

Bicycle Safety Bill May be Headed For Bumpy Road

By Grace Voss

Three feet. If a football team was three feet from a first down on fourth and one, it would be an easy decision early in the game for the coach to decide to punt the ball to the opponent. But the decision on whether or not to mandate a three-foot safety zone when cars pass bicyclists on California's roads is not so easy. The issue is AB60, proposed by Santa Barbara assemblyman Pedro Nava, who lost a 21-year-old constituent, a triathlete, who was struck and killed by a truck while she was on a bicycle training ride in Santa Barbara County. If voted into law, motorists who pass bicyclists closer than three feet may receive a minimum \$250 citation. (Present law calls for motorists to pass at "a safe

distance without interfering with the safe operation of a bicycle.") If voted into law, motorists would be allowed to cross the median in order to keep three feet away while passing a bicyclist. Motorists also could move into a center turn or left turn lane temporarily to create a safe zone from the bicyclist. And therein lies the controversy, as some roads are too narrow to allow safe passage under these conditions. Worst case scenario—two cars approaching each other from opposite directions, with each driver trying to leave three feet of space between them and cyclists on both sides of the road. Both cars crossing the median could easily result in a head-on collision.

On the other hand, more than 10,000 bicyclists are injured annually

in California from automobile-related accidents, and 133 people died in 2005, (although it is not known how many injuries/deaths resulted from motorists passing bicyclists.) Like motorists, bicyclists sometimes take their eyes off the road, don't obey traffic signals or stop signs, and ride too fast for their own good, causing accidents and death. Poor judgment is not confined to motorists!

The Teamsters Union, which represents truck drivers, is against AB60, while the California State Automobile Assn. has a wait and see attitude. Four states—Arizona, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Utah, have laws similar to AB60. Local traffic enforcement officers, according to Santa Cruz Police Dept. spokesman Zach Friend, like the spirit of AB60 for promoting bike safety (some of the officers are avid bicyclists), but they also have questions. Where does the three-foot safety zone start if two bicyclists are riding side by side? Will today's large cars prove problematic for the size of some county roads? How difficult will a three-foot zone be to enforce?

SCCCC President Bart Coddington argues for good old common sense. "Bicyclists need more protection on the road," he says, "but I worry it (AB60) will create more (Continue on page 9)

Photo: Saturday riders near Henrietta Peak above Hollister.



Club Shorts: Brunch for Ride Leaders Etc.

Janet and Lawrence Fogel will host a 10 a.m. brunch for all SCCCC ride leaders on Sunday, March 18th, at their house, 601 Navarra, Scotts Valley. RSVP. (831-438-0706)

Club volunteers are needed for three upcoming events—the Sea Otter Classic April 12-15, the 31st annual Santa Cruz Criterium April 15 and the Rail/Trail Day Bike Ride on Sunday, May 20. For the Sea Otter, the club receives \$30 per volunteer, and many different jobs are available. Contact **Leo Jed** at leojed@hotmail.com. For the Criterium, **David Gill** is the coordinator, and you may contact him at zelig@cruzio.com. And, for the Rail/Trail day, the club needs a volunteer coordinator to recruit people to help load bikes onto the train to Felton. Contact **Bart** at bikerbart.@sbcglobal.net.

Speaking of the Rail Trail Day, the Santa Cruz Rail Line 2007 Calendar is a fundraiser and public awareness campaign conducted by Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail Trail. Calendars are \$15. They are available at People Power, Santa Cruz Bookshop and some bike shops. Buy one before 2007 grows older!

Tuesday, March 13 is the date of a lawsuit against the City of Santa Cruz over the installation of a bike path through Arana Gulch. Referred to as the Broadway-Brommer Bike Path, it would allow a safe route for bicyclists to go from the east to the west side of Santa Cruz (or vice versa), avoiding busy roads. The suit is sponsored by the Native Plant Society, (with \$10,000 of help from the Paul Newman Fund), which contends that the native tar plant (a daisy-like flower) is endangered by the bike path. (Of course bicyclists are endangered every day they ride on busy roads when they want to go across town...)

Mark your calendars for March 2-4, when the third annual North American Handmade Bicycle Show comes to the San Jose Convention Center, 435 Market St.. Three full days of expo and seminars by the greatest names in the business of handmade bicycles, from the up-and-coming to the legendary, from lugged steel to carbon fiber and everything in between. For more details visit www.handmadebicycleshow.com. Well worth the \$15 price of admission. Hours

are 10 a.m to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Cat 4 mentor **Linelle Northcott** (linellenorthcott@yahoo.com) has announced the 2007 Category 4 Women's Mentoring program for the eighth consecutive year. (Cat 4 refers to novice racers.) Started in 1999 by long-time coach **Ted Fisher**, the program features experienced women racers encouraging novice women to race. Mentors will focus on safe riding, pack skills, racing techniques, gear usage and bike fit. Mentors will not impact the outcome of the race, and will be available afterward to answer questions, discuss race techniques and offer suggestions to improve. They will wear orange safety vests for easy identification.

