

Rollin'

Newsletter of the Silver Wheels Cycling Club, Inc.

October, 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 I noticed about a dozen bikes all painted the same color neatly lined up like at the West side Market at the corner of Lorain and West 25th in Cleveland. The bikes were all the same brand, model, and size too. I had to go see what was going on with these machines and learned that it was part of **Zagster**, a Massachusetts based

company that is in the urban bicycle rental business.

Zagster operates in several major cities. The pilot program in Cleveland has 34 bikes and if it's successful the company says Cleveland could support 1,000 or more bicycles at 140 stations. The bikes are securely locked to "stations" and Zagster claims they've never had a bike stolen from a station locking device. A bike costs \$3.00 per hour to rent and if the renter goes over that time they're charged accordingly. Bike losses per year are less than one percent. There are a couple of reasons for this, one is the locking stations. Because the bikes have special components, are a distinctive color, have a basket welded to the handlebars the resale value is zero. To rent a bike you insert a credit card which unlocks it. It also records your credit card info and the time you rented it. No credit card? That's OK, a driver's license or State I.D. will work if you're paying cash. If you don't plan on returning the bike it'll be easy to find you. As I said earlier one of the stations where rental bikes are available is the alley way just north of the West Side Market. I don't know the other locations.

More good news for Cleveland cyclists!
 Another experimental pilot project involving

bike boxes has started. The “bike boxes” are shipping containers refurbished by Land studio. The boxes come in two sizes, 20’x8’ and 10’x8’. They will be given to communities who petition stating a need for them. The boxes will become property of the community, Lakewood for example, who’s job will be to maintain the shelters. These boxes will help to solve commuter’s problem of where to put their bike during the day where they’re safe and out of the weather. There are boxes currently located at Edgewater Park, Ohio City, Tremont, Detroit-Shoreway areas as well as St Clair-Superior areas. Let’s hope these programs become popular enough so that they can become fully operational and lose the “pilot program” designation.

Motor vehicle operators aren’t the only ones who need to be careful.

By The New York Times

Central Park Bike Accident Leaves Pedestrian in Critical Condition

A 59-year-old from Fairfield, Connecticut, the wife of a CBS executive, was critically injured while walking on West Drive near West 63rd Street in Central Park yesterday. Jill Tarlov, reportedly in town to buy a birthday present for her daughter, was struck by a cyclist on a racing bike, according to witnesses, when the 31-year-old rider swerved to avoid another group of pedestrians. The *Daily News* reports that the woman "was being kept alive by a ventilator"; the *Post* says Tarlov is "brain dead." No charges have been filed against the cyclist.

A 75-year-old man was killed on the same road by a cyclist in August, the *Times* notes.

"We don't expect for these kinds of injuries to be happening in Central Park," one rider told NBC New York. "It's rare for a pedestrian to be

injured very seriously, and I hope that not all cyclists are indicted, because most of us ride very safely and are very protective of pedestrians."

"Because we are serious about reaching Vision Zero, we need to speak out in response to every preventable tragedy and condemn all acts of reckless behavior in traffic," said Paul Steely White, executive director of the pro-bike group Transportation Alternatives, in a statement. "As the most vulnerable users of our streets, pedestrians must be safe from reckless cycling, just as they need to be protected from reckless driving. This is particularly true in our parks. As we await the conclusion of the investigation, our thoughts are with Jill Tarlov and her family during this difficult time."

Woman Hit by Bike in Central Park Dies

Jill Tarlov, the 59-year-old struck by a swerving cyclist on Thursday in Central Park, has passed away. CBS, where Tarlov's husband works as an executive, released a statement: "As we mourn the loss of our friend and console Mike and his family, we are committed to doing what we can to bring greater public awareness of the perils of unsafe and distracted driving by motorists and cyclists that endangers pedestrians. Far too many people have been killed or seriously injured on our streets." The rider has not been charged.

Editor’s note: Let’s be fair. “The cyclist hasn’t been charged.” Think about how up in arms we’d be if a motorist, who was obviously at fault, killed a cyclist and wasn’t charged. We have to be careful and respectful out there.

Dale's Bike Shop is Reopened

Ed Stewart

On a recent ride some of us stopped by Dale's Bike Shop (43239 Oberlin-Elyria Road) because we had heard rumors the shop had reopened.

Well it has. We were greeted by the new owner/manager David, Dale's younger nephew. The new store hours are:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 – 7

Wednesday 12 – 5

Saturday 9:30 – 5

Closed Sunday and Monday

Dale Winfrey, the “real” Dale, will be there on Wednesdays only he said. 440-707-4000

The shop now features the Fuji line of bicycles as well as the mix of other items previously available.

