



OCTOBER 2000 NEWSLETTER

SVBC OFFICERS

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 9	6:00pm	Pre-meeting ride starting at Luigi's.
	7:30pm	Monthly meeting at the Luigi's.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting started with just two exchanging information, but grew to four members and drinks in a booth at Luigi's. Len noted that he had contacted Bob Holton, the Superintendent of Bridgewater, on the map and trail to Dayton and Harrisonburg. He's also been contacted by Abi Miller from JMU about Critical Mass. (See two articles inside this edition. - ed.)

There was also some discussion about our current and possibly future web page developments. Art talked and asked about the Century. He noted there were 144 riders this year. We were also cleared out of Hillandale about 6pm, the earliest we've ever been.

Neups

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Harry Glenn	Elkton
Dennis Herr	Harrisonburg
Steve Purcell	Harrisonburg
Michael Weaver	Mt. Jackson

WELCOME BACK RETURNING MEMBERS

Betsy Dunnenberger	Mt. Crawford
Mark Eckroth	Weyers Cave
Glen Heatwole	Harrisonburg
Steve Hottle	Harrisonburg
Erin Johnson and Family	Keezletown
Bill & Ellen Painter	McGaheysville
Hank Schiefer	Harrisonburg

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

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)

SVBC ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

<u>Century</u>	Art Fovargue	433-9247	<u>Newsletter</u>	Neups	434-1878
<u>Rides</u>	Bill Taylor	828-6635	<u>Bike Festival</u>	Dan Finseth	438-8063
	<u>Advocacy</u>	Len VanWyk	432-0138		
	Web page	http://www.math.jmu.edu/~vanwyk/svbc/			

ADVOCACY

Bridgewater-Harrisonburg trail

There is an open meeting regarding the proposed bike/buggy path between Bridgewater and Harrisonburg on Thursday, October 5 at 3:30pm in the Bridgewater Community Center. I cannot attend (it's in the middle of the afternoon!), so if anyone else can, please go. The more knowledgeable bicyclists that attend, the better. Bob Holton, Bridgewater Town Superintendent, is running the show.

Transportation Plan

During a Harrisonburg City Council meeting in the near future (perhaps even before you read this), Jim Baker (head of Public Works) will present the recommendations of the group charged with studying the possibility of Harrisonburg hiring a transportation consulting firm. The recommendation will be to create a staff position for a 'transportation planner' instead, and in general, to allocate enough money so that the person can actually DO something. (Harrisonburg is ridiculously stingy in that area.) Creating this transportation planner position is important, so express your support to the City Council. Jim's report will also address some recommendations I made to the Transportation & Safety Commission back in July regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Critical Mass

Monday evening, September 18th, there was a meeting at the Shenandoah Bicycle Company about the possibility of holding regular critical mass rides in Harrisonburg. There was solid support for holding rides that raise awareness for bicycling as a viable (and preferable) mode of transportation without overly aggravating motorists. There are some details which must be ironed out, but the first ride has been planned for ** Friday, October 27 **. We will meet at 5pm in the parking lot of Godwin Hall on the JMU campus, and the ride will start at 5:30. It will probably only be 2 or 3 miles long, and will go at a very leisurely pace. There will be rides on the last Friday of the month (except for November and December, when they may occur on other days due to holidays) from then on. It is important that there is a good showing by SVBC members; we need some experienced cyclists in there to keep things running safely. For more information, contact Abi Miller at milleram@jmu.edu. I have also started an informative web page, under construction, at <http://www.math.jmu.edu/~vanwyk/cm/>.

The City of Harrisonburg has been avoiding bicyclists for far too long, with many (non-bicycling) planners arguing that there just aren't enough bicyclists out there to justify any infrastructure improvements. Prove them wrong. Get out for these Critical Mass rides.

Len VanWyk
Advocacy Coordinator

CLASSIFIEDS

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: Cross Bike - Specialized Hard Rock 20", like new, \$200.00. Tandem - Santana Elan, 22-1/2 x 19-1/2, with kiddie stoker kit, excellent condition, \$750.00. Burley Lite trailer, model that folds, excellent condition, \$125.00. Call Dave at 289-9074 for information.

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

CRITICAL MASS

Critical Mass is the organized coincidence of cyclists gathering to ride in the streets together in order to bring attention to cycling issues. The idea of Critical Mass found its birth in San Francisco in 1992, when cyclists joined together to reclaim a public space. At the heart of Critical Mass is the philosophy that cyclists cannot block traffic while riding en masse because they *are* traffic.

