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This month's contributors: Kim Brown, Steve Jahn, Bill McCourt, Greg Rehm, Ryan Rickerts, Doug Schoonover. Thanks All!

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the club online:

mtbakerbikeclub.org chuckanutcentury.org

and our social sites:



facebook.com/ mountbakerbicycleclub





twitter.com/mtbakerbike



# MBBC

# **More Bicycling = Better Community!**

Mount Baker Bicycle Club Newsletter, Vol 24 No 8, September 2015



The MBBC's signature ride is coming up on September 20 this year.

Don't miss the fully-supported ride, including well-stocked rest stops, road support, and the great roads and views of Whatcom and Skagit counties. Choose your route: you can ride 25, 38, 50, 62, 100, or 124 miles and see the sights down south (down Chuckanut and around Skagit County) as well as up north (into Ferndale, Birch Bay, and Blaine). Information: chuckanutcentury.org

There are a number of opportunities to help the MBBC put on another successful ride. Teams of volunteers will be marking the roads the weekend of September 12-13; there is some need for SAG drivers to give on-road rider support, people to help at registration the morning of the 20th, and day-of-ride rest stops assistance. Contact Doug Schoonover, Ride Director: chuckanutcentury@ mtbakerbikeclub.org or 360-410-6431, call or text.

# MBBC End-of-Summer Potluck/Cookout - Sept 27 All members (and potential members) invited!

The summer of 2015 has been the longest in recent memory - days and days of sunny bicycling weather, starting as early as last March and April! And it's been a busy cycling season as well, including highlights like the MBBC's hosting of the Northwest Tandem Rally, the club trip over North Cascades Highway, and finishing up with the Chuckanut Century.

To celebrate (and catch our breath), let's get together for an end-of-summer potluck on September 27th. Scott and Lori Dorough have volunteered their yard and deck and grill. Address: 1001 W. Toledo Street, Bellingham. (By the way: Toledo Street is a long/steep hill, so if you're arriving by bike, get ready for a climb!)

The gathering is from 2-5pm, Sunday afternoon September 27th. Please bring a side dish to share; the club will provide beverages, plus burgers (meat and veggie burgers) and brats to cook on the grill.

If you'd like to RSVP (so we have an idea of how much food and drink to supply), please drop a note to bikebeham@gmail.com, telling us how many adults and kids are in your group as well as how many prefer a veggie burger. But even if you forget to RSVP, please show up anyway!

Let's eat and drink and share stories of our great summer and plans for bicycling adventures in the fall and winter. See you on the 27th!

# WEEKLY AND GROUP RIDES

# Transition Month

With days getting shorter, many rides are changing or ending for the season. Some start times will change, some rides will change format. Check with ride leaders for the latest news and schedule.

**Sunday Edison Social Ride** starts from Edison Elementary School parking lot. 30-40 miles, 10-14 mph, route varies. 10 am start time. For additional info:

Alfred Arkley arkley@comcast.net or 360-527-8638

Sunday Rabbit Ride: 32mi road ride, South on Chuckanut, back via Colony and Lake Samish. All welcome; come prepared to push yourself. Pace varies by individual. Small similarly-paced groups leave from Fairhaven Bike. Those who estimate a 2-or-more-hour ride time leave at 8am. Faster groups leave every 5 minutes thereafter.

Info: John Hauter, johnh@fairhavenbike.com 733-4433

sunday Long-Slog Ride: Group ride for slower, but serious, riders who want to build strength and endurance. Pace averages 11-14 mph, distance began with 30 miles in May, working up to 60-70 miles by end of summer. Meet 9am by the bike racks behind the Boulevard Park Woods Coffee.

