

SPOKE'N'WORD

Cycling - the perfect synthesis of body and machine

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2001 FCC Board

President: Rocky Reifgenstuhl
455-6837

Vice Pres: Tom Clark
479-3496

Treasurer: Kristine Kosnick
452-5487

Secretary: Gail Koepf
455-6837

Historian: Liam Wescott
479-6745

Newsletter editor:
Gail Koepf

Articles or items for the Spoke'n'Word are welcome. FCC members receive their copy in the mail or from the website. We go to press several times per season.

MESSAGE FROM THE FCC PREZ 2001—WHAT'S NEW FOR FCC

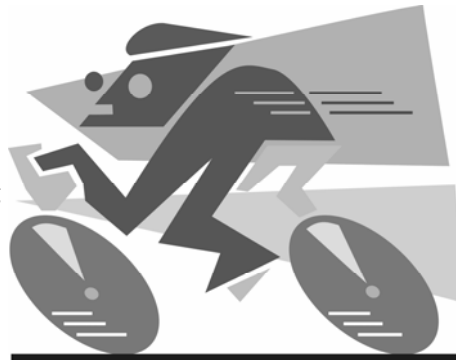
Welcome to the real Y2K season of cycling. The new FCC volunteer Board is listed on the right of this page. Our meetings are generally the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. @ the Geist Road, Alaska Coffee Roasters (Michael is a new sponsor of our club, too!). The Board has a myriad of cycling-related activities on our schedule. Every single FCC event, however, requires volunteers. The more the better. Please consider volunteering for the event of your choice. Contact us at fairbankscycleclub.org.

Inspection of the 2001 schedule reveals far fewer races (due to lack of volunteer race directors), more group rides and more community-related events. For example: Safe Kids Family

Ride, Youth Mtn Bike Series, Golden Days Parade, and even a **FCC campout (Saturday March 24)** at the USBLM Colorado Creek Cabin (14 miles in from Mile 57 Elliot Highway). We're responding to change requested by members. If you see something you like let us know. If you don't see anything you like let us know that as well.

Yes! We still have the ever-popular and infamous "Doug Rides". Doug Burnside is the quintessential mountain biking mudpie: just add a remote trail, some like-minded adult-retros, a

couple of wrong turns, and mud, and Doug is in gearhead ecstasy. This is true Recreation. These rides rejuvenate the mind as well as the body by putting you in touch with your inner bike freak. Try 'em you'll like 'em.



The "Bike Swap" (Sat May 5, Beaver Sports) will include a helmet safety demonstration, and will have for sale the

(Continued on page 2)

**HOTLINE #
459-8008**

Call Tom at 479-3496 to update

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* **Spin into Spring - FCC Ride & Social** *

This mild winter has everyone fantasizing about those first spring days when the dry roads and sunny weather beckon. If Sunday, April 8th is one of those days, join us for a ride to spin those kinks out. Even if the weather is not perfect, join us for

SUNDAY APRIL 8TH

Meet at

Ivory Jack's

12:00 for FCC bike ride

2:00 for Potluck/Social

Everyone Welcome!

a shorter ride and a warm place to socialize & eat & join FCC for 2001. Bring a dish to share (or you can buy pizza or nachos there) and we can purchase drinks from the bar. Thanks to Joanie and Dick Ellsworth for opening their place to us!

MESSAGE (cont.)

new FCC jerseys and water bottles.

Sue Stewart has done an excellent job on the new FCC Jerseys, taking charge from start to finish, including design, securing several new sponsors, and cutting the deal with the vendor. Sue deserves thanks from all FCC members. **The jersey costs are \$30.00: members; \$60.00: nonmembers.**

FCC donated \$100.00 to both the Alaska Dog Musers Association and the Goldstream Musers to as-

sist in trail maintenance expenses. Many FCC members enjoy these excellent trails. Winter is the best time for Mtn biking in Fairbanks; the only time these trails are passable, for either transportation or recreation. There are no cars, no bugs, no dirt, no mud, no noise, and no hard falls. Only piece, quiet and the beautiful winter wonderland, Come enjoy the Sunday, noon, 'Ivory Jack's' social rides.