The SCCCC website is under redesign! Its designer is **Justine Heaton**, who designed the latest club jersey. Here is some info on her. "I am originally from Seattle and moved to Santa Cruz in 2000. I lived there for almost six years before my husband and I relocated to Dublin, CA due to a new job. I have been creating websites since college, but I really began to make it more of a profession three years ago. I have always had an interest in art and computers; four years ago, I put the two together. I enjoy the creative and development process more each day."

BMX fans take heart. Plans are underway to move the Fun Spot's wood skate ramps a few blocks over to a narrow parking lot on the Laurel Street extension to create a skate park. The idea will be financed by **Berri Michel**, owner of **The Bicycle Trip**, who has donated \$25,000 for start up costs. The city's downtown and Parks and Rec commissions have approved the project. Now it goes to the Planning Commission on March 15. Stay tuned!

Paris, the City of Light, wants to become a city of bicycles by making 14,100 free bicycles available to commuters, strollers and tourists, in part to help cut down on air pollution.

Former UCSC racer **Ben Jacques-Maynes** took third in the Tour of California Prologue, while **Taylor Tolleson** of Aptos was named Best Young Rider of the Day on Feb. 18 in San Francisco.



The Roadrunner is the official newsletter of the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club. It is published bimonthly, mailed free to all members, and is available at local bicycle shops, etc. Submissions (articles, photos, and letters) are gladly accepted. Email or a diskette are easiest, but we'll entertain all options. Contact us at: Santa Cruz County Cycling Club P.O. Box 8342 Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8342 or www.santacruzcyling.org

The Santa Cruz County Cycling Club is a nonprofit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code.

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From My Handlebars to Yours: Support Your Local Bike Shops

By Bart Coddington,
Club President

"Hey diddle, diddle
The bicycle riddle—
The strangest part of the deal.
Just keep your accounts
And add the amounts
The 'sundries' cost more than
the wheel."

— Anonymous 1896 poem*

The other day on a club ride, people began sharing stories about favorite bicycle shops. While I have at least 10 shops closer to home, I return time and time again to my favorite bike shop farther away, mainly because of the great service and friendly advice I receive there, along with its good supply of gear and spare parts I need. Santa Cruz is lucky to have more than a dozen bicycle shops offering high-quality products along with friendly help. Like the city of Davis, Santa Cruz probably has more bike shops per capita than any other area in California.

Naturally, the more miles we ride,

the more our bikes need replacement parts, repairs and tune-ups. It is nice to have a shop nearby when we need a tire tube in a hurry or another type of emergency repair. The downside is, since local shops are small businesses, they seldom can match the prices of large internet firms. What I would like to suggest is that we all think first about supporting our local bicycle shops the next time we need replacement parts, rather than immediately dialing up an internet supplier.

I am constantly impressed at the knowledge on display daily by mechanics at local shops. Many have years of experience in repairing bicycles. One time, while cleaning my bike, I blew all of the grease out of my rear axle with a garden hose, thinking it would be a fast way to clean my cassette. Boy, did I get a lecture from my favorite mechanic on how, instead, I should "dribble" water when cleaning my drive train! My bicycle was repaired, and I received a little education in bike maintenance as well! One day, another bike club member stopped at a local shop for



assistance in changing a flat tire; upon inspection, the owner informed her that her rear tire was off center, and suggested that she take her new bike to the factory for rebonding of the rear dropouts. The result was a newly-centered rear wheel, done within 48 hours of diagnosing the problem.

All Santa Cruz bike shops honor SCCCC members with discounts on parts. Carry your membership card with you when visiting these shops, as you are entitled to a 10-15 percent discount with it. Enjoy the Ride!

SCCCC Board Approves Money for Photo Display, Software

By Rhoda Bike

New Club Clothier Maura Noel has announced that SCCCC jerseys are available to non-club members, at an additional cost of \$20, which happens to be the cost of annual membership. Therefore, non-members may wear a club jersey and join the club for the same cost of wearing a jersey but not joining. (Is that clear?)

The board also approved insurance coverage of itself (\$1,000 premium), and the purchase of new software for the newsletter (\$225), membership chairperson (\$300) and website designer (\$500). It also granted Brian Vernor \$1000 for his black and white photo display of the cyclocross culture, which he shared

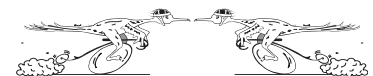
with the club at its January general membership meeting. (Were you there? Photos appear on p.7)

Club membership guarantees the following: bi-monthly newsletter (The Roadrunner), insurance coverage of \$10,000 in addition to one's regular medical coverage on club rides, club e-mail distribution, club social events, and 10 to 15% discount on bike parts at most local shops listed. (Club members must have paid their dues to be on the club e mail list!)

