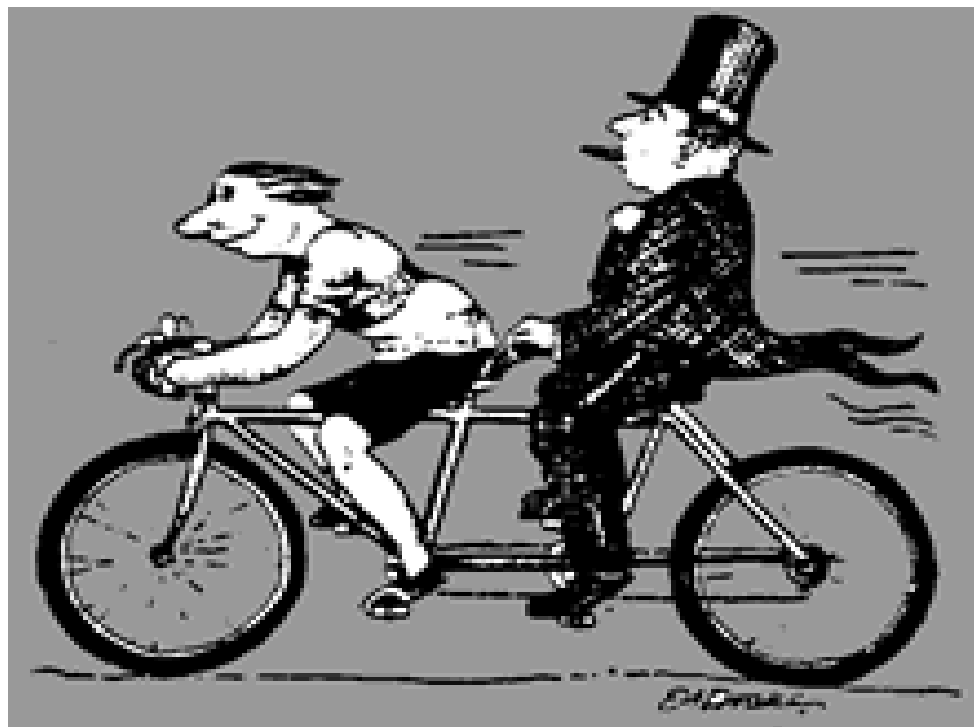


May 2004 v8i5

Spokelore

The Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition

A member of The B.C. Cycling Coalition



“To ‘Appy Hour’, Jeeves!”

Maybe the price of gas will make even the upper crust finally see the light - does Rolls Royce make a bicycle?

Bike Week 2004

See inside for complete listings of Bike Week Events. Cycling has never been so much fun!

Join us for a Special “Gala” Evening May 19

Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m., Bowen Park Activity Room 1 - Talk on Cycling Europe, by Dr. Peter Bowen-Roberts, PLUS Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition presentation of awards by Mayor Gary Korpan to locals who have made significant contributions to cycling in Nanaimo, and a Slide Show on Cycling Maui. No cost, open to all.

Mysteries and Treasures from the Shoulder

Tom Hocking

I spend a lot of time looking at the shoulder of the road. It's a natural thing we cyclists do. We're always on the lookout for broken glass, potholes, and dangerous bits of metal. Because I spend all this time scanning the road surface between the fog line and the ditch, I've encountered a lot of curious stuff. Now I'm not the kind of rider who bikes around picking up empty bottles, but over the years, I have found some real treasures. Amongst the better stuff were new binoculars, still in their case, a Mikita cordless drill, and quite a few Craftsman and Snap-On wrenches. Last year in California I found a wheelcover from a new Mercedes. Some goodies are less obvious, but the experienced bicycle scavenger will locate them by a glint of light reflecting off the surface. The weirdest of these was a still ticking wristwatch, the crystal, numbers, and hands obscured by an immovable genuine zircon encrusted Playboy rabbit. The best was a top-of-the-line Leatherman multitool worth about \$75. Had it not been shining in the sun, I would have missed it.

