



## MID-VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB

# Spokesman

July 2002

MVBC  
Needs You!

### Up front

by Bill Daley, President

We are so fortunate to live in Corvallis - which we all know. However, after listening to Steve Rogers at the clubs general meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, I now know we are beyond fortunate. Steve Rogers is the Public Works Director for the city of Corvallis. Steve assured us that the city of Corvallis would continue to maintain and improve our existing bike paths. Bike paths will always be part of new road construction. When a road or street is upgraded bikes and bike safety will be of a major concern to those in public works.

I would sure like to see more members at the general meetings. This is your club; we the officers are your elected representatives. We need feedback as to your wants and needs. What rides do you like? What would you want changed in the ride format? What format or makeup would you like for the general meetings? Or, maybe, everything is perfect the way it is now!

Please come to the general meetings and participate. The July meeting will be a picnic in the park. All family members are invited whether they ride or not. Mark your calendars now for - July 15<sup>th</sup>. Try to come and meet your fellow riders and their families.

Sincerely, Bill

#### Travels with Walt

*The following are a continuation of EMail messages from Walt Prichard as he and 7 others completed a southern USA bike trip in May. As usual, I have cleaned up the spelling a little. Editor*

#### **April 24, Beaucher State Park TX, 50 miles**

We liked our day off so well we just took it easy today. Actually we went farther to the rest day for a good camp spot and that made today short. It was great. The last 15 miles were thru a state park that was really nice except that there were 3 sections of about 200 feet long that gained 80 feet in elevation. Now that was steep. I made the first one

somehow and stopped in the middle of the second one. The down and up were so close together I could not shift down fast enough to get into my lowest gear so I just walked it up. That is when I measured the grade - 5.5 feet rise in 28 feet. I am beginning to question the highway engineering schools in Texas. I don't think they attended all the engineering classes when they got started. I even questioned the lack of heavy equipment to build roads with or maybe they just following old Indian trails. Probably a little of each. Texas state parks are nice and are about what Oregon had 30 years ago. They do have nice showers when you come in and that is a major requirement for us.

John Davis gets roasted today. He is in that elite group of fast riders that get to camp early. We really appreciate that because he makes great guacamole dip and is a super cook. Whereas everyone else gets to use their real life skills on this trip to get us by, Johns skills aren't needed too much because none of old guys are pregnant and don't need a GYN doc. He makes up for it in other ways. He is getting really good at fixing tires and barbequing chicken. He has great taste in milkshakes and by the end of the trip will

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be able to spot DQ's behind large building or thru deep forest (he has to be tested on the latter). I guess that is all the fun we can have tonight. Tailwinds!

#### **April 25, Independence, TX, 75 miles**

This has been a rather strange day. There have been storm clouds on the horizon all day. I think everyone was expecting to get wet. Somehow we ducked all the clouds. Everyone except Denny that is. He got out ahead of everyone and caught the tail of a shower in Gay Hill. Tonight we were supposed to stay at a B&B but they

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**Advocacy**

*Walt Prichard*

I haven't been here for several months and things just keep moving along. On my vacation I rode about 3400 miles and inspected a lot of roads. We should all get down on our knees and thank someone for our great valley and its great roads. They are the best I have seen anywhere in the lower 48. When you want to complain about the chip seal just think about it if the rock was twice as big or none at all and the road was all broke up with huge cracks and chunks missing. We get used to all the green grass and tall trees and flowers in every yard and along the road in different seasons. There is a lot of this great country that is sand, mesquite and cactus and very little else. In most Oregon towns there are bike lanes of one sort or another. In most other states they don't know what bike lanes are and a bicycle is something to speed up and pass by. Even old beaters can generally do that if they have a little downhill. I now have a little better perspective on what we have and how important it is to our daily life and our recreational outlet. I will work a little harder to keep what we have and improve it when we get the chance. And most of all I will use our bicycle facilities and enjoy them at every chance.

What is going on around Corvallis? Well, there are two projects that should be started by July 15. The big one is the widening of Harrison Street from the LDS Church to 53<sup>rd</sup> St. This will give us 2 - 6ft bike lanes to better access Bald Hill Park and the fairgrounds. Another project that is supposed to start about the 15th is the paving of Brook Lane from Chintimini about 1500 ft south to the existing pavement. This will be done to county standards as this is a county road but was required by the annexation of the property south of there. This has been in the works for about 3 years and I think it will finally be done. It will have bike lanes but no sidewalks. There are several other projects that are slowly progressing but no

There is another very strange thing that has happened. I am not sure of the details, however, the rumor is that Benton county will lose \$300,000 from the gas tax because we haven't grown as fast as the rest of the state and there are another 70,000 truck registered in Multnomah county. We are looking into this but it is figured into the budget. That will reduce the chip sealing from 18 miles to about 8 this next year. The county roads will continue to deteriorate. At some point they will have to be taken back to gravel.

