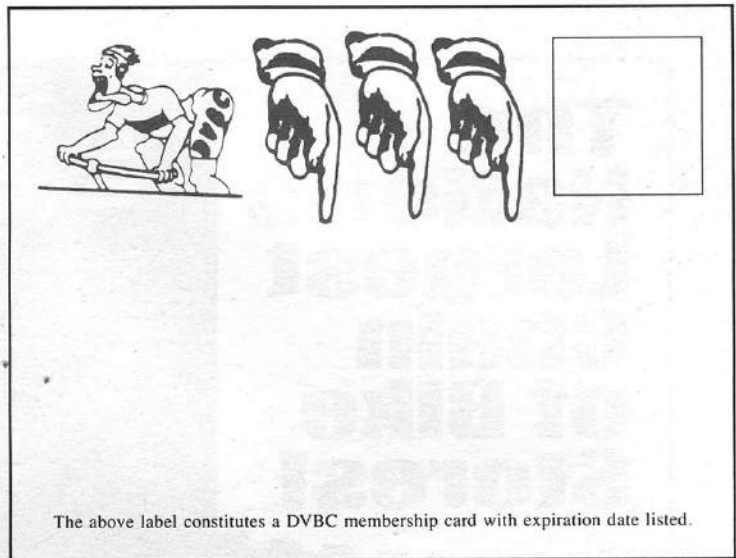


WINTER 1996 - 1997 HOLIDAY PARTY Come One Come All!

Because the Thanksgiving weekend is very late in November this year, the annual club dinner meeting will be held on December 9, the second Monday of the month at the Springfield PA Peace Center, 1001 Old Sproul Road. As in previous years, the club will provide a choice of 2 entrees. Members are asked to place reservations and to donate a side dish or salad or desert (enough to serve 8 to 10 persons) by calling Gina (610) 525-0129, by November 27.

Best wishes for happy holidays and safe bicycling through 1997! DVBC's general meetings resume March 3, 1997.

-- *Ernie*



FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Delaware Valley Bicycle Club (DVBC) is a non-profit corporation formed to educate the public as to the safe use of the bicycle through lectures, seminars, planned rides, and other activities promoting the bicycle as an efficient and enjoyable means of exercise, recreation, and transportation.

Non-members are welcome on rides, but are urged to consider their ability and experience when selecting a ride. (See Ride Guidelines.) All rides are subject to cancellation due to weather. If in doubt about the weather or level of difficulty of the ride, please call the ride leader. Though the use of safety equipment is strongly urged—and helmets are required on all rides—the club cannot accept responsibility for accidents or injury while participating in a DVBC event.

Application for DVBC Membership (Expires 1 year from date joined/renewed)

Please print clearly and use 9-digit Zipcode, if known.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Membership: _____ (per household) \$15.00

Membership includes: *DVBC Newsletter Magazine* (10 issues per year), discounts at most Club sponsors, Club subsidized events, and free *Bicycle Touring Newsletter* published quarterly (\$3 value). Your membership attracts advertisers and helps influence local government decisions concerning bicycle issues.

INTEREST SURVEY

I'll volunteer for:

Ride Pace

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class D: <i>slow</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ride Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Collator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class C: <i>average</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Sag Wagon Driver | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class B: <i>brisk</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tour Food Stop | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Co-editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class A: <i>fast</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-Road | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Typist | <input type="checkbox"/> Triathlon Editor |

Please send your check or money order to:

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 274
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

The DVBC Safety Foundation is established to promote bicycle safety in the Delaware Valley using posters, flyers, bumper stickers and rewards.

I wish to donate to the DVBC Safety Foundation:

☐ \$1 ☐ \$2 ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25

Membership to DVBC Subdivisions

You must join the main organization (left half of this form) in order to be able to join a DVBC subdivision.

☐ \$7.00 DVBC-Team Drexel Hill (Road Racing)
Drexel Hill Cyclery

☐ \$5.00 Team Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
Team Casual! (Road Racing)

_____ Total Amount Enclosed