



The December 2nd Annual Party and Meeting at Howie's on First was well-attended and lots of fun. Unlike past years, voting was conducted online, and eight directors had been elected by many more Velo Club members than in the past.

## ANNUAL PARTY

President Gary Shaff gave a short presentation, and 24 ride leaders were named and acknowledged.

Treasurer Viki Brown (top right) gave a financial summary of the Club, explaining where our dollars have gone.

Edem Gomez (bottom right) of Rogue Valley Transportation District was the recipient of the Last Mile Certificate, honoring the person who has gone the extra mile to support bicycling in the community.

The Midnight Party Band played dance tunes that had everyone tapping their feet.



## EAGLE POINT PARTNERS WITH VELO CLUB FOR CYCLING CHALLENGE 2016

The erstwhile Tour de Eagle Point is being reinvented for 2016 via a partnership with the Velo Club. The Eagle Point cycling Challenge is scheduled for June 11, staged at Harnish Wayside Park. Routes include 30k, 50k and 100k with lunch afterwards. See <http://www.siskiyouvelo.org/eagle-point-cycling-challenge-2016/> for complete information.

### NEXT VELO CLUB BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 pm

Grotto Pizza

302 E. Main St., Talent

All members are welcome

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



## Cayafata to Salta, Argentina

- Bill Heimann

*This is the second chapter of a 2-day ride that became one.*

Believing it's only 20 kilometers to day's end, I move back into the wind and wonder world.

Crossing the river on an 1800's bridge, the road climbs, switching back on itself around a sharp point of blue-green and red rocks. As I watch the river disappear into the canyon wall, an adobe farm house appears on the barren dirt, while above it four legged white spots are clinging to the steep sides enjoying a lunch of thorn bushes.

Around another bend the rancher in his wide, flat-brimmed, short-crowned tan hat balances on the cliff edge watching his flock. His light tan pants are tucked into his high brown boots, and from his hand hangs a short braided leather whip. His white shirt makes me wonder if I have made a wrong turn into Basque country of Spain. Only the red kerchief is missing.

As I continue to climb, the town comes into view over the rolling hills. The land flattens out with corn and tobacco fields stretching out to my sides.

"*Hay lugar de acampada*" replies the policeman. Yes, there is camping in a grass covered, tabled, fenced secure area. In fact so secure that no one has a key to the gate or the rest rooms. The manager has taken the keys on his vacation. Does anyone take in travelers? No, there is camping in the park. OK, it is only 3pm I will ride on to the next town.

As the afternoon takes hold, the wind lets go. The road becomes more sharply rolling. The additional 30 kms to the next town finds me wanting to push on and finish the journey I started from Cordoba over a month ago. I will see Salta on this day.

My legs say stop as I pass through a town. I do but only for a cold drink. Back to the never-complaining bike, its tires rolling on to a destination they did not expect today.

The steep hills give me doubts. Why am I pushing like this? I have no time table, no reason to hurt myself. My body says "You cannot make this tonight." But on I go, passing opportunities to rest for the night. Just as the day is beginning to show its darker coat, the lights of Salta shine on the road. Traffic increases requiring close attention to which my tired mind rebels. I stop for a moment to focus my thoughts.

This can be very dangerous if I do not apply all of my traffic handling skills. I turn on my lights and ride toward el centro. An expressway passes overhead and the road widens to 6 lanes and then 8. Now in the city, the overhead lights become brighter.

Just as darkness edges out the day, I come to the very busy El Centro de Salta. It takes a long time to find my way through the heavy traffic. Very worn down, my mind does not process well. I am forced to take extra time making choices.

Even in my weakened condition, I haggle the price of the room. I weep, saying I am too far gone to look for others, could he help me a little. The clerk looked at this tired old man and asked where I had cycled from today. When I shared Cafayate he took pity on me. He lowered the price from \$750 to \$350 pesos.

Showered, I walked to an Italian cafe and a sidewalk table for a large plate of pasta and a good glass of local wine. The meal came with 3 choices of spicy salsa in addition to the Bolognese sauce.

It amazes me how I always find the difficult way. Three months in this country before I find the place others come to see. In all the years I have been seeking, the harder road has always been my route. I will scramble up a mountain side when others use the beaten track I failed to see. Walking around a town, the side streets find my feet. If my language is spoken, I am unable to be where it is heard. A flat or easy way is not visible to me. Why this is I know not, but in this way I have seen many things that bring light to my life. Today was such a day.