Finally, please remember to volun-

teer, and volunteer often. It really is a high calling. The strength of our club, and indeed the social fabric of a community is a function of volunteerism and giving. Whether you cycle for transportation, recreation and fitness, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and your SUV, or just to play in the mud like Doug, please recognize the value, meaning and importance of lending a hand to a worthwhile cause. Volunteer Today!

Happy Trails,

Rocky Reifentstahl, el presidente

Iditasport 2001

The Iditasport Impossible is still, literally, pushing its way to Nome. A runner (reality check) walker is in the lead. I guess the warm winter wasn't all good! The race started out with glorious weather and packed trails for the first 30 miles where everyone overnighed for the mandatory camp-out. During that night the snow fell and continued all the next day until a foot of new snow lay on the trail. FCC member Bad Bob Baker won the short version of Iditasport on skis. Doug Stewart, Kevin Petrone and Rocky Reifentstahl tied for 2nd overall and first in the bike division with a few of the foot division contenders hot on their heels. Rocky continued on to lead the Iditasport Extreme race until a virus caught up with him along with a great many racers! He

ended up with bronchitis, but managed to finish the race in McGrath at the Marlboro Man's pace.

Sue Stewart was seriously hurting some male ego when 30 miles of

*"And in the silent wonder
of that sub-arctic night, they
all joined in the
brotherhood of pain."*

Charlie Kelly 1988

pushing her bike (& the thought of continuing on in a like manner for another 30 or 40) made her think there might be better ways to spend

her days off. Your editor was also having second thoughts about the sanity of this endeavor, and when Sue offered her a ride back to Fairbanks, it sounded like too good an opportunity to let pass. We both have had second, third and fourth thoughts since then, but would probably make the same decision again. Now . . . If there had been

money on the woman's race like there was on the men's race, it would have been a whole different story. Hopefully, Iditasport will correct this gross inequity next year. Rocky, Kevin, and Doug split their winnings (\$3900) evenly among themselves. Bob made \$2000 for his first place overall.

This year's race had around 130 entrants, with 50 from foreign countries and a range in ages from 14 to 61. It is certainly an experience to remember for all who enter, and the experience of a lifetime for many from outside Alaska. The trail conditions sure don't compare to what we have available for much of the winter here in Fairbanks. There is no doubt that Fairbanks is the best place to train for the race and has the most experienced and successful racers!

Ride in Style this Summer in NEW FCC Jerseys



FCC will have NEW JERSEYS for sale at the **Annual FCC Bike Swap** on May 5th. They have 6 sponsor logos, 3 colors (black, blue, yellow) and a sun/moon motif. We have ordered 100 jerseys in unisex sizing

from XS to XXL. Buy as many as you like!! They will be available to both FCC members (\$30) and the public (\$60), but members get them for half price! This way-under-cost pricing is a great benefit for club

members. So fill out the membership form in this newsletter and mail it in, or join us at the **Spin into Spring Social!** *Also coming Soon - NEW FCC water bottles!*

FCC Tour de Website: by WebMeister Tom Clark

For those of you that haven't checked it out, the Club has a website that contains useful information. The next time you are near a browser, type in this URL (address), and then save it in your favorites—it's a bear:

<http://www.fairbanksclub.org>

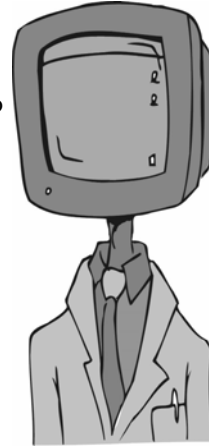
The main page contains a quick view of the next three upcoming scheduled events, and is automatically updated (rather than being updated by a beer swilling lunk who never gets around to it) (*no, Tom, more like... some lug wrench who bonked so bad on his last ride his brain is lost in the ozone from caloric debt*) It's handy for a quick glance of what's happening. For a more detailed view of the schedule, there are a couple of links to our event calendar. One is a traditional calendar presentation of the 2001 season. This is handy if you want to print up a "Bike Calendar" and hang it near your bike stuff so you don't miss anything. (*You have to be kidding! I would miss everything if I hung it up in that dark corner of*

my garage with bike stuff in piles all around!) For the list-minded people, there's a more compact presentation of the season in a list format.

