

The Spokesman

the newsletter and ride schedule of the

Tri-City Bicycle Club

Serving Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, and environs

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<http://www.tricitybicycleclub.org>

January – March 2007

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TCBC Officers and Board Members

President (outgoing)	Harold Udseth
Vice-Pres. (outgoing)	Betsy Colburn
Secretary	Vicki Patten
Treasurer	John Ittner
Ride Coordinator	Open
Newsletter Editor	Open
Past President	George Kyriazis

ANNUAL BANQUET

January 26 – Kennewick Red Lion Hotel
Social hour starts at 6:00 pm and dinner is at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 each.

Tickets are on sale at Scott's Cycle, REI, Markee's (Kennewick) and Richland Bicycles & Fitness.

The program for the evening is "How to Prepare for and Ride Your Own Tour", featuring TCBC's own experts.

RIDE CALENDAR – WINTER 2007

Tuesday and Thursday Morning Rides start at the Richland Community Center (meet on the north side by the bike racks). These are leaderless rides, with the destination chosen by the group. **Morning rides start at 9:30 AM.**

Saturday rides start from their scheduled locations and times as specified in the ride calendar.

Ride Codes: Green – less than 15 miles with nearly level terrain; Blue – 15 - 40 miles with moderate terrain; Black – greater than 40 miles with moderate terrain, or fewer than 40 with asphalt moguls.

Riders: No need to call ahead unless otherwise indicated. Just show up at the start. Feel free to call the ride leader for more information.

Leaders and Sweeps: Ride leaders and sweeps are always needed. As a leader, you can choose a ride that's been done before, or create the ride of your choice and have it immortalized in the next Spokesman ride calendar. The day you lead the group on your ride, you may be surprised at the number of riders who have never followed your route before. Ride sweeps provide the "rear guard" for the ride, ensuring that slower riders or those with mechanical troubles don't fall back behind the pack. **Call Ed Nordquist at 627-1195 to volunteer.**

And two more Very Important Notes: First, **WEAR YOUR HELMET!** Second, please obey the rules of the road at all times. The Club is active in community affairs, which helps us promote

legislation that could provide better facilities for cyclists. Don't ruin it by blowing through stop signs, tailgating left turns, or riding against traffic. If you wouldn't do it in a car, don't do it on a bike!

Beginning riders and those who want a shorter ride: Show up at the longer rides and let the ride Sweep or Leader know you'd like a less strenuous ride. They can help you with a shorter route and try to match you up with someone to ride with. We won't leave you dangling.

Ride Leaders – Some hints for an enjoyable and successful ride:

- Introduce all the riders before starting.
- Make sure everyone is wearing their helmets.
- Brief all riders on the route, where to regroup, any problems expected. (If you are unsure of the route and its conditions, ride it yourself the week before the ride.)
- Provide maps. You can get some maps on the club's web site or ask John Ittner for maps, 627-1858.
- Ask about the riding abilities of the group, if you are not personally acquainted with some of the riders. Ask someone to act as sweep (rear guard) if there are riders who can't keep up with the leaders.
- Ask riders to let you know if they will be leaving the group before the end of the ride.
- In hot weather, carry extra water in case another rider goes dry.

Riding in the fresh air and sunshine is its own best reward.

Jan 6 – Queensgate/Wannawish – Meet at Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 a.m. Out Queensgate and up to Bombing Range detour road, down Bombing Range to Wannawish Dam and back to Golf Course Café. Blue/Black, 35 miles. **Leader: Dave Gerkenmeyer, 628-3084**

Jan 13 – Benton City – Leave from Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 am. Ride to B.C. via Ruppert and Demoss Roads. Lunch in Benton City. Return via Kennedy and Bombing Range Rd. Blue, approx. 40 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Jan 20 - Kennewick Convoy - Leave from **Espresso World in Kennewick at 10:30 AM** (for those wanting a longer ride, start at **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30**). Tour Kennewick via 10th and 4th Avenues. Possible stop at **O'Henry's** on Auburn near 1st St. Return via Columbia Park. Green/Blue, 18/38 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Jan 27 - Dallas Climb - Meet at **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Out on I-182 sidepath to Kennedy and Dallas. Climb Dallas to I-82 and on to Badger Road. Return on Leslie or continue to **Sandstone Café** in Kennewick. The climb up Dallas makes this ride a Dark Blue, 25 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Feb 3 - Loop the Parks - Leave from **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Ride through Chiawana Park. Return via Cable Bridge and Columbia Drive through Columbia Park back to Some Bagels. Blue, approx. 25 miles. Leader: **Leaderless Ride**

