

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club



P.O. Box 156, Swarthmore, Pa, 19081

November 2006



DVBC mourns the passing of Bob Leon

September 25, 2006

Until We Meet Again

By Dominick Zuppo

September 25, 2006. The start of a new work week. The last week of the month. And the day we learned that one of our own would ride no more.

Robert Paul Leon, long-time Director and Treasurer and better known as one of the three "Bobs" of the DVBC, departed this world after fighting a protracted battle against cancer. His strength and courage during this period of time were a testament to the life he lived all the years that preceded these last few.

Welcome to Cycling

I don't think any of us can count the number of people Bob introduced to the sport of bicycling. Time and again, members of our club have told me how they first met our Ride Leader Extraordinaire, usually during one of his countless club rides. I'm still amazed by his uncanny ability to lead rides through Southern New Jersey, where every road is numbered 551 or 662 and every intersection looks the same. He never got lost. But during the few times he may have been "directionally challenged," Bob would calm our fears with his famous motto. "You never get lost on a bike. You just go a little further."

Times on the Bike

One of Bob's favorite jaunts was

the Kountry Kitchen ride, a breakfast bash that started at Kingsway High School in New Jersey. We'd warm up for 16 miles, enjoy a satisfying meal of pancakes, eggs, or dried beef on toast, then head out for some more miles on our bikes. And he knew the best way to slake our appetites during his 85-mile excursions to Mays Landing was a stop at the Sugar Hill Deli.

Bob also led rides close to home. He'd start some of his rides from, of all places, the Dunkin' Donuts store in Woodlyn. If we did partake of their culinary treats, Bob made sure we worked them off by leading us at a fast clip to Manayunk or Valley Forge and back. And like many club veterans, he used Ridley Creek State Park as his base of operations when he led his charges south to Chadds Ford and up the infamous Britons Bridge Road.

Sushi, Anyone?

Bob also enjoyed spending time with his friends off the bike. One of his favorite activities was sharing a meal at the Hibachi restaurant in Springfield. True to his nature, Bob struck up a personal relationship with one of the chefs who frequently prepared special cuisine for his guests. Even us "steak and potato" types were welcomed at these gatherings.

Paying it Forward

Cyclists sometimes ask me "Dom, you're a strong rider. Why do you lead C rides?" I smile when I think to myself "because that's what Bob did." To this day, many of our rides are led from the rear of the pack, a technique Bob used to keep fast riders vigilant and connected with the rest of the peloton. Bob taught me that adopting an average cadence of 90-100 RPM would strengthen my cycling. I'm sure many of you would like me to put my "cadence soapbox" aside every now and then. And I'm often surprised when new riders thank me for waiting for them, maybe at the top of a hill or after a long flat section of road when the pace quickens, until I remember my friend and the way he supported me.

Bob also supported research and programs for people struck by illness or disease. He raised thousands of dollars by participating for many years in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's MS-150 tour. He also participated in the American Cancer Society's annual Bike-a-Thon, when in 2004 he triumphantly joined the tour as a survivor of cancer.

A Fond Adieu

"This is a very sad day for DVBC.

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The Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. BOX 156
Swarthmore, PA 19081

<http://www.dvbc.org>

DVBC Meeting Place

Delaware County Peace Center,
 Springfield Friends Meeting,
 1001 Old Sproul Road
 (behind the car wash at Rte. 320
 and Old Marple Road).



GO BONKERS!

DVBC welcomes articles and ride reports for the newsletter. Please submit your proofread materials to the Editor before the 12th of each month.

Board of Directors & Staff

Dominick Zuppo, *President*,
 610.544.8630 or domzuppo@att.net

Frank Jackson, *Secretary*
 FJackson@rohmmaas.com

Mike Broennle, *Treasurer*
 treasurer@dvbc.org

Clarence Shoch, *Ride Calendar*
 rides@dvbc.org

Drew Knox, *Brandywine Tour Coordinator*
 bwtour@dvbc.org

Antonio Rocha, *Web Page*
 484.802.8374 or tony@craftech.com

Debbie Chaga, 610.494.3033 or
 dreamer@craftech.com

Larry Green, largreen@earthlink.net

Cheryl Lynch, oyveyquilts@yahoo.com

Peter Schmidt, pschmid1@swarthmore.edu

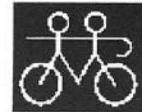
Brian Wade, *Past President*,
 610.254.9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com

Bob & Judy LaDrew, *Newsletter Editors*,
 610.383.9327 or bonkers@dvbc.org

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	Obey all applicable traffic regulations, signs, signals and markings.
	Keep right. Drive with traffic, not against it. Ride single file.
	Watch out for car doors opening, or for cars pulling into traffic.
	Protect yourself at night with the required reflectors and lights.
	Use hand signals to indicate stopping or turning.

