



WE ARE THE 60%

Thanks to all you terrific Velo Club members who completed the questionnaire. We had a 60% response rate, which is unheard of. Well done. The SOU researchers are currently compiling the data and analyzing the results. Over the course of the next several weeks, the researchers will complete the analysis, write the report and prepare for the March 19th final presentation of the survey about where our club is and where it should go from here.

SAFETY CHECK

Vehicles often track out fine silts and clays onto the paved roads from construction sites, farms and driveways. During this winter's dry spell the "track-out" hasn't posed a hazard. But with rains those dusty areas on the road shoulder and at corners become slick. Be careful out there!

Unsafe passing on right: ORS 811.415(2)(c) states "overtaking and passing upon the right is permitted if the overtaking vehicle is a bicycle that may safely make the passage under the existing conditions" (emphasis added).

Be careful when passing on the right especially if you are passing a queue of stopped vehicles. It is best to stop short of the first vehicle in the queue. In that way, you won't be in harm's way if the driver of that vehicle makes a right turn. An alternative is to take the lane in an intersection.

Respect others for their choices about safety. We all have to make our own choices - when and where it is safe. Please don't call out "clear." That substitutes your judgment for that of other people you are riding with. They need to make their own choice. Do point out hazards when you see them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 4 Board Meeting Ashland
18 Scenic Bikeway Workshop The Grove, Ashland

bandgfam@jeffnet.org
[Travel Oregon](http://TravelOregon.com)

April

- 8 Membership Meeting
18 Community Bike Swap The Grove, Ashland
26 Bike Wash & Bar-B-Q Central Point
26 Chico Wildflower Chico, CA

lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us
bicyclerider857@gmail.com
<http://www.chicovelo.org/>

May

- 1 Applegate Lake Tour Ruch
9 Table Rock Ride & Hike Central Point
9 Tour of the Unknown Coast Ferndale
16 Family Fun Ride Central Point
16 Rogue River Tour Medford
21 Mohawk Valley Metric Century Eugene

star@mind.net
bicyclerider857@gmail.com
tuccycle.org/
<http://rvtd.org/>
star@mind.net
www.mohawkvalley100k.org

-denotes a Velo Club event - all Club events for the coming month are highlighted elsewhere in this issue



Crank It Up and the Velo Melos met together in Gold Hill on Feb. 14

NEXT VELO CLUB BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.

President Gary Shaff's house
516 Herbert St., Ashland

All Club members are welcome

For minutes of previous meetings, contact the Secretary at coyotexing@gmail.com

2nd ANNUAL BIKE WASH & BAR-B-Q

Mark April 26 to get a spring cleaning for your trusty steeds. Last year we had lots of people socializing while volunteers washed bikes and drive trains, and a delicious bar-b-q afterwards. This year we'll be at Tom and Linda Ryan's home on Beall Lane, and Tom assures me that we can do this even if it rains. We need a few volunteers to wash bikes and cook: bicyclerider857@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE VELO CAMP OUT : SEPTEMBER 11-12

As you get your summer calendar in order, be sure to add the second annual Siskiyou Velo camp out to the list. We have reserved the group campsite at Aspen Point Campground at Lake of the Woods which will accommodate up to four small RV's and a large number of tents in an area adjacent to restrooms, parking and the shore of the beautiful lake. Plan on a swim in this wonderful lake. There are lots of picnic tables and a large fire ring in the site. There are also cabins available for rent at the resort.

Group rides will roll out on Saturday morning and possibly on Sunday morning depending on interest. There is a lot of varied terrain for riding, so all levels will have a beautiful area to ride in.

Participants can arrive Friday afternoon at or after 2:00 pm and we will host a "social hour" get together in the group site with snacks and no-host beverages and a chance to get acquainted with other Club members. You can bring your own dinner to prepare in camp or there is a restaurant at Lake of the Woods Resort.

On Saturday after the rides, there is live music and a BBQ at Lake of the Woods resort that we can enjoy. We'll get more information on the price of the BBQ when it becomes available. The cost of the camp out is \$15/night for one person or a couple. Register here: <http://www.planetreg.com/E21013332624833>.

