



# CHAINWHEEL CHATTER

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P.O. Box 22146 Lansing MI 48909-2146  
[www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org)  
Promoting safe, social bicycling since 1972

## Chainwheel Deadline

**February Newsletter:**  
**January 23** Send items to Sarynna Lopez Meza by the indicated deadline.  
[chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org)

## Stay in touch with us!

**Whether you are a beginner, casual or hardcore cyclist, the Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) is here to help!**

The TCBA membership offers several perks, including access to the premier version of Ride with GPS (normally \$80/year; this app allows you to download and edit biking routes), as well as earning incentives when riding club miles (bike goodies, clothing, to name a few).

Feel free to join the various class rides we have:

A - 17-19 mph  
B - 14 - 17 mph  
C - 12 - 14 mph  
D - Up to 12 mph  
Z - Longer rides at your own pace (~10 mph)

More information about the various rides and to confirm they are taking place, please look at [BikeTCBA.org](http://BikeTCBA.org).

**Find us and follow us on social media:**

**TCBA:** <https://www.facebook.com/biketcba>

**DALMAC:** <https://facebook.com/pg/tcba.dalmac/events>

**DALMAC Instagram:** @dalmac.epic

## A note from the editor

Happy 2020 TCBA family! I hope you have had a wonderful Holiday season so far! My in-laws were visiting from South Carolina and I was glad my niece and nephew got a small taste of Michigan winter this morning - it's always adorable to see kids seeing snow for the first time.

It's been an interesting month weather-wise though, and while I'm sure several of you are still hitting the roads (road or gravel), I know some of you have been on Zwift lately. I promise to get a Sunday morning meet-up going. I was short on time this month, so I'm only including a really cool article I read recently about a woman who biked around the world.

Please don't hesitate to email me if you have comments and/or suggestions for the Chainwheel! Safe rides!

Sarynna López Meza - East Lansing, MI

## TCBA Board and Member Meetings

Month	Board Meeting	Member Meeting
January	7	30
February	4	TBD

Our January speaker will be Bill Smith. He did a cycling trip on the Mickelson trail in the Black Hills and has a lot of pictures to show the club! Everyone is welcome to attend the Member meetings. These are at 7 pm at the Foster Community Center in Lansing.

## TCBA Membership

	1-Year	2-Year	3-Year	4-Year
<b>Individual</b>	\$15	\$16	\$24	\$32
<b>Family</b>	\$20	\$32	\$40	\$48



*Affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists and the  
League of Michigan Bicyclists*

## Summer Tour 2020 - Overview



**Summer Tour Online registration starts  
Saturday January 4, 2020 at 4 pm**

**More information at [BikeTCBA.org/SummerTour](http://BikeTCBA.org/SummerTour)  
Including SummerTour information brochure and  
the link to the registration page**

**It will be a great SummerTour!**

This year's family-friendly five-day bicycle tour features routes on roads, the Pere Marquette Trail and the White Pine Trail and the Cadillac Pathway for dirt trail riding, all from the convenience of a single camping location, Veteran's Memorial Park Campground in Marion, MI.

SummerTour is three bicycling tours in one:

- Roads, routes and maps. Enjoy northern Michigan's rolling terrain.
- Drive and ride the paved White Pine and Pere Marquette rail/trails.
- Ride your own story. Grab your county maps and find your own adventure.

The tour begins on **Wednesday, July 15** and ends on **Sunday, July 19, 2020**. Camping will be available starting on Tuesday, July 14 **after 4 PM** at no additional charge.

Daily routes will vary between 25 and 75 miles, with various options. The Sunday rides will be a shorter variety to allow for returning to camp, shower and check-out by 2 PM.

This is **primarily a tent camping tour**, with provision for some RVs (for an extra fee). Be ready to "Ride Your Own Story." Take your bicycle anywhere. Do your own thing. We'll be back in the same campground at the end of the day.