# Who are you?

*Donald Coker is a new board member of the Velo Club. He is very enthusiastic about leading rides at different levels.*

*How long have you lived in the Rogue Valley, and where did you come from?*

I moved to Oregon from the east coast after retiring from medical practice 5 years ago.

*How long have you been a SVC member?* I joined SVC about 9 months ago so that I could ride with similarly afflicted addicted people. I ride with the SVC for the feeling of camaraderie. It is a special moment for me.

*Tell us about your first bike. How has your cycling developed since that first bike?* My first bike was one that my grandfather gave me, but it eventually wore out, and besides, by then I had a car and who needed a bike after that? Never rode a bike after that until the US bike craze of the early 1970's, when I had an Italia Vega (weighed about 50 pounds) but I really didn't have time to ride much so it pretty much stayed in the garage. In 1986 I started to ride for recreation and got that heavy steel Italia Vega out of the garage which is when I realized what a terrible bike it was. So I got a Bridgestone 500 sport touring bike which was a real improvement. I was completely hooked on cycling by then so after a year I got a steel Guerciotti. Nice bike. All campy. However, I realized about a year after I got the Guerciotti that it did not really fit me, as the top tube was too short for my long torso frame. In about 1988 I had a custom frame built by John Hollands in Baltimore. A real improvement. Several years later I got a custom Serrota Titanium frame....Sweet bike that I had for several years until it was stolen along with my LiteSpeed Titanium TT bike. Not good.

*What do you ride, and what do you like best about it?* About 5 years ago I got a custom Guru Titanium Frame which is my current bike. Fits perfectly, light and tight with Zipp 303 wheels.....What's not to like?

*How often do you get on your bike, and what is an average ride for you?* I like to ride 5 days a week for 2-3 hours to get a good workout. I definitely do not like to ride in the cold but I don't mind the heat.

*How many miles do you ride in a year?* I don't keep track of my yearly mileage.

*What is your favorite ride in the Rogue Valley?* My favorite rides in this area are the ones in the Applegate. Very rural and scenic. Little traffic. I like that.

*What is your favorite ride world-wide?* I loved the two weeks I spent riding in the Slovenian Alps followed by two weeks in Belgium (courtesy of the US military as I did it in conjunction with my US Army Reserve duty). Sweet.

*What's still on your cycle bucket list?* I don't have any bucket list cycling wishes.



## CLASSIFIEDS

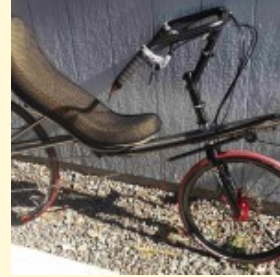
### RANS RECUMBENT 2013

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**WANTED: Editor for Velo Club Newsletter.** Preferably retired, likes to write, enjoys fiddling with graphic design, keeps up with Velo Club news, slightly nosy. No pay but very rewarding. Position comes with two months of on-the-job training. Call or email ML Moore at [mlmoore97520@gmail.com](mailto:mlmoore97520@gmail.com) or 541 201-1121.



Careful!! On the Greenway  
Dec. 5



Courtesy of Judy Kerr

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Talent Police Department

## SISKIYOU VELO CLUB COMMITTEES

ADVOCACY	Edgar Hee	<a href="mailto:ejhee@juno.com">ejhee@juno.com</a>
EDUCATION & TRAINING	Gary Shaff	<a href="mailto:president@siskiyouvelo.org">president@siskiyouvelo.org</a>
COMMUNICATION		
FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS	Tom Ryan	<a href="mailto:bicyclerider857@gmail.com">bicyclerider857@gmail.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP	Matt Walker	<a href="mailto:membership@siskiyouvelo.org">membership@siskiyouvelo.org</a>
RIDE COORDINATION	Dennis Cramer	<a href="mailto:touring@siskiyouvelo.org">touring@siskiyouvelo.org</a>

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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**

**Viki Brown, Secretary**

**Harlan Bittner**

**Donald Coker**

**Dennis Cramer**

**Edgar Hee**

**Tom Ryan**

**Matt Walker**



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