

Chainwheel Chatter



Tri-County Bicycle Association • P.O. Box 22146 • Lansing, MI 48909 • (517) 882-3700 • www.biketcba.org

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December 2003

Holiday Party – December 7



The Holiday Party is once again at Royal Scot with bowling at 2:00 and dinner at 4:30. The deadline to sign-up is November 24. The cost is \$10.00 per person. You can sign up at the next club meeting or mail your check to Chris Harrison, 9100 14 mile Rd, Mecosta, MI 49332.

If you don't want to bowl come watch and have dinner. This event is guaranteed to be fun whether you're bowling or just watching.

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2003 at the Foster Community Center.

Members are welcome to attend all board meetings to express their concerns. Due to time constraints, if you have a specific item to be brought before the board it is suggested that you contact the President one week prior to the meeting, and ask to have it added to the agenda.

Next meeting: January 6.

Newsletter/Ride Calendar Deadline

The **deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, December 13, 2003.** Please send items to Charla Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840, FAX to (517) 339-1758, or email to: chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org.

Ride calendar information should be sent to Wendell Proudfoot, P.O. Box 1628, East Lansing, MI 48826, or emailed to tbarides@prowen.com. To be included in the newsletter this information must be received no later than the above-mentioned newsletter deadline.

Cycle Forum

Please note there is no Cycle Forum in December. Plan to join Alan Huber at 6:00 p.m. immediately preceding the membership meeting on **Thursday, January 29, 2004** for the next Cycle Forum session. The topic will be posted in the January Chainwheel Chatter.

Executive Board Report

The TCBA Board of Directors met at the Foster Community Center on November 4, 2003. Board members present included Arnie Johnson, Chris Harrison, Charla Scheidler, Ron Claflin and Phil Wells. Also present were club members, Lee Adair, Katie Donnelly, Dick Gilmore, Betty Johnson, Wendell Proudfoot, Lenny Provencher and Dave Pierce.

Discussion Items/Announcements

Lenny Provencher reported that 253 ballots had been received in the election. Several other items were brought to the board's attention, including:

1. One member requested that the vote tally for each candidate be published in the Chainwheel Chatter. The majority of the board members felt that this was not a good idea as it may discourage members from running for office.
2. It was suggested that families be sent 2 separate ballots instead of casting their 2 votes on one ballot. No decision was made.
3. Ride Leader write-in votes. Only 97 votes were cast out of the 253 ballots received.
4. A suggestion was made that the election committee begin counting the ballots earlier so that they can get back to the meeting and participate in the open mic session. After discussion it was decided to leave this decision up to the committee next year.
5. Lenny asked that he be replaced as election committee chair.

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Executive Board Report

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Chris Harrison reported that sign-up for the Holiday Party was low with only 32 total so far.

Dick Gilmore presented the final DALMAC 2003 Financial Report. A copy will remain on file with these minutes. Checks will be issued and distributed to the proper TCBA accounts, per the reports.

Phil Wells presented a request for TCBA to fund a portion of his registration fees to attend a Transportation Summit, sponsored by MDOT, December 3-4. No support was given.

Arnie Johnson reported that Gary Munson would be resigning as membership chair at the end of 2003. Cheryl Claflin has agreed to take over and will be working with Gary in the next few months to learn the responsibilities. Wendell Proudfoot expressed interest in setting up an area on the web site for individuals to join the club and renew their membership on-line. He will do some more research and contact all the volunteers that the procedure will involve to get their opinions and report back to the board.

Lee Adair presented the Mission Statement and Budget report for SummerTour 2004. Copies will remain on file with minutes of the meeting.

Katie Donnelly and Betty Johnson provided their ideas regarding setting up a poster/essay contest within the school districts in the Tri-County area. Several options were discussed with Katie and Betty volunteering to spearhead the project and do some additional research.

Several candidates for Volunteer of the Year were presented. Board members were asked to think about the nominations and plan to vote by secret ballot at the December Board Meeting.

