

Yaquina Wheels Bicycle Club Newsletter

November 2006

Newport, Oregon

www.yaquinawheels.org

*“Nothing compares to the simple
pleasure of a bike ride.”*

--- John F. Kennedy

Yaquina Lighthouse Rides were a Total Success

If you look at the spreadsheet used to track registrations you would see 194 registrations from the internet, mail from brochures handed out and day of ride walk-ins. The actual rider count wasn't that high but it shows that we did a pretty good job getting the word out. Next year we'll put what we learned from this year's preparations and see if we can expand our advertising even more.



Club Members Ride All Over the Place

Rick starts out by riding in Florida, Wisconsin, France British Columbia with a finish from Astoria to Newport with Jim, Jerry and Gale. Retirement can be a good thing. Jim Colbert and Jerry Kern did the complete Oregon Coast Bike Route with Gale Matsumoto doing the Tillamook to Newport leg. Ken did the Tour BC ride with Rick and Richard Giles did Cycle Oregon. Al made it to the Lance Armstrong Foundation LiveStrong ride again this year and thanks to the training he did with “Team In Training” did one

of the best rides he's done in years. Who says that our weekend rides don't bring results?



Meetings (usually) are held on the last Thursday of each month. Newcomers are welcome. For information about the club, call Club President, Ken Dennis at 272-2578.

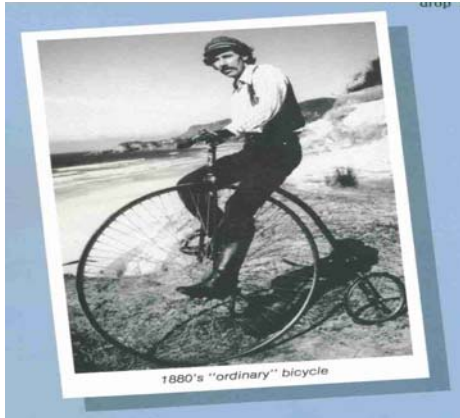
What Else Is New?

In October Jim Colbert attended a two week bicycle mechanics course in Ashland at the United Bicycle Institute. It's a little intense for the backyard mechanic because it covers enough material to become a certified bike mechanic.

Elliot breaks his foot trying to do some cross training in boat driving. It would have been a better story if he'd crashed on a bike like his dad did (looking at the pugsly you'd think it wouldn't fall over without a big push).

The club was introduced to the Green Bike Program in Waldport and several members have volunteered to help sort through the donated bikes and put some more rideable bikes on the streets in Waldport.

The President's Corner



The President's Corner

By Ken Dennis

The picture above shows the founder of the original Yaquina Wheels Bicycle Club. This picture of John Mayrbat appeared in the early ODOT Bicycle Master Plans and was on the front of the Oregon Coast Bike Route maps for many years. I haven't seen John for many years but was contacted by him a few months ago. One of his daughters found our website which prompted the call from John. He says he'll make it back to Newport one of these days and might even bring a bike.

Past Information That's Always Useful

These are some of the PSA's that the Bicycle Transportation Alliance has put out and they are worthwhile reading or re-reading. Stay safe out there.

Ride to the right

For their part, bicyclists should ride as far right on the road as practical.

And keep in mind that a bicyclist may legally ride further into the lane:

- when avoiding parked cars or surface hazards like sewer grates or debris
- when a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and vehicle to travel safely side by side
- when making a left turn
- when passing another bicycle or car
- to avoid conflicts with right-turning cars

- on a one-way street, a bicyclist may ride on the left.

How far to the right?

Riding on the right doesn't mean hugging the curb or edge of the road. This may not be the best place to ride. For example, if you hit the curb, you could lose your balance and fall into traffic.

New Law

It is now legal, in Oregon, for bicyclists to pass motor vehicles on the right. This comes into play at stop signs and lights. I know most of us have been doing it anyway but I need to add a word of caution. Watch out for doors opening from parked cars and vehicles that may be turning right.

Riding in wet weather

With proper clothing and reasonable care, rainy weather shouldn't stop you from continuing to ride.

Your riding technique needs some modification in wet weather. Rim brakes work poorly if the bicycle has steel rims -- stopping distances may be increased by 10 times. It helps to wipe the rims dry by applying the brakes in advance, well before you need to stop.

- In the rain, pay special attention to metal surfaces, such as manhole covers, painted traffic markings, wet leaves and oil slicks. They're all especially slippery. Avoid riding through puddles if you can't see the bottom -- a puddle can hide a pothole.
- When you get home, it's a good idea to re-lubricate your bike chain, to help prevent it from rusting.
- Equip yourself, use reasonable caution and don't let messy conditions keep you off your bike.

The Yaquina Wheels Bicycle Club's web page is super! Check it out. It includes feature articles, ride calendar, photos of previous rides, ride maps and descriptions, a preview of the upcoming Yaquina Lighthouse Century, and much more.

Log on to: www.yaquinawheels.org
...and thank Jim Colbert our "webmaster"
extraordinaire!