

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club



August 2009

P.O. Box 156
Swarthmore, PA, 19081
www.dvbc.org

All in the Family: Our High Wheeled Heritage

by Joel Neigh

In 1967, near Wilmington, Delaware, a group of twelve local men founded a bike club called The Wheelmen. The new club had a unique mission: "to keep alive the heritage of American Cycling, to promote restoration and riding of early cycles, and to encourage cycling as part of modern living." Several Wheelmen hoped to demonstrate the need for better roads, while others had the additional goal of digging into the history of the

bikes, the designs and manufacturers, and the riders. One founder of the Wheelmen and the original club historian is a member of the DVBC extended family—my father-in-law, Chuck Hetzel.

On Father's Day this past June Doug Mead (my brother-in-law) and I, both of us fathers, led a ride to Chuck's house in Roxborough to share his collection of Ordinaries and Safeties with our club. Four of us started out of Drexel Hill Cyclery and met up with

Brian Wade and his R5 gang. Eight riders got a lesson in the history of cycling in America, put our hands on some amazing pieces of cycling history and learned that there are few, truly unique ideas out there.

Most of Chuck's bikes date from the early 1880s through the turn of the century. The earliest bikes on

(Continued on page 11)



DVBC members examining a few of the antique bicycles owned by Chuck Hetzel.

SAVE THE DATES!

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**Saturday, August 22  
Annual Club Picnic**

*Free to DVBC members and  
their families*

*Please RSVP to Bob LaDrew  
610-383-9327 or*

*[bonkersboy@verizon.net](mailto:bonkersboy@verizon.net)*

*See Ride Calendar for  
rides to and from picnic*

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**Sunday, September 6
Brandywine Tour
DVBC's PREMIER
EVENT!**

*Ride through some of the re-
gion's most beautiful country-
side. See registration form on
page 4 or register online at
www.dvbc.org*

*To volunteer contact Drew Knox
at president@dvbc.org*

Delaware Valley Bicycle Club

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Swarthmore, PA 19081
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Membership in DVBC is encouraged, but non-members are welcome at all our rides and events. Except for the Bonkers Metric, Brandywine Tour, Club Banquet and Bonkers Picnic, all club events are free. Board meetings, held the first Monday of the month, are open to all.

DVBC welcomes articles, photographs, and ride reports for the newsletter. Please submit materials to the Editor before the 15th of each month. Please note that the views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the DVBC, nor do we endorse products or services advertised.

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Club Affiliations

League of American Bicyclists
Bicycle Coalition of Greater
Philadelphia
Adventure Cycling Association

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(610) 565-9535
www.cyclesportmedia.com

Cycle Fit

320 S. Chester Rd., Wallingford
(610) 876-9450
cyclefitonline.com

Action Wheels

1066 Route 45, Deptford, NJ
(856) 468-5115
actionwheels.com

Drexel Hill Cyclery

703 Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill
(610) 626-4477

320 Produce Market & Deli

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15 S. Olive St., Media
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137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media
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www.linvilla.com

Board of Directors and Volunteer Staff

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484.483.7456 or rides@dvbc.org

Adam Levine, *Newsletter Editor*
610.891.0780 or aelrypa@hotmail.com

Ride Guidelines

1. Arrive early and **be ready to leave on time.**
2. Make sure your bike is in proper working order **before** you arrive. Ride leaders are not expected to be bike mechanics.
3. **A helmet is mandatory for all DVBC rides.**
4. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, and water bottle.
5. 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 unsure of and work your way up.
6. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
7. Each rider assumes his/her own risk on all rides.
8. Those who ride ahead of the group are on their own ride.
9. Always notify the ride leader before leaving the group.
10. Ride leaders should adhere to the advertised speed of the ride.

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.

CANCELLATIONS

In the case of questionable weather or road conditions, events may be canceled. Call the ride leader if in doubt.

DVBC Rides for August 2009

If the weather is iffy, it's important to
CONTACT THE RIDE LEADER IN ADVANCE

to make sure the ride is still on. You can also check the club listserve (find it at www.dvbc.org)
 for up-to-the-minute ride information, as well as for unscheduled "ad-hoc" rides posted from time to time.

