

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club



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

MAY 2003

Hooray for Harry Havnoonian!

by David Bennett

Six members of DVBC were treated to a fascinating demonstration of Harry Havnoonian's frame building system in his workshop at Cycle Sport at Five Points in Media on April 14th. He took us through all the steps of making a bicycle. The process goes something like this:

The first step is an interview with the customer that includes the type of riding for which the bike is intended. Whether it is racing, sport touring, mountain biking, touring, BMXing (yes, he makes titanium BMXs) or plain old "Fred" riding, careful measurements are taken and a detailed blueprint is made with all the specific measurements. He offers a complete menu of materials, depending on the budget, of aluminum, steel, carbon fiber and titanium. There is choice of straight tubing, double butted tubing, ovalized and teardrop tubing, with a choice of joining including traditional lugged/braided joints, bonding (least expensive), fillet braising, and the current industry standard of tig welded joints. We were shown all the machining steps on some beautiful vintage lathes and sawing and drilling machines. The climax of the tour was a demonstration of the tedious art of tig welding. I've never seen such beautiful smooth and clean welds. Those of us who've been around and seen his presentations in the past were bowled over by the growth of his knowledge of the technology as well as the growth of his manufacturing from one custom bike at a time to his current plan to supply

Jan Chadwick goes to Washington; vice-president Brian Wade set to take the helm

Jan Chadwick, DVBC president for the past 30 months, is leaving the Delaware Valley to pursue a life-long dream. No, she is not going to ride the Tour de France. Jan has been accepted at D C's George Washington University to study for a PhD. in public policy, with an emphasis on race and ethnicity. Jan expects her degree pursuit to take three to five years. Although she will remain in the Delaware Valley and help the club until late summer, Chadwick's resignation is effective immediately.

Brian Wade, club co-Rookie of the Year in 2001, has moved up the ladder from his vice-presidency. Brian claims not to be intimidated by the position because he plans on placing major emphasis on delegating responsibilities.

Chadwick's announcement accompanies other changes regarding the makeup of the club's Board. Judy production bikes for sale in other shops.

For those of you who don't know, Harry and his brother Frank were founding members of the DVBC. We used to have him at our meetings about once a year.

I hope we can continue this practice in the future. Interested folks can visit the website for more info: www.hhracinggroup.com. I would like to add that he is able to make any and all repairs to damaged bikes. In the past he has been the designated expert for such brands as Raleigh and Vitus. Finally, I should mention that Harry has a reputation as the best bike painter in the area. He can also send frames out for powder coating.

LaDrew will no longer be active on the Board but will continue as Newsletter Assembly Editor. Dave Trout has been approved by the Board to fill her position. In addition, he will assume the role of Director of Publicity.

According to club by-laws, the outgoing president becomes a defacto Board member by virtue of her status as past president. This, in turn, bumps former past president Ira Josephs from that role. Although geographically distant, Chadwick will be available for consultation via phone and e-mail.

Looking back over her DVBC presidency, Jan is pleased that, "We made administrative adjustments that were necessary, and we now have club jerseys!" She intends to quickly connect with a club in the DC area "...because bike clubs know all the best roads to ride." Look for Jan's farewell president's column in the June issue.

BONKERS METRIC



Sunday,
May 18

Ridley Creek State Park
Picnic area #15
Media, PA
(See Page 4 for flyer)

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 Rte. 320 and Old Marple
Road).



DVBC welcomes articles and ride reports for the newsletter. Please submit your proofread materials to the Editor before the 12th of each month.

Board of Directors & Staff

Brian Wade, *President*, 610.254.9485 or
bwadedvbc@aol.com

Bob Leon, *Treasurer*, 610.833.2365 or
bleon@craftech.com

David Bennett, *Secretary & Advocacy Coordinator*,
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<tony@craftech.com>

Dominick Zuppo, *Mail Labels*, 610.544.8630 or
<domzuppo@att.ne>

Drew Knox, *Brandywine Tour Coordinator*,
<Drew.Knox@Bentley.com>

Doug Bower, *Board member* <dkbower@craftech.com>

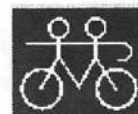
Jan Chadwick, *Past president* jc@dvbc.org

Dave Trout, *Director of Publicity*, <dmtrout@usa.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

Obey all applicable traffic regulations, signs, signals and markings.

Keep right. Drive with traffic, not against it. Ride single file.