On that spring day I was still beaming over my lucky find as I put my beloved Bridgestone classic bike away. Then I noticed to my horror that the metal manufacturer's badge was missing from its place of honour on the headtube. The company had ceased selling bikes in North America years ago, and those beautiful badges were irreplaceable. I mourned that loss for the rest of the summer. Sometimes you gain and sometimes you lose. Life goes on. It all evens out in the end. Yin and yang.

Some finds are just plain fun. My favourites are the superhero action figures and dolls sometimes found dismembered or half buried like some tragic road kill. I once found a rather sad, blue-haired Marge Simpson doll with tire marks across her back. I tried to imagine the circumstances that may have preceded Marge's final flight. The escalation of angry words spoken between siblings in the back seat of the speeding car. The open window. The desperate grab. The tug of war. Then the toss, and the anguished scream.

The best of these toys is a Gumby-like version of the Roswell "little green man" space alien. He now rides tail gunner, zip-tied to my rack, one hand pointing aft, guarding against danger from that quarter.

Most unsettling are the articles of clothing, hats, and shoes. Or should I say shoe? It's always just one shoe. Do paramedics overlook these remains of erstwhile pedestrians run down late at night? One wonders.... So many unexplained mysteries from the open road....

Last autumn I was riding along the Parkway when I sped past something gold shining in the sun.

I slowed to a stop and walked back to the place I'd noticed the reflection. A quick scan revealed the source. It seemed to be a flat, metallic oval lying face down in the dirt. I reached down and picked it up.

It was the headtube badge from my Bridgestone.

Bike Racks on Ferries Design Competition



Sharpen your pencil! Here's your chance to help BC Ferries take care of your bike!

BC Ferries, in Partnership with Victoria's Capital Bike and Walk Society, are holding a Design Competition to develop ferry based bicycle storage systems.

The design competition is scheduled to coincide with the 13th biennial

North American meeting of Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004, North America's largest taking place in Victoria, BC, Sept 7-10, 2004.

Winning designs will be selected and prizes including a Discovery Coast Vacation package, bike tours, bikes and BC Ferries sailpasses will be awarded at the Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004 conference in Victoria this fall.

The full details are available on BC Ferries' website. Below, I've included the links to each of the four Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files, since I found downloading them to be unnecessarily difficult (only the first is accessible from the website. The links for the other three are buried in the first.)

Ref: www.bcferrys.com/files/promotions/Bikerack_design_2004.pdf
www.bcferrys.com/files/promotions/Design_Criteria_and_Entry_Form.pdf
www.bcferrys.com/files/promotions/Bowen_Class_Specifications.pdf
www.bcferrys.com/files/promotions/Spirit_Class_Specifications.pdf

A Ride Down Legal Lane

by David Hay

I was blind, but now I can see

One of the more disturbing trends in injury cases involving cyclists is the "out of the blue" defence. That is, it is becoming increasingly common for motorists to explain why they did not see a cyclist by suggesting the cyclist "came out of the blue" or "appeared out of nowhere." This suggestion is of course not a proper basis for a legal defence. It rests on fantasy—cyclists do not suddenly materialize as if they were transported from another universe onto a roadway moments before a motorist makes a move in traffic. This has never been and will never be a proper explanation by a motorist for a basic failure to keep a proper lookout.

A recent decision involving a cyclist and a police cruiser bears looking into. In that case, the cyclist claimed that the police officer turned into his path, without warning. However, the officer surmised that the cyclist was "draughting" the police car from the rear and simply failed to see the car's right turn signal, which the officer said he had engaged to indicate his turn. On the other hand, the cyclist asked the Court to find that the police officer passed him on his left and then turned right very suddenly across his path. Unable to avoid the police car, he was thrown over the hood onto the pavement.