RECURRING RIDES

Tuesdays 6:00 pm Miles:20 +/- Class:C/C+ 320 Produce	We will ride through Swarthmore, Wallingford, and Ridley Township, where the terrain varies from flat to hilly. Average speed, 11 to 13 miles an hour, and we'll wait for stragglers. Rain cancels. Meet at 320 Produce, Swarthmore Wood Shopping Center, South Chester Road, Swarthmore, PA. Contact Betsy Ffrench at 610-324-8207 Email: EFfrench@wilmingtonTrust.com
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Miles:20 +/- Class:C+ Rose Tree Park-n-Ride	Meet at Rose Tree Park, Rte. 252 near Media, PA. The regular peloton is in very good form, so I've bumped up the speed a bit. We'll head for the hills as we ride through Ridley Creek State Park and/or the surrounding area. Will regroup for stragglers. Inclement weather cancels the ride. Contact Dom Zuppo at 484-483-7456 Email: domzdvbc@att.net
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Miles:25 +/- Class:B- Wed Nite Road Crew	This ride is meant to be fun and challenging with some breakaways. Expect hills. Average speeds will be about 15-16 mph. The route will change weekly and cue sheets will not be provided. Any rider going off the front is on their own. Start time is promptly at 6:00 pm to take advantage of daylight. Rain cancels ride. Meet at Rose Tree Park, Rt. 252, Media PA. Contact Debbie Chaga at 610-494-3033 Email: dreamerdeb@gmail.com
Sun Aug 2 7:00 am Miles:65 Class:B+ The Metrical Miles	Expect a quick pace and a few hills with one quick stop. Starts and ends at the R5 Wayne Train Station. Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com
Sun Aug 2 8:30 am Miles:15/20 Class:C Darby Creek series	Tour of the lower Darby Creek valley on our road bikes, including John Heinz Wildlife Refuge, the Swedish Cabin, lower Cobbs Creek and points between. No cue sheets; we will wait for all stragglers. Meet at my house in Lansdowne, call for directions...plenty of parking space. Contact David Bennett at 610-626-1344 or dster21@comcast.net
Wed Aug 5 9:30 am Miles:50-70 Class:B- Doc's Ride	Various routes from Swarthmore. Ride leaves from the 320 Market Café parking lot. Probably a lunch stop. Inclement weather cancels ride. Contact Woody Kotch at 610-566-2736 or hrrkotch@comcast.net
Sat Aug 8 8:30 am Miles:38 Class:C+ AARP Time	Smiling Rookie birthday ride. Cycle with Mary on her big day. Meet at Pocopson Elementary and we'll ride to Marsh Creek. Bring \$ for snack. Gift suggestion: food, lots of it! Contact Dan Dillon at 610-494-4949 or Grey48Wolf@verizon.net
Sun Aug 9 7:00 am Miles:65 Class:B+ The Borborygmus Bikers	Your motors will be a rumbling on this hilly ride to northern Montgomery County. Starts at the R5 Wayne Train Station. Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com
Sunday, Aug 9 8:30 am Miles:30 +/- Class:C/C+ The Airport Loop	Come ride the Airport Loop. We will ride through Ridley Park on our way to PHL, loop behind the Airport on Hog Island Road and come home a different way through Delaware County. Bring money for a food stop. Meet at 320 Produce, Swarthmore Wood Shopping Center, South Chester Road, Swarthmore, PA. Contact Betsy Ffrench at 610-324-8207 or EFfrench@wilmingtonTrust.com
Wed Aug 12 9:30 am Miles:50-70 Class:B- Doc's Ride	Various routes from Swarthmore. Ride leaves from the 320 Market Café parking lot. Probably a lunch stop. Inclement weather cancels ride. Contact Woody Kotch at 610-566-2736 or hrrkotch@comcast.net
Sat Aug 15 9:00 am Miles:53 Class:B Homemade Amish Ice Cream	Meet at my home near Coatesville, PA. Ride to Intercourse for lunch but save room for homemade ice cream at Lapp's Valley Farm on the way home. Contact Bob LaDrew at 610-383-9327 or bonkersboy@verizon.net

Sun Aug 16 7:00 am Miles:65 Class:B+ The Tour de Cartilage	More hills than you'll know what to do with....so I'll remind you to spin, spin, spin. Starts at the R5 Wayne Train Station. Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com
Sun Aug 16 8:00 am Miles:65 Class:B- Outer Bounds	Woody and I really enjoyed this route last year as we were reminded how nice it was to be in these beautiful, rolling hills. If you're getting tired of the SOR (Same Old Roads), make the drive or carpool to Fred Engle M.S. to the outer loop of the Brandywine Tour. There will be a full lunch stop slightly off-route at C.R. Lapps in Quarryville. Contact Drew Knox at 267-421-2657 or agknox@gmail.com
Sun Aug 16 8:30 am Miles:32-38 Class:B-/C Art Museum Loop	Start and end at Drexel Hill Cyclery. Plenty of parking across the street, in the rear lot of the pharmacy. Two groups, one C, the other B-. Frank J. will lead the C riders on a slightly shorter/flatter course. B- gang will do the standard Bob Martin route. We will meet up at Lloyd Hall. Bring a snack; nature break and water fill up at the Hall. No lunch stop. Contact Dan Dillon at 610-494-4949 or Grey48Wolf@verizon.net
Wed Aug 19 9:30 am Miles:50-70 Class:B- Doc's Ride	Various routes from Swarthmore. Ride leaves from the 320 Market Café parking lot. Probably a lunch stop. Inclement weather cancels ride. Contact Woody Kotch at 610-566-2736 or hkotch@comcast.net
Sat Aug 22 8:00 am Miles:62 Class:B Ride to DVBC Picnic	For DVBC members only (join for \$15). Ride to the LaDrew's in Coatesville for the annual club picnic. Be sure to RSVP to Bob. Ride departs from the ranger's office parking lot at Ridley Creek State Park. Ride rating due to distance and terrain (yeah, hills baby!). Contact Dom Zuppo at 484-483-7456 or domzdvbc@att.net
Sat Aug 22 9:00 am Miles:45 Class:C DVBC Picnic Ride	For DVBC members only (join for \$15). Ride to the LaDrew's in Coatesville for the club picnic. Be sure to RSVP Bob. We'll leave Chadds Ford Elementary School, Route 1, for a great route with some hills and return to Chadds Ford no later than 4:00 p.m. Contact Steve Bertolini at 302-529-1122 or spbert465@hotmail.com
Sat Aug 22 2:00 pm Miles:30 Class:C+ Ride From DVBC Picnic	If you'd rather drive to the picnic, bring your road bike and take a ride with Bob and his friends after eating. Contact Bob LaDrew at 610-383-9327 or bonkersboy@verizon.net
Sun Aug 23 8:00 am Miles:65 Class:B- Brandywine Inner Tube	Along the river and through the woods, from Pocopson Elementary we will go, reversing the Brandywine route. Bring money for a full lunch stop. Contact Drew Knox at 267-421-2657 or agknox@gmail.com
Sat, Aug 29 8:00 am Miles:25-100 Class:All Brandywine Paint Ride	We paint from cars to speed up the work, so this isn't really a ride. Meet at Pocopson Elementary to split into teams and get paint, instructions, and maps. This is really important work for prepping our Tour, so your time is much appreciated. We should be done by noon. Contact Drew Knox at 267-421-2657 or agknox@gmail.com
Sun Aug 30 7:00 am Miles:75 Class:B+ FOC! FOC! FOC!	That's for Foot Of Climb....and you'll be saying FOC often on this 100 foot of climb per mile ride. Starts at the R5 Wayne Train Station. Contact Brian Wade at 610-254-9485 or bwadedvbc@aol.com
Sun Aug 30 8:30 am Miles:16/18 Class:C Darby Creek series	Tour of Radnor Twp. on our road bikes, including the Radnor Trail, The Willows, Skunk Hollow, Little Darby Creek, and Ithan Creek. Meet at the Radnor Trail trailhead (north end) at Sugartown Road and Rte. 30. Expect hilly terrain. No cue sheets, but we'll wait for all stragglers. Park in the shopping center or at two parking lots along the Radnor Trail (at Conestoga Rd or at Wayne Ave). Contact David Bennett at 610-626-1344 or dster21@comcast.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(as of July 22)

