

News FLASH!!!!

Anyone looking to be on TV?
 American Lung Ass. is looking for volunteers
 (and their bikes) to help with a
 promotional spot on TV-3 for CLEAN AIR WEEK,
 Feb. 9, 10 a.m., at LE CLUB parking lot, Massanutten.
 Dust those bikes off and come be on TV!!!
 (They also need HIKERS)

Come on out and have some fun!!!!

Officers

President
 Vice-President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Newsletter

Jack Foster
 Mike Neupauer
 Marcia Lamphier
 Art Fovarque
 Judy Hess

FEBRUARY 1991

DONT'T FORGET- GIVE YOUR BIKE A TREAT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

MEETINGS

February 11 - 7pm VALLEY WELLNESS CENTER.
 Maintenance - come and pick up a few winter maintenance tips
 your bicycle ready for spring. Also, nominations for SVBC
 officers will be taken.

March 11 - 7pm VALLEY WELLNESS CENTER.
 Martha Edward or Alan Trumbell of 4 seasons cycling will give
 a slide presentation of Bike Virginia - the five day cycling
 event that will tour the Valley this year.

1992 Surface Transportation Assistance Act

This is the chance we've all been waiting for! Not since the Highway Trust Fund was initiated by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) back in 1956, has the U.S. Department of Transportation been able to make such sweeping changes to the way it uses the millions of dollars collected each year in national gasoline taxes. The result is that bicycle enthusiasts have never had so much to gain by making their presence known in the hallowed halls of Congress.

The STAA, which authorizes federal road programs every three to five years, is always important. This year it is especially so. The Act slated for consideration this summer will have major repercussions for cyclists and other road users for the coming two to three decades because the interstates are essentially complete, and funds previously used for them are now available to fund alternative programs. This year's restructuring of the funding formulas could be the most dramatic in 34 years, and will be difficult to modify once it is adopted.

Shaping an enlightened, bicycle-friendly Act merits the League's top 1991 federal legislative priority, and will probably be among the top five issues of the decade. I have spent considerable time conferring with agency officials and researching the topic in order to draft a fact sheet which will be used in our Highway Trust Fund Action Kit which is currently being prepared. The kit also

includes copies of reports, key addresses, and other materials to help local advocates promote cycling viewpoints

Your input is essential. As constituents, you wield a great deal of influence in Washington. But to make a difference, you must be heard. For additional information on this project, as well as ways you can get involved in a grassroots movement to promote the viewpoint of cyclists in the government, use the order form below to order an action kit, or contact Anne Markham at the League office.

A program of this magnitude is obviously very complex. The stakes are very high, and the League, and other lobbying groups have already become very active in this issue which could greatly affect our future.

Surface Transportation Assistance Act Action Kit

YES! I want to help make a positive change in national transportation policy. Please Send me a Surface Transportation Assistance Act Action Kit(s) for \$5 each.

Please send me information only

Check

MasterCard, Visa # _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

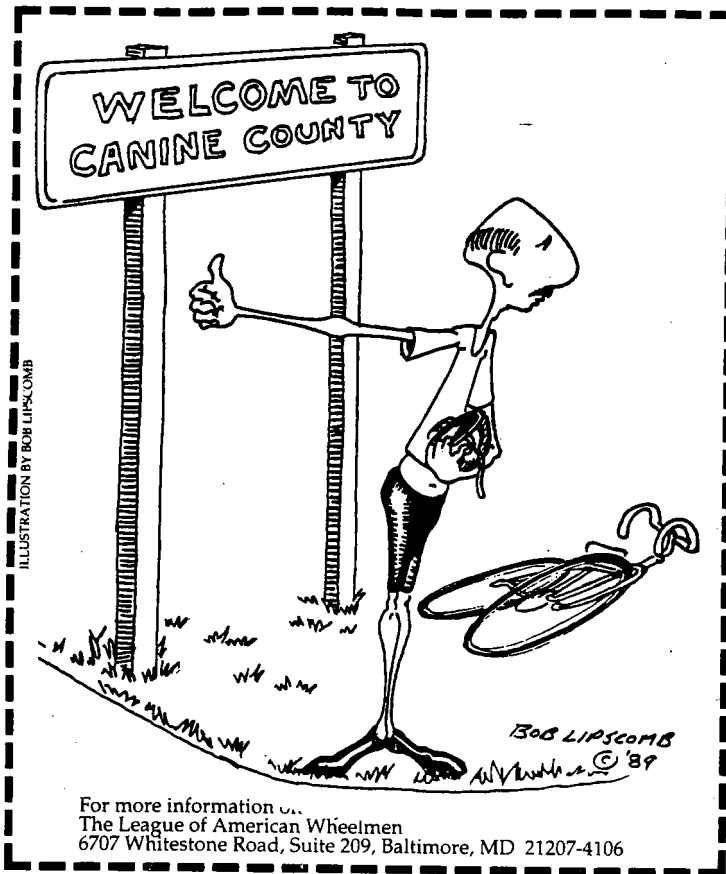
Cleaner Air Now, Cleaner Roads Next

Environmental groups, including the National Clean Air Coalition (of which the League is a member), coordinated an intense effort this past year to ensure that Congress would develop a Clean Air Act with substance. Facing stubborn opposition by lobbyists representing such special interest groups as the auto, oil, coal, chemical, and utility industries, congressional leaders including Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), George Mitchell (D-ME), John Chafee (R-RI) and David Durenberger (R-MN); and Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Jerry Sikorski (D-MN), steered the bill through Congress to an overwhelming vote of approval on Saturday, October 27.

