

Extraordinary Reflections

The Newsletter of the Bombay Bicycle Club, Inc.

March/April 1999

Madison, Wisconsin

Volume 25 Issue 1

Spring BBC Meeting

Where: Shorewood Community Center
901 Swarthmore Court, Madison

When: Sunday, March 21, 1999, 5:00 PM—7:15 PM

• Please see the map below for directions to the Spring Meeting

Agenda:

4:30 - BBC Board arrives to set up.

5:00 - SOCIALIZING. Soda will be available compliments of BBC but bring your own beer. Membership fees for 1999 will be collected.

5:30 - TACO/TOSTADA BAR by Pasqual's
Free to BBC Members!

6:00 - BBC Business Meeting

6:30 - "PARIS - ROUBAIX" Narrated Slide

Presentation by Phil Van Valkenberg

7:00 - Door prizes

7:15 - Clean-up

PARIS—ROUBAIX, a bike race created in 1896, is called "the Queen of the Classics" because of its unusual difficulties and its fabulous history. Some of the greatest challenges occur in the "Northern Hell" area, where riders must negotiate cobblestone road surfaces. Mix in cold rains and brisk winds, and you've got Paris—Roubaix! Its rigorous nature and prodigious impact on the Northern French public make this race one of the most feared and loved. It is a real testing ground for both participants and their equipment.

We are fortunate to get an up close glimpse of this annual agony from PHIL VAN VALKENBERG! Phil photographed this famous race from a press vehicle several years ago, and will share his commentary and pictures with us at the BBC Spring Meeting! As most of you know, Phil is "Dean of Wisconsin Bike Touring", and his presentation promises to be fascinating, insightful, and entertaining! See Page 3 for some photos.

From the Touring Chair

As this article is being written it's about +20° F., which for this writer makes 3-mile rides possible if not particularly desirable. Drop the temperature or make them any longer and you might as well tell me to go to Jupiter. There are a few places on my window which are frost-free and through which I can see last fall's branch and leaf debris gracing the back yard. However, in front of me is a ride schedule nearly completed with eight months of rides telling me that this cold weather will eventually disappear.

Please turn to Page 3

President's New Year's Message

Ah, it's just about the start of a new biking season for the Bombay Bicycle Club, and Touring Chair Bob Steinberg has been hard at work putting together a great Touring schedule for 1999.

New for this year will be Thursday night Social Rides, headed up by the team of Dave Peterson and Dean Schroeder.

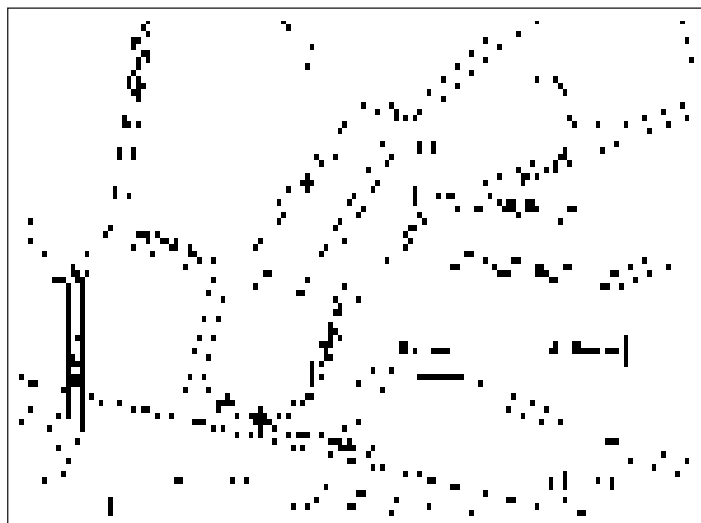
Once again we will be treating the membership at the spring meeting on March 21 at the Shorewood Community Center with a repast from Pasqual's. Non-members may enjoy the meal at a nominal fee and hear the presentation by speaker Phil Van Valkenberg, author of several bicycle touring books for the state of Wisconsin. He is also responsible for producing the official state bicycle map and the book "Best Bike Rides in the Midwest."