I think that is the good and bad for this month. Keep the rubber side down!

**New Diversion Program**

*Jerry Rooney*

A new diversion program by the Corvallis Municipal Court offers a first time cyclist traffic violator the choice of sitting through a two-hour bicycle safety class in lieu of paying a fine. The program was conceived primarily to prevent people from riding unsafely on their bikes and being injured. It was approved by the Corvallis Bicycle Pedestrian Commission. In the fall as schools open and people use their bikes to commute to and from classes, the rise in unsafe cycling becomes shockingly apparent. Those of us who use the city's streets on a regular basis observe increasing numbers of cyclists riding the wrong way on one-way streets and bike lanes, riding on downtown sidewalks, riding at high speeds on bike lanes and paths, riding through stop signs and traffic lights, and numerous other offenses. Program planners hope to minimize this behavior. The first diversion class was held on June 17th. Instructors are club members Jim Munford and Jerry Rooney. Three observers from Albany attended. They hope to create a similar program there.



## Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour Volunteers

Larry Thurber

The tension mounts as the final weeks draw near..... Well, maybe I'm the only one getting tense... A number of people have already volunteered to help with our annual Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour. However, with the CBBT only a month away, we still need quite a few more. Two of the rest stops are filled, as well as a number of SAG positions. Help is still needed for the other three rest stops, road marking, Day of Ride registration, and more. There are a number of experienced volunteers who step up every year to make this event a success. So, if you haven't volunteered before, you will have good help and it is easy. Just a few hours of your time on a warm and sunny August day. Why not be the first on your block to sign up?!

The Scio High School and Crabtree rest stops have already been filled. Jordan Fire Station and River Park rest stops still need volunteers. If you don't know what you would like to volunteer for, let me know and we can work out a spot. As always, if you would like to see smiling, appreciative faces for a few hours on Sunday, August 11th, in a beautiful, scenic area of the Willamette Valley, then help yourself feel good and sign up now. Give me a call...or e-mail at the addresses below.

Phone: 967-8199, E-Mail: lcthurber@proaxis.com

*(Travels with Walt, continued from page 1)*

don't answer their phone so we are staying across from a Baptist Church Museum and they are leaving the door open so we can use their bathrooms. We showered under a hose.

The ride was great thru farm lands and ranches with lots of cattle and green fields. Texas is starting to look a lot better. It was terribly hot and humid last night with lots of bugs and no one slept very good. At least we have a breeze tonight but are right next to a busy highway. We will really enjoy Pumpkin tomorrow night. If you can find that town on Texas map you deserve a medal.

In keeping with profiles Gary Ratzlaff is next. He is from Missouri and has a great accent. When he gets done with this trip he is going to turn around and do another as a leader. He is really laid back and offers great words of wisdom about any trivial malady instantly. He is a lot of fun to be around. Barb's teaching him to cook. He is the only guy who can pump up a flat in the morning and ride all day. Being a judge gives him great humor in any situation.

We even found a great little restaurant so we ate out. All of this in a great little small American town nobody ever heard of. Sweet dreams!

### April 26, Pumpkin, TX, 83 miles

We finally got here. Ever since I started planning this ride and Pumpkin showed to be close to an overnight I just knew we had to do it. Then no one could find it on the maps and started asking pointed question about my map reading and drinking habits. Well, it exists and they have a very nice RV park with great showers, although I have to admit that the town is rather small. It has a service station/store, a church and a fire hall.

Another great ride through the pretty part of Texas. Rolling hills and I do mean rolling, and green pastures and lots of beef cows. We also found their forest and it does have pine and oak trees. Kind of made me feel like home. Went to Washington, Texas to see where they signed their Bill of Independence from Mexico but everything was closed and there was nothing outside to see. Scratch those 4 miles. Everything else has been pretty good.

Sorry to hear about the Wednesday riders. I hope everyone is healing fast and back out on the road.

