



## January Newsletter

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Jan 10, 2012

President's Message

News From the President

Hello Desert Bike Club Members and Happy new year,



The Board had a terrific meeting to roll into 2012 and I think we came up with some great ideas for the Saturday ride as well as some fun events. We will also be updating our website with a new feature entitled, **Member Milestones**. This is where you would email our webmaster, Doug Winters at [cycledoug@dc.rr.com](mailto:cycledoug@dc.rr.com) with a photo and a brief summary of your milestone. For example, all of you who have ridden 5,000 miles or 10,000 miles in 2011 please let us know. For anyone who has circumnavigated the globe ( 44,360 kilometres (27,560 mi) over a couple of years or more than once in your cycling history, let us know. And for those desiring a new goal for 2012-why not try for one of these milestones for yourself?

As for the Saturday ride, POWER TO THE PEDALERS. It seems that the majority of you really like rolling out as one big happy group; so, the Thousand Palms Canyon Riders and the Cove riders will all roll out together. We ask that you be mindful of the entire group and look back to see if there is a split at an intersection and soft pedal if some are caught at a light. This will help to encourage riders to stop when the light is BRIGHT RED. Those wishing to do the Thousand Palms Canyon Ride will go left onto Cook and hold the pace to a nice group pace riding 2 abreast all the way until we pass Sun City and begin the climb. This is where we can help our guest riders and new to the group riders with their riding etiquette. We have so many really experienced and skillful riders and we want to learn from them. They are A riders for a reason! Therefore, if one of those riders happen to tell you to hold your line or to pick a wheel and stay on that particular wheel or to pull through and not just pop out of the line randomly, please take it as a helpful bit of advice and not anything personal. The best way to learn is to watch and ask if you are unsure. There will ALWAYS be a group that will wait and regroup at the TOP of Thousand Palms Canyon and regroup again at the Truck Stop. With this in mind, if you are not feeling well or the legs will not cooperate, you will have a group to ride with if you come off the front group so please pull out before you end up gapping some of your "teammates". If we all think of each other as teammates and friends-- people who challenge us to become stronger while at the same time encourage and help us should we need a pull or some advice or a lot of help.

Those riders choosing to ride the Cove, we are asking that the group REMAIN 2 ABREAST down Frank Sinatra all the Way to Country Club. Please keep the pace around 22mph steady pace where we can also help new riders with group riding and keep a safe group as we round the corner on Tamarask where the rising sun and potholes in the road make for hazardous conditions. Once we cross Country Club, there may be a group that will try to break away. There will always be a group that will regroup at the bottom of the Cove near the park if you do get dropped this will be your motivation to keep pedaling and see if you can get to the Park in time.

**Speaking of Safety:** This month's etiquette and safety tip is: No Cutting in Line. I have been guilty of it; as I am sure many of you have. We are afraid of getting dropped

at the light because we are not that fast at clipping in or we know the group has some rabbits who love to jump at the start of every light. We try to time the light just right, slowly passing everyone who has so stupidly already clipped out and are waiting for the light to change. We successfully time it just right so we do not have to clip out. We are first in line and keep going enjoying our lead. We look back casually as if to say, C'mon. Well, you have just been guilty of poor etiquette and Cutting. No one likes the car that zooms past all those patiently waiting as the lanes merge due to construction and then expect everyone to let them in. In timing the lights, you have basically been guilty of the same selfish behavior. If we all agree to SLOWLY accelerate we will circumvent the Cutting Instinct.

Peace in pedaling.

Sharon Fletcher (Fletchie)

### New Kits

#### **Re-Order is Closed**

The Second order is closed; however, the club has ordered some extra kits so when they come in; we will let you know what our inventory looks like. We plan on having a club picture at the end of March so if you did not order your new jersey/kits, you will still have time to purchase/order them.

### Tour de Palm Springs

#### **February 11**

For those of you planning to ride in the Tour de Palm Springs, if you do not have your own charity, please mark on your entry form one of the club's charities either: **History Youth Tours, ILI-Integrated Learning Institute, or Young Life.** 100% of your entry fee goes to charity: so why not earmark your money to go to one of the charities you and/or the club supports.

**Club Sag Support:** We need a volunteer to sit at the top of Thousand Palms Canyon and collect jackets etc. and offer water for club riders doing the century in the Tour. This way, club members can drop off jackets, etc, which they needed at the start and do not need now. These jackets will be available for pick up at the end...more

details when we find the person/persons willing to do this. The club will provide water and snacks so we can use this as our very own sag stop. Taking photo's is also an option for the volunteer/s.

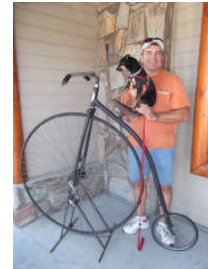
## Club Social

### Join Us!

We will also be enjoying Pasta Night on Feb. 10th at **Mario's** off of Washington in Sun City (over I-10) In the Stater Bros. shopping center. We will organize the tables; however, you are on your own as far as the bill and what you would like to order. We will reserve tables beginning at 7:00pm so PLEASE RSVP BY WED. FEB. 8TH IF YOU CAN. RSVP SHARON AT by phone or text 760-636-9523.

## Membership Renewal

We would like to welcome our new Club Secretary, **John Loe**, who was voted in at the last meeting. John is working hard at updating our membership roster. For those members who are unsure if they renewed, we will be mailing out renewal forms as soon as possible. Remember, Membership has its priveledges. In addition to being covered on all club rides, you also get a discount at Bike Man, Palm Desert and Palm Spring Cyclery, Tri-A-Bike and Velo Bum as well as Bagel Bistro. You will also receive information as to the sponsorship opportunities available on our website and at the bottom of the monthly newsletters. (yes, that is ONE of my new years' resolutions).



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