

Rollin'

Newsletter of the Silver Wheels Cycling Club, Inc.

June, 2014



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Editor's Column

By Larry Best

So there I was, minding my own business as usual when, all of a sudden somebody asks me if I had heard about the memorial platform SWCC was building along the bike path. OK, yeah I'd heard about it but I'd also heard there was some kind of SNAFU with the park system that didn't want it

there. In fact, they didn't even want a bench. Obviously there were negotiations and wiser heads prevailed. Notice that I didn't say whose heads, just wiser. As I write this the platform is well underway. Master carpenter and former contractor, Dan Roob is the leader on this project. Dan has a lot of experience and honestly knows what he's doing. If you see him out there you might ask him what he thinks about Amish carpenters. There are a couple of photos with an article that are already out of date. This job is going to be first rate and it'll be done quickly.

Lila Robinson has a second article about life as a one star rider. She's an excellent writer and does a great job of describing life in the one star trenches.

Our membership roles are way ahead of where they were last year at this time and that can mean nothing but good for the club. There's a report a couple of pages back.

Depot Days, the Pink Ride, touring and The Ride of Silence are all included in this issue.

View from a Star!

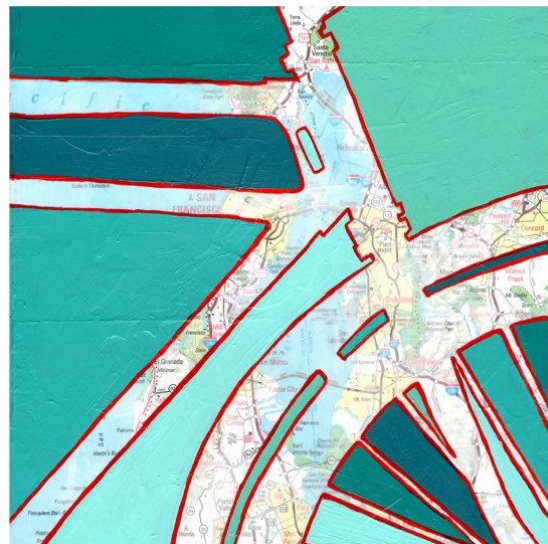
By Lila Robinson

Hi again! Welcome to a One-Star Rider Update! And thank you to those who asked me to follow up on my journey with Silver Wheels! I'm proud to say that today, as I write this, I received my 50-miles T-shirt!

So much has happened since writing my last article. I've attended a mini-class on basic bike handling and check-up; several socials and several rides, including some that were specially adjusted down to include those of us less-skilled riders! I've even ridden in a 2-* ride one Friday night (we went on Lake Road and even though I was scared to death...it was WONDERFUL!!!).

What I'd like to express more strongly than anything, is gratitude for the time and obvious efforts toward guiding and including One-Star riding. Without the willingness, patience and time investment of riders who can go much faster and much farther, we one-star riders would have very limited options in this club which would result in a very limited chance for our skills and speed to improve and/or increase. I recognize how difficult it must be to give up your own valuable riding time to go shorter and slower miles and also take the additional time to impart your knowledge and understanding of road rules, proper etiquette and even some basic care and handling expertise with

us. And, believe it or not, I fully understand and appreciate those of you riders who don't care to give up your own riding preference to share with us. It's not for everyone to participate in! And, frankly, not everyone is meant to teach, or coddle, or otherwise nurture us newbies and/or one-star riders! After all, you're all paying members to this club and have every right to get your ride miles and the experience of your expectations as well. But, if I were to attempt to speak on behalf of my fellow one-star riders, I would say that your guidance and assistance will make many of us grow to a higher level, and, for those who are destined to remain at the one-star level, maybe if you help us to be strong and intelligent one-star riders, we could then maybe lead one-star rides in the future which would/could alleviate the need for people to fall back for us! Hopefully, by the next issue, I'll be able to share that I've learned how to wash, and lube, and even change a tire on my bike! And of course I hope to share that I've earned even more club miles!



Membership Update by Randy Lottman

Did you know that since the beginning of the year to the end of April Fifty-One new members have joined Silver Wheels? Currently we have 316 members compared to 274 one year ago. We welcome these new members who have joined in the month of April.

NEWBIES



Jan Friswold Bay Village

Eugene Homan Avon Lake

Kelly Homan Avon Lake

Gregg Huddle Avon Lake

Karen Huddle Avon Lake

Ed Kimpton Avon

Nina Kimpton Avon

Larry Ludwig Bay Village

Peggy Ludwig Bay Village

Allyson May Fairview Park

Brett May Fairview Park

Claire Morris Avon

Deb Morris Avon

Steve Morris Avon

Jane Nizza Vermilion

Mark Nizza Vermilion

Joanne Pietro Vermilion

Kerry Volansky Avon Lake

Matt Volansky Avon Lake



8TH Grade Science

By Larry Best

Raise your hand if you passed 8th grade science. OK, let's see, 7,8,9,10. OK, that's excellent, only three of you were held back. If my razor sharp highly developed, intellectual mind remembers correctly I learned something about critical mass in that 8th grade sci. class. I'm an Earth Scientist (really) so I don't know much about atoms and their behavior, but I think when something reaches a "critical mass" something is going to happen. It's a tipping point. Most folks think of atomic weapons. When they reach critical mass you probably wouldn't want to be nearby.

