

DELAWARE VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB

P.O. Box 156, Woodlyn, PA, 19094-0156

OCTOBER 2000

FREE

Record-setting Turnout for the Brandywine Tour

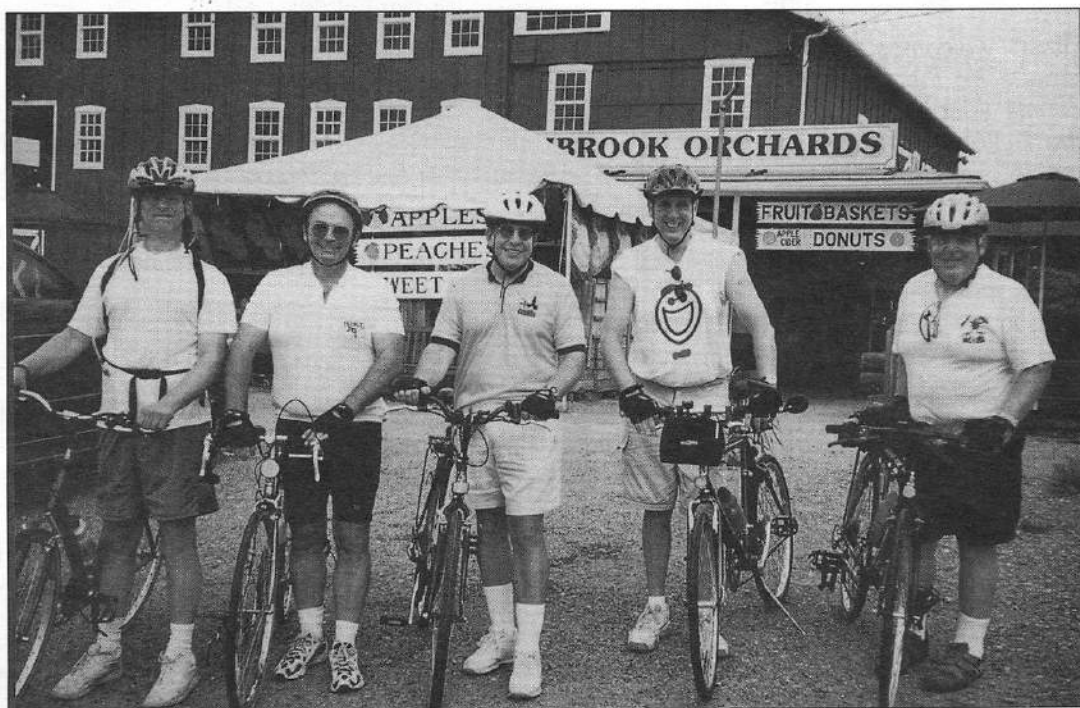
by Eric Valencia

The Brandywine Tour was a grand success! Nearly 500 riders rode despite it being a holiday week end and regardless of the threat of rain.

Speaking to many riders and club members yielded some insight into the success of this year's tour: 1) All of the volunteers who gave their time, planning, effort, and care. Oh, and a lot of sweating (Woody) and cursing (Charlie) as they waited for cups and more bread!! 2) The Brandywine Tour offers an absolutely beautiful course for a century (thanks to Gina and David, route coordinators extraordinaire!). How can we fail when the foundation of the tour is so strong? Of course, the newly paved roads around routes 842 and 100 helped! The outer 50 loop leading into Lancaster County, offering

undeveloped farmlands and Amish countryside, will again be revisited, by request, possibly next month as a ride out of Octoraro or Unionville (check for date and time in this newsletter). The beautiful and, let's not forget, challenging course leads to 3) Word of mouth. People loved the scenery, but they also loved the challenge. As is common with club tours, people talk about and attend this tour year after year. Inevitably, they bring more people with them. We are grateful for people like Ms. Martha and the other bicycle clubs who spread the word about our tour.

I conclude with a quote from one very fatigued but happy century rider, "It was nice seeing all those Amish buggies on



DVBC members and friends enjoying the 28-mile route with a stop at Northbrook Orchards are (from left) Dan Gold, Jim Tyrrell, Vince Buono, Mike Smith, and Hal Litt.

the road, you would wave and they would wave back. But that thrill was short-lived when all I could think of was, oh no, another hill!"