Included in the basic fee are tent camping facilities, route maps, SAG service, and meals. Dinners are Wednesday through Saturday, and breakfasts are Thursday through Sunday at the campground. Campground Hosts will help with questions and provide you with snacks in the afternoons, group campfires with S'mores and munchies some evenings. Marion is wonderful for bicycling. The roads are good. Traffic is light. A good vacation in the saddle. Bicycle Michigan's heartland.

Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) of Lansing, MI sponsors SummerTour. It is open to all capable interested bicyclists. The first **150** entries will be accepted.

For more information or questions go to [BikeTCBA.org/SummerTour](http://BikeTCBA.org/SummerTour), email [SummerTour@biketcba.org](mailto:SummerTour@biketcba.org) or call 734-330-2283 (leave a message).

## Summer Tour 2020 - Overview



**NorthWest Tour Online registration starts  
Sunday January 19, 2020 at 7 pm EST**

**More information at [BikeTCBA.org/NWTour](http://BikeTCBA.org/NWTour)**

### **NorthWest Tour – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual! Biking “The Bear”**

Winter is upon us and cycling has transitioned to skiing for some of us, or fat-tire biking, or maybe our lucky “snowbird” members are rolling right along. In any case it’s a perfect time to start planning your riding season for next year!

I recommend that you plan on spending 5 days biking the beautiful Sleeping Bear Dunes and Leelanau areas with us for spectacular scenery through small towns and tourist areas, all from the convenience of a single campground. Empire, Glen Arbor, Traverse City, Frankfort, Leland, and Suttons Bay are just a few of the highlights.

NorthWest Tour 2020 begins on Wednesday, June 17 and ends on Sunday, June 21 (Father’s Day). This is primarily a tent camping tour but RV sites can be reserved with Indigo Bluffs RV Park, our home for the Tour, for an extra fee.

Registration is online only and starts on Sunday, January 19 at 7pm. Tour fee will be \$190. The first 300 entries will be accepted. To guarantee your participation prompt signup is recommended. The registration link and the Tour Guidebook can be found on our webpage at: [www.biketcba.org/nwtour](http://www.biketcba.org/nwtour)

Hope you can join us to “Bike the Bear”!

Jeff Dillingham  
NorthWest Tour Director

## Overlooked no more: Annie Londonderry, who traveled the world by Bicycle



*Article taken from The New York Times; written by Bruce Weber on Nov 6, 2019.*

The decade before the 20th century began saw an explosion in bicycle sales and cycling in general. The so-called “safety bicycle,” with wheels of equal size and a chain mechanism that allowed pedaling to drive the back wheel, along with the arrival of the pneumatic tire, had transformed cycling from an acrobatic and somewhat perilous enterprise into a pleasurable, less hazardous and even utilitarian recreation. Bicycles were mass produced as men increasingly used them to commute to work.

Especially significant was that women, for the first time, took to the activity, relishing the freedom it gave them from the restrictions of a homebound existence. Corsets and billowy skirts even gave way to bloomers so that women could ride comfortably. The bicycle was very much a part of the early women’s movement.

“Let me tell you what I think of bicycling,” the suffragist Susan B. Anthony said in an 1896 interview in *The New York World* with the pioneering journalist [Nellie Bly](#). “I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel. It gives woman a

feeling of freedom and self-reliance. It makes her feel as if she were independent. The moment she takes her seat she knows she can’t get into harm unless she gets off her bicycle, and away she goes, the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood.”

If ever there was an avatar of these combined social trends, “of free, untrammelled womanhood,” it was Annie Cohen Kopchovsky, a Latvian immigrant who in June 1894, at about age 23, cycled away from her Boston home, leaving a husband and three small children, for a journey around the world. Though Thomas Stevens, an Englishman, had circumnavigated the globe on a high-wheeler several years earlier, no woman had tried such a feat.

