

# Rollin'

## Newsletter of the Silver Wheels Cycling Club, Inc.

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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 found myself wondering if anybody besides me gives their bike(s) a name. I always do and I'm not ashamed to admit it. I know that Mikki does and Jenine, too and if I had to guess I think a sizeable percentage riders do. I've had more than a couple of bikes and some of their names were, Frank, The Bird, Julie, Jr, Dale and Uptight. I've always loved the way diamond framed bikes looked. I think they're graceful and they look even better underway.

So now I've got this recumbent trike. I sure hope I don't insult anyone by saying this because I certainly don't mean to. I needed a name for the trike and as I stood and looked at it I thought it looked like an insect. So I named it 6 for six legs.

I went to the infamous Wednesday night ride. Even under the best of conditions I almost never show up at that ride. For some reason I don't like to begin riding after around 2:00 PM. I don't know why, that's just the way it is.

I can get the trike in my Honda Fit but it's a pain. The seats have to be folded down, the rear wheel removed, the pedals have to come off, cranks & part of the boom, have to be covered etc, etc. It's much easier to put it on the rack on top of the car.

When we (6 and I) got to Ace Hardware we attracted some attention. Mostly just kicking tires and sniffing around. Then we were off. I decided to try the 2\* ride led by the venerable Betsy Nestor. I was concerned about keeping up but had no problems. The big riders, a name I just gave to anyone on a regular bike, kept complaining about the wind but I didn't notice it much. Then I heard faint complaints about how it was hard to draft me. Odd, I didn't have any trouble drafting them. I wonder if it was because the top of my head was 30" from the ground. When riding in a group the other riders look 12 feet tall, hence the name "big riders." They really do look enormous from down there.

I was happy that my speed has picked up a lot from the first few times I rode the trike and I'm guessing it'll keep getting faster with practice. "Watch out Maddock, I'm coming for you."

A



Bike nerds and the physical activity-averse, rejoice! Ford Motors has released its latest smartbike — or eBike, or whatever you want to call it — While a motor and battery-backed bicycle might not appeal to bicycling traditionalists, it still sounds pretty damn neat. The Flex has a bigger device that can interact with your smartphone, enabling a “no sweat” mode that will calculate how much effort you need to put on the pedals to get to your destination without any serious physical exertion. In addition to advancing human laziness, the MoDe:Link app also informs riders of real-time weather, road, and traffic conditions up ahead.

Ford says the app comes with an Apple Watch extension that can somehow detect potholes on the road. Riders will feel their handlebars vibrate when they come close to such hazards, but the car company doesn't explain whether the software relies on existing data, is capable of scanning the road ahead, or is simply employing advanced magic to spot the holes. Also cool: The Flex can be switched up for different terrains and can be converted from a road bike to a mountain bike.

To the naysayers out there who may be weirded out that a car company is designing (motorized, lazy) bikes — come on, y'all! It's a step in the right direction of getting commuters onto more sustainable modes of transportation.

## Help Wanted

This will be my last year as editor of Rollin.' December will be my last issue and the club is looking for a replacement for me. (Hah! That should be easy.) If you like to write, type, arrange, do publishing stuff, can spell at least 3 letter words, love to stay up late, and occasionally put your head down in your hands and weep, this could be the job for you.



To apply for this prestigious, high paying position call or email me or Ed Stewart or somebody.

# A Report from the League of American Bicyclists

I'm going to edit this a lot because reading the whole thing is like taking a graduate course in statistics.

How do I know? Because I've taken graduate classes in stats.

If you'd like to read the entire report send me an email and I'll send you the link.

The data for this report comes from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## **This Report Concerns Itself with Bicycle Commuting**

**Anything about Cleveland or Ohio Will be Highlighted in red.**

From 2000 to 2014 there has been a 62% increase in bicycle commuters. The number of bicycle commuters nationwide is a little more than 904,000.

Davis, Ca has the highest percentage of bicycle commuters with 23%

Here is a comparison of cities, their population, and the total number of bicyclists and the percent of commuters.

### **These are the cities with the most amount of bicycles on their streets**

City	population	# of cycle's	% of commuters
New York,	8,491,079	42,806	1.1%
Los Angeles,	3,928,827	24,334	1.3%
Portland, or	619,445	23,347	7.2%
Chicago, il	2,722,407	21,362	1.7%
San Francisco, ca	852,469	21,068	4.4%
Seattle, wa	668,337	14,157	3.7%
Washington, dc	658,893	13,330	3.9%
Philadelphia, pa	1,560,297	12,281	1.9%
Minneapolis, mn	407,181	10,426	4.6
San Diego, ca	1,381,083	9,262	1.3%
Denver, co	663,862	8,848	2.5%
Tucson, az	527,948	8,169	3.5%
Boston, ma	656,051	8,141	2.4%
Davis, ca	66,733	7,696	23.2%
Madison, wi	245,674	7,323	5.3
Oakland, ca	413,782	7,231	3.7%
Austin, tx	912,798	6,653	1.3%
Houston, tx	2,240,796	6,085	0.6%
New Orleans, la	384,320	5,701	3.4%
Phoenix, az	1,537,045	5,681	0.8%
Berkeley, ca	118,851	5,572	9.7%
San Jose, ca	1,015,796	5,310	1.1%
Eugene, or	160,552	5,120	6.8%
Fort Collins, co	156,473	5,075	6.2%

**Cleveland had no data reported**

**Nationally**, since 2005, states have seen, on average, a 46% increase in the share of people commuting by bike. But an average is just that – there are many states that have seen tremendous increases in cycling, including some that might not be expected. **Ohio increased by between 0 and .3%** **That's the smallest amount reported.** Several states reported the same or very similar percentages.

City rank Total commute by bike Total Population

Davis, ca	1	23.2%	66,733
Berkeley, ca	2	9.7%	118,851
Boulder, co	3	8.9%	105,101
Somerville, ma	4	7.4%	78,903
Cambridge, ma	4	7.4%	109,699
Palo Alto, ca	5	7.3%	66,968
Portland, or	6	7.2%	619,445
Eugene, or	7	6.8%	160,552
Fort Collins, co	8	6.2%	156,473
Santa Barbara,	9	6.1%	91,208
Missoula, mt	9	6.1%	69,824
Bloomington, in	10	5.5%	83,423
Madison, wi	11	5.3%	245,674
Flagstaff, az	12	5.2%	68,786

**Where is commuting growing the fastest?  
Percentage of increase**

**Cincinnati ranked #4 out of 50 growth = 350% from 200-2014**  
**Cleveland ranked #7 out of 50 growth = 283% from 2002-2014**

**Bicycle Commuting by Region**

**West-6.3%      Midwest-2.5%      South-2.4%      East-2.3%**

*There's much, much more but as I said if you're interested let me know and I'll send you the whole thing.*

# Last Page

I feel sorry for Mikki Sobczak. She got a very nice carbon fiber bike a couple of years ago but obviously no one told her how fragile carbon fiber bikes are how to care for them. One day recently it was a very hot day. She rode the bike home, leaned it up against her house in the hot sun and look what she found when she came out!