Thank you to all who made this tour the best yet: Volunteers: Bob and Cassie Leon, David Bennett, Tony Rocha, Ira Josephs, Jan Chadwick, Mike Toof, Woody Kotch, Charlie Stockley, Bill Freeborn, Len Zanetich, Walt Homan, Elwood Bussom, Fran DeMillion, and Gina Bezdziecki. Food Sponsors: Genuardi's Family Market of Glen Eagle Square, Produce Junction. Water: Northbrook Canoe Company. Property use: Bernie and Claudette Langer, Chadds Ford Elementary School.

See you next year!

Brandywine Tour 2000

by Gina Bezdziecki

Although some spotty, pop-up showers were forecast, it did not deter approximately 500 riders who attended our 24th annual Brandywine Tour on Sunday, September 3rd, making it one of the largest turnouts in the history of this tour. Those spotty showers must've popped up elsewhere, because our tour routes remained dry. Most of the precipitation came from the dripping sweat of the riders due to the hot, humid day we experienced. Remembering other years, I was just glad we didn't have to deal with any hurricanes or strong head winds.

(cont. on p. 3)

The Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. BOX 156
Woodlyn, PA 19094-0156
<http://www.dvbc.org>

DVBC Meeting Place

Delaware County Peace Center,
 Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001
 Old Sproul Road (behind the car
 wash at Rt. 320 and Old Marple
 Road). Meetings are usually held
 the first Monday of most months.

*DVBC welcomes articles and ride
 reports for the newsletter. Please
 submit your proofread materials to
 the Editor before the 15th of each
 month.*

Board of Directors & Staff

Ira Josephs, *President & Newsletter Coeditor*,
 610.565.4058 or ira@dvbc.org

Tony Rocha, *Vice President & Web Page*
 610.416.0514 or tony@craftech.com

Bob Leon, *Treasurer*, 610.833.2096 or
cbleon@bellatlantic.net

David Bennett, *Secretary*, 610.626.1344
queenofsheba@craftech.com

Judy LaDrew, *Newsletter Assembly &
 Coeditor*, 610.383.9327 or
2ladrews@netreach.net

Dave Trout, *Ride Coordinator*, 610.368.0760
 or davet@dvbc.org

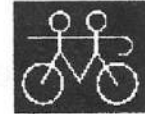
Jan Chadwick, *Mail Labels & Brochures*,
 610.541.0784 or chadwick@craftech.com

Bob LaDrew, *Regional Events*,
 610.383.9327 or 2ladrews@netreach.net

Club Affiliations



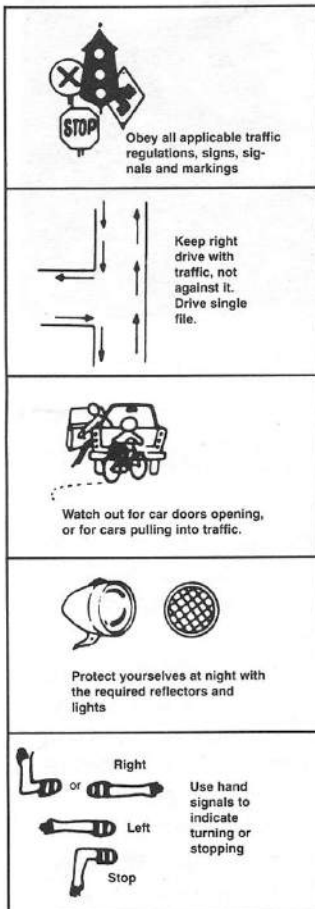
LAB



*Bicycle Coalition of the
 Delaware Valley*

*Please note that the views
 expressed in this publication are
 not necessarily the views of the
 DVBC, nor do we endorse
 products or services advertised.*

Ride Guidelines



1. Arrive early and *be ready to leave on time*. Rides start no more than 5-7 minutes late.
2. Make sure your bike is in proper working order *before* you arrive.
3. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, and water bottle.
4. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
5. A helmet is mandatory for all DVBC rides.
6. All Club rides are rated according to the degree of difficulty. Do not "bike off" more than you can do. Go on rides within your ability, interest and experience. If you're in doubt about your ability, try out a ride one class below the one you're not sure of and work your way up.
7. Ride classifications:
Class D: For new, inexperienced riders or families: 7-9 mph average moving speed with frequent stops and as few hills as possible. The group will wait for all riders. The ride lengths are usually less than 10 miles, but longer distances are permissible.
Class C-: For average riders: 10-11 mph average moving speed with rest stops as needed. The group will wait for stragglers. The recommended distance is 10-30 miles.
Class C+: Also for average riders: 12-13 mph average moving speed with rest stops every 45-60 minutes. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
Class B-: For more experienced riders: 14-15 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
Class B+: For strong riders: 16-18 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
Class A: For very strong riders: 19+ mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
8. Each rider assumes his/her own risk on all 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. The general public is invited to all events organized by the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club. Except for the Freedom Tour, Brandywine Tour and Club picnic, all club events are free to the general public. The general public is welcome!



