

THE WH LY GOOD NEWS

Thunder Bay Cycling Club

Fall 2003

Thunder Country Ramble

The 4th annual Thunder Country Ramble took place on Saturday, August 23. It attracted 110 riders, who cycled either 40 or 80km. It was a great day for a bike ride, not too warm, and not too much wind. Thanks to all the people who volunteered for the event. We are looking at making some changes for next year's event, so stay tuned. Anyone who is interested in helping out, just let us know!

TBCC Annual Awards Banquet and Social

Date : Saturday, November 1, 2003
Place: Slovak Legion
Time: 6 pm symposium; 7 pm supper
Price: \$25/person

There will be music after the awards.

Call Gene at 473-8142 to reserve your tickets.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't know how many times I've told myself that THIS summer I'm going to slow down a bit and enjoy it more, this way it won't seem to fly by as quickly. Duh!!! It never seems to happen. This year went by just as fast or faster than the last. I think it's inversely proportional to our age. The older we get, the slower our bodies get, the faster time goes by. (Is this because it takes us twice as long to do anything now?) What else can it be? Other than it seeming to disappear too quickly, it was still very enjoyable with moments that will be embedded in the memory banks for many years to come.

As usual, my highlights of the year were the National 24 Hour Challenge in Grand Rapids Michigan and of course G.R.A.B.A.A.W.R., the ride through Wisconsin done with a great group of people. There are more laughs during this week long event, than there are during the whole summer months. For those of you that have never done a tour of this type, I would highly recommend you try it, at least once. I don't think you will regret it. This year we had four newcomers to the event who enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

This year, I am going to pass on the presidency to another member. I have been in an executive position for the last five years (almost two years as tour director and three years as president) and need a bit of a break. I have agreed to continue on as webmaster, keeping up all the material and info for the Club webpage, and to take over the treasurers position, which won't take up nearly as much time as the president's position, that is only if no one else wants it. I must say I have thoroughly enjoyed being president these last few years. It sure has brought me closer to more people than it did in previous years as a member only. Also, this is the largest membership (148) we've had since the MTB people and their families were part of the Club in 1998. It makes me feel good to see so many people enjoying such a great sport.

I hope to see more members at this year's AGM on October 16th. So many don't come because they feel they will be asked to be on an executive position. Come out anyway, we can take no for an answer if you

don't want to do anything except ride. We just want to hear from YOU on how we can make the Club better and keep it from stagnating and becoming boring. If you have any ideas or feel there are problems, come out and voice your opinions. The only way we can keep growing is to correct any problems we have. :o)
Eugene Vandal

Road Touring

Was it just me, or was this a great touring season, or what!!?? We began the season on March 30th with a snow squall and ended with an absolutely perfect ride on Sunday the 31st of August (Bayou Boogie). We only had to cancel one ride (#4) and most were conducted in favourable conditions. We set a record of 54 riders (Ride #6, May 4th starting at the Stanley) and averaged 34 riders per ride, which certainly eclipses last year's 25.4 and sets a new standard per ride.

This is all hunky dory, but I feel the most important aspect of this year's season was the introduction of many new members and the fantastic group camaraderie that was maintained throughout the entire season. This bodes well for the current Backroad Touring season, the up and coming cross-country ski season, and, of course, next year's Road Touring Season. See you at the banquet Nov. 1st where many of the outstanding members of the club will receive special recognition for their unique qualities.

Guy

Time Trialing/ Road Racing

Time trial entries were up this year averaging 20 per event on the season and over 20 riders for every event up to the end of July. The 2 and 3 up team events were also well attended and received positive feedback, as did the return of the hill climb event at Mt. McKay.

There was a far less positive response to the road race program, which suffered from a lack of participation during the early season and dwindled from there as the season progressed. I think there was a feeling that nobody else was going to show up, which led to even the "keeners" heading out on training rides in lieu of having to show up at the appointed place and time. Feedback at the AGM from the riders would be appreciated.

This year we are giving out prizes from our bike store sponsors instead of trophies for our racing categories. There will be a prize table at the banquet and winners will be able to select their award. Those not in attendance will have to accept the leftovers so make an effort to get out to the banquet and claim what's yours!

Mountain Bike Touring

Another year of cycling is all-too-soon drawing to a close, but what a year it's been. We've had record turn-outs for the Sunday tours as well as the out-of-town events as our club, and interest in cycling in general continues to grow. For many, the Fall mountain bike touring is the favourite part of our cycling calendar as we pedal along at a more relaxed pace, taking in the wonders and natural beauty of the NW Ontario countryside. Many have commented over the years that they had never before been to the areas we regularly visit and had no idea of the grandeur of our region. We are constantly changing our venues as new areas unfold and this year we've added the Silver Falls bike n' hike to our schedule. Other perennial favourites on the 'must do' list include the Falling Snows ride, Mink Mountain, Carp River and the Falling Leaves tour through South Gillies. If time and weather permit, there are at least ten other tours which will be made. In closing let me once again remind everyone that a great ride can happen anytime - don't wait for that mythical 'perfect' day to come along - it seldom does. All you need is a smile and a sense of adventure and every ride can be a great ride, especially in the company of the friendly folks of the TBCC.

Remember, as Yogi Berra so eloquently stated 'When you come to the fork in the road - take it'. I hope to see you all soon on the roads less travelled.

The Wheely Good Stuff

- ◆ Gordie became a grandma for the first time, to a darling baby girl on Sept 18!
- ◆ Guess which TBCC member is newly retired???
- ◆ Congratulations to TBCC members Bonnie Littlejohn and Jamie Puumala, who tied the knot this summer.
- ◆ Thanks once again to CRC for sponsoring our hotline. Remember that the hotline will continue to be updated during the fall and winter to remind you of club socials, ski events and even cycling events! So don't forget to check in on a regular basis.

***** Thanks to all those TBCC members who worked so hard to put together some great events for us this year! It takes time and manpower to host time trials, road races, road tours and mountain bike tours. *****

Results:

Participation Awards: Most road races or time trials attended.
Award. Full paid up all event club membership for 2004.

Men :	Len Tuhkanen	25 events
Women:	Laurie Leslie	17 events

"A" Road race Award. Selection from prize table.

1st	Len Tuhkanen
2nd	Johannes Minor
3rd	Bernie Lacourciere

"B" Road race Award. Selection from prize table.

1st	Mike O'Connor
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Time Trials: Award: Selection from prize table.

Jr. men

1st	Johannes Minor	37.69kph
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Sr. men

1st	Bernie Lacourciere	41.81kph
2nd	Nathan Jowett	39.89kph
3rd	Darrell Hay	36.20kph

Vet men

1st	Ron Mahler	41.08 kph
2nd	Kevin Wilberforce	37.90kph
3rd	Doug Pantry	37.84kph

Vet. women

1st	Laurie Leslie	35.32kph
2nd	Sue Hay	34.32 kph
3rd	Heidi Strobl	33.43 kph

Sr. women

1st	Jodie Kendrick	35.47 kph
2nd	Christine Sillen-Hollman	34.00kph
3rd	Nikki Wilberforce	33.18kph

