

# Delaware Valley Bicycle Club

June 2012



P.O. Box 156  
Swarthmore, PA,  
19081  
www.dvbc.org

## 2012 Bonkers: A Rousing Success Fun, Sun, Miles and Loads of Effort!

By Dom Zuppo

What? My eyes! The sun? Glorious rays of warmth and sunshine on the morning of the Bonkers Metric? This must be a dream!

No dream, it was reality. For the first time in recent collective memory, our spring tour was blessed with perfect cycling weather. Club volunteers and approximately 150 guests left their ponchos at home and instead wore sun block as they enjoyed a beautiful spring Sunday in the Delaware Valley.



Volunteers, the life's blood of our club, make these events happen (and you'll soon notice that some of our volunteers "wear many hats"). Our registration staff of Betsy F., Gina B., Julie B., Mike B., Shelley E., and Vicki H. were organized, as usual, well before the onslaught of riders appeared at Ridley Creek State Park. Larry G. deftly swung the bagel guillotine on the numerous baked goods donated by Custom Bagels of Media, while Frank J. and Herb J. kept everything in order as our guests jockeyed for position and the best parking spaces in Lot 15. And Greg C. of Cycle Fit in Swarthmore brought his repair stand and tools to help with last minute equipment adjustments for any guest who needed them.

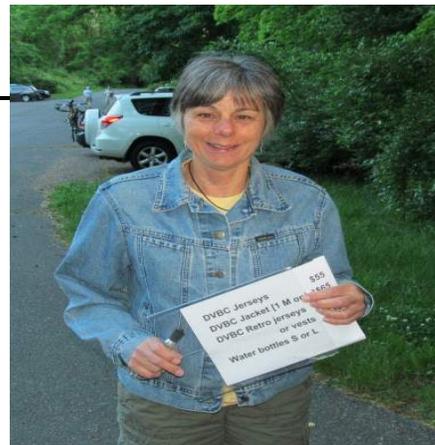
No doubt many of our guests discovered our tour by reading the advertisements prepared by our friends at Craftech Computer Solutions in Media. And while only a college graduation could keep him from attending, Tom G. did a fantastic job preparing and organizing signage for the routes. We don't know how, but Alex M. distributed those signs at a number of locations in the park and along the various roads of the tour. Information collected by Tom was also given to our SAG drivers Andy M., Jack T., Larry G., Paul D., Tony R., Woody K., and yours truly, and

we carried spare tire tubes supplied by both Cycle Fit and Cycle Sport of Media.

Alek W., Alex M., Betsy F., Charlie S., Deb C., Herb J., Jo Ann F., Lisa D., Shelley E., Vicki H., and Walt L. unloaded a wonderful assortment of food items and breads purchased by Mary H. and our club equipment, including tables, canopies, water jugs, and 1500 lbs of water transported to RCSP and the main food stop at Cheyney University by **Doug B.** and **Nancy N.** Bob L., Cliff E. and Walt L. made sure our Chadds Ford water stop was ready to serve all who dared to conquer the full metric century course.

Quenching the hunger and thirst of our guests is probably the most important service we provide at our tours. The delicious fruit, including sweet watermelon, donated by the Brothers Cunicelli of 320 Market Café in Swarthmore and Media was enjoyed by all. And our thanks go out to all of the club members who prepared home-made treats for our cycling friends.

Our volunteers distributed queue sheets, sliced bagels, prepared sandwiches, and mixed Gatorade. They fixed flat tires, adjusted brakes and saddles, tightened handlebar stems and chain ring bolts, and rejoined a broken chain. They provided words of encouragement and advice as our guests stopped for a bite to eat. Not even a gust of wind that capsized one of our canopies and nearly beheaded Jo Ann F. would dampen their spirits (although



it may have dampened Jo Ann's shorts).

We also had two guests who rode the Bonkers as they prepared for impending trans-American tours. What are the odds that out of 150 cyclists, our volunteers would happen to speak to two different people preparing for such epic journeys?



And no tour is without its difficulties. Another tour in Delaware caused confusion as the two events shared some of the same roads. One of our guests realized he was off course when he noticed the riders around him had numbers pinned to their jerseys. A cyclist touched the rear wheel of his buddy and went down, but in the spirit of Jens Voigt got right back up and continued to ride. And SAG Captain Tony R. aided our very last rider using his brand spankin' new Scion Xb sporting an impressive Craftech graphics motif. Talk about a sweet ride home!

There were many stories to tell from this year's Bonkers Metric, but I wanted to share a few of them with you now. Most importantly, I want our volunteers to know how much our guests appreciated their efforts to present a great day of cycling. Thank you very much, DVBCers, for all of your help!

