



SEP-OCT 2005

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●



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**In Remembrance of Charlotte Marcotte.**

On Saturday, July 30, 2005, Charlotte Marcotte was cycling near Chelsea when she was struck and killed by a young driver. It is a tragedy in many ways, loss to her family, our loss of a good friend and club member and, the loss of innocence through the continuing memory in the mind of that young man

I first met Charlotte many years ago on a Saturday Breakfast Ride. In recent years I came to know her as a friend who shared my enthusiasm for cycling and Pilates at the Washtenaw Recreation Center. Charlotte frequently attended the club's daytime rides on the back roads of Southern Michigan. Other members and I enjoyed hearing her tales of travel: to Argentina to perfect her ability in her beloved Tango, kayaking on the Pere Marquette, hiking in the Smokies, cycling in France, XC skiing in Northern Michigan. Charlotte also supported her Club, volunteering for the "background" jobs on OHR, bringing tasty dishes to many potlucks.

Many others will miss Charlotte as I do for her sense of practicality, her good humor, her friendship. As Chairperson of AABTS, I offer the Club's, sincerest sympathy to her siblings and her children for their tragic loss. We will miss her and are deeply saddened by our mutual loss.

Farewell Dear Friend and Fellow Cyclist

Barbara Underwood  
 Chair AABTS Board of Directors  
 August 1, 2005



## GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN!

by Lynda Collins

Charlotte Marcotte, a fifteen-year member and active participant of the AABTS, was killed July 30, 2005 outside of Chelsea while doing something she loved, bicycling with a friend. This was the first fatality in the thirty year existence of the club.

During her years with the club, Charlotte had accumulated 17,379 lifetime miles. Including absences for trips this year she had ridden 637 miles on 22 rides. She rode at least 1200 miles a year. Before retiring from teaching in Brighton, she usually rode both Saturdays and Sundays. She was a regular at Zou Zou's where she always purchased her cappachino to accompany one of her self-made muffins or scones. Then upon retirement she added the Tuesday morning ride in Whitmore Lake, the Wednesday Stockbridge ride, and sometimes the hilly Thursday ride or the ride in Plymouth along Hines Drive. She really enjoyed the countryside and low traffic on these rides as well as the friendly conversation. Charlotte often said that sometimes she hesitated to cycle on a hot, summer day or cloudy, chilly morning, but afterward she was always glad she had done the ride. She felt strong and exhilarated for having ridden.

However, in addition to her club rides, Charlotte was known for her bicycle trips abroad. Initially with Dave Hertigan she journeyed on self-guided tours to the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, and then with Ken Bawcom the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. On a trip with friend and fellow cyclist Lee Austin to Ireland, she met three German women who shared her love of cycling and travel. Thereafter, each year she and Lee would plan an annual cycling tour with the German ladies. They visited East Germany, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, France, and Spain. This July with the three Germans, she toured Alsace-Lorraine in France. Following each trip she would create a photo album which she would enthusiastically share with any cyclist contemplating a European biking vacation.

Charlotte had also led Sunday rides occasionally, worked on OHR, and certainly contributed her good recipes and cooking to the quarterly potlucks. She was proud of her accomplishments as a cyclist and had mounted her various patches on a framed board for display. Also, she wore her jerseys from the various countries where she had cycled.

This petite redhead with the friendly nature had made many friends in the cycling club. She will most certainly be missed by all her knew her. Yet, Charlotte Marcotte's vitality, interest in others, compassion, enthusiasm and friendliness will always be remembered.

### A Letter From Janice Moore

My heartfelt thanks to the many members of AABTS who gave me immediate and continued support after the death of Charlotte Marcotte. Special thanks to Bob and Alice Rawson, Lynda Collins, Frank Lamitola and Vickie Smith, Dan Harrison and Jan Shubitowski, Barb Underwood and Dave Patria, and John Pierce.

Sincerely  
Jan Moore

### Ride in Charlotte's Memory

The AABTS will be dedicating the Saturday, September 24th Dexter Breakfast Ride in Charlotte Marcotte's memory. We encourage all club members to join us for a few words of remembrance and a moment of silence at the start of the ride, and free coffee and scones at Zou Zou's in Chelsea. We will also be collecting donations for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation in Charlotte's memory. If you have any pictures or wish to speak at the ride, please contact Mark Erzen at 734-453-3481 or [president@aabts.org](mailto:president@aabts.org).

