

December
2005

Desert Bicycle Club

Blazing Saddles

Presidential Message by Gary Lueders

**Special Interest
Articles:**

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The Internet is a great way to disseminate information to club members. Using the E-news format of e-mail is fast and efficient. In discussions with the bike club's editorial staff, we are converting the club's newsletter into more of an online E-magazine that will feature articles by club members which will be of interest to our members. We have a very active membership. We want to hear about an interesting ride or bike trip you did. Or perhaps some cycling tips that would be useful to our members? We are not trying to take the place of national publications. The idea is to be club specific: by club members for club

members.
Let us hear from you.

Traffic is picking up in the desert as we get in to full swing of the season. There is safety in numbers and our large group on Saturday allows us to be very visible in traffic. We expect drivers to be courteous and obey traffic laws. In like manner, drivers expect us to be good citizens and obey traffic laws. How we handle traffic lights is a big concern to many of our members, especially those in the back of the pack. If the light turns yellow as the lead riders enter the intersection, riders mid-way in the group should signal and yell out "stopping" to alert those behind of their intentions to stop. I

know there is a fear of being struck from behind, but all riders should be alert and aware of traffic signals as we approach an intersection. It is desired that the lead riders slow their pace to allow the group to catch up. Besides the obvious safety issue of wrongfully running a red light, stopping makes us look good in the eyes of the driving public.

All the club officers wish the members a happy and safe holiday. There will be lots of traffic on the roads so be careful.

Be safe and enjoy the ride.....*Gary*



Hike For Hope

Lisa Scorziell is hosting the Hike For Hope fundraiser. It's a great cause. Geno and Lisa have been active members of the Desert Bike Club for many years and have hosted several social events for club members at their beautiful homes in Palm Spring and Newport Beach.

Lisa would greatly appreciate any club members and their families who have the time to participate in

this event. The 8th Annual Hike For Hope is Sunday March 8, 2006 in the Indian Canyons of Palm Springs. It is a non-competitive family awareness and fund a cure for women's cancer research at the City Of Hope. The Coachella Valley Hiking Club provides leaders, centers, and sweeps, to guide hikers using seven different trails. Ranging from easy (1

mile) to moderate (3 to 7) miles up strenuous (8 to 10 miles). So depending on how much time and energy you have that day you can choose a hike just for your oriented hiking event. Hosted by Banner Mattress, please visit our web site to register and get more information on this healthy event! www.hike4hope.com

Bob Gaddini Memorial

This year, we had 56 riders who came out on a very cold day to pay tribute to our fallen comrade. Bob Gaddini.

The group incorporated the memorial ride with our Saturday ride. We had a police escort from the Palm Desert Park to the Atrium on Hwy 111 in Rancho Mirage where Bob lost his life while riding his bike.

Reverend Dan Perkins

spoke for a few minutes to the group reminding us that Bob was an exceptional individual who always gave back to the community. Bob's special passion was school aged children. He was the Chaplin at Christian School of the Desert. Students and friends have created a memorial to Bob at the school located in Bermuda Dunes.

One of Bob's favorite

sayings was "thanks for the pull bro" as he cycled with his friends in the club.

Also thanks to Lt. Mark Barfknecht from the Riverside Sheriff Indio Station for volunteering their time and effort on our behalf. We will make a contribution to the Latino Police Officers Association on behalf of the club.



Rev. Dan speaks at memorial 03



Ride For the Roses by Gary Lueders

RIDE FOR THE ROSES by Gary Lueders

As many of you know, my son and I are fundraisers for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. Spencer lives in Charlotte and started the 24 Hours of Booty fund raising ride on the locally famous Booty Loop, a three mile loop in a nice part of town where folks run and ride. This was the fourth year with 800 riders raising \$275,000 dollars split between LAF and the Brain Tumor Fund of the Carolinas. Many riders form a team and camp on the athletic field of nearby Queens College. The entire course is coned off with police stationed at key intersections. A support area is set up in a parking lot with food, energy drinks, massages, mechanical support, and vendors.

Every year, Lance and his foundation

puts on the Ride for the Roses in Austin, TX as an appreciation weekend for the fundraisers, who are referred to as Peloton Project members. LAF is all about cancer survivorship and many members of the Peloton Project are survivors. This year, Spencer made arrangements to have 14 year old Brandon and family from Charlotte come to Austin. Brandon is currently going through treatments for a brain tumor.

Friday night is a big Texas style barbeque awards dinner at a ranch, complete with mechanical bull riding and buckboard rides. Lance presented Spencer with the Messenger Award for having the most contacts with different people who made contributions to LAF. Spencer then dedicated the award to Brandon and gave him the award; a framed jersey signed

by Lance, telling the audience that survivors like Brandon are what LAF is all about. Needless to say, it was a special moment and the crowd went wild with emotion and applause. The look on Brandon's face when Lance shook his hand will be remembered by everyone.

The weekend is also about riding. Friday, Lance does a "private" ride with the top fundraisers. Saturday is a local shop ride and Sunday is the Ride for the Roses Century. Notable riders with Lance were George Hincapie, Davis Phinney, and Robin Williams. Yes, Robin is a good rider and can hang at 25+mph. Many of the rest stops are run by survivors who are very appreciative of our efforts. The after-ride party at the fairgrounds is a lot of fun, complete with food, drinks, and a rock concert. This is our fourth year and we will be back next year.