Ride Guidelines

1. Arrive early and *be ready to leave on time*. Rides start no more than 5-7 minutes late.
2. Make sure your bike is in proper working order *before* you arrive.
3. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, and water bottle.
4. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
5. A helmet is mandatory for all DVBC rides.
6. All Club rides are rated according to the degree of difficulty. Do not "bike off" more than you can do. Go on rides within your ability, interest and experience. If you're in doubt about your ability, try out a ride one class below the one you're not sure of and work your way up.
7. Ride classifications:
Class D: For new, inexperienced riders or families: 7-9 mph average moving speed with frequent stops and as few hills as possible. The group will wait for all riders. The ride lengths are usually less than 10 miles, but longer distances are permissible.
Class C-: For average riders: 10-11 mph average moving speed with rest stops as needed. The group will wait for stragglers. The recommended distance is 10-30 miles.
Class C+: Also for average riders: 12-13 mph average moving speed with rest stops every 45-60 minutes. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
Class B-: For more experienced riders: 14-15 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
Class B+: For strong riders: 16-18 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
Class A: For very strong riders: 18+ mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.
8. Each rider assumes his/her own risk on all rides.
9. Those who ride ahead of the group are on their own ride.
10. Always notify the ride leader before leaving the group.
11. Ride leaders should adhere to the advertised speed of the ride.
12. Ride leaders are not expected to be bike mechanics.

Note: In the case of questionable weather or road conditions, the Ride Leader may decide to cancel the event. Call the ride leader if in doubt. The general public is invited to all events organized by the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club. Except for the Bonkers Metric, Brandywine Tour, Club banquet and Bonkers picnic, all club events are free to the general public. The general public is welcome!

An Ear-piercing Scream

From Gina Bezdziecki

No, this ride did not involve any body-piercing or tattoo parlor stops. Actually it was on one of many New Jersey rides that I did with my good friend Bob Leon and other established friends in the club who often rode to the Sugar Hill Deli in Mays Landing, to the Ocean City NJ boardwalk, or to



Sept. 99: Front: Ira Josephs, Antonio Rocha and Chris Harendza. Back: Woody Kotch, Mike Scott, David Bennett, Bob Leon, Jan Chadwick and Bill Freeborn.

the Kountry Kitchen in Elmer during the longer daylight hours of summer. It happened on an otherwise quiet back road on the way to our day's destination. Perhaps you have heard the phrase, "For every action there is a reaction." This was certainly true in the situation that suddenly occurred. As we pedaled at the brisk pace needed to cover the day's many miles, an unleashed dog came bolting from off its property, barking and snarling with the fur up on the back of its

neck, and in hot pursuit of our bikes and our bodies. It was at that moment, out of panic, that I reacted by veering away from the dog. I'm not sure which octave or what particular note I hit, but I did let out an ear-piercing scream. Poor Bob just happened to be the one riding beside me at that time so he endured my loud, shrill, panicked scream. Up went his hand to protect the ear nearest to me but it was too late. He said his ears were ringing for the rest of that ride. Not only on this ride, but on many more rides after that, he would often joke and claim that his ears were still ringing.

(Continued from page 1)

Bob was a good guy and a very special friend." "The pain we feel tonight and the tears we shed are a testament to what a good person and great cycling friend Bob was. Our lives have been blessed by the good times we spent with Bob out on the roads." "Bob was an extraordinary human being that meant a lot to a lot of people including myself. He will be greatly missed." "I almost bonked on my first 20-mile ride. Bob challenged me to keep on riding. I will always remember." "I'll always be grateful to Bob and Cassie for how welcoming they were towards me as I became involved in the club. Nice to have role models like that in a club like ours." "Bob was also my mentor; my first ride with the club was also with Bob. He introduced so many of us to cycling. I will miss him." "There's not a ride that goes by where he is not in my thoughts."

An extraordinary human being. My mentor. Our lives have been blessed. A very special friend. I will always remember. Heartfelt sentiments from people who knew and loved Bob Leon.

Until we meet again, my friend. See you on the road.

Initiated by Bob Leon

From Dave Trout

I, like many in the club, was initiated into the pleasures of bicycle riding by Bob Leon. One summer in particular I think I memorized his butt as he pulled me around Jersey for four or five thousand miles. I used to tell him my wife was jealous because I saw more of his butt than hers. I will miss his love of riding and his dry sense of humor. We had many laughs on the bike.

