

## JAN./FEB. 2000 NEWSLETTER

### SVBC OFFICERS

President:	
Vice-President: Bob McGovern-Waite	828-0954
Secretary: Eric Aschenbach	574-2798
Treasurer: Marcia Lamphier	289-6712

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**January 10**      **6:00pm**

It's the Annual PotLuck! Note the time. As we did last year, we will be feasting at Bob McGovern-Waite's house. Of course, this doesn't mean he will be providing all the food. So bring something to share. The club will provide the drinks. Bob lives in Bridgewater just off route 704. Call him for directions. We'll see you there!

**February 14**      **7:00pm**

Monthly meeting at the Valley Wellness Center. Note the time!

### NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Bob McGovern-Waite gave an update on the SVBC jersey project. We hope to have them available for the spring 2000 cycling season. Len VanWyk gave an update on advocacy issues. Marcia summarized the winter riding schedule: Saturday dirt road/mountain bike rides along with the continuation of the Sunday

Bridgewater rides will be listed in the monthly ride schedule. Please check the schedule for details. The treasurer's report was \$3,863.08. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Marcia (filling in for Eric)

### DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

In old business, the Club's Century ride that was held this past September was a success. Art summarized the event by saying, "There were over 100 riders, we did not appear to lose anyone, we gave away some prizes this year, and the weather was good."

In new business, the Club's funds stand at \$3,918.08! Believe it or not, we are going to start making some preliminary plans for the Club's Annual Summer Bike Festival. We'll let you know how you can help keep this great event going. Stay tuned! In case you were wondering, there is still a committee working on Club jerseys. More will be forthcoming on this topic after the New Year.

Elections are coming up in the next few months. As you all know, we are still looking for a President! If you would like to fill this role (or any of the other positions), let one of the current officers know and we will get your name on the ballot.

On the advocacy front, Len and Art are attending City Council meetings and working with the City on the Bike Plan. Check out the Advocacy column for a complete update.

I hope that everyone is enjoying the festivities of the season. Have a great New Year!

Eric

Mark's Bike Shop, Blue Ridge CycleWorks, and Mole Hill Bikes  
all contribute to the cost of the monthly newsletters.

Please support these local shops.

(Also underwritten by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Lorenzen  
Betsy Sayre

Broadway  
Harrisonburg

## WELCOME BACK RETURNING MEMBERS

Marshall Hammond  
Marquess Lewis  
Bill & Jodi Taylor  
Len VanWyk

Bridgewater  
McGaheysville  
Bridgewater  
Harrisonburg

*Thanks to all the above for your continued support of the Club.*

## MEMBER LISTING

It has been a while, but we are going to list our members in the March newsletter. This will allow people looking for a riding partner to have an easy way of finding someone. This list will include telephone numbers **unless specifically noted by you to not do so**. If you do not want your phone number listed, please call Neups at 434-1878 to let him know. Thanks.

### SVBC ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

<u>Century</u>	Art Fovargue	433-9247	<u>Newsletter</u>	Neups	434-1878
<u>Rides</u>	Bill Taylor	433-7154	<u>Time Trial</u>	needed	
	<u>Advocacy</u>	Len VanWyk	432-0138		
	<u>Web page</u>	<a href="http://www.math.jmu.edu/~vanwyk/svbc/">http://www.math.jmu.edu/~vanwyk/svbc/</a>			

## TIME

As we close out this century (but not this millennium – we have another year before that occurs), my thoughts turn to how time-conscious we are. In that spirit I got to wondering about time spent bicycling. This year I rode roughly 5400 miles. At an average 16mph, that's about 340 hours, or a little over 14 days.

Can that be right? I could swear I spend more time than that on the bike. For comparison I work and sleep 120 days each. So now I've covered 254 days of the year. That's 111 days still available. I never knew I had so much extra time for the bike!

Neups

## LIBRARY

No, not the new one going up in town, but our own. Scott and Serena, former owners of Cool Breeze Cyclery, are moving and have decided to clean their shelves. To that end the Club has received several bicycling books. Let one of the officers know if you'd like to check one out. The list includes:

- Trail Guide to the W&OD R.R. Regional Park
- Instant Bicycle Repair
- Anybody's Bike Book – An Original Manual of Bicycle Repairs
- Bicycling Magazine's Upgrading Your Bike
- Maps from Cycle Montana
- Bicycling Central and Southern Maryland (a map book)

## ADVOCACY

### My day in court:

I had my big day in court on October 27. I filed a charge of reckless driving against a motorist who, back in August, buzzed me and three other Club members with his car. I got the license plate, make/model/color of the car, and a loose description of the driver. I took this to a magistrate, who served a summons to the motorist. One would think this was an ideal situation for a conviction, but no. Since I could not identify the driver of the vehicle beyond a

reasonable doubt, the judge had no choice but to dismiss the charges. (It's the way the state law is written.) So, if you get buzzed by a car, catch up with the driver and get a look at his/her face whenever possible.

