Spokin' Times News

SLOW SPOKES BICYCLE CLUB
P.O. BOX 792
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48311-0792

May 2014

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Sterling Hts, MI 48311

Spokey goes to Parliament

While winter raged in Michigan, some of the Slow Spokes headed for warmer climes. The pictures above show the Slow Spokes jersey making an appearance at the Australian Parliament building in Canberra, Australia. The capitol city of Canberra was designed by an American to serve as the Capitol. The Parliament building has a grass roof among other innovations.

Several cities in Australia have lots of bike paths and lots of cyclists. The city government of Adelaide provides free 3-speed bikes which we checked out by leaving our Michigan drivers licenses. We followed a bike path for 10 miles along a river to arrive at the ocean where there were bike paths along the coast. Other cities, including Melbourne and Brisbane, have stations at various locations where there is a group of locked up bikes that can be rented for very reasonable rates. The bikes can be picked up at one station and dropped off at another station around the city. I don't know whether this service is provided by the city government or a private firm, but the rates were reasonable, so I believe it was at least government subsidized.

Meetings—Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at the Warren Woods Baptist Church at 14251 E. 12 Mile Road between Hayes and Schoenherr in Warren. Refreshments are served.

Ride Information—Send information for rides and walks and other exciting events to our event coordinator Chuck Pottenger email only please pottengerc60@gmail.com

Newsletter Information—Send articles you'd like published to Jim Walter. Email the information to him at jim.walter@comcast.net. Articles must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Feel free to call Jim at 248-879-2405.

More travel pictures

To get away from the worst winter in Michigan history, several Slow Spokes had the opportunity to travel South and some sent in pictures.

Dave and Mary Pakledinaz sent some pictures from their recent trip to Texas where they rented bikes. They write: "We rode around Port Aranasas on the beach cruisers and rode around San Antonio. We rode to the Alamo from the bike store."

Bill Appleberry reports that he spent 14 days scouting around South Carolina, Georgia and Florida battling cabin fever. While there he rode a bicycle on a number of rail trails and participated in Bike Florida. While riding in the Florida tour he ran across this really neat mail-box. It looks like a really good use (repurposing?) of a certain brand of real estate sign support for the post. He suggests that they might want to take it down during a hurricane though!

MAY WEEKLY RIDES

Monday Evening Rides (start on May 12th)			
DISTANCE:	15 - 18 miles	DATE:	Mondays
PACE:	11 - 14 mph	TIME:	6:00 P.M.
TERRAIN:	Flat		
LEADER:	Mary Woloszyk (586) 778-9172		
MEETING PLACE:	St. Clair Shores library — Southeast Corner of Jefferson & 11 Mile Road		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	We will ride through the neighborhoods of St. Clair Shores and the Grosse Pointes. No ride if raining. (No ride on May 5).		

Tuesday Evening Rides			
DISTANCE:	25 - 30 miles	DATE:	Tuesdays
PACE:	12 - 14 mph	TIME:	6:00 P.M.
TERRAIN:	Mostly flat and paved (Macomb Orchard Trail and low volume roads)		
LEADER:	Paul and Rita (586) 243-4325		
MEETING PLACE:	Rainbow Plaza—Southeast corner of 25 Mile and Shelby Roads		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	We'll ride to Armada varying the route a bit each week. There will be an optional restaurant stop after the ride at a location to be determined.		

Wednesday Evening Rides			
DISTANCE:	20 miles	DATE:	Wednesdays
PACE:	10 - 12 mph	TIME:	6:00 P.M.
TERRAIN:	Flat		
LEADER	Bill Appleberry (586) 573-7377		
MEETING PLACE:	Freedom Hill. South side of Metro Parkway (16 mile road) east of Schoenherr.		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	Ride distance and destinations may vary from week to week. No ride if raining.		

Thursday Evening Rides (start on May 8th)			
DISTANCE:	14 miles	DATE:	Thursdays
PACE:	Leisurely pace to accommodate all riders.	TIME:	6:00 P.M.
TERRAIN:	Flat		
LEADER:	Ray Carpenter (586) 321-1503 between 8 am and 8 pm		
MEETING PLACE:	At the clock on the corner of Main St. and New St. in Mt. Clemens		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	Ride 7 miles, rest stop and return. Tentative destination is St. Clair Metro Park. (No ride on May 1st).		

Editor's Note—Some ride leaders specifically mention "No ride if raining". Most don't start a ride in the rain!

MAY SCHEDULED RIDES

MOT and Country Road Ride			
DISTANCE:	35 to 40 miles	DATE:	Sunday, May 4
PACE:	11 to 13 mph	TIME:	9:00 A.M.
TERRAIN:	Flat with some hills		
LEADER:	Don Windhorst (586) 978-0184		
MEETING PLACE:	Rainbow Plaza—Southeast corner of 25 Mile and Shelby Roads		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	We will ride the MOT and some country roads to Armada and eat at Papa's.		

Michigan Recumbent Bicycle Rally - Saturday, May 10th

The Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists will sponsor its annual Michigan Recumbent Bicycle Rally on Saturday, May 10th, 10am until 2pm, at Jacks Bicycle & Fitness, 24308 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. For those not familiar with the bicycles, recumbents have the rider sit on a chair-like seat instead of a narrow saddle, providing a very high comfort level. Quite often, when people ride a recumbent the first time they comment that they never knew a bicycle could be so comfortable. More high-performance recumbents also offer speed advantages due to the aerodynamics of the bike.

The event will consist of recumbent and bicycle displays (including tricycle recumbents), test-rides, recumbent dealers, a noon group ride, as well as a "buying your first recumbent" talk at 11am and 1pm. The event is free and open to all bicyclists. For more information visit www.wolverbents.org or call 734/487-9058.