Such support reflects President George Bush's campaign promise to be the environmental president, and the existence of a broad constituency among Americans, bicyclists included, who have become personally acquainted with dirty air, filthy water, and waste-strewn beaches. (NOTE: A letter to thank your representatives who voted in favor of the bill would be well worth your time, especially if you link it to their *next* pro-environment vote in favor of a national bottle bill!)

Although critics of the 800-plus page bill point to its numerous exemptions and overly generous timetables, it does demonstrate a new resolve on the federal government's part to clean up pollution. The bill features percentages and deadlines for various categories of pollution reduction measures, as well as an absolute cap on power plant emissions. For the first time in 13 years Congress reached agreement on strengthening what had become a weak and technologically obsolete act.

We can now breathe a (cleaner) sigh of relief, and in 1991 bring the energies of environmental groups to seek passage of the Resource Conservation Recycling Act (RCRA) which incorporates 1990's National Bottle Bill (Paul Henry's H.R.586 and S.932). The Bottle Bill petitions that so many cyclists have signed will be presented in support of the act at a time calculated to produce the maximum impact possible. Keep following this one—the chances are good that 1991 will be the year it finally happens.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events are planned and so mark your new 1991 calendars:

HARRISONBURG CYCLING CLASSIC - April 20
Downtown Harrisonburg Criterium.
(NO SNOW THIS YEAR!)

EARTH DAY - April 24
The SVBC will conduct some educational events - If you can help, contact Jack Foster.

CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE - May 5
Kick off Clean Air Week - Rides of 8, 25, 62 miles, hikes, foo. Hosted by Massanutten Resort. Environmental Watchdog and other volunteers needed - call Rita or Rose 434-5804
LUNG

BIKE VIRGINIA - June 21-26;
Fun ride through the scenic Shenandoah Valley (804)253-2985

Historic GEAR '91
Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia
June 7-10, 1991



Historic GEAR '91 will be an opportunity to pair the charm of colonial Williamsburg with outstanding cycling through Virginia's tidewater region. Riders will stay on the College of William and Mary's serene and tree-lined campus adjacent to Colonial Williamsburg, a village which has been restored to the Revolutionary era.

Riders will be able to cycle to both Jamestown and Yorktown along the Colonial Parkway, and enjoy plenty of quiet, back roads while cycling past peanut farms and plantation houses along the James River. One of the nation's best theme parks, Busch Gardens, the Old Country, is also right next door.

GEAR '91 has been organized by the largest bicycle touring club in the nation, Potomac Pedalers Touring Club, Inc., (PPTC) of Washington, D.C. PPTC has planned an unsurpassed cycling vacation that will combine the best of American history with riding in rural splendor. Bring the whole family and enjoy your stay.

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WHEELMEN
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to join the national organization of bicyclists. Please start my subscription to *BICYCLE USA* magazine. Also send my membership materials, including bike and window decals, membership card, and a L.A.W. patch.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE (____) _____
 CLUB _____
 SPONSOR _____

L.A.W. Membership Categories
 (Add \$7 for postage to foreign countries. Pay by check drawn in U.S. funds or by money order.)

- Individual: \$25 Family Life: \$525
 Family: \$30 Sustaining: \$50
 Individual Life: \$350 Public Library: \$15
 Please add me to the Hospitality Homes list.

Tax-deductible contribution to the Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Foundation:
 \$ _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____
 \$50 _____ \$25 _____

League of American Wheelmen
6707 Whitestone Rd., Suite 209
Baltimore, MD 21207

Faulty Wilderness Access Bill Fails

A deceptively appealing bill, H.R. 3172, introduced by Representative James Hansen (R-UT), died an unlamented, quiet death in Committee late in 1990. No hearings were held (none were scheduled) and there are no plans for its re-introduction in the 102nd Congress. The bill seemed helpful to off-road bicyclists due to its intent to provide greater access and increased riding opportunities. Upon closer analysis, however, the League, as well as environmental groups, were compelled to oppose the legislation. Under the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act now in effect, bicycles and all other forms of mechanized transport are not permitted in those portions of the National Parks and Public Lands designated as wilderness areas.

Dangers posed by Hansen's bill consisted of its granting *unlimited* bicycle access to wilderness areas, and its failure to provide extra funding for trail construction, maintenance, and patrols. Those with bicyclists' interests and wilderness preservation at heart also recognized that this bill constituted an initial wedge in a process of opening the national wilderness to motorized vehicles.

The League will be working again this year with other environment and user groups, including American Trails, the American Hiking Society, and the American Horse Council, for responsible wilderness access, and the development and maintenance of trails under an equitable and conservation-minded shared-use philosophy. Contact League headquarters for a copy of the Draft Statement of Principles Concerning Multi-Use Recreational Trails by Non-Motorized Users, which has been adopted by several of these groups.

Portions of this newsletter reprinted from League Volunteer

MEMBERSHIP

The SVBC membership list is now up to 75 memberships, including the following new (or renewed) members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Russ Culver | Waynesboro |
| Wendy and Denniz FitzGerald | Carp, Ontario |
| Susan Martindale | McGaheysville |
| Neal Paxson | Charlottesville |
| Joe Ragione | Verona |

Welcome to all and we hope we'll see you all soon on rides and at meetings. We especially feel worldly and proud of our first foreign membership.

For those of you who paid their dues about this time last year, it is taht time again. Please take the time to fill out the application with this newsletter and renew today. If you don't you will probably get a last notice with the next newsletter.