Bicycling by the Bay

Cheryl and Bob Burkhardt



On August 3rd through 6th, forty Silver Wheels Cycling Club members traveled to Petoskey, Michigan for 4 days of cycling and fun. We arrived on Sunday at Bay View Inn, a historic inn that has been in business for over 100 years.

Shortly thereafter, we mounted our trusty steeds and rode the Little Traverse Wheelway trail to Harbor Springs.



This trail was originally a bicycle trail in the 1800's. The Inn is situated right on the trail next to Petoskey Bay. Upon arriving in Harbor Springs, we ate along the marina at Stafford's Pier Restaurant. The ride back to the Inn was mostly downhill, a welcome reward on stuffed bellies! This ride was about 20 miles long. On Monday, we gathered for our first breakfast at the Inn. This was a sit down affair with wonderful, nutritious food to send us on our ride. After breakfast, we rode in the other direction on the Wheelway. This took us along a very scenic, occasionally rolling route to Charlevoix. There we added to the economy – especially at the Cherry Republic store. After again satiating appetites, we journeyed back to

the Inn. This ride was 40 miles. That evening, Bay View Inn hosted us at a banquet. We had their famous planked Michigan whitefish and filet mignon. Michigan surf and turf! The food was delicious. After dinner, many folks gathered on the veranda overlooking the bay to take in the sunset and partake of lemonade and wine. It was a great day!

The next day was a hilly ride to Cross Village on Michigan Route 119, The Tunnel of Trees. Some people opted to skip the hills in favor of the waves while kayaking. Cross Village is home to a historic restaurant called Leg's Inn. The food was authentic Polish and yummy! The total ride was about 44 miles. Deb and Naaman were brave enough to try a route used by the Cherry Capital Cyclists. It was 62 miles and challenging. Another great day and another great sunset over the bay brought Tuesday to a close.

On our final full day, we took the ferry to Mackinac Island. There folks had choices of the eight mile flat route around the island, biking through the hilly center of the island, taking a carriage ride, shopping, hiking, or just gobbling up fudge. It was interesting to learn about the history of Mackinac and enjoy yet another day of perfect weather. Of course the trip couldn't end without another journey to the chocolate factory and ice cream shop just down the road from the Inn. Seriously, I think we should have been given a Silver Wheels discount considering the amount of business they received from the club!

On Thursday, we assembled for a group photo on the stairs of the Inn to bid each other good-bye. Mother Nature had certainly blessed our group with beautiful weather and an idyllic setting.

Until the next trip....may the wind be always at your back and the roads downhill.

Membership Update by Randy Lottman

Did you know that in the month of September your Club hit the 350 milestone in membership? In fact, membership currently stands at 355. Even as the air starts to turn cold with the approach of fall and rider's thoughts turn to putting their bikes away, we are still attracting new members. For comparisons, the ending 2013 membership total is 326.

Below is the list of new members from July thru September. If you happen to meet these good folks on a ride or Club function make sure to introduce yourself and say "Hi".

NEWBIES



Christi Banasek Wellington
 Kathleen Carle Rocky River
 June Deidrick N. Ridgeville
 Christine Fehrenbach Rocky River
 Jennifer Fraser Oberlin
 Mark Leonhardt Amherst

Russ Lewis Lorain
 Dan Maddock Elyria
 Tina Maddock Elyria
 Courtney Maddock Elyria
 Brian Maddock Elyria
 Kendra Mathys Oberlin
 Brady Mathys Oberlin
 Juan Morell North Olmsted
 William Somers Vermilion
 Judith Riddle-Somers Vermilion
 Chuck Stephens Lagrange
 Barb Ritsko-Stephens Lagrange
 Jessica Tomazic Elyria
 Brian Wahl Elyria

When a Bike Club is More Than Bike Club

Ed Stewart

Last month I wrote an article about how surprised some of us early members became when we saw that Silver Wheels was a bit more than just a bunch of people riding together. Today I will add to that observation.

I had a call last week from Harold Copperman, one of our earliest members, one of our honored Golden Wheelers, nonagenarian (over 90 years old and yes, I had to look that one up), sporting enthusiast all his life until health decided for him to change – reluctantly, avid cyclist, skier, hiker. And now he is battling his best against the stuff older age throws at you, things with all those scary names attached.

