

**July-August  
2005**

# **Desert Bicycle Club Blazing Saddles**

## **Presidential Message** by Gary Lueders

### **Special Interest Articles:**

- Presidential Message
- Bike Club News
- W.O.W

*"Gear up for the new year."* That's the call that is going out to all members. We are all ready to put this summer behind us as we approach another season of great riding in the desert. I have received many inquiries via e-mail and telephone about our club's rides and activities. Some interested in joining, others planning a visit to the area. This, plus our returning seasonal members, indicates that our group rides will be larger than last season.

As you know, we offer 4 ride levels: A, B, C, & Pokey Peddlers (*thank you Joni*). With that in mind, I am putting out a call for ride leaders. Specifically, we need "C group" leaders. This is the

intermediate group that rides 15-17 mph average with emphasis on riding together. This is the group that has been less defined in the past, but needs leadership. "A" group riders are capable of taking care of themselves, if necessary, and a defined leader is not required. Leadership with the "B" group is a good thing and many of our longtime members are there and ready to help new members and guest riders joining that group.

I would like those of you who do the "C" ride to come forward, become more involved with the ride, and help make it an enjoyable experience for everyone in the group. Before the start of a Saturday

ride, we need someone to declare that they are the "C" ride leader for the day so that other riders wishing to do that ride will know who to follow. Further, like the Pokey group, I am suggesting that the "C" group roll out a few minutes after the "A" and "B" groups roll. This way, there will be no mistake of a "C" rider being on the wrong ride.

We all enjoy the 2-wheel self-balancing human transporter. And we all enjoy being members of a successful, dynamic club. It is your participation that makes our club a success and I thank you for that. Gear up for the new year and enjoy the ride.

*Gary*



*Michel prepares the lobsters*

## **Bike Club Meetings**

Bike club meetings are back for the season on the first Tuesday of September, October, December, February, March, & April starting at 6:30pm. September and October meetings will be held at Le St. Germain Restaurant, corner of Cook and

Hwy 111 in Indian Wells. The other meetings will be at Desert Falls Country Club on Country Club Drive in Palm Desert. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and our very own Dr. Karin Fu will be our

guest speaker. Be sure to bring you family and friends to this important meeting. If you would like to be a speaker or know someone who would make for an interesting program, please let us know.

## **Club Officer Extension**

It was decided last spring that your club's Board of Directors would automatically extend until next June 30<sup>th</sup>. This will keep the board intact during the critical year-end/year-startup period that occurs at the peak of our winter season. There is a lot going on

during that time and is not the time to be changing officers. You will have an opportunity to view and review our revised bylaws at the December meeting and vote on the changes at that time. We will conduct a

regular board election next spring to fill board positions from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. To keep this in the "fairness to all" realm, if anyone has an objection to the automatic extension, please put it in writing and get it to the board.



## **August Club Beach Ride**

It was a fantastic day of riding with cool temps off the ocean. We split up into two groups with the fast group riding along PCH for about 65 miles, the rest did bike routes of about 45 miles.

Geno & Lisa graciously offered their house on the bay for the clam bake. Michel drove his catering truck over and brought the food: clams, mussels, lobster, corn-on-the-cob, potatoes,

sausage. Tables were rented and Michel provided La St Germain china and silverware. Captain David had his yacht at Geno's dock and took folks out on a harbor cruise. Yes, just another DBC event!!!

## Weekday Club Rides

As you know, we have early morning rides on weekdays designed to be a training ride for those who need to get to work. That is fine for riders who live close enough to join in. However, it has been suggested that the bike club offer weekday rides that start in other areas. Last season there was an early morning ride leaving from Just Java Coffee Shop in La Quinta for riders in the east end of the valley. I would like to see this re-established as a regular ride, as well as the "sometime" Sunday ride from La Quinta.

We have received several requests for an early morning training ride in Palm Springs. These would start from Starbucks on Palm Canyon just south of the downtown area.

For both of these rides to be successful, we need club members committed to showing up on a regular basis. Please e-mail me at the club ([cycleclub@yahoo.com](mailto:cycleclub@yahoo.com)) if you are interested. I will send out an e-mail with details about start times and locations. I would like to see both of these rides start in October.

It is important to note that these are weekday morning training rides and will not take the place of our traditional Saturday morning club ride. Our membership is not large enough to support big Saturday rides all over the valley. Plus, our Saturday ride is a time when we can all come together to enjoy our common interest of cycling.




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*Lunch at the Clambake*




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*David Firestone's summer home*

**WOW** by April Jones

What a great sport cycling is! Every age, every shape and size can participate and accomplish some pretty spectacular things. Maybe for you, a sense of accomplishment comes from completing a century. Maybe, just getting back safely from a Saturday group ride is enough to dislocate your shoulder patting yourself on the back. Some folks need a podium finish to feel they've earned their reward. Whatever it takes to make you feel proud of your efforts is what keeps us all coming back for more. That, and the way riding helps those butt and leg muscles!

Some of our female Bike Club members participated in some extraordinary biking events this past spring and summer.

Pat Herman and Flora Newblatt took a 6-day, 350-mile tour down the coastline of California – from Half Moon Bay to Solvang. Pat organized the whole tour including routing, hotels, and SAG van for 9 riders. Their average daily mileage was around 60 miles with SAG support every 15-20 miles. Some of the riding was treacherous with unrelenting hills, but mostly rolling hills and beautiful scenery were the standard fare. They stopped for lunch and did some sightseeing along the way each day and each night concluded with a soak in the hot tub and a good meal. It sounds like the perfect escape from the desert heat.

Danae and Deidre York kicked some serious butt all over

the West in Mountain Bike Competitions. In the Norba National Championship Series, Danae finished 1<sup>st</sup> and Diedre finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the junior expert category. At this writing, Danae is about to head into the UCI Worlds Championship in Italy. Diedre will be able to join her sister in this event in a few years when she turns 16. There is little time to recover however, because then both girls are off to compete for the National Championship title in Mammoth, CA in mid September. Best of luck!

Now that the heat is nearly behind us, we can look forward to cooler and longer rides. Break out the arm warmers! Have fun, ride safely.



Crossing on the ferry to from Newport to Geno's



*Elaina and Michel at the Clambake*

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*Geno and Lisa host Desert Bike Club at the August Beach ride*