
❖ SPOKE'N'WORD ❖

*The official newsletter of the Fairbanks Cycle Club
P.O. Box 83424, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708*

Volume 1 Issue 1

Feb. 1995

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all and Happy New Year. I am returning for a second year as the club President and won by a landslide, well at least on the surface. I was uncontested, and I think this is unhealthy. The club deserves fresh ideas and enthusiasm if we are to prosper. Ours is not a new problem, or unique. What should be unique is a cure, or at the very least, preventative medicine. Let me hear from you.

Some other news: the fall election saw some new faces elected and others to new posts. Fred Raymond is now the Vice President, Peter May - Secretary; Christine Matson - Treasurer and Ray Boyd - Historian. Welcome to all. I look forward to a fresh perspective and energy to keep this club moving forward.

One of my biggest failures of last year was the lack of a newsletter, and I apologize. I feel there are many new members who joined last year mainly for the group rides, and received little else from the club. My only reason for this was a lack of time. Although Doug Burnside and Kay Kindt volunteered and produced an excellent newsletter in June, we did not pursue other editors.

The other area lacking in participation (as usual) was race promoters for individual races.

These two areas were addressed to the voting membership at the fall meeting and amendments may be made to the bylaws. The Vice President's duties will now include that of race director, which he will act as or appoint for each race or event. The Historian's duties will now include creating a newsletter

or appointing editors to do so. As of now Gail Koepf and Sharon Schlentner have volunteered. Thanks are indeed forth coming from all.

On a more positive note, we are looking at changing our fee structure to make racing more affordable while covering our insurance costs and remaining in the black. We are looking for ways to introduce and encourage junior racing. We are also looking into ways to share responsibilities with our events. Member Linda Heck has already published race promoters packets for road and off-road events, and has plans for a Board of Directors guideline to help future officials in club operations. Plans are to have a return of the Monday Night Training Rides, the Women's Group Rides and the Tuesday Night Mountain Rides that were so successful.

As always, if you have comments, suggestions or would like to volunteer a small portion of your time, please feel free to call me in the evening before 10 PM at 479-2026.

Looking forward to a positive year,
Dave Kramer

95 FCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Dave Kramer (479-2026)

Vice President

Fred Raymond (488-0653)

Treasurer

Christine Matson (488-0653)

Secretary

Peter May (479-2798)

Historian

Ray Boyd (488-1594)

Newsletter:

Gail Koepf (455-6837)

Sharon Schlentner

(455-6861)

Articles or items for the Spoke'n'Word are welcome. Deadline is the 15th of the month.

HOTLINE # 459-8008

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(Get the idea? Always call for the most up -to-date information!)

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WINTER CYCLING SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

With the increasing popularity of winter cycling, there's a few reminders to those who bravely venture out on bikes this time of year. The main issue here is the need for safety and consideration of others on the roads and trails. While there's no doubt that cycling to work or for recreation is laudable, the practice of riding down busy, narrow, snow clogged roads during the height of rush hour traffic is gaining the cycling community a reputation as a bunch of self-centered, inconsiderate idiots. Far more harm than good is coming from this. There's no question that in many instances we have the right to do so, but considering the hazard one creates and the amounts of ill will generated, is it really worth it?

I encourage everyone to commute and to ride as often as possible, but try using alternate routes to College Road, Chena Hot Springs Road, and University Avenue whenever possible during the really snowy and low visibility periods. With the regrettable restriction of bicycles from the Johannsen Expressway, which would make an ideal route across town, one might check out the mushing trail between College and the Jeff Studdard Hall, and many sections of the Noyes Slough are very good and can be easily reached from many locations. Farmers' Loop, now that it has such wide shoulders, makes a great, if somewhat longer route as does Steel Creek Road, lower Gilmore Trail and Rainbow Drive (there's an easy trail connecting them) for those on the Chena Hot Springs Rd.

Please remember, too, that many of the trails in this area have been built and maintained by dog mushers. When encountering dog teams on the trail, it is much easier for you to pull off the trail than it is for the musher. Please be considerate and let them by. Be extra cautious in the Creamer's Refuge during weekends and evenings, there's a lot of mushing activity at those times.

Because of the dark and blowing snow, visibility is a prime consideration for cyclist both on the road and on trails, too. For road use, I would recommend at least two flashing lights facing rear, such as Belt Beacon and Vista Lite. Include several reflectors and reflective tape and as much bright clothing with reflective tape as possible. You'll be glad you did when you see car or snowmachine lights approach from the rear!!

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We are fortunate to live in an area that offers so much great trail riding during the winter months. There are literally hundreds of miles of trails and back roads to explore, so go out, have fun, be safe, and create a good image for all of us.

Fred Raymond

CLUB RIDES OR RACES?

If you look at the 1995 Event Schedule, you will notice that the Thursday Night Races will now be club rides. Club rides are cheaper for us to put on so we can pass the savings on to the participants. The main differences are:

- 1) awards will not be given for relative performance, and
- 2) USCF members must be licensed as Fairbanks Cycle Club members.

Prizes for Thursday Night Races have rarely been given in the past so #1 will not change the character of the races.