We talked for quite a while – there is never a short conversation with Harold, nor should there be. We reminisced about the early days of Silver Wheels and he commented on many of our members, some of whom are still active. The stories were still fresh in both our minds and the people's faces burned there too. Harold talked how important the club had been to him, helping him stay active with friends, long after he probably would have had nowhere to turn for such.

A few years ago Harold introduced me as a speaker at a Rotary Club where he was a member. My talk was to be about cycling opportunities in Lorain County and how those would grow in the future. This was a talk I'd given other times to other groups so I was comfortable – in my zone so to speak. In his introduction, which was very brief (for Harold) he introduced me as someone who had “saved his life.” Because of Silver Wheels, he was able to remain as active as possible, continuing to ride his bike all over Ohio and with some pretty nice people, too.

For once I stood with little to say. That was a strong statement and I was not prepared for it. You might be able to imagine, maybe not. I thanked him for the kind thought and went on with my presentation.

During our phone conversation I thought back to that introduction and I could tell how sincere he still was in what the club had – and does – mean to him. I hope all of our members learn that this club can be a lot more than just a bunch of people riding bikes together. I see that appreciation often on our rides and during our events.

I'm not so sure about saving lives but you all have certainly enriched each other's.'

Halloween All Star Ride Bob Burkhardt Ride Committee Chairman



Mark your calendar for a Silver Wheels
“spooktacular” event on Saturday, October
25th

Schedule of events:

9 a.m. – Group photo of costumed riders.

After photo – Costumed ride around Tappan Square

10 a.m. – All Star ride with leaders at the Oberlin Depot.

1* - 15 miles visiting several cemeteries

2* - 20 to 25 miles

3* - 25 to 30 miles

4* - 30+ miles

12:30 p.m. – Pot luck luncheon. Members are asked to bring a potluck item (to serve 10) based on the first letter of their last name.

A – L = entrée

M – S = salad

T – Z = dessert

Get crazy creative and try to add a Halloween theme to your food item. The Club will provide beverages and paper products. Cook your cauldron of ghostly delights. Dig out and don your disguise. Then join us for a Halloween fun time.

Update on My “Star” Trek!

By Lila Robinson

Hello all! Remember me? I’m catching up on my 1-Star journey in Silver Wheels! I have been having the best time fitting in as many club rides as I can with my busy life and I am fortunate to have met and enjoyed so many of you. THANK YOU! Thanks for welcoming me, for sharing your knowledge and expertise, for your patience and encouragement and for just letting me experience all the different ways and reasons everyone rides!

My favorite ride day quickly became evenings...certainly not because it is convenient for me...but because I LOVE seeing all level of riders and so many members all at one time getting ready to

take off! I wish it weren’t such a long drive for me to get there from University Circle where I work because I love the energy and watching everyone get ready to go.

I have tried to take full advantage of everyone who has offered to lead a slower 2-star pace to get my speed and endurance up and it has been so nice that so many leaders acquiesced to that need along with those of you who have also offered the 1-star rides for folks like me! All of the 1-star ride leaders I have ridden with are well beyond the 1-star pace and distance so I know you really reach out to offer those of us opportunities that wouldn’t otherwise be there.

I didn’t really understand or “get” the mileage chart and really didn’t look at it much. And then one day I checked it out and realized I had ridden enough miles to get all the way to Kentucky and part-way back! Suddenly, that mileage chart took on a whole new meaning for me! I’m writing this an hour before I leave for Fremont for the baby-SWINO and planning to ride Friday and I have 429 miles logged before this so of course I’m trying to get to 500 miles before the weather makes that more difficult for me to achieve!

I still get nervous when I’m challenging myself ride-wise; I’m still not in the best of shape/condition, etc. But I’m sure I’m in better shape and condition than when this season started. Big thanks again to the ride leaders and club members that have taken such care to foster my growth. To our membership committee, please feel free to have “hesitant” new and/or slow riders contact me any time to give them a load of positive reasons to join Silver Wheels!

Holiday Lights Project

Ed Stewart

For the past dozen or more years the Lorain County Metro Parks has sponsored an event called Holiday Lights. Held at the paths behind Carlisle Visitor Center, this features holiday displays created by area businesses and organizations. Then in the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's, visitors walk through the displays along the path and get into the holiday spirit. Visitors also have an opportunity to vote for the display they like the best while they enjoy some hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn inside. It's a nice family event.

Silver Wheels has been a participant in this community event because it is a good public relations activity and lets the public learn about our existence. It also is a nice way for members to work together on a non-cycling activity. About every time we participate we either win or at least get special mention for our display. We take participation seriously and set a high bar for ourselves and others. We have won the voting for the past two years.