One of the funniest times occurred on my first century ride that actually ended up being about 125 miles. We had done the ACS ride and were riding back to Kingsway where we would be picked up. I was closely watching the odometer and when it finally turned

100, I looked over at Bob and said, "I just went over 100." Bob didn't even look at me. I said, "Bob, don't we celebrate or something?" Again, without even looking at me, he said, "Yahoo! Your first century. Now keeping pedaling."



August '98: A Bob Leon-led Mays Landing ride. Front: Larry Green, Mike Farrell, Bob Leon, Dave Trout. Rear: Ira Josephs, Ed Sobolewski, Bill Robb, David Bennett, Bill Andersen, Bob LaDrew.

Another time he and I were riding up Route 40 coming back from somewhere in South Jersey. I was right on his wheel when he shouted out, "Marijuana plant!" I said, "What?" He said again, "Marijuana plant." I made him go back and sure enough there next to the road, growing right beside a storm drain, was a foot-and-a-half tall marijuana plant. I never did ask him how he knew what they looked like.

I will miss Bob, but I am sure he is up in heaven leading most of the rides for that Big Bike Club in the Sky.

BONKERZ

CARTOONS OF THE DVBC



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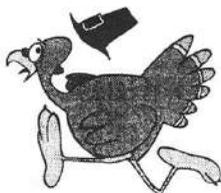




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DVBC Ride Calendar

NOVEMBER 2006



*****Recurring Weekday Rides*****	
Sundays 9:30 am Miles:30-60 Class:B-B- Doc's Rides ✓	Various local routes starting from the Swarthmore area. Sometimes a lunch stop. Foul weather cancels ride. Call ahead of time for weekly plans. Contact Larry Green at 610-544-5799 Email: largreen@earthlink.net
Tuesdays 6:00 pm Miles:15-20 Class:C NightRiders ✓	As daylight wanes, another season of night riding begins. Spin around Southern DelCo in the dark. Bike lights front and rear are a must. You must call or e-mail the leader to confirm start time & location. Very cold or wet weather cancels ride. Most rides start at 6 PM. Contact Dave Trout at 610-368-0760 Email: brider-ride@usa.net

Saturday, Nov 4 9:00 am Miles:34-62+ Class:All Bob Leon Memorial Ride ✓	Meet at Kingsway High School, Rtes. 551 and 322, as we honor the memory of our Ride Leader Extraordinaire, Bob Leon. We'll eat together at the Kountry Kitchen, then split off into A, B and C level groups as we remember the life and spirit of this special man. Wearing of our club colors and LiveStrong bracelets highly recommended. Contact Dom Zuppo at 610.544.8630 or membership@dvbc.org
Sunday, Nov 5 9:00 am Miles:35+ Class:C+ Art Museum ✓	Art Museum C+ paced ride from Drexel Hill Cyclery, Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill. We'll travel to the museum not for culture, but to cruise the museum loop taking in the November weather. Bring \$ for snack. Contact Bob Martin at 610-352-2114
Sunday, Nov 5 10:00 am Miles:76 Class:B+ Tri-state Journey ✓	Meet at Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School for a scenic ride on PA, DE, and MD roads. Stop in Elkton MD at mile 35. Contact Glenn Lyons at 610-399-0624 or rollingspeed@comcast.net
Monday, Nov 6 7:00 pm Miles:0 Class:ALL Board Meeting	Meet at Springfield Friends Center. All welcome. See what goes on behind the scenes of your club. Contact Dom Zuppo at 610.544.8630 or membership@dvbc.org
Saturday, Nov 11 9:00 am Miles:35+ Class:C+ Debbie Does Delaware; DDD Ride ✓	Meet at the old Acme parking lot, Aston at Pennell Rd (Rte. 452) & Weir/Marianville Rd. Ride to the 1st State, visit Arden, Bellevue State Park, the Brandywine Zoo, and possibly Fox Point St. Park on Delaware River. Contact Debbie Chaga at 610-494-3033 or dreamer@craftech.com
Saturday, Nov 11 9:00 am Miles:60+ Class:B/B- Chadds Ford Peregrination J	Meet at Pocopson Elem. off Rte. 1 near Hanks Diner, for an approximation of Reverse Brandywine, lots of other nice back roads intertwined with the regulars to get a few screaming downhill. Brief water stop and lunch in LOVELY LANDENBERG. Slower, cold-weather pace but enough hills to warrant a B rating. This is a fair weather ride, call to confirm if in doubt. Contact Drew Knox at 302-475-1684 or agknox@gmail.com
Sunday, Nov 12 9:45 am Miles:62 Class:B Westtown and Beyond J	Meet at Moylan Rose Valley train station, Manchester & Woodward Roads for a ride over the classic routes of the DVBC. Go thru western Delaware County, Chester County & maybe Delaware. Plenty of hills, farms & creeks to enjoy. Food stop at mid point. Contact Ira Josephs at 610-565-4058 or ira@dvbc.org
Sunday, Nov 12 10:00 am Miles:58 Class:B+ Tri-county Loop J	Meet at Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School. If it's warm we could do a longer route. Contact Glenn Lyons at 610-399-0624 or rollingspeed@comcast.net

