

MARCH NEWSLETTER

SVBC OFFICERS

President: Michael "Neups" Neupauer	434-1878
Vice-President: Jody Hensley	289-5591
Secretary: Steve Strider	289-5135
Treasurer: Marcia Lamphier	289-6712

President's/Editor's Column

The other day a person came up to me and asked if I'd like to join an organization that I had known about since my college days, but had never been directly approached about joining. This got me thinking about our club. We currently have about 70 memberships, a number we've been close to the last few years. Yet we draw on just about the entire County of Rockingham (and even beyond), which must have at least 50,000 people, and growing. Why haven't we grown, too? Is it because we've never

directly approached someone about joining the club? If this is the case, maybe each of us could, when meeting a bicyclist out on the road or in the shops, mention to that person our club; who we are, what we do. Tell them applications (and usually copies of the newsletter) are always in each of the bike shops. Tell them to call me. I'll mail them an application. But do tell them.

If you have any other ideas about this, let one of the officers know. We can always use the input.

NEUPS

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

We had about 25 members join in the potluck dinner on the 10th. It was good to see all of you. This year we incorporated door prizes into the dinner. The winners were:

Tour duPont T-shirts: Art Fovargue and Marcia Lamphier,

Water bottle donated by Mark's Bike Shop: Al Clague,

Cycling gloves donated by Blue Ridge Cycle Works: Dave Shrock,

Vista Tail Light donated by Cool Breeze Cyclery: Larry Grossman.

Thanks very much to our donating sponsors!!

Neups concluded the meeting with a reminder to get your ballots in by the March meeting. Also, call him with your 1993 mileages and he'll get it listed in the newsletter.

Blue Ridge Cycle Works, Cool Breeze Cyclery, Mark's Bike Shop and Mole Hill Bikes
all contribute to the cost of the monthly newsletters.
Please support these local shops.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Fourteen club members were present at the meeting and were treated to a presentation by Randy Porter and Nancy Sorrels about their new book, A Cyclist's Guide to the Shenandoah Valley. Their presentation included a historical discussion, colorful slides, and a WVPT video (Skyline Illustrated) summarizing their research into the historical attributes of the numerous bike rides within their book. Randy is beginning a new book about mountain bike rides and welcomes any information.

Neups facilitated the remaining half of the meeting. He displayed various literature that the club received since the last monthly meeting. In addition, Neups asked everyone to consider potential rides for this upcoming year. Marcia gave a Treasurer's report: \$1,164.64. She also noted that only one bill was outstanding, roughly \$46. Art gave a summation of the VDOT Bike Advisory meeting that he attended. All in all, many biking projects and studies are still being examined by various government entities. The meeting came to a close with the annual swap meet.
Knically

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Miller	Grottoes
Deb Rigby	Harrisonburg
Alice Stecker	Harrisonburg

WELCOME BACK RETURNING MEMBERS

Bruce Johnson Family	Keezletown
M. Lamphier & L. Grossman	McGaheysville

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

CLASSIFIEDS

19" Road Bike. Lotus Triathlon Series - Classique. 14-speed, turquoise color, Shimano 105 components, optional Scott aerobar. Good condition. Asking \$200 or make offer. Call Bart Johnson at (703) 269-8261.

Bell Image Helmet (M/L), \$30. Ambrosio Sew-up rims (2), \$30. Both items brand new and in original packaging. Call Brian Bauer at (703) 298-0014.



TIDBITS

A new law in Virginia requires children under 14 to wear helmets while riding bicycles. This comes from an insurance magazine and gave no more details as to if this is statewide or just a specific city or county. If someone has also heard about this, let me know.

from *The Bicycle Paper*, Seattle, Washington. By J. Hokanson

THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORKS

While traffic laws apply equally to both cars and bikes, the reality is that cars are bigger, and cyclists are vulnerable when sharing the roadways. Tom McDonald, 38, a bicycle commuter and former bicycle advocate, successfully exerted his rights to the road after a bike-auto incident in May, 1992, when the driver of a truck which threatened him was convicted of reckless driving. Tom's case demonstrates not only the need for education for drivers, regarding cyclists' rights, but also law enforcement's changing attitudes regarding auto-bike incidents and the acknowledgement of bicycles as vehicles with legal rights to the road.