Steve Johnson, secretary, will coordinate the April 26 general membership meeting, which will feature both Scott Campbell's National Bike Greenways ride last spring and summer, and Voler, who will bring a "fit

kit" of clothing to try on. Maura will coordinate the October meeting. Needed: a volunteer to coordinate the July general membership meeting. Contact Bart Coddington if you have an idea for a speaker/program. Also needed: volunteer coordinator for the Santa Cruz Criterium Sunday, April 15. If interested, contact Bart.

Three-year club memberships are available for \$55, a savings of \$5. The board donated \$250 to the California Association of Bicycle Organizations (CABO) for its court action to return legal liability to agencies responsible for maintaining bike paths.



SCCCC Member Receives Global Warming Training from Al Gore

By Michele Whizin

From January 2-5, I attended a two and half-day training on climate change in Nashville with Al Gore. The training was put on by The Climate Project and was based on Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth". Mr. Gore is training 1,000 people to present his climate change slide show and they, in turn, have committed to fan out across the country and beyond to present their personalized, updated version of the climate change message to at least 10 audiences over the next year.

There were 200 people at this third training session, representing every state in the union, along with several people from Canada and other countries including Thailand, Paraguay and India. There were attendees as young as 14 to a youthful 92-year-old. There were die-hard Democrats and



Al Gore, left, and Michele Whizin

die-hard Republicans, scientists, teachers, students, professors, religious leaders of all stripes, activists, philanthropists, government officials, artists, home-makers, consultants, urban planners—you name it. Cameron Diaz, a Hollywood celebrity, was there. One of my mentors was the secretary of state for Oregon Bill Bradbury. And a fifteen-year-old high school student, Claire Gianotti, who prompted all the schools in her district to start a recycling program.

Mr Gore and his team did an out-

standing job. The lectures and group discussions were engaging. The former vice president spent a day and a half taking us through an updated version of the lecture, slide by slide, fielding questions and digging into background science and personal anecdotes. Other lecturers focused on attitudinal research around climate change, a discussion of solutions, and a whole series of practice runs and exercises to help us give effective presentations.

I returned inspired and ready to start talking to people about this crucial issue. If you know of a group of 10 or more people who would be interested in a free presentation on this topic, please contact me at mwhizin@sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us

For more information on The Climate Project, go to their website at www.theclimateproject.org

Bicycle Centuries, Time Trials, Criterium and Triathlons Coming Up

Mt. Charlie's Challenge Ride

Saturday April 28th. Century and Half Century rides. The 5th Annual event starts in Scotts Valley. Mountainous route. More info at www.svef.net/ or contact Matt Twisselman at 831- 425- 8815. Benefits local Scotts Valley Education Foundation, which provides annual funds to the Scotts Valley School District.

Strawberry Fields Forever XVIII Century

Sunday, May 20. The ride starts at 7 a.m. at Pajaro Valley High School and features three routes: 25 miles, 100 kilometers and 100 miles, which traverse some of the most beautiful regions of Santa Cruz County. International-themed food stops throughout ride like espresso coffee, Greek-style dolmas and fresh lemonade. More info. at www.strawberryfields.org. Benefits Cyclists for Global Exchange, which fosters world peace through visits to different cultures and bringing other cultures to the US. Promotes people-to-people diplomacy through bicycling.

SF to LA AIDS LifeCycle Ride

First week of June; 6th annual event. Travels through Santa Cruz with overnight camping at Harvey West Park. Participants raise \$2,500 in pledge money. Go to <http://www.aidslifecycle.org/> for more information. Last year \$8 million dollars was raised to support the HIV/AIDS services of the Los Angeles and San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Santa Cruz Criterium

Sunday, April 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Beach Hill. 298 racers for profit race, from out of town. One of the longest running races in the country at 30+ years. More info. at www.ncnca.org, www.velopromo.com, or call 209-533-4996.

Swanton Road Time Trial Series

The first Thursday of every month from April to September. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Swanton Road and Highway 1. Distance: 11 miles (5.5 miles up Swanton Road and return.) Free!

Skippy's Triathlon

Tentative date: Saturday, March 10th; Location: UCSC; Individuals and teams may register between 7:30 and 8 a.m. at the track adjacent to the main pool at UCSC. Cost: \$15/person and \$25/team. Start is in the main pool. Distances: 1K pool swim (20 full laps). Mountain Bike on a fairly hilly and technical track. (five laps on a closed circuit). Five-mile run on a fairly hilly track. 2 laps. Hosted by the UCSC Intramural Sports Department and despite its technical nature; it caters to first-time triathletes.

