

THE SPOKESMAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE AIKEN BICYCLE CLUB, INC.
Member Club in the LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 7, 1996 at 6:30

at the **Home of Donna & Brian Bogardus**, 778 Boardman Road, Aiken

Bring a nibble food and your favorite potent potable, soft drinks will be supplied.

NEW MEMBERS: Frank V. Robinson III & Dan P. Smith.

RENEWED MEMBERS: Doug & Alice Walker and Wendell Williams.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS-FIRST CALL: Doug & Rae Felix, Gene & Gloria Luder and Carol Hamilton.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS-LAST CALL: Louis Hernandez and Lorin Hammomnd-Ross.

The club now has 60 members.

MEETING MINUTES: New President Jaye Pearce called the January meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Ten members were present at the Stoplight Deli along with 3 guests, Brian, Robyn & Emily Gilden (Mike & Diane's son and family from way out west.) When asked for the Treasurer's Report, George Bizub replied, "Somewhere around there." We finally pinned him down to \$594.97. **Old**

Business: 1} The 1995 winners of the Sunday Wonder Contest were announced. Bill Young with 438 miles won the Men's Division and Diane Gilden won the Women's Division with 312 miles. T-shirts were awarded. Brian Bogardus designed a really spiffy shirt, unfortunately he forgot his place in the universal time continuum and had 1996 mileage champ printed on them. (Ed. Note. Since neither person had wore the shirt, they were collected and will be used next year when they will make more sense. New shirts have been designed with 1995 on them and given to both Bill and Diane.) **2}** The Ride Leader of the

Quarter for Oct/Nov/Dec was chosen by drawing. Congratulations to Doug Felix who is now \$25 richer. **3}** Brian Bogardus made a motion to do away with the Quarterly Ride Leader prize drawing. When he devised this little fiasco last January he thought it would increase Ride Leader volunteers. It didn't. All it did was pay people who were doing it, and would do it, for free. Diane Gilden seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. **New Business: 1}** Jaye Pearce brought up a request from the League of American Bicyclists to help sponsor programs in bicycle education countrywide. Much discussion ensued on the concern of the lowering level of our Treasury. Further, some members felt that programs at home would be more beneficial to the club and our community. While others felt that judging from past club efforts to this end, just donating the money and letting the LAB do the work would be a painless way to ease our educational commitment. Further discussion was

tabled until after the century in order to determine what moneys would be available. **2}** Along the same lines, George Bizub recommended purchasing videos on bicycle safety to donate to the Aiken Public Library. The President directed George to look into these videos. **3}** 1996 Spring Century Stuff. [a] It will be held Sunday April 28th. (not the 21st as originally discussed at the meeting.) [b] John Matthews will have overall responsibility for the successful running of the century itself. [c] Diane Gilden is soliciting

sponsors and so far responses have been positive. [d] Mike & Diane Gilden will be responsible for publicity. [e] Gene Luder will be responsible for obtaining the services of the ham radio operators and the preparation of the flyers. [f] It was decided that the entry fee would be \$12 before March 20, and \$15 thereafter. [g] A Dutch-treat pre-ride dinner is planned at Ryans at 7:00 P.M. the 27th of April. [h] The T-shirt committee will include Gene Luder, Jaye Pearce & Cindy DeFrancesco.

1996 Sunday Wonder T-shirt Contest

Men's Division

RIDER'S NAME	MILES
Mike Gilden	36
John Matthews	22
Jay Noonkester	14
Bill Young	5

Women's Division

RIDER'S NAME	MILES
Cindy DeFrancesco	37
Jaye Pearce	37
Donna Bogardus	37
Diane Gilden	36
Carole Nacon	22

WHENCE & WHITHER: ...Dec 30, Bill Young showed up at Weeks even though it was about 5° below the 45° limit, just in case any other die hards wanted to go for his and Bo Diddley's birthday ride. Finding nobody there he went home.

As the day wore on it got warmer and warmer, so Bill headed out Ridge Spring way and rode one mile for every year he has been breathing, 67.