Watch out for car doors opening, or for cars pulling into traffic.

Protect yourself at night with the required reflectors and lights.

Use hand signals to indicate stopping or turning.

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: 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.
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 Bonkers Metric, Brandywine Tour, Club banquet and Bonkers picnic, all club events are free to the general public. The general public is welcome!

Elsewhere....

Active DVBC member **Richard White** moved to **Spain** in the fall to pursue his art career. But that does not mean he has stopped riding. Recently, Ricardo e-mailed Stateside to say, "Over here I joined the local racing team and went out 95 miles into the mountains with them. They seem like a good group. However they are mostly from the southern part of Spain and they have accents so strong that I can hardly understand them. There is a race this Sunday but I don't think I will have my license in time."

A flier that came into our possession advertises a free **time trial** every Saturday morning, April 19 to September 13, on Philly's **West River Drive**. Billed as "the oldest continuous cycling event" in the city, it offers rides of 8.35 and 4.7 miles. Take the Art Museum exit and be ready for a 7 am start.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at the late June Atlantic City finish of the **Race Across America**, check

out www.raceacrossamerica.org.

Formerly known as First Union, the **Wachovia Cycling Series** (June 3-8) needs volunteer help to fill jobs as marshals, in security, etc. A contingent of DVBC members helped last year and say they had a blast. Volunteer forms are posted online at www.wachoviacycling.com or contact Chris Spaeth directly at cspaeth@thresholdsports.com. Or, phone 610-676-0390, X-113.

The year 2003 will mark the 47th consecutive year the **League of American Bicyclists** has declared May to be National Bike Month. The League is promoting Bike-to-Work Week from May 12 - 16 and **Bike-to-Work Day** on Friday, May 16.

Quotable: "Right now my (riding) level is 'E,' which stands for 'E's been sitting on the couch all winter. I do, however, try to pass through the room containing the bike and trainer at least once a day."—Jim Nicholson, vice-president, **Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey**.

New Members!

Mary McMichael
Jennifer Kraut



Velodrome Release:

"My name is Jacob Burns and I am the Marketing Director for the Lehigh Valley Velodrome in Trexlertown. My father, Jack Burns, gave me your information and mentioned that you are a member of a cycling club. If you are interested I would like to offer you and your club one night FREE here at the Velodrome for professional racing and a couple more nights at a discounted rate. If you or someone else in your club might be interested let me know and we can work out the details. We also offer special day clinics where club members can come and be coached on general cycling and velodrome cycling techniques. I hope this is of some interest for you and I look forward to hearing from you soon."

HH News:
Andy Lackintosh Silver Jr. Worlds
Steve Lehman Gold Master, Worlds

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801 N. Providence Road "Five Points" Media, PA 19063
Tel: 610-565-9535 Fax: 610-565-6033 E-Mail: cyclesport@verizon.net Web Site: HHRacingGroup.com



BONKERS METRIC

Sunday, May 18, 2003
65, 50, 35 and 18-mile routes



Time: 8-9 a.m. for 64 & 50 milers; 9-10 a.m. for 35 & 18 milers

Place: Ridley Creek State Park, Media, PA; Picnic area #15

Cost: \$12 pre-registration (if postmarked by May 11, 2003). \$17 day of the ride. **Ride will be held rain or shine.**

Services Provided by DVBC: Food & water stops, cue sheets, sag wagon, rest rooms, marked routes.

Routes: Scenic backcountry roads through the remaining open space of Delaware and Chester Counties. Most roads are lightly traveled with rolling hills and some large hills. All routes include a food stop.

Description: You travel at your own pace, with family or friends, or make new cycling friends along the way. All ages, all abilities, and all types of bikes are welcome.

Safety: *Helmets are mandatory!* Make sure your bike is in good condition; use safe cycling habits; obey all traffic laws. We recommend carrying a spare tube/patch kit, tire pump and tire irons. Each rider assumes his/her own responsibility.

Information: Call Jan Chadwick at 610-541-0784 or e-mail jc@dvbc.org



Cut off here and return the form below

BONKERS METRIC, May 18, 2003, Pre-Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Age: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Intended ride distance (please check one): ☐ 18 miles ☐ 35 miles ☐ 50 miles ☐ 64 miles

Waiver/Release: _____

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry into the above event, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in the said event. This release is intended to discharge in advance the promoters, the sponsors, the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, the promoting clubs, the officials, and any involved municipalities or other public entities and their respective agents and employees from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in said event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons mentioned above.

