



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

Don Broadway (chair) — (734) 560-1601
Debbie Beer — (734) 645-1205
Chris Marble — (734) 426-8694
Dave Patria — (734) 665-3961
Tom Powell — (734) 994-6340

OFFICERS

President: Doug Tidd (734) 678-8297
aabtpres@yahoo.com
Vice President OHR: Dave Patria
UnderBPatD@aol.com
Vice President BASE (Interim): Doug Tidd
aabtpres@yahoo.com
Secretary: Jeff Witzburg (734) 459-4013
jwitzburg@aol.com
Treasurer: Kathleen Donahoe (734) 996-4985
kdonahoe@umich.edu

COMMITTEES

Membership: Beth Caldwell (734) 663-5060
bethiacaldwell@gmail.com
and Ann Hunt (734) 761-1147
aehunt@comcast.net
Mileage: Vickie Smith (734) 996-9461
vickie.smith@comcast.net
Ride Calendar: Jim Spencer (734) 904-6431
jspencer_aabtscale@earthlink.net
Maps: Joe Pavlovich, Jr. (734) 545-0541
jpavlovi@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Lynda Collins
(734) 994-7929 Lyndac19@comcast.net
Special Events: Dan Harrison (734) 476-4944
a2dan@sbcglobal.net
BASE (Bicycle Advocacy, Safety, Education):
Paul Alman (734) 663-2540
Publicity: Tom Sleeker (248) 761-7634
publicity@aabts.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Email manager: email-admin@aabts.org
Equipment: Tom Glowacki (734) 426-4616
tom.bikepilot@gmail.com
Web Gal: Deb Halbleib webguy@aabts.org

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society
P.O. Box 1585 Ann Arbor 48106
www.aabts.org

2011 ONE HELLUVA RIDE

IS GREAT HISTORY

By Dave Patria

Well, after a lot of planning, work, changes, and last minute mini-snafus, OHR 2011 has taken its place in AABTS History. And a wonderful time it was! Weather could not have been better, although some folks wilted slightly under the heat. (A few even modified their rides to fall back to the 75 mile route instead of their planned centuries.)

Day of ride registrations totaled a few more than 1,000 persons at both starting points. Coupled with the pre-registrations, total registered ridership was 1,825, a large, but not unmanageable size? Many came early and finished their rides before the hottest part of the day. Many came to the finish in Chelsea determined to eat as many slices of the ice cold watermelon as their stomachs could hold. Unfortunately, we had not anticipated such heat and were not able to extend our supply enough to satisfy the late finishers. This will definitely be corrected in 2012!

The ridership was extremely pleased at the quality of the ride, the organization and the wonderful food (best of any ride). Email comments included:

“Thank you for all the fabulous support for this year’s OHR! The route was fantastic (this point was echoed by many cyclists) as were the rest stops and all related support (safety, etc.). And, of course, the cold watermelon at the end—unbeatable!”

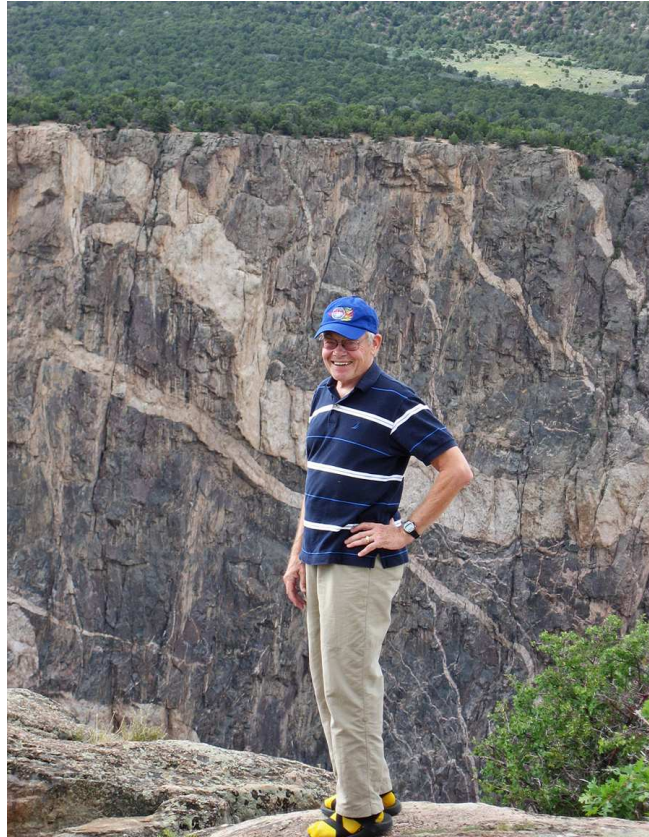
“My husband and I participated in the ride this Saturday for our first time. We did the 64 mile loop and had a wonderful day!”

“I really enjoyed the 39 mile ride. It was a great experience—thanks for your work.” This last was from rider on his first ever invitational!

As usual, there are many people to thank. As you may know, I had to assume the chair person role in the last two months of planning, and the planning group was on top of all issues. In all, it took over 200 persons to plan, equip, supply and execute OHR 2011. Our thanks and congratulations to all of them.

MEMORIES OF PHIL HOWREY

By Lynda Collins



Phil Howrey, July 24, 2008, Black Canyon, Colorado—Photo: Stephen Lepper¹

Eugene Philip Howrey, a founder of the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, was killed on June 17, 2011 while cycling in Boulder, Colorado. Phil and his wife Sharon had moved to Colorado several years ago. A dump truck pulling a trailer filled with construction equipment

abruptly turned in front of him, and the impact was unavoidable. The truck driver failed to yield the right of way. The accident is still under investigation. The driver had previously been cited and ticketed for a road rage incident with another cyclist.