...Dec 31, Gelid. **...Jan 1**, Doug and Alice Walker showed up at Odell Weeks to lead the ride to Aiken State Park in what they both admit was marginal weather for sane cyclists. When no one else showed up, they rode over to the house of Bogardi to find some cycling companions.

Luckily, for Brian and Donna, they were out eating lunch, so the Walkers couldn't coerce them into the cold on a bike. **...Jan 5**, Clint Johnson's holiday visit to Tennessee was moved from Christmas time until this weekend so he wasn't around to lead his moonlight levee ride. Which was fine as, if memory serves, going outside on this night was to risk horripilation. **...Jan 7**,

There was no designated ride leader today, which

was a good thing as there was no ride. It was a cold and wintry day that will be known forever as the "Blizzard of 96." Forty inches of snow in Washington, D.C., thirty-six inches of snow in New York City and 24 flakes in Aiken, S.C.

...Jan 13, Algid. **...Jan 14**, Mike Gilden lead his wife Diane and Jay Noonkester on a 14 mile ride today. Jeff Stoddard was spotted, in a blur no doubt. Their route also intersected with Bill Young's, so he rode with the group for about 5 miles. **...Jan 20**, After numerous hours glued to the Weather Channel (I also, can watch Kristina Abernathy tirelessly) Jay Noonkester decided that the weather was a little too boreal for the trip to Fort Gordon. He called the usual suspects and canceled. **...Jan 21**, Donna Bogardus (Miss Punctuality 1973) lead Cindy DeFrancesco and Jaye Pearce on 15 windy miles, only one of which had a tailwind. Bill Young (Agent 86) who swears his watch said 12:59, "missed it by that much." **...Jan 27**, Pluvial. **...Jan 28**, On the second official Moderate (13-16 mph) Sunday ride the seven participants finished in three groups.

Donna Bogardus and John Matthews must have averaged 16. A few minutes later, Ride Leader Jaye Pearce, Carole Nacon and Cindy

DeFrancesco finished, followed by Mike and Diane Gilden who rode at the low end of the moderate spectrum.

BUY ME ! BUY ME ! BUY ME ! BUY ME ! BUY ME ! BUY ME !

Cadex CFR-1 59 cm Carbon Fiber road bike with Shimano 600 Ultegra/STI. \$500. Brian Bogardus <642-0767>

Shogun road bike Indexed 105 stuff. Great starter road bike. Around 2 bills. Jay Noonkester <648-4599>

Rollerblade Coolbade ABTs Size 9. Nearly New! (they were too small) \$170. A \$250 value. Bobby Harison <641-0910>

Schwinn Airdyne Brand new condition with a 2-1/2 year coat of dust. Make an offer. Leslie Romano <649-6204>

Century T-shirts 1995 version. Blue 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Med. or Large just \$2.99 each. Call Brian <642-0767>

A Holiday Sermonette

By Harold Runyon

(OK, so it's past the holidays, but I just found this little essay and the sentiment is still appropriate - Brian)

The older I get, the more grateful I become for my good luck. In some ways it hasn't been so good: I dropped out of college just in time to miss an undefeated season for the rowing team I'd been on, one they capped with a trip to the Henley regatta, in England, something I'd dreamed of for years; spent two years and tons of money going to film school and never sold a screenplay or got any other kind of work in the movies; went on an expedition in Nepal with some friends, telling myself on the two-week approach hike that on the north ridge of a 7220-meter peak called Baruntse I'd finally have my Henley, the great adventure of my life, and then came down with dysentery when it was time to go onto the mountain. Then there's been the usual assortment of lost loves, and some friends and relatives who've died too soon.

All those memories stalk me now and again. But for every day when I flash back to one of them there's a day when I wake up fantastically restored from a great sleep; or go out at dusk on a winter afternoon to run along Chicago's lakefront, trot out onto a breakwater, turn back toward the city, and find I'm seeing through an atmosphere so clear that everything, but everything, is beautiful to look at; or set out to make some simple piece of food like an omelette, and with no conscious effort somehow do everything right—no unfortunate burner setting, no sticking spatula, no inept toss that tears the almost-finished product in two—and end up with something so perfect that I have to thank the eggs and olive oil and black pepper for existing before I can jab it with a fork.

