

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club

MARCH 2011



P.O. Box 156
Swarthmore, PA,
19081
www.dvbc.org

From the Top

by Dominick Zuppo, DVBC President

It's been a long, cold winter to be sure, and it's not over yet. But despite the ice and snow, your Board has been meeting, reviewing the needs of the club, and planning our major fund raising tours.

You'll recall during last December's annual banquet that Rich

Andreas, Doug Bower, Mike Broennle, Debbie Chaga, Larry Green, Mary Huis, Nancy Ness and I were elected as your Board of Directors. During our February meeting, the following officers were elected – Dom Zuppo, President, Debbie Chaga, Vice President, Mike Broennle, Treasurer, and Nancy Ness, Secretary. Even more good news, Alex Moeller stepped forward and volunteered to join the Board (yeah, Alex!). We have one more seat to fill, so please contact me if you'd like to serve in that capacity.

A major issue we tackle each year is the growth and retention of our membership. We're always looking for new ways to inform the public that a knowledgeable bicycle club exists in their community. If you know of a community event, like the Swarthmore Fun Fair, that would welcome our participation, please let me know.

And we're trying to make it easier for current members to renew their annual dues. To that end, the Board is considering a schedule where everyone renews their membership in April. Look for more information in a future newsletter once we hone the new process to a fine edge.

We also continue our search for a newsletter editor. As I said in a recent message posted to our list-serve, we've been very fortunate to have some great editors who have used their creative energy to produce an engaging document that both informs and entertains. That tradition must continue. The job takes roughly 5-10 hours per month, mainly to receive the photos and articles submitted by the Board or club members and arrange the content using the general template. If you're ready to help, please contact me - NOW!

Don't forget, **we're always looking for new ride leaders** who would like to schedule rides more in tune with their schedules and abilities. Feel free to send me any questions you have about planning and leading your own rides (quick hint – free mapping websites are a great tool). There's a possibility that a new Thursday after-work ride will be offered. And I plan to schedule some

entry-level rides during April weekends and look forward to meeting new club members who'd like to become more informed and active in our multifaceted sport.

Thanks for listening. The season is still very young, but before you know it we'll be enjoying springtime weather on two wheels. So plan ahead – think about your goals for 2011, get your mind, body, and bike ready for a great year of riding, and be safe out there.



Thousands and Thousands of Miles

2010 Member Ride Reports

Mike Flynn

I rode 4,006 miles. April was my best riding month with 615 miles. I did all my regular bike tours plus one new called the Amish Country Classic Bike Tour. I broke two down hill speeds in 2010, going 70 km/h (which comes to 43 mph) on 4-19-10, and 71 km/h on 6-13-10, which comes to 44 mph. I was very proud of this speed--not looking to go any faster. I had a lot of fun riding with the club. I'm looking to do 4500 miles this year. I already have a good jump on 2011 bike miles, because I rode 1125 miles in Florida this year—in December 475 m and in January 650. Hope to be on the bike real soon, see you all out on the road.

Steve Bertolini

I rode 5,800 miles in 2010, mostly local riding and commuting. I was able to lead three rides to Highland Orchards; a 4th trip on the calendar had no riders due to 90+ degree weather. Bicycle commuting was over 230 days (about 4200

(Continued on page 4)

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club

P.O. Box 156
Swarthmore, PA 19081
www.DVBC.org

Membership in DVBC is encouraged, but non-members are welcome at all our rides and events. Except for the Bonkers Metric, Brandywine Tour, Club Banquet and Bonkers Picnic, all club events are free. Money raised from rides and membership dues is donated to a variety of cycling-related organizations.

DVBC welcomes articles, photographs, and ride reports for the newsletter. Please submit materials to the Editor before the 15th of each month. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of DVBC.

Monthly board meetings are open to all, and are usually held the 1st Monday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m., at the Swarthmore Public Library. Contact the President to confirm.