I further understand that serious accidents occasionally occur during bicycle riding; and that participants in bicycle riding occasionally sustain mortal or serious personal injuries, and/or property damage, as a consequence thereof. Knowing the risks of bicycle riding, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release, and assumption of risk is to be binding to my heirs and assigns.

Signature: _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

(If you are under 18 years of age.)

Please send this signed form by **May 11** with a check or money order made out to **DVBC** to:

Bonkers Metric, Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, PO Box 156, Woodlyn, PA 19094-0156.



DVBC Ride Calendar



MAY 2003

*****Recurring Weekday Rides*****

Tuesdays 10:00 am Miles:28+ Class:B/B- Escape from Work	Meet 320 Produce, 733 S. Chester Rd. Swarthmore as I escape my responsibilities & get a nice ride in. Pace varies with day & time. Expect a few hills. Call me the night before to confirm. Contact David Cunicelli at 610-626-9874 Email: dcunicelli@rcn.com
Tuesdays 6:00 pm Miles:15-20 Class:C Vocabulary Ride	Join us as the Vocabulary Ride continues with spins thru southern DelCo. Meet at Pathmark, MacDade Blvd., Folsom. Bring your bike and a big word--but not so big Dave doesn't know what it means! Dave Trout at 610-368-0760 Email: dmtrout@usa.net
Wednesdays 10:00 am Miles:28+ Class:B/B- Escape from Work	Meet me at 320 Produce, 733 S. Chester Rd. in Swarthmore as I escape my responsibilities and get a nice ride in. Pace can vary with day & time. Expect a few hills. Call me night before to confirm. David Cunicelli 610-626-9874. <dcunicelli@rcn.com>
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Miles:25+ Class:B+/A- Workout	Meet at Rose Tree Park on Rte. 252 as we continue another season with our workout ride. We are still riding at a slower pace to encourage riders to come to the ride and move to the next level. Antonio Rocha, 484-802-8374 Email: tony@craftech.com
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Miles:20+- Class:C Rose Tree Ridley	Start at Rose Tree Park on Rte. 252 * go thru Ridley State Park & beyond. As day gets longer so does the ride... with a hill or two.... Brian Wade 610-254-9485 <bwadedybc@aol.com>
Fridays 1:30 pm Miles:25+ Class:B+ Show & go	We need to get our legs back in shape. Lots of nice rides and friendly hills (Hunter Mountain) await & we can use some extra training. Meet at my office at CrafTech, 113 State Road, Media. Call first to confirm. Antonio Rocha, 484-802-8374 <tony@craftech.com>
Thursday, May 1 6:00 pm Miles:20-25 Class:B/B- Girls' Night Out	All welcome, but females especially encouraged. Meet Rose Tree Park & join me for easy jaunt thru great rtes. of Del Co. No one dropped, and I will make every effort to keep the group together. Katrina Dowidchuk 302-654-7393 or <katrina_dowidchuk@bankone.com>
Saturday, May 3 8:30 am Miles:Varies Class:ALL Painting Ride	Help your club by coming out to work with partner(s) in spraying arrows on road for May 18 Bonkers Metric. Ridley Creek Park, Lot # 15. Contact Bob Leon at 610-833-2365 or <bleon@craftech.com>
Sunday, May 4 8:00 am Miles:25+- Class:C Jersey Ramble	Meet at the Kingsway High School, routes 551 and 322 for a ride through the farmlands of south Jersey. Bring money for a food stop. Contact Bob Leon at 610-833-2365 or <bleon@craftech.com>
Sunday, May 4 8:00 am Miles:40-50 Class:C+/B- Wade's Wayne Wide	Start R5 Wayne Train Station, ride varies. Never same twice! West to Kimberton, or north up Lower Perk Trail, or south to Brandywine area! Half hills, half flat. Avg. 14 mph. NO ONE DROPPED. Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 <bwadedybc@aol.com>
Sunday, May 4 9:15 am Miles:45-60 Class:B/B+ Westtown Ride	Start Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station at Manchester and Woodward Rds., Moylan. Ride thru beautiful wooded hills & valleys of western DelCo, Chester Cty, & possibly Delaware. Food & rest stop at midpoint. Contact Ira Josephs at 610-565-4058 or <ira@dvbc.org>
Monday, May 5 7:00 pm Miles:0 Class:ALL BOARD MEETING	The board meeting is open to all club members. We meet at the Delaware County Peace Center, Springfield Friends Meeting, 1001 Old Sproul Road, in Springfield. Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or <bwadedybc@aol.com>
Thursday, May 8 9:00 am Miles:50 Class:C+ Amish Odyssey	A weekday ride for the retired, unemployed and just plain lazy. Tour Amish country from Bob LaDrew's house near Coatesville. Bagels, cereal & juice at start. Contact Bob LaDrew at 610-383-9327 or <2ladrews@netreach.net>
Thursday, May 8 6:00 pm Miles:20-25 Class:B/B- Girls' night out	All welcome, but females especially encouraged. Meet Rose Tree Park & join me for easy jaunt thru great rtes. of Del Co. No one dropped, and I will make every effort to keep the group together. Katrina Dowidchuk 302-654-7393 or <katrina_dowidchuk@bankone.com>