We don't stop there, however. We have race results from past seasons, and you can either browse through the events or search for your name to see how you did in all listed events, going back to the '99 season.

Naturally, we couldn't resist putting a medium sized archive of photos on the site. They are presented in a thumbnail fashion so that you can see all the photos on a single page, and click on interesting ones to see a larger, more detailed version of the photo. Be sure to catch the one of the dog tied to the bike, and the snow "bike angel" (inspired by Simon Rakower).

If you need a membership application, there's a couple available on



Tom Clark disguised as his alter-ego, the FCC WebMeis-

the site. One is for downloading and printing, the other is for direct viewing and printing.

There's a buncha other stuff, and even more upcoming. One of the upcoming (dunno when) features is a section devoted to maps of various rides, including a 3-D topographic map, a ride profile (including climbing distance, descending distance, terrain distance, and total elevation gain), and a ride description. (*Tom—If you give these bike geeks so much to gawk at on the web, they'll sit there analyzing the ride and forget to come to it!*)

Obviously, we'd like your input as this is supposed to be a site for all members, and not just an excuse for the web designer to waste a lot of time in front of a computer. So, fire up your email program and send a piece of your mind to:

Spokes@fairbanksclub.org

Just be sure to quit surfing the web,

Trail Conflicts: Motorized vs. Non-motorized Use

The DOT&PF has hired another consultant to study snowmobile issues on DOT right-of-ways and held a public meeting on March 8th in Fairbanks. Some of you may have noticed that the bike trails in town are being plowed in an attempt to keep snowmobiles off the paths and lawyers off DOT. Apparently, there is a statute on the books that prohibits motorized users from bike trails. DOT has been forced to address this or face the "L" word (liability). Needless to say, there are many irate snowmachiners.

There are also a good many people irate with the many irresponsible

snowmachine users out there. The issue is growing more contentious as the number of snowmobiles increases.

There is little doubt that if a solution is not found to address the issues, snowmachiners will be restricted from use in town. This has been the case in Anchorage for years. There is already '**An Initiative to Restrict Snowmachines and ATV's from the Fairbanks Bowl**' being filed with the Borough. Petitions will be available to sign and if enough signatures are collected the initiative will be put on the ballot. The petition allows ex-

ceptions for snowmachines used to work on legal trail systems, for those used by law enforcement agencies, and for corridors left open to access areas open to snowmachines.

Being a regular on the Sunday Winter Rides, I can state that we rarely encounter any difficulties with snowmachiners on the trails outside of town. However, I also live within the Fairbanks Bowl, and we observe very irresponsible use of these machines almost daily.

If you have any suggestions or comments on this matter, please address them to: Khgart@polarnetcom.

Confessions of a Motorhead

Excerpted from a piece Coert Olmsted wrote to the Daily News Miner four years ago.

Like many of my contemporaries, as I came of age in the late fifties, I developed an avid motor sports enthusiasm. I loved performance cars and motorcycles and often went to the drags or road races to watch and listen to the hot cars run. I remember fondly the smell of burning rubber and exotic fuels and I welcomed the deafening and unearthly roar of monster engines.

In college I fell in with a motorcycle racing crowd, and not long after I had graduated, I owned a variety of sporty machines. Needless to say we did not confine our racing to the track, but zoomed around on streets, roads, highways, powerlines, trails and anywhere else we could gain access.