Feb 10 - West Richland Tour - Leave from **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Out Kennedy to Bombing Range. Ride through residential areas on Ironton, Broadview, Riverside, returning on Van Giesen and Hains. Gradual climbs and a steep downhill; Blue, 19 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Feb 17 - Benton City - Leave from **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Ride to B.C. via Dallas and Badger. Lunch at **Shadow Mountain Grille**. Return via DeMoss, Ruppert, and Van Giesen. Blue, approx. 30 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Feb 24 - Sagemoor Loop - Leave **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Through Howard Amon Park and trail to Court St., Harris, Dent to Rd 68 at Douglas Fruit. Columbia River Road to Sagemoor. Return on Taylor Flats Rd. Black, approx. 35 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Mar 3 - Badger Canyon Loop - Leave **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Out on I-182 sidepath to Queensgate, Columbia Park Trail, Leslie, and Badger. Return on Jacobs Rd from Kiona, then Dallas, Kennedy and Queensgate back to Richland. Blue, approx. 35 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Mar 10 - Tour de Hanford - Leave from **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Ride Rt 4S north to Rt 10 at the Wye Barricade. Rt 10 and Horne Rd to Benton City. Lunch stop at the **Shadow Mountain Grille** in Benton City. Return via Kennedy, Queensgate, I-182 trail, Goethals, and Lee. Black, 47 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11 (new date this year)

Mar 17 - Zintel Dam - Leave **Espresso World in Kennewick at 10:30 AM**, or get there from **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Take Kellogg to 10th, then Union to 27th. Ride up to Dam. Continue through Canyon Lakes to Ely. Left on 27th and retrace back to Kellogg. Black; approx. 25 miles (or 40 miles from Richland). **Leaderless Ride**

Mar 24 - Burbank- Leave **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Through Columbia Park and over the Blue Bridge. Out "A" Street and Hwy 12 to Burbank. Stop at the petrol station. Return same route except go over the Cable Bridge. Blue, approx. 32 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Mar 31 - Chocolate Factory - Leave from **Some Bagels in Richland at 9:30 AM**. Cross Columbia River on I-182 sidepath, out Court to Harris, left on Harris to Dent. Left on Rd. 68, right at fire station, out to Hwy 395 and lunch at the **Chocolate Factory** (Country Mercantile). Retrace route to return. Blue, 40 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

Apr 7 - B.C. to Prosser - Leave from **Benton City Park & Ride at 9:45 AM** or, for those wanting a longer ride, start from **Some Bagels in Richland at 8:30 AM**. Up Weber Canyon to County Wells Rd. Over to Patterson Hwy, and down into Prosser for lunch at Blue Goose. Back via Old Inland Empire Hwy to Benton City. Black, approx. 35 miles (or 65 miles from Richland). **Leaderless Ride**

Apr 14 - Over to Hover - Leave **Espresso World in Kennewick at 9:30 AM**, or get there from **Some Bagels in Richland at 8:30 AM**. Kellogg, Metaline, Edison, Columbia Park Trail, Fruitland to First Ave, left on First to Chemical Dr., 3rd, Yew, 7th, Havana, Finley Rd, Riek, Meals and Hover Rd. to the Old Hover town site. Return via Game Farm,

Haney, Bowles Rd., Oak St., 27th, Washington and 10th. Blue, approx. 35 miles. **Leaderless Ride**

UPCOMING WINTER BIKING EVENTS

Chilly Hilly

February 25 2007.

Chilly Hilly has been kicking off the cycling season in the Northwest for the past 34 years. The 33-mile route around Bainbridge Island starts with an early morning ferry ride across Puget Sound from Seattle or you can join the crowd directly on Bainbridge Island.

See www.cascade.org/EandR/chilly/index.cfm

Seattle Bike Expo – Warren G. Magnuson Park March 10-11.

Group Health Seattle International Bicycle Expo is a complete celebration of cycling, with exhibits and presentations from all aspects of the sport.