Keeping her husband and family a secret for most of her journey, she called herself Annie Londonderry and agreed, in exchange for \$100, to attach an advertisement to her bicycle for the Londonderry Lithia Spring Water Company of New Hampshire. Her bicycle and her person became a rolling billboard, the first of many moneymaking schemes she would come up with to finance her travels. Along the way, she signed and sold souvenirs, gave exhibitions of bicycling and delivered lectures to often sizable crowds, whom she had alerted to her presence by sending telegrams to local newspapers in advance of her arrival.

She delighted crowds with tales of her adventures that reporters dutifully reported — tall tales, many of them. One was that she had been waylaid by bandits in France, another that she had hunted Bengal tigers in India, and still another that she had traveled to the front lines of the Sino-Japanese War, where she was shot in the shoulder. She claimed, at various times, to be a Harvard medical student, a lawyer, an orphan, the founder of a newspaper and an accountant. With her gift for self-invention and self-promotion, there was as much P.T. Barnum in her as there was Susan B. Anthony.



## Overlooked no more: Annie Londonderry, who traveled the world by Bicycle

Her audacious trip was completed in September 1895, her return to Boston reported on in *The New York Times* [in straightforward fashion](#). She arrived with a broken arm, having pedaled for hundreds of miles with the injury, which she said was from a fall. But the journey was not everything it appeared to be. Details were shrouded in uncertainty, largely owing to Kopchovsky's penchant for hyperbolizing. Indeed, it's most likely true that she circumnavigated the globe *with* a bicycle rather than entirely *on* one; the evidence is strong that from western Europe through the Middle East, the subcontinent and Asia, from Marseilles to Yokohama, she traveled mostly by steamship. The first leg of her trip took her from Boston to Chicago, and the last, from San Francisco to Chicago, via El Paso, were accomplished — for the most part, it seems — on two wheels, and thus it is a reasonable claim that she was the first female cyclist to cross the American continent. In any case her journey was a pioneering one in the history of women's athletics, in which she cycled thousands of miles.

She was a novice cyclist when she set out, and her first vehicle was a poor one, a clunky tank of a machine weighing 42 pounds. (Most bicycles today weigh 21 to 29 pounds.) She did not discard skirts in favor of bloomers or men's pants for several months. The roads were often unpaved, and it took her three months to make it first to New York and then to Chicago. By then it was late September, too late in the year to begin a ride across the Great Plains. Kopchovsky considered abandoning her journey, but with a new bicycle weighing less than half the first one, she instead reversed course, returned to New York (whether she cycled the whole way is doubtful) and took a steamship to Europe. There she rode (with an interval of train travel) with great fanfare from Paris to Marseilles. When she departed on shipboard, bound for Alexandria, Egypt, on Jan. 20, 1895, a crowd of thousands — including a drum and bugle corps and a phalanx of local cyclists — showed up to see her off.

Kopchovsky's celebrity, though it lingered through the completion of her trip, was short-lived, and her adventure would probably have remained obscure were it not for [Peter Zheutlin](#), a journalist and cycling hobbyist who, decades after her death, became intrigued by what little he knew of Kopchovsky, his great-grandfather's sister. For his book "Around the World on Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry's Extraordinary Ride" (2007), he scoured newspaper archives from around the world, dug up family relics and plumbed the memory of Kopchovsky's only survivor, a granddaughter.

Kopchovsky was born Annie Cohen in Latvia in 1870 or 1871, the daughter of Levi and Beatrice Cohen. The family moved to the United States in 1875, settling in Boston. In 1888 she married Max Kopchovsky, a peddler, and by 1892 they had two daughters and a son. Among the more remarkable aspects of Kopchovsky's story is that she chose to leave her family to pursue her quixotic quest. Ostensibly she undertook the trip to settle a bet between Boston businessmen on whether women were as physically capable as men. It was a story she told at every stop, explaining to reporter after reporter that she was to receive \$10,000 if she finished her journey in 15 months, in addition to the \$5,000 she earned above her expenses along the way. She claimed in the end to have settled the bet and earned her money. But Zheutlin's reporting cast that story in doubt, and he concluded that there were no such businessmen, nor was there any such wager.