The Incident

Tom was traveling west on Winona Ave. N in Seattle at approximately 5:30 p.m. Road conditions were bright and clear. Tom had a green light as he approached the Wallingford intersection. He saw a rust and white full-size pick-up start a roll-through right turn on red from Wallingford onto Winona. Tom waived and yelled at the driver to stop. The driver did stop before entering the intersection in Tom's path. Tom didn't look back, and proceeded to pass two cyclists. As he passed them, he announced, "On your left".

Two blocks further, as Tom passed Lake Realty, he saw that the truck had come from behind and was passing him. The driver allowed little room for Tom as he passed. Tom yelled and slapped the side of the truck. The driver made eye contact with Tom, but did not move over to give Tom room. Instead, he slowed down and drifted toward Tom, forcing him over further into the road's shoulder.

The truck continued to slow, and Tom had to slam on his brakes to prevent hitting a car that was parallel-parked on the street. When Tom stopped, the driver also stopped, blocking traffic and cornering Tom

between the truck and the car parked directly in front of Tom. Tom called for witnesses including the two cyclists he had just passed. The truck pulled forward and out of traffic.

The driver argued with Tom, saying, "Bicyclists don't belong on the road." The driver gave Tom his business card. As Tom later reported, "He

the driver of the truck.

The Court Case

Because Tom was never actually touched by the truck or the driver, nor was there any property damage to Tom's bike, the case was a criminal case, not a civil case. Tom was a witness to the incident, and as such he testified for the prosecution.

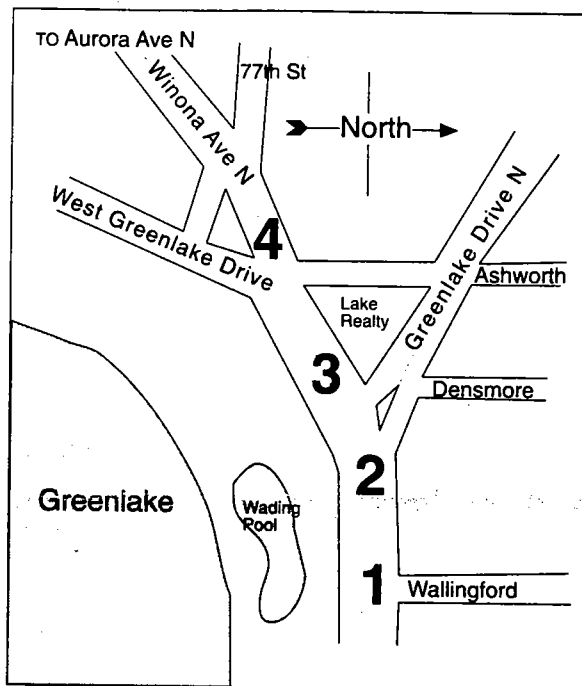
As a bike advocate, Tom was familiar with the law, and could argue effectively regarding both the law and defensive driving technique. He found he had to educate the jury on the bicyclist's rights to the road. Due primarily to Tom's testimony and that of one of his witnesses, the driver was found guilty of reckless driving with willful intent. His sentence was a \$400 fine and one year's suspended sentence. In addition, he was required to enroll in a Level II Traffic Program, according to court records.

Tom's Advice

If a similar incident happens to you, whether or not you are injured or your property damaged, Tom says you ought to pursue the case. "Take the incident seriously," he says "Don't blow it off." While it takes both time and energy to follow the case, it is important that cyclists' rights are defended, as well as your personal rights.

At the scene of the incident, Tom suggests that you look for witnesses. Get license plate numbers of the car that hurt you, as well as other cars who may have seen the incident. Get physical descriptions of vehicles and drivers. Report the incident to the police. Collect the officer's name and the case number. File charges. Follow up on the case by calling the prosecutor's office. Offer to testify in court.