Saturday, May 10 8:00 am Miles:35+- Class:C Kountry Kitchen	Meet at the Kingsway High School, routes 551 and 322 for a relaxing ride to our favorite breakfast stop. Call Bob Leon 610-833-2365 or bleon@craftech.com Contact Bob Leon at 610-833-2365 or <bleon@craftech.com>
Saturday, May 10 8:00 am Miles:50+ Class:C+/B- Rosetree to Northbrook	Rose Tree Park through Ridley State Park and west to the Orchard and back. Need I add, expect a few little hills. Contact Brian at 610-254-9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or <bwadedvbc@aol.com>
Saturday, May 10 9:00 am Miles:74 Class:B+/A- Tri - State Journey	Meet Westtown-Thornbury Elem. Sch, Westbourne Rd. north of 926. Travel scenic roads in PA, DE, MD, through White Clay Creek Preserve. Stop at mile 35 in Elkton, MD. Final avg speed should be around 17 mph. Glenn Lyons 610-399-0624 <rollingspeed@cs.com>
Sunday, May 11 8:00 am Miles:40-50 Class:C+/B- Wade's Wayne Wide	Start R5 Wayne Train Station, ride varies. Never same twice! West to Kimberton, or north up Lower Perk Trail, or south to Brandywine area! Half hills, half flat. Avg. 14 mph. NO ONE DROPPED. Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 <bwadedvbc@aol.com>
Sunday, May 11 8:30 am Miles:30-40 Class:C Mother's Day Ramble	Start Manhattan Bagels, Chesterbrook Shop. Ctr., reached from 202 or 252. Some hills, but mostly flats & rolling, thru Tredyffrin, Up. Merion, Malvern & Whiteland. None dropped. Cue shts. Bring sustenance & \$. Steve Trobovic, 610-687-9229, wildyugo@comcast.net
Sunday, May 11 9:00 am Miles:50+ Class:B+/A- Art Museum	Meet at Rose Tree Park and we will travel to Manayunk, and the Art Museum. Expect a fast pace and lots of nice friendly hills. Contact Antonio Rocha at 484-802-8374 or <tony@craftech.com>
Monday, May 12 7:30 pm Miles:0-100 Class:All Membership Meeting	Springfield Peace Ctr. (See P. 2) for a repair/maintenance workshop. Mechanical prodigies Bob Martin & Woody to set up repair stands and teach while they work. Bring your broken bike. Conversation & refreshments. Bob LaDrew 610-383-9327 <2ladrews@netreach.net>
Saturday, May 17 8:00 am Miles:85-100 Class:B/B+ Cruisin' With Ed	Ride Ed's paceline to Mays Landing, where we'll stop for lunch. If it's a good day, we'll even make it our first century of 2003. Meet at Kingsway H.S., Rtes. 322 & 551 in Jersey. Contact Ed Sobolewski 610-358-3055 <sobolewski3@comcast.net>
Saturday, May 17 9:00 am Miles:18-64 Class:All Bonkers Volunteers' Ride	Come to Ridley Creek Parking Lot #15 as we ride together to check out Bonkers route, one final time & have fun with pals. Bob LaDrew, 610-383-9327 or <2ladrews@netreach.net>
Saturday, May 17 10:00 am Miles:15-28 Class:C C U at Selene	Start at Selene Whole Foods Co-op, 305 West State St., Media. Enjoy Spring scenery of our hills & valleys to Ridley Creek State Park & beyond. Free refreshments afterwards inside store. Free park lot just west of Co-op. Ira Josephs 610-565-4058 <ira@dvbc.org>
Sunday, May 18 8:00 am Miles:18-65 Class:All Bonkers Metric	Ridley Creek State Park, Lot #15, Media. 18, 35, 50, or 64 mi. rolling terrain w/some big hills. \$17 or \$12 pre-reg. by 5/11. Scenic country roads thru Delaware and Chester Counties. All rtes. incl. food stop. Bob Leon at 610-833-2365 <bleon@craftech.com>
Saturday, May 24 7:00 am Miles:126 Class:B/B+ Ocean City Brunch	Meet at Kingsway H.S., Rtes. 322 & 551, to join Ed Sobolewski as we continue our DVBC tradition of rides to the shore. Ed promises plenty of effortless drafting & a tasty brunch at the shore. Bring \$ and water. Ed Sobolewski 610-358-3055 sobolewski3@comcast.net
Saturday, May 24 8:00 am Miles:35+- Class:C Manayunk	Meet behind the Dunkin Donuts on MacDade Blvd and Fairview Road for a ride to Manayunk. Bring money for a food stop at the Bucks County Coffee. Contact Bob Leon at 610-833-2365 or <bleon@craftech.com>
Sunday, May 25 8:00 am Miles:40-50 Class:C+/B- Wade's Wayne Wide	Start R5 Wayne Train Station, ride varies. Never same twice! West to Kimberton, or north up Lower Perk Trail, or south to Brandywine area! Half hills, half flat. Avg. 14 mph. NO ONE DROPPED. Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 <bwadedvbc@aol.com>
Sunday, May 25 9:00 am Miles:55 Class:C Perkiomen Trail Bites	Lower park. lot, Visitors Ctr., Valley Forge. Ride Perkiomen Trail to Green Lane & return to Sid's, (Collegeville) for lunch. Most of trail finished. We'll do roads to bypass unfinished parts. Any bike okay. But 28mm tires best. S. Trobovic 610-687-9229 <srtrobovic@juno.com>
Saturday, May 31 8:30 am Miles:75 Class:B/B+ Go Bananas!!	Meet at 320 Produce in Swarthmore. I'll buy the bananas. We'll roll out on some familiar roads around Delco and Chester County taming a few hills along the way. Food stop halfway. David Cunicelli at 610-626-9874 or <dcunicelli@rcn.com>
Saturday, May 31 8:30 am Miles:40+- Class:C Ridley-Ridley: Meet Train	We meet train from Philly, ride out to Ridley Cr Pk. Meet @ Pathmark, MacDade Blvd, Folsom, Ridley Twp., ride to Ridley Park station to meet 8:58 train from city. Philly riders take R-2 train #4207 (leave Suburban St. 8:34). D.Trout 610-368-0760 <dmtrout@usa.net>