Saturday, Nov 18 7:15 am Miles:60+ Class:C+ Bike PA "E" ✓	Ride entire PA portion of the East Coast Greenway, @ 52 mi., all on pavement thru Bucks, Phila & Del Counties. Depart from main parking area, John Heinz Wildlife Refuge, 8601 Lindbergh Blvd, at 7:15 am. Join BikePA "E" on Bartrum Ave. Ride south to Mason-Dixon line in Marcus Hook, with train connections as we go north. Lunch stop @ Sweet Lucy's bar-b-q in Tacony. Must let me know you are coming so we can avoid having too many bikes on the train[s]. Mike Broennle at 610-647-5764 or broennle@email.chop.edu
Saturday, Nov 18 9:00 am Miles:35-40 Class:C+/B- Chadds Ford/Northbrook ✓	Meet at Chadds Ford elementary school. Ride to Northbrook Country Market for snack. Contact Dan Dillon at 610-494-4949 or DAniel.dillon@att.net
Saturday, Nov 18 9:00 am Miles:51 Class:B- French Creek & Beyond ✓	Meet at Bob's house near Coatesville and ride some hills near French Creek Park, then stop at Shirk's Bike Shop before returning home for hot chocolate & snack. Call or email for directions. Contact Bob LaDrew at 610-383-9327 or 2ladrews@netreach.net
Sunday, Nov 19 9:00 am Miles: Class: Kountry Kitchen ✓	Meet at the Kingsway High School, Routes 551 and 322 for that familiar ride to morning breakfast. Contact Bob Martin at 610-352-2114
Thursday, Nov 23 9:00 am Miles:30 Class:C 6th Annual Frozen Turkey Thirty ✓	Please join me for this food raiser. Riding or not, bring a bag of non-perishable food goods to Rose Tree Park between 8:30 and 9:00 AM and get a free t-shirt. Ride starts at Rose Tree Park and heads out through Ridley State park with a loop in Chester County. Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com
Saturday, Nov 25 9:30 am Miles:66 Class:B/B- Swedesboro Saunter ✓	Meet at Kingsway on Rte. 551 in Swedesboro & ride to Alloway. See if swans are nesting in Mannington Creek. Review some Revolutionary War History around Alloway. Fair weather ride, call to confirm if in doubt. Drew Knox: 302-475-1684 or agknox@gmail.com
Saturday, Nov 25 10:00 am Miles:20-26 Class:C C.U at Selene ✓	Start at Selene Whole Foods Co-op, 305 West State St., Media. Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the hills & valleys to Ridley Creek State Park & beyond. Free refreshments afterward inside Co-op. Free parking in lot just west of the store. Contact Ira Josephs at 610-565-4058 or ira@dvbc.org
Sunday, Nov 26 9:00 am Miles:35+ Class:C+ Art Museum ✓	Art Museum C+ paced ride from Drexel Hill Cyclery, Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill. We'll travel to the museum not for culture, but to cruise the museum loop taking in the November weather. Bring \$ for snack. Contact Bob Martin at 610-352-2114

DVBC Holiday Banquet

Monday, December 4th,
7:00 pm

The Little Inn, Media

\$10 per person for members
and their families

To make reservations
contact Dom Zuppo at
610-544-8630 or
membership@dvbc.org



Circa 1999: Bob Leon led a group of C riders from Buena to Ocean City

Please confirm accuracy of information about the banquet by checking the DVBC website www.dvbc.org, contacting Dom Zuppo, or checking the Dec. issue of the newsletter. Thank you.

DVBC members remember Bob Leon.

On the day following Bob Leon's death, members sent reactions to the club's email list serve. Below are some of their comments:

Dave Hartrum: The pain we feel tonight and the tears we shed are a testament to what a good person and great cycling friend Bob was. Our lives have been blessed by the good times we spent with Bob out on the roads.

Ed Becker: Bob was an extraordinary human being who meant a lot to a lot of people including myself. He will be greatly missed. I will always remember those times while on the bike or enjoying some sushi blessed with the presence of such a wonderful person.