Above: First time Brandywine Tour participants on the 28-mile route are Sherry, Peter, and Clair Zajackowski from Media, PA.



Above: Representing three generations of the Schreiner family are (from left) William, Matt, and Bill. They are enjoying our Brandywine Tour for the 1st time.

(Brandywine Tour, cont. from p. 1)

Congratulations to all those who enjoyed and completed their respective rolling to hilly routes. I had the pleasure of sagging on the 28-mile route most of the day, allowing me to experience the joy and determination of those cyclists who spent much of the past summer getting in shape to do this ride, many of them parents with their young children. I even carried extra water and cookies to offer the riders, especially the youngsters, hoping it would give them more energy on the hills before their main food stop. Some of the riders on the 28-mile route were fortunate enough to witness a huge multi-colored hot air balloon coming down out of the sky to land in a field off of Lenape-Unionville Rd. Wow!

Later in the day, I sagged the second half of the 50-mile route, which was also the final quarter for the 100 milers. The riders looked hot and tired, but just as determined to finish regardless of a few more hills ahead of them. Will they accept the challenge again next year?

In addition to the numerous thank yous already mentioned in Eric's article, I want to reiterate a special thank you to Elwood Bussom for single-handedly cutting the tall grass at the Embreeville Food Stop!

We hope everyone enjoyed the day or at least made the best of it. Keep riding!

Monday, Oct. 2

7:30-9:00 p.m.

DVBC Membership Meeting

Speaker: Joel Perlsh,
about his bike trip in Alaska.

See the ride calendar for more info.

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Light of the Moving Bikes, by Dominick Zuppo

The night was cold, dark and foreboding as he approached the rendezvous point. The wall of the prison ascended before him, monolithic, impenetrable. The black steed by his side seemed insignificant in comparison. A shadowy figure approached, his hand outstretched. "You got the money?" "Yes," he replied. "How much?" "Twenty bucks," said the silhouette, "and don't forget to sign the release form."

Welcome, to the LIGHT OF THE MOVING BIKES (cue up spooky music here).

Actually, the evening of Friday, September 8th, turned out to be perfect weather-wise for the Bicycle Coalition of the Delaware Valley's fifth annual "Light of the Moving Bikes Guided Architectural Bike Tour." It was still light when I arrived at the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. There was plenty of parking, both on the street and in an adjacent parking lot. Registration took place at the main gatehouse, and participants were free to enter the penitentiary's museum while they waited for the tour to begin.

I struck up a conversation with Debra and Doug, a local couple from Lansdale, with whom I would ride most of the night. As we talked about our bikes and how we enjoyed riding them, a sea of bicycling humanity approached the starting point. They were participants from the 11th International ProBike/ProWalk Conference, held this year at Philadelphia's Loews Hotel. Our numbers grew, and as we headed down Fairmount Avenue to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, I estimated that between 100 to 150 cyclists participated in the evening's event.

The tour traveled at a leisurely pace, while a team of bicycle messengers, pedals flying and radios crackling, provided guidance and traffic control. On the West River Drive we passed the Fairmount Waterworks and Boathouse Row, where the setting sun cast a muted shade of pink onto the flowing waters of the Schuylkill River. Of course, our destination, Fairmount Park, was higher in elevation than the river, so what awaited our riders and their cold leg muscles? You guessed it, our first and only major hill! Thankfully, with a little determination and lots of laughter, we arrived at our first stop, Memorial Hall.

Our tour guide for the evening was the executive director of the Bike Coalition, Sue McNamara. With a mobile PA system strapped to the rear rack of her balloon-tired bike, Sue explained that Memorial Hall was the former home of the Pennsylvania Art Museum, predecessor to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. We also stopped at Cedar Grove and the Sweetbriar Mansion before leaving the park via a wicked downhill descent on Concourse Drive. Next stop, the Philadelphia Zoo and the Girard Bridge.

