



*Cycle the Oregon Coast*

# Yaquina Wheels Bicycle Club

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## Newsletter

Spring 2010

### **Ken Dennis Elected New President of YWBC**

**At the January meeting of YWBC Ken Dennis was elected to succeed Lisa Kern as President for a two year term. Other officers elected were Elliott Crowder as Vice President, Gale Matsumoto as Secretary, Skip Harrison as Treasurer, and Nancy Mead as Member-at-Large. Lisa Kern will automatically be the other Member-at-Large unless she declines.**

**Ken has been a member of YWBC since the original club's beginnings in the 1980s. The club was rejuvenated in 2004, and Ken has been an active member, including serving as President prior to Lisa Kern, since the "new" club's inception.**

**Ken has also been a member of the League of American Bicyclists for over 20 years.**

**Ken is passionate about bicycle safety, and never misses an opportunity to share this passion and his expertise with others, especially new cyclists.**



**Ken Dennis – YWBC President**

## **Saturday Bike Rides**

**With the improving weather, YWBC Saturday rides have resumed. Meet at Bike Newport at 10:00 AM. If you haven't done so recently, you will be asked to sign a waiver. Helmets required.**

## **Women's Novice Rides**

**Two Women's Novice Bike Rides will be put on by YWBC this summer. The first will be on Saturday, June 5 at 10 AM and will start at the Hatfield Science Center parking lot south of the bridge in Newport. The ride will be about 8 miles on flat terrain. The second ride will be July 10 at 10 AM and will start at the gas tank on the Bay Road; this ride will be a bit longer but will also be on flat terrain. It is hoped that the participants will meet other women to ride with, learn about bike safety, and become more confident riders. It is also a time when hopefully the more experienced riders can answer biking questions (NO question is a "dumb" question!) All women are welcome to participate; some of the women will not be novice riders. The more experienced riders can help the less experienced riders. Contact Nancy Mead at 541-765-2371 or [nm3567@msn.com](mailto:nm3567@msn.com) for more information. All riders will be required to sign a waiver and must**

**wear a Helmet. You don't have to be a YWBC member to participate.**

## **Green Bike Coop**

**YWBC has been a strong supporter of the Green Bike Coop in Waldport for several years. Club member Rick Hill runs the program and devotes an extraordinary number of hours as a volunteer to keep it going. Other club members also volunteer their time there. The Green Bike Coop is under the "umbrella" of Seashore Family Literacy, a non-profit that focuses on "change through education", but meets other community needs through various food and clothing programs. The Oregonian recently aptly described Seashore Family Literacy's founder, Sinitilla McKinley the "Mother Theresa" of Waldport.**

**What does the Green Bike Coop do? If you have been in Waldport during the summer and seen bright green bikes around town, those are bikes that are left for people to use and return on the "honor system". If you are a tourist (or a resident) and want a bike to ride around town, just pick up one of the "green bikes", ride it all you want, and return it where you found it when you no longer need it. The "green bikes" are older bikes that have been donated to the Coop, reconditioned by volunteers and students working at the Coop, and**

Painted green. Other bikes donated to the Coop are reconditioned and given to people in the county who request a bike; nobody is turned down and no questions are asked; many homeless people and people without cars have benefited from this program. Green Bike Coop also teaches middle and high school students how to repair bikes; many of the bikes out in the community have been reconditioned by these young people, some of whom have become accomplished mechanics.

**On Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 PM the Coop is open to anyone who wants to bring their bike in and work on it, or who just wants to learn something about bike mechanics and help refurbish one of the donated bikes; several bike club members have benefited from these Wednesday night sessions.**

**Bike Knowledge for Independent Women was started early in 2010 as a bike mechanic class for women. Several bike club members have participated in these Tuesday evening classes, and have become much more knowledgeable about their bikes. They have learned bike maintenance, how to change a flat, brake adjustments, derailleur adjustments, etc.. These classes fill up quickly as there is a maximum of 4 women per 6 week**

session. For more information contact Nancy Mead at 541-765-2371 or [nm3567@msn.com](mailto:nm3567@msn.com).

If you want more information on the Green Bike Coop go to <http://www.seashorefamily.org/green-bikes/>. For more information on Seashore Family Literacy go to <http://www.seashorefamily.org/>.

## **Col de Beaver Creek**

Col de Beaver Creek has officially become an activity of YWBC. Starting in May, and continuing for four weeks, riders are competing against themselves (and, unofficially against others! There is a bit of friendly rivalry going on!) to see how fast they can ascend and descend the very steep 2.1 mile hill at the end of North Beaver Creek. The last climb is Thursday, June 3. There will be a final awards presentation and pizza party. If you missed this year's fun don't forget to sign up next year. There are prizes for both men and women, not only for the fastest, but also for most improved; so, if you think you are slow you can still win for "most improved".