## Delaware Valley Bicycle Club

P.O. Box 156  
Swarthmore, PA 19081  
www.DVBC.org

Membership in DVBC is encouraged, but non-members are welcome at all our rides and events. Except for the Bonkers Metric, Brandywine Tour, Club Banquet and Bonkers Picnic, all club events are free. Money raised from rides and membership dues is donated to a variety of cycling-related organizations.

DVBC welcomes articles, photographs, and ride reports for the newsletter. Please submit materials to the Editor before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of DVBC.

**Monthly board meetings are open to all, and are usually held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m., at the Swarthmore Public Library. Contact the President to confirm.**

### CLUB AFFILIATIONS

- \*League of American Bicyclists
- \*Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- \*Adventure Cycling Association
- \*Bicycle Access Council
- \*East Coast Greenway
- \*PA Walks and Bikes
- \*Friends of Ridley Creek State Park
- \*Friends of the Chester Valley Trail

Newsletter Contents © 2011 by DVBC

### Board of Directors and Volunteer Staff

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## RIDE GUIDELINES & CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Arrive early and **be ready to leave on time**.
2. Make sure your bike is in proper working order **before** you arrive. Ride leaders are not expected to be mechanics.
3. **A helmet is mandatory for all DVBC rides.**
4. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, and water bottle.
5. All Club rides are rated according to the degree of difficulty. Do not "bike off" more than you can do. Go on rides within your ability, interest and experience. If you're in doubt about your ability, try out a ride one class below the one you're unsure of and work your way up.
6. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
7. Each rider assumes his/her own risk on all rides.
8. Those who ride ahead of the group are on their own ride.
9. Always notify the ride leader before leaving the group.
10. Ride leaders should adhere to the advertised speed of the ride.

**Class D:** For new, inexperienced riders or families: 7-9 mph average moving speed with frequent stops and as few hills as possible. The group will wait for all riders. The ride lengths are usually less than 10 miles, but longer distances are permissible.

**Class C-:** For average riders: 10-11 mph average moving speed with rest stops as needed. The group will wait for stragglers. The recommended distance is 10-30 miles.

**Class C+:** Also for average riders: 12-13 mph average moving speed with rest stops every 45-60 minutes. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

**Class B-:** For more experienced riders: 14-15 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

**Class B+:** For strong riders: 16-18 mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

**Class A:** For very strong riders: 18+ mph average moving speed with rest stops at the discretion of the ride leader. No obligation to wait for stragglers if cue sheets or maps are provided.

# June 2012 Ride Calendar

Check the ride calendar at [www.DVBC.org](http://www.DVBC.org) for late additions to this list.  
Check with ride leaders if weather looks threatening.

## \*\*\*Recurring Weekday Rides\*\*\*

**Reminder: Any ride scheduled in the Newsletter, on the DVBC website ride calendar, or advertised via the list serve is considered an official club ride and a sign-in sheet is required. The sign-in sheets are on the website on the ride calendar page.**