## MAX HEADWIND

### Recall

Longing for a bike tour  
but lacking the time  
I pack for a car camping trip  
with family and friends  
but without my bike

and sorting through supplies  
I see my cook kit  
and smell wood smoke from my bag  
and remember an evening

on a tour years ago  
tired, hungry, rushing to  
set up and cook  
as the dark grew

and the voices of friends  
the sounds of the trees  
the smell of the woods  
the hiss of the butane

the pleasant fatigue  
the memory of miles  
kissed by my tires  
the climbs and descents

sleepy as I remember  
the feeling  
and with a smile,  
recalling friends sharing a meal

Profile for tonight is Myron Scott. He is from Georgia so he adds another dialect to the group. You are not going to understand us when we get home. He rides one of those laid-back-and-enjoying-it bikes and loves the attention he gets with it. It steers under the seat and when asked how it steers he tells them it is satellite controlled. He gets picked on by everyone and is really good natured. He is having problems sleeping in his tent so he opts for anything else he can find. His cell phone has the best coverage and he keeps track of his family all day ~~and every day~~

*(Travels with Walt, continued from page 3)*

He is also a pretty good cook so we are getting a real coverage of cooking from New York and Pennsylvania and Georgia to Missouri and out west to Oregon.

I'm looking forward to George joining us late tomorrow in Silsbee. Tailwinds!

#### **April 27, Silsbee TX, 89 miles**

After a simple 90 mile day there are several things to report. First we went over 2000 miles for those that are counting. That has to be some kind of milestone. The next is we are staying in John's sister home town and she invited us all to a southern barbecue tonight. No cooking in camp tonight. And third, we should see George by sunup. Someone is going to pick up George when his bus gets into Beaumont about midnight.

Today was a day of names: Pumpkin, Coldspring, Evergreen, Shepherd, Dolen, Romayor, Rye, Sour Lake, Votaw, Thicket, Honey Island, Kountze, and Silsbee. They have been fun. Also the language is getting thicker and they are having a hard time understanding us. Today was Saturday in Small Town America and it was fun sitting on a bench at the only store and service station and to watch and talk to the natives. This is what this trip was supposed to be all about but it took a long time to get here.

Barb Luckie is the only women rider with us this year. Her goal is to complete her around the world bike trip that her husband and started about 12 years ago and all she had left was to ride across America. She tells us that she is not really a biker and she doesn't want to ride with the group. She is surely strong enough and is only minutes behind at the end of the day. Somehow her Maryland accent is pretty minor compared to some of the others. Like I said before she organized the cooking detail and it is working great. She really misses her family at home - a 10 year old boy and a 7 year old girl. She really gives balance to the group.

tor Home and head across town to a special dinner. Tail winds and flat roads!

#### **April 28, DeRidder LA, 94 miles**

Weather forecast for the last few days and the next 5 days. HOT and humid, 92 and partly cloudy. I can tell you we didn't get here soon enough to miss the humidity. The sweat has been pouring off me all day and night and I drink at least 4 water bottles while riding. It is downright warm.

We finally finished our sentence in Texas. We are now in Louisiana. Actually we had a royal send off last night with a real Texas barbecue and cold beer out on the veranda. John's sister treated us like royalty. Thanks, Judy, from all of us.

George arrived sometime during the night. We got him all together and he rode today. Probably not up to par but after a good nights sleep he will be as good as new.

After 90 miles I forgot everything for tonight. You will just have to wait for a shorter day to get any great words wisdom from down here. Tailwinds!

#### **April 29, Opelousas LA, A lot of miles**

We got into Mamou about noon and it wasn't the best place to stop so we decided to press on another 23 miles to a little bigger city. They have a great city park. I just got my shower at the end of a hose and I sure feel a lot better. It is a little cooler tonight - about 85 and a little breeze. We also are in a wet Parish tonight so we got our cold adult beverage to cool us off. We are going out to dinner at a highly recommended Cajun restaurant so I have high hopes. Everyone is really looking forward to rest day. At least I am.

We saw lots of rice paddies today and crawfish ponds. It is really flat and they are pumping water up to the fields. There are at least 2 other crops but I haven't found any good ol' boys to educate me on what they farm around here.

George is having a little problem with the heat and humidity. We started out in 75 degrees and fog. Fog so bad that

then the other in hopes of seeing the road. I personally thought it was cool and enjoyed those first 30 miles in an hour and a half.

It is really different down here and many beautiful homes. The economic differences are really great and rather depressing. The poor are really poor. Time to go to dinner. Put on your bib and come with us!