Phil was a popular rider and participant for many years in AABTS. Since his death shocked and saddened so many members and riders, they contributed memories and photos of Phil to the Newsletter. What follows are those statements and photos as a tribute to Phil Howrey, former member and good friend.

¹ The photographer comments that Phil liked “big rocks”. . . He was fascinated by that rock face (actually, on the left end was a 2nd vertical face at 90deg).

**PHIL HOWREY
MEMORIES AND TRIBUTES
FROM VARIOUS AABTS MEMBERS**

• Frank Lamitola, who went on many rides with Phil during the years, said, “He was the safest rider I’ve ever ridden with. We rode tandem together quite a bit. He was constantly scanning the area and checking the intersections. He knew exactly how to handle a tandem.” Riding tandem, Phil and Frank participated in several 24-hour challenges in Michigan, gradually improving their performance until they came in first. Frank added, “He was a great guy. I’m really going to miss him because it was just a wonderful time we’ve had on bikes.”

• Dieter Hohnke recalled participating in a late-season ride called The Hills of Ann Arbor on a cold day. It was snowing by the time they finished the November ride. “When I had done the rounds and I was happy to go home, Phil said, ‘Let’s do it again.’ And he did, this time by himself.”

• It hurts every time I think of Phil, his wife and what happened. He was a good person, I can still hear his laugh and see the grin on his face even though I have not seen him in a long time. He was a strong rider too. Here is my contribution to our memories of him:

My most vivid recollection of Phil was in the 80’s, not long after Cateye came out with their Cateye Solar bicycle computer. The average speed on those units was calculated even when stopped. In other words, if you rode 10 miles in one hour it would display your average speed as being 10 MPH. However, if you walked away and came back an hour later, it would display your average speed as being 5 MPH. The clock never stopped like it does on most bicycle computers these days.

Phil and I were on a club ride, probably a century. Even though I rode with the A+ crowd in those days, Phil was an A++ rider and I seldom saw much of him on club rides, including this one. After about three hours on the bike, I pulled into a restaurant for lunch and there was Phil’s bike leaning up

against a tree. Out of curiosity I went over and had a look at his Cateye Solar computer and his average speed was 25 MPH! When I went inside, I found Phil finishing up and I asked him how long he had been there. He answered about half an hour. I was floored. But that was Phil.

–Klaus Wolter

• I first knew Phil as the result of a Bike Club Pot Luck, at his house on Norway (probably 1976). As most riders will attest, only a very few knew him by riding with him; certainly I did not. However, Phil could always be engaged in thoughtful conversation before a ride or at a pot luck. For several years before they moved to Colorado, Phil and Sharon were regulars on the Wednesday Night West Side Ride, and often hosted an afterglow at their home—memories that will last forever.

–Brad Bates

• I could write pages of memories of Phil, but I’ll pick the best ones that exemplify the rare kind of person he was. Whenever in Phil’s presence you could count on an abundance of laughter, fun, and a passion for athletic excellence. He had a unique way of intertwining them like spokes of our beloved “Wheel”.

Let me first get the business matters out of the way. There was a group of about a dozen of us that gathered to contemplate forming the AABTS back in the mid-1970’s, and Phil was part of the nucleus of that core group. We actually signed our official AABTS Articles of Incorporation on Phil’s dining room table. Phil served as one of our club’s earliest President’s, and as such a lot of his good nature rubbed off onto the AABTS during those formative years of our bike club. So its not surprising that the AABTS was awarded the Gold by Bicycling magazine a few years ago as “Best bike club in America for a town of 250,000.”

Now I hope its okay to talk about the fun parts.

What first comes to mind is never-ending humor punctuated by happy laughter. No matter the topic, whether it was the challenge of bad weather, big hills, mechanical problems, or the general world situation, Phil's response almost always was to find the humor in it. Whether you wanted to or not, you soon were joining in Phil's laughter, and found yourself floating above the human travails from the lofty perch to which Phil's ability to introduce humor would launch you. If we could laugh at it nothing could stop us from dealing with it, and do so with a smile on our face.

If you could keep up with Phil on the club's "roast-off" rides, euphemistically listed as A+ rides, you soon discovered that he reveled in playing with any challenges thrown our way. We all have dozens of stories we could tell about his legendary feats on the bike. I'll just share two for now.

One involves the popular "Hilly Hundred" weekend tour in Bloomington, Indiana, somewhere around 1980. There were several hills so steep and long that over half the riders had to dismount and walk. The most famous one back then was the "Stinesville Hill." I happened to be riding with Phil up that hill. About the time others were dismounting Phil exclaimed with a touch of humor "Oh, this is FUN!" Sure we were huffing and puffing and went anaerobic by the crest, but for Phil it really was fun. In fact he turned around at the top and rode down to the base of the notorious hill just for the fun of riding up it again. In all the years I've ridden the Hilly, I've never seen anyone else attempt that feat.

Then about five or ten years after that Hilly fun, we were on an AABTS weekend ride of probably close to 100 miles that went through the Pinckney Recreation Area. This would have been one of the A+ rides that our club used to have every week. These had a different format than most club rides, as they basically always turned into an unofficial road race at about the halfway point. This would soon cause the group to break into different speed groups. We all knew the rules of this game and came prepared. It didn't matter

whether you were dropped because of a flat, or because you just couldn't hold that pace, "We'll see you back at the parking lot after the ride."

