



March 2008

MARCH Adult Ride

Washington Park to Cherry Creek Reservoir
Saturday 15 March 2008
10:00 am

Front Rangers Cycling Club kicks off the 2008 cycling season with the very popular and spirited adult and junior racer ride. We will meet at 10:00am in the parking lot on the northwest corner of Washington Park (Just south of Virginia and east of Downing) and be riding by 10:30 sharp. If you're late, you'll be chasing. We will set a casual pace on the way out, so everyone can stay together to Cherry Creek Reservoir. Once there, the action starts - the group can split up and ride around the reservoir at blistering speeds for a few laps. Your choice... We'll then re-convene by the park's west entrance shack and ride back to Washington Park. We need a new group picture so please wear your FRCC jerseys and bring your smiling faces. We are updating the web site photos. J Thanks!

After that, who knows? Maybe lunch, more riding, relaxing with a cup of coffee in the sun. It's almost St Patrick's Day, so maybe a hearty dose of corned beef and cabbage....

For any adults who have not signed and turned in their adult release form, please bring it with you that morning The release form can be printed out from the FRCC web site. www.frontrangersdenver.org/releases

This is the traditional FRCC ride for adults and junior racers. It gives all cyclists a chance to interact and meet the new members. The more the merrier, so please bring a friend, and enjoy the ride! Remember: If it's over 40 degrees and no precipitation... WE RIDE!

Message from the President

I wanted to take a minute to share something with you that occurred to me when I reflected on the things I heard and saw at the dinner we had on February 26th. At that dinner, I suggested that what we do, by our activities in this organization, is the legacy that we will leave behind when we walk away from our time on this planet. That may sound pretty absurd to some, but not to Fred Mahe. As Fred related to us at the dinner, every year, he gathers his friends, and rides his bike 65 miles for his birthday. He collects some money, "cause somebody should pay for that, right?" and then he donates that money to the Front Rangers. It's not a lot of money by some standards. It's a fortune by others. And only a very few of us are even aware of what Fred does. The first year he did it, he was met at the finish line by a solitary figure with a Front Rangers jersey in his hand. Corky Reed had gone out there alone, nobody knew, just to say thank you to Fred for his selfless gesture. Two men. No grand displays. Just being themselves. Can you feel what a difference they are making in the lives of the people they touch? These are your fellow Front Rangers. You have that inside you. That's why you are here. *Let's Get Some Kids on Bikes.*

We've got our Adult Ride coming up here in a couple of weeks March 15th at Wash Park. Let's plan on having a good time getting re-acquainted, but let's also take some time to get prepared for the upcoming kid's rides. We've got maintenance that needs done on the bikes, and we should all spend some time with Dave Kennedy to plan our driving schedule for the year. Let's make driving for these kids a priority and put it on our calendars now, and schedule our personal activities around it!



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Message, continues...

For the maintenance work, let's talk about when would be a good time to head over to the storage shed to fix tires, add slime, etc. so that when we head to that first ride on April 19th, we can give the kids a quality experience. Right now March 29th or 30th are on the table. Check your schedule and let's pitch in and make it quick, easy and fun!!

See you on the 15th.

The Starfish Story

There was once a wise old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. One day as he walked along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man, and the young man wasn't dancing; but instead was reaching down to the shore, picking up starfish, and very gently throwing them into the ocean.

"Good morning! What are you doing?" asked the wise man. The young man paused, looked up, and replied,

"Throwing starfish into the ocean. The sun is rising, and the tide is out. And if I don't throw them in, they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles of beach and thousands of starfish all along it? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man, listening politely, bent down and picked up another starfish, throwing it into the sea past the breaking waves. Turning to the old man, he modestly replied,

"It made a difference for that one."

Bicycle Advocacy

As many of us that have been riding on the streets for years recognize, it is getting tougher and tougher to find safe routes on which to ride. The explosion of development in metro Denver means that we as cyclists must venture further out to the frontiers of progress to enjoy a long 'Sunday' ride. Many cities have created recreational trail systems to provide a sheltered, secure feeling from automobile traffic, but even these are getting congested with other users. In many cases, the trail systems are even in jeopardy, as large developments encroach upon these previously vacant lands. There is something you can do to protect our interests in the cycling community – get involved in bicycling advocacy. Many cities and counties have study groups associated with road widening and development planning. For instance, there's currently a group evaluating traffic and widening of Parker Road from Hampden to the City of Parker. www.parkerroadcorridor.com One of the 'stakeholder' groups is the cycling and recreational trail users, who are participating to make our needs heard for safe cycling routes. A similar study was just completed for the Arapahoe Road corridor, where the cycling stakeholder group pushed insured that our routes across Arapahoe were safe (underpasses, marked routes, etc) and a route parallel to Arapahoe would be signed for cyclists.

