
OUTSPOKEN

The official newsletter of the Owen Sound Cycling Club

www.owensoundcycling.ca

August 2005

Editor's Ramblings

Editor out of Action

Most of you probably know now that I'm out of action for six weeks. I broke my right wrist while walking (scrambling down) the trails on my neighbour's property. It was once the site of the world championship motor cycle trials. I was checking up on the damage done by trespassing ATV riders the day before. It was recorded as an ATV accident just to slew the statistics against these riders who destroy barriers and signs and have no regard for private property or bye-laws.

The emergency room doctor assures me I will be able to play the piano when the cast comes of. That's amazing, because I couldn't play a note before the accident!

Road Clean Up

On Saturday, July 23rd a group of eight members did the clean up of the road between Shallow Lake and Copper Kettle. In attendance were: Kim Lumley, John Cameron, Jason Rody, Brian O'Doherty, Jeff Wardell, Lynn Vaughn-McDonald, Emese Fabry and Trevor Stokes.

Hutterites, Gortex and Cycling Clubs

I'm reading a fascinating book entitled *The Tipping Point*, lent to me by Barb Krasovec. Apparently humans can handle just so many direct relationships with other humans. And when it comes to managing the permutations of two-way, member-to-member relationships our neocortex limits us to dealing with a maximum group size of about 147.

The Hutterites didn't have access to this research, but they have always limited their communities to 150. When they approach that size, they split of a new colony.

Gore Associates (maker of Goretex) never build a plant that can accommodate more than 150 employees or associates. When they reach that number they find a way to make a logical division (e.g hiking boots and military uniforms) and split off a new plant.

We now have over 140 members! Is this too many to please? Is our club on the tipping point? See the articles in this and last month's *Outspoken*.

I don't think we need to split into two clubs – road and MTB – but maybe we need representation of both on the executive?

Epping Hill Climb / Potluck

Scott Thomson organized a potluck picnic after the July 6 Hill Climb. Here's a picture of just some of those members who were there.



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Upcoming Events

Mon. Aug 1	Emese's ride. Williamsford Arena, 6:00 pm
Wed. Aug 3	Shallow Lake Aussie Pursuit
Mon. Aug 8	Emese's ride. Owen Sound (Fifth Season), 6:00 pm
Wed. Aug 10	Annan Team TT
Mon. Aug 15	Emese's ride. Williamsford Arena, 6:00 pm
Wed. Aug 17	Shallow Lake 15k ITT
Mon. Aug 22	Emese's ride. Owen Sound (Fifth Season), 6:00 pm
Wed. Aug 24	Kemble 20.8k ITT
Mon. Aug 29	Trevor (maybe) and Emese's ride. Williamsford Arena, 6:00 pm
Wed. Aug 31	Epping 5k Hill Climb

Trevor Stokes.

President's Message

The Owen Sound Cycling Club has had another successful month! The reinforcements have arrived. The Arrow racing team, headed by Fred Zottl and Rich Fletcher stepped up to the plate to ensure the Whemmies are a go. Rich and Fred contacted the OSCC shortly after the last newsletter came out and asked if they could run the event which has been a highlight on the schedule for the past few years. Thanks guys! WHEMMIES ARE ON OCTOBER 2ND AT THE SAWMILL SKI TRAILS SO EVERY OSCC MEMBER THAT HAS A MOUNTAIN BIKE BRING IT OUT FOR A REALLY FUN DAY AND A GREAT WAY TO WRAP UP THE SEASON.

Now the news – See Tim's rant in this newsletter and Tom's rant in last months. The attendance at the weekly TTs has been very high over the past two years. In the 6years that I have been a member of the club the numbers have rose dramatically. 5 years ago if we had 20 riders out it was a very good night but now that would be a low number. In the past we had TTs at Shallow Lake, Sauble Speedway road (which is still a favourite of mine), Hepworth and Sauble Ski Trails. The latter two were mountain bike events. The attendance at mountain bike TTs was usually around 8-10. Last year the executive took a new direction with the explosion of road TT

attendance and moved the mountain bike TTs to Monday nights and they were run by Didier and Ken who did a great job. The numbers were still the same and the event required a lot more volunteer of hours due to course design and tear down.