<p><b>Tuesdays 6:00 pm</b> Miles:20 +/- Class:C/C+ <b>Tuesday Delco Spin</b></p>	<p>Come out for a spin through Swarthmore, Ridley Township, Springfield, Wallingford and Media areas of Delaware County. Since we've been riding for a few months, we'll pick up the pace a bit with an average speed of 12 to 13 miles an hour. The terrain will be vary from flat to hilly. We will regroup as necessary. Rain cancels. Leave promptly at 6 pm Meet at 320 Market Cafe, Swarthmorewood Shopping Center, South Chester Road (Route 320) and Park Lane Road, Swarthmore, PA 19081. <b>Contact Betsy Ffrench at 610-324-8207 Email: <a href="mailto:EFfrench@wilmingtonTrust.com">EFfrench@wilmingtonTrust.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesdays 9:30 am</b> Miles:30-60 Class:B-/C+ <b>Docs' Ride</b></p>	<p>Ride starts and ends at the 320 Market Cafe parking lot. Usually a lunch destination. Rain cancels the ride. Contact Larry Green at 610-544-5799 <b>Contact Larry Green at 610-544-5799 Email: <a href="mailto:largreen@earthlink.net">largreen@earthlink.net</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesdays 6:00 pm</b> Miles:28 +/- Class:B- <b>Wed Nite Road Crew</b></p>	<p>This ride is meant to be fun and challenging with some breakaways. Expect hills. Average speeds will be about 14.5 mph in the first couple weeks and climb steadily and end up around 15.5 mph at season's end. The route will change weekly and cue sheets will not be provided. Any rider going off the front is on their own. Start time is promptly at 6:00 pm to take advantage of every minute of daylight. As days get longer so does the ride. Rain cancels ride. Meet at Rose Tree Park, Rt 252, Media PA. <b>Contact Debbie Chaga at 610-494-3033 Email: <a href="mailto:dreamerdeb@gmail.com">dreamerdeb@gmail.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesdays 6:00 pm</b> Miles:12-20 Class:D/C- <b>Delightful, Delicious D Ride</b></p>	<p>The ride will depart from Flourtown Shopping Center (on Bethlehem Pike – shopping center with McDonald's and Genuardi's) at 6:10 pm. Average speed: 8-12 mph. Easy-paced ride to de-stress after work, suited for novice cyclists, newcomers to Philadelphia, and/or anyone seeking a gentle recovery ride. We'll explore some pretty, peaceful residential streets in &amp; around Flourtown and neighboring townships. We'll cycle on mostly flat-to-rolling terrain, with an occasional hill, but always at a relaxed paced. Please bring lights, in case we are returning close to dusk <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . Email: <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesdays 6:00 pm</b> Miles:20-25 Class:C+ <b>Show &amp; Go C+ Ride</b></p>	<p>Please join us for a moderately fast-paced (but slower than Deb's B- pace) ride out of Rose Tree Park in Media, leaving promptly at 6pm. We will do a lot of hills, some steep, some long. No one dropped but expectations are that you have been keeping in shape and are capable of doing these hills. Average speed 12-14mph. <b>Contact Shelley Epstein at Email: <a href="mailto:4epsteins@comcast.net">4epsteins@comcast.net</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesdays 6:00 pm</b> Miles:30 +/- Class:B <b>Andy's B Ride</b></p>	<p>Wed evening "B" rides with hills at a 15 to 17 mph average. Meet at Rose Tree Park in Media. <b>Contact Andy Marzano at Email: <a href="mailto:starbrdtack1@yahoo.com">starbrdtack1@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Thursdays 6:00 pm</b> Miles:12-20 Class:D/C- <b>Delightful, Delicious D Ride</b></p>	<p>he ride will depart from Jacobs Engineering, 2 Ash Street, Conshohocken at 6:00 pm. Average speed: 8-12 mph. This easy-paced ride along the Schuylkill River Trail is one of the many ride options available at the Multi-Level group rides from Conshohocken. We meet in the parking lot of Jacobs Engineering -- lot is on the opposite side of the railroad tracks from the Schuylkill Trail, near the river. We will ride the trail at a relaxed pace. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . Email: <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Fri, Jun 1 9:30 am</b> Miles:49 Class:B-/C+ <b>Friday Frolic with Linda</b></p>	<p>Jenkintown to Lake Luxembourg/Core Creek Park at average speed 13-15 mph. Meet at Whole Foods Market of Jenkintown, on The Fairway, Baederwood Shopping Ctr. Far end of parking lot, near apt complex. Scenic loop from Montgomery County into Bucks County, passing Bryn Athyn Cathedral, as well as some lovely, peaceful lakes in Churchville, and in Core Creek State Park.(Original route is from Tom Madle.)Sit-down lunch stop at mile 21, as well as a stop on the return at Tanner's Market &amp; Creamery at mile 36. Rolling hills, but we will stop to regroup as needed. Total elevation gain 3360 ft. Cue sheets will be available. The on-line route map is <a href="http://ridewithgps.com/routes/1174835">http://ridewithgps.com/routes/1174835</a> Optional preregistration open on BCP web calendar (<a href="http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar">http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar</a>) until Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 11:30 pm. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Sat, Jun 2 9:00 am</b> Miles:48 +/- Class:C+ <b>The Muffin Ride</b></p>	<p>Join me for a wonderful ride out to Purebread Deli in Greenville, Delaware. This ride has a little bit of everything - some nice climbs and long time trial sections. We will stop halfway for a short food stop at the Deli. Ride starts at Rose Tree Park in Media. Average speed will be 13 to 14 mph, faster on the flats. Rain Cancels. <b>Contact Mary Huis at or <a href="mailto:marv2335@verizon.net">marv2335@verizon.net</a></b></p>