## **New Bike Store in Lincoln City**

Elliot and Daniella Crowder, YWBC members and owners of Bike Newport have opened a new store

**at 923 SW 51st in Lincoln City right across from Mo's in Taft. Daniella likes to call it their "boutique" store. It is smaller in size than the Newport store but it is a full service store with a mechanic on duty at all times. Stop by and check it out!**

## **President's Corner**

**What's happening with bicycling this year?**

**The year started out with a trip to D.C. with Elliott and Daniella for the National Bike Summit. The Summit gave us an opportunity to meet with our congressional representatives and ask that they support current legislation that will help improve bicycling at all levels. It was a very informative and productive get together this year. It was the 10<sup>th</sup> time that the League of American Bicyclists has helped put cycling advocates together with our congressional representatives.**

**At the Summit Google announced that bicycle routes are now available on Google maps and Ray LaHood, the Secretary of Transportation, made a commitment that bicycling and walking will play a major role in DOT planning.**



**Middle: Elliot & Daniella Crowder & Ken Dennis in Washington, DC at the National Bike Summit**

**The Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was successful in getting a Complete Streets Resolution from City Council. This means that the city has committed to making sure that all forms of transportation are considered when there are improvements to the streets. This resolution will be the start of an application process to get Newport in consideration as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Newport has come up with a bike route map that is now in the process of being printed for distribution at various places around the city and will be available on their website. Progress has been made to get a trail out to the north jetty from Naterlin Dr. by the U.S. Coast Guard station.**

**The committee has also been pushing for completion of the Naterlin Dr. walkway and bike lane project that is being funded by a grant received from ODOT. After this is done the city will apply for a grant to improve Oceanview Dr. between NW 11<sup>th</sup> and NW 21<sup>st</sup>. The Bay Front street improvements should also include sharrows to alert motorists that the street is a shared roadway.**

**I've been working with the Port of Toledo, Lincoln County and Oregon Trails to get a bike/ped pathway around the hill at MP 11. A recent meeting with the port and OR Trails was productive but it may take a couple of years before any trail is actually built.**

**The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners proclaimed May as Bike to Work Month at a BOC meeting that was attended by Elliot, Daniella and I. The Newport Bike/Ped Committee will be putting together an organized effort to promote bike to work month in 2011.**

**On June 4<sup>th</sup> I'll be attending the Oregon Bike Summit in Portland with Daniella, Elliot, Jim Colbert and at least two active bicycling advocates from Lincoln City.**

**The year has started out with some promising commitments from Newport, Lincoln City, Toledo and**

**Lincoln County. If you see something out there that needs to be "fixed", step up and let your voice be heard. My goals have always been to find ways to improve cycling conditions for everyone.**

## **New Members**

**Sheila and Tom Swinford have been active members of the local community for many years. They live southeast of Newport. Sheila's profession is counseling but she has "retired" to organic farming including breeding and raising goats. Tom is semi-retired, but still coaches the Newport High School Track Teams; he has been a member to the Coast Hills Running Club for 23 years. This is an example of their retirement: "I was planning to ride to Newport today just as a nice warm up ride, catch a ride home with Tom and be ready for the ride tomorrow. When Tom came back from regular chores this morning he reported that Stripe had kidded. Great, went for our walk, and Pretty had joined Stripe in the barn and had a kid, kids, triplets. I started cleaning out another barn and noticed Annie was kidding in one section. Well we had 7 kids today and lots of drama as confusion about who's were who's**

mounted. I decided I better stay home, finish the barn chores and watch. Turned out we did have one unclaimed kid, started him on a bottle this evening. All is well, but not the day I planned. Still have four lurking waiting to kid, plus this little one learning to stand and gulping 3 oz every 3 hours.”

Sheila and Tom love bike touring and have toured both in the U.S. and in Europe. Sheila is planning on riding Cycle Oregon this year, and also rode it last year.

Julie Kay & Rich Keller are long time Lincoln County residents. Julie grew up in Toledo and works for the County, primarily in the Road Department. Rich is a part owner of Carpet One in Newport.

Julie and Rich enjoy riding together and also enjoy group rides. Julie rode Cycle Oregon a couple of years ago only two weeks after buying her first good bike (she had been riding an old “box store” bike). Julie is participating in the Women’s Bicycle Maintenance Course being taught by Rick Hill through the Green Bike Coop of Waldport.

Jim Colbert is technically a new bike club member, but is known to many because he was previously a

member of the club before moving to Eugene in 2008. Jim has been riding bikes as an adult since he bought a Peugeot 10 speed in 1970 while a Graduate Student at Washington State University, Pullman. He has commuted by bike to and from work most of his working life. Jim is a mathematician; he worked with the US Forest Service in various parts of the United States for 25 years, and when he previously lived in Newport he worked at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Jim will be chairing this year’s Century Ride. He also will be working at Bike Newport and Bike Lincoln City, so you should regularly come into contact with him. When you see Jim, give him a hearty welcome back to Newport and to YWBC!

Other New Members: Since sign-ups at Ladies Night Out and the Col de Beaver Creek we have many additional new members who will be highlighted individually throughout the year.

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