#### **April 30, Simmesport LA, 65 miles**

It was sure nice to get in about noon and find the campground without too much trouble. It's not real great but has lots of shade and an electrical outlet. We have been told for a week what a rotten town this is and that they didn't have anything. Well, we found a laundry and that is where we are now. They have a nice Piggly Wiggly store and a Dollar General. It is not big and is probably mostly an Indian reservation but it looks good to me to sleep in. Oh, they did find a good restaurant or two so we are set.

This country is flat and they grow all kinds of things. Sugar cane, corn, beans (soy), peanuts, crawfish, rice and several other things I haven't figured out yet.

It is still warm (75) and foggy in the morning but burns off by 11am and then it jumps up to 90 and today the wind came up. Fortunately we were in early.

We got our mail today and letters from home sure made several folks feel really good. It is hard to be away from family this long.

We had a little bump today and Gary went down. Fortunately he only got a little road rash on his arm and butt (he didn't show us that) but didn't ruin his best (maybe only) pair of shorts. Here I thought we were being very careful but the crosswinds can do strange things. I think the laundry is about done and I am ready for pork chops. Tailwinds!

#### **May 1, Simmesport LA**

This is to let you know that we are all present and accounted for. With one exception Myron is taking his lay day in St. Francisville and he called for details on tomorrow. We all have clean

*(Continued on page 6)*

## MVBC EVENT CALENDAR: July - August, 2002

Saturday rides meet at Circle Blvd. **BEANERY**. Sign up roster is available until ten minutes past the hour. Rides begin at fifteen minutes past the hour. An ANSI/SNELL approved helmet is required. Recommended equipment: Frame pump, spare inner tube, patch kit, minor adjustment tools, full water bottle, and clothing to fit the climate because we ride rain, or shine. Because of the range of abilities, rides usually break into groups riding at different paces. Group sizes and abilities vary depending on who shows up. Tour Captains: Ann Asbell 757-7080 & Tim Corbett 757-6691.

**July 4, Tuesday, 8 am:** MVBC MARY'S PEAK Ashley Molk Memorial Ride & \$50 Bike Challenge

**July 6, Saturday, 8 am:** Bring sun screen.

- **Long Ride: Roaring River** back via Knox Butte, **80 miles** (B650)
- **Medium Ride: Lebanon** back via Tangent. **52 miles** (A340)
- **Short Ride: SHEDD** back via Tangent. **34 miles** (A210)

**July 7, Sunday** – Stay tuned, we're coordinating a ride with the Eugene club, details to follow.

**July 13, Saturday, 8 am:** Foggy in the morning, clearing off, will be a scorcher.

- **Long Ride: Peoria, Armitage, Marcola. 103.6 Miles** (B690)
- **Medium Ride: Armitage Park. 79 Miles** (A640)
- **Short Ride: Saddle Butte. 37.4 Miles** (A230)

**July 15, Monday, 5:30 pm:** Summer Barbeque Picnic at Avery Park, Lion's Shelter

**July 20, Saturday, 8 am** Salem Art festival.

- **Long Ride: Buena Vista Ferry to SALEM** back Albany, **83 miles** (B660)
- **Medium Ride: Monmouth** back via Hwy 99W, **44 miles** (B270)
- **Real Short Ride: CAMP ADAIR** back via Hwy 99W, **17 miles** (B020)

**July 27, Saturday, 8 am:** Unseasonably cool, but dry.

- **Long Ride: Lebanon, Sweet Home, Brownsville 103 Miles** (B700)
- **Medium Ride: Lebanon** via Albany **54.4 Miles** (A380)
- **Short Ride: Albany** via Riverside. **32.9 Miles** (B150)

**August 3 Saturday, 8 am:** Hot and Dry today

- **Long Ride: Roaring River Fish Hatchery. 80 Miles** (B650)
- **Medium Ride: Waterloo. 61.3 Miles** (A520)
- **Short Ride: Albany. 34 Miles** (A160)

**August 10, Saturday, 8 am:** Marine air will burn off by 10:30 **CBBT is Tomorrow!!!**

- **Long Ride: Peoria, Armitage, Marcola, SH. 103 Miles** (B690)
- **Medium Ride: Armitage Pk. 79 Miles** (A640)
- **Short Ride: Harrisburg. 50.3 Miles** (A305)