Also at the meeting, our new Membership Chair, Don Michalski, will be available to check the status of your membership and help those of you wishing to renew -or check out
From the President (continued from Page 1)

Please turn to Page 7

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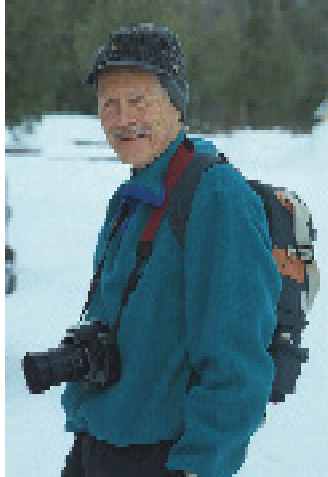
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Wisconsin Bicycle Laws — What Every Bicyclist Should Know

by David Peterson

The apparent increasing number of incidents and antagonism between motorists and bicyclists in Dane County can partly be blamed on a lack of understanding of, or disregard for, Wisconsin traffic laws as they apply to bicycles. Tales of rude, inconsiderate, and reckless motorists whose actions endanger the safety of bicyclists abound, but just as common are motorists' stories of bicyclists who blatantly disregard the rules of the road, endangering their own safety and that of others. While bicyclists may feel better by placing the blame for such confrontations on red-necked, road-raged motorists, I subscribe to the philosophy that we, as bicyclists, must get our own act together.



To this end, it is necessary that we first understand the Wisconsin bicycle statutes, and then, obey them. I have summarized and paraphrased some of the important statutes below. A 4-page summary of bicycle laws can be obtained from the State Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety. A more user-friendly card describing the essential points was produced by the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (BFW), and is available to members. Call 608-251-4456 or e-mail bfw@mailbag.com.

Vehicular Status. The bicycle is defined as a vehicle, and everyone riding a bicycle on a roadway is granted the same rights and subject to the same responsibilities as the driver of any other vehicle.

Lane Positioning. Vehicles moving slower than the normal traffic, as bicycles often do, must ride as close to the right-hand edge or curb as practicable (safe and reasonable). It may not be practicable to ride far to the right when: 1) overtaking and passing a slower vehicle; 2) preparing for a left turn at an intersection; and 3) necessary to avoid unsafe conditions, such as parked cars, surface hazards, pedestrians, or substandard-width lanes. An exception to the right side rule is on a one-way street with two or more lanes, where bicyclists may ride as close to the left edge as practicable (in the same direction as the traffic).

Minimum Speed. A bicycle or other vehicle moving at a speed so slow that it impedes normal traffic shall, if practicable, yield the roadway to an overtaking vehicle whenever riding on a roadway. Bicycles moving slower than normal traffic are prohibited on roadways, except on paths set

aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. On a roadway with two or more lanes, both riders must ride within a single lane. **Hand Signals.** Bicyclists are required to use the same hand signals as motorists with the left arm: 1) left turn—hand and arm extended horizontally, 2) right turn—hand and arm extended upward, 3) stop or slow down—hand and arm extended downwards. [Using an extended right arm to signal a right turn is not recognized in Wisconsin statutes, although it is legal in many states.] Signals must be given continuously within 50 feet of the turn, except that signals are not required if both hands are needed to control the bicycle.

Tales of rude, inconsiderate and reckless motorists ... abound, but just as common are ... bicyclists who blatantly disregard the rules of the road... ."

Passing. A motorist passing a bicycle is required to give safe clearance, in no case less than three feet. Likewise, a bicyclist passing a slower moving vehicle, parked car, or other bicycle must give at least three feet of clearance.

When passing another bicycle, an audible signal must be given.

Use of Sidewalks. The use of bicycles on sidewalks may be permitted by local ordinance. Bicyclists riding on sidewalks must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal when passing another bicycle or pedestrian. (Note: Madison permits bicyclists to ride on sidewalks except where buildings abut the sidewalk.)

Night Riding. Bicycles ridden at night must have a white front light visible to others 500 feet away. A red rear reflector is required. A flashing red or amber light may be used in addition to the reflector, but not in place of it.

As you can see, these rules mostly follow from common sense, and they are designed to optimize the movement of all traffic and minimize the risk of collisions. For more information and practice, I can recommend the League of American Bicyclists Effective Cycling classes, which go into detail on lane positioning and rear scanning for safe riding in traffic. There are several Effective Cycling instructors in the Madison area who are offering classes. Contact the BFW office for more information.



Here are a couple of photos Phil made at the time of his adventures on this tour. The top one shows Phil and his friend Jay Henderson, on the right. The bottom photo shows some of the cobblestones which are a feature of this race. The cobblestones vary in their nastiness and are graded, like cross-country ski trails.

First(!) Official(?) 1999 Bombay Ride

The seven fanatics below claim to have conducted the first Bombay ride of 1999 on New Year's Day. They are Jake Herro, David Robb, Jerry Klotz, Fred Gooding, Madame X, Bill Putnam, and Local Bike Magnate Andy Muzi. The plan was to attempt Verona, but the 10-degree weather produced some cold feet. Colder feet just wanted to pedal through the Arboretum, but a compromise to go 400 yards further to Tony Frank's bar was made.