Except Phil somehow had a way of bending these rules of nature. On this particular ride Phil flatted halfway around the century loop as we were heading west, quite possibly on D32 near the vicinity of the Village of Hell. Our little peleton kept hammering as Phil had to pull over to fix his flat, or maybe stick on another sew-up tire. By the time he had it mounted and pumped up to 100 psi we were miles down the road. Even I was starting to think that Phil was no longer going to be a factor at our "A2 City Limit Finish Line."

To this day I don't know how he did it, as we were taking turns drafting, possibly a half-dozen of us in the lead group to share the work of breaking into the wind. About an hour later who should come up from behind and catch our group after an impossible solo chase, but Howrey. Never, ever, count Phil as out of the game. As I said, he thrives on excellence and an athletic challenge will just inspire his passion to the next level of seemingly super-human performance.

One final thought about Phil. We have some great artist communities on the shores of Lake Michigan here in our inspirationally beautiful northwestern Michigan. One of my favorite artists there has a specialty painting for which he is known called "The Laughing Jesus." It shows our Lord with his head tilted back in a happy and hearty laugh, which reveals His nature. The artist places a note on the back of each painting "The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing." Psalms 2:4. Unless you were a close friend of Phil, you wouldn't know the depth of his spiritual nature, as he didn't push it on anyone. But he was a strongly committed Christian who turned his life over to the Lord and took his daily Bible study very seriously, even more so than his daily bike ride. So we can take consolation in the fact that Phil has achieved immortality, and since they knew each other, his spirit now lives in the presence of his heavenly Father. Phil won another race, this time

the one that Paul writes in the Bible that we all must face.

–Jim Datsko

- I never really could bicycle with Phil because he was a fast and powerful rider. However, whenever he passed me he would take the time to visit and check up with what was going on with my life and family.

One day after I retired, Phil gave me a call and asked if I would be interested in joining a walking group that he was starting. Each Tuesday we would walk three miles through Bird Hills to the North Side Grill near Broadway Street in Ann Arbor. We'd then have breakfast and walk back three miles to his condo where we had parked our cars. I was flattered to be asked and eagerly joined the group.

The purpose of the walk was to have a chance to discuss with friends any subject that interested us. The group consisted of men with varied skills and political philosophy. At first there was a worry that since we were all quite different we would soon run out of things to talk about. The group has been going for over five years. Some of the topics we have discussed are politics, car repairs, in-laws, the University of Michigan's bureaucracy, computer and home repairs. We have also supported each other with tool sharing and help with projects that were too big for one person to handle.

On these walks I really got to know Phil and soon realized that he was a very special person with whom I shared many common interests. He told me about his job at the U of M and how he dealt with challenging students. We shared thoughts on child rearing and plumbing. I learned about places he had traveled and we talked about special friends and shared experiences. Often I would hold off making an important decision until I talked it over with Phil and the group. Though Phil said he was totally unmechanical, we even started some plumbing projects.

When Phil left for Colorado, I was concerned that our walking group would cease to exist. I am happy to report that this is not

the case. He would often call or email me to check on how the group was doing. I always was able to report that though we missed his presence, we still Walked and Talked in the same old way.

Now that Phil is gone, we certainly will miss him. However, the gift he gave us all will continue for many years to come.

In recalling Phil's life and gift to us I am reminded of a quote from William Wordsworth:

“That best portion of a good man's life,
His little nameless, unremembered acts of
kindness and of love.”

–Paul Bjornstad

- A Daddy Goose Story. . .

Phil, Dan, Frank, and I were riding back through Waterloo one beautiful spring day. We take the back road around the lake and find 2, maybe 3, geese families walking the goslings across the road to the small lake. The little fuzz balls are a big fist size. Phil stops “in the face” of the first group. Dan, Frank, and I stop about 5 yards back. The first group gets to the edge of the road but not in the water. Phil moves. Daddy goose (well, I don't really know if Goose was dad or mom) is instantly in the air, wings wide, bill out, flippers forward, heading straight for Phil's head! Phil “runs” away with his bike between his legs. The little fuzz balls all do a 180 and with their 1” wings out and going as fast as their 1” legs will take them, chasing Phil—Daddy Says Attack. Dan is yelling at Phil: “Phillllll!!!”. Frank says: “I wish I had a picture of this.” I say: “But, Frank you are an artist, you can paint this for us.” Finally, Daddy Goose relents and lets Phil go.

That night Lexanne and I are at a party at Phil and Sharon's. I ask Sharon if Phil told her about what happened when he tried to make off with a gosling to bring to her. Sharon looks at Phil with that smiling, whimsical look (the OK Howery, what have you done now look). Phil blurts out: “That goose was crazy.”

Dan and Frank are my witnesses. Unfortunately, Phil is longer with us to laugh. God Bless Phil.

—Steve Lepper

DEAR LEADERS:

On Saturday's ride, some of the regulars encouraged me to request that donation information in memory of Phil Howrey be sent to the membership. I hope it can be on both our website and in the Newsletter. Sharon Howrey requested donations to Bicycle Colorado (see link below). In addition, I hope individuals will make a contribution to the Chaney Bicycling Safety and Advocacy Fund at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.

Here again the donation would be in Phil's memory to the Lucian W. Chaney Bicycling Safety & Advocacy Fund (Benefits Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society—listed in the first column of designated funds). I have contacted the AAACF, given them Sharon's ad-

dress, and they have indicated that Sharon will be notified of all gifts in Phil's name (they do not include the amount).