Ride leaders Jennifer Longstaff and Matt Vann, info 961-6684. Last official 2015 ride: September 6th

**Tuesday Ferndale Social Ride**: starts from Pioneer Park in Ferndale, 30-40 miles, 13-16 mph route varies. Start time either 9am or 10am. To check time and other info: Bob Parker rmp-4724@hotmail.com or 360-671-6910

**Tuesday Evening Summer Ride:** Start at WCC northeast parking lot. 6pm. Riders group by ability and average speed. (14-16 mph, 16-18 mph, 18+). 15-20 miles. information: Doug Schoonover 410-6431; call or text. Last Tuesday ride for 2015 is September 1st

Wednesday Group Workout Ride: Meet 5:45pm, leave 6pm from parking lot across from Boundary Bay Brewery. Road ride, split into fast (16-18mph) and faster (18+) groups. Socialize at Brewery afterward (7:30 pm) Info: Tim Ryan: t.ryan.2009 at gmail.com. Bring lights in September due to earlier darkness. Plan to switch to trails/lights on Sept 23.

Thursday Going Up The County Ride: 16 -18 mph pace, 20 miles. Gather at 6pm on Sept 3; at 5:30pm for the rest of September, at Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot, 1/2 mile N of Mt. Baker Hwy on Hwy 9/Lawrence Road. Led by John Okan & Rick Jacoby. more information: Jokan001 @ Luthersem. edu or 360-393-2435. Last ride for 2015 on Sept 24.

Thursday South Social Ride starts from Edison Elementary School parking lot. 30-40 miles, 10-14 mph, route varies. 10 am start time.

Info: Alfred Arkley: arkley@comcast.net or 360-527-8638

**TNR** (Thursday Night Ride) Thursday evenings. Meet in front of Fairhaven Bike, mid-March to mid-October, leaving right at 6pm (perhaps earlier as it gets darker) on a 30 mile road ride loop around the Lake Whatcom north shore.18+ mph pace. caseym@fairhavenbike.com

**Saturday Donut Ride**: 24 – 45 miles, race pace, departs from Kulshan Cycles at 7am, will be switching to winter start time of 7:30 am soon (perhaps October 4th - check with the ride). Goes to Ferndale and return, or if you wish continue to Birch Bay and return. Every week of the year!!

Saturday Recumbent Ride: Second Saturday of the month at 10 am. 14 mile intown course begins at Kulshan Cycles. Weather-dependent. Robert Parker at rmp-4724@hotmail.com or 360-671-6910

# Bike/Ped Count set for Sept 29, 30, and October 1 - Counters needed

The 2015 statewide bicycle and pedestrian counts will be held 9/29, 9/30, and 10/1, during morning and afternoon peak periods. This is the eighth year for the project in Washington.

Collecting data about bicycling and walking is critical to improving transportation systems. Compared to other transportation modes, bicycling and walking have historically received little attention when it comes to data collection and analysis. The count data will play a valuable role in planning, designing and funding bicycle and pedestrian projects, while helping us to better understand the factors that influence the levels of bicycling and walking in our communities.

Kim Brown, Transportation Options Coordinator for the City of Bellingham, is coordinating the volunteer effort in Bellingham. Volunteers count at one location for a two-hour shift at either a morning (7-9am) or an afternoon (4-6pm) time on the date of their choice. If you'd like to help out with this important project, contact **Kim Brown**, Count Coordinator, at **kimbrown@cob.org** or **778-7950**.

For more information about the state's documentation project, see www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/count.htm. Bellingham's count data from previous years can be found at www.cob.org/bike.

# EVENTS IN 2015

# Classes & Training

**Bellingham REI** Cycling & bike maintenance classes: September 6: Hands-on Maintenance: Basics

September 8: Brakes & Drive Train maintenance September 13: Hands-on Maintenance: Drive Train

check the monthly calendar at rei.com/stores/bellingham.html

Cycle Moles Training Camps: beginning September 15 cyclemoles.com



Progressive cycling workout to boost your stamina & power

#### **Healthy Knees Cycling**

Tue & Thu; 8:30-9:30am 5 Weeks; Starts 9/15/15

#### Cycle Moles Level 1

Mon & Wed; 6:45-7:45am 11 Weeks; Starts 9/15/15

## Cycle Moles Level 2

Tue & Thu; 6:45-8:15pm 5 Weeks: Starts 10/20/15

www.cyclemoles.com

Wednesday night CX practices (hosted by David Neubeck, 360-738-2025; dneubeck@hotmail.com) begin on **September 2** and continue through Thanksgiving. Practices are at Lake Padden Ballfields, moving to Civic Field as weather requires. Practice begins at 6pm.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Special instruction available for kids and beginners.