In respect to the comments about the Spring Fling and the Whemmies. When the dates for those events were picked I checked the Ocup schedule, Triathlon schedule and the Interclub schedule to pick a date. The spring race had only 5 pre-registered racers including the race director and my trusty sidekick Jeff. The decision to cancel was not an easy one due the great corporate support for swag from RON OATT SHOES, MARTIN CYCLE and PEPSI we had the best prize table in years. The club would have lost money had we went ahead. The Whemmies and the Spring Fling are not money makers for the OSCC. The toilet rental and the shack rental total \$150 so we need 30 riders just to break even. We are looking at a new bike only format for next year again with ARROW Racing but we will see. The ARROW Racing program has been very successful and the executive does not want to damage what they have been doing.

The Whemmies date that I chose became a problem when a wedding invitation arrived in the mail for the same date. Also, pressure at home and my own race schedule made it difficult to reschedule. I will agree that the races can be advertised better so if you are a marketing guru the ARROW Team would welcome your support.

Finally, the call has been put out for volunteers to join the executive – NONE received. The mountain bike duo that ran last years events have new careers. The numbers show that the overwhelming majority of the OSCC want road TTs. The executive does not care one way or another, Jason, Trevor, Scott, John and I would show up for either event but most people would say we are the exception due to our bike collections. If you asked Brett at Martins or Shane at Jolleys they will tell you that they are not selling mountain bikes like did in the past and are now selling road bikes, trial bikes and cruisers. The entire bike world is evolving due to success stories like Lance Armstrong.

The OSCC president is stepping down at the end of this year. All organizations need fresh blood to keep things from getting stale. I have enjoyed my time in the role but think that it is time to let someone else take the lead. I will still

participate in many ways to see the club succeed but not in an executive role. So the election has started and we need to find a new leader.

If you want organize, lead or find out more about your club please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care and see you at the WHEMMIES!!

Trevor – Have we ever done a customer feedback form to find out what people are looking for from the OSCC? (*We did a survey on favourite TT distances and venues. And the old application form had check boxes for preferred activities (recreational, racing, road and off-road). But I don't think we have ever done a formal poll. Trevor*)

Club BBQ

The club BBQ will be held Saturday August 27th at Greg and Amy Nicol's. The Nicol homestead can be found at the corner of 26th Street West and 8th Avenue West in Owen Sound. Please call for directions.

The club will buy the burgers, (meat and veggie), plates, condiments and I will supply the BBQ. If you are planning on attending the festivities please let Amy or me know and we can advise you on what you need to bring in regards to food and we can get the proper amount of food.

You will need your smile, lawn chair and your own drinking refreshments. We will supply the pool but you need to bring the suit.

Guests can start to arrive around 3pm and stay until whenever you decide. No longer than one week!

See you there – 376-1207

Greg

Twisted Ty-Rants

It is unfortunate that a very select group of members find it necessary to use their only newsletter contribution in a negative manner. This response will be brief.

It's amazing the range of "elite" cyclists attending time trials - from under 10 to over 70 - from first year to 50 years. I don't understand why all the new members would return to such a threatening environment.

Those few people attending are fortunate that no one makes this possible.

The Roadie Club TT coordinator should step down since his Ontario Cup mountain bike racing may corrupt the "roadie" atmosphere. Actually, half of the riders attending time trials should stop. Now. Go get dirty!

Where is that ? Mountain Bike ? Coordinator ? when you need him ? I wish he? she gave me a schedule too.

Ty-Rants don't sign up with the 4 other people that had their Spring Fling entries cancelled.

KIDS? KIDS? You gotta be kiddin! Six came in my van alone last week, and three this week. And they went too fast and all got PB's this week. They're grounded! Maybe I'll make them ride their mountain bikes.

I sure hope no one is interested in my PB's, like I am in theirs, 'cause it ain't happenin' this year. But look at all those elite racers getting PB's every week. They must be motivated to ride their bikes. New rule - individuals that actually try to go faster get penalized - the faster you go the slower you go, until we are all standing around. Maybe we should have lunch. No we did that already this month at a time trial. Yummy!