Action Items

Minutes of the October 7, 2003 meeting were approved as submitted.

Ron Claflin presented a financial report through November 2, 2003. The report was approved as presented.

John Foltz was unable to attend the meeting but had provided board members with an email regarding his findings regarding bike racks available for purchase through Denny Vandecar. Denny has thirteen racks available for a total cost of approx. \$465. Approval was given to purchase what was available. It was agreed that there should be no problem finding locations/restaurants that scheduled TCBA rides frequent to donate them to.

Note: Information contained in this article is not the official record of the meeting. The minutes of this meeting will be submitted for approval at the next Board Meeting. Any corrections and/or amendments will be noted in next month's edition of the Chainwheel Chatter.

COMMITTEE & CLUB NEWS

Election Results

For those of you who were not able to attend the Annual Meeting in October, or have not heard the results of the election, the following members have been elected to represent TCBA for the coming year.

President: Arnie Johnson

Vice President: Chris Harrison*

Secretary: David Ford

Treasurer: Ron Claflin

Board at Large: John Foltz & Phil Wells

Events Director: Darryl Burris

Terms of Office to Begin January 1, 2004

*Due to the fact that no one accepted a nomination for the position of Vice President, the current Vice President continues to serve until other action is taken.

TCBA Club Jerseys

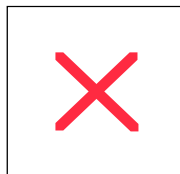
Show your colors! We have a supply of short sleeve Louis Garneau jerseys with "loose fit" sizing. (meaning that you should generally order one size smaller than your regular bike clothing). They are the traditional yellow and red brick pattern. To view the design, visit the TCBA web site www.biketcba.org. All sizes from XS - XL are available. They are \$45 each. To make a purchase, contact Charla Scheidler at secretary@biketcba.org. Or, mail your request to TCBA Jersey, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909. Please include an additional \$5 if you would like your jersey mailed to you. Charla will also be selling jerseys at the beginning of every TCBA club meeting.

Map Booklets

Did you get your new TCBA Map Booklet? Each paid TCBA membership is entitled to receive 1 "free" map booklet. If you attend TCBA membership meetings you can pick-up your copy there. If you would like one mailed to you, please forward your request to: Map Booklet, c/o Tri-County Bicycle Association, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you move or have your mail forwarded, please notify us as soon as possible. The newsletters are sent bulk mail, and the post office does not forward bulk mail. The post office returns your newsletter to us (we have to pay to get it back), so your membership ends up in limbo until we hear from you. **Please send your change of address to: TCBA, P.O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909, or email membership@biketcba.org.**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



John Weaver

Herbie Schultz

CLASSIFIED



This section of the Chainwheel Chatter is published as a service for **TCBA members only**, to **advertise cycling equipment** free of charge. To place an ad, send email to chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org, FAX to (517) 339-1758, or mail to Charla

Scheidler, 10384 Blackberry Ln., Haslett, MI 48840.

FOR SALE: 54cm bean-green Surly Crosscheck, set up for light loaded road touring. It is in good to excellent condition. Reynolds 631 steel frame, Green Chris King headset. Salsa stem and handlebars, Syncros seat post, Terry Fly (men's) saddle. Mix of Shimano XT and 105 components, Mavic rims, Avid Cantilever brakes with new pads. Planet Bike fenders, Blackburn expedition rear rack, and bottle cages all included. Pedals not included, but LOOK 206 road pedals available. \$650 or offer. Or will do partial trade for item below – contact Steve (517)332-0351 or email freder16@msu.edu

WANTED: Late 70's/early 80's Japanese or European Sport/touring bike in good condition. (ie, Fuji, Centurion, Miyata, etc.) Ideally, something with centerpull brakes, 10 to 18 speeds, friction shifters, lugged steel frame of decent quality and in good condition. Normal wear and tear is okay, but no dumpster finds please. Size 21"/54cm, center to top. Trying to scratch a nostalgia itch for the nice old Centurion that I had in college. Let me know what you have lurking in your basement or garage. Will do a cash deal or partial trade for some of the items in the ad above. Contact Steve (517)332-0351 or email freder16@msu.edu

FOR SALE: For Sale: TREK Y22 OLCV carbon frame, XT/LX components, 18" or 54 cm, like new (less than 350 mi.) \$750 or make offer. Contact David- 517-485-4900(w) or 517-332-1983 (h).

