

# THE SPOKESMAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE AIKEN BICYCLE CLUB, INC.

Member Club in the **League Of American Bicyclists** and the **Palmetto Cycling Coalition**

**NEW MEMBERS:** Reilly & Virginia Hammond and Marc & Lou Papouchado.

**RENEWED MEMBERS:** Clint Johnson & Elizabeth Arnold, Jaye Pearce & Cindy DeFrancesco, Mark Giffin and Jon & Deirdre Lunn.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS-FIRST CALL:** Tom Hinton, Dan P. Smith & Wendell Williams.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS-LAST CALL:** Jochen Ewing, Carole Nacon & Jim Novak

**The club now has 57 members.**

## MEETINGS:

As always, the first **Wednesday** of the month.



## FOR DECEMBER:

Dec 4, 1996 at 7:00  
at the home of  
**Brian & Donna Bogardus**  
778 Boardman Road  
Be there at 6:30 if you are  
eating, 7:00 if not.



## FOR JANUARY:

Jan 8, 1997 at 7:00  
at the **Stoplight Deli**  
116 Laurens Street.  
Be there at 6:30 if you are  
eating, 7:00 if not.

## MEETING MINUTES:

The November meeting was called to order by Vice President Jay Noonkester at the Stoplight Deli at 7:10pm. There were thirteen members in attendance, including new member Reilly Hammond. Jay passed around a get well card for the President (the other Jaye) who was in the hospital. The Treasurer, George Bizub, reported a checking account balance of \$1653.71.

### Old Business:

1} Leading off the meeting was the **Fun With Taxes Committee** and you really had to be here for this one. Carol Nacon and Jaye Pearce had earlier filed a non-profit tax return. The Club received a letter back from the IRS in Atlanta telling us that we filed the wrong tax form because they have no record of

our being a non-profit organization. Carole and Jaye then prepared the 20 page IRS form to obtain this status for us. Now Carole believes that because we don't take in more than \$5,000 a year we don't even have to file a tax return, non-profit or otherwise. The plan was, that once Carole and Jaye got the Federals satisfied, they would then file with the state. Too late. This past month the Club received a registered letter from the Secretary of State for South Carolina informing us that we are no longer incorporated. Much discussion then ensued about why did we and why should we be incorporated. A motion was made to form a committee to look into whether we should or

shouldn't be incorporated, but no one seconded it. As it stands now, Carole will write a letter to the IRS informing them that we rescind our earlier filing of a non-profit return and now intend not to file at all, due to the fact that we don't have an income exceeding \$5,000. 2} Jay Noonkester then reported on our philanthropic efforts. The Let's Spend Some Money Committee now proposes to donate \$1,200 of Bike Club money and 72 hours of Bike Club labor to the City's Parks and Recreation Department to build a mountain bike style trail in the woods surrounding Citizen's Park on Banks Mill Road. After a couple of songs from *The City Will Take Our Money & Run Chorus* and the *Oh No, We'll Go Bankrupt Singers* the monetary amount that will appear in our proposal to the city was reduced to \$500. Jay will set up a meeting with Terry Reinhart, the Director of Aiken Parks & Recreation, to see if he likes this idea. 3} The See If We Can Find Someone to Run the Show Committee reported the suckering, er, volunteering of four warm bodies to fill the ABC offices for 1997. For President, Jay Noonkester; for Vice President, George Bizub; for Treasurer, Clint Johnson and for Secretary, Donna Bogardus.

If you, or someone you know, would like to hold one of these offices, please come to the December meeting, because as always, nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting. 🐾 **New Business:** 1} Clint Johnson was approached by Bill Victor, a concerned mountain biker, about getting some local riders together to do maintenance on the trails in the Sumter National Forrest. Some of these trails are starting to get a little ragged from all the use. In the past those of us who ride these trails have depended on Boy Scouts and the wood nymphs to keep things ship shape. It is time for us, the people who use the woods, to do our fair share. Bill is organizing a trail working party for Sunday, December 8th at 12 noon at the Stevens Creek (AKA, Modoc) trail. There is a signup sheet in Cyclesport, please go and put your name down to help out. If we keep on not putting back what we take out, someday, maybe soon, the closest place to ride off-road will be in western North Carolina. 🐾 The ride schedule for December was formulated and the meeting was adjourned.

---

### 1996 Sunday Wonder T-shirt Contest

#### Men's Division

RIDER'S NAME	MILES
Brian Bogardus	292
Jay Noonkester	261
Bill Young	223
Curt Sexton	178
Mike Gilden	169

#### Women's Division

RIDER'S NAME	MILES
Donna Bogardus	442
Carole Nacon	181
Jaye Pearce	169
Diane Gilden	155
Cindy DeFrancesco	145