**August 17, Saturday, 8 am:** Cooler today, the ferry will hit some gravel.

- **Long Ride: Salem via Ferry. 83 Miles** (B660)
- **Medium Ride: Sunnyside. 59.6 Miles** (B460)
- **Short Ride: Buena Vista. 42.5 Miles** (B250)

**August 24, Saturday, 8 am:** More hot and dry **CRATE LAKE RIM TOUR**

- **Long Ride: King's Valley. 66.9 Miles** (C570)
- **Medium Ride: King's Valley. 58 Miles** (C400)
- **Short Ride: Monmouth. 44.3 Miles** (B270)

**August 31, Saturday, 8 am:** Autumn is around the corner, bring your arm warmers.

- **Long Ride: Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Brownsville. 103.6 Miles** (B700)
- **Medium Ride: Albany & Monmouth. 58 Miles** (B410)
- **Short Ride: Albany. 32.9 Miles** (B150)

**Announcements: (Note that the rides below are "Show & Go" style.)**

- No host goodies and banter at Circle Blvd. Beanery half an hour before the Saturday rides. Please, only go inside if you plan to buy something.
- Every Wednesday at 9:30 AM: Meet near Camp Adair Road -- first gravel parking lot east of Hwy. 99W. Ride to Dallas or Monmouth at an easy to moderate pace. Weekly except when nobody shows up. Dave Wallace 753-1778. Counts for Club Mileage if somebody remembers to record it.



(Travels with Walt, continued from page 4)

clothes and are full of milkshakes. I even think everyone inspected the insides of their eye lids this afternoon. Simmesport is not very exciting or stimulating. They have a couple of fish processing places and that is about all. We will be back on the road tomorrow inspecting small town America. Tailwinds!

**May 2, Jackson, LA, 69 miles**

That great breeze we had yesterday wasn't so great today blowing in our face. We got to see the levee up real close and personal today. I didn't see the Chevy and the levee was dry and we saw lots of evidence of old boys drinking rye. We rode next to it for awhile, then we got on top for about 10 miles and that was pretty hairy. Lots of trucks and a broken up shoulder and cross- and headwinds. Finally we got to St Francisville and got away from the Mississippi and into roller hills and trees. Trees = shade and I sure needed that. The 90+ heat and humidity really get to me when I am in the sun.

We are camped in a Blue Grass festival park tonight. Actually a pretty nice place with showers and shade. A club house to cook in and lots of grass. I was a bit concerned we would be in cemetery behind a church. The local police dept in Jackson helped us out when we found the B&B wanted \$135 for a single room. The unexpected and unplanned provides a bit of entertainment or terror, depending on how you look at it. I think that is enough looking today. When you are cold and miserable riding with the wind at your back just think of us smearing on great gobs of suntan

lotion and sweating like pigs looking for shade. Keep the rubber side down!

**May 3, Franklinton, LA, 89 miles for me**

Last night was fun after dark. The frogs started serenading us. Then came the night birds and the bugs and they kept it up all night with chirps, cheeps, clicks, buzzes and snores. Well maybe the snores came from the tents. It was just plain noisy.

The ride today was pretty much solitary for the 1st part. I reflected on all the churches. I am sure I passed 30 or 40. Most of these are huge with 20,000 sq ft +. These are not cheap buildings, they all have air conditioning and brick finishes. I am sure they cost near \$500,000. It looked like a tremendous amount to come from all the 20 year old trailer house tenants. I am sure that most of those people work hard at their minimum wage jobs and I wonder what they sacrificed to build those churches. Just idle thinking as I cruised through some pretty country this morning. On the positive side one stretch of road had a new surface and my bike was very quiet and there was continuous bird talk all around. I even snuck up on a dog sleeping next to the road and scared him to death. I bet that he doesn't sleep on the edge of the pavement for a while. We are moteling it tonight. We are ready for a good bed and a quiet night. On top of that I could not find the owner of the campground. I think it is time to go to dinner. Forecast for the Saturday ride is brisk winds SSW to 25 mph; lows will be 75 and highs will be 90. Have a safe ride!

(Continued on page 7)

*(Travels with Walt, continued from page 6)*

**May 4, Perkinton, MS, 88 miles**

My mileage probably isn't the same as everyone else's. Several riders are tired of the route and are short cutting it every where they can by riding on the interstates and major state highways. I guess their company is more stimulating than the scenery. Others are just tired of the heat and rollers. I may not agree with their decisions but that has always been an option.