<p><b>Mon, Jun 4 7:00 pm</b> Miles:None Class:All <b>DVBC Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>DVBC Monthly Board Meeting held at Swarthmore Public Library at 121 Park Avenue (610)543-0436. All are welcome to attend. <b>Contact Doug Bower at 610-952-0562 or <a href="mailto:doug_bower@verizon.net">doug_bower@verizon.net</a></b></p>
<p><b>Fri, Jun 8 9:30 am</b> Miles:46 Class:C+/B- <b>Friday Frolic with Linda</b></p>	<p>Wayne to Collegetown at average speed 13-15 mph. Meet at Church of the Saviour, Wayne, PA. Let's enjoy one of Tom Madle's scenic routes for central Montgomery County. The route will take us through part of Valley Forge Park, then across the Schuylkill River, on our way to the pretty towns of Trappe and Collegetown. Lunch stop in Collegetown @ mile 25. Part of the route will be on the Perkiomen Trail. IF riders in the group are interested, there is an option to add ~4 miles before the lunch stop. Elevation gain is 3588 ft. Cue sheets will be available. The on-line route map is <a href="http://ridewithgps.com/routes/879845">http://ridewithgps.com/routes/879845</a> Optional preregistration open on BCP web calendar (<a href="http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar">http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar</a>) until Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 11:30 pm. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Sat, Jun 9 8:30 am</b> Miles:69 Class:C+ <b>Sex on the Beach 3</b></p>	<p>Join me on the 3rd Annual SOB Ride and hopefully we won't encounter the Green Head Flies. This ride begins through marshlands teeming with birds, then on to the Delaware Bay East Point Lighthouse, where we may spot horseshoe crabs performing their prehistoric mating ritual. Lots of long stretches of car-free riding and back to the bay for lunch at Higbee's Cafe in Fortescue, the weakfish capital of the world. The return takes us through a nature preserve and historic Mauricetown, with its 19th century sea captains' houses. Start PROMPTLY @ 8:30 so plan your arrival accordingly. Cue sheets provided. Meet at Maurice Twsp Elem School, 3593 Route 47, Port Elizabeth, NJ. School will be on the left and a Wawa is about 1/2 mile past the school on the right. A go/no-go message will be added to DVBC website by 6:45 am if weather is questionable. <b>Contact Debbie Chaga at 610-494-3033 or <a href="mailto:dreamerdeb@gmail.com">dreamerdeb@gmail.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Sat, Jun 9 8:45 am</b> Miles:48/75 Class:B/B- <b>Annual Trek to Mount Gretna</b></p>	<p>Average speed 14-15 mph. Meet at Shady Maple Farm Market on PA-23 in Goodville, Lancaster Co. (PA Turnpike West to Morgantown/Exit 298. Take PA-10 South for 1 mile to PA-23 West. Right at PA-23. Straight on 23 West for 8 miles, then turn left into Shady Maple parking lot. Beautiful ride through Lancaster and Lebanon Counties for an al fresco lunch at the historic Jigger Shop in the town of Mount Gretna. Moderately to dramatically rolling terrain with a few flat and sustained climbing sections on the way out. After the short climb out of Mount Gretna, the way back will be noticeably easier and will include a brief water stop. Stock up on fresh produce, Amish goodies, and baked goods after the ride. Anyone wanting to ride a slower pace and/or do fewer miles can opt for a self-guided (after mile 21.3), less hilly 48 mile route which skips Mt. Gretna. We will start PROMPTLY AT 9:00 (no exceptions), so please plan to arrive by 8:45. If you get ahead or fall behind you will need to be able to follow the cue sheet. If it's your first time doing this ride, please contact leader by evening of June 8 with questions re. driving directions or parking. Bad weather, including extreme heat, will cancel. A go/no-go message will be added to this listing by 7:00 a.m. if the weather is questionable. Cue sheets will be available. Optional preregistration open on BCP web calendar (<a href="http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar">http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar</a>) until Friday, June 8, 2012 at 11:30 pm. Preregistering is not required. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Sun, Jun 10 8:00 am</b> Miles:25 +/- Class:C/C+ <b>Airport Loop</b></p>	<p>Meet at The 320 Market in Swarthmore for a ride behind the Airport, pass Fort Mifflin and back to Swarthmore through lower Delco. Bring money for a snack at 320 Produce after the ride. Breakaway opportunity on Hog Island Road. <b>Contact Betsy Ffrench at 610-324-8207 or <a href="mailto:EFfrench@wilmingtonTrust.com">EFfrench@wilmingtonTrust.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Tues, Jun 12 6:00 pm</b> Miles:12-20 Class:D/C- <b>Evening D/C- Ride</b></p>	<p>Delightful, Delicious "D" (and D+/C-) Ride, Tuesday Evening Edition. The ride will depart from Glenside Public Library parking lot(Keswick &amp; Waverly Roads in Glenside, eastern Montgomery County)at 6:10 pm. Average speed: 8-12 mph. Easy-paced ride for novice cyclists, newcomers to Philadelphia, and/or, anyone seeking a gentle recovery ride. Explore some quiet, pretty, scenic roads in &amp; around Glenside and surrounding townships. Mostly flat-to-rolling terrain, with perhaps a few hills here or there, but we will pedal at a slow pace, and stop to regroup as needed. Please bring lights, in case we return close to dusk. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.co">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.co</a></b></p>
<p><b>Fri, Jun 15 9:30 am</b> Miles:49 Class:C+/B- <b>Friday Frolic with Linda</b></p>	<p>Flourtown to the Main Line and Valley Forge at average speed 13-15 mph. Meet at Ft. Washington State Park, Flourtown Picnic Area. Scenic loop from Flourtown &amp; Chestnut Hill to Belmont Hills, Haverford, Wayne, Devon, and Valley Forge. From Valley Forge, we'll cross the Betzwood Bridge and return via the Schuylkill River Trail to Spring Mill &amp; Cedar Grove. Quick rest stop at mile 16 in Haverford, and a sit-down lunch stop at mile 28 in Valley Forge. Rolling hills with some steep climbs, but we will stop to regroup as needed. Elevation gain is 3390 ft. If you would like to co-lead or sweep, please contact me -- I'd love your company! Cue sheets will be available. The on-line route map is <a href="http://ridewithgps.com/routes/997491">http://ridewithgps.com/routes/997491</a> Optional preregistration open on BCP web calendar (<a href="http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar">http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar</a>) until Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 11:30 pm. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Sat, Jun 16 9:00 am</b> Miles:62 Class:B- <b>Salem Oak Metric</b></p>	<p>Meet across street from Salem Oak Diner, Rte. 49, Salem NJ. A new and unexpected twist on the Peter Odell route. Stop in Bridgeton for lunch. Come early for breakfast at the diner. Bring \$ + H2O. <b>Contact Bob LaDrew at 610-383-9327 or <a href="mailto:bonkersboy@verizon.net">bonkersboy@verizon.net</a></b></p>
<p><b>Tue, Jun 19 6:00 pm</b> Miles:12-20 Class:D/C- <b>Evening D/C- Ride</b></p>	<p>Delightful, Delicious "D" (and D+/C-) Ride, Tuesday Evening Edition. The ride will depart from Glenside Public Library parking lot(Keswick &amp; Waverly Roads in Glenside, eastern Montgomery County)at 6:10 pm. Average speed: 8-12 mph. Easy-paced ride for novice cyclists, newcomers to Philadelphia, and/or, anyone seeking a gentle recovery ride. Explore some quiet, pretty, scenic roads in &amp; around Glenside and surrounding townships. Mostly flat-to-rolling terrain, with perhaps a few hills here or there, but we will pedal at a slow pace, and stop to regroup as needed. Please bring lights, in case we return close to dusk. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or <a href="mailto:mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com">mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</a></b></p>