- http://www.aaacf.org/sites/default/files/2010%20AAACF%20Named%20Funds__4.pdf

Significant tax advantages are available to donors to AAACF.

- <http://www.aaacf.org/donors-ways-give/ways-give/michigan-community-foundation-tax-credit>
- Bicycle Colorado at 1525 Market Street, Suite 100 Denver, CO 80202, or at <http://bicyclecolo.org>
- Here's the actual donation page with a textbox that can be used to say the gift is to honor the memory of E. Philip Howrey. <https://securecart.net/page.cfm?domain=bicyclecolo.org&pageid=650&CFID=31735822&CFTOKEN=120d4739a49cdb52-9A9F3EAD-5056-9209-CF25BAFE63A9F292>
- Here's the obituary: <http://www.cristmortuary.com>

When the AABTS Board resumes meeting in the Fall, I will ask the Club to consider a donation in Phil's memory.

Please share widely.

Best wishes,
Tom Powell

PHOTOS OF PHIL HOWREY CONTRIBUTED BY AABTS FIRENDS



Phil enjoying a down-hill in Tuscany, 2004—Photo: Frank Lamitola



Phil and Sharon at DALMAC, August 2008—Photo: Dan Harrison



Phil and Chuck Stanich enjoying the view in Volterra, Tuscany 2004.—Photo: Frank Lamitola



Phil with Friends at DALMAC, August 2008—Photo: Dan Harrison

AABTS —THE EARLY YEARS

By Jim Datsko (rev. 5-31-11)

Most of the charter members of the AABTS came from the ranks of the Ann Arbor Section of the Detroit Chapter of the American Youth Hostel (AYH) organization. A review of the July, 1976 AYH Newsletter (an appropriate date for our bicyclist's independence) reveals that while the AYH had numerous other outdoor activities, it seemed that nearly all the work was being done by the bicyclists. While Ann Arbor had two other pre-existing bike clubs then, one political and one racing, we just didn't feel like doing their style of rides, which were either too slow or painfully fast.

Our small group of a dozen or so Ann Arbor riders felt that it was time we had our own club, devoted solely to that recreational pursuit. The first meeting of our mutineers in 1976 was to discuss seceding from the AYH. A few minutes after adjourning the AYH meeting held at the Michigan Union, the peaceful secessionists meeting was held down the street at Bicycle Jim's. Here the rebels could have a beer—something forbidden on U of M property.

Much like our patriot forefathers, this motley crew met clandestinely to discuss forming a club and possible names for it, such as "Numb Bumms." The second meeting in 1976 was a POTLUCK at Paul and Linda Malboeuf's apartment on N. Main Street. Then early in 1977 our small club met at Phil Howrey's house where the Articles of Incorporation as prepared by myself were signed on his dining room table. The Potluck dinner meeting tradition had become firmly entrenched. Another leader in this early movement was Reuben Chapman. Kindly "Uncle Reuben" a rebel? Whoever would have guessed? Maybe if you saw the unlikely rebel doing a club ride on his moped due to having one of the club's first chill-injured knees you would believe it. We soon learned to wear leg warmers below 65 degrees temperature.

AABTS Articles of Incorporation (Non-profit) were filed with the State of Michigan

on March 25, 1977. After much wrangling with the IRS bureaucrats, we were eventually granted an exemption from income tax as a §501(c)(7) social club on December 30, 1977. We now prepared club brochures to promote the AABTS and recruit new members.

Our group was so small at that time, that 3x5 index cards were proposed by Herb Hartsook as ride sign-up sheets. Soon other cyclists joined our fledgling club, and later in 1977 we prepared a club mailing list, which now contained a whopping total of 45 names. Of those 45, two have died, and six are still active club members: Tom Powell, Reuben Chapman, Steve Segall, Klaus Wolter, and myself, as listed on the 2009 AABTS Membership List, which is the most recent one I've received.

In the early years club growth required quite a bit of work. The first open house took place on April 13, 1978, in the basement of the Ann Arbor Public Library to recruit new members. Doris Datsko volunteered to do publicity, and the AABTS received great press and radio promotion as a result. Featured at this event was Dave Knox's beautiful and deeply moving multi-media slide/music show on the inaugural Bike Centennial '76 cross-country Tour (now Adventure Cycling.) Many members felt this great publicity and scenic show was responsible for the subsequent boost in the club's size.

Dave also proposed staging an invitational ride to be called "One Helluva Ride," and the first year's turn-out of 237 riders amazed our fledgling club in 1977. With no real club treasury yet, we were fortunate to have the fruit for the snack stops donated by Les Bohm's new company, Eclipse. Our club rapidly grew to over 300 members by 1983.

The Saturday Breakfast Ride was always the most popular of our three or four weekly scheduled rides. It was a time when our cyclists of all abilities got together for choice riding, conversation, and to hear the announcements and latest club news. The ride usually left 15 minutes late. That extra 15 minutes served as an outdoor replacement for regular

indoor club meetings. This was not destined to be a club for those who could only “talk a great ride.” To find out what was happening in AABTS, your only option was to show up on Saturday and do the ride with everyone else. We also conducted on-the-road clinics on safe and efficient cycling, including proper pace-line technique.

The Saturday favorite was the XXL apple fritters that the Dexter Bakery used to serve. Some of us actually took photos of their size to show to disbelieving friends, much like the portions on the Jackson All Star Dairy Ride. Soon, the breakfast ride settled into a pattern of rotating Saturday destinations among Saline, Whitmore Lake, and Dexter. Late-comers were advised of the exact destination by a chalk message on the Gandy Dancer sidewalk.