Special Events

Sugio Dirt Women's Mountain Bike Camp, April 30-May 1, hosted by The Bicycle Trip, 427-2580, <http://bicycletrip.com/site/page.cfm?PageID=224>.

Bike Week, May 12-20. Featuring events and workshops geared toward all cyclists. For more info go to http://www.bike2work.com/s_cruz/index.html

Strawberry Fields Volunteers' Brunch, Race Team Photo Gallery



Left photo, Barbara and Ed Kilduff, longtime supporters of Strawberry Fields Forever; center photo (l to r) Emilie Holder, SFF volunteer coordinator, Vita Pritchard, co-director, and Sharon Curtaz, brunch organizer for Jan. 27 event at Chaminade; right photo, SCCCC race team. Team members Norman Field and Karen Kefauver (top row right) announced their engagement at Jan. 17 meeting. They met through the race team, and plan a 2008 wedding.

Bike Club Advocates New License Plates

California may have a new "Share the Road" logo on its license plates if Michelle Kashima has her way. Working through the Orange County Wheelmen and the California Association of Bicycle Organizations, (CABO), Michelle has collected over 6,000 signatures on her way to a goal of 7,500 for a petition to introduce a new look to the state's license plate. She says, "There are many cooperative motorists who do share the road with us. However, there seem to be

many other motorists unwilling to abide by any rule or courtesy and will honk, yell, nick us with their side mirrors, or worse. This does not let cyclists off the hook however. Cyclists need to follow the rules and ride safely as well." Currently 10 states have "Share the Road" logos on their license plates. To sign the petition, go to www.petitiononline.com/str11234/petition.html. More info at www.sharetheroadsaveslives.com

Bob Scott's Widow Gives \$2,000 Grant to Bike Smart!

By Katie Scott

Bob Scott did some of the Swanton time trials. He focused on the duathlon (run-bike-run) and was fifth in the Swiss world championship race in 2003. While attending a duathlon camp outside of Boulder, CO in 2004, he was involved in a fatal cycling accident. Bob had made eye contact with a bus driver, who had slowed down, appearing to two of the four eye witnesses as if he was going to turn left. Knowing Bob, he always thought the cyclist should get out in front, and be visible, and he must have thought the bus was going to turn left. Unfortunately, the bus went straight, killing him instantly. No litigation took place, as this was deemed the cyclist's fault. We can all learn from this tragedy. I wanted the money to go to a local effort to promote cycling safety and Bart Coddington recommended Bike Smart!

Bob had just retired at age 62. Perhaps, with age, we need to recognize our decreased reaction times, vision and hearing on multilane highways.

Saskia Lucas of Bike Smart!, acknowledged the gift, saying, "We are honored and privileged to be the recipient of this gift. One of the primary goals of the program is to prevent cyclist injury and death through education. Robert Scott's love of bicycling will live on through the youth participants in Bike Smart's! programs.

Some Advice on How to Boot a Tire for a Bad Flat

By Ric Eiserling

Should you happen to run over something that damages your bicycle's tire, it's possible to reinforce it for the trip home. Use a temporary liner (called a "boot") in between the patched/new tube and the tire damage. Materials used vary according to the amount of

damage—you may use folded energy bar wrappers, dollar bills or cut pieces of light plastic bottle wrapped in the above materials. These will keep the tube from poking out the hole of the tire until you can replace your damaged tire with a new one.

Weekly Rides

Tuesday

Meet at 9:45 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. start for this is social/leisurely paced road ride. Start on Aptos Creek Rd. just off Soquel Drive in Aptos. Aptos Creek Rd. leads to the entrance of Nisene Marks State Park. On the first Tuesday of each month, the ride starts at another location. Call the leader to find the location. The distance will vary from 20–40 miles and will always be a fun adventure. Destinations always include lunch stop. Bring water, snacks, and money for lunch.

Contact: Janie Tibbals.....336-1040

Wednesday

Beginners Ride with Martha—starting at 9:30 a.m. Start at Lighthouse Field State Park ENTRANCE at Pelton and National Streets. Parking on Pelton.

Martha Bedal 460-1818, marthab@cruzio.com

Thursday

Meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Corralitos Market in Corralitos for a moderately paced road ride of 25–45 miles. This is a No Leader—Decide and Ride. Bring water, snacks, and essentials for bicycle repairs.

Rider Levels

A = Novice: you can ride 15 miles on a mostly level road at a leisurely pace.

B = Intermediate: you can ride 40-60 miles with some hills at a moderate pace.