You will need a 'cross or mountain bike – preferably with bottle cages removed - and a helmet.

\$5 per practice, or \$30 for unlimited practices during the season. Kids are always free. All fees go to facility rental and to improving the Bellingham BMX dedicated Cyclocross course.

#### Races

May - October BMX racing, Fridays and Saturdays; practice track open Tuesday and Thursdays. bellinghambmx.com

Sept 19: Bellingham Traverse recreationnorthwest.org/bellingham-traverse

Cascade Cross 2015-16 is a much-shortened three race schedule. See Ryan's comments on p. 4

Sept 26 - Woolley Cross Dec 5 & 6 - Thanks Given'er Jan 9. 2016 - Bandit Cross cascadecross.com/races

### **2015 RIDES**

Check back every month as new rides are added and dates are finalized.

#### September 2015

6 Tour de Lab (Portland) tourdelab.com

**12-13** MS 150 (Mt Vernon) bikewas.nationalmssociety.org/

12 Tour de Blast (Mt St Helens) tourdeblast.com

13 Spokefest (Spokane) spokefest.org

19 Ride Around the Sound (Seattle-Normandy Park - Tacoma -Bremerton) RideAroundtheSound.org

19 Tour de Whidbey (Whidbey Island) facebook.com/tourdewhidbey

20 Chuckanut Century (Bellingham) chuckanutcentury.org

27 Kitsap Color Classic (Kingston) cascade.org/kitsap-color-classic

#### October 2015

3 Manastash Metric Century (Ellensburg) drier-ride.org

31 Boneshaker Bike Festival (La Conner) boneshakerfikefest.com

#### November 2015

26 Thanksgiving Ride (MBBC Ride - Bellingham)

#### December 2015

**16** Lighted Neighborhoods Ride (MBBC Ride - Bellingham)

MFG Cyclocross series (Seattle), 6 races from September to November. mfgcyclocross.com/2015-2/

### **Gatherings**

**September 13** - Anacortes Open Streets (see p. 7)

October 10 - Fifth annual WMBC Shoot the Trails, in a new location this year: Settlemeyer Hall at Bellingham Technical College. Submissions must be in by October 5th. Details: wmbcmtb.org/shoot-the-trails-awards/

October 25 - bike tour of new Bellingham road facilities (see p. 5), 1pm start at Bellingham High School. cob.org/bike

#### **Trail Work Parties**

 Parks Dept. Work Parties in city parks trails. Details: 360-778-7105 and see the Fall Schedule PDF file at cob.org/government/public/Volunteer/parks/schedule.aspx



# A VOLUNTEER/ORGANIZER'S THOUGHTS AFTER 10 YEARS

by Ryan Rickerts

Teacher seeks pupil. Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person."

So goes the opening line to *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn. I came across the philosophical novel as a high schooler in 1993 and became transformed by it. According to Wikipedia, it "examines the mythological thinking at the heart of modern civilization, its effect on ethics, and how this relates to sustainability and societal collapse on the global scale."

I went onto college with that sincere desire to save the world, which everyone with a practical bent sees as an impossible task. I'm not known for having that 'hindsight is 20/20' type of vision (mine is a bit fuzzier) so it took a few years to get traction. By the time I attended WWU in 2002, I was a bit humbled and slightly wiser than as a teenager and therefore started with a simple problem: I wanted to see more people on bikes and fewer cars on the road. I had been road biking on the beautiful roads of Whatcom County and attending the local non-organized events such as the Donut Ride. I immediately noticed an obvious dearth of college students. It didn't make any sense - college kids like bikes and are athletic. Why aren't they riding with us? I thought it was purely a matter of organizing and educating them.

Thusly was born WWU Cycling, now an esteemed athletic program in the Northwest Conference of USA Collegiate Cycling. Every time I see a bright blue & white jersey on the road on the back of young rider, male or female alike, I feel like I've made the world a little bit better. The desire to have an equal footing in the conference also led me to revive the Y Road/Squalicum Lake Rd. loop from the days of the Old Fairhaven Stage race and host the first WWU Cycling Collegiate Omnium – also known as the North Shore Circuit Race – in 2005. This was my senior year swan song and my first taste at race promoting. In very short order, it led to something greater.