However the independent spirit of the AABTS persevered. Another mutiny occurred on a Saturday ride in the late 1970’s when Mike Sanders and Jim Datsko refused to go on the scheduled breakfast ride to Saline on account of safety concerns due to the increasing volume of traffic. They instead led a mutineer’s ride to Dexter. Ever since that break-away revolt, all the Saturday breakfast rides have been out Huron River Drive to Dexter and points beyond.

In those early days, the 11 miles to Dexter was too much for many of our newer members. So we would usually stop halfway where they could take a short rest at Delhi Rapids before pressing on toward Dexter. Many of those novices were taken under the wings of our more experienced riders, and before the end of their first cycling season they too had become Century Riders.

Other rides we formerly staged included a clover-leaf shaped double century ride, a self-contained tour of Manitoulin Island in Georgian Bay, Canada, a week-end ride to Lake Michigan and return, and Steu White’s formidable but ever popular Tri-State ride which included camping and water-skiing. For a few years we even competed with the Friday night bar crowd by holding a Friday after-dark night ride around Washtenaw

County. For lights we used the old-style generators that rubbed against your front tire to obtain power. Until one dark and stormy night when Wayne Malburg ran over a chunk of road-kill as we tried to outrun an approaching thunderstorm. Wayne’s tire flung chunks of fresh road-kill on his face, and he then tried to drink from his water-bottle and wash the skunk flesh off his mouth only to discover his water-bottle was also plastered with it after squirting some into his mouth.

By 1978, the Board of Directors were graced with their first female director, Kathy Porter. She promptly began to add a touch of class to our otherwise often non-stop sweaty-male rides by originating the Corn Roast Ride at Silver Lake Park. This was the very first of our clubs famous destination-event rides. Another significant milestone in the history of AABTS occurred when Jim McGraw volunteered to publish a club newsletter, and the first issue, being all of a single page, rolled off the press in March, 1980. Soon this became the most eagerly anticipated piece of mail in everyone’s mailbox.

Winter had always been a time to hang up the bike, and gain weight. Duane Thomas, a likable cigarette-smoking, coffee-thermos-toting, bar-stopping novice rider changed all that after a couple of years of being dropped by our faster riders. One sunny early-spring Sunday morning in the early 1980’s, Duane threw open his garage door and wheeled out his bike having secretly trained on rollers all winter. He then not only kept up with but shortly proceeded to drop some of our stronger A+ riders that day. The gentleman’s agreement to take it easy all winter was now cancelled—instead our riders worked to stay in shape, and some even rode through the winter. Duane’s artifice resulted in his being rewarded with the club presidency. Also a sister club that had developed in tandem to our club for the first ten years was finally discovered, the Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. That discovery led to a cross-flow of members looking to enjoy outdoor recreation during all four seasons in Michigan.

By now, the AABTS had grown to become a strong and positive force in many people's lives. Member's preferences in new (bike-friendly) cars, home locations in Ann Arbor near ride starts, merchants and professionals to patronize (club members), and even choice of (club member) mates, have been shaped by the AABTS. Members moving out of state would stay in touch with the club and, via the Newsletter, invite us to visit and try cycling their new locale.

One of the strongest motivators for many remains the tracking of club miles. In our club's early years very few members would avail themselves of the many interesting invitational rides that were beginning to be sponsored by other clubs. To change that, I wrote an article for the October, 1983, Newsletter entitled "The Out of Towners" which described the joys of DALMAC, TOSRV, CFC, Hilly Hundred, etc. To supplement that effort, the Board revised the policy in the mid-1980's to permit granting of club miles on invitational rides. Now we often have more of our members riding an out-of-state invitational, than actually doing our own local rides, and I now have mixed feelings about proposing that change the year I was club president.

While our club has prided itself on following our chartered purpose of "recreational bicycling" rather than political action or racing, our club unofficially dabbled with one form of racing during 1983–85. This was partially a natural outgrowth of Lu Chaney's popular time trial series, our State Championship Level of Thursday night (roast-off) training rides, and the fact that the A2 Velo club was making disparaging remarks about the slowness and lack of bicycling skills of our membership. We tired of their mimicking our exact routes during the same time we were doing a club ride, to show how much faster they could ride.

To defend our club's honor, a five-man AABTS team was fielded for the Second Annual "Big Mac Attack" Team Time Trial in 1983. This marathon event was a 175-mile non-stop race from Mt. Pleasant along scenic

and winding old highway US-27 to the Mackinaw Bridge, in which the competing teams rode tight pace lines at flat-out speed. Our AABTS team soundly defeated the Ann Arbor Velo racing club, and placed 2nd overall. The following year the Velo Club's description in the *Ann Arbor News* Recreational Supplement was changed to read "racing and touring." We also fielded a team the next year in which the Velo Club didn't enter, and AABTS again placed 2nd overall, barely bested by the ringer Grand Rapids racing team composed of licensed Cat I racers. Our first year team members were Tom Rymanowicz (Bike Shop Owner), Jim Datsko (lawyer), Duane Thomas (Landscape), Phil Howrey (Econ. Prof.), and Mike Muha—alternate (Computer Guy). The third year was the charmer, when Lew Kidder led a team with David Evans, Bruce Dykaar, and Dave Baty to a solid first place overall.

Maybe history has gone full circle and will repeat itself with another secession, but I hope not. Sometimes it seems that Brad Bates perennial and always popular Wednesday night ride, complete with its own potluck series and dues (church parking donation) has almost become its own spin-off bike club. The same with the Plymouth ride series.

