

Outspoken

Late Spring/Early Summer 2011

News from the Owen Sound Cycling Club

Now that the weather has slowly started to warm up, we can take in some great rides. Remember throughout the season the best way to stay informed about the club is to check our website: www.owensoundcycling.ca.

Check out the Bulletin Board where you can chat with other members, buy and sell, coordinate car pooling and share technical tips. Even if you don't register and post to the bulletin board, it's a good idea to view it once in a while to see what's happening.

We are always open to new ideas for events and rides. In order for any ride or race to happen we need volunteers to step forward and take the time and initiative to organize them. This is your club so by holding and attending events the club will grow and become better. If you are interested in holding an event or ride please contact the me at: president@owensoundcycling.ca.

Tom Hakala

EZ Rides Lack Riders

After I suggested doing a slower, shorter ride for those who are new to cycling in groups or people who just don't wish to go too fast, I received a number of emails saying that this was a great idea. The problem is that though it may be a great idea I haven't seen very many people actually show up and take part. I've heard from a few of you that you were afraid to be dropped or weren't available at the first part of the season... well we won't drop you, and the season is getting on... so if you are interested in keeping this event going come out on Monday's at 6:00 p.m. to the Owen Sound Bicycle Parkette (corner of 8th Street East and 1st Avenue East). Note: This week I had a nice sized group!

By the way, the regular Monday Rec. Ride will still alternate between Williamsford and Owen Sound, while the EZ Ride will start every Monday in O.S. *Tom Hakala*

Grey County Tourism Photo Op

Grey County Tourism manager, Bryan Plumstead, called to say that he was trying to put together a tourism video on cycling in Grey and wondered if members of OSCC would help out. The schedule was very tight as they were shooting on Thursday, June 2nd, then editing that night so the video could be shown at an Ontario Outdoor Tourism event in Toronto on Friday, June 3rd.

After I put out the call for help I received a number of positive

replies. The first shoot took place between Leith and Annan at 8:00 a.m. We had a fairly large group of riders as the early morning group from Bikeface (Patty Marr, Fred & Ruth Scheel and Bill Haley), stopped by to take part as well as Justin Zottl, Paul St. Piere and his son. After riding up the hill to Annan 3 or 4 times we took a break at the Leith store and did a short ride back and forth on the Leith bridge. The group then moved to Grey Road #1 at the little park overlooking the bay.

The video crew quickly drove to Harrison Park to do some 'family' shots with a couple of students that work for Grey Co. Tourism and Julie Paleczny playing the mom. Later, the shooting moved to the Centurion course where Bill Abbotts and friends rode for the camera.

Bryan reports that the video looked great and proved to make a huge impression on the big screen. He said to thank all who took part and that the final cut of the video will be on-line soon.

Y Rec. Centre Ride

A perfect day dawned for this cycling event. (One of the few we've had this spring.) So, approximately 120 cyclists participated – kids, seniors, and every age in between. The most popular route was the 50 km 'Kemble Mountain Crank' – not a really easy route but it has spectacular views. In general there was lots of enthusiasm and good will shared by cyclists, volunteers and the business community. Final tallies are not in yet. But, we estimate that about \$8000.00 was raised for the Regional Recreation Centre. Well done to all those who rode! If people have feedback about the event we would welcome comments. *Ruth Barwell (Owen Sound Y Organizing Committee)*

Memberships, Waivers and Forms, Oh Ya!

The experiment with using PayPal to pay for memberships online has proven to be popular with members, but a bit of a headache for our membership coordinator, Fed Zottl. There have been a few glitches trying to marry up the membership forms and waivers with the payments. As we learn how to better use the PayPal system we are hoping to make this operation simpler. To ensure that we have everything together, please make sure you fill out the membership form and sign the waiver and either drop them off at Bikeface or take them to your first event. Please do not try to scan them and email them to me or other execs. as this will only confuse the process even more. *Tom Hakala*

1st Weekend Group Ride and Potluck

The first Club Ride/Potluck will take place on June 19th at Harrison Park. You will have a choice of three different rides. There will be a shorter offroad/backroad ride along the Harrison Park Trails and adjoining side-streets, a road-ride through the countryside on paved roads and a mountain bike ride for those who like to get dirty. After the ride there will be a potluck dinner. The club will supply soft drinks and water. The rides start at 2:00 p.m. and the dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. Each month we will hold a weekend ride and pot-luck at a different location in the area. Stay tuned for more info. *Tom Hakala*