At that point I had tried one season of cyclocross by traveling to distant venues, usually driving 6 hours for a 45 minute race. I was quite taken with the sport and coming off the high of promoting a successful stage race, thus primed to share my newfound passion. Was it a coincidence that Michael McAuley, "a local green builder and community-spirited person" according to his Port Commissioner profile, called me at this very moment in time and asked about the viability of the old Pacific Concrete plant property for a cyclocross event? Now known as Squalicum Creek Park and covered in mostly softball fields, his suggestion sparked the greatest community project I have yet embarked upon. The fundamental goal was still the same: get people on bikes, out of their cars, and hopefully change the world a little bit.

Now after promoting 50 'cross races in and around Whatcom County and entering my 10th season as founder and director of the Cascade Cross Series, I know I've put smiles on many faces, inspired many dark & cold rides in the bicycling "off-season" to enjoy the silliness & camaraderie that is a cyclocross event.

But I'm now compelled to act a bit like the talking gorilla in *Ishmael*. I need to teach you, Bellingham rider, how to contribute to our amazing cycling community. It takes more than participation, although that is definitely an essential part! It is necessary but not sufficient.



In *Ishmael*, the nameless narrator learns there are two types of cultures or people throughout history, *Leavers* and *Takers*, who are both enacting a story or "myth." In our story, the Takers are people who like to ride trail but don't build them or brush them. They like to attend fun community rides but don't organize them. They like to see big events come to town but have no notion of what it takes to plan them and pull them off.

In our local cycling story, I will call the other type of person a Giver. Think of any person you know consistently contributing to the local cycling community over the past decade or two just as a hobby: whether it's Doug Schoonover organizing the Chuckanut Century; Eric Brown putting in trail modifications for a newly permitted Enduro in the Chuckanuts; MBBC leaders perpetuating rides, annual events, this newsletter; Mark Peterson putting on the Padden Mountain Pedal; or myself... the list is long (but it's not quite long enough).

I guarantee you these Givers are not making a living wage from doing this work. They are lucky if they made anything at all, other than a heartfelt "Thank you" from those who enjoy the results. It's a modest payment for a very thankless task – navigating permits with public land owners, complaints from public land users, insurance, equipment rentals, registration systems, taxes... while not out riding your bike like all your friends are doing. Some very friendly & considerate people show up, they have fun, they invite you to their after party... but you're too busy sorting out the handwritten results or shutting down the course or cleaning and closing the venue office.

As I reach a place where I'm ready to turn the page to the next endeavor, where trying to change the world by building community, health and inspiration through bike event organizing seems to have reached its pinnacle for me, I just need to ask you this one question: Which side of Bellingham cycling history will you be on? **The Takers** or **The Givers**?

If you would value being tutored on how to be on the Giver side of this story, talk to me about helping keep the Cascade Cross Series alive. With the right kind of contribution, the much-shortened three race schedule for 2015 (see p. 3) could be ratcheted back up to the 'glory days' of six, or even eight, events. Also, check out my latest project, the Kulshan Cycling Ambassador Program: kulshancycling.com









# **BELLINGHAM'S NEW BIKE FACILITIES**

As part of its Bicycle Master Plan, Bellingham is creating a safe, wellconnected network to encourage bicyling by all members of our community. The network will include new facilities to make it safer and easier for bicyclists and motorists to share our city streets.

In August, the first of these facilities were installed on Ohio and Cornwall streets, as well as on some of the neighborhood roads near Bellingham High School.

These graphics (to the left, provided by the City of Bellingham) explain how the facilities work.

