

Siskiyou Velo Club Activities, January through December 2023
(A shorter version was presented at Holiday Party on December 19, 2023.)

By Lisa Brill, President, 12/16/23

February 2 – Local Bike Map ➡ Initial discussion with the Council of Governments re updating the county bicycle map. On hold.

April 13 – Medford City Council Study Session ➡ Five SV members attended a “study session” to show support for an approved plan to convert a car travel lane on E. Main Street from Bear Creek to Oakdale Ave into a two-way protected bike lane. Implementation has begun.

April 21 – Ashland Earth Day ➡ Bike valet and promotional table

April 29 – Rogue Valley Bike Swap ➡ Promotional table. Encouraged club members to assist in preparing donated bikes for sale in the weeks prior to the sale.

Ashland Supported the conversion of existing painted bike lanes to protected bike lanes on Ashland Street (between Siskiyou and Faith) and on Mountain Ave (from E Main to 1-5).

- 2/14 – Email to City of Ashland
- 4/4 – Streets 4 Everyone rally and bike ride to Ashland City Council to promote protected bike lanes. 40 cyclists. “Ride for Safe Streets and The Climate” from Lithia Plaza to the City Council Chambers.
- 4/4 – Club president, Lisa Brill, made comments in support of active transportation and the protected bike lanes in Ashland. Gary Shaff from the Ashland Climate Initiative also spoke.
- 4/4 – City Council approved (5 to 1) a capital improvement plan regarding the protected bike lanes

May 19 – Ride with Leaders ➡ On the day prior to the Medford Open Streets Festival. Harlan, Ann S, Viki Brown and Lisa led an 8-mile ride through downtown and residential Medford. Participants included leadership, staff and advocates from Jackson County, the City of Medford and local committees who design and promote standard and active transportation.

May 20 – Medford Open Streets Festival ➡ Promotional table at festival to promote walking, cycling, rolling and active transportation. Poor location for cyclists to take advantage of bike valet.

June – Club BBQ at Robin’s house. 50 people.

July 26 – Membership Meeting ➡ About 35 people or more attended. Included a club update of activities, bicycling safety presentation by Mike Vergeer and a short movie, either: [Cannondale Presents: High Road youtube.com](#) or [Megan Fisher | Under the Big Sky youtube.com](#)

August 26 ➡ **Ice Cream Social** was scheduled, but cancelled due to smoke.

September 8 ➡ **Updated Release of Liability (RoL), etc.**

An updated RoL was sent to all members (9/3/23) who were asked to sign it as a condition of club membership. (The 2014 version of the RoL was outdated.) Updated “**Bicycle Safety Suggestions**”, “**Rider Suggestions**” and a new “**SV E-bike Rules**” documents were also included. These “agreements” needed to be initialed to reflect that the member had read and understood their content.

Club insurance requires that all members sign the Release of Liability. 75% of members signed by 12/1/2023. Efforts continue to reach 100% compliance.

The SV E-bikes rule was re-assessed in Dec '23 for accuracy. Action to be taken in 2024.

October 14 ☞ Bikes 'N Brews ☞ Bike valet and club promotional table. Over 75 bikes were safely parked during the event.

October 2023 ☞ the new 2-way protected bike lane on Main Street was completed, from the Greenway to Oakdale Street. Many thanks to everyone who showed public support by for this and future projects. This included signing a petition in Nov 2022 that was submitted to the City Council to show community support for the Main Street improvements.

There are also plans to repave portions of Riverside Ave and put in new striping to create a bike lane sometime in 2024 or 2025. (Under the plan, both Central and Riverside would have dedicated bike lanes from Stewart Avenue to McAndrews requiring converting the existing three-vehicle travel lanes into two lanes, with no parking. Status of is somewhat uncertain.)

In Ashland, plans are underway for separated bike lanes

- on North Mountain (probably between East Main and the Bear Creek bridge) and Ashland Street (between Siskiyou Boulevard and Faith Avenue).
- Talk to Gary Sharf of the Ashland Climate Collaborative for more information.
- Siskiyou Velo advocated for this outcome in 2023 and earlier

Expansion of Foothill Road from Hillcrest to Hwy 140:

- Work has begun on bike lanes and a multi-use path from Hillcrest to Delta Waters (Medford).
- Further north on Foothill Rd. there will be wide shoulders all the way out to 140

These efforts started years ago and take a lot of years to come to fruition.

Club Rides

Various Ride Levels. MPH is average and includes flats and hills.

- EZ Riders – 8 to 10 mph. 15 miles to 20 miles. No hills.
- Velo Melo – 11 to 14 mph, 25-35 miles, some hills.
- Explore Southern Oregon Rides. Moderate pace, some hills, 30 miles or more.
- Thursday hills – 20 to 40 miles, Hills.
- Ed Broyles' Moderate Rides – 13 to 15 mph. 30 to 40 miles. Hills. Sometimes gravel rides.
- Brisk – 18 mph or more. 50 miles or more. Hills.

188 Rides offered in 2023:

- **Monday Coffee rides**, BRISK and Velo Melo. Most Mondays. Guessing **40** or more.
- Weds Explore Southern Oregon rides, led by Phil K. **40** rides
- Thursday hilly rides. **10** rides
- EZ Rider **5** (Began 8/19. Cancellations due to smoke, weather. And can't get people to sign up in Nov and Dec, so didn't list any.)
- Velo Melo rides **45**

- Ed Broyles' Moderate Rides – **17** rides
- Brisk – **31** rides

Thank you to 11 ride leaders.

Dennis Cramer	Ed Broyles
Harlan Bittner	Heather Barraclough
Julie MacDermid	Lisa Brill
Phil Kolczynski	Richard P Handler
Robin Dressler	Steve Nickel
Tony Hayes	

Awards were given to George Stevens, Jerry Rhoads, Rick Taylor and Edgar Hee for having 30+ years of membership in SV. Our records only go back to 1994, but we think some, if not all of them, were members before 1994. SV was incorporated on 6/20/1986 as "Siskiyou Wheelmen."

Benefits of Joining SV (if non-members are present)

- Routes are designed by experienced ride leaders
- Meeting new people on rides, chatting in coffee shops
- Learning about cycling and bike maintenance
- Safety in numbers when riding with others
- Local advocacy to support cycling and active transportation
- Insurance -- \$10,000 for supplemental medical expenses. Also general liability insurance.

Plans for 2024

- **Create a new Siskiyou Velo webpage** that is more user-friendly and easier to update and maintain.
- Encourage more people to become bike rider leaders, especially for the EZ Rider group
- **Continue community advocacy** to enhance your cycling experience in the Rogue Valley
- **Continue to participate in community events** to promote safe and enjoyable cycling and encourage people to join the club
- **Explore avenues to increase income** from sources other than annual dues

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to members

Monthly board meetings are open to all members. They are held the fourth Tuesday of each month, 4:30 to 6:00 PM. They are usually held at the Medford and Jefferson Libraries and via Zoom as needed.

- Go to the landing page, siskiyouvelo.org.
- Log In, (upper right corner)
- Pull down the Club Members Only menu (On top of the photo of the road, on right)
- Click on Club Board Meeting – Joining, Agenda & Minutes
- Click this link to join the Board Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/784694939?pwd=aGJmN3lCR3ZlQXQrRzNXtMwvTDlzd09>