See <http://www.cascade.org/EandR/expo/index.cfm>.

UPCOMING SPRING BIKING EVENT

Northwest Crank

Thursday, April 26 through Monday, April 30 2007
Wenatchee, Washington

Northwest Crank is a cycling festival to meet and ride with your fellow cyclists from around the state of Washington and the Northwest for some fine spring cycling in Wenatchee. Why should you join them?

- A chance to meet riders from all over the state and region.
- Build your base miles for the summer riding season.
- Explore the wonderful roads around Wenatchee.
- All you have to do is eat, sleep, and ride!
- Finally get rid of some of your old bike parts in the White Elephant gift exchange.

See <http://www.northwestcrank.com/index.html>

Ready, set, crank!

INLAND EMPIRE CENTURY

May 12, 2007

The 27th annual Inland Empire Century, also the second “Group Health Inland Empire Century,” will start, as usual, in Howard Amon Park at the end of Lee Boulevard in Richland.

Last year, Group Health sponsorship allowed us to purchase our own water coolers; no more having to wonder what kinds of bugs are in the borrowed, beat-up barrels we used in the past. We also bought several canopies, tables, sandwich boards for signs and even constructed a water filtration station so the 100-milers would have a better taste in their mouths when leaving Prosser.

We continue to partner with Active.com to provide online registration. This is the registration service used by Cascade Bicycle Club and hundreds of other sports clubs to streamline sign-ups for their events.

Judging from the survey filled out by riders in the 2006 IEC, TCBC still puts on a great event. With this year’s improvements, we could break 300 entrants. Group Health is actively engaged in helping us gain support from other Tri-City organizations, such as Kiwanis, to ease the burden on the Club in areas such as staffing rest stops. With some help from them and a few dedicated club members, we may even pull off a post-ride party, lack of which was a frequent complaint from last year’s riders.

To continue to host the Mid-Columbia’s premier recreational cycling event, we need all TCBC members to get involved (cycling, volunteering, or both) in this event. The preparations have been ongoing for months, but the day of the ride requires a lot of help to pull off another well-liked IEC. If you have a little time and energy to contribute to the success of this great ride, please call Ellie Ittner at 627-1858.

Thanks are extended to the following TCBC members who have been instrumental in the initial preparations for the ride: Dave Gerkenmeyer, Sue Gerkenmeyer, Ed Nordquist, Kathleen Nordquist, and John Ittner.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

Check out the TCBC web site at www.tricitybicycleclub.org. While the main pages may not have changed much, the Inland Empire Century pages at www.tricitybicycleclub.org/IEC2007/IEC2007.html are quite an improvement over previous IEC pages.

If you like the way the new IEC pages look, you can thank some web-authoring software that your 62-year-old webmaster found. This geezer, weaned in the days of house-sized 128K computers, was able to throw those pages together with a minimum of angst, some home-brewed espresso, and the patient help of a few kind souls who had previously trod the same bumpy ground.

If you know of other websites or resources that would be useful to TCBC members by inclusion on our website, please call John (the web geezer) at 627-1858. He intends to keep the TCBC on-line presence a tad fresher in the future.

TCBC Email LIST

All but about 8 TCBC members have supplied the Membership Chairman with their email addresses. While the Spokesman comes out quarterly and we have rides scheduled every week of the year, there are still many opportunities arising that require immediate communication to members.

If you do not have an email address listed with TCBC, you may miss out on important news. Sending a postcard to a few members without email is about 80% of the total effort required to get the word out, and it takes 2-3 days longer.

TCBC does not share addresses, email or snail-mail, with any other entity.

RIDE COORDINATOR NEEDED

To many TCBC members, having an opportunity to ride with others at a known time and place is the main reason they joined this club. Peruse any bicycle club site or newsletter, and you will always find a ride calendar.

Creating a Ride Calendar is simple: using a previous calendar as a guide, change the dates, tweak the routes or starting locations if needed, then call your trusted fellow members to lead a few of the only 12-14 rides listed each quarter.

If this issue of the Spokesman, with a calendar full of leaderless rides, doesn't drive someone to step up and take the challenge, maybe some encouragement from fellow members will. While you are offering that encouragement, also offer to lead a few rides and make a few of the phone calls; spreading the load makes any job a lot easier

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

If you can use a phone and a word processor (much like a food processor, but usually doesn't need cleaning), you can be the next Editor of the Spokesman.