Asked whether he took evasive steps, the cyclist stated he had no time. He was reaching for his brakes at the moment of impact. On further challenge around his failure to veer right to avoid contact, the cyclist maintained "It just happened too fast."

The police officer's first glimpse of the cyclist was after the impact. The judge found that it was clear that the officer did not see the cyclist before the accident. In fact, the officer had conceded that.

As one would expect, the officer argued that the cyclist had not only been draughting the police car but had been illegally passing it on the right. The judge concluded that this submission had no merit.

In his analysis, the judge stated that he was "mystified" by the officer's failure to observe the cyclist's presence before he turned from the centre of the road to the right. The judge stated that the officer "may well be the most experienced vehicle driver I have ever encountered. He is a traffic enforcement officer and before beginning his police career 13 years ago, he drove professionally, operating taxis, buses and trucks of various kinds." The judge then commented that despite the use of both the vehicle's mirrors and his own shoulder check which, on demonstration, was virtually a 180 degree sweep, he still inexplicably did not see the cyclist, though the cyclist was **there to be seen**.

Ultimately, the judge concluded that the suggestion of draughting was "baseless" and that the cyclist could not have had any opportunity to anticipate that the police car would turn into his path. He held that it was "entirely reasonable" for the cyclist to assume that his bicycle and the police car would continue their parallel courses. The police officer was found 100% liable for the accident.

As counsel for cyclists, I have had countless situations where the defending motorist has suggested that the cyclist appeared out of nowhere. When I further examine on the motorist's explanation for where the cyclist came from, I have received answers which range from the sublime to the truly ridiculous. My own sense is that motorists often do not look for cyclists when they are surveying traffic prior to making a move. What is a simple failure to keep a proper lookout is regrettably too often defended by resort to science fiction.

David W. Hay is a litigation lawyer and partner at RBS Lawyers. RBS Lawyers is a full service downtown Vancouver law firm delivering legal advice and solutions in all areas of practice. The information above is not legal advice. Anyone seeking legal advice should call David directly at 604 - 661-9250, or send an e-mail to dwhay@rbs.com.

SpokeLore

is published nine times a year by the **Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition**

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web: www.thegncc.org

The purpose of the GNCC is to promote and improve conditions for cycling in the Nanaimo area, by:

- providing a unified voice for all cycling interests in the area
- operating as a citizens' advocacy group in cycling-related matters
- promoting more cycle-friendly roads and recreational riding opportunities

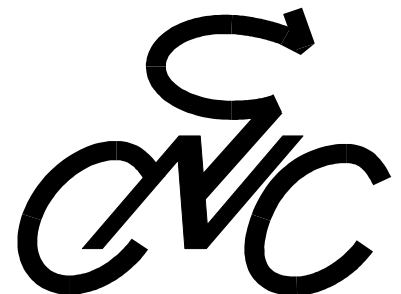
GNCC Board of Directors

Jim Kirby, Signy Parkin, Graham Shuttleworth, John van Beek, James Young, Jennifer Wong

Questions regarding content or advertising may be directed to the publisher, Gay Cunningham, at the above address.

If you would like to contribute to *SpokeLore*, please call Gay Cunningham at 722-7320, or email "guardian@myexcel.ca".

Views expressed in SpokeLore are not necessarily those of the GNCC.



GREATER NANAIMO

CYCLING

COALITION

Hub City's Cycling Advocates!

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Your contribution will help us (and you) take a pro-active approach to creating a more hospitable cycling environment in Nanaimo.

As a member, you will get:

SpokeLore newsletter nine times a year.

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Rates, per Calendar Year

\$24 Individual

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Make cheque or money order payable to the Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition and mail to:

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Unit 130, #34-1150 N. Terminal Ave.
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Please check one:

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Interested in Volunteering?

Please check your interests below.