Women's Rides

Tuesday evening women's road rides start from Bikeface at 6:15 p.m. On Thursdays at 6:15 meet at Bikeface for women's mountain bike rides. *Patty Marr*

Off-road Rides

Doug Miller is leading mountain bike rides again this season. There will be a choice of two rides a week. The evening ride will leave Bikeface at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and for those of you that like an early morning romp in the woods there will be a Saturday morning MTB ride at 8:00 (also from Bikeface).

Friday Evening Recreational Rides

For a number of years there has been a group of local cyclists that have done a ride of Friday evenings. First it was from the Owen Sound Y and in more recent years the ride started from the Bikeface parking lot. Until now the ride was not part of the Owen Sound Cycling Club events, but the organizers felt it was time to make it a club ride. So if you want to do a road ride with a good group on Friday evening meet at the Bikeface lot at 6:15.

Time Trials

Here is the proposed time trial schedule for the coming season. As the season progresses, I may make changes because of road work or other issues. *Scott Thomson*

June 15 - Annan North 10/19K

June 22 - Hepworth Spring Creek 17K

June 29 - Colpoys/BigBay 14/28K

July 6 - Annan South

July 13 - Walters Falls 15/30K

July 20 - Kemble 21/41K

July 27 - Annan North 10/19K

August 3 - Hepworth Spring Creek 17K

August 10 - Walters Falls 15/30K

August 17 - Colpoys/BigBay 14/28K

August 24 - Annan

August 31 - Epping 5K Hill Climb and Potluck

September 7 - Kemble 21K

September 14 - Annan 19K Team TT

September 21 - Shallow Lake 15K Aussie Pursuit

Centurion Warm-Up Rides

August will be a good time for doing a few long training rides to warm-up for the Centurion Event in September and the Vancouver Grand Fondo the week before the Centurion. These rides will include hill climbs and distance training. More info to come in later issues or on the OSCC blog. If you are interested in doing these training rides contact John Brown at: jab-rae@sympatico.ca. *John Brown*

Share the Road Ride

I rode the Share the Road Ride from Warton to The Tub on May 28th and I was quite pleased to see a good number of OSCC riders in the crowd of 114 cyclists overall. Elenaor McMahon (Ontario Share the Road Coalition Chairperson) spoke as did The Minister of Transportation, Kathleen Wynne. They both reiterated the importance of the new bike (safety) lanes on Highway #6 and the benefits they create for safety, tourism and incentive to get out and ride. The minister stated that these widened shoulders are only the beginning as the MTO has now added them to the agenda of other highway restructuring projects around the province.

I found the wider shoulders were, on the one hand, minimalist at best measuring slightly less than a metre... but they did the job. I felt safely out of the traffic flow. I have ridden in Michigan and Ohio where those states' Department of Highways pave the entire shoulder. Though they pave them more for lower maintenance than as bike lanes, I do find them nice to ride on. On the other hand I also find when I ride on them I tend to be out of the vision of the traffic flow and therefore most motorists don't consider me at all. They tend to turn in front of me or pull over onto the paved shoulder without giving me room. The narrow Ontario shoulders keeps me in the motorist's line of sight and may be safer in the end. There were a few complaints about the pavement being scraped away in places, but I think that there will be another layer of asphalt added whenever the weather gets warmer. Good job to Adam Belanger and his committee up in the Tub for pulling this off. *Tom Hakala*

I.D.

Just a reminder... when you go out for a club ride (or any ride for that matter) take some I.D. with you. In case you have a mishap, at least someone will know who you are and who to contact.

Whemmys Enduro

The Whemmys Enduro will again wrap-up our cycling season in September. Fred Zottl is looking for volunteers to help with this fun event. Contact Fred at: left_saidfred@yahoo.com.

Club Jerseys are Still Here... Time to Wear the Colours!

The OSCC jerseys are still available in most sizes. They are at Bikeface Cycling for members to try on and purchase. Purchase price will be a great buy at \$65.00 each. *Tom Hakala*