FOR SALE: Trek Magneto Cycle-Ops Trainer New in Box - Never Used \$ 150.00 Contact Tom @ 517-536-8929.

Your Bad Dream Has Come True

There is a bad dream that everybody has had, called the "school dream" by Freud I believe, where you have not been attending class, or cannot get to class, and all of a sudden you have to take an exam and you haven't prepared for it. Your bad dream has come true.

I have prepared a quiz to see how observant you are.

The way to take the exam is to go to the TCBA website: <http://www.biketcba.org>

Then click on Chain Links near the bottom on the right side, then click on Byron Drachman's Cycling Page. Then click on the Pop Quiz.

Good luck on the exam, and remember that passing the course depends on getting a good score on the exam.

Byron Drachman

MEMBER SPECIALS

Oak Park YMCA - NEW SPECIAL

Thanks to a generous donation from the DALMAC Fund, the Oak Park YMCA now offers SPINNING classes! In appreciation of the club's support, TCBA members may take the classes for the same fee as a YMCA member. **This schedule begins January 10, 2004. (Some drop-in classes will be available during the first week of January-call for the schedule).**

One day a week/7 weeks

\$33.00 for TCBA or YMCA members

(\$68.00 for non-members)

Mon. 12:00 – 12:40 p.m.

Tues. 7:00 - 7:40 a.m.

Tues. 5:30-6:10 p.m.

Wed. 12:00- 12:40 p.m. (introductory class)

Thurs. 5:30-6:10 p.m.

Fri. 12:00-12:40 p.m.

Two days a week/7 weeks

\$58.00 for TCBA or YMCA members

Mon., Wed. 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Mon., Wed. 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Tues., Thurs. 6:30 -7:15 p.m.

One Hour Ride/7 weeks

\$40 for TCBA or YMCA members

Fri. 5:45 – 6:45 a.m.

Drop-In Class

\$4.50 for TCBA or YMCA members

Sat. 8:10 - 8:50 a.m.

Register at Oak Park YMCA, 900 Long Blvd., Lansing, MI 48911, or on line at www.ymcaoflansing.org, or by phone with a credit card at 517-699-YMCA (9622). Classes are offered in seven week sessions, but if there is space available in a class that has already started you may register for the class for a pro-rated fee (sorry, late registration on the website will not pro-rate fees).

SEW MUCH MORE

Cycling wear: jerseys, cycling shorts, tights, and cycling shells. Reasonable prices. Custom fit. Gift certificates. For more information call Sue at (517) 627-1411.

The Christmas Tricycle

I always think about my father, and cycling, around Christmas.

Somewhere in a tattered shoe box is a snapshot of me smiling in front of our holiday tree on my first tricycle, which my folks had given me for Christmas when I was two-and-a-half years old. Although you can't tell from the faded black-and-white, it was a sharp red model, and I was wearing a snappy little red cap to go with it. Dad was surely smiling on the other side of the camera.



Sometimes when I go through old family photos, I look for a picture of my father on a bicycle. Would his eyes be lit up by the same kind of joy that illuminated mine in that snapshot taken so many winters ago, the one that marks the beginning of my lifelong love of cycling?

It's not that Dad was an avid bicyclist. Going without a decent bike of his own was just one of the many sacrifices my father made while helping his family put food on the table as a boy growing up in the Depression, serving his country – and meeting my mother – in England during World War II and scraping enough cash together to buy his three boys bicycles of their own.