We will be back at the event again this year. We will have a different location from last year, in a little house along the path. We will work up something unique and attractive yet try to be frugal as well – a challenging task for holiday displays. Our theme will be something like Santa's Workshop, maybe bicycles will be involved.

We can use help with this display-making. It takes a lot of hands to set up numerous strands of lights and to make whatever models or doodads or whatchamacallits ahead of time. This year will be no exception. We need your help.

The display will need to be up and ready the day before Thanksgiving. We usually try to do

all the work the week before, with some work done during the weekdays and some on weekends. We would really like to hear from people who may be newer to the club or who have not helped on this project before.

If you have an interest in helping our crews this year, send me an email – emsco514@gmail.com – saying so and if you can work weekdays or weekends. Some jobs may be able to be done at home, such as making an elf dummy or some other prop (instructions included). Expenses are covered by the club.

Thanks.

WANT ADS

For Sale

Saris Bones 2 (two bike) trunk mount rack, Model 805; includes owner's manual, is in good condition and very functional shape

\$85.00

Fuji men's bike seat saddle (new); white

\$15.00

Interested parties contact me at s.ferroni1@gmail.com

Sidi Women's Shoes size 38 **\$45.00**



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Fuji Finest road bike...

Size medium

4 yrs. old includes the following

New Michelin tires, rear rack and computer.... Originally cost \$900

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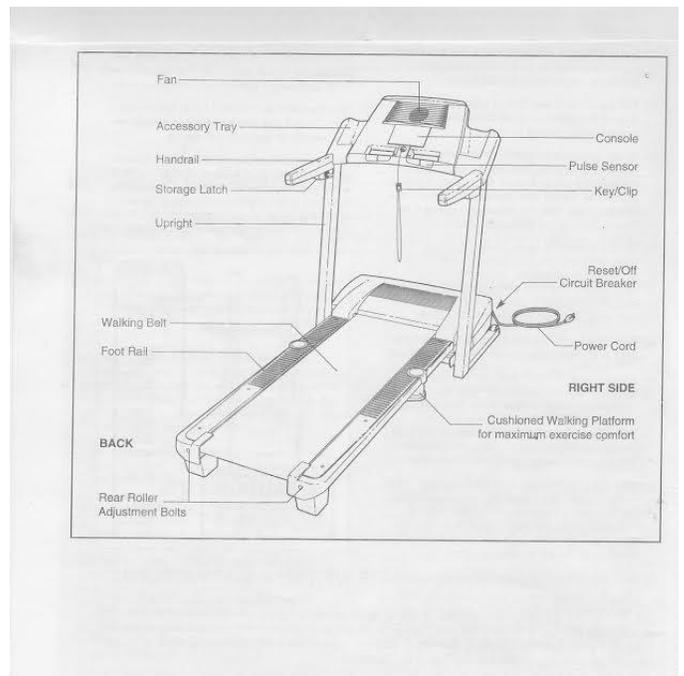
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For Sale

Treadmill -- Proform XP550 Great for off season conditioning
Has large belt. Folds up for storage.
Built in exercise programs. Measures your heart rate.
Comes with the recommended surge protector and all documentation.
Excellent condition.
Asking 100.00.

Please contact Joe Etzler at joetzler@gmail.com [440 327 3185](tel:440-327-3185) or cell at [440 309 8250](tel:440-309-8250)



Randy Lottman sent in these photos of a homemade to motorized bicycle. It looks to me like its drive train turns via cogged belt. The drive train had to be switched the left side because of the direction the motor turns.



Editor's note: Some of us who were old enough to fight in the Civil War might remember the **Whizzer**. The Whizzer was a purpose built bicycle with a motor attached to it. It too, was belt driven. First introduced in 1939 it was manufactured sporadically until just a few years ago. I can't remember any kid I hung around with that didn't want one and yes, that included me. In 1954 I saved up enough money to buy my much loved Schwinn Black Phantom, a beautiful bike with white wall tires and a spring on the front fork. I paid \$130 for it which was a LOT of money for a bike then. A Whizzer cost between \$250-300, waaay too much for me. Here are a couple of whizzers:



After all this time I still want one! I want my Black Phantom back, too.

Larry

LAST PAGE

Sandy Edmonds, already an excellent rider, has been working hard to improve her cycling skills. Here she is working on her sprinting technique with her husband Joel with a couple of other SWCC members in the background cheering her on.