Having again crossed the Schuylkill River, we traveled over Sedgley, Popular, Fairmount and Green to North Broad Street. Directly in front of the tour rose the Congregation Rodeph Shalom Synagogue, a magnificent structure ablaze in dazzling white light. According to the congregation's website, Rodeph Shalom is the sanctuary of the oldest Ashkenazicly organized congregation in the Western Hemisphere.

After turning right at Broad Street we made a quick left onto Spring Garden. I should mention that by this time our tour

had caught the attention of the Philadelphia Police Department, who dispatched members of their bicycle patrol to assist the group. Way cool! We traversed the Vine Street Expressway and made our way to 10th and Arch, home of Chinatown and the Friendship Gate. Restaurateurs and their guests lined the sides of the street as we passed under the internationally known landmark. (Personally, I wish Chinatown had been the site of our rest stop. Just one spring roll, please!) We continued to the Lit Brothers building at 7th and Market Streets, which Ms. McNamara described as the only complete block of Victorian commercial architecture in the city.

Traveling east on Market Street, we passed the Liberty Bell (where cyclists rang their own) and the historical district. Finally, we arrived at South Street, much to the surprise and chagrin of some motorists. Our destination... the South Street Pedestrian Bridge and our snack stop!

Bananas and other fruits, wonderful breads like olive loaf from the Le Bus Bakery, as well as that hometown favorite, Tastykakes, were distributed to the masses. During our respite, I met an urban planner from Saskatchewan, Canada and an environmental activist from Chicago. We were also provided a demonstration of the beguiling Brompton, a bicycle that folds into a compact shape barely larger than its 16-inch wheels (you can visit their website at www.bromptonbike.com).

Rested and fed, we rode to South Philadelphia and the Spark's Shot Tower, used in the 1800's to make lead gun shot. According to our tour sheet, the United States Light-

(Cont. on p.9)



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by joel perlish

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DELAWARE VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB



RIDE CALENDAR October 2000



Recurring Weekday Rides

Weekdays, All month, 7:30 a.m. - Weekday Ramble
Miles: 10-20 Class: C

Just about every weekday (Thursday is the Break-fast Ride, see below), weather permitting, we meet for an easy-paced ride. We leave from our Havertown home in the Oakmont Section. Please call the night before to confirm departing place and time. Contact Joel at 610-789-7673 or joelperish@aol.com

Thursdays, All Month, 7:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - Miles: 10-25 Class: C

7:30 a.m. on each Thursday leaving from our Havertown home in the Oakmont section. Weather permitting. This is an easy-paced ride of 10-15 miles with a pancake place in between. Please don't forget money and a helmet. We're generally back to start by 9:45 a.m. Please call the night before, to confirm departing place and time. Contact Joel at 610-789-7673 or joelperish@aol.com

Tuesdays and Thursdays, All Month, Evening - NightRiders - Miles: 10-20 Class: C

We spin around Southern DelCo well into the dark. Bike lights front and rear are a must. You must call or e-mail to confirm the start time and location. Most rides start around 6:00 p.m. Contact Dave at 610-368-0760 or davet@dvbc.org

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Sunday, Oct. 1, 8:30 a.m. - Kountry Kitchen - Miles: 35+/- Class: C

Meet at the Kingsway High School on routes 322 & 551 in NJ. Call Bob at 610-833-2365 (Note new phone number).

Sunday, October 1, 8:30 a.m. - Westtown & Beyond

Miles: 60 Class: B/B+

Meet at the Moylan-Rose Valley train station, Woodward and Manchester Roads in Rose Valley to ride some of DVBC's classic scenic hills and creek valleys. We will pass the Ridley, Chester and Brandywine taking us through Delaware and Chester Counties, West Chester and Delaware. Bring money and/or food for rest stop. Contact Ira at 610-565-4058 or ira@dvbc.org.

Monday, October 2, 7:30-9:00 p.m. - General Membership Meeting

Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield Friends' Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Rd. in Springfield. DVBC member Joel Perlish will do a presentation on his recent bike trip in Alaska. The meeting is open to all club members. Contact Dave Trout 610-368-0760 or davet@dvbc.org.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 8:00 a.m., - Brandywine Outer 50 - Miles: 50+/- Class B

Meet at the Octorara High School. If you never had the chance to ride our beautiful outer 50, now is the time. Call Bob for directions at 610-833-2365 (Note new phone number).