Wet, Warm and hurry up and**Wait:****Bike Florida**

by Woody Kotch



Drew had a great idea. Leave this horrendous winter behind and head for Bike Florida. Get in a quick 350 miles to get a jump start on the season. Doug and Barb are going so we'll have a great group from DVBC and let's camp..... Camp?

I'm a "moteler". I ride hard. I eat a big dinner. I take a hot shower. I sleep in a bed. My bike likes being inside at night.

Not this time. "We'll have fun! You get to hang with all the other riders. See all the other bikes. Make new friends" OK... I'm in. I haven't done much camping since my Boy Scout days, but I can buy and borrow some equipment and it will be cool. Right.

First day, bikes out of the boxes and tents up. I'm the last to finish, but my comrades seem to enjoy watching me struggle to get my borrowed tent up. That's OK. I like to entertain. Queue up for pasta carbo-loading. I'm starved. We get to hang with the other bikers...for an hour. No problem. Nothing to do anyway except hit the sleeping bags. New problem.

We're out of spaghetti. So the organizers call out the buses and cart us off to a restaurant for an all-you-can-eat seafood bar. Good things come to those who wait. This camping thing isn't bad.

First impressions can be deceiving. After a good day of shore riding we arrive at the beautiful Kathryn Abbey Hanna campsite via a ½ mile sand trail. Tonight we can make friends cleaning our chains. The tropical flora in the lovely sites built to accommodate about 500 people. Did I mention we were 1400? Do the math. I didn't have to. I really like to pee when I need to pee. Not twenty minutes later. This sentiment has been growing as I have entered my fifth decade and beyond. Ladies, you have my empathy. I have developed a whole new set of social skills to add to cocktail party chatter. I can now smile, wax and wane on Campy vs. Shimano, and debate trike aerodynamics all with my eyes turning yellow. Oh, did I mention cold showers?

