



WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE IN DOWNTOWN ASHLAND?

The public is invited:

Siskiyou Velo Meeting

April 8th - 6:30 to 8:30 pm

**The Grove
1195 E. Main Street, Ashland**

The cycling public and Siskiyou Velo members will have an opportunity to learn about and offer feedback on a proposal to connect existing bike lanes on N. Main and Siskiyou Boulevard through downtown Ashland. That's right! The City is beginning the process to provide connectivity throughout Ashland. If constructed, people riding bicycles could travel from the City's north or south boundaries on dedicated bike lanes.

Mike Faught, Ashland Public Works Director, will share details of the current proposal at our April meeting. Following the presentation, participants will be asked to provide feedback on the proposed East Main project using a workshop process.

Please plan to attend. We really need to show the City, by a large turn-out, that people who ride bicycles are committed to improving cycling and the infrastructure that supports our passion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

6	Board Meeting	Schoolhaus Brewhaus	Bandgfam@jeffnet.org
8	Membership Meeting	The Grove, Ashland	Bandgfam@jeffnet.org
18	Community Bike Swap	The Grove, Ashland	lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us
23	Scenic Bikeway Meeting	The Grove, Ashland	Alex.Phillips@oregon.gov
25	Bike Wash & Bar-B-Q	Central Point	bicyclerider857@gmail.com
26	Chico Wildflower	Chico, CA	http://www.chicovelo.org/

May

1	Applegate Lake Overnight	Ruch	star@mind.net
9	Table Rock Ride & Hike	Central Point	bicyclerider857@gmail.com
9	Tour of the Unknown Coast	Ferndale	tuccycle.org/
16	Family Fun Ride	Central Point	http://rvtd.org/
16	Rogue River Overnight	Medford	star@mind.net
17	Mohawk Valley Metric Century	Eugene	www.mohawkvalley100k.org
23	Art of Survival Century	Tulelake, CA	survivalcentury.com
30	Ft. Klamath Overnight	Ft. Klamath	star@mind.net

June

6	Family Fun Ride	Ashland	http://rvtd.org/
13	Tour de Eagle Point	Eagle Point	epbike@yahoo.com
20	Tour de Fronds	Powers, OR	http://tourdefronds.com/

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

BIKE WASH & BAR-B-Q RESCHEDULED

Our Second Annual Bike Wash, Bar- B-Q and mystery raffle has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 25, beginning at 12 noon after the Saturday Club rides. So roll those bikes out of the garage, join a ride and then treat them to a thorough cleaning of frame, drive train and wheels. While you wait, have some food and social time. The BBQ (from 1:00 to 3:00) will consist of hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage dogs and veggie burgers. Soft drinks, coffee, tea, water and desserts will also be served.

If you're not riding, come along anyway with or without the bike for a good time. The cost of the meal is \$5 (exclusive of the bike wash), and the bike wash is \$10 (exclusive of the meal). Nonmembers will pay \$7 for the meal. The address is Tom Ryan's house, 3015 Beall Lane, Central Point . If the driveway is full, there is plenty of parking on Sunnyvale Street, around the corner,

Also we will have a table set up for a yard sale of unwanted and gently used bike items. For anyone wanting to get rid of those items by donating them to the Club, bring them along. Proceeds will benefit the Family Fun Rides, co-sponsored by the Club and the Rogue Valley Transportation District.

Please register at <http://www.planetreg.com/E31023345215312> so that we know how much food to buy.

NEXT VELO CLUB BOARD MEETING

Monday April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Schoolhaus Brewhaus

525 Bigham Knoll Campus, Jacksonville, OR 97530

All Club members are welcome

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

MARCH RIDE LEADERS

David Chapman
Matt Walker
Judy Kerr
John Bullock
Dennis Cramer
Ken Kelley
Jen Richmond
Tom Ryan
Phil Gagnon
Rick Berlet



of days in 2015

90

0

of Velo Club crashes in 2015

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

What exactly is a "bike overnight tour"? It's a short bike tour where you start riding one day, stop and stay the night somewhere and then ride back the following day--or the day after that. For riders interested in touring, yet inexperienced or concerned about what touring requires, bike overnights are an easy way to test the waters before heading out on an extended adventure.

