



CHAINWHEEL CHATTER

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P.O. Box 22146 Lansing MI 48909-2146
www.biketcba.org
Promoting safe, social bicycling since 1972

Chainwheel Deadline

November Newsletter:
November 23 Send items to Sarynna Lopez Meza by the indicated deadline.
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).

Be on the look out for information about **gift certificates!** These will be available soon and you can use them to gift a membership to someone or renew a membership! Check our website at biketcba.org for more information.

Find us and follow us on social media:

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

TCBA Membership

	1-Year	2-Year	3-Year	4-Year
Individual	\$15	\$24	\$30	\$36
Family	\$20	\$32	\$40	\$48

A note from the editor

I guess I was wrong in the last edition when I thought the good riding days of summer were gone. This past week has been glorious! And the leaves! With the beautiful fall weather we're having, I am feeling excited about going on a couple of short rides with our son to enjoy the colors!

Life continues to be an adjustment. I'm still working from home (thankfully so), my husband is still working from his office, and our son is still doing online schooling. But we're all healthy, which is the main thing. When I feel like complaining, I often think of my parents in Monterrey, a busy city of ~4 million people in Mexico, who haven't stepped outside their condo since March 14th. Talk about a lockdown. My Mom is definitely in the high risk section due to on-going lung issues, so they have taken this pandemic seriously, and while I admire their fortitude (they are in good spirits, they work out daily, they read, watch movies, see their children and grand children and other friends via technology) I often wonder if I could have survived 210 days (and counting) in the same situation. Even during our Shelter-in-Place, we still were able to be outside, and I've definitely taken advantage of that for my own sanity. Even though I haven't biked as much as I would have liked this year, I have run many more miles than I had ever done before! All in the search of peace and sanity.

Which leads me to some articles I recently enjoyed from biking-related emails I get by virtue of being the Editor. I'm sharing excerpts from them in this edition and encourage you to read them all via the links I'm providing. Starting with whether or not bikers are "reckless lawbreakers", to a couple of biking trips people have done, including one in Michigan. After all, as on oof the articles read: "The romance of the endless open road is well established: the freedom, the connection with strangers, the path to self-enlightenment, the joy and misery of getting lost and breaking down."

I hope you are doing well and staying safe!

Sarynna López Meza - East Lansing, MI



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

President's Annual Report 2020

Acknowledgement of 2020 TCBA Officers:

- President Pat Kelley; chairs all board meetings and membership meetings, delivers annual report of all club activities.
- Vice President Patty Mead; Monthly Membership Meetings, hosts Club Holiday Party and Picnic.
- Secretary Deb Traxinger; meeting minutes and sending floral arrangements
- Treasurer KC Harrison; detailed accounting of all club business and related matters.
- Events Director Steve Leiby; DALMAC's successes start with the Director, coordinates all DALMAC related committees contract work with the schools and many other DALMAC related matters.
- Board at Large, Ken Schwartz and Eric Dean; Ride Incentives and other duties as assigned.

2021 Board by Acclamation (no other nominations were received): Patrick Kelley (President), Patricia Mead (Vice-President), Deb Traxinger (Secretary), KC Harrison (Treasurer), Steve Leiby (DALMAC Director, Ken Schwartz and Eric Dean (Board at Large). Thank you!

Core Values: from By-Laws:

The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are as follows:

1. To promote the use of bicycles
2. To promote bicycle safety
3. To promote public awareness of bicyclists' rights on public thoroughfares
4. To organize bicycling events
5. To prepare a bicycle route system for the Tri-County area
6. To promote a statewide bicycle route system
7. To provide instruction as to the care and maintenance of bicycles
8. To provide an opportunity for members to socialize with others who have an interest in the use of bicycles

Covid-19 Pandemic Effects

As you all know, 2020 has changed the way we all live. The pandemic has affected TCBA, our Rides, and most of our club activities. Many changes occurred during this year beyond the canceled Rides/Tours/Club Rides. The Board cancelled all face to face meetings, both Membership and Board Meetings, we did not have a Picnic, nor will we have a Holiday Party this year.

President's Annual Report 2020

We all greatly miss the TCBA community of bicycling together and seeing each other at these events. The year 2020 will forever be in our memories. TCBA as a Club is still viable and strong thanks to all the years of great volunteers, successful Rides and your participation.