The reason I've been associating cycling with my father, besides the fact that he bought me that red tricycle for Christmas and the next couple of bikes afterwards, goes deeper than a shared hobby: the experiences I had and the people I met on the two week-long bicycle tours I completed during the summer following his death helped me deal with my grief.

My father, the most honest, highly principled and gentle man I've ever met, was a devout Christian Scientist who believed in spiritual healing and refused to see doctors. When he lapsed into a coma after a cerebral hemorrhage two days after celebrating his 74th birthday in early January 1996 – two weeks after Christmas – my mother, brothers and I began the most excruciating and emotionally draining week of our lives.

We are not Christian Scientists ourselves, but had pledged to Dad that we would honor his wishes to be treated by a Christian Science practitioner, without medical intervention, if anything happened to him. So all we could do was keep him as comfortable as possible, pray that he would find peace and tell him we loved him, in the hope that on some level he could hear us.



My girlfriend, who had stood by my side during this harrowing time, broke up with me two weeks after my father's service. I stumbled through a long, cold winter encumbered by the most profound sorrow I'd ever known.

In the early days of a dreary spring, I half-heartedly signed up for the Detroit Free Press Michigander mountain bike ride and the League of Michigan Bicyclists' Shoreline West Tour, with the mild notion that participating in those two summer events alongside people who shared my affinity for cycling and Michigan's natural beauty might raise my spirits a little.

When I pedaled out of the Lake Michigan resort of South Haven with 750 other cyclists on the fifth edition of the Michigander in mid-July, 1996, I was still feeling down. But I soon found myself in the fast company of an eclectic and electric group of cyclists who came to be known as "The Bug Brigade." And the clouds that had hovered over me for more than six months finally, magically began to break.

It's hard to stay depressed when you're riding around with a large grasshopper on your head.

Kris McDonald, an irrepressible audiologist from Windsor who was then 44, started the whole "bug thing" by attaching a giant rubber insect to her cycling helmet. By the middle of the trip, she had 13 other, otherwise sane people – special education teachers and musicians, working moms and college students, warehouse grunts and office managers – doing the same. Her zany influence was so great that I fondly dubbed her "Mother Bug."

Our group rode together, ate together, and set up our tents together in a big circle. In the evenings, after we got back from the local bar, we told stories and played games and sang songs in the center of that circle by a candlelight "campfire."

In between all the squirt gun fights, good-natured teasing, silly nicknames and photo sessions, I had some mutually beneficial, therapeutic talks with one group member about my father and her mother, who had just been diagnosed with cancer.

These are my strongest Michigander V memories: hanging around with 13 people who hadn't known of each other's existence one week beforehand, confiding in and laughing with one another, collectively blowing off steam from the grind of everyday life atop our mountain bikes, exploring the quaint rail-trails and back roads and small towns of rural southern Michigan a mile at a time.

One week after finishing the Michigander's 300-mile cross-state journey at Metro Beach Metropark on Lake St. Clair, I traded my knobby dirt tires for smoother, faster ones and embarked on the 400-mile Shoreline West Tour, which followed paved secondary roads along scenic Lake Michigan from Holland to Mackinaw City.

The theme for the 450 West riders was "Celebrate!" – a reference to the tour's tenth anniversary in '96. For me, it was a celebration of my continued rediscovery of life's simple

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The Christmas Tricycle

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pleasures: enjoying nature's splendor, getting your blood pumping with a good workout, meeting interesting new people from all age groups and walks of life.

A unique brand of camaraderie exists among cyclists, especially on tours like the Michigander and the Shoreline rides. Sleepy smiles at breakfast. Words of encouragement for fellow riders straining to make it up a hill. Calls of "Are you okay?" and offers of help when a cyclist has a flat tire or slipped chain. Easy conversations at dinner that made the cafeterias seem like college dorm dining rooms in which everyone has the same major (bicycling) and diverse minors (every other conceivable interest). Spirited riders taking over the towns at night.