A Chance meeting in New Zealand by Jim Walter

This February, while Irene and I were traveling in New Zealand, we met a couple from Ontario (near Toronto) who had sold their house and two cars and were on a round the world bicycling adventure. Their names are Ralf and Jackie Winter and they are writing about their adventure in a blog at www.winter-rides.com. They plan to spend 2 years bicycling in various countries around the world.

When I mentioned that my longest bike trip was an 860 mile round trip from Detroit to Southern Ohio to join a bike tour there, they asked "GOBA?". I said yes. They then mentioned a little museum with an unusual traffic light in a small town on the GOBA route in 2012.

I recall the conversation in that small museum. A couple from Canada was talking to me and telling me how long it had taken them to drive through Detroit down to the start of GOBA. It seems that they had run into a lot of construction on I-75. They asked how long it took me to get down from Detroit. And I replied "5 days." They weren't sure what to say to that, and ended up asking "Did you get lost?". Then I explained that we had biked down from Detroit to the start of GOBA.

So here we were, a half a world away, discovering that we had met before. It's a small world!

Their account of our encounter is published in their blog archives from February 2014 and posted on February 9th titled Waitomo—Rest Day.

Book Club—Wednesday May 21 7:00 pm
Book—Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline
Place—Carol Green's House

YOUR FAVORITE BIKE SHOP!!!

The following bicycle stores offer a discount on equipment and accessories. Be prepared to show your Slow Spokes membership card when making a purchase to receive the discount.

Allied Cycle	23101 Gratiot	Eastpointe, MI 48021	586/772-3411
American Cycle & Fitness	29428 Woodward Ave	Royal Oak, MI 48072	248/542-7182
American Cycle & Fitness	39900 W. Fourteen Mile	Walled Lake, MI 48390	248/960-1371
American Cycle & Fitness	203 N. Perry Street	Pontiac, MI 48342	248/333-7843
American Cycle & Fitness	20343 Mack Avenue	Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236	313/886-1968
American Cycle & Fitness	18517 Hall Road	Macomb Twp. MI 48044	586/416-1000
Anchor Bay Bicycle & Fitness	35214 23 Mile Road	New Baltimore, MI 48047	586/725-2878
Bike Tech	18401 E. Warren	Detroit, MI 48236	313/884-2453
D & D Bicycles	8383 N. Middlebelt Rd	Westland, MI 48185	734/522-9410
D & D Bicycles	121 N. Center Rd.	Northville, MI 48167	248/347-1511
D & D Bicycles	9977 E. Grand River	Brighton, MI 48116	810/227-5070
D & D Bicycles	4141 W. 12 Mile Road	Berkley, MI 48072	248/547-0770
D & D Bicycles	7330 Highland Road	Waterford, MI 48327	248/461-6550
East Side Bike Shop	26210 Van Dyke Ave	Centerline, MI 48015	586/756-2001
Fraser Bicycle & Fitness	34501 Utica Road	Fraser, MI 48026	586/294-4070
Hamilton Bicycle	69329 Main Street	Richmond, MI 48062	586/727-5140
Macomb Bike & Fitness	28411 Schoenherr	Warren, MI 48088	586/756-5400
Main Street Bicycles	5987 26 Mile Road	Washington, MI 48094	586/677-7755
Main Street Bicycles	622 S Lapeer	Lake Orion, MI 48362	248/236-9100
Metro Bike-N-Sport	36649 S. Gratiot Ave	Clinton Twp., MI 48035	586/791-3488
Paul's Bike Depot	28057 Gratiot	Roseville, MI 48066	586/776-9165
Stoney Creek Bike	58235 Van Dyke	Washington, MI 48094	586/781-4451

Club Information

For more information about our club, please see our website at www.slowspokes.org

Most of the information on the website is visible without signing in. If you are a member, you can use your email address as your login ID and create a password. This gives you access to some information that non-members cannot see.

If you wish to join the Slow Spokes, there is a membership application on the website that you can print out and fill out.

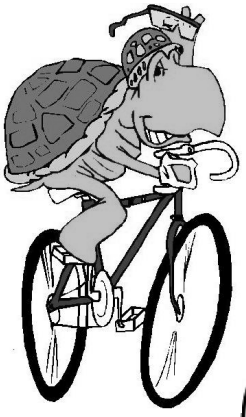
You are welcome to come for a meeting or try out a ride before joining the club.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

If you want to know of impromptu rides and other information of special interest not found on our website or in the newsletter, please make sure you forward your correct email address to Paul Wilhelm at jpwilhelm@hotmail.com

Notes from the Newsletter Editor:

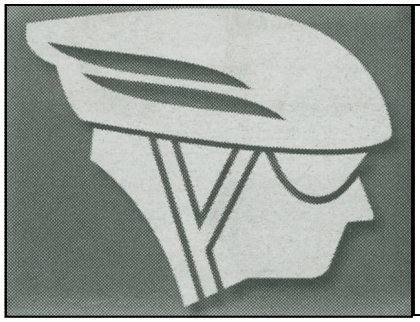
Every attempt will be made to include all articles as they are submitted, and in their entirety, in the newsletter. However, due to space constraints, this may not always be possible. If you do not want your article edited in any way, shape or form (even if typos and/or grammatical errors are apparent) please make a note of that when the article is sent.



Slow Spokes Spokin' Times News

Slow Spokes are members of the League of Michigan Bicyclists and the League of American Bicyclists.

Website: www.SlowSpokes.org



BIKE SMART

Always Wear Your Helmet!

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