The T-shirt had to cancel this year for the safety of the riders. We are looking forward to 2021. Thank you to Bob Noble and the T-Shirt volunteers!

Northwest Tour was again full, and nearly 75% of those riders postponed their registrations to 2021, making NWT 2021 off to a great start! NWT will have a new Director, Patty Mead, who has agreed to take over for Jeff Dillingham who did an outstanding job for 10 years as the NWT Director! Thank you Jeff and to your great Committee of Volunteers!

SummerTour, was also full, and looking forward to being in Marion, MI. ~75% of those riders postponed their registrations to 2021! Thank you Ginger Royston and RJ Chulski for their leadership as Directors and their Committee members!

DALMAC 2020 -the 50th year- was headed to be a record year, as the tour filled in just 3 weeks! Steve Leiby has done a great job leading the awesome DALMAC volunteers through this year of the pandemic. 75% of the DALMAC riders postponed their ride to 2021. We are all hopeful that we will be riding DALMAC in 2021.

Because TCBA had no Rides/Tours, the Club did not have Ride Incentives for 2020. We are hopeful, that by mid-year 2021, we will again be able to have Club Rides.

TCBA Strengths:

- Volunteers! The backbone of TCBA, without which we cannot have a club/activities or community! Volunteers are our most valuable resource.
- Ride Leaders, Committees, Publicity, Ride Mileage, Web Site, SAG drivers, over 100 people "Volunteer" for jobs just within/for TCBA; another 100+ people (some are the same folks) Volunteer for DALMAC duties.
- Welcoming new members; introduce yourself to these new riders!
- Successful TCBA sponsored Rides, T-Shirt; NWT; SummerTour and DALMAC.
- TCBA is financially viable.
- Riding in groups offers additional safety.

President's Annual Report 2020

Achievements:

- Development and distribution of a Tool Kit to assist members of the media and law enforcement in the reporting of driver/bicycle crashes.
- Website with increased features, rider mileage totals.
- One Place to see/get Ride information, the Event Calendar.
- Electronic notifications/renewals/communications.
- Increased publicity with Social Media Facebook/Instagram.
- Ride with GPS – embracing new technology.
- DALMAC Fund give backs to the riding community of Michigan (over 1.4 million dollars).

Positives:

- Ride Incentives, TCBA gives back to its members via nice items earned from riding on TCBA rides.
- Advocacy Committee's work in a variety of areas positively impacting bicycling safety!
- DALMAC Fund grants
- DALMAC is a 501c3 charitable Non-Profit so donations are tax deductible
- Partnership with the League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB)
- Partnership with Friends of the Regional Trails (FLRT)
- Monthly Chainwheel Chatter Newsletter – Sarynna Lopez Meza, editor
- Webmaster, Map Maker, RidewithGPS coordinator, Dave Mansfield
- TCBA Advocacy Committee, coordinated by Dale Freeman

Challenges:

- In 2020, the pandemic had major impact on all TCBA events.
- Volunteers for TCBA are dwindling, we need you and your new ideas!
- The TCBA Board is excited about the possibilities in 2021 and putting this past year behind us.
- Chainwheel Chatter needs your ideas and articles; send these to the editor.

Thank you for being a TCBA member. Keep riding, stay safe and healthy.

Patrick Kelley, President TCBA

Are cyclists reckless lawbreakers?

COVID-19 has hugely increased the numbers of cyclists, particularly in cities, where biking has become the safest means of transportation. Yet despite their growing numbers, cyclists continue to suffer from a negative image: supposedly reckless, rude, and law-breaking. It's safe to say that nearly everyone has jaywalked, rolled through a stop sign or driven a few miles per hour over the speed limit, but these infractions are often dismissed as normal. Noting that unlawful driving behaviors have been studied extensively, researchers Wesley E. Marshall, Daniel Piatkowski, and Aaron Johnson turned to **cyclists' decisions about breaking the rules of the road**. Are bicyclists making rational, albeit illegal, choices—similar to most drivers and pedestrians—or are they reckless and dangerous?