Dom Zuppo: Personally, I'm at a loss for words. Years ago, Bob took me "under his wings" when I returned to the sport of cycling. At last, he can spread them again and soar free from the bonds of illness and pain. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Tony Rocha: There will be no services. Bob wanted to be cremated and only have his close family present. Bob wants all of us to remember him the way he was and not the way he ended. He also asked for us to continue our Kountry Kitchen rides and maybe have a yearly memorial KK ride.

My first ride with the club was Bob's ride out of Woodlyn to Ridley Creek Park. I almost bonked on my first 20-mile ride. Bob challenged me to keep on riding. I will always remember.

Jan Chadwick: "You never get lost on a bike. You just go a little further." --Bob Leon
We'll miss you Bob...

Valerie Shinbaum: I was just thinking about my first ride with the club, which was also with Bob. He and Cassie rode a tandem that day, a 50-mile Salem Oak ride on a beautiful October day, but boy what a headwind we ran into towards the

end! And how encouraging both he and Cassie were as I tried to hang tough with that challenging wind. Lots of other folks were there that day, Bob LaDrew, Woody, Len and Bonnie, Bob Martin, Ed Becker.... It was quite the introduction to some of the "heavy hitters" in the club I've since gotten to know a little bit more. I'll always be grateful to Bob and Cassie for how welcoming they were towards me as I became involved in the club. Nice to have role models like that in a club like ours. He'll be missed.

Ed Sobolewski: Bob was also my mentor; my first ride with the club was with Bob. He introduced so many of us to cycling. I will miss him.

Len Zanetich: There's not a ride that goes by where he is not in my thoughts. I was so excited riding with him again after his comeback from the first bout with this deadly disease. He gave a lot to DVBC and the charity rides he participated in. I think we should have a yearly memorial ride on the last week of September and collect donations for the American Cancer Society in honor of him. He will truly be missed.

Doug Bower: Last December when Bob was in the hospital, he told me he needed to get back on the bike this summer because he wanted to map out the "Bob Leon Memorial Ride." Unfortunately he was unable to get back on the bike to map out that route. I think we should dub the Kountry Kitchen ride "The Bob Leon Memorial Ride", ride it once a year, and make a donation to either the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or the Cancer Society or both.

Peter Schmidt: In the meantime, ride ... as if your life depends on it. And remember that Leon or Leone means lion in Spanish and Italian, respectively.

Debbie Chaga: My first club ride was also a Bob Leon ride. I remember how nice he was and I didn't feel intimidated at all. The KK rides were always fun and Bob always had something funny to say. I also remember him telling me how to climb like Lance when we were climbing up Dutton Mill Rd on the Bonkers Route. Every time I make that climb now, I think of him. The day I have in mind was actually during his recovery from the first bout with cancer and I was amazed at how strong he was. Another day which is fresh in my mind was riding the Salem Oak ride in April 2005. Bob and I were both recovering from



Bob Leon at the April 9, 2005 Salem Oak metric, during his battle with cancer

bouts with the big C, and both of us weren't quite up to the level of the other riders, but we didn't care. We talked as we rode and said how happy we were to just be out on the bike again and to be alive. Bob and I rode the 2005 ACS ride with Maureen Shanahan and we had a great time. Bob kept telling Maureen and me not to kill ourselves on the Ben Franklin Bridge because you could poop out early. We had a great ride. I remember pulling Maureen and Bob the last 10 miles to the finish and we were doing about 24 mph! After the ride we rode to Bob's trailer and hung out and had a beer together. What a fun day! Bob was a good friend to me and kept in touch when I was

(Continued on page 9)



Bike Dirt

By F.X. Pedrix



I am known for seeing the lighter side of just about every situation but this month there is only deep sadness as I contemplate the loss of Bob Leon, our DVBC's "Ride Leader **Extraordinaire**." For four long years we have had to stand by and watch the suffering of our good friend Bob. In death as in life, Bob showed dignity and character. There is an example for all of us in the courage Bob exhibited as he fought the cancer and staged comeback after comeback, each time with renewed joy and optimism.

Most of us got our first taste of club riding under Bob's tutelage and the overriding memory is of the comfort we felt with Bob, our quiet ride leader who instilled in us the confidence that we were good enough for club riding.

The second lingering impression is of the sublime joy Bob himself experienced while out on his bicycle, with friends, for many hours at a time. In leading two rides almost every weekend of the year, Bob was performing a service to the club. But we all knew that, while he was serving us, no one in our peloton was having more fun than Bob. The DVBC will continue to ride but there will always be a gap in our pace line where Bob Leon should be.

Among its recent members the DVBC has a celebrity. Although he has been a fixture on the area biking scene for years, renowned sculptor **Don Everhart** recently joined our club. While you may not recognize his name, you have been seeing Don's work for some time now. He has designed many of the coins you have in your pocket. You might need a magnifying glass but you can spot the "DE" on the obverse of some beautiful coins issued in recent years.