Sunday, Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m. - Manayunk - Miles: 25+/- Class: C+

Meet me at the Valley Forge trailhead for a ride down the Schuylkill trail to Manayunk. Bring or buy lunch at one of the many restaurants along Main Street. Call Bob at 610-833-2365.

Sunday, Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m. - Art Museum - Miles: 50+ Class: B

Meet me at Rose Tree Park on rte 252 just north of rte 1 in Media for a ride to the Art Museum. We'll stop in Manayunk for fuel. Bring money for food and drinks. Expect a fast pace and a few hills. Contact Tony Rocha at 610-416-0514 or tony@craftech.com to confirm the ride.

Monday, October 9, 7:00 p.m. - DVBC Board Meeting

Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield Friends' Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Road, in Springfield. The meeting is open to all club members. Contact Dave Trout at 610-368-0760 or davet@dvbc.org.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 6:45 a.m. - Ocean City, New Jersey - Miles: 126+/- Class: B

Meet at the Kingsway High School on routes 322 & 551 in NJ. This may be our last trip to the shore for 2000. Call Bob 610-833-2365.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00 a.m. - Ridley to Ridley - Miles: 35+/- Class: C

We'll meet at the Ridley Park Train Station (southbound side) for a ride through Delaware County to and through Ridley Creek State and back. Bring money for lunch or a snack. Contact Dave at 610-368-0760 or davet@dvbc.org.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 8:30 a.m. – Northbrook Orchards**Miles: 28 +/- Class: C+**

Meet at the Chadds Ford Elementary School, ¼ mile south of route 100 in Chadds Ford along route 1. We'll stop at the Orchard if it is open before meandering back to the start. Call Bob 610-833-2365.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 7:30 a.m. – Jersey Ramble Run**Miles: 60 +/- Class: B**

Meet at the Kingsway High School on routes 322 & 551 in NJ. We'll ride to the Kountry Kitchen for breakfast then head out to unknown roads heading in all points of the compass. The route is unknown at this time, but we may leave it up to you and the weather. Call Bob 610-833-2365

Sunday, Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m. – Fort Mott –**Miles: 48 +/- Class: C**

Meet at the Kingsway High School on routes 322 & 551 in NJ. We'll ride into Salem, pick up some food, eat at the Riverside Park and roll over to Fort Mott if the weather is good. Call Bob at 610-833-2365

Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:30 a.m. – Joint Ride: DVBC & Shore Cycle Club**Miles: 48 (C pace) or 65 (B pace)**

8 a.m. for breakfast at Salem Oak Diner (rte 49, Salem, NJ). Ride starts at 8:30. Two flat, mostly concurrent, rides with cue sheets. 65 mi @ 15-17mph or 48 mi @ 12-14 mph. Both groups will lunch together. Bring money for food. Bob Leon (610-833-2365) or Bob LaDrew (610-383-9327, 2ladrews@netreach.net).

Sunday, Oct. 29, 8:30 a.m. – Ridley Creek State**Park – Miles: 30 +/- Class: C**

Meet behind the Dunkin' Donuts on MacDade Blvd & Fairview Roads. Expect some hills as we ride through Swarthmore, Media, Ridley Creek State Park and beyond. Call Bob 610-833-2365.

W.W.W. (Woody's Wheel Wise), by Woody Kotch

After a quarter century of riding, I've figured some things out and my mom taught me to share.

Contents of the little bag under my bike seat:

1. A good spare tube. Don't assume that a new out-of-the-box tube is good. Try inflating it before you put it in. Make sure the valve stem is long enough for your rim.
2. Tire levers. You need two. I like the ones by Specialized.
3. Patch kit. The glue will dry out eventually after the first use. You can prolong its life by squeezing out the air before closing tightly, but it will dry out, so check it frequently.
4. Spoke wrench. If you break a spoke or bend a rim you can make a temporary adjustment that will help get you home. Get the right size for your spokes.
5. Tire boot. This is a temporary patch for a torn tire casing. You place it between the tear and the tube. You can buy self-adhesive ones or improvise by cutting one from an old tire or other suitable material.
6. Tools. This depends on your bike. Allen wrenches to fit all your Allen bolts is a minimum. Many mini tool kits are available by various manufactures.
7. Emergency food. Power bar, etc.
8. Ibuprofen, Tums, Sunscreen.
9. Emergency money. Change for a phone call and dollars for food.
10. Medical emergency information card. Name, address, phone #, emergency contact, & any known medical problems.