<p><b>Sat, Jun 23 9:00 am</b> Miles:62 +/- Class:C+ <b>Kennett Square Metric</b></p>	<p>Join me for my fav ride to my fav food stop - The Country Butcher - in Kennett Square. I'll be fresh off my Ireland Bike Trip so I will regale you with tales of the Old Country. I have a new way to come back to Media that I can't wait to share with you. Ride starts at Rose Tree Park in Media. Ride average will be between 13 and 14 mph. Rain Cancels. <b>Contact Mary Huis at or mary2335@verizon.net</b></p>
<p><b>Fri, Jun 29 9:30 am</b> Miles:57 Class:B-/C+ <b>Friday Frolic w/Linda</b></p>	<p>Valley Forge to St. Peter's Village at average speed 13-15 mph. Meet at Lower-level parking lot behind the Visitors Center at Valley Forge National Park. Hilly but lovely and scenic loop through Chester County, crossing French Creek on peaceful roads. Convenience store quick stop at mile 23, then at mile 33, a sit-down lunch stop at the bakery/cafe in St. Peter's, which overlooks the Creek. Elevation gain is 4928 ft. We will stop to regroup after climbs, as needed. On the return trip, there is a short-cut option which will shave off about 4.5 miles. Co-leaders welcome -- please contact the Leader, if you would like to lead a group at an alternative speed. Cue sheets will be available. The on-line route map is <a href="http://ridewithgps.com/routes/816653">http://ridewithgps.com/routes/816653</a> Optional preregistration open on BCP web calendar (<a href="http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar">http://phillybikeclub.org/newbcp/rides/calendar</a>)until Thursday, June 28, 2012 at 11:30 pm. <b>Contact Linda McGrane at 267-251-7862 . or mcgrane_linda_a@yahoo.com</b></p>
<p><b>Sat, Jun 30 9:00 am</b> Miles:25 +/- Class:C+ <b>Ira's Old Ride</b></p>	<p>This is a hilly ride from Media to the Westtown School and back. We will meet at the parking lot at the west end of State Street in Media, formerly known as "the parking lot next to Selene's" (of blessed memory). It's the parking lot at the end of all the stores, on the right, as you head west (although it seems like south) on State Street. We may add a hill or two. No one dropped. To join this ride, you have been riding 2-3 days a week, 20-40 miles or 1-3 hours per ride, and are able to ride long hills. <b>Contact Shelley Epstein at or 4epsteins@comcast.net</b></p>

### Synopsis of DVBC May Board Meeting

The May DVBC Board met on May 10th. Nancy, Doug, Alex, Mary, Mike, Tom, and Larry attended. Absent were Rich, Linda and Dom. The meeting focused entirely on the upcoming Bonkers Tour scheduled for Sunday, May 20th.