When it turned out that Frank's was closed, only Klotz and Gooding continued on to the Town Pub in Verona. They were disappointed to find no hang- or left-overs from New Year's Eve - only lots of beer drinkers yelling back at the grid tilts being conducted on the TVs.

—Photo by Innocent Bystander

The Touring Chair, continued from Page 1

The BBC's ride schedule will be distributed at the Spring Meeting on March 21, and will also be mailed separately to all members. You can expect to see some of the Old Favorites again and another running of the Wright Stuff Century under the direction of veteran Centurion John Stockham. It will start out at the Tyrol Basin as it did last year.

I'm hoping to bring back rides this year on Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Labor Day to allow us all to enjoy the holidays with our Bombay friends.

Writing this article has certainly made me feel a lot warmer than when I started, knowing that two months from now I'll be riding my bike with the sight of this year's corn everywhere. And now it's +21° F, just one degree closer to spring than it was an hour and a half ago.

—Bob Steinberg

New Thursday Night Ride Series

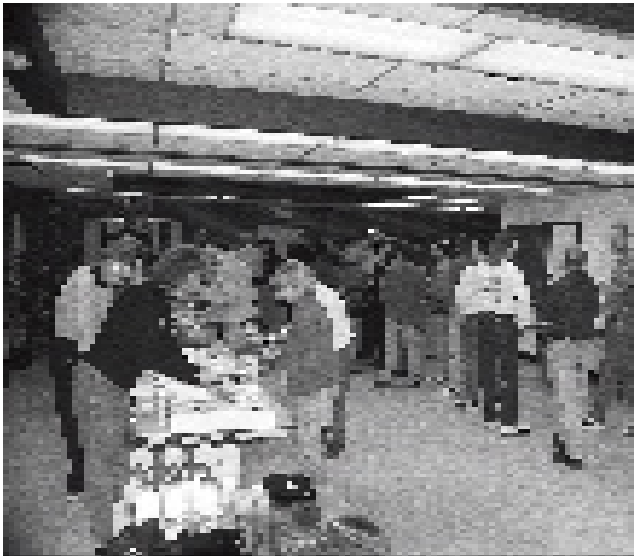
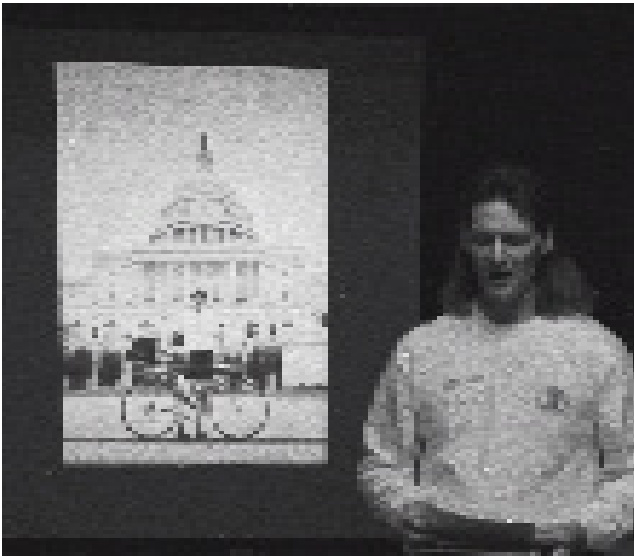
Two Bombay veterans will be putting a new spin on Thursday evenings this summer. Beginning May 6, Dave Peterson and Dean Schroeder will lead a new series of rides from four new out-of-town starting points.

Each Thursday we'll gather at 5:30 at a designated restaurant, and ride for 25 - 30 miles. After the ride, stay and socialize at the Bombay table! There will be plenty of choices for those who enjoy a cold brew. And good food will be right at hand, if you'd like to refuel those tired muscles.

The locations are: Quivey's Grove (Stable Tap), on Nesbitt Rd. between Madison and Verona; the Hofbrau Haus in downtown Waukegan; the Mt. Horeb Pub & Brewery on S. Second St. in Mt. Horeb; and the Oregon Family Restaurant, on N. Main Street just north of downtown. Please Note: In consideration and good will, please plan not to park in the restaurant's main parking area, but in their overflow or nearby lots (see the ride schedule for details).

Come join us for some sublime riding and convivial companionship this season, on Thursday evenings, May 6 - September 2!