CLUB AFFILIATIONS

- *League of American Bicyclists
- *Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- *Adventure Cycling Association
- *Bicycle Access Council
- *East Coast Greenway
- *Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail
- *PA Walks and Bikes

Newsletter Contents © 2011 by DVBC

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RIDE GUIDELINES & CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Arrive early and **be ready to leave on time**.
2. Make sure your bike is in proper working order **before** you arrive. Ride leaders are not expected to be mechanics.
3. **A helmet is mandatory for all DVBC rides.**
4. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, and water bottle.
5. All Club rides are rated according to the degree of difficulty. Do not “bike off” more than you can do. Go on rides within your ability, interest and experience. If you’re in doubt about your ability, try out a ride one class below the one you’re unsure of and work your way up.
6. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
7. Each rider assumes his/her own risk on all rides.
8. Those who ride ahead of the group are on their own ride.
9. Always notify the ride leader before leaving the group.
10. Ride leaders should adhere to the advertised speed of the ride.

Class D: For new, inexperienced riders or families: 7-9 mph average moving speed with frequent stops and as few hills as possible. The group will wait for all riders. The ride lengths are usually less than 10 miles, but longer distances are permissible.

Class C-: For average riders: 10-11 mph average moving speed with rest stops as needed. The group will wait for stragglers. The recommended distance is 10-30 miles.

Class C+: Also for average riders: 12-13 mph average moving speed with rest stops every 45-60 minutes. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

Class B-: For more experienced riders: 14-15 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

Class B+: For strong riders: 16-18 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

Class A: For very strong riders: 18+ mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

March 2011 Ride Calendar



Check the ride calendar at www.DVBC.org for late additions to this list. Occasional ad hoc rides are posted on the DVBC listserv.

March weather can be unpredictable — so please
CONTACT THE RIDE LEADER IN ADVANCE

to make sure a ride is still on!

For tours and rides sponsored by other clubs and organizations, check out the event calendar at www.suburbancyclists.org