We are moving right along now; we are in Mississippi tonight and Arkansas tomorrow. Not much change in the scenery. Only 10 churches today. Still lots of southern pine forest with nice estates scattered about. There were a number of dairies today and that is a 1st. Bogalusa was the big town today - in fact about the only town. We stopped at a truck stop for breakfast at 30 miles. I was a little surprised that there were not more pickups parked around it but the motorcyclist had recommended it. When I finally got my food the answer was clear. Very slow service and lousy food. There has to be a first for everything. I have found the southerners very friendly but not too good on direction. They forget if they are coming or going and use right and left interchangeably. Probably some of it is my poor hearing and their accent. I leave shaking my head and looking at the map closer. It can't be said they didn't try. My bike is a real attention getter everywhere I stop and on the road. That has been a lot of fun.

We are in a campground tonight that has showers and a beach on the river but it is also next to the freeway so I expect that will cause complaints tomorrow. I can't think of anything else positive tonight so keep the rubber side down!

**May 5, Grand Bay AL, 88 miles**

Another great day in the South. Low 75 high 90 and humidity 100%

scenery is about the same. 50 miles in the pine forest and the rest farm land and estates.

I have been asked a lot about my bike so I will talk about it tonight. I am riding a Gold Rush made by Easy Racers. It is a long wheel base recumbent with a fairing and a very nice large seat. It has upgrade Shimano components and a custom made rear wheel with a ceramic rim and a Sachs rear hub. The front wheel has a Shimano hub and Sun rim. That Sun rim is my weak spot. It has expanded about 60 thousandth across the stem hole. I am assured it won't collapse but if I use the front brake it throbs and makes a lot of noise in the fairing so I don't use them much. It has an older model engine that wheezes and groans a lot. It is really hard to get started in the morning. After about 10 miles it smoothes out and runs pretty good but takes a lot of Strawberry milkshakes to keep it lubricated. After 9000 miles I still like it. It is very fast downhill and runs up the next one if they are short rollers. It goes into the wind great and handles great in cross winds and traffic. The only real negative thing is when the grade is 5% or more I bog down to about 6 mph and over 10% I get into the grandma 34x24. However, remember I am doing this in the comfort of that big seat and my hands are not numb, or anything else for that matter. Also, my back does not hurt at the end of the day. Yes, if I did another long ride I would ride it. I am sure that is more than you wanted to know so I won't mention it again.

Today there were 19 churches but being Sunday I suppose that was right. They were not all Baptist so most were a little smaller. Enough on churches!

I think that is enough for tonight and I will tell you about the ferry tomorrow. Keep the rubber side down!

**FL**

Well, disaster struck yesterday but we have weathered the storm. To begin with the ride yesterday was really a great ride with great things of interest all day. Small lagoons with fishing boats all over. Then came the huge condominiums lining the beach like soldiers. They are 15 stories high and about 50 rooms per floor. Then we had bridges, 4 I think, and they all clear the water by 100 ft or more so the boats can get by.

When I got down to the Park I could see the mother ship down the road about 1/4 of a mile. I rode down and knew I had big problems. Oil on the side of the motor. A quick check showed no oil in the engine and Luree said that it started losing power and she was able to get it off the road before it died. I had it towed to a garage and then this morning I got the bad news that it has spun a bearing and the engine is trash. They think it was the front oil seal that started the problem. Anyway, I rented a Penske van and unloaded the motor home. We will continue on to St. Augustine and then I will retrieve the motor home with a new engine hopefully, and head for home. They took their layover day today and had a great time playing around Pensacola and swimming in the Gulf and looking at the Air Museum. Tonight we are dining on the beach and tomorrow we will ride again. I hope I have better news tomorrow. Tail Winds.

*To be continued*



## OUR RIDE CAPTAIN REPORTS

This is a short month for reporting, but there are still some impressive numbers to report. Through June 19, the club has accumulated 41,204.2 miles by 956 riders. The Wednesday riders have contributed 9624 miles of that total. Four MVBC riders have logged over 1000 miles for the year: Walt Prichard (not counting his cross country trip) 1187, Henry McCarthy 1100, Becky Steinmetz 1052, and Tim Corbett 1028. More than half of Becky and Walt's miles are on Wednesday rides. For the month to date, Elise Ross has the highest number of miles with 238. She and Glenn Peltier rode to Alesa Falls on a very rainy June 8. John Henry has 208 miles. So far June rides have set two records of note, the lowest miles of the year on June 8 (415) and the highest miles of the year on June 15 (2283).