The 2nd condition will necessitate that everyone with a USCF license make sure that Fairbanks Cycle Club is listed as their member club. This also means that USCF cyclists from out of town will NOT be able to participate.

This may mean an occasional unhappy cyclist, but the board feels that FCC members deserve first priority. The board would like to hear your concerns.

NEW DISTRICT REP

The state of Alaska has received a new district rep. after Paul Roberts retired from many years of service. Marcia Burnside of Fairbanks was appointed Representative of District 02 by the U.S.C.F. Marcia takes over her duties as of the first of the year and currently holds a category 2 officials license. You can contact her at All Weather Sports or call 474-8181 for questions or to offer thanks for a responsible task. We congratulate and welcome her.

FEDERATIONS MERGE

The U.S.C.F. House of Delegates met this past fall with N.O.R.B.A. and N.C.C.A. and U.S. Pro cycling. Out of that meeting came some positive changes, including the merger of the 4 organizations. This move has made individual and club licenses less expensive. Many more items were included in the election, too numerous to mention here, but we have these changes on file and they are included in the January "Cycling USA" newsletter. Also included were the elimination of the novice, sport, and elite levels in road divisions. The categories 1-5 have returned, in case anyone ever noticed them leaving.

SIMON SAYS: Legislative progress on Bicycle Safety

Here is a bill that with your support can greatly benefit all bicyclists:

House Bill 67 was introduced last February by Representative John Davies. It is "an act relating to the operation of bicycles on state highways; prohibiting motor vehicle operators or occupants from harassing bicycle operators; and encouraging the safe use of bicycles as a basic means of transportation."

Section 1 amends a transportation law (AS 28.05.011) by adding a new subsection stating: "The commissioner may not adopt a regulation that prohibits the operation of a bicycle on a highway. The commissioner may regulate the manner of operation of a bicycle."

Section 2 amends AS28.35 by adding a new section to read: "Sec. 28.35.237. HARASSMENT OF BICYCLIST> A person operating a motor vehicle or an occupant of a motor vehicle may not harass an operator of a bicycle."

Section 3 Amends AS 44.42.020 (a) by adding "(16)when planning , designing, and constructing

highways, provide for the safe use of those highways by bicycles as a basic means of transportation." and "(17)develop facilities and programs that encourage the safe use of bicycles as a means of transportation."

John Davies has been very

"... prohibiting motor vehicle operators or occupants from harassing bicycle operators; and encouraging the safe use of bicycles as a basic means of transportation."

supportive of bicycle transportation and safety legislation, but he needs your encouragement. Other representatives need your input, support and feelings on this issue.

Bikes are legal on interstates in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Studies have been and are being conducted regarding safety of bicycles on controlled access highways. The contributing factors to bicycle accidents are many, including road width, visibility, grade and road surface; but it has been shown that bicyclists flowing with traf-

fic on roadways are less dangerous than bike paths.

Communication and input on these issues, if we want to continue to have safe and viable bicycling options, is critical. Here is how to get a hold of your representative:

Representative
State Capitol - Room #____
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

- John Davies - Rm #422
(District 29) (907)465-4457
- Tom Brice - Rm #426
(District 30) (907)465-3466
- Pete Kelly - Rm #513
(District 31) (907)465-2327
- Al Vezey - Rm #216
(District 32) (907)465-3719
- Gene Therriault - Rm # 421
(District 33) (907)465-4797
- Jeannette James - Rm #102
(District 34)

(Note from your editors:

*A word to the wise cyclist!
"The wheel that squeaks, gets the oil.")*

**FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB 1994 YEAR END BUDGET
11/7/93 to 10/17/94**

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Membership	\$1675.00	Jerseys	\$5552.50
Sponsorship	\$1610.00	Race Supplies	\$2696.93
NORBA State Championship	\$1477.00	USCF Fees	\$1310.00
Jerseys	\$1210.00	Race Food	\$899.02
Bike Swap	\$1141.55	Photo Copies	\$589.52
Race Fees	\$1074.00	NORBA	\$458.00
Non-Licensed Rider Fees	\$993.00	Sponsorship	\$250.00
Season Passes	\$650.00	MUS Hotline	\$195.09
T-Shirts	\$228.00	Postage	\$157.58
Punch Cards	\$80.00	Door Prizes	\$77.08
Shorts	\$20.00	Framing	\$54.45
TOTAL	\$10158.55	Bank Fees	\$48.15
		LAW Membership	\$45.00
		Room Rental	\$30.00
		Bike Swap	\$26.66
		TOTAL	\$12388.98

**USCF AND NORBA 1995
RACE LICENSES**

U SCF Fees seem to change every year and our club race fees change to reflect this. A common fee structure has been adopted for the 1995 season by the USCF, NORBA and NCCA. The program is designed to provide a discount fee structure for holders of multiple licenses, and to standardize the fees charged for similar licenses.

Beginning with the issuing of the 1995 memberships, the licenses will cover a twelve month period from date of issue (except for those requiring an international license).

