HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our Annual Party was a sold-out extravaganza of lively conversation, drinking, dancing, (loud) music and a little business. Newly elected directors Matt Walker, Dominic Barth and Tom Ryan join returning directors Gary Shaff, Viki Brown, Edgar Hee, Dennis Cramer, and ML Moore. At the January 7 Board meeting, officers will be elected and program chairs named. Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.

Though temps hover near freezing, there are rides going out for the intrepid and well-clothed. In fact 30 Velo Club members led over 200 rides in 2014. Next time you ride (even if it’s not for months yet), be sure to give a sincere ‘thank you’ to your ride leader. Better yet, consider leading a ride or two in 2015. Take a look at siskiyouvelo.org for documents to help you become a competent ride leader, and ask your ride leaders for pointers.

The February 11 membership meeting will be an unusual one. First we have Things That Go Bump: Stories and Lessons. Several Club members will talk about their crashes and what they’ve learned from the experience. Afterwards, Bring Your Best Tool: a show and tell of big/small, expensive/less so, metal/plastic bike tools that members are proud to own and use. So give your toolbox some thought and plan to come lend your advice on February 11. The location is yet to be determined, so keep an eye out on our Facebook and web page.

It seems that what our members like most about Club activities are our rides. Do you come to membership meetings? Do you like our other social events? Which ones? Do you appreciate the advocacy that the Club undertakes on a county level? How do you think we should spend our funds? Do you think we should re-institute the Mountain Lakes Challenge or another annual ride? Do you have opinions about how the Club operates? Before long, you will receive a survey in your email box, asking you exactly these sorts of things. So that the Board may adjust their efforts in the best directions, please answer the survey promptly.

Speaking of which, our Facebook page is for our members to read and post thoughts and pictures of their cycling experiences. Don’t be shy; let’s have lots of different postings often. Also I’m always looking for accounts of bike adventures for the newsletter.

Meanwhile, stay warm, cycle safely, have fun out there.
NEXT VELO CLUB BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, January 7

Southern Oregon Brewing Tap Room
1922 United Way, Medford

Election of Officers and Committee Chairs

All Club members are welcome

For minutes of previous meetings, contact the Secretary

Where are you?

Ken Kelley identified Dennis Cramer’s photo of the bridge on Mill Creek Road near Mill Creek Falls in Prospect.

Ken’s photo is at a popular destination for many Club members.

If you are the first to identify the photo at right you may submit a favorite cycling spot for the next newsletter.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THINGS THAT GO BUMP: Stories & Lessons
SHOW & TELL: Members’ Favorite Bike Tools

Wednesday, February 11
Location details TBD
How long have you lived in the Rogue Valley, and where did you come from? I moved to the Rogue Valley in the Fall of 1979 from the greater LA area. My wife and I stopped to see a play in Ashland on our way to Alaska that summer, and since we were looking to relocate, I sent a transfer request to the Postmaster here. I was called October 30th and told he would be interviewing November 1st, so we drove all night on Halloween to join the “line-up” vying for a position.

How long have you been a Velo Club member? I thought about joining for years, but after retiring from the PO and learning the ropes at our new career, I finally decided it was time. I joined the Velo club in May of this year, and soon afterwards learned the correct pronunciation of “velo”. Wow, I have met so many great people to ride with that I tell everyone about our club.

Tell us about your first bike. How has your cycling developed since then? My first bike was a discount store “stingray”, and I rode that bike all over our town for years. My buddy and I even did a long hill climb one day to a park a ways from home, until we were met by some local boys with rocks who persuaded us this was their turf. We might have been slow going up there, but we didn’t waste any time getting back to our own neighborhood. After getting a ticket for riding on the sidewalk in junior high, I never rode again until I got a 10-speed in junior college. I began riding to school and found out commuting is a great way to stay in shape. I continued to commute to work for the next 40 years. I’ve traveled to some great mountain biking areas to explore, done some touring, and now I’m rediscovering the joys of road riding. But it all started doing wheelies on a bike with a banana seat.

How often do you get on your bike, and what is an average ride for you? I try and ride 3 or more days a week. My average road ride is about 30 miles, but I do some 15+ mile mountain bike rides as well. I’ve always enjoyed climbing on a bike, so most of my rides include hills. And over the years I’ve even learned to enjoy the descents as much as the climbs.

What do you ride, and what do you like best about it? I ride a Felt Z85 that I purchased from Flywheel 4 years ago. The most important part of a road bike is the fit. Frames come in many materials, but I think too many people focus on weight rather than fit. If you are going to spend a good part of your day in the saddle, your back, neck and shoulders have to be relaxed enough so that you can enjoy the miles ahead. After years riding a steel bike that was too large for me, I really do appreciate the relaxed geometry of my bike, and having good wheels make a big difference in how responsive a bike will feel.