The city is creating a "Bikingham" campaign, and invites interested cyclists to tour the new facilities by bike. Meet at Bellingham High School at 1pm on October 25 for a short OF BELLIA ride. cob.org/bike







# The most finishers ever!

# **BILL'S HILLS RIDERS SURVIVE TO TELL THE TALE!**

At 7:00 am on Sunday August 9th, 14 cyclists of questionable judgement attempted the hardest century ride in the Northwest – Bill's Hills. Just over 100 miles around Bellingham with more than 11,000 feet of climbing. Five of the climbs had grades exceeding 20% and put everyone at their limits. The weather was great and we had a record of nine finishers including our very own MBBC President Hillary Higgins, the new Queen of the Mountain. Other finishers with bragging rights included Bill McCourt, Ken Giffin, Marie Kimball, Tim Ryan (record holder for most completed), Roy Miller (King of the Mountain on the last climb over Yew Street), Dennis Adam, Matt Vann, and Trent Vigor. It was a long day in the saddle which mercifully ended 12 hours later at 7:00 pm.

A special thanks to Judy McCourt, Kathy Whitmer, Suzanne and Shawn Lucke, Patti Mullin, and Randy Olson for staffing the great rest stops. We had coffee, fruit, sandwiches, energy bars, cookies, fresh rhubarb crisp, and one ounce schooners of Boundary Bay Beer on top of Squalicum Mountain (we had to wait until we got to Boundary Bay for the celebratory full size adult beverages).



# **MBBC ADMINISTRATION**

#### Mount Baker Bicycle Club Board of Directors and Officers:

Hilary Higgins - President Scott Dorough - Vice President Jennifer Longstaff - Secretary/Membership Brian Christensen - Treasurer Eric Stromerson - Rides Coordinator Bill McCourt, Tim Ryan, Riley Jones -- at large

# Mount Baker Bicycle Club

#### **Committees:**

Chuckanut Century: Doug Schoonover

Media; Bellingham Marathon Escorts: Greg Rehm

Media; New Year's Day Ride: Mark Wheatley

Media: Jennifer Longstaff

Bus-to-Bike Shelters project: Rodd Pemble Newsletter-Bagel Procurer: Cathie Gerlicher

Graphic Design: Tim Ryan

Certified MBBC Ride Leaders: a long list

#### **Club Bike Jerseys**

The official MBBC bike jersey is a colorful short-sleeved full-zip jersey, available in men's and womens' sizes, race cut and club cut. We have a small number of jerseys on hand, and if we have requests for more we'll put in a new order. Jerseys are \$60 (including tax) to MBBC members.

To inquire about availability of MBBC jerseys and to try on, pick up, or order a new one, contact bikebeham@gmail.com.

#### **Contacts:**

Information-- bikebeham@gmail.com
Chuckanut Century -- (360 410-6431)
chuckanutcentury@mtbakerbikeclub.org
Newsletter -- mbbcnewsletter@mtbakerbikeclub.org

## Contribute to the MBBC newsletter

submission guidelines:

Articles, editorials, photographs, and artwork are welcome for inclusion in the newsletter. Anything related to bicycling will be considered; please discuss ideas with the editor (mbbcnewsletter@mtbakerbikeclub.org) in advance to reserve newsletter space or if you have questions. Final materials are due the last Friday before the last full week of every month, though earlier submissions are appreciated. Text can be submitted in any common format, for example: plain text, HTML, MS Word, etc. Please use JPG, PNG, or TIFF format for photos, and ensure they are at least 250 ppi. Articles may be edited for grammar, spelling, and space considerations.

Please notify the MBBC of upcoming cycling events for inclusion in the events list/calendar. Provide details plus contact information.

Classified ads are a MBBC member privilege and are printed as space is available.

MBBC Memb	ership Fewing Member	orm for 2016 see mo	ember benefits and download membership form at: mtbakerbikeclub.org/membership	
Last name:	F	irst name:	Membership type:	
Address:			Wembership type.	
City:	State:	Postal Code:	Individual: \$15	
E-mail:			Family/Associate: \$25	
Contact telephone number:		Additional Donation: (donations support community bicycling programs)		
Associate member:(An associate member is any per	son living at the same	address as the individual member)	Total enclosed: \$	
I would like to receive my newslet	tter via (choose one):	Please enclose a check payable to:		
Would you like to help? Vo	lunteers are our m	nost valuable resource.	Mt. Baker Bicycle Club	
Please check any of the bo	xes that appeal to	you and we will be in touch:		
□ Board Member	☐ Ride Leader	□ Newsletter	Mail to: Mt. Baker Bicycle Club	
Chuckanut Century	∃ Bike to Work an	d School Day	attention: membership	
☐ Special Events	☐ Membership	☐ Education	Post Office Box 2702 Bellingham, Washington 98227	
□ I can provide discounts	on		Demingham, washington 90227	