Later, go back to the scene and draw a map of the area in order to increase accuracy and your memory, and to document the case. ■



1. The intersection where Tom first encountered the truck. Tom motioned for the truck to stop to give him his legal right of way.
2. Tom passed two cyclists on their left. The cyclists witnessed the entire incident.
3. The truck overtook Tom and started to push him in toward the curb.
4. Tom has to slam on his brakes to prevent hitting a parked car. The driver of the truck cornered Tom between the car and his own vehicle.

wanted me to call the police." After gathering witnesses' phone numbers, Tom proceeded home.

After the Incident

Tom called the police after arriving home. When Officer Palocol of the Seattle Police Department arrived 20 minutes later, he took Tom's statement. Officer Palocol notified Tom later that evening that he had taken the driver's statement as well. On June 2, two days after the incident, Officer Palocol filed a reckless driving charge against

COMING EVENTS

The March 14th meeting will be our annual officer elections. Also, Russ Culver will have a video and talk on RAGBRAI. If you don't know about this cross-state ride, or are thinking of participating in it, Russ can give you some good insights.

The April 11th meeting, our last one in the Wellness Center until October, will have a presentation by Scott Gauthier on structural integration of the human body. The release of stress and chronic pains often follow the process. Be sure to join us.

TIME TRIALS

I haven't heard any real ideas yet on what we plan to do about this year's time trialing. I need some feedback, especially from those who regularly partake in the activity. If someone would like to be the timer this year, that would be great, too. But let me know. It's getting to be that time. Neups

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- SATURDAYS 10am. Mountain Bike Rides.** Beginning at and sponsored by Mark's Bike Shop. 434-5151.
- SATURDAYS 1:30pm. Impromptu ride starting at Waterman Elementary School.**
- MARCH 6 McGaheysville Ride, 10am, 30 miles.** Call Debbie or Brian at 298-0014 for details.
- MARCH 14 Monthly meeting, 7:30pm, Valley Wellness Center.** Elections and a presentation by Mole Hill Bikes on recreational bicycling.
- MARCH 20 McGaheysville Ride, 10am, 30 miles.** Call Debbie or Brian at 298-0014 for details.
- APRIL 11 Monthly meeting, 7:30pm, Valley Wellness Center.** We'll have Scott Gauthier, a practitioner of structural integration, giving us a presentation. This will also be our last indoor meeting until October.
- APRIL 16 D ride, 10am. Led by John Maxfield.** Call 432-1603.
- April 16 Battle of Gettysburg Weekend Ride.** Gettysburg, PA. Criterium races on Saturday, road races on Sunday. Also recreational 25- or 50-mile rides on the 16th. Call 717-334-8151 for more information.
- APRIL 16-23 Southern Caribbean Bicycle Cruise Tour.** Call (800) 337-TOUR for more information.
- APRIL 23 C ride, 10am, Dayton Donut (from A Cyclist's Guide to the Shenandoah Valley).** Call John Maxfield at 432-1603.
- APRIL 24 Watermen's Museum Ride, Yorktown.**
- APRIL 30 Tour de Cure, Appomattox.** Call (703) 989-7871 or 800-944-6766 for more information.
- MAY 14 2nd Annual Shenandoah Valley Amateur Bicycle Race, Front Royal.** 32.6 miles, \$15. Call 703-635-3185 for more information.

- MAY 14-15 Commonwealth Classic, Richmond. Benefits the Leukemia Society of America. Call (800) 866-4483 for more information.
- MAY 21-22 Fairfax to Richmond Clean Air Challenge. Benefits the American Lung Association. Call 1-800-AL-CYCLE for more information.
- JUNE 24-29 Bike Virginia. This year's route will be from Bedford to Goochland. Call (804) 229-0507 for more information.
- JULY 14-17 Virginia Commonwealth Games, Roanoke. Call (703) 343-0987 for more information.
- JULY 21-24 L.A.W. Greater Eastern Area Rally (GEAR). Salisbury, MD.

1993 MILEAGES

Tony Cascio	2,309	
Neups	3,800	
Bill Taylor	3,998	
Tim Wolthers	6,615	
Earl Zmijewski	12,784	Great job!!!