Tell us about the most difficult day you’ve ever had in the saddle. I have made several rides from Hornbook to Lake Siskiyou near Mt Shasta where we camped every summer, but one back in the early ‘90s I will never forget. Temperatures were forecast for the 105 range with south winds at 20+ miles per hour. I loaded up with as much water and energy drinks as I could carry and started off towards Montague, then towards Lake Shastina. The winds became so strong I just got off and walked up some of the hills because it was about the same speed either way. After getting something more to drink in Grenada I was off again. In the late afternoon heat, I drank everything I had and tried to find water, but there nothing at the Fire Station. When I saw a house with someone home I knocked and asked her to fill my water bottle; she refused and shut the door in my face. Well, at that point I grabbed her hose and hoped it was potable water, and finally a bit before dark I limped into Lake Siskiyou Campground. In the days without cell phones you just had to keep going, and hope someone would come looking for you if you didn’t get there.

What is your favorite ride in the Rogue Valley? I love making it to the top of Mt Ashland either by road or trail. The feeling of accomplishment and views make the climb all the more worthwhile. On mountain bikes we ride all the way to the big white ball at the summit for a little more “pleasure”.

What is your favorite ride world-wide? I’m not a world traveler like so many folks in the club, but I really enjoy the rides around Solvang, CA. There are wineries, horse ranches, and steep climbs. But my favorite is Santa Rosa Road that goes from Buellton to Lompoc. You head into the coastal winds on the way out, but when you turn around, you can count on a great tailwind all the way home. How often have we all had the wind in our faces no matter which way we are riding in this valley?

What’s the best thing about riding a bike? I really love getting out with other riders and sharing the experience; there are the sights, smells, sprints, mechanicals, questionable routes; and it can all be relived at the coffee shop. And we all come back to do it another day. What can be better than that?

What is your most embarrassing experience on a bike? I had a bit of rehab ahead of me. But with no traffic to blame I had the hardest fall of my life.

Tell us about yourself. Matt Walker is a new Velo Club Director and comfortable on any bike or terrain, especially going uphill.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

United Way of Jackson County is looking for volunteers to repair bicycles that have been donated by community agencies for people who are homeless or need transportation for employment. These are current Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteer opportunities. Call 541-857-7780 or email mschmeusser@retirement.org for more information.

DRAFTMASTER THREE-BIKE CARRIER

This is in excellent operating condition – many years of service ahead. It has the two-inch trailer-hitch attachment with a locking security pin. The quick-release fork clamps are the best Thule has to offer – extremely secure (as long as one is careful to make sure they are fully engaged and tight). Rack folds down to allow for easy loading of bikes at road level, and to facilitate access to hatch or trunk of car. According to Atoc (now the manufacturer and marketer of the Draftmaster design), fixtures can be added to this carrier to increase its capacity to four bikes. For more information, call Rick Berlet – (541)488-0036

New, the racks are $615 – You can buy this one for only $225
CLUB MEMBERSHIP TO BE SURVEYED

The Club’s Board has asked the Southern Oregon University’s business students, enrolled in the winter 2015 Survey Course, to poll Velo Club members to gain insights into their views about the Club and collect user data. Students in the Applied Business Research course will utilize and “apply research methods and procedures, problem identification, data collection, data analysis, and recommended solutions to real organizational situations and projects.” If selected by the students for study, the survey will help to shape future Club direction and policy. So that the Velo Club may adequately respond to member concerns and opinions, please be sure to fill-out the survey promptly when it arrives.

RULES OF THE OREGON ROAD

On the far right shoulder of a freeway, you notice a bicyclist traveling in the direction of traffic. Is this legal?

Yes, unless…

It is LEGAL to ride your non-motorized bicycle on the freeways or interstates UNLESS there is a sign prohibiting it. If you do travel there, ride well onto the shoulder and wear head and body armor.

OAR 734-20-004

—Thomas & Coon Attorneys
LOOK OUT! HERE I COME!

On November 30, in rural Boring, Oregon, Mary LaLiberte was walking on the Springwater Path near her home. It had been a gravel path for many years but had recently been paved. Thus the path had only recently become frequented by cyclists on road bikes. That morning Mary heard a shout “Left!” and moved left, into the path of a cyclist who hit her hard enough that she was thrown into the air and suffered a fractured pelvis, serious bruising, spent five days in the hospital, and now faces over a year of physical therapy.

Mary blamed the fact that the path isn’t signed, and walkers aren’t expecting to be passed by speed- ing cyclists. “I’ll never set foot on that trail again,” she said, “And I’m advising the same to all my friends.”

This was an unfortunate accident and one to which we should pay heed. Our Bear Creek Greenway is well signed, urging pedestrians and cyclists to abide by the posted ‘rules’. However there are too many cyclists who don’t warn pedestrians of impending passing. Call “PASSING” or “ON YOUR LEFT” loudly and with plenty of warning. Slow down until you see that the person has understood that you’re coming by and you know where he/she will be. As you may have alarmed the pedestrian, smile and add a “Good morning” or “Thank you” as you pass. Everyone will be happy.

— Excerpted from BikePortland.org

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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.

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REGISTER YOUR BIKES

at

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

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