*****Recurring Weekday Ride*****

<p>Wednesdays 10:00 am Miles:30-60 Class:B-/C+ Doc's Rides</p>	<p>Doc's rides resume from the 320 Market Cafe parking lot and continue on Wednesdays throughout the season. Local road routes with hills and hopefully lunch. Pace and miles depend on conditions. Rain or temperatures below 45 degrees F cancels ride. Contact Larry Green at 610-544-5799 or largreen@earthlink.net</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar 5 9:00 am Miles:40 +/- Class:C Hilly Paoli Loop</p>	<p>Let's meet in Rose Tree Park for a ride out to Paoli. We'll travel some of the Bonkers Loop. Bring a snack - we'll take a short break. Expect hills, beautiful scenery, great company and good food - you know, the usual. Rain cancels. Contact Mary Huis at familymail233@comcast.net</p>
<p>Sunday, Mar 6 9:30 am Miles:15 Class:All Brandywine MTB</p>	<p>Meet in Macaroni Grill parking lot on 202 in N. Wilmington. Mountain bike needed. Hopefully all the snow and mud are gone. Expect an easy 2-3 hour ride. Bring water and snack. Recent snow or rain (previous 48 hours) will cancel ride or change it to a hike. Post ride eats in Macaroni Grill. Contact Dan Dillon at 610-494-4949 or Grey48Wolf@verizon.net</p>
<p>Sunday, Mar 6 10:00 am Miles:34 Class:C Kountry Kitchen Ride</p>	<p>Meet at Kingsway High School (Routes 322 & 551 in NJ) on Sunday morning at 10:00AM, bring money for food. I will lead a slow 34 mile loop from Kingsway to Kountry Kitchen for lunch or breakfast (breakfast served all day). If many people show up and there are faster riders we will split up and have two rides. Contact Doug Bower at 610-952-0562 or doug_bower@verizon.net</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar 12 9:00 am Miles:15 +/- Class:C Chester Valley Trail Phase 2</p>	<p>Adventurous exploration of the CVT from Rte 29 to The Schuylkill Expressway. Construction will begin this spring. Off road ride so expect snow patches, possible bits of ice, mud, downed tree limbs & brush. May return by roads...depends on conditions. Weather dependent...I'll scout a few days ahead. Let me know if you intend to join the adventure. No calls, no ride. Fat tires: mountain, cross or hybrid bikes. Meet at north side of Target lot at Worthington/ Malvern off 29/202. 1st and rough-est of a series of trail rides planned this year. Multi-club ride jointly scheduled with DVBC & BBC. Contact Mike Broennle at treasurer@dvbc.org</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar 12 9:30 am Miles:42+/- Class:C+/B- The Monsignor Returns</p>	<p>A new season of hills as Msgr. Dave leads from Rose Tree Park in Media to the Centerville Cafe; C+/B- Pace w/breakaways and Regroups at top of climbs/after breaks etc. No rider left behind. Bring \$\$ for a nosh at the Centerville Cafe. Questions, Comments, Concerns? Call the Rectory and Contact Dave Alfe at 610-517-8898 or wilier55@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar 12 10:00 am Miles:34 Class:C Kountry Kitchen Ride</p>	<p>Meet at Kingsway High School (Routes 322 & 551 in NJ) on Saturday morning at 10:00AM, bring money for food. I will lead a slow 34 mile loop from Kingsway to Kountry Kitchen for lunch or breakfast (breakfast served all day). If many people show up and there are faster riders we will split up and have two rides. Contact Doug Bower at 610-952-0562 or doug_bower@verizon.net</p>
<p>Sunday, Mar 13 9:00 am Miles:45 +/- Class:C+ The Muffin Ride</p>	<p>Meet in Rose Tree Park in Media for our favorite jaunt to Purebread Deli in Greenville, De. We'll climb our favorite hills on the way and make a mad dash down Route 52, chow down on yummy muffins, sandwiches & soup and then head back via some nice hills. The scenery is guaranteed to be beautiful. Rain cancels. Contact Mary Huis at familymail233@comcast.net</p>
<p>Wednesday, Mar 16 5:50 pm Miles:20+/- Class:C Mike's Ride</p>	<p>I'd like to get an early jump on the Wed night rides by leading rides on Wed nights in March after daylight savings time which kicks in on March 13th (the sun goes down shortly after 7). Leaving out of Rose Tree Park in Media. Lights mandatory. Contact Mike Madonna at mmadonna@mckee-group.net</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar 19 9:00 am Miles:34 Class:C Anna Marie</p>	<p>Meet in Lansdale on Saturday morning at 9:00AM, bring money for food. I will lead a slow but a little hilly 34 mile loop to Royersford for breakfast at the famous Anna Marie Restaurant. The ride to and from Royersford will be mainly on a paved trail but if the trail is in bad shape we will ride an alternate route on the roads. Contact Doug Bower for directions to ride start, at 610-952-0562 or doug_bower@verizon.net</p>

Sunday, Mar 20 10:00 am Miles:50 Class:C Kountry Kitchen Ride	Meet at Kingsway High School (Routes 322 & 551 in NJ) on Sunday morning at 10:00AM, bring money for food. I will lead a 50 mile loop from Kingsway to Kountry Kitchen for lunch or breakfast (breakfast served all day). If many people show up and there are faster riders we will split up and have two rides. Contact Doug Bower at 610-952-0562 or doug_bower@verizon.net
Wednesday, Mar 23 5:50 pm Miles:20 +/- Class:C Mike's Ride	I'd like to get an early jump on the Wed night rides by leading rides on Wed nights in March after daylight savings time which kicks in on March 13th (the sun goes down shortly after 7). Leaving out of Rose Tree Park in Media. Lights mandatory. Contact Mike Madonna at mmadonna@mckeegroup.net
Saturday, Mar 26 9:30 am Miles:30 Class:C+ Pool Boy 30 Loop	Meet up in Kingsway High School parking lot(Routes 322&551 in NJ). Ride may break into two groups,depends on who shows. It is early,no one dropped. No food or water stop. Contact Dan Dillon at 610-494-4949 or Grey48Wolf@verizon.net
Sunday, Mar 27 9:00 am Miles:35 Class:C/C+ Art Museum Ride	Start and end in Rite Aid lot across from Drexel Hill Cyclery. If Juror #6 shows up there will be two groups,regardless,no one dropped. No lunch stop. Short break for water near Art Museum. Contact Dan Dillon at 610-494-4949 or Grey48Wolf@verizon.net
Wednesday, Mar 30 5:50 pm Miles:20 +/- Class:C Mike's Ride	I'd like to get an early jump on the Wed night rides by leading rides on Wed nights in March after daylight savings time which kicks in on March 13th (the sun goes down shortly after 7). Leaving out of Rose Tree Park in Media. Lights mandatory. Contact Mike Madonna at mmadonna@mckeegroup.net

