JULY MEETING MINUTES

About 7:10 PM, Monday, July 8, 1991, the regular monthly meeting was started at Shelter #1 in Hillendale Park; Jack Foster presiding. Welcome to the Finest Ride in History, brochures about the Colonial Virginia Bicycle Trek (ALAV), were passed out. It was noted that our adopt-a-highway trash pickup was successful. The Shenandoah Valley Century was discussed. Neup's summarized various upcoming rides. In spite of the rain, about 55 cyclists on the Bike Virginia trek stopped at the SVBC snack stop at Todd Lake. It was decided to have a potluck dinner for the next meeting. Jack mentioned a proposal that is to go before the local Chamber of Commerce to hold a two weekend Bicycle Festival in July 1992. Art reported that the SVBC membership rides at 72, Marcia was not there so we will not know if the Treasury is fine or not. The meeting wrapped up about 7:49 PM.

REDDISH KNOB HILL CLIMB II
or
SARDINE HALF CENTURY

Sunday, August 4, 8:00 A.M. Kiester Elementary, 50 miles. Reddish Knob and back. This is a ride for those who like mountains/aren't up to time trial standards/or just want to do it because it's there. First timers welcome - ride at your own pace. Stop at Briery Branch for sardines on way up (sardines not mandatory), Hamburger Heaven on way down. Art Fovargue 433-9247.
Who Speaks for Bicyclists

In a recent issue of Bicycling magazine, Nelson Pena wrote in his "Bike Advocate" column about the wonderful things that could be accomplished by the Bicycle Institute of America (BIA) if it had better support from the bicycle manufacturers that it represents. "Imagine," asked Pena, that "cyclists were represented by an effective team of lobbyists in Washington."

Apparently frustrated by the lack of financial support from its industry members, the BIA has recently launched an associate member program to raise money for BIA activities, and to enable BIA to claim that it speaks for "consumers." What will bicyclists get for their $15 contribution to BIA? Basically, a media guide, three issues of a newsletter and, presumably, good feelings that they're supporting an "effective" lobbying team in Washington.

While the BIA is well-intentioned and professional in its advocacy, it should be noted that among the BIA's goals are in their own words: "for businesses, we're out to build a bigger market for bikes and related products; for consumers, we're working to promote bicycle-friendly environments where there are more safe places to ride." Is it possible that these goals might come into conflict, and if so, whose interests will be given priority by BIA's voting membership? My interest in this situation was piqued by a letter to the editor of Bicycling in reaction to Pena's column. The letter forcefully asserted that "the problem is that there are too many groups representing cyclists. Bicycling needs one organization that can represent the concerns of riders on a national level." It concluded that bicyclists "have no idea who their advocacy group is."

I disagree with this letter in every respect. Bicycling benefits from plurality in advocacy; the interests of bicycle riders are not always the same as those of bicycle manufacturers and dealers. A serious current issue demonstrates this. The National Bicycle Dealers Association (NBDA) has adopted a plan to limit a dealer's legal liability to their customers by having bicycle purchasers sign a lengthy checklist covering bicycle operation (quick release levers and brakes, etc.) and certain safety procedures. By signing the checklist the purchaser is waiving rights to sue the dealer. The plan is similar to one adopted by the ski industry, where negligence lawsuits have been a problem. Few would suggest that this action by NBDA is in the best interest of riders (not even all manufacturers support the idea). In this instance the dealers are trying to protect themselves against costly lawsuits by their customers, so it should come as no surprise if manufacturers someday take a position that runs counter to the best interests of riders/consumers.

"Bicycling," is too broad a term to use when discussing advocacy. Manufacturers, dealers, and bicyclists each have similar, but potentially different concerns.

Representing bicyclists in this equation is the League of American Wheelmen (L.A.W.) Although many L.A.W. members are well aware of our efforts to influence governmental policy—not only on the national but on the state level as well—we must do more to ensure that all bicyclists recognize the League as their advocacy group in Washington. When a newcomer asks, "Who speaks for bicyclists?" without hesitation the answer should be, "The L.A.W!"

Bicycle advocacy groups are not being melodramatic when they discuss the future in ominous tones. The threats to access are real, and because the automobile and highway lobbies are so powerful, bicycling needs to raise as many voices as possible to achieve a bicyclist-compatible environment. But bicyclists need to be fully informed about bicycle organizations, including whose interest the group ultimately represents.

The League is the sole group that is a true participatory membership organization. When deciding where to put their resources, bicyclists should remember that membership in the League buys not only advocacy, but the right to determine what will be advocated.