Robert DeLuca Jr, Springford	Albert Heefner, Chester
Stephanie Herrera, Philadelphia	Lee Jones, Lansdowne
Zachary Klishevich, Aston	Dennis Knudson, Broomall
Marisa Leva, Glen Mills	Gary & Melanie Stewart, Lansdowne
Brian Treston, Wallingford	John Trimback, Folcroft



DVBC BRANDYWINE TOUR

Sunday, September 6, 2009
26, 50, 65, 80 and 100-mile routes

**PIZZA & FREE MESSAGES
AT THE END OF THE TOUR**

Ride through some of the Delaware Valley's most beautiful scenery. Fully supported with food and drink stops and SAG drivers on all routes. Proceeds from this tour and other club activities support a variety of local bicycling and open-space organizations, with over \$18,000 donated by DVBC in the past five years.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.DVBC.ORG

TIME: 7:30-10 a.m. for all routes. All support services end at 4:30 p.m. Century riders should arrive promptly at 7:30 a.m. Ride held rain or shine.

PLACE: Pocopson Elementary School, 1105 Pocopson Road, Pocopson (in Chester County), PA

DIRECTIONS: *From Route 202* just south of West Chester, take Route 926 (Street Road) west. Go 2.7 miles to the stop sign. Turn right at stop sign and continue on 926 west one-tenth mile across bridge. (See school as you cross bridge). Turn right at light and take first left into parking lot. *From Route 1* in Chadds Ford, take Creek Rd. (formerly Rte. 100) north 2.7 miles until it merges with Rte. 926 west. Follow Rte. 926 across bridge, then follow directions above. *From West Chester*, follow Route 52 South for 2.7 miles. After crossing bridge over Brandywine Creek, take first left onto Pocopson Road. The school is about 3/4 mile ahead on right.

COST: Pre-registration (if postmarked by August 28): \$18, or \$25 with DVBC PDF membership. Day of the ride: \$25, or \$32 with PDF membership. *(PDF members receive all benefits of club membership except for mailed copies of the newsletter, which they can download online at www.dvbc.org. This saves the club printing and mailing costs, and saves trees!)*

Pre-Registration Form (Must be postmarked by August 28)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Age: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Intended ride distance (please check one): 26 miles ☐ 50 miles ☐ 65 miles ☐ 80 miles ☐ 100 miles ☐

Waiver/Release

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry into the above event, 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 said event. 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 said 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 you are under 18 years of age.)

Please send this signed form, with a check or money order made out to DVBC, by August 28, to:
Brandywine Tour, Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, PO Box 156, Swarthmore, PA 19081
Online registration also available at www.dvbc.org

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

For more details, website info, or other rides,
visit the Suburban Cyclists Unlimited calendar page at
www.suburbancyclists.org

Sat. Aug 1, Dog Daze Century, West Chester, PA. Brandywine Bicycle Club

Sat. Aug. 1, Princeton Event, West Windsor, NJ. Flat/rolling: 20, 35, 50, 65, or 100 mi; almost hilly: 65 mi. Pre-reg by 7/22 for free T-shirt. Princeton Free Wheelers

Sat. Aug. 8, Cumberland Valley Century, Boonsboro, MD. 26, 63, or 100 mi. Cumberland Valley Cycling Club

Sat. Aug. 8, Eat A Peach Challenge, Carroll County Agricultural Center, Westminster, MD. Ride 12, 33, 40, 67, or 100 miles on rolling-to-hilly terrain. Century route has 7,000 ft of climbing.