There is a small store at the resort, and all meals are available at the restaurant. There is a breakfast buffet at the resort on Saturday and Sunday mornings for \$11.95/person, and breakfast from a menu is available from 8:00-11:00 am every day.

For anyone joining the camp out who is not a rider, there is a triathlon being held at Lake of



the Woods Resort on Sept. 12 in the morning which could be interesting to watch.

If you have specific questions about this event contact Viki Brown at: coyotexing@gmail.com. We look forward to a fun event.

If you want to check out information on the campground click on: <http://www.recreation.gov/camping/aspen-point/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73540>. If you want to check out information on Lake of the Woods Resort click on: <http://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/>.

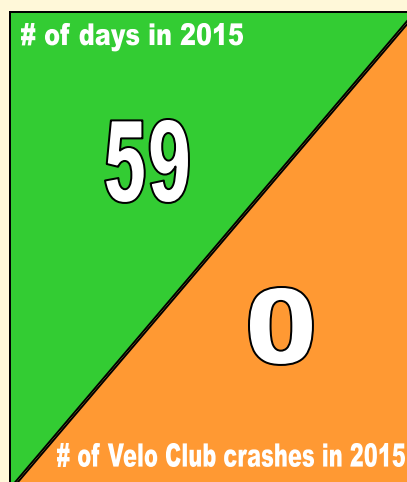
THINGS THAT GO BUMP



The February Velo Club membership meeting at 2Hawk Winery was fun and well attended. John Grimbergen, Bob MacCracken, John Colwell and Judy Kerr presented accounts of their recent collisions on their bicycles. They explained what mistakes they had made and what they might have done differently to prevent such experiences in the future.

Members in the audience were reminded that it takes only a split second of inattention or bad judgment to have a terrific impact on a bike rider meeting the road.

The Velo Club has adopted a zero tolerance policy for collisions among members. For a running tally, see below.



Who are you?

Ginny Jensen has taken over the Velo Melo group this year and is a very active Club member, taking advantage of many Club activities.

How long have you lived in the Rogue Valley, and where did you come from? I moved to Ashland with my husband, Tom, in July 2010, after many years living and working in the Bay Area. We're originally from Wisconsin but moved to California in the 70's (like so many folks) looking for better jobs & better weather. We learned about the Rogue Valley when Tom took up hang-gliding; he would come here to fly at Woodrat Mountain.

How long have you been a SVC member? I joined in May 2012. I had brought my old bike with me to Ashland, my 1986 turquoise Miyata with down tube shifters, though I hadn't ridden it in 10 years. I joined the club through Phil Gagnon's Slo-Mo group. I'd forgotten how much I enjoyed riding! As I got back into it, I moved into the Velo-Mello group, and that speed and distance seems comfortable for me as of now.

Tell us about your first bike. How has your cycling developed since that first bike? It was a gift for my 8th birthday, and my Dad taught me how to ride. I still remember my first ride without training wheels – how scary it was to navigate down the uneven city sidewalk, with a thorny hedge on one side and a high curb on the other! I crashed into that hedge several times learning how to steer. I bought the Miyata touring bike in California in 1986; it is a sturdy, stable bike, though heavy. I rode that over the years until the worsening traffic congestion in the Bay Area made cycling on our nearby riding routes too dangerous. We quit riding in 2002 – and I didn't pick it up again until 2012, when I joined SVC. I am so thankful to find a place where riding can be safe and fun again.

What do you ride now, and what do you like best about it? In 2013 I bought a Kona "Zing Supreme" carbon road bike and, following the suggestion of a couple other riders, I had the dealer outfit it with a triple chain ring and 11-32 cassette. I know that's a lot of gears, and there's some overlap – but when I'm nearing the top of a hill, I'm really glad I have the extra gearing! Also I like its lightness – 8 pounds less than my old steel Miyata – it just seems zippier, easier to pedal, and easier to lift onto my car rack.