Another member, **Adam Levine**, has his own claim to fame. He does historical research with a particular emphasis on water. And Adam recently pointed out to one of my spies what few others might have noticed: the Bonkers Metric traverses no fewer than five of our area's major watersheds. Can you name them? If not, ask Adam next time you ride with him.

On his web site, Adam makes the claim: "I have become what one of my

engineer-friends calls 'the Big Kahuna of Philadelphia Sewers,' which is an extreme example of a big fish (probably a catfish) in a very small (and smelly) pond.... I am basically obsessed by the subject of sewers and drainage and, more generally, urban watersheds and what we have done to them over the years."

At the start of the **Dominator's** September 30 Ridley ride, **Dreamer** announced to her 16 fellow riders that, although she might appear to be giving people the finger, that was not the case. She explained to her skeptical listeners that she'd injured her middle finger and had been instructed by the doctor to keep it elevated. The finger's healing must have made vast strides that day because Dreamer kept it pretty elevated.

Watch out, Stephen Colbert. Last year that Comedy Central icon coined the new word "truthiness." The term quickly gained acceptance and has even been incorporated into the Oxford English Dictionary. It seems Colbert has nothing on the DVBC's **Gas Passer**, who has created the useful and long-overdue cycling term "kanoodling." According to the Passer, an entry in next year's OED should read: "kanoodle: v. to ride one's bicycle to a club ride, do the ride, and return home by bicycle." The DVBC has a bunch of riders who have been kanoodling regularly for years and didn't even know it.

And speaking of the Gas Passer, in real life an anesthesiologist, **Bonkers Boy** recently had occasion to draw on his store of medical knowledge for a cartoon. Bonkers wanted to incorporate the use of a testosterone patch into the final cartoon panel but wasn't sure on what part of the anatomy it should be applied. So he checked with Gas Passer, then promptly decided that he would have his character apply the patch somewhere else. He was certain that a scrotal application would not pass muster in the DVBC's family publication.

Mr. Buckeye has discovered what many other ride leaders have known for some time: "If you feed them, they will come." On October 7th, he hosted a

torturous ride to and up the infamous Eichele Hill. Before the ride left from his house, Buckeye served his guests two kinds of pancakes, and even delivered a videotaped lecture on the subtleties of the sweet science of cooking flapjacks. Sadly, when breakfast ended, Buckeye felt that he had been duped. **Juror # 6**, who had eaten more pancakes than anyone else, announced that he was abandoning the ride even before it began. He had suddenly remembered that he had a chess tournament.

Jim Irwin distinguished himself on Eichele Hill by finishing in the front half of the pack. Nevertheless, Jim is kicking himself because he budgeted his energy poorly and happened to be walking the final, steepest (25-28%) portion when the video team was filming. Jim has vowed to return to Eichele and prove, at least to himself, that he can conquer the hill on two wheels. I believe he will succeed.

I am told that the first thing **Gray Wolf** does upon receiving his DVBC newsletter is look inside for the latest photo of either **Grease Monkey** or her legs. It seems he has noticed that her photo appears in this publication disproportionately often. To his vast disappointment, however, last month there was no such photo. Nor can we tell you when another will appear.

During a recent Manayunk ride **Septuagenarian, Camera Shy, Quilter, Celeste Bianchi**, and the **Dominator** went to the Art Museum steps to take in the AIDS quilt on display during the Philly AIDS Walk. There were some vendor tables set up nearby and Quilter picked up some swag thinking it was an energy bar or snack for the people walking the river drives. Much to her embarrassment, it turned out to be a package of condoms. When the group stopped for a snack, Quilter passed the merchandise on to **Gray Wolf** in honor of his recent birthday.

On October 14th **Quilter**, the

(Continued on page 9)



(Bike Dirt, from page 8)

odds-on favorite, publicly announced that she wants herself removed from contention for the coveted Crash and Burn Award. Apparently, what Quilter had in mind was that she intends to vie instead for the FX Pedrix Roadkill Award. The following day she was riding in a pace line in Penn Valley when a squirrel came from nowhere and slammed into her rear spokes. The furry rodent did a back flip before scurrying in panic back up the hill. As **Dreamer** might have told her, merely *injuring* an animal does not qualify one for the award. Dreamer herself had run over a four-foot black snake a day earlier, failing to kill it.

(DVBC members remember, from page 7)

diagnosed with thyroid cancer. He understood my fears and really supported me and this helped me through a tough time.