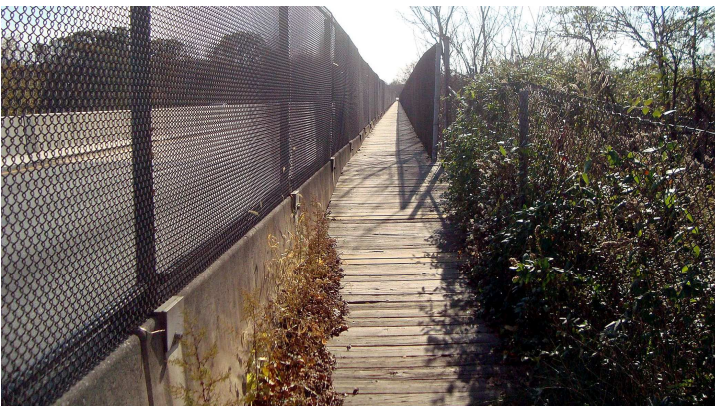
The Bridge to – Everywhere!

By Dom Zuppo

Many club members cut their trail-riding teeth on the Schuylkill River Trail. However, to get to the trail from the main parking lot of Valley Forge they had to steel their nerves. Why?

According to <http://www.422improvements.com>, it was because “the Old Betzwood Bridge was demolished in 1995 due to its badly deteriorated condition and the bridge’s demise affected bicycle and pedestrian travel across the Schuylkill River in the vicinity of Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP). Since that time, bicyclists and pedestrians have traversed a narrow boardwalk on the US 422 bridge to cross the river -- a daunting path that was installed as an interim solution.” Oh yes, the dreaded “boardwalk,” where missing floor boards and near handlebar collisions with other cyclists and chain-link fencing are the norm.

An open house was held on February 16th where the long awaited plan to rebuild the bridge was displayed and input from potential users obtained. You may finally release your breath, as the plan calls for a new bridge over the Schuylkill River exclusively for bicyclists and pedestrians.



According to the website, “the bridge will connect trail systems in Montgomery County and Chester County and improve mobility for bicycle commuting and recreational use. The bridge will connect portions of Valley Forge National Historical Park that is now separated by the Schuylkill River and enhance access to the park.” According to a recent symposium, construction is scheduled for 2012 and completion by 2013. Stay tuned!

(2010 Ride Reports, continued from page 1) miles); in 2011 I expect to be commuting and riding in Chester County and may be able to do another tour since my last one in 2007.

Michael D’Antonio

I did the "Freedom" ride I believe it is called in September and would like more rides in the C- range: 20-25 miles without pressure.

John Wehmiller

Rode 1200 miles during 2010. No commuting. Tours: MS150 Sept 2010 City to Shore; Rails to Trails Sojourn - eastern PA Rail-Trails July 2010 250 miles. Always nice to do more, but time and weather always impose limits!

Mike Broennle

Bad news / Good news: I missed 9.5 weeks of prime cycling season for personal and family issues and ended up with only 2,000 miles despite retiring at the end of June. I attended my first League of American Bicyclist’s Bike Summit. Multi-day rides: Bike Florida, Rails to Trails Conservancy’s Greenway Sojourn, and six of eight days of Pedal PA’s Northern Crossing before a ride-ending fall. Volunteer rides included the Swarthmore Fun Ride, and route checking, marking and bike sag for the Bicycle Coalition’s Freedom Valley Ride. Charity rides: Ataxia and PA East Coast Greenway ride from Trenton to Center City. Took train + bike to the South Street Bridge opening. Became a founding member of the Friends of the Chester

Valley Trail

Plans for 2011: Bike Summit; ride Bike Florida, RTC Greenway Sojourn, ToPA 2011; lead a series of trail rides.

