

The Newsletter of Reston Bicycle Club

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Dan Scrafford

As we celebrate the Reston Bike Club's thirtieth year, I will continue to highlight Club members each month. This month I want to recognize Brent DeRobertis. If you "Google" Brent, you will find out that he is a senior real estate agent in Reston, VA and President of the Dulles Chapter of AARP. I knew none of this about Brent because I know him only from cycling. He is a 62-year-old cyclist who never seems to tire. As some of us in the Club have bikes that are worth more than our cars, Brent has never spent more than \$1,200.00 on a bike frame. He rides a standard crankcase and non-carbon wheels. Very few people can drop Brent on climbs and my view of him is always from the back. He knows the route for virtually any ride you can think of in the metropolitan area and when he leads a ride, he sees to it that everyone is well taken care of.

Brent initially became a member of the Club in 1987 when he did his first Reston Century and he did many more Centuries



after that. Prior to joining the cycling community, Brent was a runner who would see cyclists on the trail. It was that exposure to cyclists zipping past him that

captured his interest in the sport. He bought himself an \$89.00 Columbia bike and has never looked back. In the early 90's, Reston would hold a monthly 10-mile time trial for members to let them track their progress. Brent won several of these time trials averaging over 22 MPH. Today, Brent averages over 20 MPH for his long distance rides. Last year, Brent set a personal best for miles ridden in a year (yes, they were all outdoors). He dedicated himself to get into shape and he participated in the Savage Century Garret County Gran Fondo. It is one of the toughest Centuries east of the Mississippi. I encourage you to introduce yourself to Brent on a weekend ride. I guarantee his always helpful personality will leave you with either a better understanding of cycling, a greater knowledge of the route, or, at the very least, he'll have an entertaining story to tell you about one of his past rides over the same roads. Brent is a reflection of what we want the RBC to be and he's one of those members who positively impacts the experiences of other Club members. Thanks for making us look good Brent!

Ride safely,

Memorable Rides

Skyline

By Rent DeRobertis

I went to skyline today (April 15th) by myself and let me tell you it was every bit as incredible as I expected. Departing Sperryville (elevation 700ft) at 8:30 and 60 degrees made it perfect for starting out looking forward to 12 miles of climbing. Since I was already gaining altitude by the time I got to Big Meadows at mile 27 (elevation 3,600ft) with 4,900 ft of climbing registered, it was 62 degrees. I went another 6.5 miles to Lewis Mountain where I got some Starbucks coffee, picked up some fig bars and hit the indoor bathroom. I had a chat with the proprietor (about my age) who started relating to me all about his bicycling exploits and some amazing "facts". Let me just say that, like fishermen, mountain folks have been known to spin a yarn or two. He let me know that one time a cyclist crashed going through the tunnel on Skyline Drive at 60 miles per hour when he hit a ridge.

While I did not question the crash, I did question the cyclist's ability to attain a speed of 60 mph

(cont. next page)

Brent's jacket full of patches from past rides



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Dan

Who's Who In Reston Bike Club

Chairman: Dan Scrafford, (703) 955-1676 Scrafford@aol.com

Vice Chairman: John Hamilton (703) 904-9381 Jhamilton11@cox.net

Secretary: Barb Lytle, (703) 362-8286 vballbarb@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ken Thompson, (703) 476-4106 <u>e2Ken@verizon.net</u>

Members at-large: Randy Karn (703) 402-0227 <u>RandyKarn@cox.net</u>

Jeff Major, (703) 623-9650 Jeffrey.Major@cox.net

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Web Master: Mark Hollinger (703) 815-2723 markahollinger@gmail.com

Ride Level Descriptions

A - Aggressive riders. Grueling pace with sprints, 40 - 100 mi, 18 - 20+ mph avg.

B—Strong riders. Demanding pace, 25 - 75 mi, 14 - 18 mph avg.

C—Average riders. Moderate pace, 15 - 50 miles, 10 - 14 mph avg.

