

Saddle-Post Intelligencer

The Voice of the Skagit Bicycle Club -Skagit County-Washington

October 2013

Retro Ride Retrospective

August 18, La Conner

by Ken Rasmussen

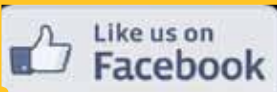
The Seventh Annual Retro Ride had an excellent field of bicycles this year. Every bicycle on display was outstanding. I was scratching my head and wondering which bike to cast my black bicycle voting bean for. Finally I gave up and voted for my 1936 BSA tandem. It was a good thing I did--that's the only vote it got, even though it had won "Best in Show" at the Pickford Show and Shine two nights before. The winner turned out to be a 1953 Five Star Superb Columbia cruiser owned by Con Rigas, which would have been my choice if I hadn't had our tandem to vote for. Initially it didn't impress me much--it looked like a mint condition replica. I was absolutely blown away when I heard that Con had had it in his possession since 1953, and that he'd had it professionally restored in the mid-nineties. The restoration was so good that I'll bet it looked better than new. Con also rode it with considerable distinction--keeping pace for most of the ride with the "fast" group. The fast group was fast only in that it was faster than the several other groups. I would characterize the speed as a spirited amble. However it did have some former racers piloting their Bianchis, Cinellis, and whatnot, and to keep up on a cruiser or for that matter, a 1936 BSA tandem, took some vigorous pedaling.

Kathea and I got the most beans for Best Costume, and Best Overall Effect. Our outfits were well matched to our bike. I was a little embarrassed to get two awards at our own event. I hope we'll have more folks scheming to win the costume contest next year. Kirsten and Lew Plummer, Janice Lisherness, Jane Monroe, and Cheryl Minor have all shown brilliant costumes in the past. We passed our Best Overall Effect award to Terry Hickox for his brilliant, slightly late entry, wearing a clown suit and riding a rowcycle. He came rowing up the hill to the museum (huffing a bit) and completely disrupted the proceedings. Someone took a photo of me at that instant. My mouth was hanging wide open as if I was trying to catch flies.

We had each owner tell us about his or her bicycle prior to the judging. This is the first year we've done that, and it really added a lot to the event. Kyla Hoggins and the Skagit County Historical Museum went out of their way to be welcoming and enthusiastic hosts. They donated prizes, set up tables, and helped create a great atmosphere. The after ride meal at the Pub Tavern was a big success. Kathea remarked afterwards how unusual it was to listen to the table talk of a bunch of guys that really love old bikes. She's right. It is odd.

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<http://www.facebook.com/SkagitBicycleClub>

There was a little behind-the-scenes drama at our house before the event. I had been contending with a number of impediments regarding the restoration of our tandem. I was nearly finished on the previous Saturday--all I had to do was to adjust the gears. Unfortunately, I broke a previous mechanic's improvised shift cable while I was comprehending how the antique derailleur worked. The original cable had been a continuous loop with cast fittings diametrically opposed to each other. The odds of getting a tandem length replacement were nearly nil--especially in a week. I studied things for a couple of days, and realized that the derailleur was incorrectly mounted to the frame, and that's why it wouldn't adjust. I got that corrected and improvised fittings that allowed me to use a pair of contemporary shift cables. One of the fittings had a prong that engaged with the shifter, holes for each shift cable, holes for two set screws, and an exit hole for the cables. Four of the five holes were drilled edgewise through the 1/8" thick fitting which was smaller than a dime. It was a tricky little part to make! The other fitting was simpler. Our tandem has quite a history. In 1946 Tony and Gwen Sobieralski, friends of my mother, rode the bike from Seattle to Central America. The bike weighs over 60 pounds, the lowest of the three gears is really a medium gear, and the bike is difficult to steer. Tony and Gwen carried all their gear. They were real heros.

Skagit Bicycle Club's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2012 at 6:00 PM
Sedro Woolley Senior Center
715 Pacific Place—Sedro Woolley

The meeting is open to all club members and the club will provide a catered Mexican dinner. If you plan to attend, PLEASE RSVP to Bill Thayer, 360 757 2679 or bhthayer@frontier.com by Tuesday October 9.

Election of club officers for the 2014 and voting for the recipients of the club's charitable donations will be conducted. Current club officers and ride Leaders will be recognized and presented with appreciation awards.