Those mountain bike racers running Whemmies this year will be disqualified before they start , since they train on their Roadie bikes, and even swell the time trial numbers. As a matter of fact, the 8 that attended time trial this week ALL got PB's (except for me).

Enough Blithering!!!

Scott Thomson (my real name)

Arrow Racing in the "Land of Rocks & Trees"

Elliot Lake, affectionately nicknamed the "Jewel of the Wilderness", hosted the fourth Ontario Cup XC mountain bike race of the season. A field of 450 racers descended upon this northern community to compete on a race course most would think to be the most technically difficult course in the history of these provincial races. The course was filled with rocks with multiple root sections challenging even the best riders. "More than a few" bear sightings added to the stress

most competitors were feeling at this venue. Some competitors found the course so challenging they returned home before competing for fear of personal injury.

Many Arrow racers raised their level of ability with the team visiting the podium 5 times in the scorching heat on Sunday. Collingwood's Greg Knights finished in 1st place riding the course flawlessly. "Knightsie is not only a great mechanic at our store but a real advocate of cycling in our region. He is a main contributor behind keeping trails clean in our area and taking riders out on our Saturday morning rides", said Shane Kilfoyle, co-owner of Squire John's and sponsor of Arrow Racing. Knights has trained very hard this season racing the Ontario cup level for 3 years with this his first podium visit.

Ryan Murray of Maxwell, competed in the Senior sport division finishing in 2nd place. "I loved every inch of this course because of the punishing rocks and extreme descents", commented Murray. Despite a mechanical in the last 2 km of the course, he was able to maintain his 2nd place finish. "I was a bit concerned with my bent wheel but I didn't care at that point, I just rode like I stole something!"

Fred Zottl, Chatsworth and KK Michener, Meaford both finished in 2nd place in their respective divisions. Michener still maintains her overall lead in the Junior Expert category despite finishing behind her arch rival Sarah Coney.

Stephanie Martinek of Collingwood continues to impress, finishing in 3rd place competing against the best female riders in the province. This race was a good "tune-up" as she will head to Edmonton to compete in the World Masters Games at the end of the month.

Check out www.arrowracing.ca for full results, sponsors and pictures.

Rich Fletcher

Michener Represents Ontario at Road Cycling Nationals

Kaitlin Michener, a powerhouse on the mountain, has started to turn heads in the road racing community as well. Michener traveled this past week to Kamloops, British Columbia to participate in Canada's most important road race. This competition consisted of a 15 km time trial on Wednesday and an 84 km road race on Saturday. She completed the hilly time trial in just over 26 minutes, finishing 9th, 2 minutes and 30 seconds behind the leader. "I could have taken at least a

minute off my time but my aero bars fell apart and I had to hold them together for the remaining 8 km of the course. I felt really great but sometimes things don't work out as planned."

The 84 km road race started slowly with the entire group or "peloton" riding together until the first serious hill was encountered. Ascending the hill, 2 strong riders from Quebec attacked leaving the rest of the peloton to chase. Michener worked with a Manitoba rider trying to make up time on the leaders. "I didn't warm-up as well as I needed to respond better to the attack. We were all unprepared for the fast break-away and were never able to catch them the entire race," commented Michener. She again finished in 9th position. This valuable experience enables her to become a more complete cyclist so early in her cycling career.

Rich Fletcher



Above: is a picture of some young Arrow Racing athletes finishing the "Epic 8", an 8 hour race at Hardwood Hills last Saturday. From L to R Jane Thomson (Owen Sound), Cam Fletcher (Meaford), Josh Fletcher (Meaford), Scott Burgess (Meaford), Steve Anderson (Thornbury), Matthias Purdon (Owen Sound).

Tim's Ty-Rant / The Changing Of A Cycle Club.

When I joined the OSCC several years ago I was met at the time trials by several existing members, such as Emil & Rebecca, Martin, John & Margo, Tom, and others, and made to feel welcome. I am not an elite cyclist by any means, but that didn't matter. We enjoyed the camaraderie of the time trials, the various rides, either road or mountain bike, and the special events such as the Spring Fling and the Whemmys.