Fall Meeting Draws Large Number of Bombayans; New Officers Dragooned; John Rider Gives Presentation



BBC members got a special treat at the November 8 fall meeting held at the Shorewood Community Center. In addition to dinner from Pasqual's, the meeting featured a slide show by John Rider about the Pioneer Ride, Wisconsin's Official Sesquicentennial Bicycle Ride from Washington, DC, to Madison. His group of 40 riders left from the U.S. Capitol steps on 19 July and arrived in Madison 36 days later on 23 August. During the trip, the group rode along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trail, the Erie Canal Trail, and dipped their tires into all five Great Lakes. They enjoyed many spectacular and/or beautiful locations, including Watkins Glen, Niagara Falls, Mackinac Island, and Madeline Island.

Top to bottom, left to right: John's opening slide taken at the trip's start in Washington; door prizes and the food service line; what are they plotting?; outgoing President Dean Schroeder attempts to unload either door prizes or the presidency; Dean's birthday cake; one of our younger members.

John Rider will repeat his talk in Madison

If you missed John's talk and slides at the fall meeting, you can still hear it and see them at the March meeting of the Four Lakes Group of the Sierra Club. Visitors are always welcome.

Time: Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Lake Edge Lutheran Church, 4032 Monona Dr.



—Above photos by John Ryder
From the ridiculous to the sublime: the riders at the start in Washington and near the end in Merrimac.

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Basic Bike Maintenance Clinic

Tuesday, March 30 at 7 pm

Free

This clinic will demonstrate the basics of bike maintenance and roadside repair. Learn how to change a flat, make routine adjustments and more.

Upcoming Rides

Bombay regularly receives information about rides sponsored by other clubs or charitable organizations and lists these in the newsletter. Other members receiving information on rides, or knowing of events that can be recommended, are encouraged to submit information for publication. Please send your information to the editor.

April

4-10, Bike Florida (<http://www.bikeflorida.org>) fully-supported, begins in Daytona Beach, ends in Gainesville. Cost \$100, includes rest stops, sag, campsite, T-Shirt. Distance 300-400 miles. Rider Limit 750. Info: Bike Florida, 1408 NW 6th St. Gainesville, FL 32601. e-mail: info@bikeflorida.org, phone (352) 955-2120

16-18, Spring Tune-up Ride by BRAG (<http://www.brag.org>) 3 day loop rides around Thomaston Georgia, option century. Terrain moderately hilly. Cost \$35. Distance 165. Rider limit 500. Info: BRAG, P.O. Box 871111, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-0028. e-mail braghq@aol.com

17-22, 19th Florida Bike Safari e-mail: ffwclub@aol.com Phone: (407) 788-BIKE. 3 and 6 day safari in northern Florida and southern Georgia. Rider limit: 200 on 6 day ride. Entertainment, great food by the Dixie Grill, 2 days have optional centuries. Cost \$225. The Florida Freewheelers, Inc. P.O. Box 916524, Longwood. FL 32791-6524

April 29-May 2, Suwannee Bicycle Festival. 4 days of back road and off road cycling. Cost \$22 to \$50. Distance: varies. Info: P.O. Box 2944 High Springs, FL 32655-2944 e-mail adrmiller@microd.com

May

May 1 "Ride the Ups and Downs" Bicycle Tour to the highest points in Illinois. 1-day tour in Jo Davies County, 22/31/46/60 mile routes on blacktop and packed gravel roads. Cost \$15. Starts and ends in Elizabeth, IL. For flyer call Casey Garan, 888/425-3627 or Jerry Bausmana 815/858-2450. e-mail to Jerry at bausmana@juno.com

22-28 Bike to Work Week

Saturday, May 22 - Parade

Sunday, May 23 - Bike to Worship (or another

day if more appropriate.

Monday, May 24 - VIP day/Kick-off

Tuesday, May 25 - Commuter Race

Wednesday, May 26 - Bike Everywhere

Thursday, May 27 - Bike to School

Friday, May 28 - Fiesta!

More info, contact Robbie Webber 251-4456.

e-mail btww@btww.org, webpage www.btww.org

29 *Gear Up Madison Ride*. To volunteer, contact Steve Meiers at 241-3460.