Gary Lueders gives Lance some cycling tips



Lance greets kids at ride

WOW by April Jones

I would like to rename the WOW article for this month G.O.W., as in *Girl on Wheels*, in honor of my seven-year-old daughter Maya. For the past few years, my daughter has had a love/hate relationship with the bike (hey, don't we all at some time or another). It all started three years ago when the Easter bunny brought her a shiny new purple and pink bicycle WITHOUT training wheels. I don't know if it was my enthusiasm or she was genuinely thrilled for the gift, but we imagined together all the possibilities the freedom of a bike would bring to her. The thrill was gone within 1 minute on that bike. The fear would paralyze her and every time she would lift her hands off the handle bars and turn her head resulting in that inevitable fall. Every few months we would try again, only due to my prodding and essentially begging. She was an energetic kid with decent athletic abilities... I couldn't understand why she just couldn't seem to get the hang of it. We lugged that bike everywhere kids were riding bikes just to lure some interest in her. We schlepped it to Hurkey Creek countless times where the soft rolling hills were sure to excite her or at

least cushion the falls. No luck.

Three weeks ago, I decided that it was ridiculous for us to hold on to a beautiful bike that some kid would love to ride. Maya clearly didn't have an interest and I was just going to have to live with it. My intention was purely charitable, but it worked like a charm. I told her that we would try one more time to ride the bike and if she didn't get it, we would give it to some needy child. We could always try bike riding another time, but meanwhile some little girl out there could really be appreciating this purple and pink speed machine. With helmets donned and tires pumped, we headed out with high hopes. One shove and she was off! I ran back to the garage to grab a bike of my own and we headed out to explore the neighborhood. We were gone for 2 hours! We only came home because it was getting dark. The next day we headed back out for more exploration of the neighborhood. This time we packed snacks and drinks – I didn't want her to bonk on the second

bike ride of her life. We saw rabbits, we admired the neighbors' well-manicured lawns, we stopped to pet dogs, we found nooks and crannies we never knew existed, but most of all, we talked. Two hours of sightseeing, talking, laughing is the most wonderful way to spend an afternoon and to spend it with someone you love is icing on the cake. Now it's time to have a little chat with Santa Claus about something a little more aerodynamic.

Finally, we all need to congratulate Joni Miller on her noteworthy efforts this past fall in helping raise money for two excellent causes— Arthritis and Parkinson's disease. Neither event was a cruise around the neighborhood. The Arthritis Foundation ride took her all the way down the coast from San Francisco through Big Sur and ending up in Santa Monica. She rode for the Parkinsons Association in the Tour de Tucson, helping to raise over \$27,000. Thank you Joni for making a difference through your love of cycling.

Happy Holidays to all.
Have fun. Be safe.

Oat brand

“One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada” is a 5 day, 425 mile fully supported ride along US Hwy 50. With only a few small towns and not much traffic, a 1985 article in Life Magazine called it the “loneliest road in America”. And that’s part of what makes this an awesome bike ride. It is limited to 50 riders because of the limited motel rooms along the way.

This September, Tom Wellmen and I did the ride with our club Treasurer Wayne Harvey and his long time cycling friend, Don Jenkins. This was Wayne’s **NINTH** OATBRAN!! Next year he will get a free ride as it ride director Curtis Fong’s policy to give the tenth ride free. Tom and Don had done it once before as well as many other riders, so you know it must be good with so many repeaters.

It is well organized with rolling support, bags transported to the next motel, and sag stops about every 20 miles. Meals were provided

by local organizations such as a 4H Club, Senior Citizen Center, a Chamber of Commerce, and a high school cheerleader group.

The ride starts on Hwy 50 at the California/Nevada border in South Lake Tahoe and goes over Spooner Summit at 7149’ for the 2400’ descent to Carson City. Destination was Fallon for a total of 91 miles. Fallon is home of the Navy’s Top Gun School and we saw several low level flights of hot fighter jocks in tight formation.

The second day on the road to Austin was the longest at 113 miles and 4700’ of climbing. The following day was the shortest at 70 miles, but started with a climb to Austin Summit at 7484’. They make a big deal about the Pony Express and stage routes that traveled this way in the late 1800’s. Some of the roadhouses looked as if they were the original stage stops.

Much of the road was straight and flat as it went through huge valleys during the first couple of days. However, we as we got further east, I was surprised to find us climbing passes that were higher than Lake Tahoe. Day four was from Austin to Ely with 79 miles and 3900’ with climbs over Pinto Summit at 7476’ and Little Antelope Summit at 7433’. This was followed by the last day’s ride to the Utah border after climbing Conner Pass at 7723’ and Sacramento Pass at 7154’.

Just to the south we could see snow on Wheeler Peak at 13,063’ in the Great Basin National Park.

It is the eastern part of the state that puts the “awe” in awesome, but it’s also the entire experience of a well organized event that gets riders to return. Next years OATBRAN? Wayne would like to have more club members join him on his free ride, so let him know if you are interested. I sure am.



Wayne, Gary and Tom



Riding through the big valley

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We're on the Web!

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GOLF CART PARADE 2006

The club has been asked to act as parade marshals at Palm Desert's annual Golf Cart Parade on Sunday afternoon, January 8th. Those who did it last year thought it was fun and the parade officials felt like it was very helpful. You wear an event t-shirt and ride along with the floats to keep things moving and assist where needed. Last year Evan provided cruiser bikes for riders who did not.

This is a good opportunity to help out

in a community event and present cycling to the public in a useful way instead of being seen as an annoyance on the road. We need volunteers to ride as marshals and also to help with our float. Drop an e-mail to the club (cycleclub@yahoo.com) or tell one of the board members. Check your calendars, come on out and have fun. Volunteer – you'll enjoy it.



Golf cart floats in parade



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