She returned to her family when the trip was complete, and never again, evidently, made bicycling an important part of her life. She wrote a highly suspect account of her journey that appeared in *The New York Sunday World* in October 1895 under the byline Nellie Bly Jr. She and her husband had a fourth child in 1897, and Kopchovsky left home again for a time and worked as a saleswoman in Ukiah, Calif., about 115 miles north of San Francisco. When she returned, she and her husband lived in the Bronx and operated a small clothing business, employing 20 people. The business was destroyed by a fire in the 1920s, Zheutlin wrote, and Kopchovsky used the insurance money to start another business in Manhattan, called Grace Strap & Novelty, "with a man named Feldman she met at a Horn & Hardart restaurant."

Kopchovsky died of a stroke on Nov. 11, 1947. Her husband had died the previous year. In his book, Zheutlin wrote that Kopchovsky had made her journey out of a desire for fame, excitement and the independence that her conventional societal role had denied her. She loved telling stories, she loved having a story to tell, and she loved representing women as being just as entrepreneurial as men. "Truly there is no way to measure the impact of her adventure on the larger struggle for women's equality — to know how many women it inspired or empowered," Zheutlin wrote. "But Annie's journey epitomized perfectly the confluence of the women's movement and the bicycle craze and is, therefore, a small but revealing chapter in the story of women at the turn of the century."

## Classifieds

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 an email to [chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org). Ads will appear for 2 editions, unless otherwise notified.

**For Sale:** Road bike - Men's Fuji - \$300. If you want it all , but have a limited budget the Finest-Al has lots to offer. Lightweight Altair 2 butted frame with a surprising compliant ride, 24-speed Shimano Sora drivetrain and sturdy, double wall rims with CNC sidewalls. Includes Cateye cyclometer, two water bottle cages and a rear Travelrack. Contact Robert Ford 517.290.3416

**For Sale:** Bike - Women's Fuji - \$300. Not a road bike, not a hybrid. The Silhouette is best of both, the speed of a road bike with more comfortable position of a hybrid. It is equipped with Altair 2 lite butted aluminium frame, Shimano Tiagra 27 speed drivetrain with slick shifting RapidFire shifters, fast rolling Richey Aero wheels and linear pull brakes with modulator on front for secure stopping. Includes a Cateye cyclometer, clip-in pedals and non-clip-in and a Senas dual density cushioned saddle. Contact Robert Ford 517.290.3416

**For Sale:** 2008 Giant OCR3 XS (#666773) Road bike, XS, color red & silver, in almost new condition (was bought as a back-up bike), 24 gears, included are Owners Manual, X-pedo pedals (Shimano compatible), pump, tool bag with tools, bike computer, bell, mirror, rechargeable head light with USB charger. Asking \$400. 00. Contact Edie Belcher 517-242-4122.

## Member Specials

This section is for TCBA members who own a business to advertise at a cost of \$30 per 6 months for business card ad. To place ad, submit your copy-ready jpg business card to [chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org](mailto:chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org) and mail payment to TCBA - Classifieds - Patricia Mead 10655 Ballinalee Lane Grand Ledge, MI 48837



**Sew Much More**  
Sewing Classes ages 8 to adult  
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517-627-1411

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## TCBA - MEMBER CONTACT

**Your respect is requested when using any of the numbers on this page.  
Phone calls during family time and at late hours can be intrusive.**

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email: ridecoordinator@biketcba.org

#### Routes & Maps:

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#### SummerTour:

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email: summertour@biketcba.org

#### T-Shirt Ride:

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#### Webmaster:

Dave Mansfield:  
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### TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

<http://www.biketcba.org/>

Select Member Signup and follow the prompts!

Select options:

- Create a profile
- Renew membership online
- Select interests
- Volunteer opportunities
- Select electronic version of Chainwheel Chatter
- And much more