Welcome New Members!

Rich Ciurlino, Fran Clayton, Ted Danforth
Jim & Marilyn Cunningham, Trevor Jones



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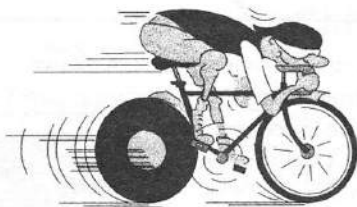
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Bike Dirt

By F.X. Pedrix

I was in the couch potato mode recently after my third century ride in as many weekends (I love September) which included our club's wonderful Brandywine Tour. My lovely wife Babs rode the fifty-mile ride this year, the first time she has ridden a club-supported ride. Her comments were: "It's too hilly," and "Why can't you have better food on the ride, like pizza or hoagies?" You just can't please everyone I guess. The ride was a tremendous success, with a record-breaking turnout and glorious weather. Credit has to go to the tour coordinator (who I understand is still running all over Chester County) and his crew for a well-run ride (they get no credit for the weather). Way to go guys.

I was shocked to learn that our long-time club President, Ira Josephs, resigned from the Presidency supposedly from his day job pressures. Rumor has it that he took a full-time

sales job with one of the nation's largest food additive manufacturers and just doesn't have time to properly perform his presidential duties. I also heard that he personally came up with his company's latest sales slogan – "MSG – We flavor the world." In all seriousness, Ira was instrumental in making the club what it is today, and I'm sure he will continue to contribute to the future of the club. Thanks for the many years of hard work, Ira.

That brings me to the intense campaign for the club President position. The vacancy has touched off a vicious fight among the remaining board members and other qualified persons for the position. The biggest problem is that the fighting sounds like this: "How 'bout if you take the presidency?" "No way, I don't want it. Let's volunteer [insert name] for the job." [Name] says, "I'm too

busy, how about we elect [another name]". . . and so on.

Hatfield and McCoy Department: I would like to nominate two of our regular list serve contributors for the List Serve Pugilism Award for carrying a feud on the club list serve for almost a year now. Let's see if we can make it last for two years guys.

Babs is always complaining about wanting something. "I wish I had her legs instead of mine" or "I hate this hair, I wish I had hair like. . ." etc, etc, etc. I guess it's normal to want to be like somebody else. One of our members took that to an extreme last month when she advertised on the list serve wanting somebody to be her for a day. The funny part is, I think someone took her up on it. I wonder where Babs is?

If you have any good Bike Dirt, club news, gossip, jokes, quotes, comments or any other info, e-mail me at fxpedrix@juno.com.



At the Embreeville food stop are (from left) Rick Steele, Joe DiJulio, and Cassy Byrne who is a professional racer for Exide Batteries.



With most of the hills now behind them, these tandem riders are on the home stretch.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Oct. 7: Belleplain Fall Century. Woodbine, NJ, 30, 65, 100 mi. \$20 Shore Cycle Club, PO Box 492, Northfield, NJ 08225. <sundeck@sprynet.com> or 609-296-4726.

Oct. 7: Carroll County (MD) Criss Cross, 62 or 100 mi. New event from Baltimore Bicycle Club, starts from Taneytown Memorial Park, Taneytown, MD. \$12 day of event reg. Mark Serio, 410-628-0233. Mark_bike@msn.com

Oct. 7-8: Twin Centuries. Newark, DE to Dewey Beach. White Clay Bicycle Club, Jim Montgomery, 108 Meridan Dr., Newark, DE 19711; 302-731-5371. <wcbc@delanet.com> www.delanet.com/~wcbc/twincenuries.html

Oct. 8: Covered Bridges Ride. Erwinna, PA. 20-63 mi. Central and Upper Bucks County. Up to 8 historic covered bridges. \$20 reg., no shirt. Central Bucks Bicycle Club, PO Box 1648, Doylestown, PA 18901. Wayne Siefert. 215-579-9393. <coveredbridges@att.net> www.cbbikeclub.org

Oct. 8: Pumpkin Patch Pedal. Thompson Park, Jamesburg, NJ. SIBA www.sibike.org/

Oct. 14: Seagull Century. Advance registration required.