A delicate relationship exists in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County between cyclists, motorists, and the local government. Work is being done by biking advocates to encourage local governments in the Shenandoah Valley to consider cyclists' safety and needs in their transportation planning. The relationship and level of respect between motorists and bicyclists is gradually improving. Much change is needed, however, before people can choose to ride their bicycles for work and play without worrying about the consequences.

Critical Mass in the Shenandoah Valley is a way for cyclists to peacefully, respectfully, and effectively gather once a month to offer a gentle reminder to the non-cycling community that the cyclists in the area are present and waiting to be heard. An understandable concern exists within the cycling community in the Valley that any form of antagonism will serve to set the progress that cyclists have made back by leaps and bounds. However, it is important to remember that a Critical Mass ride is nothing more than the sum of its parts. If the cyclists participating choose to present themselves as true ambassadors of the cycling community by conducting themselves in a way that reflects their concerns for safety and respect without abusing or disrespecting motorists, the community at large will recognize the purpose and mission of the Critical Mass ride.

The first Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Critical Mass will take place on October 27, the last Friday of the month. Cyclists will gather at the Godwin parking lot on the JMU campus at 5:00 and the ride will start at 5:30. The next planning meeting for the ride will take place Monday, October 9 at 7:30 at the Shenandoah Bicycle Company on Main Street in downtown Harrisonburg. The meeting is open to all and cyclists of all persuasions and opinions are invited to come and share their thoughts and help plan the route and map out some guidelines for the ride.

Cyclists have a right to be seen and recognized. Bicycles are a viable form of transportation. If we are to share the responsibilities of the road, we are entitled to the rights of the road! For more information, please contact Abi Miller at milleram@jmu.edu.

WANNABES

Are you a C-pace rider (10 to 12 mph) who would like to become faster, smoother, and/or more efficient but you're not really sure how to accomplish your goals? Have you just gotten into cycling and want to see what cycling with a small group is all about? Then come out and join these rides. Together we will work, train, and have a good time on our bikes and hopefully, help you meet your cycling goals. We will talk about some of the ways that may improve your riding skills and your speed--techniques that have worked for leaders and that they continue to use. We will share with each other our experiences and help each other to become better riders. The rides will start at a C-pace with a distance of 10-15 miles. At a later date, the speed and/or distance will gradually increase (along with a more challenging terrain) based on the needs to the group. These rides are learning/training rides but also FUN rides and at no time will anyone be dropped. So come out, train, learn, and have fun!! We promise that everyone will learn at least one new way to improve your cycling skills. Check the monthly Ride Schedule for the dates/location/time. Call Alice Stecker (564-1611) or Marcia Lamphier (289-6712) for more information.

FALL SPRINGS TOUR

On Sunday, September 17th John Fairfield from "Friends of the North River" took us on a tour of four springs in the Bridgewater area. Our route took us to the source of Spring Creek, Thomas Spring, as well as two springs in Mt. Solon. Fifteen folks came out for the ride. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the springs and watching the trout swimming about in the springs. We look forward to more tours with John in the future. We thank him for his time & his expertise!

--Marcia

PEDALS FOR PROGRESS SHIPS OLD U.S. BICYCLES OVERSEAS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND MOBILITY TO THE POOR

Arlington, Virginia - Each year, Americans purchase 14 million new bicycles and throw out 5 million old ones. At the same time, millions of useable old bikes gather dust in basements, garages, and storage areas. Meanwhile, many poor people overseas have little alternative to walking to get to jobs, schools, & markets.

In response, Pedals for Progress, a New Jersey- and Virginia-based charity, helps communities of faith, scout troops, service clubs, corporations, and schools across the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Upper Ohio Valley regions to undertake one-day community bike drives to rescue this under-appreciated resource, and put it to productive use overseas. Since its founding in New Jersey in 1991, Pedals for Progress has collected 40,000 bikes - 8,000 of which have come out of the Washington region - and shipped them abroad.

In these countries, non-profit groups train and employ local workers to recondition the bikes—generating productive employment--and distribute them at low cost to low-income farmers, small businesspeople, and students so these individuals—who otherwise might have no transportation--can work and study more effectively. Other programs use the bikes directly in programs providing agricultural extension, community health and literacy services to the poor. Reconditioning the bikes overseas makes economic sense, owing to lower wage scales (these bikes would simply be thrown out had they remained in the United States).

The bikes collected in the United States go to more than 15 countries, including the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Colombia, Ghana, Namibia, Senegal, Eritrea, and Fiji. Through the end of July, PFP has shipped more than 5,200 bicycles, according to DC coordinator Keith Oberg, aiming to ship 9,000 bikes nationwide, a third of which will come from the Washington area.