**Legal lessons:**

Afterward, I roamed around the halls of justice asking various people legal questions regarding confrontations between automobiles and bikes/pedestrians. There is an exception in Virginia law for the offense of passing a stopped school bus; in such a case, the owner of the vehicle is responsible, but can rebut the charge by, for example, identifying the actual driver of the vehicle at the time. I used this "rebuttable presumption" exception in letters I wrote to my Virginia State representatives, urging them. After all, it is all but impossible to identify a lunatic driver beyond a reasonable doubt in most reckless driving cases. A copy of this letter can be accessed from the Advocacy page of the SVBC web pages. I received responses from both Rep. Weatherholtz and Sen. Miller, and will be contacting them at the beginning of the 2000 term with the hope of drafting legislation.

**Bike plan passes a hurdle:**

The Harrisonburg Bicycle Plan, which I and other members of the committee (Art Fovargue included) have been working on since last summer, was approved by the Transportation and Safety Committee on December 1. They made some comments which will actually strengthen the integrity of the Plan, and showed interest in being involved in its development. Once we make the recommended changes, the Plan must be approved by the Planning Commission (very likely) and then by the City Council. The revised plan differs significantly in structure from the current HRBP: the City is broken down into seven geographical sections, with the primary routes of the Plan connecting these sections and the secondary routes filling out the grid. While the implementation of the Plan will take quite some time, its implementation will greatly improve conditions for bicyclists in Harrisonburg.

**JMU stuff:**

An editorial letter to the Breeze was published November 15 (with a 528-signature petition), urging the powers-that-be to make the JMU campus more bicycle-friendly. It was sent by a Health Program Planning Class associated with "Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education" activities. On a related note, in November I was interviewed on the JMU television channel about bicycle issues. You can have my autograph if you ask politely.

Len VanWyk  
Advocacy Coordinator

## CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: GT Pro Freestyle Tour, Cro-Mo frame, perfect condition, \$250. Call Scott at 248-5810.

FOR RENT: Tricosports bike case/carrier. Good for transporting your bike on plane, train, or bus anywhere in the world. Contact Dick Wettstone at 434-9430 (work) or 433-4884 (home).

FOR SALE: 1980 red, men's Panasonic 10-speed 26-inch. In good condition, but needs tires. \$50. Call Scott or Diane at 248-5810.

WANTED: A solid bicycle suitable for a pre-teen. Call Len at 432-0138.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SWOOPE RIDE RECAP

Just a short note of thanks to Rob Byrd for another great Churchville Ride on Saturday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. We really appreciated Rob hosting the 2nd Annual Swoope Ride. We had a great time!! Sleet and a few snow showers added to the wonderful fall colors of Augusta County. Those of you that were not able to attend, please join us next year. Thanks again, Rob!!!

## TRASH

Thanks to the following for picking up the trash on our semi-annual clean up: Bruce Miller, Charlie, Becky Matheny, Marcia Lamphier, and Larry Grossman. We collected four bags that day. Afterwards, I took off for Pennsylvania to see my brother and the rest mounted their bikes for a nice ride in the McGaheysville area.

Neups

## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> TRAVELING

The first word that comes to mind about this past 4<sup>th</sup> of July is "HOT". Neups and I were trying to get to the top of a hill on 606 west of Raphine, and it was hot. We had come out of some welcome shade and were finishing off the last few humps at the top of the hill. We caught a woman on a mountain bike at the crest where her husband was waiting. Everyone said "Hello". "Damn, it's hot!" And down the other side of the hill we went.

Steele's Tavern was at the bottom of the hill. We had sort of made reservations at the Osceola Mills Bed And Breakfast there, and after 55 miles, were hoping for a shower and a big lunch. But there was not a grocery store, gas/food mart or fast food in sight. The only person we could find said that there was a truck stop at the top of the hill (which we knew) and some good places to eat in Staunton, 17 miles north. Great!