It's amazing how a one or two night bike trip can feel like a bigger adventure. Such questions as What do I need? How do I pack my bike? etc. can be answered by contacting me. It's likely that a SAG wagon will be available on the Applegate Tour.

MULTI-DAY TOURS

June 12.....**Scappoose 4-Day Tour.** This is a revision of a tour taken last year with the Oregon City leg omitted. It again starts at Champoege State Park where cars will be left. Our first night will be in Hillsboro (34 mi.) then Vernonia (35 mi.) Scappoose (16 mi.) and back to Champoege (50 mi.)

June 28.....**Jump-Start 3-Overnight Tour.** We start this ride after lunch at McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove. Our first night will be at Stub-Stewart campground on the Vernonia-Banks Trail (17 mi.). The next morning, we ride the Trail to Vernonia for breakfast (12 mi.) and then return to McMenamins (29 mi.--15 mi. is downhill). Then we drive the cars to Ft. Stevens to ride their beautiful wooded trails. We can camp there or overnight (motel) in Astoria. The third day takes us to Corvallis with another ride from there to Philomath (8 mi.) for lunch at "The Gathering Together Farm" --a real treat. We may want to go on to Eugene to ride their beautiful River Trail or simply drive home from Corvallis.

July 12.....**7-Day Selkirk Loop Tour.** We start in Sandpoint, ID and loop around a number of Canadian towns to return through Washington to Sandpoint. (Passports!)

Other tours are on the board but dates aren't pinned down. Incidentally, while these tours are designed for camping, motels are available on the June 12, June 28 and July 12 tours. Reservations should be made pronto. If you have interest in these tours, email Phil at star@mind.net.

of Velo Club crashes in 2015

CLUB MEMBER SURVEY

Extreme thanks to the 138 Velo Club members who responded to the recent survey conducted by the SOU Applied Business Research class.

Findings show that the average age of Club members is 64, and the majority is male. Group ride opportunities are the primary reason respondents are members, even though many would like expanded locations and times of rides. The newsletter and Club efforts to improve cycling in the Rogue Valley are valuable to members. Accident insurance, membership meetings and other social events ranked lower on the scale of importance. Attracting younger members is the most important challenge we face.

This is a very concise summary of the 82-page report. Members can see a power point presentation summarizing the report or the full report from links on our website. We are also encouraging members to engage in an on-line discussion. Please add your voice to the conversation. You can do that by clicking on *View/Post New Comment* on the line below the website posting at siskiyouvelo.org.

Cascade Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway Update

On March 18, Travel Oregon and Oregon Parks Commission representatives travelled to Ashland to facilitate a workshop on the development of the first proposed state Scenic Bikeway in Southern Oregon. The Cascade Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway (CSSB) has been two years in the planning stages and is very close to a vote by the state Parks Commission. About 30 attendees from government agencies, the tourism industry and the bicycle community worked together through the day to develop priorities to make the proposed bikeway as welcoming and friendly as possible.



The route is our iconic "Mountain Lakes Loop" starting at Garfield Park in Ashland, climbing up the Greensprings, turning across the plateau on Hyatt Prairie Road, and descending on Dead Indian Memorial Road. This is a very strenuous ride, and the literature will emphasize its extreme difficulty. Although there will be no improvements of the existing roadway, directional signs will be installed. Maps will be developed and printed by Travel Oregon, and its bicycle advocacy partner, Ride Oregon Ride, will develop and maintain a strong web presence for the CSSB. It will have links to local tourism partners and of course Siskiyou Velo.

Jenna Stanke of the Jackson County Roads and Parks Department has been the leader of this effort, and Katherine Cato of The Chamber of Commerce has done much of the heavy lifting in Ashland. However members of local government agencies, road departments, parks, and the hospitality industry are all coming together to welcome bicycle tourists to our community.

One of the final tasks that has to be completed before approval is a public meeting to explain the project to the local community (again) and allow citizens to make comments for the public record. This meeting is scheduled for April 23 at The Grove. Assuming all of the required paperwork has been accepted, the State Parks Commission will vote on our application on June 24. There are twelve existing Scenic Bikeways, all in the northern half of the state, and we would be very proud to be the first in Southern Oregon.