June

4-10, Cycle South Carolina (<http://members.aol.com/cyclesc>), family oriented tour. Cost \$130. Distance 340. No rider limit. Info: ExtraOrdinary Reflections

P.O. Box 3346 Spartanburg, SC 29304.
e-mail: MR10speed@aol.com

5-12, Biking Across Kansas (<http://www.bak.org>) Social ride with choice of 3 routes. Cost \$130. Rider limit 300 per route. Info: P.O. Box 8648, Wichita, KS 67208. e-mail bakone@aol.com

6-12, Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska. Cost \$65. Distance 475. Rider limit 600. Info: BRAN, 10730 Pacific St., Suite 218, Omaha, NE 68114-4780. e-mail BRANIN@aol.com

12-19, Oklahoma Freewheel (<http://okfreewheel.com>) South to north ride that begins in Kiamichi Mts., ends in Baxter Springs, KS. Cost \$30 per person, \$75 for families. Distance 400, rider limit 2000. Info: Tulsa World, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102, e-mail okfreewheel@prodigy.net

13-19, Bicycle Across Magnificent Alabama, family oriented. Cost \$115. Distance 420. Rider limit 350. Info: BAMA, P.O. Box 2286, Anniston, AL 36202-2286. e-mail: azhooper@aol.com

13-18, Ride Around Wyoming, starts and ends in Gillette, WY. Travels through Black Hills, Crazy Horse Monument, Mt. Rushmore. Cost \$225. Distance 400 miles. Rider limit 200. Info: Bob Faurot, 18 Paradise Dr. Sheridan, WY 82801 Phone (307) 672-6323

19-25, Pedal Across Lower Michigan, suitable for families. Cost \$80. Distance 270 miles. Rider limit 700. Info: PALM, Box 7161, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. e-mail DWTrike@aol.com

19-26, Bicycle Ride Across Georgia (<http://www.brag.org>) Lorange to Savannah. Cost \$100. Distance 400 miles, optional century. Rider limit 2,500. Info: BRAG, P.O. Box 871111, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-0028. e-mail braghq@aol.com

19-26, CYCLONE, Cycle Ontario Experience (<http://www.cyclone.on.ca>) Travel east along the shores of Ontario, ends in Ottawa. Cost \$190 (Canadian dollars) for adults \$95 (Canadian) child 6-18. Info: Box 25054, 1375 Weber St. E., Kitchener, ON, Canada N2A 4A5. e-mail gkraemer1@cyclone.on.ca

20-26, TOGIR, The Other Great Iowa Ride (<http://www.togir.com>) College to college ride offering dorm rooms. Distance 460 miles. Rider limit 150. Info: TOGIR, 1735 Piccadilly Pl, Davenport, IA 52807. e-mail bike@togirl.com

20-26, The Denver Post Ride the Rockies (<http://www.ridetherockies.com>) Starts in Durango. Cost \$205. Rider limit 2,000 by lottery.



(303) 820-1338 P.O. Box 1560 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202, e-mail rtr@denverpost.com

20-26, TRIRI, Touring Ride in Rural Indiana A loop ride. Cost \$240, includes meals. Distance 450 miles. Rider limit 500. Info: TRIRI, P.O. Box 439, Clear Creek, IN 47426 e-mail jbanders@iquest.net.

25-30, Bike Virginia, (<http://www.bikevirginia.org>) Loop ride starting in Richmond. Cost \$175. Distance 300 miles. Rider limit 2000. Info; P.O. Box 203, Williamsburg, VA 23187-0203. e-mail bikeva@bikevirginia.org

June 26-July 3, GRABAAR, Great Annual Bicycle Adventure Along the Wisconsin River (<http://www.grabaar.com>) Cost \$140 to \$170. Distance 500 miles. Rider limit 1,200/ Info: Bike Wisconsin, Box 310, Spring Green, WI 53588-0310. e-mail wis-bike@mhtc.net

our new membership sign-up sheet on the Bombay website and renew online at Danenet.wicip.org/bcp/Bombay.html, thanks to Don and webmaster Scott Rose.

What other organization feeds you at the spring and fall meetings, sets up a wonderful summer ride schedule, gives out door prizes, and mails you five bimonthly issues of the BBC newsletter ExtraOrdinary Reflections for a mere \$15 a year?!

This winter, BBC volunteer Dory Blobner has been organizing our biking jersey order for 1999. Our classic design will be made more visible with a new color scheme of florescent green, a non-florescent bright yellow and a blue. The order is scheduled to arrive about the time of our spring meeting so we hope to have them available for purchase that evening. Part of the cost of the jerseys has been underwritten by advertisements; we will announce the cost at the meeting.

Those of you who have planned excursions abroad and need to carry your bike on the plane or UPS it to a destination, remember that Bombay owns a heavy-duty Trico bicycle carrying case which can be rented for a small fee. Call Dean Schroeder at 256-8813 to reserve your dates. When you return, share your trip with other BBC members with an article in the newsletter.