- **Food:** Deb and Alex are purchasing the non-perishable food - energy bars, PB&J, trailmix, etc. Mary will get the bread. Dave C. will donate fruit - bananas, oranges, watermelons - from 320 Market. Tony will get the Linvilla pies. Julie will pick up the soft pretzels. Larry will get the bagels donated by Media bagel shop.
- **Road Painting:** Doug and Tom G. are heading up the painting effort and had a good turnout for the paint ride on the 12th. Bob & Judy L. painted the Delaware section before that.
- **Site Logistics:** Mike B. coordinated with Ridley Creek State Park, the rest stop location at Cheney and porta-potty rentals. Doug B. has canopies, tables, water, gatorade, various rest stop supplies left over from past tours. Doug will rent a truck to haul all the supplies.
- **Registration:** Mike B. reported that there were 55 on-line registrations.
- **Volunteers:** Debbie is coordinating the volunteers and assigning work stations. (19 volunteers so far).
- **SAG:** Tony is SAG director. Larry acquired spare tubes from Cycle Fit. First Aid kits will be purchased.
- **Advertising:** Mary coordinated earlier in spring with local clubs and the Bicycle Coalition of Phila. to put our tour on their events calendar. Tony printed a bunch of tri-fold pamphlets which Mike B. and Doug have distributed to local bike shops.

## BONKERS Cartoons of the DVBC....

by Bob LaDrew



## The Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail Needs You!

By Ira Josphehs

I'm sure many of you have heard about our forthcoming rail trail conversion but probably most of you don't know the details or current news. After about 17 years, we are getting really close to finalizing the engineering study and beginning construction of phase 1, but due to a lawsuit, forced design changes, and maintenance down the line, we really need to raise some funds. Individual memberships and/or tax deductible donations in any amount would be greatly appreciated and can be made at the [Friends of the Chester Creek Branch \(FOCCB\) website](#). We are an all volunteer non profit organization trying to make a positive impact in the community, especially for cyclists! Please read on for more info.

### Overview

Our plan for the Chester Creek Branch Trail (CCB) is a 6.7 mile long, 10 foot wide, asphalt-paved trail from the East Coast Greenway in Chester to the Middletown Township trail system just west of Baltimore Pike. It closely follows the very scenic Chester Creek and passes through Middletown, Aston and Chester Township, and has been divided up into 3 phases for engineering and construction.

Our first phase which is the one 'oh so close' to completion is 2.8 miles long from Lenni Road to Creek Road in Middletown including about 1000' in Aston Township. We are hoping that after the initial section is done and folks are enjoying it, we will move much faster with the next two phases. At the west end our feasibility study only goes as far as Lenni Road, but while Septa is trying to reopen the Media Line (Regional Rail) to the Wawa Station in Chester Heights, they are also studying how they can include a rail - with - trail, taking us over to Baltimore Pike. At the other end, our trail stops at the Caleb Pusey House in Upland but we are pretty sure we will be able to get it all the way to the East Coast Greenway in Chester.

### Some History

The railroad was originally built after the Civil War and was important for the development of Southern Delaware County. It served many mills, factories and warehouses that are mostly not in use today. There have been some conversions like the huge old mill on the creek

off of Lenni Road that is now the home of several artist studios.

The rail line hasn't been in use since Hurricane Agnes caused some major washouts in 1972 and if you walk the line today you can see where some tracks are still just hanging in the air.

Mike Fusco, president of FOCCB and an Aston resident and cyclist, originated the idea to convert it to a trail. He has had much help along the way, in the beginning from the National Rails to Trails organization, and then later, from the Delaware County Planning Department. About 17+ years ago, I volunteered to be the chair of the newly formed DelCo chapter of the Bike Coalition of the Delaware Valley. When I heard about Mike's idea, I invited him to a meeting and the trail soon became our primary focus. When it started to gel and we had some money coming in, we became a project of the Chester - Ridley - Crum Watersheds Association. As we grew, we formed our own 501c3 non profit. Mike is still leading the effort and has given countless hours and resources to make his dream a reality.