Sat. Aug. 8, Green Branch Park Century, Pittsgrove, NJ. 27, 52, 76, or 101 mi. Formerly the Bridgeton Zoo Ride, the new routes no longer go through the Bridgeton Zoo. South Jersey Wheelmen

Sat. Aug. 8, Mike Clark Memorial Ride, Greenville, DE. Climb up to 15 of the most challenging hills in New Castle and Chester counties on the 31 or 62 mi rides. Also 6- or 25-mi routes on rolling terrain.

Sat. Aug. 8, Ride To See, Galena, MD. A Bicycle Tour of Kent County, MD, 15-100 mi on flat to gently-rolling terrain.

Sun. Aug. 16, Covered Bridge Metric, Lancaster, PA. Ride 16, 32, or 62 mi

through Pennsylvania's most famous rural scenery including up to six covered bridges. The terrain is flat to moderately rolling on the 15- and 32-mi rides, and rolling with a few hills on the 62-mi ride. 3,516 riders in 2008. Lancaster Bicycle Club (LBC)

Sun. Aug. 16, Endure for a Cure, Wilkes-Barre, PA. 12, 28, 45, or 65 mi. Benefits the American Cancer Society.

Aug. 21-23, Allenberry Weekend, Boiling Springs, PA (between Harrisburg and Carlisle). Scenic rides range in length from 11 to 75 miles on low-traffic roads, rolling-hilly. Featured rides each day led by the trip leaders, or ride on your own using the supplied cue sheets. Allenberry Resort has a large swimming pool, hot tub, and lighted tennis courts.

Sat. Aug. 22, Rivet 100 Tour de Dorchester, Cambridge, MD. Ride 15, 30, 68, or 100 mi on flat terrain in Dorchester County. Event will end with admission to Wings and Wheels with various bands, beverages, and vendors.

Sat. Aug. 22, Shore Fire Century, Middletown, DE. 35, 65, or 100 mi on flat-to-gently-rolling terrain in central Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. White Clay Bicycle Club

Sun. Aug. 23, Courage to Ride Bike Tour, Historic Yellow Springs, PA.

Ride 13, 22, or 34 mi through beautiful Chester Springs and Kimberton PA.

Sun. Aug. 23, Livestrong Challenge, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA. Ride 10, 20, 45, 70, or 100 mi on rolling to hilly terrain. Lance Armstrong Foundation

Sat. Aug. 29, Round the Valley, Memorial Lake State Park, Grantville (off I-78, 20 mi east of Harrisburg), PA. Ride 17, 31, 62, or 100 mi on scenic low-traffic roads. The 100-mi ride goes around the perimeter of Lebanon County with 7,000 ft of climbing. Lebanon Valley Bicycle Club.

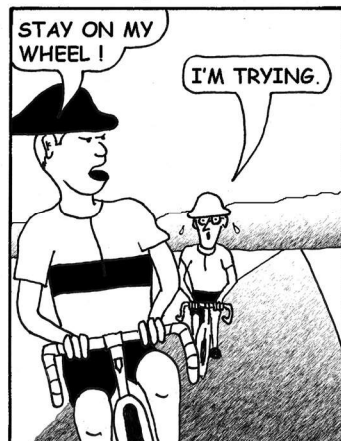
Sun. Aug. 30, Shoo-Fly Classic, Oley, PA. 20, 40, or 60 mi – or combine the 40 and 60 for a full century. The Oley Valley is recognized by Bicycling Magazine as one of the best cycling areas on the East Coast. Berks County Bicycle Club

FEATURED RIDE:
Sun. Sept. 6, Brandywine Tour, Pocopson Elementary School, near Chadds Ford, PA. Ride 26, 50, 65, 80, or 100 miles on rolling to hilly terrain. Pizza and massage at the end of the ride.

BONKERZ

Cartoons of the DVBC

by Bob LaDrew



BOB LADREW © 2009

DVBC Bikes Virginia

by Deb "Dreamer" Chaga

In June, nine DVBCers (Peter Schmidt, Rich Andreas, Mike Broennle, Dave Hartrum, Lewis Neidle, Doug Bower, Nancy Ness, Alex Moeller and I) went to Charlottesville VA to ride Bike Virginia. For those not familiar with this event, it's a five day ride on routes that vary throughout Virginia each year. Participants choose to either camp or stay at hotels and Bike VA moves your gear to each new site. All of us camped out. At our first site, Doug talked with a guy, Steve, who was wearing a University of PA Cancer Society ride jersey from 2005 and who lives in Glen Mills, PA. We discovered that my Wednesday night ride sometimes passes his house, and eventually figured out that we went to high school together. Steve hung out with us the rest of the time and helped us reserve camping spots together.