Gilbert M. Clark
STATE STUDIES

We have received letters from VDOT concerning 2 studies they are involved in:

1) Formulae for Transportation Trust Fund Allocations (Aug 1)

2) Cost Responsibility of Vehicles Using Virginia's Roads
   (Aug 15)

The dates in () are when comments should be received by VDOT. Written comments will be included in the study development. However, written comments will be accepted at any time.

Art Fovargue has 4-page summaries of these. For further info call 804-225-4698.

Tell your friends and neighbors and encourage them to come out and take a look.

MEMBERSHIP

A big welcome (and welcome back) to the following new SVBC members. We look forward to meeting and riding with you...and hope all your cycling is fun and safe:

Brent McNett

Sue Rippy
Scott & Kathy Rivers
Mike Solomon

Dayton
Harrisonburg
Harrisonburg
Richmond

TOURING

Thanks to members Dennis & Wendy Fitzgerald of Carp., Ontario, our touring library now has in its possession the following maps:

- The Recreational Pathways of Ottawa
- 1991-92 Cyclists' Guide to Ottawa
- "A rider's companion for the 92 tour de Quebec"

If you are planning a trek into this beautiful region, or just want to brush up on your French, call Mike Neupauer to borrow these maps. They also sent a flyer on the upcoming Tour de Bicycles on Sunday, Aug 11, 15, 45, or 90 km past some of the area's BEST bakeries. Must bring an ANSI-approved helmet (wonder if you have to wear it). Thanks again to Dennis & Wendy.

This has been a very pleasant end to another cycling season, and we can look forward to another next year.

BIKE AID

Again this summer, a group of bicycle riders will be passing through Harrisonburg on their cross country trek called Bike Aid to raise money for the Overseas Development Network. Last year a number of us put up one or two cyclists for the night after a potluck picnic. It was a rewarding experience. We'll probably do it similarly this year and homes are needed for them to stay at. They'll arrive Sat. (Aug 17). Call Art Fovargue or Pete Mahoney (433-8212) if you can help. I have a list of participants w/ages, tastes, etc. Anyone want to lead a ride to head out to greet them? We'll plan an all-group meeting this Sunday to sort it out.

Art Fovargue
9th ANNUAL SHENANDOAH VALLEY CENTURY

The ninth annual SVC is scheduled for Sunday, September 8 under cool and clear skies. This event attracts more and more riders every year, many from outside the Valley, and this year promises to be the most fun yet. The SVC consists of rides of 25, 50 or 100 (or 62 or 75 or other combinations) all starting and ending at Westover Park in Harrisonburg. The rides are well paced with maps and cue sheets provided; foods are marked and sag service available. This is not a race, but ride at your own pace. With the number of riders we have, there is always someone to pedal with. Food and drinks are available at the checkpoint every 25 miles (halfway point on the 25 mi loop). ANSI approved helmets are required for all. Tell your friends and neighbors and encourage all to come out for the cycling event of the year.

For those interested in how fast you can do your chosen distance, we keep track of the times (again, this is not a race). Fastest times from the past SVC's are:

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<th>MEN</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 miles</td>
<td>1:29 1990</td>
<td>2:17 1967</td>
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<td>Brian Manning</td>
<td>Serena Benson</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 miles</td>
<td>2:35 1990</td>
<td>3:28 1985</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dave Sprinkel</td>
<td>Judith Trumbo</td>
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<td>100 miles</td>
<td>5:31 1989</td>
<td>6:22 1990</td>
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<td>Craig Mauck</td>
<td>Barbara Minor</td>
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As in the past, much assistance is needed to put on our century and to insure riders have a good experience. If you can volunteer to help out the day of the ride, please call me. Help is needed driving sag, at the checkpoint, registering riders, preparing food, publicity, etc. Even if you can only donate a couple hours, it can make all the difference. Also, please note that one of our century's claims to fame is the delicious selection of baked goods available at the end of the ride. This is only possible through your donation, so please mark your calendar to make/bake your favorite goody on Sept 7. Bring to Art's house or to Westover Park the morning of the ride.

Please note the application in this newsletter. If you need more, they available at area Bicycle Shops. See you on the 8th.