How often do you get on your bike, and what is an average ride for you? I ride a couple times a week – usually a short local ride on a week-day, then the longer Velo Mello ride on Saturdays.

How many miles do you ride in a year? Not many compared to other club members. Since I got my Kona, I've only put a thousand miles on it -- but I've really enjoyed every mile! And I hope to put on the next thousand a lot faster.

Tell us about the most difficult day you've ever had in the saddle. That might be the Diamond Lake trip last July. I had never ridden at that elevation before, and the return trip in the afternoon was very hot, with no shade, and an unrelenting slight



uphill all the way back to the lake. I didn't carry enough water, and an energy drink would have helped too. It was a real struggle to get back and a good learning experience for me! I was very grateful to other riders who were willing to wait with me a couple times while I regrouped.

What is your favorite ride in the Rogue Valley? I like to get out in the countryside, so I guess my favorites are the Rogue River to Wimer loop, and anywhere in the Applegate Valley and Sam's Valley/Table Rocks areas.

What is your favorite ride world-wide? As an adult, I've only ridden in the Bay Area and southern Oregon. In the 80's, I enjoyed riding in a yearly tour of San Francisco. The route was closed off to car traffic, so we had to start really early on a Sunday morning, and be done by 1 PM. The route was 33 miles through the most scenic city streets, with many views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay, through Golden Gate Park and right alongside the Pacific Ocean. What an opportunity to ride through a beautiful city, with no worries about traffic.

What's the best thing about riding a bike? Well, my favorite sport is skiing – I love gliding through snow-covered terrain! But skiing requires snow, and when that's in short supply, bike riding fills in nicely. You get the same exhilarating feeling, sort of like flying around outdoors in the fresh air. Being on a bike gives you the opportunity to see, smell and appreciate more details of the beautiful scenery around here. The camaraderie of fellow riders is fun, too, when you're all enjoying the same experience.

What is your most embarrassing experience on (or near) a bike? A long time ago, my husband and I were riding on a pretty country road that's closed to car traffic one weekend a month. Since we felt very safe on a carless road, we zoomed right through a stop sign -- forgetting that the cross-streets were NOT closed to car traffic. Well, we got through the intersection safely but found a hidden police car waiting for us. We actually got \$15 tickets for failing to stop! I was so embarrassed to be caught in the act, especially when I heard that a serious bike/car accident had occurred at that same spot the preceding month.

What's still on your cycle bucket list? First I need to work on my hill-climbing techniques and stamina, and be able to ride longer distances. This year, I want to do a 50-mile ride. Then I'd like to tour other parts of the West, starting in the northeast corner of Oregon, it's so beautiful there.

SAY WHAT?

It seems that some years ago larger cities across North America (Seattle, Toronto, Portland) had been experiencing a backlash against bike riders and the interactions they were having with cars, as well as the demands they were making for safer streets. The vitriol had risen to the term “War on Cars”.

About four years ago, bike advocates learned to change their language and posture. Instead of bike advocates, they became *neighborhood advocates* and fought bad language with good language. Instead of “bikers” or “cyclists,” they said *people biking*; instead of “drivers” or “cars,” they said *people driving*. Instead of “accident,” which implied that conscious choices like speeding aren’t involved in traffic collisions, the group simply called them *collisions*.

When you start thinking of somebody as a ‘driver’ or somebody as a ‘cyclist’ or somebody as a ‘pedestrian’, it’s easy to think of someone as part of a tribe. That tribalism was broken down by convincing advocates to talk about “bicycling,” an activity, rather than “bicyclists,” an identity. Just because you’re riding a bike doesn’t mean you’re in epic opposition to everyone who’s driving a car.

Anything that improved bicycling once tended to be termed a “bicycle project,” unintentionally implying that if you weren’t a bike commuter, you wouldn’t benefit. That didn’t work as well as *People are getting harmed on this street for no reason*. That’s a much better story.

Cities have seen a dramatic turnaround in attitudes toward bicycling in the cities which have utilized the new language and neighborhood concepts. See more at <http://usa.streetsblog.org/2015/02/04/how-smart-language-helped-end-seattles-paralyzing-bikelash/#.VNUNF41qFWw.facebook> .