All members aged 15 or older will pay a basic membership fee of \$20.00. Racing licenses are an additional \$10.00 and all coach, official and mechanic licenses are an additional \$5.00. A USCF or NORBA racing license will therefore cost \$30.00. Obtaining both USCF and NORBA licenses will cost \$40.00, which is a \$21.00 savings from last year!! Each organization will issue you a distinct license.

A junior racing license does not require payment of the \$20.00 membership fee, so those under age 15 may obtain a USCF or NORBA license for \$10.00 or both for \$20.00!!

Since both NORBA and USCF events will be held in Fairbanks during the 1995 season, we urge you to join both NOW if you are interested in racing!

The surcharge the club has to pay for unlicensed riders necessitates charging them more per race. Therefore, if you plan to do more than a few races it is cheaper to become a member of USCF. The process can take a couple of weeks, so don't wait until the race you want to do is here to join. It will be too late. An application is enclosed.

WHERE DOES YOUR RACE \$ GO? Christine Matson thanks Linda Heck for keeping an accurate, organized set of ledgers from which she produced the above report.

FEATURED CLUB MEMBER: Christine Matson

You have probably seen Chrissy at many of the races - more often as a race volunteer than racing herself. This year she will go one step further and serve on the FCC board as treasurer (a brave step, since Linda Heck is a hard act to follow).

Chrissy is a life-long Alaskan from the Tok area. In 1983 she came to Fairbanks to study art at UAF. An interest in biking began about 10 years ago with commuting to work, and she eventually worked up to doing the full Chena Hot Springs Ride. Chrissy found that event especially enjoyable due to the number of bicyclists who participated. Her interest in biking was undoubtedly encouraged by partner Fred Raymond. She spent several winters trapping with Fred and the summers working odd jobs in Fairbanks and supporting him at the local races. They were married in 1987 and are now Fairbanks home owners. Chrissy currently works at Pay Less as a bookkeeper (we can be assured that the

club accounts are in good hands).

Chrissy bikes now to stay in shape for skiing and plans to do the Tour of Anchorage (20K) and the Sonot (50K) in March. Mtn biking is her preference and she rides a carbon fiber Trek (for you techies). She claims not to be a great technical rider but she has raced some of the toughest trails Fairbanks has to offer.

As a board member, Chrissy would like to see increased participation at events and more Fairbanks racers participating in the larger state-wide events such as the Tour of Kenai.

The club extends its thanks for all your great work over the years and for accepting the position of treasurer for 1995!

The next few newsletters will feature board members in this column. The editors wish to thank Chrissy for being a sport about becoming the first Featured Club Member. Good Luck in the ski races!

NOTES

The club bids goodbye to Jerry Mastin who has moved on to Juneau and a new job. He will be sorely missed. Jerry served on the FCC board for many years, where he not only kept the finances in good shape as treasurer, but was always a pleasure to work with. Jerry also came out and did all the toughest rides even when not "in shape." Diane Mastin also helped the club out in numerous areas and Mike will be missed both as a race participant and photographer.

Page and Kathy Hudson have also left Fairbanks and will be missed. Good luck and happy trails.

This value of a newsletter is measured by the information it communicates. Please help us make this a great newsletter by submitting articles, cartoons, art, notes, or whatever others in the bicycling community might enjoy. Or let us know what you would like to see covered!

IDITASPORT 1995

Febuary 18, 1995 is the start of the 9th edition of the Iditabike/Iditasport. The race and tour traverses over 200 km on dogsled trails from Big Lake, north of Anchorage, to Skwentna, and returns on the Yentna and Big Su Rivers. The human-powered ultraendurance event will again feature five categories: Bike, Ski, Triathlon, and Snowshoe (the last two events end at the half-way checkpoint). Iditasport is now internationally known and attended, written-up in magazines all over the world, and arguably Alaska's most fascinating, if brutal human-powered race.

As of January 17th, seventy paid entrants from seven countries will be mass-started 10:00 am Saturday February 18. Each participant will have two checkbags; one will be airlifted to the Big Su checkpoint and the other to the Skwentna checkpoint. Each check

point provides water, warmth, medical assistance, radio contact, a place to sleep, and some very friendly, if tired checkers.

The snow conditions are unpredictable; if decent the bikers are fastest, but if terrible, the skiers are fastest. Fairbanks participants have historically done well, though their numbers are few. They have won the men's bike two times, the women's bike four times, the women's triathlon (bike-run-ski) once and the men's ski once. This year the Fairbanks contingent are bikers Rocky Reifenstuhl, Cole Carson, Sue Corkutt, Laurel Drews, Helena Edelson, John Tragia, Fred Raymond, and Willie Wilenbrink; Triathletes Chris Davis; and

Runner Gail Koepf. Ralph Seekins donates a van for Simon and Team Fairbanks! THANK YOU RALPH!

Simon (mechanic extraordinaire) is the Iditabike neutral-support mechanic for the 8th year, and will be at the start, and then air-lifted to the Big Su checkpoint. Simon has been instrumental in developing the double-rim wheels which were used on the top 15 bikes in 1994.

Iditasport is an event that teaches many physical and spiritual lessons, and every participant is a better and stronger person for the extreme effort. GOOD LUCK Team Fairbanks!

For more information on the race contact Simon at All Weather Sports at 474-8184.

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