



NEXT VELO CLUB BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 pm
Frau Kemmling Schoolhaus Brewhaus
525 Bigham Knoll Dr, Jacksonville, OR 97530

All members are welcome

For minutes of previous meetings: <http://www.siskiyouvelo.org/board-agenda-and-meeting-minutes/>

In this issue of the newsletter is the second part of the article about how to buy a bike by Bill Heimann. A good read.

Of course, Siskiyou Velo is co-sponsoring the **6th Annual Eagle Point Cycling Challenge being held 11 June**. There are 4 rides from 10-100k with the 100k featuring the 3700 foot climb to the base of Mt McLoughlin.

On July 23, Siskiyou Velo is the co-sponsor of the Up & Down Ride, the metric version of the Mountain Lakes Challenge. This has 5100 feet of climbing in 51 miles so now is the time to start training.

For further information about either ride, go to the Siskiyou Velo Web site <http://www.siskiyouvelo.org/> and look under the "Rides and Events" tab.

It is important to club members to either ride these great events or to volunteer.

In a local non-club ride, the Rogue Valley Pear Blossom Festival Association is sponsoring the 1st Annual Pear Blossom Bike Event scheduled for Saturday, April 9. They are offering 4 rides from 7 to 62 miles. This ride is being held in conjunction with the annual Pear Blossom Festival which has been held since 1954. Here is a link to their website. <http://www.pedalsnpears.com/>

I was contacted by Connie Wilkerson of the United Way. They are looking for donated used bikes to combat the problems of homelessness. Here is more information

Project Community Connect, under the auspices of Jackson County Community Services Consortium, is a one-day event which brings together all sectors of the community to create real solutions to the complex problems that people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless face. This year's event will be held on May 17th. Many of the people served each year at Project Community Connect cite transportation as one of the major obstacles to exiting poverty. We are seeking donations of bikes in good condition to distribute to individuals who need them to access employment, education, and services. If you have a bike you wish to donate to Project Community Connect, please contact Connie Wilkerson at United Way: Connie@UnitedWayofJacksonCounty.org or [541-773-5339](tel:541-773-5339). Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

The Siskiyou Velo Board of Directors (SVBOD) recently commented on the proposed Oregon Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

The SVBOD changed the bylaws so that the annual December BOD election is now entirely electronic. This allows members who do not attend the December Annual Meeting to still vote. Previously, one had to attend the Annual meeting to vote which did not seem very democratic. The meeting in December will now be entirely social and not linked to the SVBOD election.

The required annual business meeting is now being moved to the very popular Ice Cream Social in the summer. Last year, that was the most well attended meeting.

Here is a link to an interesting article about bicycle GPS art...Thanks to **Judy Kerr** for sending it along..

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2016/02/22/bikers-gps-drawings-will-put-your-workout-to-shame_n_9294464.html

Donald Coker, President Siskiyou Velo

February RIDE LEADERS

**Ginny Jensen
Bob MacCracken
Rick Berlet
Dennis Cramer
L. Lee Purkerson
Mo Rousso
Ken Kelley
Judy Kerr
Donald Coker**

202

of crash-free days

How to Buy a Bike by Bill Heimann

Chapter 2

In chapter 1 you learned your how to determine your size and type of bike, now what? Visit bike shops and TALK to the sales people. This is a TALK visit, not a riding visit. Share with them your needs, desires and budget. Ask them to recommend a bike that best fits your criteria. Ask about support, warranties, and after sales service. How long they have been a dealer for the brand they are recommending? How much experience do they have with the type of bike you are buying? How many touring bikes have they sold, for example? Ladies pay very close attention to the salespersons responses to your questions. Are they interested in you? Are they treating you with respect?

After each visit make notes about your experience. Be sure to note the bike recommended and the name of the sales person.

At home review your notes. What did you like or not about each shop? Did the recommended bike meet your needs? Was it within your budget? What was the frame made of and was it well equipped? Had you read anything about that builder (company)?

Wow, this is a lot of work! Think how many hours you will enjoy your new bike. This pre-purchase time is a great investment.

Now you have narrowed the shops and bikes down to about three. Read a little more on each of the bikes that made your final list. Learn why they are built the way they are, become educated. You would for any professional purchase, right?

Finally it is time to test ride, yea! Call the shops, make appointments to ensure they have your size in stock and built. Share with them stem length and seat height so the bike is ready to ride. It is best to ride the correct size and selected model. Go ready to ride, in full kit. Cycle to the test ride if possible, so you will be warmed up and comfortable riding.

Have the sales person explain any differences from what you are currently riding. When ready, ride around making sure all is well and the bike is properly adjusted. Now, ride in a straight line and shift a few gears up and down. How do they react? Do you like the feel? Now, get up a little speed and brake. Is the braking secure and the bike stable? Slow down and put the bike in a very big (hard to pedal) gear and accelerate as hard as possible. Note the bike's response; does it feel light and quick with not too much frame flex? At low speeds make some hard, close turns. Does it feel good? Remember it's your feel you are trying to understand.

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Parking lot ride over, time to take it out on the road or trail for a little more riding time. Make sure the shop is ok with you going on a longer ride.

After the ride, inquire about when you could take delivery and about ensuring you get the correct fit. Ask what they might charge for changes to comply with your needs. Changing the stem, saddle and handle bars, whatever you might need. Don't talk the total price as you have not decided to purchase this bike. After the test make notes on your thoughts of the bike and the shop. What did you like and what you would change? Now, on to the next shop.

Perform the same tests and ask the same questions making notes with each shop. Take your notes home to review. Your goal is to make your final choice. Very exciting! After you make your selection talk to the salesperson sharing that you liked their bike and want to talk price. Give them your fit specs, any changes and accessories you want and ask for the best price possible. Check the internet for price guidelines, but I do not recommend buying off the internet. You will not get the fit or the after sale service. The return on investment is much higher with the right local shop.

After you are secure with your choice of bike and price make an appointment to pick up your wonderful, new joy of life. Test ride it in the same way you did the first time. Ensure they have made all the changes you requested, matching your fitter's recommendations. Ask when you should bring it back for the first check and **do** bring it back. You will be amazed how much better it performs after the adjustments. This is a very important service.

Congratulations on your new bike!



Ride the

CASCADE SISKIYOU SCENIC BIKEWAY

Southern Oregon's first Scenic Bikeway

July 23, 2016 Ashland, OR

51 miles & 5100' of climbing low traffic epic scenery

2 water stops 2 food & rest stops SAG support

Bar-B-Q lunch & beer after-ride

upanddownashland.com



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

SISKIYOU VELO CLUB CHAIRS

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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 donaldcoker1@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

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Viki Brown, Treasurer

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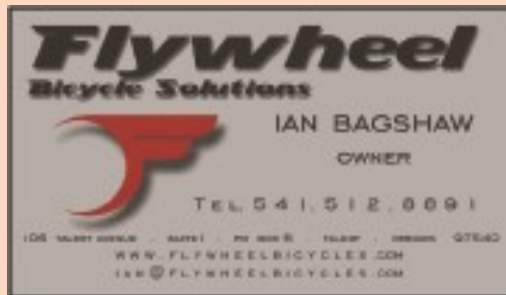
Gary Shaff

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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 to obtain the discount.