I've been going on these tours ever since, and in the last three years have added DALMAC – the Dick Allen Lansing-to-Mackinaw trek that comes to a spectacular climax with a thrilling Mackinac Bridge crossing on the Sunday before Labor Day every year – to my "Must Ride" list. And while I still haven't found any pictures of my father on a bicycle, I now have several of me with my sharp red mountain bike, my snappy red helmet with assorted goofy mascots on top and my new Michigander, Shoreline and DALMAC friends. We are all wearing the kind of smile that people who have shared a special adventure wear. When I look back at these pictures, I think of something my family has always told me: I look a lot like my father.

So perhaps, in a way, these are the pictures I've been



Ron Campbell - Berkley, MI - November, 2003

searching for all along. They say life goes on. For I do, indeed, have my father's eyes.

Thanks for the Christmas tricycle, Dad.

Tour Of Hope 8 Days/24 Hours/3200 Miles A Ride Of A Lifetime

Thank you all for all of your messages of hope, those that traveled to LA or DC and for tracking our progress along the way. Truly, the journey has just begun. Please continue to tell people about the www.tourofhope.org website and encourage them to sign the Cancer Promise.

Though the Bristol-Myers Squibb Tour of Hope journey across America concluded on October 18th, I believe the mission and vision continues. It has been now over three weeks since Tour of Hope ended in Washington, DC and I know so many of you are awaiting a recap. Here are just a few of my greatest moments along the way:

- Climbing the mountains with Lance Armstrong and Peter Dolan in the 95-degree heat.
- Riding in 35 mph cross winds in the middle of night in NM with rattlesnakes on the road.
- Maintaining a 28.6mph average over 60 miles through the cotton fields of Texas.
- People that met us at staging areas along the way to share their stories and messages of hope with the team.
- Riding in the thick fog at night or the cold, rain, and hills in OH/PA.
- Arriving into DC with secret service and FBI surrounding us like we the most important people in the world.

I have so many memories, stories, pictures that I can't wait to share with all of you. This was without a doubt the most amazing experience of my life. Just when you think you live your life to the fullest an experience like this raises the bar. I believe that is what Lance continues to do. I have a renewed passion for Life, Cycling, Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Cancer Cause.

My heart is full of Hope. I hope that our journey has inspired you in some way to take charge of your life. Please continue to share our messages with family and friends of the importance of early detection and awareness. Together we can continue this journey and save our children and there's from cancer.

Julianne Pattullo
Tour of Hope 2003

Season's Greetings



THE EMERALD ISLE

with

Lee & Carol Perrine

on our tandem bicycle

Part 3 of 3



DAY 13--Our 3 day string of pretty weather ends with a gray start and by noon the light showers persist until sunset. The ferry boat people didn't know what to charge for a one-way ticket between two islands but we finally agree on 20.00 Euros and we are off to Innesmore, the largest of the

Aran Islands. We pass near the other Aran Island, Inishmaan, and a nice little lighthouse station as we race two other ferries from Galway to the dock at Kilronan, we lost. We spot a hostel right near the dock and unload our panniers before heading up the steep hill leading out of town. The local kids enjoy passing us as we struggle with the steep grade on the way up to Dun Eochia, an old fort and more recently a lighthouse. From here we could see back across the islands to the Cliffs of Moher, where we had been a few days before and ahead across Galway Bay to the mountains of Connemara. Soon the scattered showers catch us and we seek refuge in a convenient cafe with a Tea for 2 and a Rhubarb Crunch. The old thatched roof house had one of the few vegetable gardens we've seen so far. The big surprise was the mature globe artichokes, a subtropical biennial plant growing this far north. The rain finally lets up enough to trick us into hiking up the steep, rocky path to Dun Aonghasa, another old circular ring fort that was probably built around 1000 B.C. It consisted of 3 circular stone rings and backed up to the edge of the cliffs high above the ocean below. We grab our rain suits from our backpack as the showers return and slip-slide the half mile back down the hill to our bike. Surprisingly we have been able to keep warm and reasonably dry through the all the cool and rainy weather so far. We adopted the attitude that if it even looks like it might rain, put on the rain gear because in Ireland it will. The rains did stop just in time to enjoy a beautiful sunset across the harbor from our hostel window high on a nearby hill. 17 km. lots of rain.