Deliver SpokeLore by bike (9 times/year)

Contribute to SpokeLore (articles, photos, artwork, editing/layout)

Help with a GNCC special event

Provide a talk, demo, or display at a GNCC meeting

Lead road or trail rides with Chain Gang

Join a specific committee

Help with GNCC office & resource center

Chain Gang Ride Schedule

Rides are always happening! Visit our ride calendar at: www.calsnet.net/GNCC for updated information.

Everybody is Welcome, from beginners to hardcore randonneurs.

Saturday, May 29, 2004

take Duke Point ferry to Tswassin cycle to New Westminster Hyack Festival
Leader Jim Alix - details to follow

June 11-13, 2004

Powell River Ride

Either cycle to Powell River this day, or drive up to the ferry and cycle across Powell River. We will stay in the Old Courthouse Inn hostel, perhaps go to a local concert, cycle around old Powell River and beautiful, peaceful Inland Lake. Ride leaders Jim and Debby, 751-0993 "jakirby@shaw.ca"

Sunday, June 20, 2004

Chemainus to Duncan Richards Trail to Mt. Sicker ride - don't miss this lovely backroads journey!

Leader Tom Hocking - details to follow.



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Join the New Westminster Hyack Festival Parade, May 29

By Jim Alix

Hungry for applause? Want to "Wow!" the crowd? Come to New Westminster on May 29 and ride in the Hyack Festival Parade!

The Hyack Festival is an international event, the first "judged" parade of the season, attracting floats from as far away as Florida. (See web link at end of article.) Since its inception, there have been bicycles in the parade. In the last few years, the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition has entered, joining Caps Bicycles. Last year, there were more than forty cyclists, many riding antique (penny-farthing) or "funny" bikes loaned by Gordon Hobbis of Caps.

We (the GNCC) have been invited to join the VACC in this year's parade. I will be riding over to New Westminster on May 29 and invite as many as can come for a fun Saturday!

Those willing to get up early can take the 5:15 AM Duke Point ferry to Tsawwassen, then ride (35 km) to New Westminster, arriving in plenty of time for the parade. Not an early riser? Two cyclists can catch the 6:30 AM Departure Bay ferry, then catch the #257 bus into Vancouver and get to New Westminster by Skytrain (www.translink.bc.ca/Programs_and_Services/Bikes.asp has details of how to get your bike on Skytrain.) Remember, though, the bus into Vancouver only takes two bikes and it's "first come, first served."

The ride from Tsawwassen to New Westminster is a mostly flat 35 kilometres and should take about two hours. Since the parade starts at 11:00, we need to leave Tsawwassen Terminal by 8:30 AM. Unfortunately, that means catching the 5:15 AM ferry! The route to New Westminster is along marked (and sometimes even improved) bike routes and will avoid the highways almost entirely.

There are other events in New Westminster on that Saturday, such as the Vancouver Police Motorcycle Drill Team, Uptown Street Fair, Lucky Loonie Ball Lottery (You could win!), Dance in the Street and New West Skate Park Competition

The parade is over by about 2:00 PM, leaving time for the ride back to Tsawwassen to catch the 5:45 PM ferry to Duke Point.

RSVP to me at jkalix@shaw.ca or by phone (the message machine is always on!) at (250) 741-8565

www.hyack.bc.ca/2003%20schedule.htm#Parade

VACC Bike Month Raffle

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition is holding a raffle again this year. The draw will be held on July 1. The prizes are:

- 1st: Norco Mountaineer Bike (\$340), \$100 MEC gift certificate, \$25 Keg gift certificate, 2 Bike Month t-shirts
- 2nd: \$100 MEC gift certificate, \$20 Famous Players gift certificate, Greater Vancouver Zoo Family Pass, 2 Vancouver Museum Passes, 2 Capilano Suspension Bridge and Park Passes, Vancouver Maritime Museum Family Pass, 2 Bike Month t-shirts
- 3rd: \$50 MEC gift certificate, \$40 Red Robin gift certificate, \$20 Famous Players gift certificate, Greater Vancouver Zoo passes, 2 Bike Month t-shirts

Contact Jim Alix (741-8565 or jkalix@shaw.ca) for tickets



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Commuter Challenge/Bike Week looks promising this year

This year's Commuter Challenge/Bike Week promises to be the most active ever with more than 30 Nanaimo schools committed to participate to date.