WHENCE & WHITHER: ...Nov 2, It rained. ...Nov 3, It was cold. ...Nov 9, It was still cold. ...Nov 10, It was 1:00pm and not as cold. It was just barely above the 45° limit as the ride leader, Donna Bogardus, and her husband Brian, waited at Odell Weeks hoping that no one would show up so they could go back home and stay inside for the afternoon. Just when they thought they would be lucky, Curt Sexton rode up. Darn. While amiably chatting with Curt, and looking for an opening to ask him if it was all right to call the whole thing

off, up pedaled George Bizub. Now they were stuck., the ride must go on. And as it so often works out, once they were riding the Bogardi were happy to be there. So much so, they jumped at the chance when Curt suggested going a little further, seeing as Trolley Line Road was so smooth. Off into the valley they went. ...Nov 16, More cold. ...Nov 17, Clint Johnson, Clint Webb and Shereen Ferguson went mountain biking as they usually do on a Sunday morning. One thing different this time though, it was a Club ride, so I get to write about

it in the newsletter. ...Nov 22, It was 7:15pm and not so cold. It was just barely above the 45° limit as the ride leader, Brian Bogardus, and his wife Donna, waited at the Confederate Powder Works Chimney hoping that someone would show up so they could ride the levee. They were unlucky again, this time nobody came out to play. Brian and Donna went to the Pink Dipper and drowned their sorrows in ice cream. ...Nov 24, Donna &

Brian Bogardus, Clint Johnson, Bill Young and George Bizub all rode out to Cedar Creek to help with their annual Turkey Trot run. Also there helping out were Bobbie & Ann Carter and Carole Nacon. This was the Bike Club debut for Clint's, literally, squeaky clean new road machine. His Cannondale developed a crack so he bought a new blue to green fade steel frame from the fine folks at Independent Fabrication.

---

## How Specs Live Forever

The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates. Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they try to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts. So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in

Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Thus we have the answer to the original questions. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot. Specs and Bureaucracies live forever. So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war horses.

—author anon., passed on by Professor Tom O'Hare  
Germanic Languages University of Texas at Austin.

---

Aiken Bicycle Club

**Holiday Party**

St oplight Deli, Sat ursday, December 7t h at 8:00 PM

## December RIDE SCHEDULE

All rides meet and leave from the Odell Weeks Activity Center on Whiskey Road in Aiken unless otherwise noted. Helmets are encouraged for all participants of Aiken Bicycle Club rides. The 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.

<b>Sun Dec 8</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Trail Maintenance Work Party</b> Meet Bill Victor at the Stevens Creek (AKA, Modoc) trail with your shovels, picks, rakes, etc. to help preserve our privilege of mountain biking in the Sumter National Forrest.
<b>Sun Dec 8</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>E</b>	<b>Collapse of the Evil Empire Ride</b> Gene Luder <641-1801> takes us on a ride on the 5th anniversary of the dissolution of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. (10-15 miles/E)
<b>Sat Dec 14</b> <b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Bottom of the World Ride</b> The South Pole was “discovered” by Roald Amundsen, 4 companions and 52 sled dogs on this date in 1911. The reason George Bizub <649-5417> can’t pin down the exact mileage of today’s ride is that the location of the pole varies due to shifting ice packs. (20-40 miles/M)
<b>Sun Dec 15</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>E</b>	<b>Lazarus Ludovic Zamenhof Birthday Ride</b> Born near the borders of Lithuania, Poland and Byelorussia and growing up surrounded by all those different languages, L.L. saw a need for an international tongue, so he invented Esperanto. Coincidentally, Lazarus Zamenhof translated into Esperanto is Doug Felix <649-1780>, today’s leader’s name. (10-15 miles/E)
<b>Sat Dec 21</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Boy It’s Dark Out Here Ride</b> On National Flashlight Day & the longest night of the year, Brian Bogardus <642-0767> will lead a ride after the sun goes down. Crack open a fresh pack of Duracells for this one, <b>lights will be required.</b> (10 miles/E)
<b>Sun Dec 22</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>E</b>	<b>June Cleaver Ride</b> Clint Johnson <649-4979>, President of the Aiken Chapter of <i>The Leave It To Beaver</i> Fan Club, promises that today’s ride will be truly easy, because we will have a special guest rider, Barbara Billingsley, on her 74th birthday. (10-15 miles/E)
<b>Sun Dec 29</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>e</b>	<b>Don’t Mess With Texas Ride</b> Gloria Luder <641-1801> who once resided in the largest state in the lower 48, leads today on the 152nd anniversary of Texas becoming state number 28. (10-15 miles/E)
<b>Wed Jan 1</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>New Year’s Day Ride</b> Clint Johnson <649-4979> has volunteered to lead this year’s edition, of that Bike Club tradition, a ride to Aiken State Park and back. Resolve to do this one, you can miss <b>one</b> bowl game. (40 miles/M)
<b>Sat Jan 4</b> <b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Trivia Day Ride</b> George Bizub <649-5417> leads us to the intersection of three roads in ancient Aiken where people congregated and swapped small-talk. The gossip was called Tri - via, Latin for three roads. (31 miles/M)
<b>Sun Jan 5</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>m</b>	<b>Frothy Dessert Topping Ride</b> Brian Bogardus <642-0767> is the ride leader today on National Whipped Cream Day. Please insert your own risqué joke here. (15-20 miles/M)