Fred Gooding, the new editor of ExtraOrdinary Reflections, will happily receive your information, photos, and/or letters. He can be reached at Fgooding@aol.com or at 218-9101.

Last but not least, a big "thank you" to all of you who have contributed your time and effort to the Bombay Bike Club this past winter and to those of you who will be helping out on our rides this spring, summer and fall! We are again indebted to John Stockham who has taken on the task of organizing our Wright Stuff Century for Labor Day weekend this fall. The Bombay Club exists

because of people like you who volunteer your talents, ideas, and time to keep the organization running. I feel privileged to work with such a great board and club. Thank you!

—Sarah Grimes

Weston Wood Bicycling Fund



In its sixth year, the Weston Wood Bicycling Fund will once again offer an award of up to \$500 for a winning applicant to enjoy an organized bicycle tour or event of his or her choice.

Weston Wood was a long-time, active member of the Bombay Bicycle Club and a prominent Madison citizen who vigorously promoted bicycle touring. After his death in 1992, his family and friends decided to carry on his legacy by establishing a fund and making an award each year to one or more persons who might otherwise be unlikely or unable to enjoy a long-distance bicycle adventure.

Last year's award was divided among three winners: Barbara Ohs Andersen (\$300 for the Pioneer Ride Wisconsin, a tour from Ashland to Madison); Kathy Cherry (\$35 for the Best Dam Bike Tour, a weekend ride from Milwaukee to Beaver Dam); and Greg Cooper of Cambridge (\$165 for GRABWAAR, a weeklong trip from Eagle River to Prairie du Chien). In 1997, a \$500 award went to Kerry Hellmuth for a Cycle America tour of Glacier and Waterton National Parks.

Applications for the award are available at local bicycle shops or by contacting Alice Honeywell at 608/288-5496. For further information about the award, call Alice Honeywell or Susan Kavulich (608/831-2643). Deadline for applications to be received is June 1, 1999.

Cruising and Cycling in the Caribbean

by Chris Heimerl

The bluster and blowing of late January can evoke day dreams of Caribbean beaches for even the most casual outdoor enthusiast. Memories of last season's favorite ride and tour fantasies in the promise of the coming spring fill the cyclist's reverie. Combining Caribbean locales with an opportunity for mid-winter cycling would be too good to be true, almost. For a lucky 50, the dream came true. A group who became known as the Madison 8 joined a larger contingency from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area for a mid-winter dream vacation.

David Gepner of the Twin Cities Bicycle Club organized a trip that combined cruising between and cycling on six Caribbean islands. We had the option of transporting our bikes or having a modestly equipped mountain bike waiting for us aboard the Norwegian Dream cruise ship. From there the adventure began. Prior to sailing, a tour of Puerto Rico was available with a local guide weaving the riders through the narrow passes of Old San Juan and out to a protected rain forest. We set sail at sunset bound for St. Lucia on January 17th.

Day one we spent at sea enjoying the tropic breeze and tropical refreshments with those of us who brought bikes busily assembling in the ship's hold. Mine arrived without a bump or a ding thanks to the protection of the Bombay Bicycle Club hard-shell case. We were rocked to sleep knowing we would be riding the next day.

We gathered leisurely and began introductions while waiting for our local guide, a feature on each island. This day, we were lead by Chaufus, a mountain bike racer with waist length dreadlocks tumbling from his helmet. He quickly led us from the port city of Castries heading for the island's inland. Near the edge of town he briefly stopped us to warn, "We do a bit of climbing now, Mon." Fourteen miles and two thousand feet later we were atop one of the Pitons' twin peaks. It was as though we rode to the top of Bluemound only to encounter yet another switchback and learn we were half way to our destination. Usually those sorts of climbs yield a thrilling descent but not on the rutted, narrow, and treacherous roads of the Caribbean islands. That was the first of many climbs—bumps as Chaufus referred to them—leading to the sleepy fishing village of Gros Islet and a quick swim on the beach at Pigeon Island. A blazing paceline got us back to the ship just in time to set sail. It was the most challenging 35 miles I have ever experienced. We claimed the ship's hot tubs and refused to budge until our aching muscles were soothed.