DAY 14--We boarded the ferry Queen of Aran II and left Innesmore by 8:30 a.m. (long before Irish breakfast time) so the first order of business was--find breakfast--no luck but we finally came to a grocery store and bought some breakfast rolls. They had a unique coffee dispenser. You placed your cup under the faucet and then inserted a packet of your choice in the machine and "viola", your chosen drink dribbled out. The 25-mile ride in to Galway included a tailwind, bright sunshine and a paved shoulder to ride your bike on instead of a stone wall at your elbow. We met several bikers along the way. We were just coming into Galway when we spotted a familiar pair of golden arches. You guessed it, it was McDonalds and just exactly like any one you might visit in Lansing except they didn't have the dollar menu and we had to pay the "big bucks". We had

planned to attend the dog races but the track was closed for renovation so we moved into the nearby Lynfield House B&B for the night. No problem finding a room in Galway as nearly every home on our street has a B&B sign in front of it. Galway is a tourist town and has turned some of the downtown streets into pedestrian use only and they were filled with people looking for entertainment or pubs. It was interesting how they could hide a huge shopping center right in the middle of all these old storefronts and narrow streets but there it was and not a parking space for blocks, but the mall was full of shoppers. 48 km.--no rain.

DAY 15--The forecast rain started before breakfast so we decided to let Bus Eireann do the driving for us today up into the Connemara. 16 Euros for a senior ticket seemed reasonable for an all day bus tour. We stopped at a crystal factory and marble workshop before reaching the high point of the trip at Kylemore Abbey, a beautiful palace built by Mitchell Henry for his wife in the nineteenth century. The low scudding clouds obscured the tops of the mountains that stood like pyramids most of the way, but we did stop at a peat-mining quarry and a mussel farm in Killary harbor. There were no stone fences in this region and the sheep were free to roam on the roads. 0 km.--Rain most of the day.

DAY 16--It's drizzling as we leave Galway. Add to that the noise from the heavy traffic on N-18 and the disappearing shoulder at times; make for a hectic ride into Ennis, some 40 miles away. It cleared up just as we arrived and was beautiful but cool the rest of the afternoon and evening. We've worn our long sleeved, fleece jerseys, tights and rain jackets every day so far, and we've only removed the jackets for a few hours in the afternoon on some days. Our Abbey Tourist Hostel is in an old "social club" building built along the Fergus River. A second floor was built in the ballroom and our room hung out over the river. We could watch the wild life on the river and diners in the restaurant across the way. We "nuked" a couple frozen dinners in the hostel microwave for supper. 73 km.--morning rains.

DAY 17--We are getting near the end of our trip so we decide to just take a day off and explore Ennis on foot. It was an interesting old town with narrow one-way streets and sidewalks, but hidden right in the middle was Dunnes. A huge modern one-stop shopping center that would put Meijers or Wal-Mart to shame for size, quality and arrangement. It was also farmers market day and we always enjoy looking at the stuff that other farmers like ourselves produce. We had lunched at Henry's, the restaurant across the river that we had been watching from our room. A stroll through the nearby Ennis Friary ruins would end our day. No kilometers--no rain.