While we stood around listening to our stomachs whine, the couple we had passed at the top rolled up. The woman said there was a little store a half mile past the B & B they were staying at for the weekend. What an amazing coincidence! The only bikers we see all morning are staying at the same place we hope we are, and lead us there! The place had a pool! We actually had a room reserved!

After lunch and several hours soaking in the cool, shaded water, talking with Gerhard and Julianna and napping, we were offered a ride out to dinner. Being our only hope of a good meal, we accepted. After spaghetti and meatballs and coconut cream pie at The Palms, we watched the fireworks from the lawn at VMI. Sleep came quickly.

Breakfast was at 8:30 in the nicely refurbished barn / mill on the

other side of the street from the guesthouse. With such a late breakfast, Gerhard and I had already downed the pot of coffee I had brewed up in the guest's kitchen. The meal was wonderful! Homemade cranberry - walnut granola first, then bacon and a cheddar quiche, ending with a fresh, hot banana, chocolate chip muffin. Delicious, but not that well suited to the steep 4-mile climb to the Parkway that would begin the third, homeward leg of our trip.

The day before, our second day on the road, had begun almost the same. Breakfast was at the beautiful King's Victorian Inn in Hot Springs and the biking had started off with a climb up Warm Springs Mountain. A homemade pumpkin roll with lots of cream cheese to start, a fresh fruit cup, then a pancake, bacon and scrambled eggs. Of course, I needed two cups of coffee to get to breakfast.

The King's was a great bed and breakfast; an old Victorian home wrapped on three sides by a verandah and set in a grove of towering maples. Our hosts, Liz and Rich, had met us on the porch with fresh squeezed lemonade and peanut butter cookies, which we waited until showering to enjoy. We met Tom on the porch; he talked with us like we were all old friends. He offered to drive us the mile to Hot Springs while he waited for his date to nap off the lunch she had drank.

Dinner was at Sam Snead's Tavern. Pan-fried trout with baked potato and broccoli, then key lime pie for me. Neups topped off a pasta in marinara sauce with a slice of cheesecake smothered under fresh strawberries.

After dinner and a stroll through The Homestead resort we

were back on the porch of The King's. We met Tom's date, Cathy, while they had an after dinner bottle of wine on the front steps. She talked, Tom got jealous, guests came and went, new guests arrived; it all happened on the porch. Neups and I refused to leave the porch, tired as we were, as long as Cathy was sitting, laying, rolling, crawling after a friendly stray cat, meowing, singing, sipping or tugging at the hem of that short, silver, spaghetti strap dress.

I told a story some time that weekend about my last, fully loaded bike trip. I rode alone through the rain through 100 miles of Illinois potholes. At the campsite the rain stopped, dinner boiled, the sun when down, the mosquitoes came out, lots of them. Without sleep, without dry clothes, in the rain, I returned to my mother-in-law's the next day and threw my panniers away.

I've never missed those packs. Neups and I traveled comfortably that weekend with our toothbrushes and one set of street clothes and whatever else would fit in one small pack. It was so nice to travel without all that weight on the bike. We rode three mountains and ninety miles the first day, one mountain and fifty miles the second day and a fourth mountain and over sixty miles on the last day.

Long, warm showers, cozy beds with fluffy pillows, comfortable chairs on shady porches, fresh coffee and delicious breakfasts in the morning, cool pool dips in the afternoon. B&B hopping may become a yearly thing for me. Maybe you should try it.

Mark Eckroth

## 1999 WEDNESDAY EVENING RIDE SUMMARY

As the Wednesday Evening Rides for 1999 concluded with a pizza party at Luigi's, a few folks mentioned they wanted to know how the statistics looked for the year. Here's what I came up with as a summary of our rides:

April through October  
363 Cyclists – 762 Miles (4 rain nights)  
Largest Group: 21 cyclists