Saturday was the first riding day and it was a hot, very muggy day with the longest route at 75 miles. Not long after the start of this ride, just past Monticello, was an optional mountain climb that was a real bear. Of course I had to take the option. Got almost to the top and saw yet another really steep switchback and got off the bike to rest for a minute—not a good idea, since I had to walk about 40 feet to get going again. Of course once up there the view and breeze were amazing and the ride down was fun. During most of that day I kept wondering what the century was going to be like on Monday if the heat and humidity held. Fortunately, the weather changed and Sunday through Wednesday was beautiful—sunny, in the 80s with low humidity.

After the ride Saturday, Alex and I took a wine tasting tour at Monticello, and then headed into town to meet most of the others for Italian food and a couple beers. Bike VA supplies school buses that transport riders to and from town. Those bus rides can get a little rowdy.

Sunday's ride was beautiful again with several options for the length of ride. We rode to Culpepper that day. Monday was the century which wound up being 103 miles by my computer. I rode all day with Alex and Bruce, a member of the Brandywine Hiking Club, who had come down with his wife. It was a great day and there were ample



Left: Doug Bower (foreground) and Virginia's rolling hills (background). **Below:** Dave Hartrum with a new friend and sporting a fancy new headpiece.

food stops where I'd caught glimpses of Dave, Peter and Rich along the way. At one point late in the day we had to climb a brutal hill twice because the route looped around back to it. Knowing we had to go up that hill a second time wasn't a good feeling. However, the second time around I decided not to attack it and it really wasn't bad at all. I'm happy to say that I had a personal best for a hilly century averaging 15.3 mph.

Tuesday we rode to Orange VA. This was a pleasant town that actually set up a street party for Bike VA along with live music, food, and crafts. We realized we had bought too many beer tickets so I went in search of the right person to give an extra ticket to. I selected a guy with a great mohawk cut and told him he won the prize for best Bike VA haircut so he got the free beer. He was extremely happy since at the time he was out of beer. During this festival Nancy bought Dave a balloon genie looking hat that he wore that night and up until we got on the bikes the next day. Word is that he actually slept in it. Wednesday morning we rode back to Charlottesville to the end and to a great picnic celebrating the week.

During the five days we saw lots of riders from local clubs—White Clay, West Chester, Iron Hill. We met really nice people and saw great scenery on roads with not many cars at all. The food was good and plentiful and I must say that Bike VA did a great job on the food stops.

Stops were set up at various sites including churches, fire houses and one a stop was at a winery. That was dangerous since if you did a wine tasting you still had to finish the ride. I eventually started spitting out the wine after tasting it (so sad).

Camping is well, camping. The second night there was a fox screeching in the woods a good part of the night and the next two nights we camped close to a highway and heard trucks breaking all night long. But that's okay. We had a great time. I can't prove it though, because Doug erased all of my pictures by mistake when we got home. Guess I've got to do it again next year!





Bike Dirt

by F.X. Pedrix



Once again this year I would like to thank all those club members who have worked so hard to make our club solvent so it can send me and my lovely wife **Babs** to France to cover the Tour for our newsletter. This is a challenging assignment and, while I do manage to make time for merriment, I want to make it clear that there is no truth to those rumors of a connection between the presence of a B-B gun in my luggage and the shooting of those two riders.

As the final weekend of Le Tour approached I had to make the gut-wrenching decision of whether to forgo the big time trial and fly home for **GiGi and Buckeye's** wedding or stay and meet my obligations to cover the Tour. After negotiations that went into the early morning hours my lovely wife Babs and I worked out a compromise in which we agreed that, reluctantly, I would stay on for the racing while she would hop a plane to Philly and represent me at the ceremony.

That's right. GiGi and Buckeye have tied the knot after a lengthy courtship. Sometimes I hear people lamenting the difficulty of finding romance in singles clubs or bars. Where do you go, they ask, to meet a nice, attractive and fit member of the opposite sex? Well, it happens over and over in the DVBC so get yourself some lycra and a bike and come on out. Congratulations, GiGi and Buckeye!

The **Dominator** is not happy about being on the unemployment rolls but he says if it happens to you at any time, the first three weeks in July are best. If you missed any stage of the Tour de France, Dominator can fill you in on what transpired. Word is he went ballistic on July 16 when the federal government conducted a mandatory cable network emergency test that cut into his Tour viewing for several seconds.

From what I've read on the club's list-serve, the Wednesday night rides out of Rose Tree Park have been well attended this year. **Dreamer's** B riders have enjoyed new and varied terrain, while Dominator (with the help of

Jittery Jo) has kept the C group safe and well organized (easier than herding cats, I'm told). But still, "challenges" do happen.

Dropped chains, flats, and the occasional major mechanical (like a broken saddle clamp bolt) have made the C rides interesting. Then came the "sound." You know those annoying clicks or squeaks that drive you crazy—but this one was more electronic. Dominator heard it occasionally, usually from behind and while at rest. But as soon as he was passed by one of the club's triathletes, **Sue L.**, the "beep beep" stopped as the cloud of Sue's dust rose. Ah ha! said Dom. Thus, with the help of her heart rate monitor, the moniker of **Road Runner** has been bestowed on Sue. Ride it well!

Rumors have been circulating that **Lord D'ster, Rear Admiral of the DVBC Navy**, has not been taking seriously his job as our club's advocacy coordinator so, in my usual aggressive journalistic style I pummeled him with accusations regarding that. His response: "I always wear a helmet when riding and sometimes while gardening and computing. My wife makes me do it. Also, because an advocate like me must set an example for others I insist that all family members wear them while biking, gardening, and computing."