This year's Charity List: Skagit County Parks and Recreation
Skagit County EMX/Medic 1 Helmet Coalition
Skagit County Active Community Task Force
Bicycle racks at Ferry Landing at dock in Anacortes

This year's guest-speaker is Willie Weir who is the author of Travels with Willie and Sokesongs, a columnist for Adventure Cyclist magazine and is know to public radio listeners for his commentaries aired on KUOW in Seattle. His writings have appeared newspapers across the country and earned him a gold and bronze Thomas Award given by the Society of American Travel Writers. He has cycled over 60,000 miles throughout the world.

I hope to see you at the meeting.
Gordon Odegaard



The Pace Line

By Gordon Odegaard



We have all taken road trips and took our bicycles along to sneak in a bike ride. Joanne and I drove to Palo Alto to attend a wedding of a relative at Stanford. The first day we made it to Portland to visit an old friend we had met in 1964 while attending graduate school at Northern Arizona University. We reconnected some years later while I was attending school at the University of Iowa. Portland as we all know has been hailed as the most bike friendly city in the United States. So I was anxious to do some cycling in Portland. I had done STP several years ago before Portland was so well know for cycling. Shortly after arriving at our hotel just south of the city center I had changed into my cycling clothes including my Skagit Bicycle Club jersey. And was off for a ride with my friend Tom who knows the city well. I was not long when we were out of the city's traffic and out on a never ending bike trail. The trail crossed several streets where the car traffic always yielded to the bikes. The thing I noticed was the attitude displayed toward cyclist, it was outstanding. I was also impressed by the number of cyclist of all shapes and sizes.. There were riders in full riding gear as well as ladies in dresses coming from the office. There were road bikes as well as cross bikes and mountain bikes and even a few single speed bikes like so many of us had as kids. Bicycling is just a way of life in Portland. Needless to say, I really enjoyed myself especially after spending several hours in the car driving to Portland. I had looked forward to this ride all day and I was not disappointed.

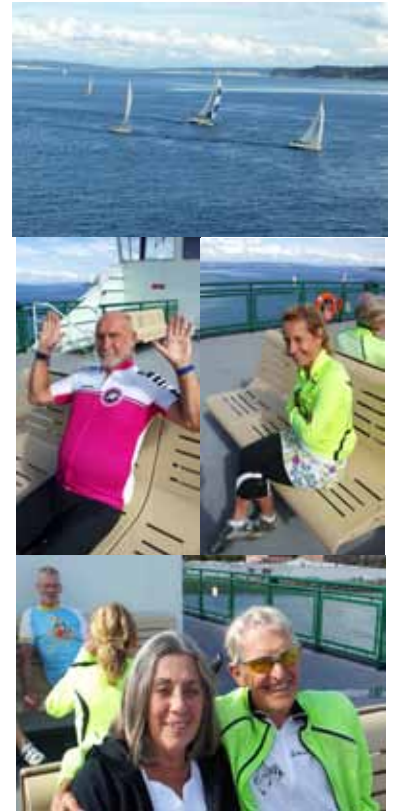
The next stop was Palo Alto where I did not have an experienced cyclist showing the routes to ride. I did receive an outline of a very nice ride that extends around and beyond Stanford University. So from our location I spent the next three hours trying to find my way to the route along busy California traffic. By the time I reached the beginning of the route it was time to head back which was equally as difficult. The roads in Palo Alto are not nice even blocks but run in odd directions and are sometimes interrupted by either a freeway of BART. After a few calls to our hostess I finally made it back in time to attend the rehearsal dinner for the wedding. The wedding was the next day and I must say it was the most elaborate wedding I have ever attended, but I did not find a single cyclist there! The one thing I must say about the Palo Alto area most streets have a marked bicycle lane so bicycling is important to the area.

The return trip home was a direct drive from San Jose where I visited a cousin I had not seen in 43 years. It was a great visit. We did not stop for cycling on the way home. Trips are fun but it is always great to come home. Within a few hours at home I had the bike out on a familiar route and felt great after so many days off.

Rides Report

Port Townsend to Fort Flagler
(aka "The Vlasak Classic") on August 24, 2013
By Greg Vlasak

We had a beautiful day for our challenging 52 mile ride from Port Townsend to Fort Flagler State Park on the tip of Marrowstone Island and back to the Port Townsend Public House for well-deserved burgers and beverages! Hanspeter Gehrig's Garmin told us that we had climbed just over 4000 feet that day in the many hills along our route. Also joining from SBC were Gordon Odegaard, Mary Felker and Jerry Ziegler. Some of my cycling buddies from around the area came as well: Ken Wallis from Everett, Terri Iverson from Seattle, Kevin Semler from Tacoma, Betsy McInnes from Issaquah, and Werner Krampfl from Vancouver, B.C. Next year when I lead the 12th Annual Vlasak Classic, I sure hope that I get more SBCers to join in this great ride. The ferry ride back in the afternoon is beautiful as we sat on the upper deck of the boat in the glorious sun and shared great tales of our cycling adventures!