Brian Wade: While riding The Hilly Hundred last month in Indiana, I came upon a rider with a little plaque on her bike saying that she was doing the ride in memory of Sam Wolf who died on a ride the previous weekend. I offered my condolences and she asked me if I knew Sam. I answered, "No, I knew Bob," and told her about Bob, my first club ride with him, and he and I serving on the Board together. I rode the next few miles in tears. Although they were flat, they were my toughest miles this year.

From Drew Knox

Like a lot of folks, I joined DVBC because of Bob Leon. I saw Bob's listings for centuries to Mays Landing and Ocean City in the club newsletter and thought I would like to do some regular, long-distance group rides. Actually, I found his rides were comprised of two groups: A and B riders.

Bob would lead everyone out at a reasonable B pace, then wave the A riders ahead when they started acting frisky. Then Bob would change the route. The group ahead would finally notice, there would be an uproar, a U-turn, and a race back. Then the dance would start over with the A's moving ahead. Sometimes Bob had a quiet sense of humor.

One thing you could count on was that a Bob Leon ride would go through Buena and stop at the run-down Citgo. I remember when we got a rare tailwind back from OC, Bob and I were sitting on the curb outside the Citgo and just shaking our heads in wonderment that we felt so good with a hundred miles under our belts. That feeling went away in another 15 miles but I can still remember that mutual exhilaration.

On a Bridgeton Zoo Ride, Bob was the most expansive I ever saw him. He was having such a great time that he was actually beaming when he went into the Anderson Deli to redeem his sub coupons. I took advantage of the opportunity to quickly wheel his tandem behind the store. I don't know if it was the joy of having Cassie riding stoker, the sunny day, or just being back on the bike after some tough bouts with sickness, but Bob was halfway through his sub before blurting out, "Where the hell is my tandem?"

From Charlie Stockley

I met Bob when he was riding through Ridley Creek State Park. I'd see him riding and me and him got to chatting. Then I didn't see him for a while. Next time I saw him I asked where he'd been. Bob said, "I don't ride in the winter." Well I had to get him used to that. Then I talked him into coming out for some of the rides I was leading for the club. He decided to try some centuries even though the farthest he'd ridden at the time was about 30 miles.

I remember the first ride he led for the club. He got lost and had to go into a store to get a map. Then he came out and started figuring out how to get home. I got worried when he turned the map upside down. I still worry when I see people turn a map upside down.

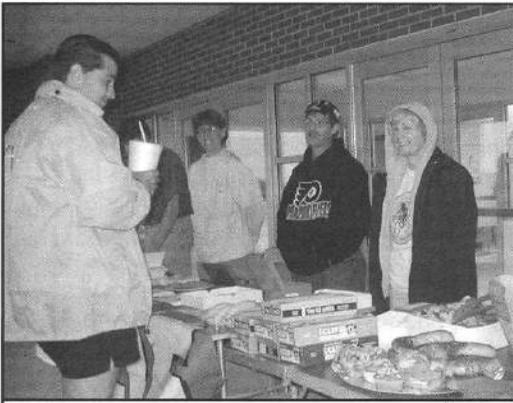
I'm not sure how Bob came to like Mays Landing so much. On some early rides, Bob used to get Cassie to pick him up there. Eventually, of course, he bought a trailer there and was doing centuries all the time. And he was the one who found Sugar Hill Deli. Bob liked riding in Jersey so much that I started to tease him about being a flatlander.

The problem with being a flatlander is the wind. We used to do one or two double centuries every year and Bob really, really wanted to do one. I said, "Fine, I'll map one out down to Cape May and back and throw in some extra miles to get it to two hundred."

On the way back, we were beating into a wicked headwind at 8 mph. Finally, Bob couldn't take it any more and said he was going off by himself toward Mays Landing just to get out of the headwind. The rest of us decided to eat a second lunch and lay up in a restaurant for 45 minutes. Wouldn't you know that when we came out, the wind had died and we had an easy ride home. Later, I found out that Bob had had no such luck and had continued to beat into the wind by himself. By the time he got to Kingsway, he'd ridden about 190 miles and was too exhausted to ride 10 more. I don't think he ever did get in a double century even though he always wanted to.



Circa 1998: David Bennett, Charlie Stockley and Bob Leon enjoy the boardwalk as they contemplate a 63-mile ride back to Swedesboro.



At the infamous 2003 Brandywine Tour, ridden in a deluge by only 16 riders, Bob Leon works behind the registration table.



