



## YEAR END RAMBLINGS

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas and all the frantic activity related thereto, I'm hoping that all our members will pause to take a deep breath and revisit the glory of warm weather on the bike. (I know that some of you are die-hards and are on the bike now regardless of freezing temps.) Also remember that auto drivers are feeling the pressure too, so behave like a vehicle, stop at stop signs and lights, and let drivers understand that you're doing exactly what they are: obeying the rules of the road. The Club has had no crashes in 132 days, and considering that there are approximately 6 Velo rides per week with perhaps 6 - 10 riders, we should be proud of our record.

Speaking of Club rides, when is the last time you bought a coffee for your leader? All of our leaders go way beyond the call of duty in stepping up and taking on the responsibility of leading Club members on interesting and enjoyable rides, not to mention designing those rides as well. Riders who hang out every week, letting another person do the work and take the lead might want to think about springing for a cup of coffee or that scone for your leader once in a while.

Along with the riding, hopefully you all took 30 seconds and voted for the 2016 Board of Directors. Believe me, leading a ride is a walk (or ride) in the park compared to the amount of time and effort the Directors put in to make the Club a responsible, responsive, energetic advocate for bike riding in the Rogue Valley.

Meanwhile we'll gather this coming Wednesday at Howie's off the bike, showing our moves on the dance floor. Socializing with friends met on the road is a fun way to get to know each other better.

See you there!

## NOVEMBER RIDE LEADERS

Donald Coker  
Judy Kerr  
Ken Kelley  
Dennis Cramer  
Mo Rousso  
Ginny Jensen  
Bob MacCracken  
John Bullock  
David Chapman  
Purk Purkerson

# 132

# of crash-free days

## NEXT VELO CLUB BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 pm

Location TBD

All members are welcome

For minutes of previous meetings, contact the Secretary at [coyotexing@gmail.com](mailto:coyotexing@gmail.com)



Slo Mos and  
Mello Minis  
rode together  
on Oct 31  
along the  
Rogue River

## **SALTA, ARGENTINA**

- Bill Heimann

In the last touring article we discussed a day on the road. Here is a real day in two parts, in Argentina. It demonstrates that a day will bring what it will and you must accept its gift.

From Cafayate to Salta is 189 kilometers (117 miles) following Argentine Ruta 68. My plan was to ride to a town at about a 100 kilometers today and then tomorrow on to Salta, making this a doable 2 day distance under almost any conditions.

Riding out for the north early, I am trying to beat the south blowing afternoon wind typical of this area. As I turn out of town the path is flat and heads directly east into the rising sun, past a large white Moorish wine resort and into a forest park. Then out past Quilmes, a large native ruin I visited yesterday. The wind was up before I was and pushes at my right side, reminding me that I am late. Fourteen kilometers and a sharp bend and the road turns into the face of the fast moving air.

Ahead and on both sides are tall naked brown mountains. On the right they are far off, separated from me by a flat desert floor dotted with large fat cactus, their upraised arms moving slightly in the wind. On the left the tall Andes are almost on my shoulder. I have just come from 6 days of climbing the Andes to see a sunset, and their hand feels comfortable on my shoulder.

The road tilts down as the opposing wind force rises up. Ahead I see a canyon entrance of tall stacked red spire gates. The desert floor narrows to permit the walls to close in around me. I am in a fairyland of 300 meter brick red spikes that define the path the bike follows. Now a high deep cave-like gorge, then an army of clothes pin light gray towers and then a wall of windows formed by many arches all pass by as I pedal on.

The road finds its way down, as it will through this fantasy world for the next 60 kms. The traffic is mostly tourists in rented cars, and even they are few.

To my left is a flowing brown river. Noting on the map that the first town is 70 kms, I assure myself that with my filter there is always water available. At least that is what I thought. Stopping here and there to experience the formations or walk a slot canyon, I move slowly along the ever winding road. I should be walking, as even pedaling into this ever increasing wind, I am moving too fast to see all the wonders carrying past me.

A climb to allow a better view followed by a fast down brings a different world. The flowing river comes close by and brings a grove of cottonwood trees. The tall green trees change the desert to a forest. The elevator road takes me from the alleyway of trunks to the next floor of even redder rock. Now a salon of flat walls, white stripes running parallel down their faces, as if they were tears of joy at the beauty. How could this go on? But it does. Each kilometer is more fantastic then the last.

I round a bend and drop into another cottonwood grove and see a sign telling of bebidas fria and empanadas de cabirto. Nothing could be more welcome than a cold drink and goat filled pastries. Stopping at the little adobe farm house, I place my order for 3 empanadas and a Fanta. I sit in front eating while I watch the next meal wander past bleating.

After a good rest I prepare to leave, asking to fill my water bottles. "Tiene botellas de agua mineral sin gas solo," he says. Ok, bottled water without added gas will work, great. "But why no natural water with the river on your property," I ask. "Oh, the river water is salt," he replies. Of course, this is Provincia de Salta.



Join us for the continued story in the next chapter of this day's adventure.



## CLASSIFIEDS



### PERFORMER UNICORN TITANIUM RECUMBENT

Virtually unused with less than 500 miles; 2013 model receipted for \$3,880; Size small (accommodates up to 32" inseam); 20" front wheel; 700c rear; carbon-fiber seat; Truvativ Elite crankset; Shimano XTR rear derailleur; Avid DB7 disc brakes. PLEASE DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES TO JERRY (541)535-6032 (land) or (541) 292-1939 (cell); Email to [jbbbrick39@gmail.com](mailto:jbbbrick39@gmail.com)...

Each year, between 12,000 and 15,000 bicycles are pulled out of Amsterdam's canals.



Okay, for all you readers who have deep-seated urges to be a writer, graphic designer and publisher, now is the time to step up and take over as Editor. Content flows in to your email box, and all you have to do is play with a publisher program a few hours a month and put out a work of art! Call me: 541 201 1121



Velo Mellos ride in the Ashland orchards on Halloween



Mellos at BeeGee's Diner in Rogue River on Nov. 7

## REGISTER YOUR BIKES

at

<http://www.ashland.or.us/FormPage.asp?FormID=145>

or

<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/FormPage.asp?FormID=58>

or

<http://www.pxpd.org/bicycle-registration.html> (Phoenix)

or

Talent Police Department

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or at [www.facebook.com/siskiyouvelo.bicycleclub](https://www.facebook.com/siskiyouvelo.bicycleclub)

Newsletter contributions are accepted until the 20th of the month.

Contact the editor at [mlmoore97520@gmail.com](mailto:mlmoore97520@gmail.com) for more information. Members are welcome to submit letters, photos, stories, classifieds or other notices of interest to the Club.

Siskiyou Velo Club PO Box 974 Ashland OR 97520



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Shaff, President

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The businesses above are Siskiyou Velo Club sponsors and offer members a 10% discount. You must present your Velo Club membership card .