# **AABTS Fall Potluck**

**Thursday September 29, 2005**

**at the Grotto Club  
2070 W. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor**

**Set up & Socialize 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.**

- Bring a dish to feed six.
- Bring your own place setting
- Do not bring chips/drinks/snacks, etc.  
(will be provided by AABTS)
  
- Please no merchandise sales

## **Fall Potluck Special Features**

- 1. The 2005 AABTS Mileage Patch Design Contest**
- 2. 2005 Annual Photo Show**

### **Mileage Patch Design Contest:**

Design the AABTS mileage patch for the 2005 riding year. Bring or forward your patch design to the Fall potluck. See patch design article later in this newsletter.

### **Annual Photo Show:**

Bring your cycling photos from 2005 especially those of you in a club or OHR jersey, T-shirt or polo. Prizes will be awarded for the most-distant photos across the USA and around the world.



## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

by Mark Erzen

In the past two years, we have worked very hard to collect emergency contact information for our OHR riders and make sure that everyone on the ride carries that information with them on our event. In reality, we believe that every rider should carry emergency contact information at all times on all of our rides. In the event that you get injured in an accident or suffer a serious medical problem on the ride, the emergency contact information will help the medical personnel contact your spouse, relatives, loved ones, or whomever you choose to be by your side in an emergency. There are a couple of easy ways to provide emergency information:

### **Program the cell phone**

Paramedics will often use your cellular phone to locate contact information. By putting an entry in your cell phone's saved number list that begins with ICE (in case of emergency), the paramedics will have a quick and easy number to dial. Some address books allow for multiple phone numbers, so that you can fill in the person's cellular phone and home phone numbers.

### **Carry an ID Necklace or Bracelet**

I ordered a bracelet online last year that serves as an emergency contact tag and an ankle reflector. I have on the tag my address and phone number, my wife's name and cell phone number, and my insurance information. This information is easy to spot and remove if needed. There are a number of website where you can fill out the emergency contact information and order various types of ID tags. I ordered mine from [www.roadid.com](http://www.roadid.com).

### **Carry a Card in Your Pocket or Wallet**

Many people have allergies, current medical conditions, are taking medication, or have special dietary needs that would be helpful information to the medical personnel treating you. Some of this information may be too much to store on a bracelet or cellular phone. In that case, a laminated card in your wallet or pocket with this information is helpful to carry around in addition to the emergency contact numbers. If you're not sure what information to provide, try visiting <http://www.medids.com/free-id.php>. This site has a form you can fill out to make a printable wallet card that is easy to read.

### **Other Tips**

Make sure that you provide your emergency contact with helpful information such as your current medical conditions, insurance information, doctor's name and phone number, and blood type. Always make sure that your emergency contact information is current and readable (sometimes sweat or rain may wear away the ink). Make sure that other riders in your group know where you carry your emergency contact information so that it can be accessed quickly if needed.



## STEVE LEPPER RUN OFF ROAD BY CAR-JACKED SUV

by Steu White

AABTS member Steve Lepper was run off of Huron River Drive by a car-jacked SUV while returning to Ann Arbor on Lexanne and Steve's Monday evening Uncivilized Ride June 27<sup>th</sup>.

They were passing the foot of Wagner when the SUV, which was eluding police, skidded through the intersection, turned right and headed toward Ann Arbor.

Steve was trying to make eye contact with a motorist who was already waiting in the intersection when he heard the sound of the tires of the SUV. Steve swerved left to avoid the cars, ran off the road and hit the garage of the house that is there. He flipped back and landed on some large rocks in the drainage ditch.

Steve's injuries were six broken ribs and fractures of his T1 and T2 vertebrae, his right collar bone, his right shoulder blade, some whiplash and a severely damaged Giro Atmos helmet (the same kind Lance wears).

Steve would like to emphasize that although he has had some pain and discomfort his helmet almost certainly saved him from head injuries. His helmet was properly fitted and adjusted and in fact remained on throughout until removed by EMTs

Further Steve thanks AABTS for the plant and flowers which the club sent him.  
The driver of the SUV has been apprehended by police.