A major milestone occurred in 2004, which was an event none of the original AABTS club founders would have ever imagined in their wildest dreams could have been possible. That was when Joe Datsko achieved 100,000 club miles, a feat that to the best of my knowledge was a first for any bike club in America.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL CYCLISTS RAISING \$100,000 FOR RIDE2RECOVERY

By Dave Hahn

A AABTS members Dave and Sandy Hahn and Bud and Gail Preston had a great encounter in Clare, MI, on July 16 & 17 with seven high school students from St. Paul's School (SPS) in Concord, NH. The four girls and three boys made a commitment to ride their bikes from Seattle to the Atlantic coast in ME as a means of raising

\$100,000 for the Ride2Recovery (R2R) organization which aids the rehabilitation of injured veterans through cycling programs. <http://www.Ride2Recovery.com>

It had been 31 days since the SPS Cyclists embarked on their journey, when our crew met them 30 miles from their destination that night in Clare and escorted them the final miles. After introductions in Ewart, MI, the first order of business was to stand clear of their path to the local ice cream store. And before we could get started on the bikes, they had to pose for their traditional photo in each state—using their bodies to form the two-letter abbreviation of the state's name.



Our first 20 miles together were on the Pere Marquette Rail Trail from Ewart to Farwell—a beautiful, paved path which stretches all the way east to Midland. It was ideal, allowing us to ride two-by-two and get to know these incredible kids.

Turning off the trail, we led them the final 10 miles to their destination for the evening, Darlyn Turner's home on Stevenson Lake, south of Clare. Without taking time to change clothes, they made a bee-line for the lake. Then, bravely standing between them and dinner, Dave, Sandy, Bud and Gail presented them with three checks for R2R totaling \$700 (\$500 from AABTS), a \$10 bill for each to enjoy a personal treat along the road, and a couple of dozen homemade bags of Sandy's special Chex Mix.

One of the Marine veterans from the R2R program, Jaime (pronounced hi-may) Cruz, met us at the Turner home and stayed the

night with the SPS Cyclists. Jaime was a real hit with the kids because of his sense of humor, and he helped them understand how important the R2R program is to him and how it has improved his life.



Jaime Cruz

The next morning we joined Jaime and the SPS crew in Coleman, MI, and rode with them on the last 20 miles of the rail trail into Midland. Though it was HOT and muggy, the ride went quickly with all the chatter going on as we learned more about their adventures. (Not so on our return along the trail to our car in Coleman. It was far quieter, causing us to feel the hot weather in a magnified way.)

Before parting in Midland, we all had a nosh and posed for the farewell photo. Our bottom line thought was this: If these youngsters represent the youth of America, a great future is assured.



Want to make a donation? Follow the riders or learn more about the organizations:

- SPS Cyclist’s Website:
<http://www.spscyclists2011.org> (See profiles of the riders, make donations, learn more about the project)
- SPS Cyclist’s on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com> (Look under Groups for SPS Cyclists. Find ride photos here and comments from the cyclists and their supporters)
- SPS Cyclist’s Blog:
<http://spscyclists.blogspot.com> (a brief summary of each day’s ride written by a different rider each day)
- Saint Paul’s School: <http://www.SPS.edu>

AABTS GUY 2ND IN WORLD

By Tom Powell

Kevin Compton, AABTS member, coached a University of Michigan Computer Programming Team in the 2011 ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ICPC) World Finals, which took place May 27–31 in Orlando, FL. The largest and most prestigious computer programming competition in the world, the competition is sponsored by IBM and challenges university students with complex and rigorous real-world problems using open technology and advanced computing methods under grueling deadlines. The U-M team—[coached by Compton]—was one of only two teams to solve all eight problems in the competition. In doing so and in placing second, the team is clearly among the best of the best in the world—one of only four top teams to receive gold medals! To reach the world finals, [the team] competed at the regional level in November 2010, emerging as one of 104 elite teams from a field of 8300 teams from more than 1,900 universities, 82 countries, and six continents (text excerpts drawn from: http://www.eecs.umich.edu/eecs/about/articles/2011/ACM_world_finals.html).

He’s a fast rider too!

SCOTLAND: KINGDOM OF FIFE AND THE BORDER COUNTRY, SECTION 2

Ride leader *Ida Nystrom*

with *Tony Boyd*

of *Iron Donkey Bicycle Tours*

By *Beth Caldwell*

On an overcast June 5, 2011, our group gathered at the Ardgowan Hotel, a tee shot from the Old golf course in St Andrews, Scotland. Everyone was busy assembling bicycles or adjusting rental bicycles for a test ride before the first “Happy Hour” meeting. Just as the bikes were ready, the first shower of the trip dampened the call to ride! Happy hour and dinner were enjoyed with many ordering traditional Scottish fare like “Haggis, Neeps and Tatties”.



Jack Caldwell, Marilyn Pobanz, Cheryl and Harold Klee, Beth Caldwell, and Craig Stephan—This was our first day and we were riding the St. Andrews loop.

Scotland weather can be cool and damp! Therefore layers of clothing were typical, including rain gear. The sun did shine occasionally and was greatly appreciated. We spent two nights in each hotel with a loop ride the first day, then a ride to a new location on the second. Many castles, palaces, gardens and other historical points of interest were along each carefully planned route on mainly low traffic roads. The stone fenced hills and dales with wonderful views rewarded us for the long climbs. By midday, a village would pop up around a curve and we were rewarded with tasty soups, hard rolls, scones and of course tea!