Crank It Up had a good turn out on Feb. 21



Brisk Lite at the Woodrat Summit on Feb 14,

Cascade-Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway Workshop



The Cascade-Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway proponent group invites you to attend Travel Oregon's Bicycle Tourism Studio. This is a one-day community planning workshop designed to make your Scenic Bikeway one of the best places to ride in North America, to elevate your area as a bike-friendly travel destination, and to help local businesses benefit from visiting bicyclists.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 | 9:00AM – 4:00PM

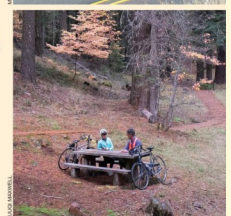
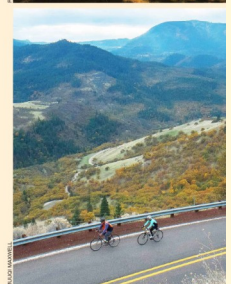
The Grove | 1195 E Main St., Ashland, OR

Anyone living/working along or near the Cascade-Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway who has an interest in capitalizing on the growing bicycle travel trend and wants to help make this Bikeway the best it can be, is invited to attend this workshop.

Registration is required. Cost is free!

Industry.TravelOregon.com/CascadeSiskiyou

Questions? Contact: Katharine Cato, Ashland Chamber of Commerce
katharine@ashlandchamber.com | 541-482-3486 ext. 106



Bicycle Tourism Studio

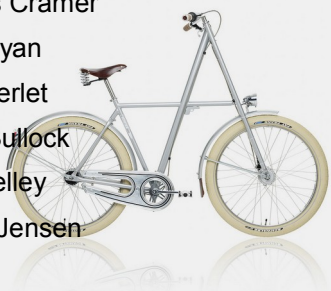




The 25th annual Bike Swap on Saturday, April 18, will provide a community venue for buying and selling working-condition bicycles and related equipment. Proceeds from this event fund bike safety education in the Rogue Valley. Do you have a bike you would like to donate? Did you know bicycle and equipment donations are tax-deductible? Donations will be accepted through April 11 and are equivalent to more bike safety classes! Please call Ashland Parks & Recreation at 541.488.5340 for more information or visit www.RVTD.org/bikeswap. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lori Ainsworth by email at lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us or by phone at [541.552.2264](tel:541.552.2264).

FEBRUARY RIDE LEADERS

Dennis Cramer
Tom Ryan
Rick Berlet
John Bullock
Ken Kelley
Ginny Jensen



of days in 2015



Velo Melos at Little Applegate Bridge on Feb. 21

Introducing
2015
Family Fun Bike Rides



Join us for family friendly bike rides!
Free Prizes and Safety Instruction Provided!

.....▶ All Rides 10:30am-12:30pm ◀.....

- May 16th : Central Point • September 12th: Grants Pass
- June 6th: Ashland • October 10th: Medford

Locations TBA: Visit www.siskiyouvelo.org -or- www.rvtd.org for more information! Or call 541-608-2411.



#RougeFamilyBike ◀.....

Drive less. *Connect.*

Where are you?

Steve Juul identified Ken Kelley's January photo of the red lily at Red Lily winery.

He submitted the photo at right along a well-travelled route in the Valley. The first person to identify it may submit a new location next month.



BIKE OVERNIGHTS

May 1	Applegate Lake	16 miles from Ruch
May 16	Rogue River	24 miles from Medford
May 30	Fort Klamath	16 miles to Collier Park

For further information: Phil Gagnon star@mind.net

SISKIYOU VELO CLUB COMMITTEES

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Visit us on the Internet: <http://www.siskiyouvelo.org>
or at www.facebook.com/siskiyouvelo.bicycleclub

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

Contact the editor at 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

REGISTER YOUR BIKES

at

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

or

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



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The businesses above are Siskiyou Velo Club sponsors and offer members a 10% discount.