These MVBC members rode for the first time this month: Gary Yoder and I lo Berger. The following people rode with the club for the first time this month. Please encourage them to continue to ride and join the club: Irving Dayton, Mitzi Schad, Jody Brewer, and Harry Reich. The Wednesday riders on June 19 were pushed a bit by Jim Lawrence's daughter, Cynthia. She has ridden RAAM as a team member.

Please check the MVBC website for information on a special ride with the Eugene club on Sunday, July 7. This is about an 80 miles ride starting near Cottage Grove.

### Your Mileage May Vary

*Brian Cripe*

June 13-16, 2002 was the date for the 4th annual credit card tour. There was a small group of three this year; Brian Cripe, Mike Wilson, and Harry Phinney. As always, the objective was to ride as many miles of unknown Oregon back roads as possible while carrying the least amount of gear. Mike won the "least gear" award by managing to get by with a single large seat bag.

Our route was a four day loop starting and ending in Roseburg. Many hours of studying maps had resulted in a circle with lots of miles of minor backroads and over-night stops at Myrtle Point, Gold Beach, and Wolf Creek Inn.

Day 1 was a beautiful and uneventful 80 miles. We headed west out of Roseburg, made a brief stop at the historic Lookingglass store, and then followed the Coos Bay Wagon Road and Burnt Mountain Access Road to road 60 and road 12 into Myrtle Point. It was all good pavement with a lot of up and down. The BLM Coos Bay District map is recom-

mended for navigating through the maze of paved forest roads.

Day 2 turned into an adventure. The Benchmark Road & Recreation Atlas assured us that there was a minor paved road going southwest from Myrtle Point to Langlois on the coast. Catching Creek road started out as a wonderful strip of pavement through a small valley of farms. But it soon turned gravel, and then we came to the "End County Maintenance" sign as we climbed out of the valley. Turning around and returning to Myrtle Point wasn't attractive, so we pressed on. The road steadily deteriorated and we had to stop and ponder our options at several forks. Then the cows got more numerous and the road degenerated into four-wheel drive ruts. We could see farms a ways off in a direction we thought was west, so we continued on. Neither the barbed wire fences, creek crossings, nor crash landings in cow pies forced us to turn back. And then miraculously we came out through a farmer's back yard onto a real road. We still didn't know where we were, but going downhill on pavement was definitely a welcome change. Ten miles later we emerged from Langlois Mountain Road onto Hwy 101 at the Langlois store and congratulated ourselves on our navigational skills. Several more hours of Hwy 101 brought us into Gold Beach, where we spent an hour washing the cow manure off our bikes.

The route on day 3 was up the Rogue River to Agness, and then across Bear Camp Road to Galice and on to Wolf Creek Inn. None of us were familiar with the route after Agness, but we had heard good things from other cyclists and were looking forward to 90 miles of quiet roads. The first shock came as we rode out of Gold Beach and saw the sign -- "Bear Camp Road Closed, 52 miles ahead". We reasoned that we could probably get around the road closure and we didn't have many options, so we continued on. As we turned off the Rogue River twenty miles later the warning got more explicit -- "Road Closed 32 Miles Ahead, Unsafe for Public Travel". We took a quick vote, agreed that it couldn't be any worse than the mythical section of Langlois Mountain Road the day before, and continued on. Sixteen miles and 4500 feet of climbing later we reached the summit of Bear Camp Road and started down the other side. Near the bottom we rounded a corner and encountered a rock slide blocking the road and several workers with heavy machinery ripping things up. It took about 15 minutes of sweet talking before they shut off their machinery and allowed us to climb over the rocks while they muttered something about bikes and insurance companies. 25 scenic miles later we rolled into Wolf Creek Inn for a well-deserved dinner, bottle of wine, and bed.

*(Continued on page 9)*

- Club Information -

The Mid-Valley Bicycle Club is a recreational touring club for cyclists of all ages. We ride rain or shine! Helmets are required for all riders. Social and educational meetings are held regularly. Check this Newsletter or our website at [www.mvbc.com](http://www.mvbc.com) for current information.

I (We) want to join the Mid-Valley Bicycle Club. Enclosed are annual dues as checked below.