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The Emerald Isle (continued)

DAY 18--We left Ennis on N-18, a new, dual lane freeway. It was so new in fact that we got to ride on a 5-mile stretch that wasn't open to automobiles yet. The workmen were still putting the finishing touches on the exits, but let us through instead of making us ride on the detour with the heavy traffic. We arrived back at Bunratty Castle and unlike most of the rest of the ruins we visited; this one had been maintained in its original 15th century condition. There was a nice guided tour through all the rooms from the dungeon to the top of the towers. The grounds around the castle had been reconstructed to simulate rural life style of the 19th century. There were a lot of old a farm machine and it was fun to try and guess what they had been used for. We arrived back at Shannonside B&B only to find our hostess, Mrs. Tobin in a dither as both her husband and helper were away and she had a big wedding group to entertain. She had made reservations for us further down the road but we decided to cancel them and instead moved our bike boxes across the road to Mrs. Ryan's Hillcrest B&B. We rode into town for supper and had fast food at SuperMac. (Buy one chicken burger and get another free). By far the least expensive meal we had in Ireland. On our way back to the B&B we got caught in the middle of an anti-war protest. A policeman guided us through the line of sign bearers. I think I'm glad they didn't know I was an American. Back in our room we spent the evening watching the Opening Ceremonies for the Special Olympics, which were being held in Dublin. 57 km.--1 rain.

DAY 19--Two elderly gentlemen from Florida joined us for breakfast. They had been vacationing in Ireland for years but when they went to pick up their reserved rental car this year, were informed that with the new insurance laws, people over 80 are no longer allowed to drive in Ireland. They were considering returning home. We took a little ride around Shannon but didn't find anything too exciting so came back and started disassembling our bike and packing our gear for the return flight home tomorrow. Everything went well but we couldn't decide whether to tape up the boxes real well or not. Luckily we didn't because the security check wanted them opened. We did have a little trouble with the room key though. First Mr. Ryan came home without his keys, and when he couldn't contact his wife I had to let him in with mine. Then Carol went in to get something from the room and put the keys in her jacket pocket. Of course they were still in the jacket when it was packed in the box so we had to open it back up and get them. 10 km.--1 shower.

DAY 20--Mrs. Ryan arranged a cab ride for us while we enjoyed breakfast. They will come for us with an "estate car" at 11:30. In the meantime we decided to walk to the nearby shopping area and pick up some last minute items. This was probably the most hazardous experience we had in Ireland. The road was part of the N-18 detour and less than 2 lanes wide for about a quarter mile. In fact, two trucks couldn't meet in this section because of the stone walls right at the edge of the pavement on both sides. I'm sure we must have wiped the dust off some of the passing cars. Luckily we didn't spoil our good safety record on the last day. Ace Cabs came to pick us up at 11:30 as promised with a station wagon. We had to do some rearranging but finally everything was in place and we headed off to the airport, which was only 3 miles and 10 Euros away. We no more than took our place in the long check-in line and a security agent pulled us out and wanted to see what was in the boxes. Everything went well and they even helped us tape everything back together. The clouds were hanging low as our beautiful new AER Lingus, Airbus A330 left the ground and within minutes we were above them, but would you believe, just as we got to the coast the clouds cleared and the whole Western coast of Ireland where we had ridden our tandem over 500 miles for the last 15 days was laid out before us in all its spectacular beauty. A super finish to a great vacation. 849 kilometers (519 miles)--at least some rain on 13 days out of 20 and June was their dry season. Tenting not recommended.

Would we do it again? Of course. But as with all our other fun trips, it was great and exciting but there are so many places to go and see and so little time that our next trip will regrettably be somewhere else. Some tips and hints for bicycling in Ireland. Bring good rain gear and pack as waterproof as possible. Although most of the rainy days had some bright periods. In Western Ireland plan on strong winds but mostly from the Southwest along the coast so plan your route from South to North as much as possible. Lots of big hills and small mountains. Travel on the main highways away from the cities is poor because the roads tend be narrow with no shoulders or stone walls right out to the edge of the pavement which is quite often poor at the edge. However the motorists are very alert and courteous, and used to slow moving objects, such as sheep and cattle, so condone bicyclists. We didn't have one single horn honk at us in over 500 miles. The secondary roads were great with low volume and low speed traffic.



FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

Kids Repair Program E.D. Honored

Curt "Grandad" Eure, executive director of the Kids Repair Program (KRP), was honored recently by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network with The Caring for Children Angel Award. Eure was one of five recipients to be honored Friday evening at Blue Cross' Bricktown Service Center in downtown Detroit.