D'ster then whined that for years he has been pestering the Bicycle Coalition to issue him a proper badge indicating his authority. It should say "BCGP, Special Enforcement, Bicycle Crimes and Motor Vehicle Terrorist Division, Dept. of Homeland Security." "Furthermore," states D'ster, "I should be issued a 9 mm Glock (the best compromise between firepower and lightness on a bike) and a blue windbreaker 'Crime Scene' jacket with the letters BCGP of DHS on the back so I can get across police barriers." We think those comments lay to rest any fears that D'ster brings a less-than-fervent approach to his position.

I understand that a rare **Ed Becker** sighting was recorded last month by several people on a Kountry Kitchen

ride. Seems Ed is in the flooring business right now and has not had much time to ride.

That KK ride was organized by **Grey Wolf** for the specific purpose of luring the missing-in-action **Bike Whisperer**, who has become entrenched in his new agrarian lifestyle in recent months. But, alas, to no avail. The Wolf wants to know why, if this was listed as a true "C ride," he and **Fred** got dropped off the back while riding at 20 mph.

Also on that ride was **Vicki Herzog**, a regular on rides with **Double-F**, but one who has never before enjoyed the thrill of riding in a paceline. Vicki did well and even set a new personal record by riding 50 miles.

Most of the dozen riders who came out for Dreamer's 25th annual Fourth of July ride had their bikes or themselves festively decorated in the red, white and blue. Besides the leader, the group was comprised of **Alex**, Jittery Jo, the Dominator, **Len D.**, **Jim**, **Pat H.**, **Robert H.**, **Carrie S.**, **Erin B.**, **Dave M.**, and **Smilin' Sophomore**. As the riders pedaled through Glen Mills they were mistaken by cheering spectators as the front end of the holiday parade. Later in the ride the dozen were chased down by late-arriving **Silent John**, whose loud decorations belied his nickname. John had silver stars on his helmet, flag stickers on his wheels and red, white and blue crepe paper striping on handle bars and frame.

If you think **Bladerunner** is a strong rider, you ought to see him on the hiking trail. Although time constraints prevent him from doing it without interruption, by the end of next summer the Bladerunner will have walked the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. In July as he was finishing up his most recent 900-plus mile segment he was joined by the **Polish Prince** for a week's hike. No one who knows him will be surprised to learn that the Prince brings the same intensity to hiking as he does to DVBC rides. In fact, by the end of the recent week he was being referred to up and down the Trail as "Anaerobic Junkie."

When the two finally had to throw their

backpacks into the trunk and head for home they drove a leg on Skyline Drive. As they pulled into a rest area they happened to notice a familiar bicyclist. That person was our own **Ride Away** and I'll let him describe the encounter in his own words: "I had ridden around 100 miles with another 80 or so ahead of me when I pulled into a rest area to refill my bottles. I heard someone say, 'Hey I know this guy.' It was Ed Sobo and Mel Stiles (from Ride Away's own home town of Mullica Hill)... What do you suppose are the odds that our paths would intersect for the five minutes I happened to pull into that rest area?"

Apparently, the 700 miles Ride Away had logged a few weeks earlier in Bike Virginia weren't enough to satisfy his appetite for the Mountain State.

The DVBC has assimilated lots of enthusiastic new members in recent years and that has the regular Saturday Mays Landing century riders wondering why their group seems to always be comprised of the 50, 60 and 70-year-old bikers who have been doing that route for the last decade and a half.

B's and C's can get along. That was the theme for a recent Sunday morning Art Museum ride where Grey Wolf led the B riders and **Juror # 6** paced the C's. Eighteen attended and the Wolf says that **Smytie** grabbed every KOM point and Dreamer won the green jersey on MLK Drive where she sucked Smytie's wheel for three miles before pipping him at the line. "Slick move but fair," claims the Wolf, who adds that the B's and C's stayed together for over ten miles of the ride. Wolf says that everyone handled the unexpected closing of **Bruster's** well except that "...one lady punched me out when she saw the closed sign after the ride. I didn't get her name but she is a strong rider with a good left hook."

On a recent Saturday ride led by Smilin' Sophomore, **The Grocer** was among the 17 official riders (18 if you count the **Cycling Gardener**, who met the group midway at the Westtown School). DVBC's favorite food purveyor was riding a strange contraption cobbled together out of spare parts left after his best bikes were stolen (supplemented by the resulting insurance money). The silver steed had some kind of 14 speed internal shifting mechanism in the hub that Grocer raved about, but which had others in mind of their old three-speed

Schwinn. Anyway, it was good to see Grocer back in the saddle after a too-long layoff going on two years.

Anyone who has ridden with **Motorola** knows he has a tendency to arrive late. In fact, at the 2004 Tour of PA the **Silver Fox** instructed everyone to set their clocks for "Dave Time," which means everything happens about half an hour later than scheduled. On the day of last month's Cancer Ride Motorola figured he would saunter into town to his special parking lot, mount his bike, and be at the start just in time to lead the pack across the Ben Franklin Bridge. Unfortunately, police had closed roads that led to his lot and Motorola was forced to park further away. He arrived late at the Ben, which was about to be closed to bicycles, and started riding across. As luck would have it he got a flat on the bridge. In his haste to change the tire he pinched the new tube. Now Dave was dead last, and the bridge was going to be opened to auto traffic any minute. Luckily the sweep vehicle stopped, helped him replace his tube and escorted him across. You probably also know the Springfield sprinter well enough to know he did not stay in last place the whole day.