Mary Huis

2010 was awesome. In a nutshell, I achieved my goal of riding over 4,000 glorious miles (*see photo below*), went to the Kent County Spring Fling in MD (where I rode a metric 3 days in a row), rode Bike VA (rode 280 miles over 5 days), pedaled across PA (rode 469 miles from Erie to Wilkes-Barre over 7 days). I participated in the ACS ride in July (with my hubby), worked as a sweep at the Tour de Cure in May, and rode the Seagull Century in MD in October. I rode countless club rides and once again enjoyed the company of wonderful cyclists and fun people. I joined in some of the mountain bike rides but not enough to be part of the fat tire club. I joined the DVBC Board and enjoy working for the club as the ride coordinator, being a ride leader and assisting with the Brandywine Tour. I plan to achieve a new milestone in 2011 by joining my first self-supported tour (ToPA from Erie to Media). I look forward to another great cycling year with my cycling friends.

David Cunicelli

2010 was my first full year riding since 2006. If I can help it, that will be my last hiatus from any of my bikes. I had a blast riding 5,100 miles at various speeds and elevations. I rode some downright scary rides with Brian Wade and Joel Neigh. While I grumbled and cursed, I enjoyed every foot of climb and every day I rode. I hope to see more of you on the road. Hey, some of you should even come on my rides!

Deb "Dreamer" Chaga

For most of the year, 2010 was great. I got in a lot of cross country skiing in the winter along with mtb

rides, hikes, and some road rides. I led some AHCS and Northbrook rides as well as my Wed night rides out of Rose Tree Park and a couple Pool Boy Rides. I enjoyed adding miles by riding to and from the start of quite a few rides. Highlights included the Baltimore Bike Club Spring Fling weekend from which I rode home with Alex from Chestertown MD to Aston on a stinking hot Memorial Day. And the infamous, never to be forgotten Sex on the Beach Ride in June where the Greenhead Flies attacked us. A major accomplishment was finishing the extremely hilly Bike VA century which included climbing Mt Vesuvius up to the Blue Ridge Parkway on a 100-degree day. In July I did a self-supported tour starting in Montreal to Quebec City and back with Nancy, Alex and my coworker Colleen. The weather was great, the scenery spectacular, and riding with friends made it better. In August,

Alex and I rode to the Philly Folk Fest and we also rode over St. George's Bridge during the dedication of bike lanes there. We also rode the Victory Ride in Sept. I worked the Tour de Cure and Bike Philly and also rode the American Cancer Society Ride on Mary and her husband, Randy's team. On Oct 2 I hiked the Megatransect Hike in Lock Haven PA which was 26 miles up and down Bald Eagle Mtn and I was able to finish quicker than last year.

Yes, it was a great year until my Columbus Day MTB ride at White Clay Creek State Park. That's when I crashed, broke my left clavicle in two, requiring surgery. Now I've got a plate and 6 screws in my shoulder. I'm staying positive and hoping 2011 is a good year and that I heal almost as good as new.

Dom Zuppo and Jo Ann Fahey

The year started with the usual – dread and loathing of cold, wintry weather. But Jo Ann and I managed to somehow squeeze in a ride here and there. As the weather improved, so did the quality and quantity of cycling, and our expectations for a good year grew. My Wednesday afternoon Rose Tree Park-n-Rides were pretty popular, and I even saw a few new faces at the end of the season. The weekends were even better. We headed to southern New Jersey in June for Deb's Sex on the Beach ride and saw the East Point Lighthouse and historic Mauricetown. And let me tell you, what few sprint skills I have were put to good use when we were chased by swarms of bottle head flies.

In August we rode the Dog Daze tour and enjoyed some familiar Chester County roads, only in reverse. In October I lead club members west to Valley Forge and past the new Chester Valley Trail in celebration of the life of the late Bob Leon. We also traveled to Manayunk - The Hard Way, as Alex lead us along the Bicyclists' Baltimore Pike to the City of Brotherly Love. Something I really enjoyed was a change of pace - mountain biking. Lead by our own Dan Dillon, we experienced the Brandywine and White Clay Preserves in a whole new way. Hopefully I'll ride my Scott even more this year. Roughly 2,000 miles (4,000 combined, since Jo Ann and I are usually joined at the saddle when it comes to cycling). Thanks, DVBC, for all the great miles!



