

**March
2006**

Desert Bicycle Club Blazing Saddles

Special Interest Articles:

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Presidential Message by Gary Lueders

The inner workings of the bike club are rolling along at a steady pace. We've revised our bylaws and appointed three At-Large Board members: Jack Tiano, David Firestone, and Peter St. Louis. These past presidents have been serving as unofficial 'club advisors', but this newly created position now gives them an official vote on club matters.

The board has begun the process of upgrading the club's web site. We have contacted one web builder and will consider others once we determine what we want to present on the site and how we want it to look. We

hope to have it up and running by next season.

As established in the new bylaws, the change of officers is now set for July 1st. This makes for an easier transition during the summer so new officers will be up to speed when the next season rolls around. If you would like to serve as a board member, please let me know.

We are working on the remote ride schedule for the summer months. We intend to continue the Hurkey Creek picnics and rides up at the cooler, higher elevations at this state park less than an hours drive up Hwy. 74. We are also

planning on remote riding close to the ocean like we did last summer. Look for an e-mail about these rides when we have them set.

Thanks to Jack for including many good pictures in this edition Blazing Saddles. I know that you may not like sitting at your computer for very long, so print a hard copy so you can read it at your leisure. Thanks for reading,
Gary Club Prez

The Big Parade



The bike club had an entry in this year's Palm Desert Golf Cart Parade. You may be asking "WHY"? Simply put, a positive image in the community. We are a member of the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce for the same reason. We are not just about riding fast and disrupting traffic.

Club member and golf cart business owner Todd Larsen graciously allowed us to use one of his carts to develop the float. Mondo did his artistic magic by

creating 'the gizmo' that was attached to the back of a trainer that Photo Phil road on the platform driven by Gary. Jumper cables attached to the gizmo gave the illusion that Phil was generating electricity to run the cart. The theme of the cart was "Clean energy thru cycling to keep the future bright", which fit in with this year's theme of "The future's so bright, you gotta wear shades."

Riding a borrowed high wheeler was Elvis (aka club VP Mark), complete with white cape and Elvis hair under his helmet. The sign on his bike read "The Future: keep it bright, ride a bike." Needless to say, he was a big hit.

And a big THANK YOU to club members who served as parade marshals, riding along with the floats to keep them moving. Also thanks to Evan for supplying cruiser bikes. It was good service to the community and fun to do.

Spring Picnic



Chef Tom demonstrates his cooking skills!

Once again David and Christine Sercu will be hosting a backyard gathering at their lovely home on Clancy Lane in Rancho Mirage. This is a family event with plenty for the kids to do. A large side yard for Frisbee or playing catch, plus a heated pool for the kids or you tri-athletes who need a few extra laps.

Start arriving around 4:30 for backyard fun,

eating will begin around 6pm. The bike club will provide burgers, beans, & hotdogs. To help defray some of the costs, we will have a kitty with a suggested contribution of \$5 each. BYOB your own 'adult beverage', the club will provide soft drinks. If you have a special dish (desert) you would like to share with everyone, please bring.

Directions: Enter Clancy Lane from Bob Hope Dr and proceed east. Turn left into the last gated area on the left just prior to the east gate exit. Look for the waterfall and a guard. Once thru the gate, turn right immediately. The house is on the right.

BE THERE – THIS IS AN EVENT YOU WILL NOT FORGET.

Bike Club Receives Award by Gary Lueders

The Desert Bicycle Club was recently presented an award by Jim Foote from the Bureau of Land Management. The award reads: "Desert Bicycle Club: In appreciation of your advocacy for trails in the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument 2006." In accepting the award on behalf of the club, our President Gary Lueders stated: "This award represents cooperation between trail users and governmental

agencies to promote reasonable and environmentally sensitive trail use. The bike club, along with the other member organizations of the Desert Trails Coalition, stands ready to assist in any way we can."

Gary is on the coalition board and has worked closely with other members, speaking at CVAG public meetings of the Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan. That effort caused the

public agencies to back off of their original idea of a highly restrictive limited permit trail use plan. In addition, Doug Hunt and Gary, along with members of the hiking clubs, spent many hours doing trail work on the newly constructed Art Smith bypass trail.

If any of our club members would like to get more involved with trail advocacy, please e-mail Gary at the club's address: cycleclub@yahoo.com.



Gary receives award from BLW's Jim Foote

Joshua Tree Metric Century

The first annual Joshua Tree National Park metric century was a great success. We started at the West entrance to the park and cycled passed the spectacular rock formations that fill that part of the park. We could see rock climbers scaling many of the rock formations that reached several hundred feet into the blue sky filled with patches of white puffy clouds. The 75 degree temperature was ideal

for cycling through the park.

Half way through the ride Rich Stenton and Claudia Cargill staffed the sag stop and were ready to provide assistance to the group. Riders encountered a slight head wind as they left the sag stop for the lunch time picnic at the Cotton Wood camp grounds. After eating a hearty lunch, the group cycled 7

miles downhill to the entrance to the park where we loaded the bikes and headed back to the Palm Desert Park.