Setting out the first morning from St Andrews, I noticed that the brakes on the rental bicycles were reversed, so not only did we need to concentrate on “sticking to the left” we had to deal with braking! Upon arrival at the “Fish and Chips” in Anstruther the sun was trying to shine, but the message was, “Be careful, the floor is very slippery!” One of our cyclists had slipped and broken his wrist.



The hills of Scotland. . . notice I am walking. . .
or better yet, DON'T notice I am walking.

Our next stop, Kinross, was on Loch Leven where Mary Queen of Scots had been held captive on an island. A stop at the VANE bird sanctuary rewarded us with close up digital views of many nesting water fowl. Lunch was near Falkland Palace home of royalty and still in use today. From Kinross we followed the National Cycle Network through the former capital of Scotland, Dunfermline, to cross the Firth of Forth Bridge to Edinburgh.

After our free day for sightseeing in Edinburgh, we were off to Dunbar via the southern shore of the Firth of Forth, stopping in Gullane for tea and warmth before riding on to the Scottish Seabird Centre to watch nest-

ing Gannets by camera on Bass Island. After a cold, windy, rainy ride we were happy to arrive in Dunbar, the birthplace of John Muir.

Heading into The Borders, there were more Abbeys, Castles, Palaces, beautiful hills, dales and remnants of the battles fought between the English and the Scots. On the route out of Duns, we had an unforgettable experience, bicycling across a stream on cobblestones slick with algae. Several riders fell and found out how slippery the cobblestones were and how cold the water! Everyone was able to complete the ride, but another trip to the hospital for a broken thumb was required.



Jack climbing one of the many hills

After eleven days of cycling the hills and dales of Scotland, seeing the wonderful castles, palaces, abbeys and remnants of centuries of Scottish history, our bicycles were packed up and we were facing our return to homes with wonderful memories of Scotland, Scottish history and bucolic scenery. We'll miss the “soups of the day”, scones, haggis, tea, porridge, croissants, uncharted roads, sheep, cattle, “dried stone dykes” (as my Scottish father called them) and the wonderful folks who shared our trip through Edinburgh, Fife and The Borders.

ANN ARBOR RIDE OF SILENCE

By Ann Hunt

Stormy weather threatened to cancel the Ann Arbor Ride of Silence on May 18th, but the twenty people pictured here showed up anyway to be part of this annual national ride to honor cyclists who have been injured or killed on public roadways. We were rewarded with a lovely dry seven-mile ride through downtown Ann Arbor. The ride went smoothly, thanks to bicycle patrol officers Jennifer Sartori and Kathy Vonk, who controlled traffic for us at every intersection.



The 20 people who participated in the Ann Arbor Ride of Silence

Other participants were Paul Alman, Eric Bombery, Kathleen Donahoe, Jeff Eisemann, Don & Gwen Evich, Norm Fischer, Ann & Tom Hunt, Roxanne King, Dave Patria, Robb Pilkerton, Craig Stephan, Dorothy Stock, Doug Tidd, Barb Underwood, and John Waterman. Kenton Smith was our bagpiper, seeing us off on our silent ride and welcoming us back to Wheeler Park.



Ride of Silence sign on the trailer I pulled behind my bicycle

ANN ARBOR GREEN FAIR

By Tom Sleeker

AABTS' Gil Daws, Tom Sleeker and Don Broadway met fair goers at this year's Green Fair. The event took place in Downtown Ann Arbor on Main Street on June 10th and was open to pedestrians for free entertainment, food, and over 120 exhibits with environmental information, hands-on activities for youth, a Clean Energy Expo, and Green Commute Options.



Gil Daws, Tom Sleeker, Don Broadway

**WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
MEDIA ADVISORY**

Chip Sealing/Fog Sealing Operations
Scio Church Rd between Strieter & Zeeb Rd
Textile Road between Maple Rd
& 0.5 miles east of State Rd

On Wednesday, July 20, 2011, the Washtenaw County Road Commission and C&C Contractors, LLC will begin chip sealing and fog sealing operations on Scio Church Road between Strieter Road and Zeeb Road in Lodi/Scio Townships and Textile Road between Maple Road and 0.5 miles east of State Road in Pittsfield Township. These operations are expected to take approximately five (5) business days at each location. During these daytime activities, traffic will be restricted to one-lane under flag control operations. Access for residents, businesses and deliveries will be maintained, however, delays are likely.

Please note that all dates are tentative and the chip sealing/fog sealing operations are weather dependent.

(Advisory continued) To maintain the safety of road crews, motorists are asked to be especially mindful of construction equipment and personnel and reduce speeds accordingly. The Washtenaw County Road Commission thanks you in advance for your patience as we continue our efforts to preserve the county road system.

CONTACT: If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact Sheryl Soderholm Siddall, P.E., Assistant Director of Engineering at (734) 327-6687 or siddalls@wcroads.org.

ISSUE DATE: July 19, 2011

GARY FRANCIS UPDATE 8-4-2011

By Terry Treppa

Gary is improving. I was privileged to attend his monthly assessment meeting. He has made substantial progress since he went to Rainbow ReHab in Farmington. They actually give him massages on his left arm. There was a time when no one could touch his left arm. He has proper fitted and prescribed glasses which makes his reading and writing improved. They put him on a stationary bicycle contraption that measures left and right leg pedaling. He was on the thing for 25 minutes which amazed many in the room. He still has memory problems. He still has work to do on his left arm and leg. He does look forward to the ride with PEAC like he had last year. They are going to get him a tandem recumbent trike to ride around the grounds. Looks to me like they are willing to try anything to improve Gary's life. They did move the singing to Monday at 9:00 A.M., and I can't make that time. I do visit him on Monday at 1:30-2:00 and stay for about an hour. Gary does like visitors. It appears that he is gradually taking some ownership of his therapy. He has come a long way and has a long way to go.