Welcome New And Returning Members

New

Rick Barbera, Arlene Benitez, Benjamin Blanton, Carolyn Bouldin, Jeremy Brooks, Jonathan Browning, John Cali, Luis Carabantes, Carol Carter, Joe Coffey, Ken DelRaso, Charles DePasquale, Gretchen Depasquale, Patrick Gordon, Chris Harris, Rani Hart, Doug Harts, Brian Johnson, Frank Krajerovic, Frank Lackman, Tom LeBerre, Ian Little, Michael McCarley, Michelle McKenna, Scott Lake, Robert Mead, Tom Merce, Matt Mercer, James Metzger, Kerri Mulvey, Kim Phillips, Lee Phillips, Luke Pingel, Clifton Poole, Jonathan Ross, Steven Russell, Pierce Schmerge, Mary Schmerge, Brian Schmidt, Kevin Smith, Eugene Smith, Laura Smith, Vanessa Smith, Imogene Smith, Douglas Smith, Gemma Smith, Kim Torgerson, David Watts, Michael Williams, Arthur Williams, Kevin Wright

Returning

Gwenn Afton, The Aldrich Family, Vincent Amodeo, Renee Amodeo, Scott Baldwin, John Braynard, Scott Burgan, Christopher Burgess, Dawn Sherwood, Gary Carle, Jeanmarie Carle, Matt Carroll, Ernie Castro, David Chapman, Deborah Chapman, Terry Anne Chapman, Jorge Costa, Stephen (william) Coyne, David Dang, Brian Daum, Rosemary Daum, Ed DiMonda, Alex Findlay, Bill Ford, Larry Fox, Nelson (joseph) Gault, Bruce Gilley, Steven Giorgis, Lyndon Goodwin, Mona Gravel, Stephan Greene, Brian Grzelak, Todd Hipp, Sabine Hutto, Michael Hutton, David Jennings, Andrew Jones, Jessica Fry-Jones, John Kamenick, Stephen Kaplan, Kurt Kerin, David Kisiday, William Kuper, Khang Le, James Lees, Dana Lees, CJ Lees, Frank Lenski, Gopichand Mandava, Roger Masse, Craig Mayhew, Richard Mazelsky, Cheryl McMurray, Nathan Miller, Anne Miranowski, Linda Moeser, Rose Moeser, Chuck Moeser, Sherry Moeser, Joshua Mordin, Daniel O'Connell, Ally O'Connell, Vincent Quinn, Zacharias Quinn, Jason Ray, John Schiavo, Monica Shiavo, Anthony Shiavo, Woody Silfies Jr, Steve Slovikosky, Kelly Smith, Maggie Smith, Jack Stanczak, Tim Strobeck, Tammy Strobeck, Jeff Stroebeck, Alison Tedd, Denise Teeling, Simon Thrush, Jose Torres, Abigail Torres, Peter Van Dyke, Diane Van Dyke, Bill Van Dyke, Phillip Villegas, John Von Holle, Mason Washington, Bradley Wedemeyer, Kristin Wedemeyer, Willson York

Skyline (from previous page)

going through that tunnel. The proprietor informed me it was "absolutely possible" because he "had exceeded 60 mph" himself on his bicycle. Not wanting to challenge the tunnel speed claim yet keep politely the conversation going, I asked him where he had managed to attain his 60+ speed on his bike. I thought for sure it would have been on some steep descent. But no, he said he "did it on the flat Colonial Parkway between Williamsburg and Yorktown." Having ridden that road myself and knowing it is a moderately rough cobblestone surface I am in total awe. Makes the scene in the movie "Breaking Away" where the protagonist attains 60mph drafting a truck seem like child's play. I should have gotten his autograph.

Anyway, I was at 13.3 average speed turning around mile 33.5. Feeling pretty good, really enjoying the beautiful weather and scenery. I continued until I got to what I consider the top of the initial climb coming from the other direction (12 miles from the start) and had 7,100 feet of climbing registered in the 55 miles. I did this because I suspected that there would be zero additional climbing feet because I swear all the way from Sperryville to the summit near the Pinnacles is all up. The 12 mile descent was incredible. The temperature had reached 68 on the Skyline Drive and was 77 when I got back to Sperryville at 1:03PM. Guess what? I was right. I still had 7100 climbing feet. Ride stats, 67 miles, 15.5 average speed, 4:12 riding time, 2600 calories burned, 2:18 in my training zone, and only 10 minutes above (158 bpm). Packed the bike up, got some cheap gas in Warrenton and was home by 2:45. Few riding days are ever this close to perfect.

THE WHEEL

RIDE SCHEDULE—MAY

NOTE: Due to club insurance policies all participants on RBC rides must be current club members. Non-members may try a ride one time before joining.

Call Ride Leader to confirm information accuracy. Check the club website at <u>RestonBikeClub</u> for new rides and additional information. If there is greater than a 50% chance of rain or if the forecast starting temperature is less than 40 degrees, the ride may be cancelled.

Saturday Rides begin at **9:00**. These rides are impromptu and start in the parking lot across from the Caboose in downtown Herndon. Rides include A & B level riders and typically cover distances of 50+ miles. They are "no-drop" rides. First time riders please call: A/B - John Hamilton, 703-593-9384 or Randy Karn, 703-402-0227; C - Gaston Prudencio 703 906-7524.

Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Start Location: Hunters Woods Shopping Ctr. (South Reston) Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30-40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2012

Start Location: Parking Lot Across from Herndon Caboose Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30 - 40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Start Location: Hunters Woods Shopping Ctr. (South Reston) Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30-40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Start Location: Parking Lot Across from Herndon Caboose Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30 - 40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

RBC needs ride leaders

for the

Wednesday Night Social Rides

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Ken Thompson at (703) 476-4106.

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Start Location: Hunters Woods Shopping Ctr. (South Reston) Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30-40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2012

Start Location: Parking Lot Across from Herndon Caboose Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30 - 40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Start Location: Hunters Woods Shopping Ctr. (South Reston) Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30-40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Thursday, May 24, 2012

Start Location: Parking Lot Across from Herndon Caboose Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30 - 40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Start Location: Hunters Woods Shopping Ctr. (South Reston) Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30-40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2012

Start Location: Parking Lot Across from Herndon Caboose Level: 1,2,3,4,5 Time: 6:00 PM Mileage: 30 - 40 Description: **Route Varies each week** Leader: Ken Thompson 703-476-4106

Workout of the Month

7 Habits for Highly Effective Group Riding

By Jeff Major

OK, it's not a workout, per se: although, most members who participate in RBC rides would probably say they just had a good workout after one of our group rides. But in order for everyone to have that feeling and want to come back, they need to feel comfortable and confident that their rolling workouts, where they are packed in with other cyclists on roads shared with cars and, occasionally on trails shared with everything else under the sun, are safe. We've had articles on this subject in the past, but since our membership and the make-up of our groups are dynamic, and, let's face it, we do tend to forget, it's not a bad idea to reinforce some important rules for making our group rides as safe as possible. Here are 7 habits for highly effective group riding.

Be Predictable-Sounds pretty simple but it's oh so important. From changing positions in the group to following the traffic rules. Yeah, being smooth makes you look good, but if you're unpredictable you are a hazard to yourself and everyone else in the group. Have you ever been on a ride where the group stops at an intersection and people scatter all over the lane? It can be confusing to drivers as they approach the intersection where cyclists are going in all different directions or worse, blowing through stop signs or lights. In order to be predictable on the road you have to be riding within the rules of the road, like a vehicle. Groups should be staying in the correct lane and stopping and starting together as traffic allows.

Don't Overlap Wheels—It's probably the single most avoidable type of crash and probably the most common in a group ride. It's easy to do; all it takes is to not pay attention for a few seconds. The rider in front moves a little to the side and his rear wheel catches your front wheel and that's it. You go down and who knows how many others go down with you. Busted gear and maybe a few collarbones...and sometimes worse.

Be Steady—With regard to both your speed and your lateral movement or "line". If you've ever heard people yelling "hold your line!!" as a group was rounding a corner, that's what they were referring to. It's great when you get behind someone who is a steady rider. Like a good strong puller who accelerates gradually so as not to encourage a constant accordion effect in the group This kind of rider will usually take the lead and although strong enough to drop half the group, won't but rather, will take a long pull and make sure everyone stays connected. That's when you feel like cycling is fun and you're having a good ride. And, if you are feeling particularly strong, you can do the same. What messes it up for everyone is the guy who goes up front and tries to impress by breaking away. Best strategy for a breakaway? Let 'em go. That doesn't mean you can't do a sprint for the line on a Saturday ride, but really, on a Tuesday or Thursday night, how many streets are we on where there is room? Our groups are just too big to encourage competitive riding. Finally, when there are riders behind you, use your brakes gently. Lightly squeeze the front brake and keep pedaling. It gives you the ability to maintain your forward drive while backing off your speed ever so slightly.



Mon-Fri 10-8 pm Sat 10-6 pm Sun 12-5 pm

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Announce Hazards—As soon as you move into the lead rider position, you take on the responsibility for the safety of everyone behind you. You won't make many friends if you fail to warn the riders behind you of potholes, gravel or other unsafe traffic situations. You should point as well as be verbal when approaching intersections, slowing, stopping, or turning and all actions should be smooth and deliberate. Sudden, unannounced actions cause panic and crashes. If you're at or near the back, announce oncoming traffic from the rear. Others should relay the info toward the front ("i.e. "Car Back!").