But there's another kind of critical mass and that's an event that bicyclists put on. **Critical Mass** is a cycling event typically held on the last Friday of every month; its purpose is not usually formalized beyond the direct action of meeting at a set location and time and traveling as a group through city or town streets on bikes.

The event originated in 1992 in San Francisco and by the end of 2003, the event was being held in over 300 cities around the world.

Critical Mass has been described as "monthly political-protest rides", and characterized as being part of a social movement. It has been described as a "monthly protest by cyclists reclaiming the streets." Participants have insisted that these events should be viewed as "celebrations" and spontaneous

gatherings, and not as protests or organized demonstrations. This stance allows Critical Mass to argue a legal position that its events can occur without advance notification of local police. In some cities the date, day, time, and starting place are kept secret so the authorities can't attempt to stop the event.

Critical Mass began in San Francisco in 1992 and has been held once monthly since then. By the end of the fourth ride more than 1,000 cyclists were taking part. CM's stated reason is to draw attention that we have a right to use the roads, show solidarity with lots of cyclists, and protest against motor vehicles and the way they treat cyclists.

As you can imagine these events don't take place on country roads. Uh-uh, they are held right in the heart of downtown streets in the center of large cities, sometimes during rush hour. Cleveland has a CM that starts at Public Square and travels east down Euclid Ave. I don't know where they go from there.

Critical mass has no organization or government and there are no ride leaders. Word travels via word of mouth (no pun intended) and the ride just meanders slowly from street to street. I've seen CM rides in Atlanta and San Francisco. On the next page I've included some photos taken during CM rides.

I'm neither endorsing nor criticizing Critical Mass. You'll have to decide that for yourselves. What I've written here as well as the photos on the next page will, hopefully, give you a better understanding of what Critical Mass is and what they do.



Annual Depot Day 4 x 25 Saturday, June 7, 2014

Four 25 mile route options will be offered. All routes start and end at the Oberlin Depot. All routes offer a bathroom stop, generally near the mid-point. This is a YOYO (You're On Your Own) ride. There will be no designated ride leaders. The routes are not marked and there is no SAG support. Route maps will be provided. Riders are encouraged to ride with a partner and carry a cell phone. Riders should sign in prior to riding. Riders are also encouraged to check back in when they are finished riding for the day and to write down their mileage for the day. The Depot will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Snacks and beverages are being purchased by the club and will be available for a donation.

Ride of Silence Report

Ed Stewart

Silver Wheels participated again in the international event called Ride of Silence. This was originated 11 years ago after the death of a cyclist in traffic and his friends wanted to draw attention to the situation and help others become more mindful of cyclists' place on the road. We had almost 50 members participate this year. According to the ROS website, we were one of only four groups to do so in Ohio besides Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. Our event this year worked more smoothly

because of the assistance from the Oberlin Police Dept. who stopped traffic for us at intersections. This allowed us all to stay together as our procession rolled through town. We wore nicer armbands this year, thanks to Betsy Nestor who made them for us. Our short ceremony consisted mainly of reading the names of our members who have passed away since our beginning. We then also wore the name of one of those members on our backs so you could remember who you were riding for.

Thanks to all who participated. We hope to repeat this event annually.

Oh The Places You'll Go!

Ed Stewart

Dr. Seuss seemed to have a firm grasp on what cycle touring is all about. In the great book he expounds on all the positives of what lies ahead in spite of your fears and reluctance to go. Over the Memorial Day weekend a group of us rode to Westerville and back, a trek of just over 230 miles round trip. We started with nearly 20 members signed up but that number was halved as some found other distractions more appealing. Those who rode had a wonderful time and learned a lot of things about themselves and their ride mates along the way. I won't bore you with details about the trip but I do want to share some of the things we took away from our trip. A bike tour is a great way to spend a few days with friends or

people who will become your friends on the journey. As you ride along, experiencing the same challenges, disappointments, and discoveries, you tend to bond together into clan of sorts. Not quite family, but more than acquaintances too. A bike tour is only as good as the amount of time spent planning it. You will often spend as much time putting together all the details of a trip as you will in actually experiencing it. You learn a lot about people when you travel with them. As your time extends barriers melt and you begin to see the real person beneath. You learn about their background, their family, their ideas about the world and maybe some of their plans for the future. Touring together, conquering challenges, sweating through climbs and screaming through the exhilaration of long downhills, you realize what a unique experience it is to ride like this. You also discover things about yourself. After the fourth or tenth you realize you are a lot stronger and more capable than you thought previously. You will also learn that you have some limitations, just like everyone else. Every season we try to assemble some sort of bike tour, be it nearby, in-state or out, and sometimes even out of country. This form of social cycling – riding together in a group over a period of time and covering more than the usual distances – epitomizes what a club like Silver Wheels can do together. This year we have three tours planned: the Westerville tour just completed the trip to Traverse City, Michigan coming up in early August, and the 6-day tour of

northwest Ohio in later August. Each of these has its own unique features of challenges, dining, entertainment, and lots of time to socialize with friends. If you want to organize a trip for next year or even later this year, we have many experienced members who have traveled to different places and have experience in putting together routes and itineraries. Just contact the Ride Committee and they will help connect you with the person qualified to help. As the good doctor said, “Oh, the places you'll go, the things you'll see.”

The Pink Ride

Pat Serio

The Pink Ride to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for breast cancer raised \$701.15 for women in Lorain County with breast cancer. Thanks to all who rode and donated.



LAST PAGE

My friend and frequent riding companion, Rick Wells, had some health problems last year. Upon close examination the doctors finally found the problem.