C = Experienced: you can ride 80-100 miles with hills at a brisk pace if you choose.

We wait for riders at all levels, although the C level riders are not obligated to wait, particularly when a map/queue sheet is provided.

Saturday, March 3

Calaveras

Start Sunol railroad station at 9:30 a.m. Carpool at CCC 8 a.m.; A=32mi/1600'B=45mi/2600'C=55mi/3400'
Ric Eiserling.....475-5397 / 336-1040

Saturday, March 10

Kirby Park to Monterey

Start at CCC at 8:15 for car pool to Kirby Park-Elkhorn Rd; C+ riders start at entrance to Nisene Marks Park 8 a.m. (96-mile ride); C riders – Start at Kirby Park at 9:30 a.m.; B riders-Start at Pezzini's (Molera/Nashua Road exit off Highway 1) at 10:30 a.m.; A riders-Start at the old K-Mart on Reservation Road at 10:45 a.m.
Ed Kilduff.....724-2501

Saturday, March 17

Eureka Canyon

B & C riders start from CCC at 9:00 a.m.; A riders start from 5-Mile House in Corralitos at 10 a.m.; Lunch at Summit Market.; A=35mi/1000', B&C=60mi/2800'

Shalom Compost.....423-7871

Saturday, March 24

Beunos Dias Amigos

Start location: Pezzini's Produce on Nashua Road off Highway 1. Carpool meets at CCC at 8 a.m. Start time from Pezzini's 9 a.m. SHARP! Route goes through Salinas and Monterey before returning to Castroville A=21mi/68' B=48mi/2300' C=60mi/4000' Climbs include San Benancio Road and Jack's Peak Park. Lunch in Seaside.

Scott Campbell 426-0989

Saturday, March 31

Monterey

Start at Pezzini's Produce on Nashua Road off Highway 1 at 9 a.m. (Park on road.) Take Molera/Nashua Road exit beyond Castroville. Go over Hwy 1 to Pezzini's. Carpool from CCC at 8:15a.m. Lunch in Monterey (Casa Bodega Deli); A=30mi/350', B=37mi/1400', C=45mi/1800'

Herb Greenfield.....685-8914

Saturday, April 7

Pescadero to Half Moon Bay

Start from Pescadero – North end of town at 9 a.m.; Carpool from CCC at 8 a.m.; Lunch in Half Moon Bay for B&C's; A's lunch in Pescadero; A=27mi/1550, B=44mi/2500', C=54mi/3800'

Bart Coddington.....475-5234

Saturday, April 14

Mt Hamilton

Carpool from CCC at 8 a.m. Ride starts at 9 a.m. at the corner of Mt. Hamilton Road and Alum Rock Road. (Take Hwy 280 to 680, exit Alum Rock, go right, park at intersection Mt. Hamilton and Alum Rock.) (No A ride). B=20mi/2500', C=40mi/4500' ; Bring a lunch!! Eat at Grant Park or the Observatory. Can be cool at the top, so bring warm clothes for the descent.

Ric (slow climber) Eiserling.....475-5397

Brian Vernor's Photos Show Grit of Cyclocross Racing Season



Black and white photographer Brian Vernor, lower right photo, showed "Washed in the Mud," photos, representing the cyclocross racing season at the January SCCCC general membership meeting. Above, left, is Justin Robinson and friends, center, Barry Wicks and, upper right, Paul Sadoff. Vernor hopes to have his work on permanent display in Santa Cruz in the future.

Saturday, April 21

Hollister, Panoche for Wild Flowers

Start at Paicines Market (Highway 25 about 11 miles south of Hollister) at 9 a.m. (Carpool from CCC at 7:30 a.m.) This out and back ride is a club favorite. The wildflowers and vistas are spectacular. Panoche Inn is the lunch stop. The more adventurous can continue onto Mercey Hot Springs for a soak in the tub. Milage to Panoche Inn and back is 55 miles. Add 16 miles more if you go to the hot springs.

Gene Lytle.....338-4758

Saturday, April 28

Skyline and Old LaHonda Road

Meet at Hwy 9 and Skyline at 9:30am. Carpool from CCC at 8:30 a.m.; Lunch at Sky Londa , B & C's climb Kings Mountain Road before lunch. C's climb Old La Honda after lunch. A=28mi,B=43mi,C=50mi

Q.P.(Peter)426-2137

Weekend of May 5-6

Club Campout at King City

Ric Eiserling to lead a variety of rides in this area over the weekend. Contact Jeannine Peerless (426-7239) or Sally Salmon (372-4283) to sign up for this event. Ric Eiserling..... 475-5397

Saturday, May 5

Carmel and 17-Mile Drive

Beautiful ride of 31-65 miles. Starts at 9:15 a.m. at Pacific Grove Lighthouse. Carpool 8 a.m. from CCC. Ed Kilduff.....724-2501

Friday, May 11 to Saturday, May 12

Maura's Ride to San Simeon from Carmel Valley

Maura Noel will lead a 102-mile overnight journey to San Simeon, starting at 8 a.m. from the Hidden Villa Inn in Carmel Valley. Riders will share cost of van and must make own overnight accommodations. Meals in local restaurants.