Participation in these 'stakeholder' groups is FREE, and open to all. You'll notice racer types, commuters, and even older recreational cyclists involved – in fact, its amazing who comes out of the woodwork when safe cycling routes are brought up. So pay attention to your local city and county websites for opportunities to speak up. Check out the Bicycle Colorado as a starting point, where you'll also find links to local advocacy groups (in your town, in your



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Bicycle Advocacy, continues

favourite cycling regions, etc).
<http://bicyclecolo.org/>

It's a blast to meet new faces at these meetings, and be recognized for our commitment to a great healthy sport and lifestyle. As Front Rangers, we are about *getting kids on bikes!* Let's be sure our kids have safe places to ride these bikes as they grow older and venture out farther on Colorado's beautiful roads.

FRCC Annual Scholarship Fund

The Club will be awarding scholarships to deserving youth members for its 3rd year, and this year the available funding has grown significantly. Club Members worked to create this scholarship fund with the hope that it would inspire the youth to continue through higher education without boundaries, serve as a role model to other members of a directed and healthy lifestyle, and raise awareness of the Front Rangers Cycling Club and cycling in general. The Front Rangers Cycling Club Scholarship Fund provides direct scholarship support to members and former members of the Front Rangers Cycling Club. The goal of the fund is to lighten the financial burden of pursuing a higher education. The fund is supported through individual and corporate contributions. We welcome all applications adhering to the criteria outlined in this application.

Please contact Dave Stevens at IRNGATE@aol.com for more information, an application, and tips for completing the application. Deadline for application is Wednesday 30 April 2008

What song do you sing?

Cycling can be a solitary sport when you are training or riding alone. If you are like me, you might have favourite songs you sing to yourself as you pedal. Maybe songs specific to riding into the wind, or riding in the rain; tunes to help you divert attention from the task at hand, or to compliment the joy of a tailwind. If you've taken a spin class, this association of music and riding becomes that much more real. These could also be selections from your IPOD playlist, songs to warm up by for a specific race or event. Anyway, I'd love to compile a FRCC disk of riding music, music as another bridge to our cohesive group. Please send music titles and stories/associations to Jim Levy jaguar.56@comcast.net so we may get this project underway. Ideally, we'll have copies for all at the next membership dinner, or earlier. It could be the soundtrack to the next photo slideshow!!! I hope you'll participate with me.

Membership Dinner

Approximately 60 members of our club enjoyed an evening of socializing, eating, and recognition this past week at Maggianos Restaurant downtown; the annual membership dinner. Roger Smith did an amazing job of being our Master of Ceremonies. We recognized Paul Braun's leadership over the past years, and welcomed in Tim Crossen as our new leader. We recognized all new officers and Board members, and took honour in celebrating Chief Gerry Whitman as a founder and ongoing supporter of our program. The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by Sharon Bair, last years recipient, to Bryan Slay for his unconditional support and commitment to our Kids. Bryan has come to know all these kids personally, and has built a special relationship with all Front Rangers. And not to be forgotten



Membership Dinner, continues

is the special THANKS to all sponsors who enable our club to thrive. Its all of us as volunteers and participants that make the difference in the club, that make the difference in the Kids' lives, and enrich our own lives though service to others.

FRCC contacts

President: Tim Crossen, timc@baderburke.com
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2008 Youth Ride Dates

Save these dates, join us in making a difference, participate with the Club.

Saturday March 15th: Annual Adult Ride from Washington Park
Saturday April 19th: Cherry Creek Bike Path – Cottonwood Park
Saturday May 10th: Stapleton
Saturday June 7th: Golden
Saturday July 12th: Waterton Canyon
Sunday August 3rd: Bannock Race
Saturday September 13th: Summit County
Saturday October 18th: Chatfield Reservoir
Saturday November 15th: Wildlife Experience and end-of-season party

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HB 1104

Mentioned in last month's newsletter, HB 1104 passed the full House with a vote of 60-5. The next step is for the bill to be considered by the Senate.

The bill creates a broader range of consequences for persons failing to yield right of way resulting in bodily injury or death. This bill gives the justice system more options when injury results from someone failing to yield the right of way. House Bill 1104 creates a new Class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense called "aggravated right of way offense." Right of way infractions are responsible for many crashes involving bicycles and motor vehicles.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If this issue is important to you, here is how to make your voice heard.

1. Contact your state representative and senator, asking them to support this bill. Use the link below to search for the legislators in your district.
2. Share this information with bicyclists you know. The more people who contact their state legislators, the more likely the bill will pass and provide greater protections to bicyclists.

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- I would like to ask for your vote in favor of House Bill 1104 – the "right-of-way" bill.
- I am supportive of creating a range of penalties for persons responsible for failing to yield right of way resulting in bodily injury or death.
- While making a left turn or pulling out of a driveway into another person's path may seem like a relatively minor crash, these may result in life-changing or life-ending injuries for bicyclists.
- Our current laws have a loophole, allowing minor penalties as little as a \$10 fine, regardless of the nature of the injuries. This bill fixes that loophole and provides the justice system with more tools to appropriately hold offenders responsible.
- The public owned right of way is open to all legal modes of travel, including bicycles. Our laws are an important tool in ensuring that all members of the public may travel safely in that right of way.
- I ask for your positive vote on HB 1104. Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments on this bill.