Signal Your Intentions—It helps make you predictable. If you can, make eye contact with oncoming traffic at intersections. Also, use your right arm straight out to signal a right turn, not your left arm with a 90degree bend. Use an audible verbal warning as well. Often, riders are just following along and don't know the whole route. If one rider accidentally goes straight and another correctly turns right, riders behind who don't know the route will be confused about which way to go. If the riders in front don't clearly signal their intentions in a way that is universally understood, there will likely be a crash.

Don't Leave Stragglers— It's called a "group" ride for a reason. If you get separated at intersections, as a matter of courtesy, the lead group should soft pedal until the rest have rejoined. If you're caught by the light, don't run the red to catch the others. That's not only dangerous, it makes us look like Kamikazes to observing drivers. We don't need that image. The group should wait at designated points along the route to regroup, especially at turn points and for newbies who may not know the route.

Know Your Limitations—If you're not strong enough to take a turn at the front (we all have bad days), stay near the back and let the stronger cyclists pull. Don't work so hard during your turn at the front that you lack the energy to get back on at the rear. Also, don't ride in a group whose average speed is much faster than yours. If in doubt, go with the next group down. If you find it's easier than you expected, then go with the faster group next time. If you're spent for most of the ride, your bike handling will be sloppy and you'll be more likely to do something that will endanger the group.

Finally, while you need to be alert and careful, a group ride should also be fun. If everyone makes these 7 habits a regular part of RBC culture, the rides will be safer for all the participants as well as for the people of the communities we ride through. That, in the bigger picture, helps make cycling a little less stressful because, perhaps a few more drivers might respect our right to the road, which enables us to relax a little more on the bike, which allows us to better enjoy the camaraderie of a group ride.

All the best,

Jeff

Disclaimer: While I have experience as an amateur competitive athlete in numerous sports and have coached athletes, I am not a fitness expert nor am I currently involved in fitness coaching. The articles and information I provide on behalf of The Reston Bike Club are part of my voluntary role as Editor of this newsletter. I use a combination of knowledge gained from experience and from numerous sources of publicly available information. We recommend that you consult with a fitness expert and/or medical professional if you have any question about your ability to safely perform any workouts included in this or any edition of The Wheel.

Local Cyclist Dies from Crash Injuries

Steve Lafferty, a long-time local cyclist, passed away recently as a result of injuries suffered during a crash on a Thursday night RBC ride. His death leaves the community saddened. I did not know Steve, but from the letters I received, he was known as a man who loved life, his family, and cycling. We should all take time to reflect on Steve's life as well as on how we as a community can help his family deal with this tragic event. We have posted some details on how you can help on our <u>website</u>.

Our sincere condolences go out to Steve's family.

Dan Scrafford

RBC Monthly Meetings

On the first Wednesday of every month the RBC conducts its monthly meeting, typically held at the Reston Public Library. Although these meetings are attended by club leaders, <u>all club members are invited</u>. If you would like to have greater input into how the club is run, if you want to find out what being a board member is all about, or if you just want to contribute your ideas and tell us what we could do better, please join us. Just call any board member (listed on page 2) for directions to the meeting.

We hope you'll join us!

THEY'RE HERE!!

The

30th Anniversary Edition

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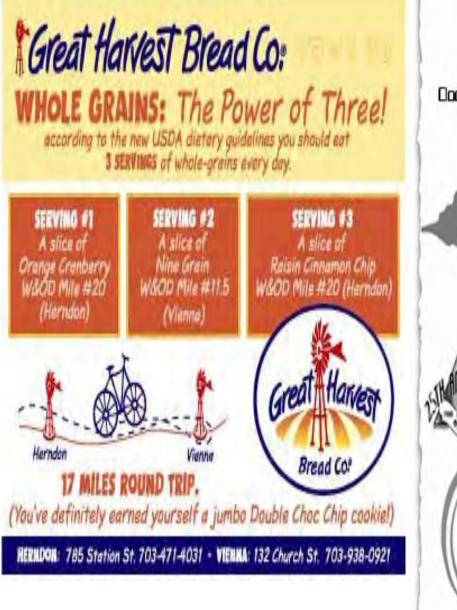
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Education/Safety; Legislative Action; Membership; Phone Calls;

Other



Club Rider Levels

RBC tries to cater to every level of cyclist. Please use this guide when completing your application and planning your rides.

- Social riders. Relaxed, casual pace; Distance & speed per group consensus
- C Average riders. Moderate pace; 20 - 50 miles; 10 - 15 mph average
- Strong riders. Demanding pace; 25 75 miles; 15 18 mph average
- Aggressive riders. Grueling pace with sprints; 40 85 miles; 18 - 20+ mph average



P.O. Box 3389

RestonBikeClub.org

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