BIKE DIRT

By F.X. Pedrix

Winter days have been dragging on and the **Lovely Babs** and I have caught cabin fever big time. I'm really hoping that Punxsutawney Phil was right and there will be an early spring. If not I'll be in the poor house soon since bored Babs has been shopping online constantly.

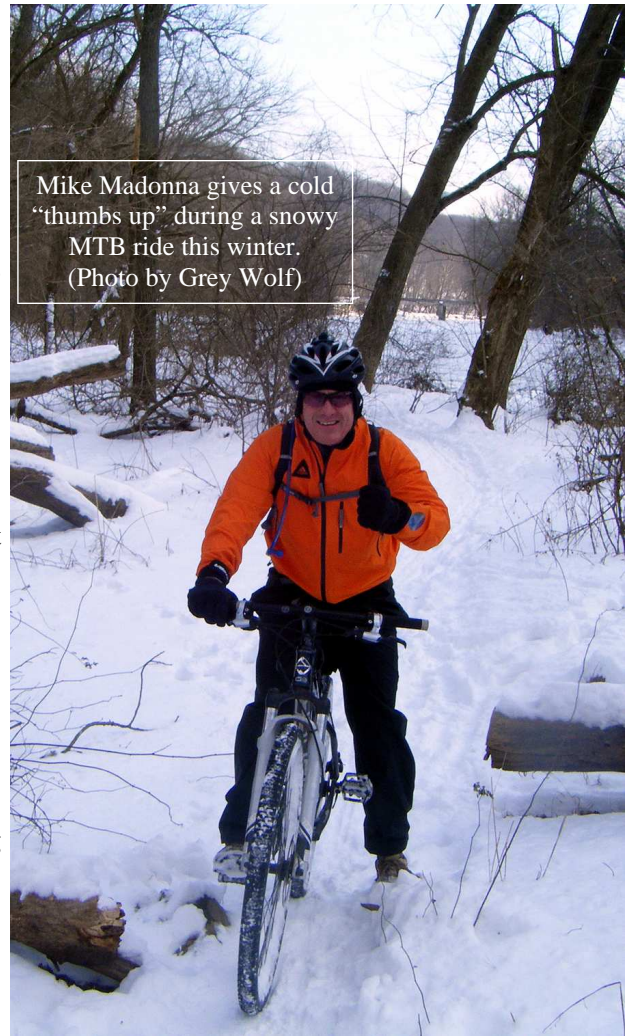
I've been reading the listserve and had more than one chuckle over the back and forth on some of the topics. Of course there was some political heat about a bill up for vote in NJ that was quickly thrown out about taxing bikes in the Garden State. **Dave Alfe** contacted some state officials about the tax and in his rush to send the message mistakenly signed off as Msgr Alfe. Well, that got a very quick apologetic response when the bill was withdrawn. Of course he's now known as Monsignor and has absolved a few sinners. Other posts included the best way to clean bikes, how to keep in shape during the inclement weather, and info was passed on about winter bike shows.

Just like the birds flying south, **Doc Larry** and **Mike Flynn** headed to Florida for the warmer climate. I'm pretty sure they were successful although in early December it was pretty chilly down there too.

Gasspasser led a hike at the newly dedicated Wolf's Hollow County Park on the western edge of Chester County in January. Active participants were **Rich and Marji A, Mike B, Deb C, Mary H, Misty K-D, Alex M, Ken M and his trekker daughter Jen, and Steve R.** No helmets but all wore gloves or mittens on trails that were snow covered but manageable. Afterwards, eight met for lunch at the Whip Tavern on the Brandywine 50 route.

Grey Wolf has been keeping busy running, running, and running some more. He's also led some winter hikes including two **Pie Hikes** starting at Linvilla Orchards. The longer he's been retired the stronger and faster he gets. He and **Tom Smyth** have been gathering more awards at every race they enter. **Jittery Jo** picked up another award at a recent event. Misty has been keeping in shape by taking tap lessons in addition to all that hiking.