If you have your 1993 total, call Neups to have it listed.

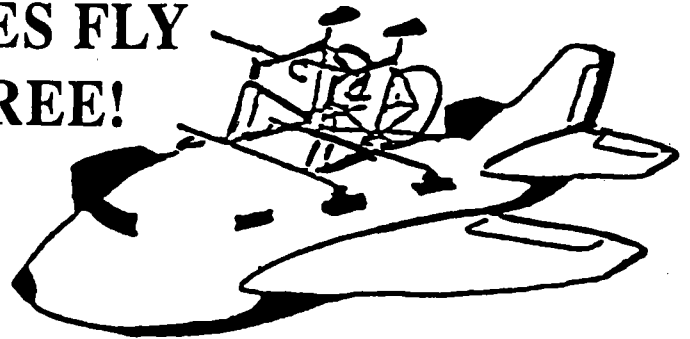
DUES

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 by that time.

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING MARCH/April

Bernie Edwards	Art & Kathy Fovargue	Sue Gier
Myron & Joyce Lind	Ted & Mary Miller	Steve Slaubaugh
<u>Mike Wenger</u>		
Bob Converse	Jeff Holsapple	

**BIKES FLY
FREE!**



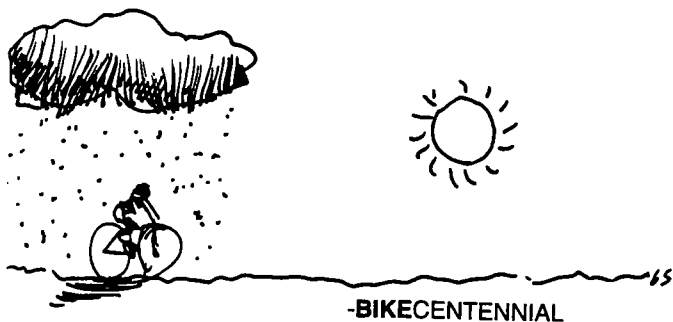
Our members receive free bike passes every time they fly with their bikes.

- Available on four major airlines
- Not event-specific

Call 1-800-288-BIKE

L.A.W. The National Organization of Bicyclists
190 West Ostend St., Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21230-3755

Please join us in creating a more powerful voice to influence on and off road cycline issues.



SHENANDOAH VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____ / _____

ADDRESS _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual _____ (\$10) Family _____ (\$15) Junior (12-16) _____ (\$5) Associate (non-voting) _____ (\$10)

NOTE: Membership lasts for one year from month dues are paid.

Ride Class Designation	Approx. Speed (MPH)	Approx. Distance (Miles)	Check Here
A	14 - 22	25 - 100	_____
B	12 - 16	15 - 60	_____
C	8 - 12	10 - 35	_____
D	under 10	5 - 15	_____

TYPE(S) OF CYCLING

Racing _____ Mountain _____ Recreational _____ Overnight Tours _____ Other (specify) _____

COMMITTEES

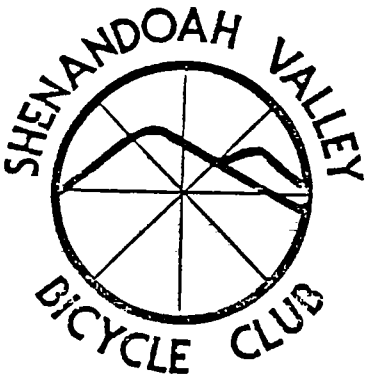
Racing _____ Mt. Biking _____ Touring _____ Century _____ Newsletter _____

INSURANCE RELEASE

In signing this release for myself, or the named entrant, I hereby agree to absolve and hold harmless the Club, the Club officers, the members, and any others connected with events sponsored by the Club in any way whatsoever, for blame or liability for any injury, misadventure, 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 bicycling.

Member signature _____ Date _____ Signature of parent/guardian (under 18) _____

Return to: Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 1014, Harrisonburg, VA 22801-1014



P.O. Box 1014
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

**SVBC SECRETARY
103-B WEEPING WILLOW LN.
BRIDGEWATER, VA 22812**