Some of you probably can't imagine how it could take this long but according to the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the average rail trail takes 20 to 30 years to build! One of our biggest difficulties was just getting SEPTA, the property owner, to even talk to us. A railbanking arrangement was negotiated, whereby FOCCB in partnership with Delaware County, leases the property for \$1 a year, assumes liability and keeps the property from reverting back to the original owners in case SEPTA ever wants to rebuild the rail line. There have also been countless meetings, conference calls, reviewing of work bids and proposals, and talking to nearby residents. Fortunately, Aston and Middletown Townships are very supportive, as well as Linvilla and many residents. But at several meetings before Middletown approved our final design, there were some outspoken NIMBYS (not in my backyard!) and now we are being sued.

### Our Funding

We have memberships and get individual contributions that are tax deductible. We have received grants from the William Penn Foundation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and DelCo Community Development Block Grants. You might have heard at the DVBC An-

nual Holiday Banquet that our club usually graces us with a donation. Thanks to all of you for that! We are not relying on any local taxes. We actually have all the funds secured for construction of this first phase.

Up until very recently, all the rails were still in place which represent a good amount as steel scrap. We were planning for this to be used for trail maintenance after construction. Unbelievably, a bunch of them recently disappeared; someone stole our railroad tracks, about 1500 feet, 30,000 lbs, \$20,000 worth!

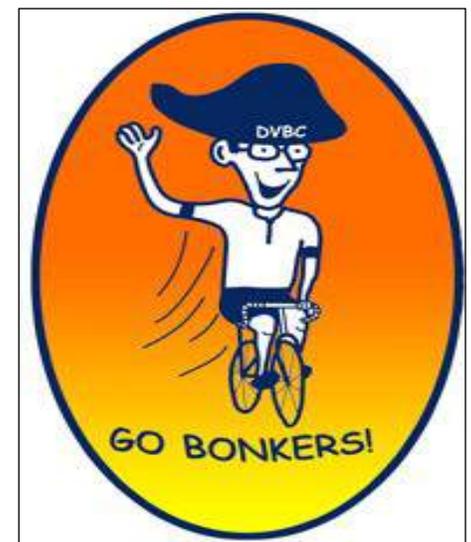
### Today

Right now, the corridor is very overgrown and much of it very hazardous to walk, let alone bike. But we have surpassed most of the obstacles and after 17 years, another year or so to finish the final design, put out a bid for construction, approve a contractor and actually put a shovel in the ground feels incredibly close, and it is very exciting.

Soon we will have a 10 foot paved trail from Lenni Road to Creek Road near Linvilla Orchards. It will go across the steel bridge over Pennell Road, under Knowlton Road at its low point and across the creek from the Aston baseball fields. In the future, it will connect the Middletown Trail system near the Rocky Run Y to the East Coast Greenway in Chester and open up this scenic corridor for families to walk and bike, fisherman and cyclists wanting to get from one place to another on a safer route. It will also preserve this valuable greenspace for future generations.

It has really been a monumental effort and we hope you will support us any way you can. We really need it now more than ever.

Thanks!



**Fx Asked....You Answered By FX Pedrix**

In the April newsletter I asked "What is Your Most Memorable Ride." My most memorable ride occurred back when I was a sophomore in college. I was riding back to my dorm after a class when I came upon the cutest girl I've ever seen. She was on the side of the road trying to fix a flat on her Raleigh. I jumped into action and fixed that flat and then asked her to join me for a coke. She did. That cute girl still rides with me and she is even lovelier now. Yep, my lovely wife Babs is still my favorite biking companion. Read on for more memorable rides.

This is a tough one because there are so many memorable rides but it must be my first attempt at a century in NJ with Dan, Misty & Cheryl way back in 2007. At mile 85 I had such excruciating stabbing right rear shoulder pain that I begged Dan to please just go and I would meet him & the rest at the next food stop. As soon as he couldn't see me, I sat on the grass on the ride of the road and cried my eyes out. Then I called my husband and told him I could not ride another foot on my bike and I started walking while I talked with him. I walked for about 5 minutes and realized I could ride again. I hobbled (rode slowly) to the food stop and Dan gave me a shorter route to get back to ride start. I finished the ride alone and had 95 miles. After that ride, things got better and better : ) -Smiling

**Gourmet, Mary Huis**

My most Memorable Ride: I don't know the year but it was early winter around 2004. Ira led a ride with about 6 riders from the Moylan train station out to West Chester. It was a quick group and we had nice pace for the early part down to the Brandywine. As we climbed Miner St, the exact halfway point, it started to snow. By the time, we got to Westtown, there was 1" of snow. By the time, we got back, it was about 4" and snowing like crazy. We still managed a steady 15mph. It was by far the coolest/dumbest I have ever felt on a bike. Snow had built up around my hubs, rims and bottom bracket. Riding my bike along with the others in the quiet and beauty of all that snow was magic. No kidding. I came home all puffed up and full of swagger for what I had just done. My wife barely noticed I had gone anywhere, let alone see me for the hero I was. Thanks Ira, coolest ride ever. -David C