Buckeye has been buying and selling all sorts of stuff and at work



Mike Madonna gives a cold "thumbs up" during a snowy MTB ride this winter. (Photo by Grey Wolf)

fixing stoves, cleaning bikes and planning another **ToPA** tour for this summer. Last I heard he's got 10 people lined up and thankfully no one's name starts with an M and ends with an etta. He and **Gigi** have led three NJ rides in as many weeks to start the season and have been getting a good showing as they battle the NJ wind.

Of course some people never stop riding as **Ride Away** reports. He's posted some good stories about his racing days which the list serve eats up. Speaking of interesting ride reports, **The Grocer** wrote an excellent one recently on Lessons Learned during the first ride of the year. Those lessons being that no matter how hard you train indoors it doesn't matter on a cold winter day with 50 mph gusts. Ain't that so!

Winter isn't a problem at all for **Alex**. Either he's hiking in Pennypack Park for three hours on his own in the



Braving the cold winter wind on a KK Ride in NJ last month. L-R: Jo Ann, Deb, Alex, Nancy, Doug (photo by Dom).

sleet (everyone else wimped out) or cross country skiing at Lake Placid.

The **Cycling Gourmet** was online looking for bike tours and came upon one she thought she might like when she noticed something familiar about the photo on the website. It was a photo of her from a Woman Tour she did a couple years ago. As she kept searching she found another photo of some riders on a tour in Utah. Lo and behold it was two more DVBCers, Doc Larry and the **Wooden Man Boy**, does our club get around!

A Grey Wolf posting on the list serve went: "Took a little private ride today on RCSP path. Had my single speed mtn bike. Here are the DVBC members I ran into. Tom. S., Steve (Crashrock), Misty, Woody, on like a

60 yr old bike, Mary and **Shary.**" The subject line was "Anyone Work?"

Dreamer has been slowing recuperating from her broken collarbone and has snuck out without Dr's permission on three of Buckeye's rides. Grey Wolf reported that she was strong while hiking recently and left Misty, Crashrock, and Cycling Gourmet in her tracks. Keep it up dreamy one.

Before I forget, at the DVBC Banquet in December the following awards were presented: "Rookies of the Year" - **Cate Crosby and Patrick Haradem**; "Most Flamboyant Ride Reports" - **Dave Alfe**; "Most Improved" - **Paul DeSanto** (although if he's doping he'll be stripped); "Most

Improved MTB" - **Steve Rothrock**; "Atta Girl" - **Jill Minnick**; "Most Excuses Not To" - **Buckeye**; and "Dead Squirrel" - Jittery Jo.

A special "**25 Years at DVBC Award**" went to **The Legend, Walt Linton**.

We have two new board members, **Rich Andreas** and **Alex Moeller** and **Nancy Ness** has taken over as Secretary. Dom continues on as President, with Dreamer as VP and Gaspasser remaining the Treasurer. Thanks to all who donate their time and effort to DVBC.

Hopefully next month the sun will be shining and warm. In the meantime, keep safe and watch out for the icy patches. Keep sending in those reports and I'll keep writing 'em up!

BIKING THE SUBURBS

By Dom Zuppo

On Saturday, February 12, 2011, the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia sponsored "Biking the Suburbs: Southeast Pennsylvania Counties' Bicycle Conference," where pedestrians and cyclists who live or work in Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Bucks counties learned how to advocate for improved facilities and policies in their community.

Speakers included State Representative Greg Vitali, the Honorable Joseph M. Hoeffel, Montgomery County Commissioner and Chair of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and Josh Karns, Executive Director, PA Walks and Bikes. A transportation planner from each

county facilitated one hour conversations with their respective residents about local projects. Additional briefings ranged from "tar and chip" pavement standards to the March 8-10th Bike Summit in Washington, D.C.