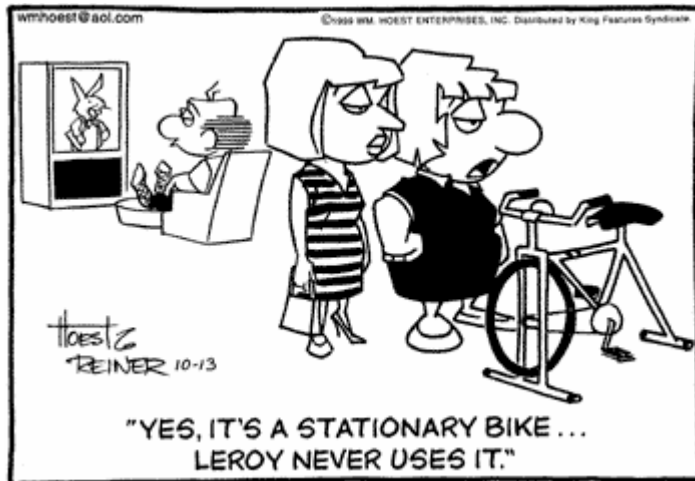
The Wednesday Evening Rides were GREAT fun. We are looking forward to the 2000 season. Join us starting again in April – Wednesday evenings at 5:15pm at the Harrisonburg High school parking lot.

Marcia

## TIDBITS

A study was done in Skagit County, Washington that found that for every dollar raised from residential development, the county paid \$1.25 for police, fire, education, public works, and other services for residents. Yet for every dollar of revenue generated by farms, forest, and open space, it paid only \$.51 in county services. These findings are said to be typical of those of over 60 studies from around the country.

*from the Brandywine Pedaler*



Reed Bevan has completed eight years on the road on a bicycle. If you'd like to witness his adventures, you can check out his website at [www.world-adventurer.com](http://www.world-adventurer.com), or call him at (702) 397-6778 to order his interactive CD.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Helmets are required on all **club rides**.

### SATURDAYS

**12 noon. Winter Training Rides.** This winter we will bring back a regular series of rides for those of you who will not let a little bad weather interrupt your cycling enjoyment. We will meet on a weekly basis for rides of one to two hours in length--weather dictates the distance. Ride leaders will include Marcia, Bill, and Marshall. First ride will be on January 8th and the series will be continued through March. Major snowfall means cancellation of the ride and cross-country skiing instead. Call Marcia (289-6712), Bill (828-6635), or Marshall (828-2950) for location and other details. Shake off that winter feeling of blah & join us!

### SUNDAYS

Winter bike rides leaving from Bridgewater College generally at 9:00 am. During the winter months these rides vary between road and mountain bikes depending on

the temperature. In very cold weather the rides may leave at a later time. We ride to have fun! Please call contact Rich Harris, 828-2380, e-mail harrisra@jmu.edu or Dan Finseth, 438-8063, e-mail dafinseth@rockinghamgroup.com each Saturday for the latest ride information.

- January 1, 2000** Annual Icicle Bike Ride. 12:00. Bring in the New Year with the Club's first scheduled ride. We will leave from Westover Park in Bridgewater for an approximately two-hour ride on paved roads. If cold enough, a stop for hot cocoa at the end of the ride may be an option. For more details, or if weather is questionable, call Bill at 828-6635.
- February 5** Third Annual Chili Ride. 2pm. We will cycle on a mixture of gravel and paved roads, so bring an appropriate bike. Meet at 1651 Park Road in Harrisonburg. Potluck dinner follows the ride. Call Eric for more details (574-2798). As usual, major snowfall means cancellation of the ride and skiing instead.
- Various Ultimate Bicycle Tours has a variety of trips this year, including Alaska, Russia, and China. Call 1-800-347-6136 for more information.
- June 2-5 LAB Covered Bridge Rally, Bloomsburg, PA.  
 June 2-July 7 Bike South 2000. Tallahassee, FL to Charlottesville, VA.  
 June 30-July 3 LAB Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Rally, St. Paul, MN.  
 August 18-21 LAB Cascades to the Coast Rally, Bellingham, WA.

## 1999 MILEAGES



Len VanWyk 1,650 Mark Eckroth 3,033

If you have your 1999 total, call, e-mail, or fax Neups to have it listed.

## DUES

Remember to pay your dues when the date on your mailing label is either highlighted or marked through. The newsletter deadline is the third Monday of each month, so have your check in before then.

## MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING Jan-Feb/March

**Al Clague & Family**

**Sue Gier**

**Jean Johnson**

**Matt Madden**

**John Maxfield**

Carl Droms

Art Fovargue Family

Steven Hostetler

Marcia Lamphier & Larry Grossman

Dick & Lois Wettstone

REMEMBER that the Newsletter is available for delivery via e-mail, fax, or regular mail. The same can be said for articles submitted for the Newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second to last Monday of the month. Just e-mail to Neups at [neups@freewwwweb.com](mailto:neups@freewwwweb.com) or fax articles to 564-9505. You may use the Club's P.O. Box 1014 for regular mail. Thanks.