The first time that I did the American Cancer Society ride. The cheering and clapping at the end of the ride brought out a lot of emotion that I had been thinking about for the entire 60 miles -Gary Stewart

It's really hard for me to choose just one ride because there are just too many to choose from. I've seen lots of beautiful scenery and ridden with so many great friends. In the end though, I think my most memorable ride has to be this . . . I was 4 1/2 yrs old and hadn't yet achieved the balance skills to ride my first two-wheeler. I was at my friend, Scotty's, house. He put me on his gold bike which was a little bit smaller than mine, and gave me a push running next to me. Off I went riding by myself on the dirt path he had worn in his back yard. I was ecstatic and felt so free. I immediately jumped on my own bike with my new found confidence and off the two of us went up and down the sidewalk for the rest of the day and all that summer. That joy and freedom still happens every time I'm on a bike. -Dreamer

That's all she/they wrote. Shame they weren't more. I know everyone has at least one memorable ride, whether it's memorable because it was so great or because there were too many flats, too many bugs, or too much rain.

**FX PEDRIX NEEDS YOU....**

FX has been threatened with a loss of column space. Unless you the reader prove to the upper level suits and bean counters that our readership has a pulse and at least a moderate IQ, FX will be silenced and relegated to the dust bin of DVBC newsletter history.

So each month, Fx will pose you and you a question of questionable taste. FX will read your answers and then post them here the following month in this venerable monthly to be read by you, our target audience. Help Prove FX is Relevant.

*What are your favorite type of pedals? Why?*

Don't be shy. Be honest. Be bold.

Send all comments, correspondence and complaints to:

**llovetpedrix@gmail.com**

**A Member Responds**

Hi Mr. Pedrix--

I really enjoyed your work in the recent issue--all except the part where you took a shot at me!

Here is something for your next Bike Dirt. It has a visual with it but I am assuming it will not pass through the federal government's filter so I will send it also to **David Cunicelli**. Briefly, it is a photo of a huge **Buckeye** and **Gigi** sitting in a tiny mini-Cooper convertible with large bikes on the back.

With the recent drop in attendance at our club's paid tours the Board has had to pare expenses. First to go was the presidential jet which had been provided as a perk to our President Buckeye and the First Lady Gigi. Instead, our illustrious leader's compensation package now includes the humbler MINI Cooper convertible which our inventive president had to modify so it can transport the First Family and their bicycles to public appearances. We think you will agree that the two bring a regal look to a car that was developed for the common person.

**Bob La**



*A king and his queen enjoy Mini luxury ...closer to their subjects*

*In Memoriam...*  
**Nick Marandola**

Nick passed away suddenly on May 20, 2012. He was known as **Pool Boy** in DVBC because of his habit of riding close to home so he could get back to hang out in his pool. Nick was one of the nicest people ever and an all-around great guy. He was a very strong road, mtb rider, and runner. He will be missed.



Delaware Valley Bicycle Club  
 P.O. Box 156  
 Swarthmore, PA 19081  
 www.dvbc.org

**APPLICATION FOR DVBC MEMBERSHIP** (See page 3 of this newsletter for new membership policy.)

Membership includes: DVBC newsletter (10 issues/year), discounts at most Club sponsors, Club subsidized events.  
 Your membership also helps influence local government decisions concerning bicycle issues.

**Annual membership: \$15 per household**

CIRCLE ONE: **NEW** or **RENEWING** Member  
 Newsletter Preference: **Printed copy** (via US Mail) or  
**PDF** (via E-mail—saves trees and \$\$)

Please print clearly and use your 9-digit zip code, if known:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**The DVBC Safety Fund is used to promote issues regarding cycling safety in the Delaware Valley.**

I wish to contribute (circle appropriate amount):

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**

\$15 membership + \_\_\_\_\_ Safety Fund = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I will volunteer for (circle all interests)**

*Ride Leader Tour Volunteer Newsletter*

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your check or money order to: Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 156, Swarthmore, PA 19081**

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry into the DVBC, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in the DVBC. In addition, this release is intended to discharge in advance the promoters, the sponsors, the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, the promoting clubs, the officials, and any involved municipalities or other public entities (and their respective agents and employees) from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in any event, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons mentioned above.

I further understand that serious accidents occasionally occur during bicycle riding; and that participants in bicycle riding occasionally sustain mortal or serious personal injuries, and/or property damage, as a consequence thereof. Knowing the risks of bicycle riding, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release, and assumption of risk is to be binding to my heirs and assigns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of parent or guardian (if under 18 years)