Maura Noel.....596-0983

All ride participants must wear helmets and obey traffic laws!

Flamingo Ride Slated for March 4

The first Sunday of each month features The Flamingo, a fast-paced ride starting at 9 a.m. from behind Beckmann's Bakery on Mission Street. Riders go up Highway 9, up Skyline and down Alpine for lunch in Pescadero. Return to Santa Cruz on Highway 1. Race pace at times. The ride's name comes from pink flamingo yard art at a house on Pescadero Road.

Club Members Martha and Betsy “Abducted” for Birthday Bike Ride

(Editor’s Note: A bicycling-related “kidnapping” was perpetrated by the following women: Lilly Ann Popkin, Beyje Pomeroy, Judy Isvan, Tory Dubiel, Joan Moore, Janet Fogel and Sally Salmon. Here are the victims’ stories.)

By Martha Bedal

I do not like surprises. At or about 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22., I was in my pajamas, sitting in my favorite chair in the corner, drinking coffee while reading the paper and working the puzzles. Suddenly I heard a clanging of bells at the door. I froze and listened. Then a (seemingly endless) stream of women in bike clothes walked right in, proceeding down the hallway towards my bedroom. I calmly said, “Hello, hello. I am behind you,” and waved my arms while my brain tried to grasp what was happening. It took them a few seconds to find me. Then they turned their smiling, excited faces toward me and surrounded my chair, whereupon I was told to pack my bicycle panniers, because I was being kidnapped for three days and I needed to ride 50 miles to our destination! (Upon hearing these instructions, I think my shoulders dropped about six inches.) I said, “Can I take a shower first?” They replied, “No”, before leaving to go and kidnap Betsy Schwartz.

Heedless of their instructions, I got in the shower, wondering what to pack. Fortunately, Richard went to the attic to find my panniers, and then to the computer to print out our packing list. In my panic and haste, I took a bit more than the 20 pounds I usually limit myself to for bike tours. Next, Richard drove me over to Betsy’s (the second “victim”), and then we began the bike ride to Asilomar, where they had reserved a four-bedroom cabin. The weather, the ride and the company were great, and my surprise and anxiety quickly disappeared. The days



Celebrating their birthdays at Asilomar on a “bicycle kidnapping” are Martha Bedal, left, and Betsy Schwartz.

were filled with good friends, interesting bike rides to a wild animal park, the 17-Mile Drive and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, delicious meals and birthday cake, tiaras, sashes and champagne! It was like a beautiful dream. I still do not like surprises, but throughout my “abduction” I felt loved and wanted the party to never end.

By Betsy Schwartz

For three long days, I had the most marvelous surprise birthday celebration! After an ok dinner in the mess hall the first evening, we returned to our cottage at Asilomar Conference grounds in Pacific Grove, where Martha and I were dressed in birthday banners, tiaras and flashing lights on our shirts. For dessert we enjoyed champagne and chocolate cake, delivered by Sally Salmon (from Layers bakery). Special birthday napkins and the opening of presents completed a perfect day.

Day Two featured different destinations, with some of us cycling 51 miles (round trip) to Wild Things in Salinas, where we saw large cats, elephants and zebras that had been rescued and trained for movies and TV commercials. Great fun.

That night Bayje, assisted by Tory prepared a gourmet meal featuring chocolate truffles from France, endive with cheese, vegetarian pasta with fresh veggies and handpicked chanterelle mushrooms, ending with leftover chocolate cake. Sharing cycling stories while sipping wine provided the evening’s entertainment.

We returned to reality on the third day, with no flats or accidents. My “Medicare birthday” turned out to be a wonderful surprise, thanks to the members from our great SCCCC!

Richard Bedal is Club Member of the Year



Former club president Richard Bedal, left, was selected Club Member of the Year 2006 for his efforts to promote the values of SCCCC, his organization and overall excellent leadership.

Safety Zone Bill Debated

(Continued from page 1)

road rage against bicyclists. It really requires common sense when motorists pass bicyclists on the road, but you cannot legislate common sense."