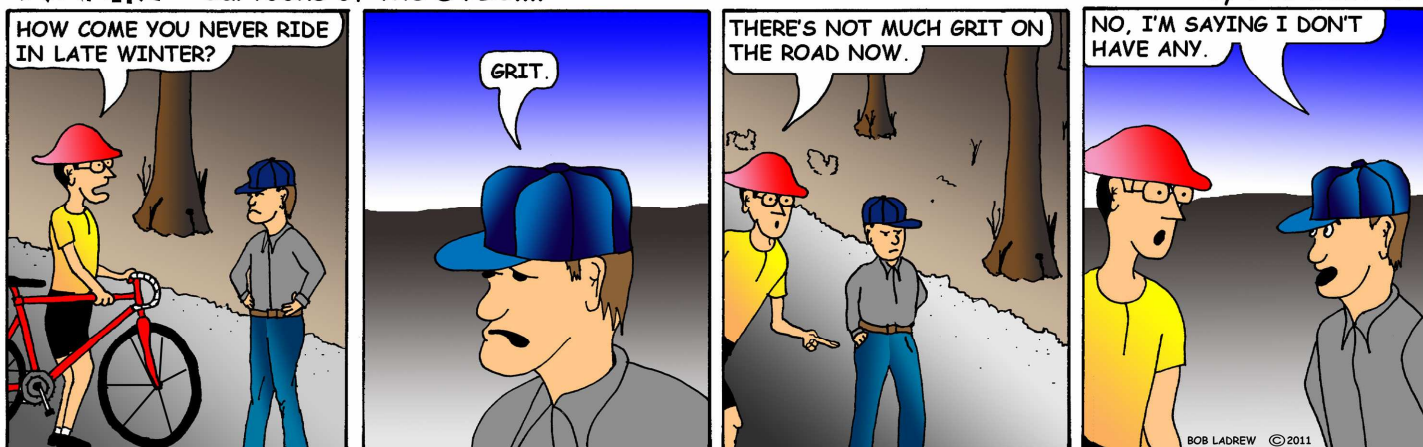
One session of particular interest was a discussion of PennDOT's Bicycle Occupancy Permit policy ("BOP"). As Spencer Finch of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council explained, "BOP is a permit that PennDOT requires all municipalities to sign if they want to stripe bike lanes located on state roads." Besides the responsibility of maintenance, like snow removal and signage, BOP requires the town or borough, not PennDOT, to accept full liability for any issues associated with the bike lane, like an

accident. PennDOT's policy requires municipalities to take out additional insurance coverage - no wonder local governments balk at bike lane projects and their additional exposure and liability!

I saw a number of DVBCers at the conference, including our Delaware County Cycling Committee Chair David Bennett, who co-anchored the Delco break-out session. During that session I learned about the renewed Betzwood Bridge project. Ann, George, Hans, Kevin, Larry, Mike, Parker, and Woody were some of the other club members at the event. With over 100 attendees, I was encouraged to see many young and young-at-heart citizens learning to exert influence on projects that would improve our community.

BONKERZ Cartoons of the DVBC...

by Bob LaDrew





Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 156
Swarthmore, PA 19081
www.dvbc.org

APPLICATION FOR DVBC MEMBERSHIP (expires one year from date renewed or joined)

Membership includes: DVBC newsletter (10 issues/year), discounts at most Club sponsors, Club subsidized events.
Your membership also helps influence local government decisions concerning bicycle issues.

Annual membership: \$15 per household

CIRCLE ONE: **NEW** or **RENEWING** Member
Newsletter Preference: **Printed copy** (via US Mail) or
PDF (via E-mail—saves trees and \$\$)

Please print clearly and use your 9-digit zip code, if known:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ Birth Date: _____

EMAIL: _____

The DVBC Safety Fund is used to promote issues regarding cycling safety in the Delaware Valley.

I wish to contribute (circle appropriate amount):

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 Other: \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

\$15 membership + _____ Safety Fund = \$ _____

I will volunteer for (circle all interests)

Ride Leader Tour Volunteer Newsletter

Other: _____

Please send your check or money order to: Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 156, Swarthmore, PA 19081

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry into the DVBC, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in the DVBC. In addition, this release is intended to discharge in advance the promoters, the sponsors, the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, the promoting clubs, the officials, and any involved municipalities or other public entities (and their respective agents and employees) from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in any event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons mentioned above.

I further understand that serious accidents occasionally occur during bicycle riding; and that participants in bicycle riding occasionally sustain mortal or serious personal injuries, and/or property damage, as a consequence thereof. Knowing the risks of bicycle riding, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release, and assumption of risk is to be binding to my heirs and assigns.

Signature

Signature of parent or guardian (if under 18 years)