The following morning Antigua lay below our perch on the upper decks of the Dream. I spent the early morning hours in search of a tire as mine had been mangled on our final descent on Saint Lucia. A native with needle, thread and athletic tape had provided the quick fix to get me back to the ship. Today's guide was Neal, a member of the Coast Guard with the day off. He spent the day racing from one end of our group to the other, widespread

by fitness and ambition. He promised less climbing than we had experienced the day before, but his references to a few "bumps" should have been an omen. While not as long, the hills were exceedingly steep. The final climb out of a lush rain forest was so steep only a handful made it to the top with only a couple of those riding the entire way. Those of us who conquered Boggy Peak were treated to the sweetest pineapple and juices concocted from guava, coconut, and passion fruit. Another highlight of the day was lunch in an open-air beachside café serving freshly caught seafood and very cold beer. Sitting in a hot tub in tropical heat may seem odd but it was once again the place to be onboard.

Day three provided much needed respite on the island of St. Kitts. Rather than climbing the 3600 feet over Mt. Misery, the route circumnavigated the island, never leaving the ocean shore and barely rising above sea level. Most riders blasted around the island's 36 miles quickly enough to enjoy an afternoon of idle on the streets and in the shops of Basseterre. I enjoyed the western coastline from the rear seat of a two man sea kayak, watching

pelicans dive and monkeys scoot about the sheer slopes along the shoreline. This day the hot tub was bypassed in favor of a late afternoon buffet featuring seafood salad and pizza. There never was a worry about fuel for pedaling as food was served 24 hours a day.

On the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Croix the Madison 8 opted for an exotic excursion to the island's far east end. The easternmost point of any U.S. held territory, it is claiming to be the official site to first welcome the new millennium with huge celebrations planned for the next two New Year Eves to accommodate varied opinion on which one warrants more festivity. A vigorous 45-minute hike exposed a secluded beach and reef encircled bay with dozens of coral heads perfect for snorkeling. Parrotfish, angelfish, conch, hamlets, skates, puffers, graysbys, and a shy viper moray provided the day's entertainment. The exit hike involved a long climb; at least this one was on foot. Upon our return to the ship, we encountered the riding Vikings who kept mumbling, "The Beast, the Beast." Apparently the climb du jour was over a mountain pass notorious for stalling motor vehicles with its steep grade. "The Beast" is literally engraved into the roadbed at the foot of the hill. So sorry to have missed that one.

Our final island was the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas.



This proved to be the only disappointment. Oh it had the requisite hills and expansive views, but it also had the most crowded roads and rude drivers. We found ourselves always surrounded by honking, occasionally threatening drivers. Motorists intentionally forced two riders off the road. Whether it was due to being Saturday or this represents the usual winter crowd in St. Thomas we couldn't determine. Most of us cut the ride short and headed back to the ship after 2-3 hours. The shops were much more hospitable and welcomed the invading tourists, as long as we left the bikes behind.

The trip proved to be the perfect antidote for mid-winter blues and blahs. Our prizes were friendships with some neighbors to the west, newly minted climbing legs, and a tan worthy of envy-yes the coveted brown circle on the back of the hand. Whenever my spirit, or my legs, balked at the prospect of another grinding "bump" I simply had to remember that it was late January and was riding my bike, how could it get any better?

David is considering whether to organize a trip next winter. I think he felt the Madison 8 acquitted themselves well, maybe well enough to extend invitations to an even larger group from Madison. I'll keep you posted. In the mean time, I invited the Vikings to join us for the Wright Stuff next fall. I think they'll love the hills.

Chris Heimerl has been a member of the Bombay Bicycle Club for two years. When he's not cycling, he works a little at the UW and a lot at his job as an independent Social Worker Consultant.

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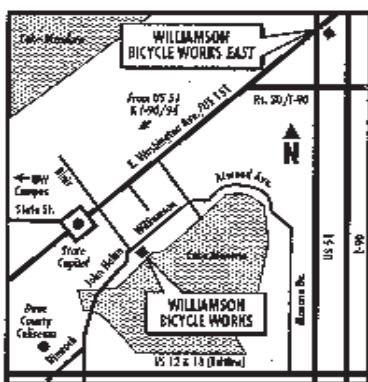


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7, 26 & 50 Mile Bike Routes

5 & 10K Walk and Running Events

(competitive runners will be timed & placed)

Raffles ♥ BBQ Picnic ♥ Live Music

**Children's Activities ♥ Bake Sale ♥ Shopping
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For more information and entry forms contact:

**Community Hope, P.O. Box 283, Cambridge, WI 53523
(608) 423-4751 E-mail: commhope@smallbytes.net**

Community Hope is a non-profit organization providing emotional and financial assistance to individuals and families in crisis.