Rain is forecast for tonight, heavy rain. I'm not concerned. My tent is nearly new and it has a rain fly and good ground cloth. Packing light on camping rides is important since you have to lug all your belongings and equipment to the trucks and back each time you move. Bringing

equipment that is multifunctional is a plus so I was pleasantly surprised when I learned that my sleeping pad also doubles as a personal flotation device and trash bags also can protect your 32-year-old down sleeping bag from the rain coming through the tent. 'Nuff said.

Days three and four are spent riding flat nice roads south of Jacksonville in 70+-degree temps and camping at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. It seems the founders of the school may also have been blind considering the grounds are essentially a swamp. Each step on the Bermuda grass ends with a squish in the underlying mud and our tents are pitched between pools of standing water. "Hey, what are those bugs running up the side of your tent, Wood?" Fire ants? Is that a problem? Nope. I'll just move my tent over here where it's just a little wetter than where the fire ants are. I need a shower.

It's spring break at school so the hot water is turned off in the gym. That's OK because the ride organizers have hired a shower truck, eight showers with hot water. Do the math. Queue up and hang with the other bikers. Make friends, for an

See "Florida," Page 10

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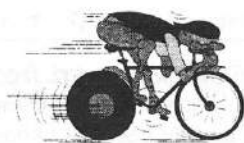
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Bike Dirt

By F.X. Pedrix



While I admit to using my column to advance the occasional irresponsible rumor, I hope you'll agree that, mostly, you read it for the sage advice I pass on regarding life in a bike club, especially married life.

One of our married guys recently gave a tip, to one of my well placed spies, on coping with "The Glare" that emanates from the visage of his lovely wife upon the return from a Saturday of two-wheeled jollity with club pals. Once the bike has been hung in the garage and he passes through the back door, there may be waiting "The Glare" of an intensity that could TIG weld titanium. The Glare is a clear message that, "While you have been out frolicking with pals, someone had to stay home and nurture the children, slop the hogs and defend our assets against degradation."

This is where my friend's advice kicks in. No matter how much fun you have just had, *don't act happy!* Choke back that gay tune you have been whistling and assume a serious demeanor. If she asks about your day, tell the wife it was just so-so and, really, you would almost prefer that you hadn't ridden. My friend asserts that, according to the laws of marriage physics, "The Glare's" intensity is directly proportionate to the cheerfulness of his own demeanor. Big smile

and whistling "Oh, Happy Day" equals a "Terrifying Scowl". A solemn, earnest expression could leave room for negotiation. Among the wrong things to say: "I'm tired; think I'll take a nap," or, "I had to ride slow and wait for that new, cute-looking girl." A good thing: "How about we go to that art film you've been wanting to see?"

You should drop in at the Great Valley Corporate Center in Malvern during the season. Every Thursday night they have a one-mile criterium and serious racers come from all over to pit their skills against the area's best. I was surprised one evening last year when my lovely wife Babs agreed to go with me. As it turned out, a couple of the DVBC's A riders were participating, including a female member.

The peloton flew by at a steady 26 mph, just about twice my normal riding speed. Many of the riders were pros, including some women. Yes, some of the pro women could stay with the men but none was strong enough to stage a breakaway — none of the *pro's* that is. The DVBC gal, who has not raced formally, but has recently dallied successfully in triathlons, actually soloed ahead of the pack. You should have seen the guys' eyes bug out! Babs was ecstatic. When I asked her if she thought this had a bearing on gen-

der equality she answered, "Some-day there may be equality but men need to get a lot better before that happens." Now every time we ride together, Babs wants to race me. I just tell her my knee is acting up.

While on a ride this spring, we were on one of our usual rants about the difficulties of sharing the road with automobiles. I told my riding buddy that it would be a better world without having to put up with cars. He then related to me a story about last year's True Bicyclist of the Year. They were riding together through a small town in New Jersey when they came upon five other cyclists. A young boy riding down the sidewalk, a teenage girl riding up the sidewalk to a house, they were about to overtake a cyclist, and two women on bikes were coming the other way on the street. The True Bicyclist said, "Wow, a perfect world, everyone on bikes!" My buddy then questioned him on what he considered a perfect world to be. He said a perfect world would be one where everyone rides bikes all the time. "All the time," my buddy asked, "even in the house?" "Sure, they would use unicycles", he replied.