This does have something to do with cycling. Life can suck, but it can also be good, and at this time of year especially we should remind ourselves of our blessings. If you're bummed because you had a bad season or can't find that new bike or titanium doodad at the price you want to pay, take a moment to think how lucky you are to be involved in cycling at all. A bike is a marvelous machine, and many human beings can't afford to own one of any kind, much less eat well enough and sleep well enough and put in the necessary training to ride 40 kilometers in less than an hour or even an hour and a half. When things in our sport don't seem so hot, let's remember that lots of people spend their days and nights worrying about things far uglier than training routines and race schedules and equipment discounts. (If you have trouble holding this thought in mind, see the movie *Hoop Dreams*.) Let's be grateful that we have a sport and the time and material wealth to be somehow involved in it. Let's be conscious of our good fortune.

FEBRUARY RIDE SCHEDULE

All rides meet and leave from the Odell Weeks Activity Center on Whiskey Road in Aiken unless otherwise noted. Rides are canceled if the roads are wet or if the temperature is below 45° F or above 100° F.

E=Easy, 10-12 mph pace, frequent stops. **M**=Moderate, 13-16 mph pace, occasional stops.

D=Difficult, >16 mph pace, few if any stops.

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- Sat Feb 10 11:00 AM** **Plimsoll Line Ride.** Join Jaye Pearce <642-3856> on a day to remember Samuel Plimsoll, born 2/10/1824. He was a Member of British Parliament who spoke out against the practice of overloading heavily insured ships, calling them "coffin ships." Henceforth, the maximum load allowed by law on a ship is marked by a line named for him. (35 miles/M)
- Sun Feb 11 1:00 PM** **White Shirt Day Ride.** Cindy DeFrancesco <642-3856> leads. All "blue-collar" workers should wear a white shirt, symbolic of the working man's dignity won following a UAW-GM agreement ending a 44 day sit-down strike in 1937. (20-25 miles/M)
- Sat Feb 17 8:00 AM** **Track Kitchen Ride.** The *Cold Weather Rule is suspended* for this ride. Don your warm woollies and bring your wallet as we cycle with Doug Walker <649-5929> on this 1.5 miler to the Track Kitchen, an Aiken institution deep in the heart of horse country, to put on the breakfast feedbag. (3 miles/E)
- Sun Feb 18 1:00 PM** **Milk the Flying Cow Ride.** In 1930 Elm Farm Ollie became the first cow to fly in an airplane. While airborne she was milked and the milk was then sealed in paper containers and parachuted out over St. Louis, Missouri. Today's pilot is Diane Gilden <649-4130>. (10-15 miles/M)
- Sat Feb 24 10:00 AM** **Impeach the President Ride.** John Matthews <649-4723> leads the proceedings, but not against Bill or Hilary. In an escalating showdown over reconstruction policy following the Civil War, the House of Representatives voted to impeach President Andrew Johnson on February 24, 1867. (25 miles/M)
- Sun Feb 25 1:00 PM** **Robert Larimore Birthday Ride.** Ride Leader Doug Felix <649-1780>, master of the two-handed drop shot, would not not have lost the tennis battle of the sexes to Billie Jean King as did today's birthday boy. (15-20 miles/M)
- Sat Mar 2 8:00 AM** **One Bike, Two Bike, Red Bike, Blue Bike Ride.** Road bike, track bike, old bike, new bike. This one has a little pail. This one is shaped like a whale. But today you need the one for the trail. Put it on the rack, maybe bring a snack. Brian Bogardus <642-0767> will take you back to where the pavement is lack. It's Dr. Suess's birthday, Jack. (6-12 miles/M)
- Sun Mar 3 1:00 PM** **I Want You to be Happy Day Ride.** This day is dedicated to reminding people to be thoughtful of others even when things aren't going well for themselves. Donna Bogardus <642-0767> promises to be kind to you on this ride. (15-20 miles/M)

NEW-NEW-NEW Helmets are encouraged on all Aiken Bike Club rides. **NEW-NEW-NEW**