## OMLETTE HOUSE OWNER MOVING

by Terry Treppa

A frequent stop for the Friday AM far east fringe ride, led by Phyllis Czapl, is the Omelette and Waffle Cafe in Plymouth. Alec, pictured on the right, is the Russian owner (with the full accent). Dennis, one of our regulars, has a constant cycle of teasing going with Alec to the delight of the regular patrons, and of course, the AABTS riders. We surreptitiously urge Dennis into the fray - as if he ever needed any urging! Alas and alac, Alec has sold the Cafe and is going to move back to Russia. We already miss him and his wonderful sense of humor. He had to have one to put up with Dennis and the rest of the bicyclists. We wish him Godspeed as he returns home to his native Russia.



Alec and Dennis.

***Deadline***  
for Next  
Newsletter  
**Thursday**  
**October 20**

**Club Hotline:**  
**(734) 913-9851**  
**WWW.AABTS.ORG**

The Hotline has information about current rides, corrections to the Ride Calendar, dates of potlucks and the like. If you have questions about rides, the Hotline is a good place to look for answers.



## Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition Seeking Board Members

The Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC), made up of bicycling and walking groups in the county, is seeking volunteers from the AABTS to run as Board members in the organization. Board duties include attending monthly meetings as well as working on projects that pursue the WBWC statement of purpose of “Increasing the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking opportunities in Washtenaw County through advocacy and education.”

WBWC Board nominations will close on November 3rd at the November WBWC meeting. If interested in serving, or if you have additional questions about the WBWC Board duties, please contact Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@cs.com](mailto:wolverbob@cs.com) or call 734/487-9058.

### Kensington Autumnal Equinox Picnic

This year’s Autumnal Equinox Picnic for the Wednesday Kensington Ride, led by Dave Farmer 248-471-5954, will be held September 21, 2005, just one day before the actual Equinox. Sub sandwiches will be provided. Bring a dish to pass - dessert, fruit, salad or snacks - and join the fun as we watch the sunset on the lake.

## A LETTER FROM JAMES RIUTTA

Wonderful ride and day. Visiting rider from Canada...best ever for him.  
The t-shirt was the best so far...keep up the good work.  
This was my fifth OHR and hopefully I’ll be at the 2006 OHR.

Jim Riutta

### Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition

Meets on the first Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m., Ecology Center, 117 North Division (just north of Huron) in Ann Arbor. Visit the WBWC web page at [www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org) for news and updates about this organization dedicated to increasing the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking opportunities in Washtenaw County through advocacy and education.

# PEAC 2x2 PROJECT

by Mark Erzen

Many people, including our newsletter editor, inquired about the blind cyclists hanging around the registration area at OHR. While cycling with impaired vision seems like an impossible task, many of these riders successfully completed our 76 and 100-mile routes, and have been riding OHR for the past few years. The visually-impaired riders were able to enjoy cycling and our ride because of the efforts of the PEAC 2x2 Project.



PEAC stands for “Programs to Educate All Cyclists” and is an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by using cycling for transportation, recreation, fitness, and therapy. The organization is based in Ypsilanti and has programs in Ann Arbor, Saline, Wyandotte, Detroit, and Plymouth. These programs are designed to help people with cognitive, emotional, or physical disabilities learn to ride a bicycle and the proper traffic rules to ultimately become a member of the mainstream bicycling community and independent through the use of their own transportation.

The 2x2 Project was started 5 years ago and is designed to get visually impaired/blind individuals out cycling. The riders participate as a stoker on a tandem and have a volunteer captain guiding them through their ride. PEAC currently has about 15 captain/stoker teams in the program and a small collection of tandems available. Rides are held every Sunday in May through October on Detroit’s east side. They also make trips to a number of invitational riders. Riders also participate in an offseason workout program on stationery bikes to maintain fitness and improve their cycling techniques.

Shawn Tyrell, Nino Pacini, and Marie Perchan on the triple followed by Fred Nemenski (WSC President) and Linda Briggs on the tandem.