Former club president Richard Bedal observes that most drivers and truckers already allow a safe zone when passing bicyclists, crossing the double yellow line to do so. But "the problem is the few drivers afraid to cross the double line or who believe that bicyclists do not belong on the roads." Bedal cites an example from the SCCCC-sponsored Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge, when a car's rear view mirror clipped a bicyclist on Summit Road by passing too closely, even though there was no other traffic. (The bicycle was damaged and the rider bruised.) No bike lane existed, and the driver, who was not cited, claimed that the biker was too far out from the side of the road. Adds Bedal, "The intent of the law is not for drivers to cross double yellow lines or use the left turn only lanes to pass bicyclists when it's clearly hazardous to do so. Granted, it (AB 60) may slightly increase the risk of car-car crashes. However, drivers already pass bicyclists by crossing double yellow lines, and the law would make this common practice legal, while also sending a clear message of what a minimum safe passing distance between car and bicyclist should be."

Piet Canin of the city's Transportation Management Agency and Bike to Work, agrees. "Overall AB 60 is a good thing as it legitimizes the cyclist's right to be on the road," he says. "You need something like this to get into people's heads."

(While AB 60 failed to pass last year, its sponsor, Senator Nava, is now head of the Assembly Transportation Committee.)

Editor's note: Send your opinion to the Roadrunner on AB 60!)

Soquel Bike Lanes Completed...at Last

**By Cheryl Schmitt
Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator
City of Santa Cruz**

The first bike plan for the City of Santa Cruz was published in 1980, identifying where bike lanes could be installed, and most were completed. However, Soquel Avenue was not identified for on-street bike lanes at that time. It is interesting to read the thinking of bikeway planning circa 1980: "Due to high vehicle volumes, land use, and heavy truck traffic, this stretch of roadway experiences the highest bicycle collision totals in Santa Cruz. Class II facilities are not being recommended due to the extensive loss of on-street parking. Merchants and businessmen made it

Welcome New Members

The following people have joined SCCCC. Please welcome them if you meet them on a club ride: Pat Shlunt, Shawn Shellar, Doug and Sandy Stevens, George and Suzanne Wilson, Brij Lunine, Deborah Vitale, Frances, Jamie, Marco and Nicco Torro, Connie Sexton, Joyce Salisbury, Michele Reilly, Judy Marsalis and Bob Vorse, Marc Rosenblum, Deborah Joyce, James and Emma Kleck, Thomas and Joanne Penello.

Thank you Ride Leaders!!

These club members have lead Tuesday/Saturday rides for January and February. Thank you!

Emilie Holder
Chris Boman
Frank Pritchard
Ed Kilduff
Gene Lytle
Janet Fogel
Janie Tibbals
David Gill
Ric Eiserling
Jeanne Peerless
James Denton
Grace Voss



Heavy
equipment
works on
Soquel
Avenue;
bike lane
ribbon cut-
ting is set
for 5 p.m.
Feb. 28

clear as did the Chamber of Commerce in 1977 that the removal of on-street parking on Soquel Avenue for the intent of installing bicycle lanes was not in the City's best interest. Sidewalks should be improved so as to allow cyclists to use them if they so wish."

Nevertheless, in 1988, staff drew up a draft plan to identify a strategy to provide bike lanes on Soquel Avenue. For nearly 20 years this basic plan morphed into the "Soquel Avenue Plan Line Study", "Soquel Avenue Bike Lanes", "Eastside Bike Path Alternatives", "East-West Bicycle Route", "Soquel Avenue Bicycle Facilities", "Soquel Avenue Future Plan Line", "Soquel Avenue Refined Concept", "Three Lane Alternative and Varying Section Alternative", "Soquel Avenue Bicycle Pilot Project" and "Soquel Avenue Task Force Study", to name a few. In 2002 a "short-term" plan at an estimated construction cost of \$225,000 was adopted by City Council. Five years later, this short-term strategy has come to fruition.

The project was constructed by Graniterock/Pavex at a bid cost of \$2,092,025.82. Additional improvements to the original concept include street repaving, pedestrian crossing improvements, and traffic signal upgrades. Funding for the project was provided by Federal, State, Regional Air District, Redevelopment Agency, and City of Santa Cruz sources

Local Bicycle Shops

These shops are supporting our bicycle club with discounts on bicycling accessories. Discounts vary by shop, but generally run 10% off the regular price. Ask the sales clerk if they offer bicycle club discounts.