Art Fovargue

WORKER'S CENTURY

On Labor Day weekend, most likely Sept 2, we will have the Worker's Century. This ride is for those who won't be able to ride the SVC, or anyone else, to mark the roads and check out the route. Again, you can do any distance you want, however there is no support services. If interested, call Art Fovargue or Marcia Lamphier for place and time to meet.
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<td>Ice Cream Rides 9am + 10am</td>
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<td>Kidd Lake And Back - Jack</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
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<td>Ladies' Ride Cool Breeze</td>
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<td>Valley Wellness Center Tri-Athalon</td>
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**Riders are Required for All Club Rides**

**Upcoming - September 8 - SVBC Century**

**15 - Valley Wellness Center Tri-Athalon**
OTHER RIDES AND CENTURIES

Aug 17–18 2nd Annual Mountain Bike Challenge; Cross, Hillclimb, Slalom; Snowshoe, W.V., 304-572-1000

Sat.
Sept. 7 The Harvest Rides; 25, 50, 100 mile loops; MS; Winchester & Charlottesville, 800-451-0373

Sat.
Sept 7 No Baloney Century; 25, 50, 75, or 100 miles; Lebanon Valley Bicycle Club; call Carol or Matt Hugg 717-867-4576

(NOTE: either of the above would be good training for the Shenandoah Valley Century, Sept. 8)

Sun.
Sept 15 The Storming of Thunder Ridge; 25, 50 or 75 mile loops. Central Va. Bicycle Club and Am. Lung Assoc. of VA; 800-345-LUNG.

Sat.
Sept 28 A P Hill Rides; 25, 50, 72, 100, or 123 miles; Fort Hill/Rappahannock Chapter; Jim Day 804-633-5132

Oct. 11-13
Colonial VA Bike Trek; 50 mi Sat/50 mi Sun; Superb meals & service; ALAV, 800-345-LUNG.

Sat.
Oct 12 Sea Gull Century & Metric, Salisbury State (MD) University Cycling Club; 301-548-2772

Nov 9-10 Ladies Awareness Cycling Event (L.A.C.E.) Rides, networking, education; Fort Lauderdale, Fla; Karen Ciampa 301-384-1058 or write to LACE, c/o West Broward Freewheelers, PO Box 9726, Coral Springs, Florida 33075

Miscellaneous Brochures:

California Tour South, Sept 21-25
225 mile bicycling adventure 1-800-228-7041

Valley Wellness Center 2nd Annual Triathlon. Sunday, September 15. Volunteers are needed. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and are welcome to free refreshments afterwards. Let's show our support. Contact Marcia (432-0419) or Deb Rigby (434-6224).
BREAFKFAST RIDE

Sunday, August 25 - The Salute-to-Pat-Ulik Breakfast Ride. Meet at 7:00 AM at Spotswood Elementary School. We'll ride 15 to 20 miles at a reasonably easy pace (C) then convene for breakfast at Mr J's. Ride leader: Art Fovargue (433-9247)

RISE SUMMARY

Aug 4 - Come Do An easy Climb (is there such a thing?) Up Reddish Knob. Call Art for Details.
Aug 17 - Join US for Some Bicycling, followed by Ice Cream at Kline's Dairy Bar (courtesy of SVBC) 9 a.m. - 25 moderate miles, 10 a.m. easy 10 miles. Rides start behind Kline's. Call Neups for Information Rain Date is August 18 - same times.
Aug 24 Ride to Todd Lake, enjoy yourself, then ride back. Call Jack for details.
Aug 25 Enjoy a relaxing ride then enjoy good conversation and camaraderie over breakfast. Call Art for details.

AUGUST MEETING August 12

POT LUCK!!!!!!! Bring a dish for a potluck pre-meeting supper. We'll eat (almost) anything!
**SHENANDOAH VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name(s) __________________________ Phone __________________________

Address __________________________

Check type of membership desired:

- INDIVIDUAL (F2)
- FAMILY (F4)
- JUNIOR (12-16 Yrs.) (F4)

NOTE: Membership begins in March of this year and lasts until next March.

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PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTERESTS BELOW

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**INDICATE TYPE(S) OF CYCLING IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED**

- Racing
- Off-Road
- Recreational
- Overnight Tours
- Other (specify)

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES?

- Racing
- Touring
- Program
- Safety
- Century

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**SHENANDOAH VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB RELEASE**

All club members must sign the release below. For persons under the age of 18, the parent or guardian must sign. Any person riding on an invitational status must furnish a release. This signed release will remain in effect as long as the Club is officially active.

In signing this release for myself, or for the named entrant, I hereby agree to absolve and hold harmless the Club, the Club officers, and the members, also any others connected with events sponsored by the Club, in any way whatsoever, for blame or liability for any injury, misconduct, harm, loss, or inconvenience suffered. I understand that the Club is not responsible for and is not an insurer of my personal safety. I also hereby consent to and permit emergency medical treatment in the event of injury or illness. I shall abide by traffic laws and practice courtesy and safety in cycling.

signatures: __________________________ date ____________ signature of parent or guardian: __________________________

RETURN TO: Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 1014, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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Cool Breeze Cyclery and Mark's Bike Shop contribute to the cost of the monthly newsletters.