



# 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

**December/  
January  
Newsletter:  
December 1**

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).

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](http://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
<b>Individual</b>	\$15	\$24	\$30	\$36
<b>Family</b>	\$20	\$32	\$40	\$48



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

## A note from the editor

What about the weather this past week TCBA followers? Has this been weird or what? I know we might pay for this crazy weather later, but for now, I'm making the best of things and I even went on a bike ride with my son in short sleeves! I'm loving it! It also gave me the last inspiration I needed to finally upgrade my mountain bike!

Thank you to all of you who reached out after the last edition of the CC to let me know that you liked the articles. I think for now I'll continue sharing whatever submissions I get from our members, as well as whatever articles I enjoy reading; as in the past CC, I'll just share excerpts and encourage you to read them via the links I provide.

This edition includes an article on bike safety, a ride from places with funny names to bring up a humanitarian crisis, an article about a documentary being made while riding the old dividing Berlin wall (a place close to my heart; I lived in Berlin for 2 years after graduate school), and [this link](#) to a really cool amateur documentary currently on YouTube about a Spanish man who has been living the "nomad" experience for 9 years and his documenting of that time. In times where traveling is limited or non-existent for many of us, I know we can enjoy some virtual travels!

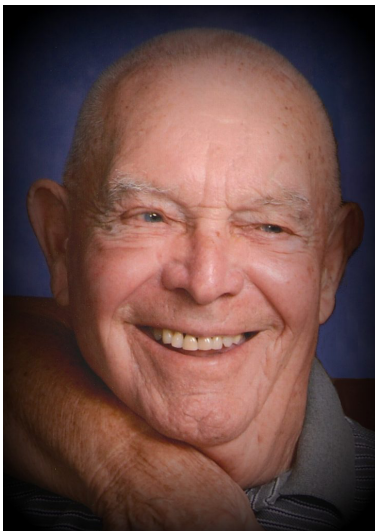
I'm also very sad to share the obituaries of 2 long-term TCBA members: Clayton and Bev Townsend. I never met them personally, but I wish I had. If you'd like to share memories of them for the membership to read, please let me know. In these times of no visitations or larger gatherings, I know sharing stories is one of the things that keeps our communities together.

I hope you are doing well and staying safe!

Sarynna López Meza - East Lansing, MI

## Remembering Clayton and Beverly Townsend

In the last 2 weeks, the TCBA lost 2 long-time members to Covid-19. In the words of Patty Mead, "Clayton and Bev volunteered as SAG drivers and other functions in the club. Bev always had a ready smile and kind word on her lips.". They will be missed. Feel free to share memories of them in the newsletter and/or their respective obituary pages.



Clayton Townsend, age 92, passed away October 23, 2020. He was born September 7, 1928, to Virgil and Lowine Townsend. Clayton was active in the Michigan National Guard for 35 years, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant. He worked for over 40 years at GM, retiring as a supervisor. He was a member of the Bath Lions Club and rode with the Tri-County Bicycle Association for over 30 years. One of his proudest achievements was bicycling across the country, starting in Portland, Oregon and ending in Bay Harbor, Maine.

You can read the complete obituary for Clayton here.

<https://estesleadley.com/obituaries/clayton-townsend/>



Beverly Townsend passed away November 1, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. Beverly was born July 9, 1931 in Hastings, MI. Beverly was a cook at Bath Schools for over 20 years. Beverly loved bicycling, knitting, gardening and was a member of Lansing Coast Guard Auxiliary and especially enjoyed spending time with her family. Beverly was preceded in death by her husband Clayton, they were married in 1951. You can read the complete obituary for Beverly here. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/east-lansing-mi/beverly-townsend-9888445?>

## Thoughts on bike lights...

“There’s a common misconception that you only need lights when it’s dark or getting dark. Due to almost getting hit in the middle of the day by a driver, whom I believe simply didn’t see me in the dark shadows of a tree (some people’s eyes don’t adjust very quickly to extreme lighting changes), I have since strongly encouraged people to use flashing lights, front and rear, whenever they ride and not just when it’s getting dark.”

That’s how Tim Potter starts an excellent blog post, including some significant research data, on the importance of being seen while riding. As the weather continues to treat us to some extra days for fall cycling, let’s remember to be safe while out on the road. And sure, Tim runs a bike shop, but as he reminded me, he tries to keep his blog focused on helping people enjoy their rides while being safe.

You can read the complete blog post here:

<https://msubikes.wordpress.com/2020/10/12/thoughts-on-bike-lights/>

## Riding to bring attention to issues... and for the jokes...



While many people enjoy lowbrow humor (and let me assure you, your editor doesn’t, but she enjoyed the article and the intention!), not everyone is willing to commit to traveling more than 2500 miles on a bike for a poop joke. Twitter user @rubydrummr recently made the journey from Poo Poo Point, WA, to Pee Pee Creek, OH, a trip that took him across 9 states, and had him cycling 69 miles a day for 36 days.

He did this to bring attention to Yemen, which is suffering one of the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

You can read more about it here:

[https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/607867/sock-gift-ideas?utm\\_content=infinitescroll1](https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/607867/sock-gift-ideas?utm_content=infinitescroll1)



## Documenting a ride along the Berlin Wall

One of the articles that caught my attention this past month, was an article about Rob Dawson, a New Zealander filmmaker and cyclist, who after hearing Christopher Bennett's story about the 1240 km (770 mi) ride that follows the Berlin Wall, was so inspired by it that is now working on a documentary project inspired by his trip. The original story appeared in March this year (and it made it to US outlets in November!) in the New Zealand site Stuff (both links below).

My husband and I lived in Berlin, and I often walked in wonder about all the history the city had seen. There was an area where I really liked running, the East Side Gallery, which is a 1-mi piece of the Berlin Wall that is now used as an open gallery for paintings. But it was not lost on me that many years ago, one couldn't even get close to the wall without risking one's life. But I had never heard about this particular trail.



The *Grenzsteintrophy* (GST) trail is the only trail in the world which faithfully follows a historic route. It's no easy ride, either, with nearly 59,000 ft of climbing (!!!) it is one of Germany's hardest mountain bike rides and apparently only a third of the cyclists who set out to ride actually finish it! Reading the article made me really think about how quickly we all forget history. I really invite you to read both articles. I even looked around on YouTube for glimpses of it from a bike stand-point (not related to the actual film from the original article, but to get a general idea of the trail itself!); it's in German but the scenery doesn't speak a language! Plus, you can hear the guy out of breath after the hills!

**YouTube video (2019)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll66RnbvO7k>

**Christopher's original story appears here:** <http://bikepacker.com/grenzsteintrophy-2016/>

**The article I read is here:** <https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/destinations/europe/120040576/bikepacking-the-berlin-wall-kiwi-filmmaker-to-document-ride-along-dark-period-in-history?>

## 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.

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**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](mailto:ckern1213@sbcglobal.net) (10/10/20)

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**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)

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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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### 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