Another Bike Shop
2361 Mission St., Santa Cruz
427-2232
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5

Aptos Bike Trail
7556 Soquel Dr., Aptos
688-8650
Hours 9 — 5
Bike rentals

Bike Station Aptos
8061 Aptos Street (Starting mid-May)
688-4169
Monday to Friday 10 to 5; Saturday 12-4

The Bicycle Trip
1127 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
427-2580
Mon. — Sat. 10–6 • Sun. 10–5
Free Maintenance Classes

Terry Precision Cycling
Women's Clothing and Bicycle Parts
www.terrybicycles.com

Bill's Bike Repair
2628 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz
477-0511
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5

Amsterdam Bicycles
2-1231 East Cliff Drive
475-1394
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5

Cycle Works
1203 41st Ave., Capitola
476-7092
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5
New & Used — Trade-ins Welcome

Dave's Custom Bikes
910-A Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
423-8923
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5

Family Cycling Center
912 41st Ave., Santa Cruz
475-3883
Mon. — Sat. 10–6 • Sun. 10–5
Cruisers • City Bikes • Mountain • Trailers • Rentals

Mr. E's Cyclery
8059 Aptos St., Aptos
662-2973
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5

Scotts Valley Cyclesport
245 Mount Hermon Rd., Scotts Valley
440-9070
Tue. — Fri. 10–6 • Sat. 10–5 • Sun. 12–5
Road • Mountain • Cyclo-X • BMX • Cruisers • Kids

The Spokesman Bicycles
231 Cathcart St., Santa Cruz
429-6062
Mon., Wed. — Sat. 10–6 • Tue. 12–6 • Sun. 12–5
Road • Mountain • Tri • BMX

Sprockets
1420 Mission St., Santa Cruz
426-7623
Tue. — Fri. 10–6 • Sat. 10–5 • Sun. 12–5
Road • Mountain • Tandem

The Bike Coop
1156 High St., Santa Cruz
457-8281
Open 7 days • Hours 9 — 5

Trey's True Wheels
1431 Main St., Watsonville
786-0200
Tue. — Sat. 10–6 • Sun. 10–4

Santa Cruz County Cycling Club Membership Application/Renewal Form

The Santa Cruz County Cycling Club is a group of bicycling enthusiasts with a wide variety of interests and abilities. The mission of the SCCCC is to promote bicycling for all ages through education and organized bicycling events. Included in your membership is a subscription to The Roadrunner, the club's bimonthly newsletter, which publishes a schedule of rides and bicycling announcements. In addition, a 10% discount at local bicycle shops. Annual membership dues must be paid to remain a member in good standing. Dues become due yearly in the month your membership is received.

Applicant First and Last Name (please print)		Family Members (if family membership)		Date of Application	
Address		City		State	Zip Code
Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail			Birthdate (mo./day)
Please check the appropriate box <input type="checkbox"/> New Member Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Information Change Only		Please check the appropriate box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$20) <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$30) <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18) (\$10) <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership (\$50) Please send newsletter via email (as PDF file) <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>			

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS ("LAB")
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT")
 Each applicant for membership shall READ and SIGN the following Release Agreement

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

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

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

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Club, the LAB, their respective administrators, directors, agents, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and leasers of the premises on which the Activity takes place (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS.

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

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature(s) of additional family members 18 years or older

Date

Please complete the following for any minor (<18 years old) family members:

Name

Age

Name

Age

MINOR RELEASE

And I, the Minor's parent and/or legal guardian, understand the nature of bicycling activities and the Minor's experience and capabilities and believe the minor to be qualified, in good faith, and in proper physical condition to participate in such activities.

I HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON THE MINOR'S ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND FURTHER AGREE THAT IF, DESPITE THIS RELEASE, I, THE MINOR, OR ANYONE ON THE MINOR'S BEHALF MAKES A CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF THE RELEASEES NAMED ABOVE, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ANY LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY FEES, LOSS LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR ANY COST THAT MAY INCUR AS THE RESULT OF ANY SUCH CLAIM

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Minor

Please sign waiver — Incomplete Forms Will Be Returned

Enclosed is \$_____ dues for membership in the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club which entitles me to all the rights and privileges of membership.

Make check payable to SCCCC and mail to: Santa Cruz County Cycling Club, P.O. Box 8342, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8342

March-April 2007

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				Swanton TT 6 p.m. 1	2	C 3
Flamingo Ride 4	7 p.m.Board Meeting 5	C 6	7	8	9	L 10
11	12	L 13	14	15	16	U 17
R i d e 18 leaders Brunch	19	U 20	21	Race Team Meeting 6 p.m. 22	23	B 24
25	26	B 27	28	29	30	R 31
Flamingo Ride 1	7 p.m.Board Meeting 2	R 3	4	Swanton TT 6 p.m. 5	6	I 7
8	9	I 10	11	12	Fun Ride 13	D 14
15	16	D 17	18	Race Team Meeting 6 p.m. 19	20	E 21
22	23	E 24	25	General Meeting 7 p.m. 26	27	28
29	30					



Santa Cruz County Cycling Club
P.O. Box 8342
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8342

DATED MATERIAL

Santa Cruz County Cycling Club Membership Card

www.santacruzcountycycling.org - P.O. Box 8342 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(valid only with member's mailing label)