Oct. 14: Fall Foliage Fun Ride, sponsored by Pocono Family YMCA, Stroudsburg, PA. 15 or 30 mi. on hilly terrain. See the colorful fall foliage of scenic Cherry Valley in the Poconos. \$10. Chuck Motson, Pocono Family YMCA, 809 Main St, Stroudsburg, PA 18360; 570-421-2525. E-mail: Scott Ewing <onyx01@epix.net>.

Oct. 21: Savage Century. White Clay B.C., Newark, DE. 7 a.m., Hollingsworth Parking Lot, Univ. of Delaware. \$18 if not pre-registered. 40-100 mi. Scenic but demanding. PA Dutch & Amish farmlands along Susquehanna River, thru Chester and Lancaster Counties. White Clay Bicycle Club, Mary Becker, 106 Mill Top Dr, Kennett Square, PA 19348; 610-925-0757. <wcbc@delanet.com> www.delanet.com/~wcbc.

Oct. 22: Tour du Port, Baltimore, MD. Join 2500 riders on this 12 or 22-mi. city ride. Lunch and live music. \$22 pre-registration by 10/9 includes T-shirt; \$26 after, no shirt. Family and children's rate available. Tour du Port, 11690 Reisterstown Road, PMB 905,

Reisterstown, MD 21136; 410-654-1011. www.tourduport.com.



With most of the hills behind, Jeff is on the home stretch.

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(Light of..., cont. from p. 4)

house Board followed the tower's design to build early lighthouses. As we headed back to Eastern State we rode through the Italian Market, where some hearty souls struck up an impromptu version of the Rocky theme.

With the sun long set and our headlight batteries fading, we returned "home" to the penitentiary. Potholes, plumber's ditches, and a few honking motorists aside, the Light of the Moving Bikes was an enjoyable, easy-paced evening tour of the City of Philadelphia. I would highly recommend the Bicycle Coalition's architectural bike tour as a unique way to spend a night on the town.

Remembering Nicole Rinehart

by Chris Martha

The recent tragic death of Saturn racer Nicole Rinehart has greatly saddened me. I briefly met her at the bike shop across from the Velodrome about four years ago, and ever since, I had followed her rising stardom in the cycling press. Nicole was a great champion who would have won the greatest races in the sport. I'll never forget her, and I feel so lucky that I was able to have a few moments of small talk with her. She bounded into the bike shop, wearing her EDS uniform. She was such a cheerful girl, just barely beyond her teens, all smiles and sunshine. The Saturn U. S. Pro Tour that Nicole had been leading until her fatal accident has published a formal eulogy on the web at <http://www.usprocyclingtour.com/>.

Northbrook Orchards... Still a Great Break

by Woody Kotch

Last New Year's Eve I rode out to Northbrook. I didn't know if it was still open. There were no cars in the parking lot and I almost just rode by, but the black and white cat was there near the door, so I rode up. A hand written sign on the door said that today was the last day of the season and they would close at 4:00 p.m. It was 2:00 p.m. so I hurried in. The shelves were nearly empty. No cider. The blank expression on the face of the one lady inside now speaks volumes on endings.

I bought a bagel and sat outside at a table in the sun. It felt good. An old man drove up and shuffled by me to the door, nodding that male silent salutation. He returned with two pies. I wonder if he knew.

The cat joined me for the bagel, water, and power bar. Did you know that the black patches are warmer than the white patches on the back of a cat in the sun? The lady came out to smoke. I had to get going. I wished her a happy New Year and she returned the sentiment. I thought it was cool that I was one on their last customers for the season.

It seemed cool until I read on the DVBC list server that the orchards had been sold, that a developer would be building homes over the fields and the store may close. End of the year, end of the cider, end of open space, end of a great ride destination. Major bummer.

In preparation for the Source of the Delaware ride I needed some hill work. I hadn't been out to Northbrook this season, so I rolled out the purple Klein

and headed out for a sixty something. I didn't know if anything had come to pass. As far as I could see the store was unchanged, the fields were green, and the sun was bright. I was a happy guy. Got my banana, bottled water, and bagel.