Marshall, Piatkowski, and Johnson asked bicyclists as well as drivers and pedestrians to analyze the factors associated with such behaviors. They used snowball sampling—meaning that respondents recruited other participants—for an online survey that presented hypothetical cycling scenarios along with multiple-choice questions about what the respondent would choose to do in each scenario. Survey takers, numbering nearly 18,000, were able to explain their rationales. It turns out that 100 percent of the sample population admitted to some form of lawbreaking. But the rationales differed by mode of transportation: while drivers and pedestrians mostly break the rules of the road to save time, for cyclists the most common reason is personal safety, followed by saving energy, saving time, and increasing one's visibility. The overwhelming majority of bicyclists are not reckless: they mostly break laws in situations where little harm would come to themselves or others.

Additionally, they are often motivated by concerns for their own safety, because they feel like an afterthought in a transportation system dominated by cars. Our infrastructure simply was not designed with bicycles in mind, so most bicyclists seem focused on surviving. The study concludes that lawbreaking while riding a bicycle has less to do with who you are than where you live: the overall context, norms, and social processes of a city play a meaningful role in bicycling behaviors. The authors conclude that “most bicyclists can...be described as scofflaws.” They note that the word originated in 1924 with a newspaper competition “to coin a word to describe those that disobeyed Prohibition laws for rational reasons that did not necessarily break social norms.” They continue, “scofflaw bicyclists tend to be rational individuals trying to function safely and efficiently, even if it means they are doing so illegally, given the social norms of where they live and the transportation system put in front of them.” One rare benefit of the COVID-19 crisis could be a change in attitudes about biking and improved conditions for doing so. Then, perhaps, fewer laws would need to be broken.

The original article appeared in JSTOR Daily, and is based on [Scofflaw bicycling](#) By: Marshall WE et. al., Journal of Transport and Land Use, Vol. 10, No. 1 (2017), pp. 805-836. You can read the whole article here:

https://daily.jstor.org/are-cyclists-reckless-lawbreakers/?utm_source=bikebits&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20200916_BikeBits

An attempt to flee 2020 with a 556-mile roundtrip bike ride into the woods



"I needed to get away from people, get away from 2020. That was a goal for this ride. And I did."

Read about about Mark's summer trip in the "hilly part of Michigan": 556 miles, 13 days. From his garage in the Edison neighborhood to Grand Rapids, up a bit of the White Pine Trail, over to Newaygo State Park, up through the Manistee to Mesick, up to Frankfort, do a little sight-see ride to the Sleeping Bear Dunes area, back to Mesick, to Cadillac, down the White Pine to Newaygo again, Grand Rapids, home.

The original article appeared in Second Wave SouthWest Michigan. Written by Mark Wedel, September 10, 2020. You can read the whole article here:

https://www.secondwavemedia.com/southwest-michigan/features/An-attempt-to-flee-2020-with-a-556-mile-roundtrip-bike-ride-into-the-woods-091020.aspx?utm_source=bikebits&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201007_BikeBits

Riders elsewhere!

In addition to Mark's wonderful trip through NW Michigan, I really enjoyed 2 other articles in the August 2020 edition of Bike Bits about people doing bike trips.

The first one was an article from Andrew Keh, originally posted in the [New York Times](#) about teens (and their chaperone teachers) biking from San Francisco to New York City this summer. As a lover of road trips and bike tours, I really can't imagine the wonderful views they must have seen during their trip, and the impact such a trip will have on their lives.



The second one was an article from Rich Landers from the [Spokesman Review](#) about a 79-year old grandmother from Spokane, WA, who rode the 325 miles between Spokane and Bozeman, MT to visit her daughter. I am in awe of her stamina and sense of adventure! She took several days to make the trip and stopped at various places along the route, which I guess we all can appreciate these days!



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. Ads will appear for 2 editions, unless otherwise notified.

Available: I have multiple old DALMAC jerseys that don't fit as well as they used to (lets just leave it at that!). These include '86, '87, '93. Also T-shirt ride from '87 (all jerseys are large size). Also biking hats: DALMAC '86 blue & pink, Biking for Burns '87. Wondering if anyone has a museum of DALMAC stuff or might get some use out of them? Contact Casey Kern at ckern1213@sbcglobal.net (10/10/20)

For Sale: 2008 Giant OCR3 (#666773) Road bike, compact frame to fit various sizes (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 at 517-377-6711 (8/2/20)

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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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