Having a means of communication within the club is nearly as essential as a good ride program. The Spokesman is sent out quarterly not only to club members, but also to area bike shops, local recreation and civic organizations and to other bicycle clubs throughout the northwest. Let the club president, secretary, or treasurer know today that you are willing to step up and help keep this vital club function alive and kicking.

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION

TCBC has about 71 individual and family memberships as of this issue of the newsletter. Including family members, this translates to about 120 members. About 25 of these memberships are due to expire soon or had already expired before this issue was mailed.

Don't let your TCBC membership go extinct. Check your address label on this issue for your expiration date. If it is past or will expire soon, use the membership/renewal application inserted in the Spokesman to remain current.

If you don't need to renew, pass the application along to a pedaling friend.

SOS!

No, the club is not sinking, but it is becoming a ship full of passengers with too few crew. As of this writing, no one has stepped forward to take the President, Vice-President, Newsletter Editor, or Ride Coordinator positions for 2007.

The club's by-laws require a quorum of four officers to conduct club business. At this point, only the Secretary and Treasurer positions are filled for 2007. Fortunately, a committee of six, with the help of Group Health, are diligently preparing for TCBC's signature event, the Inland Empire Century.

Some of you may have heard occasional doom-and-gloom talk about disbanding the club or folding it into another local recreational group, namely "Fun, Fit and Over Fifty." First, only a handful of our 100+ members have broached the subject of disbanding, so it is not a majority opinion. Judging from renewed and new memberships over the past year, most of us still want an active Tri-City Bicycle Club, one that is not married to a gym and rides in 200-hundred-yard-long pachelines.

Second, while quite a few of our senior members also participate in FFOF activities, about a third of TCBC members are younger than the big 5-0. Counting children of members, almost half of TCBC would be left 'club-less' if we were to combine TCBC with FFOF, assuming they even want us.

Finally, since TCBC is incorporated as a non-profit organization in accordance with Washington state law, dissolution is not as straight-forward as some might think. The club has an ample treasury, about \$5K, which must be carefully disbursed to avoid undue tax consequences. Since this money really belongs to all club members, it would be unfair to disband the club and disburse these funds without major input from the TCBC membership.

Speaking of 'major input,' that is precisely what is needed to re-energize TCBC. This organization is too important to the community to let it turn to dust. It is important to note that Group Health came to us with an offer of support for the IEC, both in money (a lot) and other help. That kind of help is only

offered to organizations that are seen as having a beneficial role in the community. This is what TCBC brings to the table in the Tri-Cities:

- Organized clout for bicycling related issues;
- Support for bicycling education at both adult and child levels;
- Monetary support for Safe Kids Coalition, primarily for the purchase of bicycle helmets (\$500 in 2006);
- Monetary support for the League of American Bicyclists (\$800 in 2006);
- Monetary support for the Bicycle Alliance of Washington (\$500 in 2006);
- Monetary support for the Adventure Cycling Association (\$500 in 2006);
- Inland Empire Century riders from out of the area, who bring in an estimated \$150 each to the Tri-City economy;
- Recognition of the Tri-Cities as a place to go for more than hydro races (it doesn't hurt that all our rides and the IEC pass many wineries).

We don't need much, just a few members who will take on the unfulfilled responsibilities. The heavy lifting is still being done by a precious few, attesting to the fact that the load on any one individual need not be daunting. **TCBC needs you!**




The proposed National Bicycle Route Network (image courtesy of Adventure Cycling Association) ACA is one of the cycling organizations supported by contributions from TCBC. ACA promotes access to roads and highways for cyclists, develop routes and maps, and advocates better living through improved recreational opportunities.

SUPPORTERS OF THE TRI-CITY BICYCLE CLUB

Discounts include:

- Markee's - 10% off for accessories
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- Richland (Schwinn) - 10% off for accessories, bicycles, and exercise equipment

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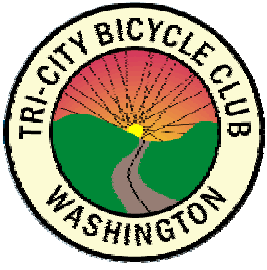
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