There are a number of ways to support PEAC and the 2x2 project. One way is to volunteer as a captain for the 2x2 Project or volunteer for PEAC’s programs. PEAC is also in need of tandem bicycles, bikes of all types, bike parts, and helmets. Tax-deductible cash donations are also accepted and may be matched by grants from the federal government. Last, but not least, you can take part in PEAC’s Celebration of Cycling Ride (See our ride calendar) on September 17th, which starts at the Warrendale Shelter in Hines Park in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. As an incentive to participate, cycling clubs compete in the Club Challenge, where awards are given for the number of club members participating in the ride, and the total number of miles ridden by club members. Last year, AABTS won the club challenge in miles ridden in a squeaker over the Wolverine Sports Club. For more information on the PEAC Celebration of Cycling, contact Gary Francis or visit the PEAC website at [www.bikeprogram.org](http://www.bikeprogram.org)

## CELEBRATION OF CYCLING CLUB CHALLENGE RETURNS !

by Brian Calahan

Saturday, September 17, 2005 is the date set for the THIRTEENTH ANNUAL Celebration of Cycling ride. This event is held each year to support Programs to Educate All Cyclists (PEAC). PEAC assists people with disabilities to become competent cyclists.

Individualized training offers assistance to everyone whether they are just learning to balance on an adult trike or racing competitively against other cyclists without disabilities.

Once again, PEAC is challenging each cycling club in the area to take part in the club challenge. This friendly rivalry gives supporting clubs an added incentive to take part in the ride. Clubs have an opportunity to win the traveling plaque and certificate, and more importantly, bragging rights at no additional cost.

The club challenge offers clubs a chance to win in one of two categories:

- 1). The club completing the MOST MILES during the tour (total of participating members that day).
- 2). The club with the HIGHEST PERCENTAGE of participation (number of club’s participants/ club membership).

Why not enjoy a great tour and compete for your club while assisting the charity event that actually helps train cyclists? Clubs must register prior to the ride. For more information contact Programs to Educate all Cyclists



## Now They Ride in Tandem



AABTSrs Deb Broomham and Mike Troxel were married June 22, 2005 at Oak Openings Metropark in Toledo, Ohio. Deb is a biker and Mike is a veteran Tri-athlete. They have been biking together since their second date.



Long time AABTSr Gene Buatti and Kathy Cassel were married August 13, 2005. Kathy's t-shirt says "life is good, just married"



# The Last Taco Ride

By Ken Bawcom

The weather was uncertain on the morning of Sunday, July 17th. As we gathered in the Saline parking lot, we speculated about whether we would get wet, or not. Riding south, the overcast thinned, the sky lightened, and later on showed occasional patches of blue. I rode a slow sweep to Ridgeway, south down the familiar stair-step of roads, Macon, Jordan, Arcona, with a bit of wind at the back. Turning west on Clinton-Macon, I rode through the Macon Triangle, where B and C riders often get lost. Heading south on Ford Highway, it is a straight five mile shot. At its end, just before turning east to the farm, the gravestone of Atanacio and Minerva Lopez stands apart from most, easy to spot, near the road. I dipped my head a bit lower as I passed it.

The Lopez family's food is never uncertain, it is excellent. About forty riders feasted on tamales, tacos, chalupas, salsa, guacamole, "orange potatoes," which are potatoes in a tasty orange colored sauce, and another vegetable dish. I believe I've had this other dish at the homes of most of my Mexican friends, at one time or another, but none, including Joe Lopez, knows a name for it. It's a favorite of mine, and several other riders as well. It consists of corn, tomatoes, and zucchini simmered together. It's simple, but delicious. Everything was great, especially the tamales, which must be fresh, not reheated, to be really good. Tamales are a lot of work to make. They were wonderful. Some of us started the ride there, or arranged rides back, allowing more enjoyment of the feast!

We sat around, eating, and reminiscing. Joe said that he believes the ride started in the 70s, and has been going for at least thirty years. We talked of rides past. Too soon it seemed like the group was beginning to thin a bit. We asked the Lopez's to leave the kitchen, and come outside. The riders stood and gave an ovation, thanking them for being so good to us, all these years. Photos were taken, goodbyes were said, and I left with three tamales to go. Okay, so they're still good reheated, but not near the equal of fresh!

The AABTS wants to thank the Lopez family for all the warmth, kindness, hospitality, good times, and great food they have given us for so long. The best way we could think of to do this is to send a nice flower arrangement, to be placed on the gravestone of Minerva Lopez, who started it all, over thirty years ago, when she offered to fix dinner for a group of hot and thirsty cyclists who stopped at her fruit stand.



# OHR 2005

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 1743 total riders

857 Day of ride registrants

98 Fat Tire riders

580 Century riders

245 Seventy-six mile riders

275 Sixty-three mile riders

210 fifty-four mile riders

250 thirty-nine mile riders

136 fifteen or thirty mile riders

### 117,541 approximate miles ridden on July 9, 2005

255 bike jerseys sold

250 tee-shirts sold

207 socks sold

62 hats sold

### 255 volunteers

20 SAG wagons

20 people sagged into headquarters

9 inner tubes provided for flat tires

one crash

three injuries

1500-2000 miles ridden by SAG wagons

### CONSUMED AT LUNCH AND REST STOPS

135 cases of bananas

11 cases of grapes

12 cases of nectarines

8 cases of plums

210 pounds of turkey

64 pounds of cheese

150 pounds of pasta salad

1,686 slices of bread

50 dozen donuts

44 dozen bagels

13.5 ten pound boxes of cookies

83.5 64 oz jugs of Gatorade

41 pkgs. of lemonade (mixed with water)

4.5 gallon jugs of water

200 plus pounds of ice

and 68 watermelons consumed

but how many seeds were spit?



Kathleen Donahoe serves lunch at Portage.



Jane Barrett, Barb Underwood and Tom Powell share lunch and laughter .



Connie Cavanaugh, Shirley Ceely, Kathleen Donahoe and Phyllis Czapl enjoy lunch with friends at Portage.



Sandy Tannis Bloom, Jim Fisher and Ken Bupp volunteered at Grass Lake.



## OHR - Help Wanted!

by Mark Erzen

One of the concerns I have as President of the club is the small group of people that plans One Helluva Ride. There is a dedicated, hard-working core group of people who spend time throughout the year planning the event. Many of these people also contribute in other aspects of the club, either as committee chairs, officers, or board members. While we have an excellent group of committee chairs, we would like to expand the OHR planning team to include people that haven't traditionally been involved in OHR planning. In the past, our key OHR chairs have moved out of town, gotten involved with other activities, or simply decided that they'd like a break after many years of service.

To protect ourselves and ensure that OHR will be planned to same level of quality as in the past, we'd like to involve new people in the OHR planning as co-chairs or assistants. We'll pair each person up with an experienced OHR chair to share the planning duties and learn the ropes. We'd like to have co-chairs for the Facilities, Registration, Food, Volunteer, and SAG committees to get us started. Here's a brief description of the roles and who to contact if you're interested in these committees:

Food - Orders, divides, and arranges distribution of the food, paper plates, napkins, utensils, etc to the food stop and the snack stops. Contact: **Shirley Ceely 662-8266**

Registration - Checks the OHR mailbox, organizes the data entry team for registrations, and gets the registration desk set up for the day of ride. Contact: **Marc Konvisser 248-682-0717**

Facilities - Arranges the rental of Portage Lake State Park and the Chelsea Fairgrounds. Rents the equipment used on day of ride and organizes the distribution and collection of the equipment on day of ride. Contact: **Ann Hunt 761-1147**

Volunteer - Works with the other leaders to determine volunteer needs and works to find volunteers for all the tasks, Contact: Vickie Smith 996-9461

SAG - organizes the merry band of vehicle drivers that help our riders if they have medical or technical difficulties on the ride. Sets up the radio communications that keep everyone in contact during the ride. Contact: **George Byrkit 426-3695**

As of this article's submission, we are also in need of an OHR Chair. The chair's job is to make sure that the major tasks are accomplished by the Chairs at the right times and resolve any disagreements or issues that may arise in the planning process. Lastly, the OHR Chair should take as much credit as they can for a job well done. We did not fill the OHR Chair position last year, and I filled in as best I could. I'd really like to dedicate a person to this task so I can better handle the President's job this year. If you are interested in OHR Chair, I've completed a manual for you and would be willing to support you in any way I can. You can reach me at **734-453-3481 - Mark Erzen**



Bikers rest at Grass Lake stop on 2005 ride.