"We haven't heard back from all the schools yet," said Tony MacGregor, Nanaimo's coordinator for the Commuter Challenge/Bike Week. "But so far the response has been extraordinary."

He credits the growing interest in the Commuter Challenge/Bike Week as being generated in part by the spat of articles and studies published this year that indicate not all is well with children's health.

"The rate of obesity in children between the ages of seven and 13 has tripled over the past 20 years," he said, "and parents are becoming increasingly concerned. Some parents approached us and asked us to emphasize the schools this year. We've done so and the response has been magnificent."

The Bike to School day takes place Thursday, June 3. "We are encouraging all Nanaimo students and teachers on that day to take a healthy, non-polluting way of getting to school: cycling, walking, running, car pooling, bussing, skating – just about any way except the single occupant vehicle (or mum ferrying the child to school alone)," said MacGregor.

He explained that Bike to School Day coordinators would be given forms to distribute to each class so that students can record their methods of getting to school on June 3. "There will be a pizza dinner for each winning class of participating school and a medallion for the most active student of each school. In addition, a trophy will be awarded to the most successful school. The school will keep the trophy until next year's winner is established."

MacGregor thanked Jim Alix for designing the school form and Jim and John Van Beek for always being available for media events and for talks to Rotary Clubs.

He said the community has got behind the Commuter Challenge/Bike to School Day this year as never before. "Both the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo have passed resolutions supporting Nanaimo's participation while the region's two federal MPs and two provincial MLAs have written letters supporting the event," he said.

He explained that the Bike to School Day is a provincial event sponsored by the Way to Go Autoplan Brokers Association while the Commuter Challenge is a federal program. "The Greater Nanaimo cycling Coalition is coordinating both events so that they reinforce each other," he said.

As a result of Bike Week activities, the Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition and and Nanaimo's Ambulance Paramedics have partnered to present to Nanaimo's school children a safety session on the importance of wearing helmets while cycling, skateboarding or practicing similar activities.

This newly-developed program dovetails with the Bike Week/Commuter Challenge, but the safety session can be presented to students at any time during the year and would be particularly timely if given at the beginning of the summer.

Alex Mattes (mattes@shaw.ca), 729-1273, and his partner Randy Reinholat (randyjodie@email.com), 751-5469, are organizing the safety sessions.

MacGregor said workplace response to the Commuter Challenge has also been good and the number of participants is expected to grow as more companies are contacted.

Other coordinators are as follows:

Appy Hours – John Van Beek
 Bike Maintenance Workshops – Russ Thomson
 Film Night – Lyse Godbout
 Family Ride – Kees and Anna Wiskerke
 Trails for Ales - Gay Cunningham
 Bike Fair – Jeremy Stewart



Check it out! 2004 Bike Week Events

As you know, we are a volunteer organization that relies on our members to help out with our biggest event, Bike Week. It's fun, a great way to meet people and good for the cause! We still need volunteers for several of the Bike week events. The biggest needs are for the Bike Fair (Sunday June 6th, during the day), the Film Night (Saturday the 5th of June) the Maintenance workshops (Tuesday the 1st and Thursday the 3rd) and the "Appy Hours" (Monday, May 31st and Wednesday, June 2nd). You may visit Bike Week 2004 sign-ups let us know what you would like to help with.

There will be an official kick-off of Bike Week at City Hall on Friday the 28th of May. Come on down and participate in a "ride past" of City Hall at 4:15.

It is not too late to sign up individually, or as a work place, for the Clean Air Commuter Challenge. Visit <http://www.commuterchallenge.net/english/> to sign up.