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and Blue Care Network (BCN) invited the public to nominate candidates who work to improve the lives of children. Community leaders from around the state, including Lynne Martinez, director of the state's Office of Children's Ombudsman, screened 66 nominations and selected five finalists. Lansing resident Linda Keefe read about this recognition program in the Lansing State Journal and nominated Grandad.

The "Grand Angel," Jeanne Fowler, of Big Family of Michigan, was chosen from among the five finalists at the awards ceremony. An abused child and former foster child herself, Fowler nurtures foster children and provides them with opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have. She received \$5,000 and each Angel received \$1,000 to be donated to the charity of his or her choice. Other Angel award winners include Betsy Upton Stover, founder of Ele's Place in Lansing, Calvin Colbert of Detroit Impact Youth Center, and Andrew Krupansky of Teens Aiding the Cancer Community.

KRP provides children ages 9 to 17 with an opportunity to work one-on-one with an adult who will listen, challenge and teach. Eure is 77 years old and has volunteered as executive director at KRP for 10 years. He has given thousands of children, without bicycles, the opportunity to earn one through 20 hours of instruction. The children have positive role models to emulate and they in turn become positive role models for their peers and siblings. The program, by offering children the opportunity to complete a hands-on, minds-on project, improves their problem solving skills and also increases their future ability to become successful.

KRP improves the safety of children who are riding bicycles in greater Lansing. Students are taught safety rules,

regulations and methods of riding. Staff serve as mentors and teach children to share concern for others by lending materials, assisting in repairs, and offering a helping hand. They are taught how to maintain and repair their bikes with the proper tools and techniques. Students learn to be concerned both for their own property and the property of others. Students receive a bike, a helmet, bike lock, certificate of completion and a graduation party for themselves and their family. The program also serves special needs children from ages 9 through adult.

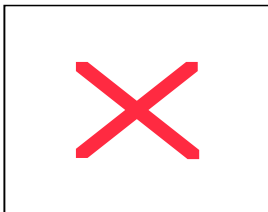
Eure devotes sixty hours a week to this unpaid, volunteer position. He gives tirelessly of his time and even his funds, which are limited as he is a senior citizen. He will buy a helmet or a tool before he would ever think to buy himself a new shirt. When the Men's Wearhouse of Lansing learned that Eure was selected as an Angel Award finalist they furnished Eure with a brand new suit.

The public has always been very supportive of this program. General Motors/UAW PEP employees, on loan to various agencies throughout the greater Lansing region, are a fundamental part of the Kids Repair Program. Dan Lewis is chief instructor and Charlie Nguyen is manager of the tool equipment.

However, there has always been the challenge of limited resources. KRP recently attained its 501 (c) 3 non-profit status and relies on grant funding and donations as it has no permanent revenue stream. Grandad has used his social security pension to afford tools and parts in order for the students to complete the repair of their bicycles. Inspired by Betsy Upton Stover, Angel Award winner and founder of Ele's Place for grieving children, Grandad would like to establish an endowment fund and start a capital campaign to build a permanent facility for the Kids Repair Program.

Persons interested in volunteering to be a mentor-trainer, contributing funds, or have an expertise or interest in helping to raise funds for this worthy program may contact Grandad at 485-8956 or stop by at 208 Museum Drive in Lansing.

A New Member!



Jun Nagomi and his spouse, Midori Koga, received their second, bouncing baby daughter, Keili, (7lbs.3oz.) on October 12th. 2003. A warm welcome to the new Baby and our congratulations to the proud parents.

Hunting Humor

Howard and his best buddy, Dick, went hunting a few weeks ago. Somehow they wound up getting lost. Howard reassured Dick, "Don't worry, all we have to do is shoot into the air three times, stay where we are, and someone will find us!"

They shot into the air three times, but no one came. After a while they tried again. Still no response. When they decided to try one last time, Dick said, "I sure hope this works. We're down to our last three arrows!"