I felt good so I headed out west for more miles and hills. I had only covered some 200 yards when a young lady (that's under 50 in my cosmos) walking her mountain bike came into sight. Flat rear tire, nice smile, this is a truly good ride. She asked if there was a bike shop nearby, right. I flipped my Superman Cape over my shoulder and asked if she wanted me to fix it. The smile returned and we walked back to the orchards for some shade. I fixed the flat. We exchanged life stories and rode off in... in different directions. I headed for the hills. She headed home.

Soooo... get out there. Fight for open space. Help a stranger or just talk to one and feel good about it. Northbrook is still beautiful, but the clock is ticking.

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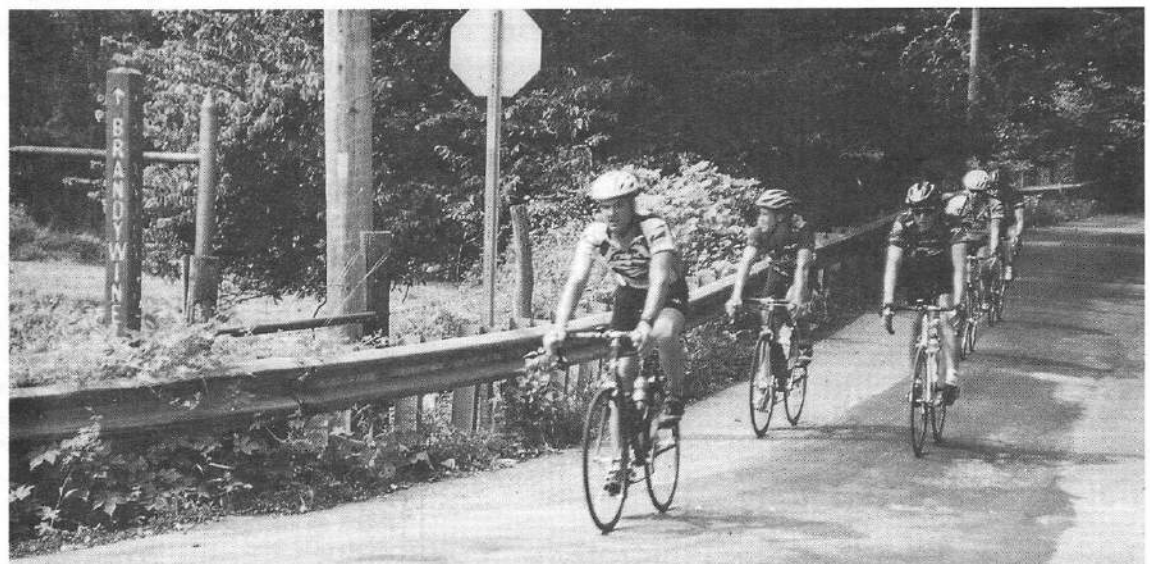
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Friends doing the 100-mile route and representing the White Clay Bicycle Club are (from left) Doug Kennedy, Debbie Wilson, Caroline and Frank Warnock.



At our 50/100-mile route food stop in Springdell are some SCU members (from left): Brian Callahan, Ron Schmidt, Brian Wynne, Jim Carney, Bob Gottlieb, and Larry Herman.

With most of the hills now behind them, these riders are on the home stretch of the 50- and 100-mile routes.



Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 156
Woodlyn, PA 19094-0156



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 the "Ride Guidelines" on the inside cover). Helmets are mandatory for all rides. The club cannot accept responsibility for accidents or injury when participating in a DVBC event.

Application for DVBC Membership

(Expires 1 year from date joined/renewed)

Please print clearly and use your 9-digit zip code, if known.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Membership: \$15.00 per household.

Check one: ☐ new member or ☐ renewal

Membership includes: DVBC Newsletter (10 issues per year), discounts at most Club sponsors, Club subsidized events. Your membership attracts advertisers and helps influence local government decisions concerning bicycle issues.

The DVBC Safety Fund is used to promote issues regarding cycling safety in the Delaware Valley. I wish to contribute:

☐ \$1 ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ other: _____

Amount enclosed: \$15 (membership) + _____ (safety) = _____

Please send your check or money order to the:

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 156
Woodlyn, PA 19094-0156



Interest Survey

Your Ride Pace:
(check one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class D: <i>slow</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Class A: <i>fast</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class C: <i>average</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Off-Road |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class B: <i>brisk</i> | |

I'll volunteer for:
(check all interests)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ride Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sag Wagon | <input type="checkbox"/> Typist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour Food Stop | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |