



ANN ARBOR BICYCLE TOURING SOCIETY ••••

Newsletter November–December 2012

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BASE SCHEDULES YEARLY ACTIVITIES

By Jim Lee

The Bicycle Advocacy, Safety and Education Committee serves AABTS in many ways including coordinating several safety and education related activities within the communities where we ride. BASE is seeking a few more individuals who are willing to help coordinate some events:

1. AABTS participation in 2013 Ride of Silence: As with last year, we will be doing a joint ride with Ypsilanti in the Ypsilanti area on Wednesday, May 15th. This should be a relatively straightforward task. One area I would like to work on is publicizing this event outside AABTS (e.g., bike shops, bike commuter groups) to increase participation from non-members.
2. University Townhouse Bike Rally: Last year we co-sponsored an event in May that resulted in nearly 100 bicycles being fixed up for adults and children in the University Townhouses on Ellsworth Road. The event coordinators plan to do this again in 2013 and we have received funds to purchase helmets. This would be a more active project, helping coordinate our role, working with Carole Hann on the helmet giveaway, obtaining safety material and some giveaway items.
3. Bike Education Event(s): We would like to sponsor or participate in at least one, and maybe more, bike education events. We are part of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Community Health through the Chelsea Wellness Foundation to support bike education programs at three local public school districts. Award decisions are to be made in December.
4. Ride Captain Event: Plan and execute an early Spring 2013 lunch/dinner event

to gather ride captains and share tips, reminders on AABTS policy, and most importantly thank them for serving as ride captains. The intent is to help empower ride captains who are in the best position to ensure safe club rides.

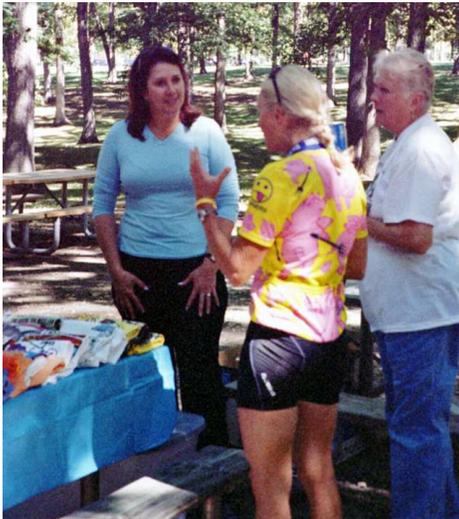
Please contact Jim Lee at lee_j_48103@yahoo.com or 734.604.0696 with questions or expressions of interest.

REMEMBERING CHRIS MARBLE

Impressive Memorial for Chris Marble

by Steuart White

On Sep 15th, more than fifty of Chris Marble's friends gathered to remember him with a memorial ride and gathering at the Grove Picnic area in Hudson Mills Metropark. Chris's daughter Kelly hosted the remembrance and led the memorial ride on Chris's tandem.



Chris's Daughter Kelly Hosted the Remembrance

Many groups of Chris's friends attended. Attendees included professional colleagues from the Pinckney Schools where Chris taught, Patt Eddings and Alex Wagner; and friends from the Tuesday Walk and Talk group, Tom O'Haver, Steu White, and John Waller and his wife Judi; and friends Marsha Laya from St. Jo (bike friend and former LMB

and Shoreline Board Member), Mary Denyes, Barb Winkle, and Alice and Bill Ehn.



Steu White

AABTS was well-represented with many members attending, including, among many others: Lynn Babcock, Roland Begar, Don Broadway, Ron Bunnell, Pete Cwik, Dan Harrison, Chuck Hescheles, Tom and Ann and David Hunt, Linda Lutzeier, Anne Ormand, Robb Pilkerton, John Reiter, Jan Shubitowski, Rita Straith, Lucy and Steu White; as well as Ben Caldwell and Tom Glover from Aberdeen Bike & Outdoors.

Kelly's friends and "extended family" included her boyfriend, Eric, his parents, sister and brother-in-law, and her friends Tina Wiseley, Cheryl and Chip Regan, Kat Wiegand and Bill Roy, Sherry Okomoto, Lucy Turner and her son, Jamie, and Elisha Fink.

Chris's friends from the Whiners (of RAG-BRAI) came into town as well many other friends from across the state. Kelly and Kelly's mother Jan prepared a display of memorabilia from Chris's life for everyone to view.



Chris's Jerseys for his Friends to Take and Remember him with

Our remembrance began with a ride around the Hudson Mills bike trail. A few of us even rode Chris's bikes.



Chris's Nobilette and Some Keepsakes

And then we returned to the picnic pavilion to share memories of our friend over picnic style food. Kelly brought Chris's bike jerseys to give as special keep-sakes to all his friends. Music was provided by The Brassworks Ensemble.



The Brassworks Ensemble

WANDERING IN FRANKFURT

By Sal Aridi

On a business trip to Frankfurt, Germany, I had an opportunity to rent a street bike and travel around on my favorite mode of transportation. I picked up the bike and returned it at the train station which is the center of everything. We've heard about the train stations in Germany, but life really revolves around

them. It was like Briarwood Mall. This is where you exchange money, buy souvenirs, get a latte from Starbuck's, and on a Saturday, it's the only place open. There is a website written on the bike so with my smart phone and a credit card I was in business. Google maps were amazing. It suggested a bike route through the woods that allowed me to travel from Offenbach, where I was located, to Frankfurt in ten minutes.

I had tried to plan for this trip but could not initially find a place to rent a bike and was not sure of where to ride. However, in the end, a phone with Google maps, a rain jacket, and a Camelback pack was all I needed. I had packed a helmet but felt silly wearing it. The Germans must think their noggins are indestructible.



I don't have to tell you that one of the joys of cycling is the ability to cover a lot of ground. And when the ground is one you have never been on before, and it's as bike friendly as Frankfurt, the experience was amazing. They have these trees that are trimmed to precision as only the Germans can do. It was Saturday, and the Germans take their time off seriously, so only the restaurants were open. However, the Occupy Frankfurt

group was camping in the financial district, or the Syrian protesters were marching. The French pâtisserie was bursting with the great smell of fresh baked goods, so who cared if it was raining and a bit cold. Frankfurt has bike traffic lights, bike lanes, and special metal channels about four inches wide on the side of almost every outside stairway. I would never have guessed what the channel was for had it not been for the cyclist who pushed his bike past me as I carried my heavy bike to get up the bridge crossing the river. He was probably thinking “stupid tourist.” Frankfurt was a joy for this cyclist.



ARMCHAIR BICYCLE TOURING

By Jim Datsko

A fringe benefit of organized group bicycle touring in other regions is some of the interesting cyclists you'll meet. The 10-day 650 mile LAGBRAU tour I recently completed in early September of southern Utah's National Monument Parks including Moab, Canyonlands, Escalante Grand Staircase, Bryce, and Zion definitely contained a motley crew. Some of the mother-daughter and mother-son teams riding the tour were pure inspiration with the true grit and enthusiastic determination of an Oregon Trail pioneer family.

However the person I tipped my cycling helmet to in admiration was a retired school teacher of 33 years teaching ecology in Ohio

and Michigan who for the past 20 years during summers has led groups of Boy Scouts on cross country bike tours. As could be expected his endeavors with the energetic and youthful scouts led to scores of adventures and mis-adventures from coast to coast. Literally some death-defying thrills along the way.

He recently decided to write a very exciting novel about it all featuring a fictional 14-year old boy who decided to ride his bike solo across the country to meet his real father for the first time. Included in this novel as events occurring to this teen were many of the adventures that his Boy Scouts actually did encounter. The author's knowledge and description of the towns and scenery in all of the states transited is amazing. The result is that you'll feel as if you've actually ridden coast to coast yourself—all from your warm and comfortable armchair. In the process you'll learn quite a bit about native Americans, edible plants, astronomy and the outdoors generally. I was so impressed with this thrilling page-turner of a book that I mailed it to my brother to read and have a list of others to share it with next.

If you would enjoy an armchair tour all the way across America I'd encourage you to obtain a copy of **Across** by Larry L. Lindsay. If the A2 library is unable to obtain a copy for you to borrow you could purchase one directly from the author by e-mail to: LarryLLindsay@CenturyLink.net.

Reading **Across** brought back fond memories of some other interesting cycle touring books I've read. One of them was by Henry (Hank) Martin, a retired Coast Guardsman that I met a couple of decades ago while doing the former Homestead Rendezvous springtime bike tour in Florida. The Homestead Bicycle Club was actually started by Dr. Paul Dudley White who was President Eisenhower's personal physician and he would prescribe various bike rides for his recovering heart attack and stroke patients with amazing results. I rode for several days of this weeklong event with the Coast Guardsman who had recently biked solo from Florida to attend his 50th or I think maybe even 60th

high school reunion in the Benton Harbor area. He wrote an interesting book about this adventure called **Follow The White Line** as that is what he did all the way along the highways from Florida to Michigan.

And then for the serious adventurer while attending one of the former GEAR (Great Eastern Annual Rally) events decades ago I met a cyclist who had ridden around the world with so many wild adventures and near-death experiences that he too wrote a book about it. He was also one of our featured speakers at this bike Rally. His book is on my shelf at home but I can't recall the title of it from here on the Oregon coast. If you are interested just contact me after I return home late October from this three-month odyssey of eight trips linked from one to the next eventually culminating in Barcelona, Spain's #1 bicycling city.

As the chilly end of the cycling season approaches some of us think of ways to extend it. One of my favorites is to light a crackling fire in the fireplace and settle back to some comfortable and toasty vicarious bicycle touring with one of these exciting books.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OHR watermelon guru Ken Bawcom writes:

Upon returning home from the hospital, I received a very nice living plant arrangement from the AABTS. Thanks very much! It now resides under the skylights in my kitchen. I was in the hospital for 12 days. It turns out that I had a "pleural effusion," a buildup of fluid behind my left lung. It is an uncommon result of my rheumatoid arthritis. I'm all better now, feeling better than I have in many months. I really missed working on OHR this year, but will be back next year, chopping those big melons!

Thanks,
Ken Bawcom

Don,

I'm not sure who sent the flowers to me on behalf of AABTS, but since you're on the board, I'm hoping you could convey my thanks to those responsible. That was a very nice gesture that I much appreciated. I don't think anyone ever sent me flowers before!

Thanks,
Joe Skurka

Vickie:

The flowers that were delivered from AABTS are lovely. I really don't deserve them. I so much would have preferred to have gotten my miles in now that the weather is nice, but it seems like I'm sidelined by a shoulder for the second summer in a row. I just hope I can get up on the "horse" again next year. I'm a bit afraid.

Thanks so much for thinking of me. I could kick myself for going on that path. I almost turned back and would have gotten more miles than I signed up for, but I had forgotten to bring a snack. I think I was doomed.

Have a great trip in France. I surely can't imagine doing that trip on a bike, but I think you will pass many historical sites from WWII.

Thanks,
Cathy Lichtman

FOR SALE: BIKE BOXES

Two shipping boxes for mailing or airplane trip. Paid \$100 each. Sell for \$35 each or best offer. 31"x45"x12". Waxed cardboard with straps. Sturdy, cut in carrying handles. Used once, excellent like new condition. Made by Crate Works. Call Alice or Bob Rawson at 734-475-9297 or 734-476-9771.

AABTS 2012 WINNING MILEAGE PATCH DESIGN

The 2012 AABTS mileage patch, pictured below, is the winning design submitted at the Mileage Patch Design Contest held at the October 2012 Potluck. Club member Frank Lamitola created the patch from the winning design.



XUMBERS MATH CROSSWORD PUZZLE GAME

By Marc Konvisser

I've just published my first Android application. It's called Xumbers and is a math crossword puzzle game that's like Scrabble but with numbers instead of letters. Xumbers is fun and fast paced, and encourages teamwork and cooperation.

I began working on Xumbers when my granddaughter Maddie, who always loved math, lost her enthusiasm for math in Second Grade. I wanted to make learning math facts fun instead of drudgery. You can read more details about Xumbers at xumbers.com or watch the Xumbers Video starring Maddie and her younger sister Ellie.

Following my son Aaron's (my "project manager's") advice, I allow users to set the game's difficulty level. At the lowest level, Xumbers helps children learn addition facts; at the highest level, Xumbers is an engrossing and challenging brain teaser for adults. It's ADDictive, challenging EDU-tainment for everyone.

Xumbers is available at Google Play. Just click the Google Play icon  on your Android device, press the magnifying glass at the top of the page and type in numbers to download the app.

The app costs \$1.99. I know most of you who download apps like free apps, but most free apps contain ads to help defray the developer's costs. A large part of the Xumbers market will be kids and I feel that \$1.99 is a small price to pay to keep kids from being subjected to ads which may be inappropriate.

For those of you who are iPhone or iPad users, the iOS version of Xumbers is nearly complete, and I will release it as soon as it's ready.

If you are an Android user, I hope you will download Xumbers. Moreover, I hope all of you who are Facebook users will like Xumbers on your Facebook pages.



Fall Color on the Huron River

FIRST WINTER 2012 SATURDAY RIDE



*First Saturday Morning SideTrack (and elsewhere) Winter Democratic Ride
Seventeen Participants plus the Photographer on a Foggy/Drizzly December 1, 2012*

**May—June 2013 Newsletter Deadline
April 30, 2013**

Typesetting: Jonathan Rodgers, Ann Arbor MI

It only happens once a century: mark your calendars 12-12-12 for the

AABTS Holiday Potluck

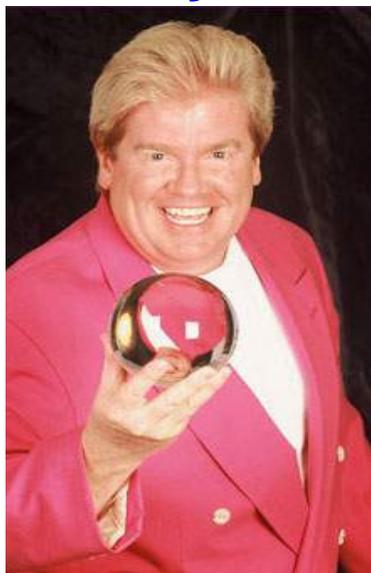
**Wednesday December 12, 2012 ...
(Yes! that is 12-12-12)**

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

- **Set up & Socialize 6:00 p.m.**
- **Dinner at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **AABTS meeting from 8:00 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.**
- **Entertainment at 8:30 p.m. *(if you can't make dinner, then come at 8:20 for the entertainment)***

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

Holiday Potluck Special Entertainment at 8:30 p.m.



***Jim Carmody --- Comedian,
Magician, Entertainer***

Jim combines the perfect mix of comedy, magic and hilarious audience involvement with a visual style that's all his own. Whether he's vanishing a watch right off a wrist while mingling through the audience, or executing one of his many trademark routines from his stand-up comedy show, Jim consistently dazzles his audiences.