After the ride he had hatched a plan to take the train from NJ back to Philly, which is what he had done in past years. But this time he shrewdly decided that riding an extra 15 miles to another station would put him on the train one stop prior to all the other riders and guarantee him a spot. However, like his tire on the bridge, Dave's smugness deflated at the ride-finish train station when there was not a single rider waiting.

Alpine specialist **Mike Keating** commented recently that, "As I drove past the Lansdale exit of the N.E. Extension yesterday (returning from a climbing weekend in New England) I realized it may be only DVBC members who are aware that the most esteemed resident of Lansdale is not Little Peggy March but rather one Doug Bower!" That had me scratching my head until my encyclopedic wife Babs filled in some gaps. "Oh, Mike is talking about Margaret Annemarie Battavio," explained Babs. "She grew up in Lansdale and sang the 1962 hit 'I Will Follow Him'."

As always, Babs did her job well, making me feel stupid as a clam.

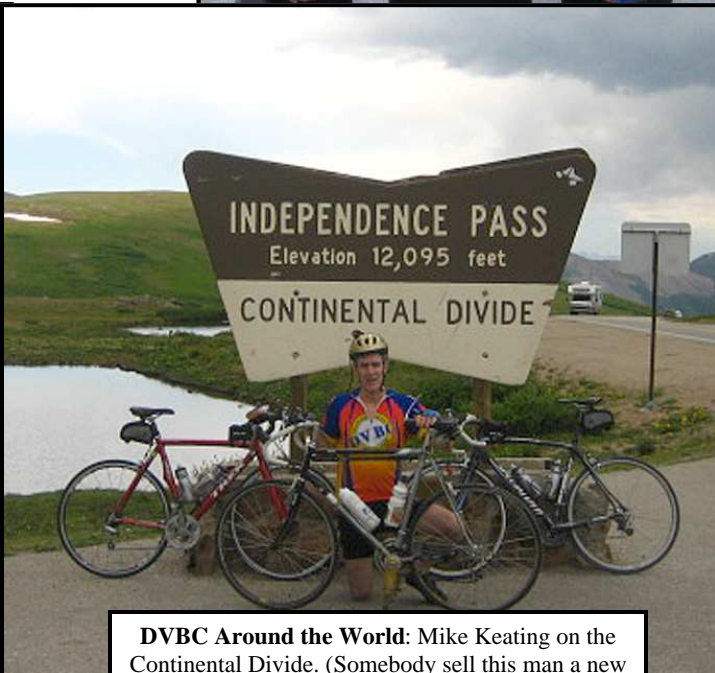
And as usual, send your stories (fact or fiction) to fxpedrix@dvbc.org.

BELOW: Somehow we missed Smilin' Sophomore's report on the Kent County (MD) Spring Fling over Memorial Day Weekend, but since it happened in 2009 and it's about biking, it's still fresh news to us. Joining the Soph on this Baltimore Bicycling Club event were DVBCers Wooden Man, Doc, Polish Prince, Perfesser, Dreamer, Bob and Nancy Thomas, and two of the Perfesser's well-educated college friends. A highlight of the weekend, reports the Sophomore, was being chased by a pit bull and afterward, being chastised because "screaming in fear is not the appropriate way to handle an attacking dog." What is amazing to me about this photo is how well cyclists clean up, when they're given a little soap and water and a fresh change of clothes.





DVBC in JULY Top: A crowd at West-town in the middle of a C Ride, led by Mary Huis. **Left:** Dom Zuppo splashes through a stream. **Bottom left:** Dom, Dan Dillon and Tom Smythe proudly display their muddy mountain bikes. **Right:** A post-ride celebration of the Tour de France (or maybe Misty Dillon and Deb Chaga are just grateful that Frank Jackson paid for his own ice cream, for once).



DVBC Around the World: Mike Keating on the Continental Divide. (Somebody sell this man a new DVBC jersey!) If you have photos of yourself or others in DVBC gear in various exotic locales—new or old, doesn't matter, we'd love to publish them! (*Exotic = anywhere outside the Delaware Valley*)

(*HIGH WHEELED*, continued from page 1) display were "Ordinaries" (also known as Penny-Farthings). Riders of the ordinaries were the daredevils of the day. You can't truly appreciate these bikes without standing next to them and imagining sitting atop a 57 inch wheel with your head another 3-4 feet farther from the ground.

The Ordinary, and its promise of a "header" over the front wheel in a crash, gave way to the "Safety," in all shapes, sizes and designs. The earliest safeties had hard tires which later gave way to the pneumatic tires.

Chuck showed us bikes made by Columbia, Star, Eagle and his favorite ride, the Gooch. Each of these ordinaries has different design elements. The Columbia and Gooch have a large front wheel with a small rear wheel (think header), while the Eagle and the Star both have the small wheel in the front. The Star is distinctive by its drive mechanism. Pedals are replaced by levers attached to leather straps which drive a cam and the wheel. Our host rode several centuries on these bikes and raced one of them in a criterium exhibition in Chester County, averaging over 18 mph.