Brisk Lites in the Shasta Valley on March 7



Somewhere in Canada....

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.

.....▶ #RogueFamilyBike ◀.....







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).

NEXT VELO CLUB MEETING

Wednesday April 8, 6:30 p.m.

The Grove

1195 E. Main St., Ashland

Downtown Ashland Bike Lane Project

The Public is Welcome

Letter to the Editor

This is a letter in response to the front page item in last months newsletter on safety. The second paragraph comments on the article referencing some advocacy groups' recent change in language.

Twice Read – Twice Annoyed

In the same breath, an item in this issue says to respect the intelligence of fellow cyclists when encountering road hazards and intersections by: pointing out road hazards, and not saying “clear” at intersections. I could make an argument for just the opposite behavior, which is to say that there is not an official, or even preferred, view on these behaviors – only what some choose to dictate as an “accepted practice”. When it comes to road hazards, there is so much white noise in Siskiyou Velo groups about gravel (an inconsequential hazard if one has any knowledge of bike handling), pot holes, mud, etc., etc. that the warnings are useless and disturb the peace. (Certainly, there are rare occasions, as when a dog suddenly appears, that warrant a shout-out, but they should be treated as exceptions, and thereby increase their effectiveness as warnings). The simple rule should be that the person at the front of the group be responsible for guiding, even in an exaggerated fashion, the group around an obstacle. It is far safer and more effective – if everyone abides by this rule and maintains proper vigilance. If a rider wants to ride semi-consciously, then I suggest he/she not ride in a group. As far as “clear” calls go, anyone foolish enough to ride blindly into an intersection without checking the traffic for themselves belongs in the Darwin dictionary; any such calls should be taken as just a forewarning that the intersection may be clear by the time you arrive; I take it as a polite gesture.

And then there is the item on “language”. What a bunch of political rectitude, tantamount to the running controversy in Washington about whether our enemies are Islamic Terrorists or Violent Extremists. If we want to call ourselves “cycling people”, rather than cyclists, we are subtly, but implicitly, blurring the difference between our status (as extremely vulnerable users of the road) and those driving vehicles (call them motorists), who have virtually no vulnerability to a cyclist. This is utter foolishness. Such political crapola has no place in the Newsletter.

-Rick Berlet

Where are you?

John Harlow was the first of several to identify Steve Juul's photo of the horse sculpture on South Stage Rd. just outside of Jacksonville.

John has submitted this photo of another location popular with many riders in the Club. The first person to identify the location may submit a photo for next month.



TOUR DE EAGLE POINT Saturday June 13, 2015, 9:00am 100K, 50K, 30K, 10K

Registration forms available at: cityofeaglepoint.org
For questions or to contact us: 541-604-8522
or e-mail to: epbike@yahoo.com

SISKIYOU VELO CLUB COMMITTEES

ADVOCACY	Edgar Hee	ejhee@juno.com
EDUCATION & TRAINING	Gary Shaff	Bandgfam@jeffnet.org
COMMUNICATION	ML Moore	mlmoore97520@gmail.com
FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS	Tom Ryan	bicyclerider857@gmail.com
FUNDRAISING		
MEMBERSHIP	Matt Walker	membership@siskiyouvelo.org
MOUNTAIN LAKES CHALLENGE		
RIDE COORDINATION	Dennis Cramer	touring@siskiyouvelo.org
BRISK	Dennis Cramer	touring@siskiyouvelo.org
VELOSHIP	John Bullock	jas@opendoor.com
CRANK IT UP	Tom Ryan	ipickonguitars@yahoo.com
MELO VELO		
SLO MO	Ken Kelley	kckelley@charter.net

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>



Rogue Valley Cycle Sport, Inc.
www.roguecycle.com
info@roguecycle.com

Ashland CYCLE SPORT 191 Oak St Ashland, OR 97520 541-488-0581	Medford CYCLE SPORT 1390 Biddle Rd #107 Medford, OR 97504 541-857-0819
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Eric Michener
Owner/Lead Mechanic

The Rogue Bicycle
1660 Siskiyou Blvd.
Ashland, OR 97520

541.482.3440
theroguebicycle@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/theroguebicycle



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