# ANACORTES 2ND ANNUAL OPEN STREETS EVENT Sunday, September 13, 11am to 3pm

Experience Old Town Anacortes as never before....let's all meet on the streets!! Old Town Anacortes is closed to automobiles so citizens can bike, walk, roller blade, roller skate, socialize, to enjoy downtown Anacortes. An event for families and people of all interests and ages! Retro bike display (the ninth annual Concours D'Elegance Classic Bike **Show**) and ride, music, health and exercise demos, minor bike repairs. BMX and Mountain bike demos, information displays and more. Downtown restaurants and shops will be open as usual.

To get to Old Town Anacortes - head to the north end of Commercial Ave.

Sponsored by: The City of Anacortes Island Hospital, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Bicycle Club, Fidalgo Island Rotary Club. Organized by: The Anacortes Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

On Facebook: Anacortes Bikes & Walks; Upcoming events: Open Streets

Want to show your classic/special bike?

Contact Steve Jahn- 425-830-4981 stevedianjahn@gmail.com





# WOODS COFFEE





Fairhaven Bicycle 1108 11th Street fairhavenbike.com 360.733.4433

Professionally trained Bike Fitters



# MBBC TO AGAIN PROVIDE ESCORTS FOR BELLINGHAM MARATHON

The club is planning to again provide bicycle escorts for the different groups of runners participating in the Bellingham Bay Marathon, Half Marathon, and 5K on September 27th. Greg Rehm is working with the race organizers and will be arranging the bike riders to escort the men's and women's leaders in each race.

If you're interested in joining the elite group of marathon leaders, contact Greg for more information: greg@turnpoint.net



#### Welcome new members

Donald Kronenberg Kim Mallory Michael Mallory Holly Miller Elis Topchaniuk Sergii Topchaniuk Michael Webb

We're glad to have you in the MBBC!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CHUCKANUT	CENTURY	September 1 Tues Eve Ride Ferndale social ride	<b>2</b> Wed Group Ride CX Practice	<b>3</b> TNR Up-County Ride Edison Social Ride	4	5 Donut Ride
6 Slog Ride Edison Social Ride Rabbit Ride Tour de Lab REI Bike Maint Class	<b>7</b> Labor Day	8 Ferndale Social ride REI Bike Maint Class	9 Wed Group Ride CX Practice	TNR Up-County Ride Edison Social Ride	11	Donut Ride Recumbent Ride MS 150 day 1 Tour de Blast
13 Rabbit Ride Anacortes Open Street Edison Social Ride REI Bike Maint Class	<b>14</b> Ash Hashanah	<b>15</b> Ferndale Social ride Cycle Moles begins	<b>16</b> Wed Group Ride CX Practice	TNR Up-County Ride Edison Social Ride	MBBC October Newsletter Deadline	19 Donut Ride Ride Arnd the Sound Tour de Whidbey Bellingham Traverse
20 Rabbit Ride Edison Social Ride Chuckanut Century	21	22 Ferndale ride  Yom Kify	23 Wed Group Ride CX Practice  Butumnal Equinox	TNR Up-County Ride Edison Social Ride	25	26 Donut Ride Woolley Cross
27 Rabbit Ride Edison Social Ride Kitsap Color Classic End-of-Summer BBQ	28	29 Ferndale Social ride	<b>30</b> Wed Group Ride CX Practice	October 1 TNR? Edison Social Ride	2	3 Donut Ride Manastash Metric



# Mount Baker Bicycle Club

Post Office Box 2702 Bellingham, Washington 98227



Welcome to Bellingham Now Get on Your Bike!

www mtbakerbikeclub org

If you are a club member and wish to receive a printed version of the newsletter rather than online, please inform mbbcnewsletter@mtbakerbikeclub.org. Club members are entitled to a printed/mailed version sent to a US address..