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION LETTER

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan

www.wishmich.org

May 12, 2011

Mr. Tom Sleeker

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society

P.O. Box 1585

Ann Arbor, MI48106

Dear Mr. Sleeker,

On behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, I would like to extend my gratitude for your recent donation of \$1,000.00 for the **Wish-A-Mile 300 Bicycle Tour**.

Since our inception, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan has granted more than 6,500 wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions. Last year, we granted 345 wishes to children in Michigan, and with your continued support we will increase that number in the coming year.

The planning and joyous anticipation of a wish carries our children through frequent visits to the hospitals, surgeries, chemotherapy and transplants; and the smiles on their faces during the wish experience are a rewarding gift we will always treasure.

Your generous financial support helps us put those smiles on our wish children's faces and with more than 500 medically approved children in Michigan waiting for a wish, your donation is crafting hope and joy each and every day.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful and joyful journey and for helping us grant wishes to such deserving Michigan children and their families.

Best Wishes,

Karen Davis President and CEO [signed]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear AABTS,

You would be proud to see the most gorgeous flower and plants planter that I received from the Club after my recent surgery. It brought the green of HRD to my door when

it was the most miserable cold and rainy in Ann Arbor early April.

As I write this (5/15) I have been cleared to ease back into riding. I did 12–14 miles from Delhi to Hudson Mills on the Tuesday night ride and it felt ! so great ! to be back in the saddle again. I might not be ready for the Hill 100 just yet, but I am ready for a Saturday ride to Chelsea!

THANKS SO MUCH!

LESLIE ROBERTS

Dear AABTS,

Thanks for the beautiful plant in remembrance of Phil Howrey.

We plan to have a service during the weekend of June 16–17, 2012 in Ann Arbor. Details to follow.

Phil always considered Ann Arbor “home” and greatly missed his AABTS riding buddies. We will always cherish the memories of riding with the club.

Love,

Sharon Howrey (5011 Coventry Ct.,
Boulder, CO 80301)

[Editor's Note: Sharon also sent a copy of the program for Phil's funeral service held at the Light of Christ Ecumenical Catholic Community in Longmont, Colorado on Thursday, June 23. The last of five songs performed at the funeral service was “The Victors.”

You may share your thoughts and fond memories with the Howrey family at E. Philip Howrey at <http://www.cristmortuary.com>.]

Dear AABTS,

I feel very lucky to be a member of this group. So many of you have sent wishes of condolence and comfort and encouragement. Some have shared knowledge gained from having gone through the same experience. Many have given me remarkably good advice on how to go forward, which I am happy to have and follow.

Then, also, the group sends an absolutely gorgeous “dish plant” of various green plants

and a purple flowering one. I know from experience that many of these plants will thrive, outgrowing this "dish", be transplanted and continue to thrive on their own for years. This is a living tribute to my husband, Z, and a continuing celebration of life—and I am very grateful to all of you.

Thank you, Anne Ormand

Dear AABTS,

Z and I met on several ski trips during 1990, with the A2 Ski Club. And we biked with the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. That spring, Dennis Burke convinced us that we would enjoy the Club's Horsey Hundred ride week-end in Georgetown, Kentucky.

We rode and also visited the Kentucky Horse Park. In one of the Dressage areas I managed to sort of fall through the bleachers, proving that I am truly a "klutz".

When we got back to Ann Arbor, Z told one of his kids that I was a "maybe person".

We rode the Horsey Hundred again in 1991. I did not fall into or through anything.

However, on July 5 of that year I managed to break my right leg. We were biking in our

neighborhood when suddenly a kid on a bike came right toward me, and to avoid a crash I stomped down on my leg—on the cement path. Double tibia fracture into the knee.

We got married in the woods on July 26 outside a district court office—my leg in a bright pink cast and me in a wheel chair.

Z put up with this "klutzy, maybe person" for 20 years—not bad!

Anne Ormand

To my AABTS family You and this club are so special and important to me My job in life has always been to give condolences and to fix things and somehow I never felt like I did it well. So when I am given that I find it difficult to accept. With each thank you I am reminded that love is never repaid and always experienced. However I hope I repay it always. Thank you for the lovely planter, the cards, your prayers, all the hugs, all the kind words and thoughts, and for being there for me and my family on the passing of my husband, Jack Phillips.

Loveling, Vivian Phillips

2011 OHR PHOTOS

Contributed by Pete Cwik, Terry Treppa, and Jonathan Rodgers



Portage Lake on Day of Ride for OHR, commonly referred to as the A-Team by Pete Cwik
Front row, l to r: Linda Klimach, Ann Hunt, Mike Mock, Lisa Sessa, Charlie DeRoo
Back row, l to r: Bob Krzewinski, Klaus Wolter, Donna Snyder (crew chief), Pete Cwik, Craig Stephan



Riders at Portage Lake Stop Waitng to Refuel



The Food Team Hard at Work at Portage Lake



Volunteers at Portage Lake Make OHR Work



WATERMELON! The Best Part of the Ride

— END NOTE —



That south wind on Blissfield Road is really something! —Photo: Joe Pavlovich

September—October Newsletter Deadline

August 31, 2011

Typesetting: Jonathan Rodgers, Ann Arbor MI