My thanks go to those members who made all this possible.

The past few years have seen a change in the cycling club not exactly to my liking. We have become a roadie club interested in time trials and personal bests (PB'S) only. It is my understanding that the season's schedule was drawn up without any mountain biking, even though the mountain bike coordinator was more than willing to look after this again this year.

The cancellation of the Spring Fling was the icing on the cake. I suppose the Whemmys can be cancelled also, provided there is no advance planning, no sponsors lined up, no advertising or announcements in the paper or on the radio, and no one available to set up the course.

I guess that all the kids and others who have enjoyed this event will find other things to do.

It is good that people are coming out to the time trials in large numbers, with the goal to improve their cycling and their fitness. Let us not forget the cyclists whose times are not as fast for whatever reason. Your own personal PB's are not of great interest to many others in the club. I wonder why we need a club at all if, as I see it, we are so individualist.

One final point. Don't put it on me if the Whemmys are cancelled. It is not up to someone else to "step up to the plate". Before I hear that I haven't done my share, well, in the past I have helped clean up the trails, helped set up the mountain bike time trials with John and Deetch, and my wife has helped in her way as well. We have done our little bit that we can to help out the club.

Thanks for getting me started, Tom, but I'm not exactly sure what the word "blithering" means.

T.O.M. TY-RANT

Head South for Trail Riding

The U.S. Congress is set to approve a new five-year federal transportation bill that will increase trail funding, including federal grants for singletrack.

After two years of delays, the new bill is finally in front of both houses of congress and will move on for President Bush's signature. In total, it will increase funding for bike programs by nearly \$2 billion through 2009.

Most important for mountain biking, the bill promises more money for the Recreational Trails Program - a small but important project in the massive \$286 billion transportation bill. The Recreational Trails Program, funded by non-highway recreation gas taxes, has helped communities build and repair thousands of miles of trails, involving more than 7,000 projects in all 50 states.

Funding for the Recreational Trails Program will grow to a total of \$370 million over five years, \$100 million more than the previous transportation bill passed in 1998.

"This new bill is great for mountain biking," said IMBA executive director Mike Van Abel. "We're pumped that funding for the Recreational Trails Program will increase. This federal grant program is extremely important to mountain biking's future."

"For the past two years, our lobbying team in Washington has pushed IMBA's message. All of that hard work has paid off. Everyone who donated funds, visited Capitol Hill during IMBA's lobby days, or contacted their members of Congress, deserves thanks. You helped IMBA convince lawmakers that mountain biking trails are important," added Van Abel.

The new bill also creates the first-ever national Safe Routes to School Program, and authorizes more money for transportation enhancements and other key programs that support bike facilities. Overall, bicycling and recreation groups are very pleased with the legislation.

Bicycling organizations collaborated in the transportation bill lobbying effort under the banner of America Bikes. Other trail and recreation interests, both motorized and non-motorized, rallied together through the Coalition for Recreational Trails. For more details on bicycling projects in the transportation bill, visit the America Bikes website at <http://www.americabikes.org>. To learn more about the Coalition for Recreational Trails, visit <http://www.funoutdoors.com>. Submitted by *Tom Hakala*

Sea to Sea

On August 12th, local residents Carrie van Dorp and Jordan Veenstra will be coming through Owen Sound, and staying at Harrison Park for the night. They are riding 'sea to sea' with the Christian Reformed Church (celebrating 100 years in Canada) and are reportedly the largest single group to ever attempt the trans-continental journey by bicycle, with over a hundred riders.

More info at www.seatosea.org

Jakob van Dorp

Classifieds

ALEX 330 wheel set for sale.

Very light, very fast, very HOT! The front wheel is less than a year old, and has 300km. The back wheel is BRAND NEW, and never ridden. I'll throw in the SHIMANO 105 cassette as well!! price: \$250.00.

Contact Jayson Gresel @ 519-422-1322 or jaytheman_69@hotmail.com

Contributors

Rich Fletcher, Greg Nicol, Scott Thomson and Tim Koker, Tom Hakala, Jakob van Dorp.

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