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

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REGIONAL EVENTS

May 1-3: New York Bicycle Show, New York State Armory, 26th St. and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY.

Sat. May 3: Farmlands Flat Tour, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ. 18, 25, 38, 50, 62, 100 mi. Pre-reg. \$20 by 4/19, T-shirt \$5, lunch \$6; T-shirt & lunch must be ordered with pre-reg. \$25 day of, no lunch or T-shirt. Central Jersey Bicycle Club, Howie Glick, 3 Tracy Drive, Fords, NJ 08863; 732-225-HUBS. CJBBC@comcast.net

Sat. May 3: Southern Maryland May Metric, Clinton, MD. 26, 40, or 63 miles. Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, Jim Hudnall, P.O. Box 81, Oxon Hill, MD 20750; 301-567-0089.

Sat. May 3: Turkey Hill Country Classic, Lancaster, PA. A 5K run, 10K run, and various bicycle races and rides including the very hilly Round the River Metric Century Challenge. Manor Township, phone 717-397-4769.

Sun. May 4: SCU Quad County Metric, Green Lane Park, Green Lane, PA. 20, 38, 50, or 65 mi. Rolling w/a few hills. Post-ride meal. Pre-reg. by April 17 for T-shirt: \$15 (SCU members), \$20 (non-members). \$25 day of event. Join SCU & save \$5. Replaces Mexican Metric. <http://www.suburbancyclists.org>. Email: <centuries@suburbancyclists.org> Suburban Cyclists Unlimited, Box 401, Horsham, PA 19044; 215-362-2216.

Sun. May 4: Five Borough Bike Tour. New York City. 212-932-BIKE <www.bikenewyork.org>

Sat. May 10: Clean Air Challenge, Clean Air Challenge Bike Ride, New Oxford, PA. 12, 25, or 50 mi. Benefits

Amer. Lung Assoc. B. Derek Shaw, 488 West Market St, York, PA 17404-3807; 717-845-5864.

Sat. May 10: Pinelands Triple Loop, Batsto State Park, Burlington County, NJ. Flat, scenic ride thru Pinelands on 3 loops of 36, 29 and 35 mi. Ride 1, 2, or all 3 loops for 29, 65, or 100 mi. Ea. loop starts & ends at Batsto State Park where lunch is provided. Shore Cycle Club, P.O. Box 492, Northfield, NJ 08225-0492.

Sat. May 17: Ridin' for a Reason, Oaks PA. Lower Perkiomen Park, "Mexican Metric" route. 20, 35, 63 mi. 610-521-8274 (X-224) <sadofft@pa-est.leukemia-lymphoma.org>

Sunday, May 18: Bonkers Metric. 8 am, Ridley Creek State Park, Lot #15, near Media PA. 18, 35, 50, or 64 mi. routes on rolling terrain with some big hills. \$17 or \$12 pre-reg. by 5/11. Scenic country roads through Delaware and Chester Counties. All rtes. incl. food stop. Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, PO Box 156, Woodlyn PA 19094-0156. 610-541-0784 <jc@dvbc.org>

May 23-26: Kent County Spring Fling, Chestertown, MD. 4 days of cycling on upper E. Shore w/ meals & lodging at Washington Coll. 11-132 mi. per day. \$238 per person (double occ.) Baltimore Bicycle Club. KCSF 2003, 10609 Topsfield Drive, Cockeysville, MD 21030, or e-mail fanders@bcpl.net.

Saturday, May 24: Wilderness Road Ride:

Southwest Virginia, part of Cycling Doubleheader, May 24-25. wildernessroadride.com

"Florida," cont'd. from Page 8

hour. So when I do get in the shower I move quickly because I know many others are waiting. Back at the tents I realize that I have lost my beloved Penn bike hat. Back at the showers I wait for the stall to open in which I believe I have left my hat. Little did I know that "Shower Woman" occupied the stall. Thirty minutes later out she comes. In I pop and no hat. That's OK. I've made a lot of new friends, one enemy, and my hat is resting comfortably in the lost and found.