Bombay Bicycle Club of Madison, Inc. Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ E-mail address: _____

____ New Member ____ Renewing Member

Are you a member of the L.A.B.? _____

Please make a check for \$15.00 payable to the Bombay Bicycle Club of Madison, Inc. and mail it with the form above to:

**Bombay Bicycle Club of Madison, Inc.
P.O. Box 45685
Madison, WI 53744-5685**

Budget Bicycle Center

New Bicycles
1230 Regent St.
251-8413

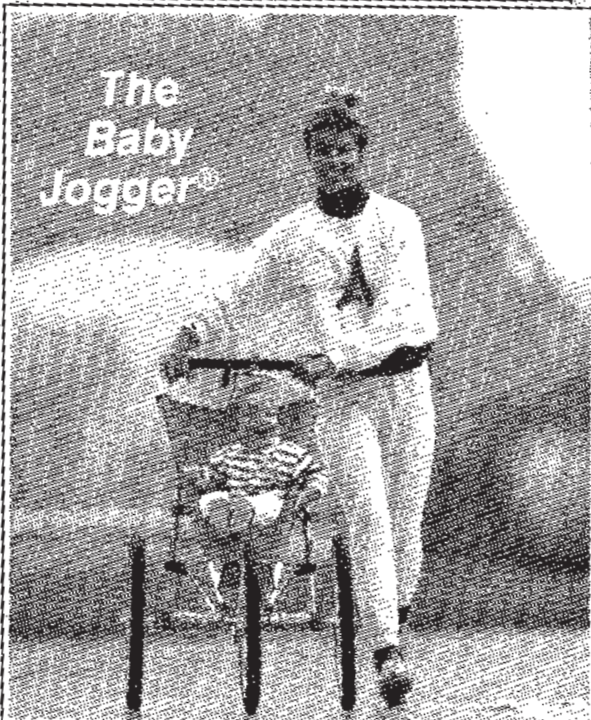
Parts & Service
1202 Regent St.
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**Combine fitness,
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Go anywhere with the ultimate all-terrain weather stroller. Walk, jog or hike on the trail, at the mall or even at the beach. The three-wheel design beats the bumps and lets mom and dad stay in shape while baby rides in style!

Bombay Bike Club Membership Benefits

- Use the Club's bike travel case. This is a hard shell case which the airlines will find difficult to damage. Call Dean at 256-8813 to check on its availability. And see the article on page 8 for a testimonial.
- There are rebates available to BBC members who join either the League of American Bicyclists or the Wisconsin Bike Federation.
- There is a rebate on Effective Cycling class tuition.
- Joining the BBC is about the fastest way you can get to meet fellow cycling enthusiasts and participate in a wide variety of group rides. There's almost always someone going as (slow) (fast) as you so you never have to ride by yourself. (Well, hardly ever).
- Dues include a subscription to ExtraOrdinary Reflections, published every other month from March until November.
- Members may place free classified ads. Please see the adjoining column for details.
- Club events with fees have an early-bird member discount.

From the Editor's Uneasy Chair

This issue features two excellent and timely contributions from BBC members which will get read, it is hoped. ("Hopefully," if that's your preference.)

We should all pay heed to Dave Peterson's story on the increasing friction between motorists and bike riders. The object after all is to avoid accidents and not try to prove a point.

Some of Dave's reasons for writing this article arise from the letter sent last fall to the BBC by a police officer in Fitchburg, who recounted incidents of outrageous cyclist behavior.

Thanks to Dave and Chris, as well as to Board members who contributed to this issue.

Thanks also to the Yellow Jersey and Williamson Bicycle Works for agreeing to print and distribute 1999 BBC ride schedules.

This issue is missing two important items: Letters to the Editor, which are always welcome; and members' classified ads. These should be mailed or e-mailed to the Editor (see back page for addresses), should be roughly 30 words or less, and should be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. They will run in one issue, but may be renewed.

—Fred Gooding



ExtraOrdinary Reflections, the newsletter of the Bombay Bicycle Club of Madison, Inc., is published five times per year. Comments, articles, photographs and letters are welcome. You may send them by e-mail (preferably) to the editor (FGOODING@AOL.COM) or to: Editor, ExtraOrdinary Reflections, 321 South Midvale Boulevard, Madison, WI 53705-5030.

Membership Renewals:

Please check the expiration date on your mailing label. Your timely renewal is the only sure way to continue receiving ExtraOrdinary reflections and the various other membership benefits. Please see the renewal coupon on page 10 for renewal instructions.

Acknowledgments: This newsletter is published through the efforts of the Board and of many volunteers. Costs of the newsletter are covered through advertisements placed by area bike shops and businesses. Please patronize our advertisers.

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