One of the most interesting safeties is the American Rambler, manufactured in Chicago. This bike is an 1887 version of a rear suspension bike from the present day. Other interesting safeties are the Victoria, a ladies' version of the men's Victor (one of the first pneumatic tire safeties), and the ultra light Thistle.

This article is not intended to be a detailed history of the Bicycle in America. It's simply a brief look at one of the fun, educational club rides posted in June. Maybe we can entice you to come out to see these bikes for yourselves, which we hope to post again this fall and make an annual event. In the meantime, I will put together some articles that go into more detail about these fantastic bikes, the history of cycling in America, and the riders who started the sport we love today.

DVBC Volunteers Ease Passage Through RCSP

By Adam Levine

In fall 2007, when I finally gave up toe clips for clip-in SPD pedals, I went through the usual learning curve, falling over when I slowed or came to a stop and forgot to unclip, usually bruising my ego more than my body. One place I fell several times was at the Sycamore Mills Road/West Gate of Ridley Creek State Park, trying to negotiate the rutted by-passes around either side of the gate. I

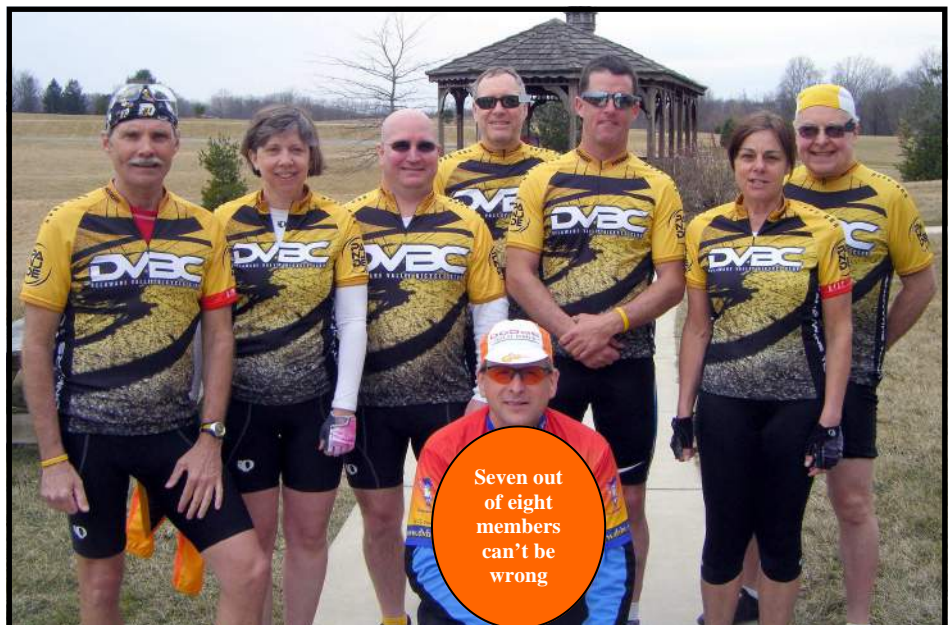
suggested then that perhaps DVBC could pay for a small strip of pavement that would ease not only my passage, but the journey for the many thousands of cycling trips that must roll past this gate every year. Like all good ideas, it turns out that this wasn't a new one. David



Bennett had worked on this years before, and when I dropped the ball on the project it took David, Steve Fisher, a friendly paving contractor (and the prodding of Ira Josephs) to finally get it done. Reports David: "The side path paving was very promptly completed by volunteer Joseph Rabena after some delay in getting him the necessary permission from Ridley Creek State Park. A member of Tyler Arboretum, an outdoor sportsman,

and a professional paving contractor (of Rabena Bros. in Malvern), Joe is a friend of DVBC member Steve Fischer, who arranged for Joe to donate his time, materials and expertise to the project."

Thanks, Joe, for helping make our rides in the park a little smoother!



New DVBC Jerseys Are In!

\$55 for members, \$60 non-members

Men's S M L XL and Women's S M L XL

For availability, contact dreamerdeb@gmail.com

To order, send check with your size and mailing address to
DVBC, P.O. Box 156, Swarthmore, PA 19081

Jerseys are yellow with an overlaid black design. To see in color, visit www.dvbc.org



Delaware Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 156
Swarthmore, PA 19081
www.dvbc.org

APPLICATION FOR DVBC MEMBERSHIP (expires one year from date renewed or joined)

Membership includes: DVBC newsletter (10 issues/year), discounts at most Club sponsors, Club subsidized events.
Your membership also helps influence local government decisions concerning bicycle issues.

Annual membership: \$15 per household

Circle one: *New Member* or *Renewing Member*

Please print clearly and use your 9-digit zip code, if known:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ Birth Date: _____

EMAIL: _____

The DVBC Safety Fund is used to promote issues regarding cycling safety in the Delaware Valley.

I wish to contribute (circle appropriate amount):

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 Other: \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

\$15 membership + _____ Safety Fund = \$ _____

I will volunteer for (circle all interests)

Ride Leader *Tour Volunteer* *Newsletter*

Other: _____

Please send your check or money order to: Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 156, Swarthmore, PA 19081

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)