Also, needless to say, there were plenty of occasions when we were not at all welcome. On beaches, parks and other recreational areas people would protest, shouting, "This is not a racetrack!" But what did these soreheads know? Burning gasoline is the American way and freedom to travel is a fundamental right. We were engaged in the pursuit of happiness, and cops and rangers weren't going to stop us!

"...I welcomed the deafening and unearthly roar of monster engines."

By the time I had reached my thirties and become a father, I went through a change of attitude. I no longer found the thrill of speed adequate to compensate the risk of ending up dead in a puddle of grease or a plume of flaming gasoline. I sold all my motorcycles, and, remembering youthful pleasures of mountain hiking and small boat sailing, I took to the hills and streams for excitement.

To my delight I found that the remote back country, accessible primarily by muscle power, not only provided the challenge and danger I had gotten from motor racing, but did so in an environment that was natural, serene and spiritually fulfilling. Once I learned skiing and white water paddling, there was no lack of challenge or speed thrills, and the activity improved my health rather than impairing it.

When there are conflicts between users of public resources, we need

to make decisions based on reasonable benefit to a wide sector of the public, not on the narrow interest of a vocal minority whose use is destructive of the environment and impairs its use by the rest of the population. It is ridiculous to hear the principles of the founding fathers used to justify an activity that has only arisen because of technological advances during the last few years. How could they have anticipated the impact of an affluent, high-tech, high-speed industrial society?

But in their wisdom, the founding fathers did leave such matters to the jurisdiction of the states. It is very

uncommon law to claim that there is a Constitutional right to do motosports everywhere. Motorheads are demanding a special right to pollute and degrade the public lands that belong to all of us.



Here's to wishing more "motorheads" would see the light!

FCC ANNUAL BIKE SWAP—Volunteers needed May 5th, 8 AM to 3

The annual FCC Bike Swap is a major service the Cycle Club provides to the Fairbanks Community each year and also the main fundraiser for the club. The Bike Swap attracts so much business that even taking a mere 10% of the items sold, has provided the club with over \$1000 for the last several years. Another positive value of the swap is the recycling of used bikes and gear. It is a win-win situation all around.

To handle the crowds that show up, that morning takes a good number of cycle club volunteers. We have been so successful because we get people in & out as fast as possible. We need people to advise sellers and buyers on the approximate value of their goods, people to arrange items in an easy to find manner, people to keep an eye on security, and people to shuffle the paperwork and money. It takes at least 8 volunteers during the peak hours of

9-noon. If you can help that day or part of that day, please call Gail at 455-6837. You might even discover a good deal yourself!



FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB
15th ANNUAL BIKE SWAP - MAY 4, 2002 - BEAVER SPORTS WAREHOUSE

Drop-off: 8-10 AM / Pick-up: 2-3 PM

I, _____(your name), hereby consign the following bicycle related items to the FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB (FCC) so that the FCC may attempt to sell such items for me at the prices I have listed below. I understand that the FCC will retain 10% of the selling price of any of the items listed below that have sold.

#	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	ASKING PRICE
1		\$
2		\$
3		\$
4		\$
5		\$
6		\$
7		\$
8		\$
9		\$
10		\$
11		\$
12		\$

THE FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR LOSS, THEFT, OR DAMAGE TO ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED ABOVE. FURTHERMORE, ANY UNSOLD ITEMS, OR ANY MONIES FROM SOLD ITEMS NOT PICKED UP BY 3:00 ON MAY 5, 2001 AT THE BEAVER SPORTS OUTDOOR CENTER, WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN MADE.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE DISCLAIMER AND AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS AND PROVISION THEREIN.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

PICKUP INFORMATION: I, _____ (signature) have picked up all unsold items, and/or have received \$ _____ in payment for sold items from the FCC.

Fairbanks Cycle Club

P.O. Box 83424
Fairbanks, AK 99708

HOTLINE: 459-8008

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synthesis of body and
machine.*

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