Membership:     \$15.00 Individual or     \$20.00 Family

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Family member names: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you do NOT want to be included in the club roster published in the newsletter   

In consideration of my application, I hereby, for myself, my executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Mid-Valley Bicycle Club, its officers, and members, prior to, during, and after my membership or association with the club or any event. I agree to accept all rules and regulations of the club.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_    Signature of parent or guardian if under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: MID-VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB, P.O. Box 1373, Corvallis, OR 97339-1373

*(Your Mileage May Vary, continued from page 8)*

Our last day started with five busy miles on I-5 to the Glendale exit, where we headed west along Cow Creek. Approximately 25 miles later we turned NW at the Union Creek bridge and started over the mountain. The road turned into a steep gravel climb for a few miles, and then reached the summit and an un-marked fork. We made the right guess at several junctions (stay to the right) and encountered the pavement of Burma Road after only six miles of gravel. Burma Road gave us a wonderful descent to Hwy 42 at Camas Valley. We saw exactly one pickup in the 50 miles between Glendale and Camas Valley, and we all agreed that the route was well worth the six miles of gravel road. After a short stretch of Hwy 42 we turned north through Lookingglass and returned to Roseburg.

The final tally for the 320 mile trip -- 135 miles of single-lane forest roads, 120 miles of quiet county roads, 55 miles of busy highway, 10 miles of cow pastures, 100 yards of construction zone, and zero flat tires. It was definitely a success.

Where: Avery Park, Lions Shelter (South end of park)  
 When: Monday, July 15, 5:30pm until sunset  
 Details: Potluck assignment: Last name beginning with A-M brings salad or vegetable, everyone else brings desserts (or bring your specialty regardless of name). RSVP by Friday, July 12 (757-7426 or [darrel\\_cummings@hotmail.com](mailto:darrel_cummings@hotmail.com)), please indicate how many attending and meat/vegetarian preference.

**Broken Glass Cleanup**  
*Darrel Cummings*

To get glass or debris in a bike lane or on a city street cleaned up, call the number listed in the Corvallis phone book under Corvallis--, Streets--, Bike Path/Lane Maintenance, 766-6916. Steve Rogers, Corvallis Public Works Director who presented at June's general meeting said that most debris will be taken care of the day it is reported. This often entails a city equipment operator hopping in a street sweeper and driving to the scene.



**MVBC Summer Barbeque/Picnic In The Park**  
 Hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, and sodas, provided-- potluck everything else; family games and activities; giant inflatable play structure for kids. Everyone encouraged to come and enjoy, there will be activities for children.  
 What: MVBC Summer Picnic

**Classified**

Wanted: Bike trailer/stroller combo for hauling 2

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**MID-VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB**  
P.O. Box 1373  
CORVALLIS, OR 97339-1373

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## ***Meetings & Announcements***

### **Future Events**

**June 30** - Watermelon Rides, [www.salembicycleclub.org](http://www.salembicycleclub.org)  
**June 30** - Ashland Triple Challenge, [www.mind.set/siskiyouvelo](http://www.mind.set/siskiyouvelo)  
**July 4** - Mary's Peak Challenge, MVBC  
**July 6** - Rogue Valley Mayors' Cup Criterium  
**July 13-14** - STP, [www.cascade.org/stp/](http://www.cascade.org/stp/)  
**July 27-August 4** - Loop Tour II, MVBC  
**August 4** - Blackberry bRamble, GEARs, Eugene  
**August 11** - Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour, MVBC  
**August 11-23** - SuperTour 2002, Glacier to the Canadian Rockies, (360) 438-6750  
**August 23-25** - Crater Lake Rim Tour, MVBC  
**Sept 7-14** - Cycle Oregon XV, [www.cycleoregon.com](http://www.cycleoregon.com)  
**Sept 29** - Peach of a Century, [www.salembicycleclub.org](http://www.salembicycleclub.org)

### **MVBC July Board Meeting**

Monday, July 22, 7:00 pm at Burgess's Residence  
3160 NW Arrowood Circle, Corvallis, OR; 758-5006

### **General Meeting**

MVBC Summer Barbeque/Picnic In The Park.  
What: MVBC Summer Picnic  
Where: Avery Park, Lions Shelter (South end of park)  
When: Monday, July 15, 5:30pm until sunset  
RSVP by Friday, July 12 (757-7426 or [darrel\\_cummings@hotmail.com](mailto:darrel_cummings@hotmail.com)), please indicate how many attending and meat/vegetarian preference.  
(More details, page 9)

### **IMPORTANT SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

Submit articles, stories and photos for the August MVBC Spokesman no later than July 22. (Loop Tour time!)

Please send this material to the editor in Word format:

[Lloydvswanson@attbi.com](mailto:Lloydvswanson@attbi.com)