Special thanks to Rich Stenton who drove the truck, Claudia Cargill who helped with the shuttle van and last but not least Janet Wellman who helped with the picnic and driving.



Judy Tiano enjoying the ride in Joshua Tree



Cyclists do 7 mile downhill

My First Century by David Cooper

It's 3am, February 4th, a week before the Tour de Palm Springs. I have just awoken with a blizzard of thoughts and concerns about the ride. I am absolutely paranoid about having to change flats. I have no mechanical abilities and two left thumbs and if I get a flat, my day will be ruined. Let's hope those tire strips Lee told me about work. They are supposed to be installed next week.

However, other issues are also buzzing around in my head, like: What the heck am I thinking? These guys I want to ride with have been riding for decades and doing these kinds of things for a long time. I've only been riding for six months. What makes me think I can hang with these guys? What am I going to wear? What am I going to bring to drink and eat? Do I need to take my cellphone, it sure does add to the weight? Gary said to pick up your packet the day before. Where do I do that? Sometimes the line between terror and excitement is rather thin. In this case, testosterone wins out. Sometimes being compulsive and a planner is a real pain. I think I got back to sleep around 4:30.

I got a little more sleep the next week. I think I woke up

around 4 am for the ride. The start was a little hectic, but eventually the group thinned out and we were on our way. I was absolutely amazed at the number of flats we saw going up Dillon, all caused by goatheads, or as Lee put it "Natures thumbtack". You know how worried I am about flats, but I had my strips, and Lee said everything would be cool.

I got dropped at the bottom of the Dillon grade, but managed to rejoin the group at the Dillon SAG stop. Not much of a break, but I was still with them. About a mile after the stop, my back tire starts to feel a little strange, so I asked Drew if it looked okay. He wasn't sure, so at the next light I checked it, and it was low. My heart just sunk, because you know how I panic about changing flats. I couldn't see anything wrong, but it was low on air, not flat, so I pumped some CO2 into it and took off. Of course the group had left me behind, so I was riding solo.

A couple of miles later a group that included Mark and Photo Phil caught

me and I hooked up with them. About 15 miles later, I started to hear something from my back tire, but I just ignored it (you know how concerned I am about changing flats). Just before we got to Jefferson, the guy behind me mentioned the noise, so with a sigh of consternation I pulled over once again to check it out. The tire had not lost any pressure but I found a bubble on the tire itself. I was overjoyed when I realized if the tire blew my day would be over but I wouldn't have to change a flat (you know how I am about that). So I jumped back on my bike and rode solo to the next SAG stop at Fritz Burns Park.

I was just getting there as my original group was leaving, so I asked them for one minute so that I could clean my glasses and get some liquids. I still hadn't eaten anything, and I really had not thought about it, I was too worried about my tire and getting dropped again. So, off we went towards home. I looked at my computer and realized that we might finish in about 5 hours (riding time) and was astounded that I might be able to do that on my first one. However, there

My First Century *continued*

was still about 25 miles left, so I had to buckle down and stay with the group.

Things went fine until the grade up Country Club. I seemed to be laboring more than I should. Then, just shortly after we turned onto Frank Sinatra, I bonked. It is an interesting sensation when you realize that the tank is empty and you aren't going any further for the

school and that my riding time was 5 hours 25 minutes. Not bad, considering the last twelve miles weren't all that fast. And I didn't have to change a flat, you know how paranoid I am about that. All things considered it was a memorable day. Is it too early to start thinking about next year?

moment. I sat for about 5 minutes, walked for a couple of minutes, and then got gingerly back on the bike and made my way to the last SAG stop. I rested and drank some more and then made my way to the finish.

My computer indicated elapsed time was 6 hours 10 minutes when I got back to the high



Only 90 more miles !

Road Rage

There is no question that **Road Rage** is dangerous. A driver goes berserk and attempts to get



revenge. It is especially bad if a cyclist or group of riders causes a driver to go into a rage. An incident occurred on a Sunday morning

last month when a driver on El Paseo blew his horn many times at a small group of riders on their way to the bagel shop. The driver pulled into the parking lot and, after being asked why he was blowing his horn, physically assaulted one of the riders.

There are times when a cyclist gets ticked off and goes into **Bike Rage**. For obvious reasons, it is not good to confront a

driver. We should strive to ride in a responsible and orderly manner. Your actions on the road today may have a negative reaction on a cyclist tomorrow.

Bike Rage toward another rider is really bad, as it could take out many riders. A few months ago, an incident occurred when one rider kicked another causing him to go down. Violent behavior on a bike ride demonstrates a



What not to do !

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Road Rage continued

lack of class and the inability to control emotions. In other words,

BACK OFF!!

This also applies after the ride. A good public image is important to this club. If an incident occurred during the ride, **let it slide after the ride!** Control emotions and disengage. A top class rider sets a good

example for others to follow, is humble, and gracious, not boastful and arrogant. There is nothing "elite" about violent behavior and it has no place on a club ride and will not be tolerated. Cycling is about fun and enjoyment. Let us all work toward sharing this experience with our fellow riders.



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Joshua Tree Ride