For Commuter Challenge, volunteers are needed to record appropriate data

Monday May 31 - "Homeward Bound Appy Hour" – four volunteers (2 at each location)

Time 4-5:30 pm

Locations: Mostar @ Start of E & N Trail and St. George @ 19A

Offerings: Juices , Protein Drinks, Energy boosters etc.

Tuesday, June 1 - Bicycle Maintenance Workshop at Bandstand

– 4 volunteers

Time : 7PM – 9PM

Wednesday June 2 - "Homeward Bound Appy Hour" four volunteers (2 at each location)

Time 4-5:30 pm

Locations: Mostar @ Start of E & N Trail and St. George @ 19A

Offerings: Juices , Protein Drinks, Energy boosters etc

Thursday June 3 - Bicycle Maintenance Workshop at Bandstand

- 4 volunteers

Time : 7PM – 9PM

Friday June 4 – Trails for Ales –

Location: Meet at the Downtown Harbourfront Library at 6:00 for a ride

to either the **Windward** or **Black Bear pub**.

Present awards to participating companies and individuals

Saturday, June 5 – Film Night – three or four volunteers

Time and Location TBA, look for it on the website and on our GNCC e-mailouts.

Family Ride. Start at Black Bear Pub, several loops are possible.

Time TBA, look for it on the website and on our GNCC e-mailouts.

Sunday June 6 – Bike/Health Fair Harbourfront Plaza - 10 volunteers

Time: 11 am to 4 pm

Bike Shops and possibly health businesses will have booths.

How to get to know and maintain your bike.

Bike Swap - individuals can rent a table and staff it

Bike testing area with demo's of tandems, trikes, recumbents, semi-recumbents maybe a penny farthing.

A BIG THANKS TO ALL BIKE WEEK COORDINATORS AND VOLUNTEERS (SO FAR)

Appy Hours – Coordinator John Van Beek. Volunteers, Jefferson Massie, Patsy Hofstrand, Graham Shuttleworth

Bike Maintenance Workshops – Coordinator Russ Thomson. Volunteers, Graham Shuttleworth, Jefferson Massie, Taryn Langford

Film Night - Coordinator Lyse Godbout

Family Ride - Coordinators Kees and Anna

Trails for Ales - Coordinators Gay and Jim Cunningham

Bike Fair - Coordinator Jeremy Stewart. Volunteers, Jefferson Massie, Taryn Langford, Chris Hofstrand

MANY THANKS TO NANAIMO'S SPONSORS OF BIKE WEEK/COMMUTER CHALLENGE.

This event couldn't have happened without their support and generosity.

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BC HYDRO

BC TRANSIT

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ENVIRONMENT**

COASTAL COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION



News from Parksville

To kick start Bike Week the Parksville Bicycle Advisory Committee is having a **Bike to the Beach** event on **Sunday May 30th**. We invite anyone from Nanaimo to take the big ride or to park/ride at the entrance to town and bike Pioneer Cres., our bike route, to the community park by the picnic shelter where the event is held. There will be kids races, a repair clinic, RCMP bike rodeo and trials demo there will be draws for helmets and all participants receive a City of Parksville water bottle, a safety reflector kit and a patch kit.

Sponsored by the City of Parksville and Alder Insurance Co

Questions? call Linda Krofta at 250-248-6529



Bike Polo is alive and kicking on Vancouver Island

Tuesday April 27, 2004 was the first scheduled "Polo Night in Parksville" to be held at the Parksville Community Park behind the picnic shelter, starting time 6:30. Tuesday nights look to be the weekly night to play bike polo in Parksville with all newcomers welcome. Equipment is supplied; all that is needed is a mountain bike and personal gear, helmet & gloves. Bring your favourite refreshments for post game enjoyment. For more information contact Polo Fred at (250) 954-3621 or at bikepolo@shaw.ca.