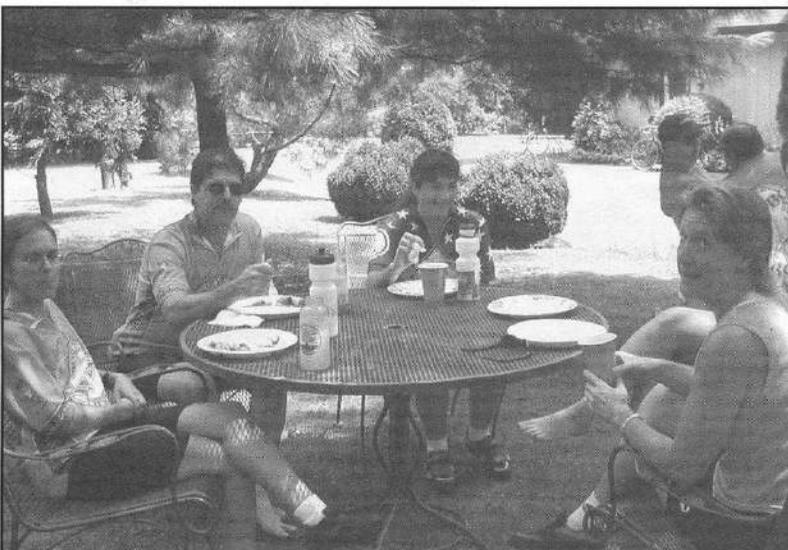
Bob Leon poses with his charges at Kountry Kitchen in 1998.



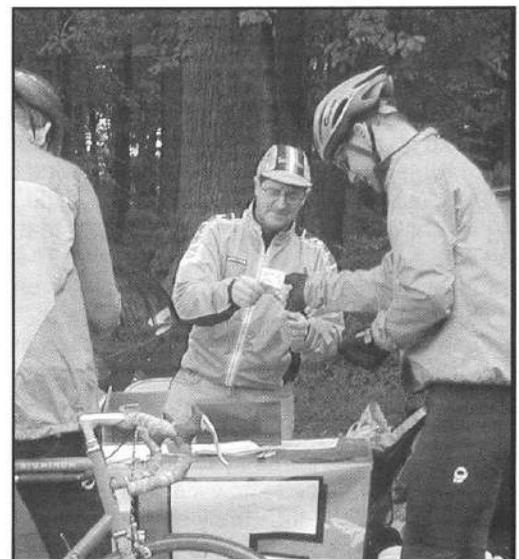
Bob Leon (rear center) at the park in Mays Landing next to Bob LaDrew (left) and Ed Sobolewski. Front (l. to r.): Charlie Stockley, David Bennett, Katrina Dowidchuk and Bill Freeborn.



December 1998 holiday banquet at the Friends Meeting House: (Front) Mike Toof, Bob Martin, Ira Josephs, Greg Cymbala. (Rear) Walt Linton, Bob Leon, Chris Harendza, Fran Demillion.



Chowing down after biking out to the DVBC picnic.



DVBC Treasurer Bob Leon works the registration table at a recent Bonkers Metric.



Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 156
Woodlyn, PA 19094-0156

PHILADELPHIA PA 191

31 OCT 2006 PM 6 T



Expiration Date: 11/30/06

BOB & JUDY LADREW
 139 GABEL ROAD
 COATESVILLE PA 19320

19320+1244



<p align="center">Application for DVBC Membership (Expires 1 year from date joined/renewed) Annual Membership: \$15.00 per household.</p> <p>Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> new member or <input type="checkbox"/> renewal</p>		<p>Membership includes: DVBC Newsletter (10 issues per year), discounts at most Club sponsors, Club subsidized events. Your membership attracts advertisers and helps influence local government decisions concerning bicycle issues</p>
<p>Please print clearly and use your 9-digit zip code, if known.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____</p> <p>E-mail: _____</p>		<p>The DVBC Safety Fund is used to promote issues regarding cycling safety in the Delaware Valley. I wish to contribute:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$1 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____</p> <p>Amount enclosed: \$15 (membership) + _____ (safety) = _____</p> <p>I'll volunteer for: <input type="checkbox"/> Ride Leader (check all interests) <input type="checkbox"/> Tour Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member</p>
<p align="center"><i>Please send your check or money order to the:</i> Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 156, Swarthmore, PA 19081</p>		

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry into the DVBC, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in the DVBC. In addition, this release is intended to discharge in advance the promoters, the sponsors, the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, the promoting clubs, the officials, and any involved municipalities or other public entities (and their respective agents and employees) from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in any event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons mentioned above.

I further understand that serious accidents occasionally occur during bicycle riding; and that participants in bicycle riding occasionally sustain mortal or serious personal injuries, and/or property damage, as a consequence thereof. Knowing the risks of bicycle riding, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release, and assumption of risk is to be binding to my heirs and assigns.

 Signature

 Signature of parent or guardian (if under 18 years)