The riding gets even better as the temps rise and the sun is shining. I did something at one rest stop at the beach that I have always wanted to do on our Ocean City rides. One other rider and myself strip down to our shorts and plunge into the Atlantic. Cold, but not as cold as the showers. My DVBC friends courteously wait for me to dry and dress to head off for the finish of the day's ride. They're proud to know that one of only two wackos on the ride is their friend.

The ride ended in New Smyrna Beach. The rain held off until about ten miles from the end and the luggage was deposited on the sidewalk. Then it poured, good. The rain cleanses me so I don't have to make any more friends while I wait in line to take a shower. Besides, what's more challenging than disassembling your bike and packing it up for shipping in the rain?

Suffering is part of life. Addicted bikers like myself enjoy the overall experience of suffering through the difficult part of a ride, surmounting the challenge and finishing. It gives you the glow you thrive on, a natural high. I guess that's why bikers like to camp. A little more suffering couldn't hurt. Barb, Doug, Drew, and I all had a great time: summer weather, good roads, good food (we ate out a lot), and great camaraderie, but I'm back to confining my suffering to the road. I'm a "moteler". Know thyself.

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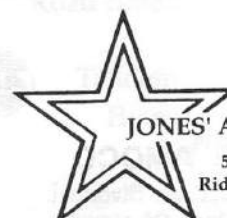
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Ride Report: Sunday, April 6:**British Bike Rally***by Steve Trobovic*

Yesterday I took my wife's vintage '69 Raleigh Sports bike to a British Bike Rally. I restored the bike two winters ago and Peggy has ridden a total of four miles on it since then. Anyway, the original tyres and tubes held up and it shifted great. Mileage was about 15. Speed was SLOW.

Trophy Bikes and Via Bike Shop stage this event every year. Mike McGettigan, owner of Trophy, advertises it through British bike aficionado websites. He got fifty or so people this year, one from Vermont, another from Birmingham, GA.

The Brit bike ride was somewhat of a non-event for Mike, since the out-of-towners left after the swap meet, Sunday morning. But it was great for me and the Raleigh. Mike reserved a train car for 20 to 25 bikes but only Mike and his buddy, Mark, showed up at 30th St. station. We had one car all to ourselves. Mark is a bit unusual, even for a cyclist.

Picture this: He rides an old beat-up Raleigh. He wears a NY city chain (looks and weighs like a ship anchor line) over his shoulder, bandolier style, a policeman's helmet with a gold Raleigh logo pasted on the front of it, blue police-looking clothes and one-way sunglasses. He has a handlebar clip with a stogie tucked in it, which he lights up when the ride stops. His hobby is fixing up old bikes and leaving them on street corners in Camden. He says they are always gone inside half an hour. No kidding! He considers it recycling. He started doing this because he likes to fix bikes of all kinds but he couldn't find anyone who wanted them after he fixed them. I found him to be sincere and quite friendly.

A British expatriate named Bridget Chadwick (related to our recent president?) joined us at a diner called Rollers in Chestnut Hill.

The four of us rode to the Art Museum on Forbidden Drive and the river path. I got to 30th St. station by using the newly opened path that runs from the back of the museum, along the Water Works, under the Spring Garden St. bridge down to 23rd & Cherry Sts. where there is a crossing of the tracks. It's not paved all the way but the surface was hard packed and was fine for the old original, British made 1 3/8" Dunlap tyres. It was an 8-hour day, with maybe 15 miles on the bike; three SEPTA train rides and lots of hanging around waiting for people who didn't show. I thoroughly enjoyed it, though.

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Undeterred: Drew Knox is eager to walk the plank on the club's April 12 Salem Oak Ride. But his more cowardly cronies insisted upon backtracking to cross the river by another route. Look for another Salem Oak Ride in June.

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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) = _____

I'll volunteer for: ☐ Ride Leader
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☐ Board Member

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Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send your check or money order to the:

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

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry into the DVBC, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in the DVBC. In addition, this release is intended to discharge in advance the promoters, the sponsors, the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, the promoting clubs, the officials, and any involved municipalities or other public entities (and their respective agents and employees) from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in any event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons mentioned above.

I further understand that serious accidents occasionally occur during bicycle riding; and that participants in bicycle riding occasionally sustain mortal or serious personal injuries, and/or property damage, as a consequence thereof. Knowing the risks of bicycle riding, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release, and assumption of risk is to be binding to my heirs and assigns.

Signature

Signature of parent or guardian (if under 18 years)