Local businesses have provided generous support. For example, City Bikes accepts bike donations on behalf of Pedals for Progress, Giant Food has donated three no-longer roadworthy truck trailers to be used for storage of bicycles, and Washington Gas has loaned a site for the trailers.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

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| WEDNESDAYS | 5:15pm. 1 1/2 to 2 hours at a B-pace. Meet at the parking lot at Harrisonburg High School. Call Marcia at 289-6712 for more information. Last one for the year will be held on October 25th. |
| SATURDAYS | 10am. We will continue the Saturday Rides throughout the season when there are no other scheduled rides on the calendar. Call Marcia (289-6712), Marshall (828-2950), or Bill T. (828-6635) for location and other details. |
| SUNDAYS | Rides leaving from Bridgewater College at 9am. We ride 2-3 hours to have fun! Please contact Rich Harris, 828-2380, e-mail harrisra@jmu.edu, or Dan Finseth, 438-8063, e-mail dafinseth@rockinghamgroup.com each Saturday for latest ride information. |
| September 30 | 3 rd Annual Bike Shenandoah. Routes of 5, 15, 30, 62, and 100 miles. Call 540-574-4873 or e-mail them at BikeShen@juno.com for more information. |
| October 1 | Artie Levin Century, Roanoke. Rides of 20, 42, 62, and 103 miles. Contact Carol Via at Keke4849@aol.com for more information. |
| October 1-3 | Governor's Conference on Greenways and Blueways. Virginia Beach. Call 804-798-6362, e-mail vagovconf@aol.com , or visit them at http://www.state.va.us/~dcr/prr/trailcnf.htm for more information. |
| October 7 | Adopt-A-Highway trash pick-up and ride. Come join us for a quick pick-up of trash on our section of county roads. We'll meet at the Penn Laird Post Office at 9am. Once finished we'll gather at the Montevideo Middle School at 10:15am for a 35-mile ride. Contact Neups (434-1878) or Marcia (432-3312). |
| October 7 | Bike Tour of Clarke County, Berryville. Registration includes pancake breakfast and a long-sleeve T-shirt. Call 540-955-4200 or e-mail info@clarkechamber.com . |

- October 7-14 2nd Annual Cycle North Carolina. Begin in the Blue Ridge Mountains and cycle nearly 400 miles to the beach. Call 1-800-277-8763, e-mail them at ncas@interpath.com, or visit them at <http://cyclenorthcarolina.org> for more information.
- October 13-15 33rd Hilly Hundred Weekend Bicycle Tour. Register online at <http://www.active.com> or call Neups for more information.
- October 14 Coffee Ride. 8:30am. 45-50 miles. Meet in the Food Lion parking lot (Route 42 NORTH)/Park View. We will ride towards the New Market/Timberville/Broadway area with a stop in New Market for coffee, etc. Contact: Marcia (432-3312)**
- October 14 12th Annual Sea Gull Century. Optional rides on Friday and Sunday. Registration deadline is August 31st. NO late or ride-day registrations. Call 410-548-2772, e-mail seagull@ssu.edu, or visit them at <http://www.seagullcentury.org> for more information.
- October 15 Wannabe Ride. 12:30pm. Wildwood Park, Bridgewater.**
- October 20-22 Bike Virginia's 10th Annual Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival. Call them at 757-229-0507, visit them at <http://www.bikevirginia.org>, or e-mail them at info@bikevirginia.org for more information.
- October 25 LAST WEDNESDAY RIDE for this year. 5:15pm. Harrisonburg High School. After the ride we will go to Luigi's to celebrate another great year of Wednesday Rides!! Contact: Marcia (432-3312).**
- October 28 9am. Swoope/Augusta County Ride. 35 miles. Meet at the home of Mahlon & Alice Webb in Swoope. Please call (540) 886-6026 or e-mail beezer@cfw.com for directions to their home. They will provide some snack foods, soft drinks, etc. for anyone wishing to hang around after the ride. We are invited to bring items to pitch in. Contact: Mahlon & Alice Webb or Marcia (432-3312) for additional info.**
- October 28 Between the Waters Bike Tour. Wachapreague, VA. 20, 35, 60, or 100 miles. Call 757-678-7157 or visit them at <http://www.cbes.org> for more information.

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 OCTOBER/November-December

Dave & Nancy Cary	Tim Hollenbeck	Tom Mayer
Tamer Moumen	Zack Perdue	
Sandy Brownscombe	Judy Freudenthal	Marshall Hammond
Larry Kelley	Jim & Lynn Mannion	Madison McCall
Robert Porter	Alice Stecker	

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@bigfoot.com or fax articles to 564-9505. You may use the Club's P.O. Box 1014 for regular mail. Thanks.