Telling Tales of Drunkenness and Cruelty*
by Ken Rasmussen

Kathea and I had ridden the tandem to Concrete to have lunch at Annie's Pizza which turned out to be closed, so we stopped to investigate the Swap Meet while we worked out Plan B. It seems to be characteristic of tandem riding that people like to come and talk to us. Usually they like to make jokes such as, "Why doesn't your wife pedal too?" In this instance, I fell into conversation with a fellow, and we began to exchange cycling stories. He told one, I told one, and then he told me this story which I'll repeat for you:

"Many years ago, a friend of mine had a nice red convertible. It was his habit to put a cooler full of ice and beer in the back seat and go for a drive in the country. Every so often he'd pop the top on a nice frosty one and drink it down. One day he stopped at a deli to get more beer. While he was in the deli, a van full of kids parked next to his car. When he went to back out his vision was blocked by the van. I, I mean he, backed carefully out, then glanced in his rearview mirror to check before he pulled out into the road. What he saw surprised him a lot. A fellow dressed like a cyclist was sitting in my--his--back seat next to the cooler. The cyclist's arms were folded across his chest and he had quite a stern expression on his face. I asked him if he'd care for a beer? His expression softened a little, and he said "Yes." I reached back and got a beer and handed it to him. He popped the top and took a drink. My friend asked the cyclist what he was doing there. He said that he'd been riding his bicycle an instant before, and the next thing he knew, a red convertible had backed out of nowhere, sweeping his bike out from beneath him, and somersaulting him into the back seat."

"That's quite a story," I said. "One thing confuses me though. Did this happen to a friend of yours, or to you?"

"I know," he said. "I find that confusing too. I think that the beer does that."

**from The Kinks, "Sunny Afternoon"*



Fourth Annual Bellingham Tweed Ride

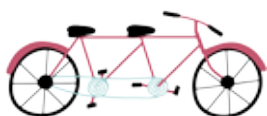
Start: 13 October 2013 1:00 pm

Dust off your tweeds and lace and enjoy a dandy day of pedaling on a tour through Bellingham. Show off your fashions in a photo stop at Elizabeth Park, then cruise through the Old Downtown, ending at Chuckanut Brewery for post-parade refreshments and music. All ages welcome. Co-hosted by Black Market Boutique.

Tweed Ride is an international phenomenon, celebrated on different dates throughout the U.S. and other countries, all in the spirit of showing the refined and elegant side of cycling apparel.

Meet at Maritime Heritage Park at 12:30 pm, ride departs at 1:00 pm

Submitted by Ken Rasmussen



SKAGIT BICYCLE CLUB GENERAL MEETING MINUTES September 3, 2013

Present: Gordon Odegaard, Janice Lisherness, Shaun Bridge, Marshall Will, Mike Tallering, Colby Plagge, Dan Sandstrom, Jamie Wells, Jennifer Winson, Steve & Dian Jahn and Marci Maulden.

Welcome to new member Daphne Riquelme from Stanwood.

Ride Leader's Report:

Janice Lisherness has ordered fleece vests for the annual ride leader awards to be given out in October. Bill Thayer has always led enough rides to qualify for an award but due to his serious bicycle accident this year, he was not able to ride. In recognition of all his work for the club, a motion was made and passed to award Bill a ride leader award this year.

Old Business:

The ballot for officers, board members, and other volunteer positions for 2014 will include the following:

President: Dan Sandstrom
Vice President: Colby Plagge
Secretary: Marci Maulden
Treasurer: Shaun Bridge

Board Members:

Mike Tallering through the end of 2014
Justin Dahl through the end of 2014
Jane Monroe to replace Colby Plagge through the end of 2015
Jamie Wells to replace Shaun Bridge through the end of 2015
Scott Rittscher through the end of 2016
Cindy McGuinness through the end of 2016

Volunteer Positions:

Newsletter Editor: Rose Ploeg
Ride Coordinator: Janice Lisherness
Spring Classic Coordinator: Colby Plagge
Bridge Sweep Coordinators: Steve & Dian Jahn



There will be no bridge sweep this fall. Instead, Steve Jahn will use the sweeper to go over the bridge bicycle/walking lane by himself.

Special Olympics (Skagit Branch), Skagit County Medic One: Bicycle Helmet Program, and Skagit County Active Community Taskforce were charities that the Skagit Bicycle Club voted to make contributions to at the October 2012 annual meeting. This year, it was suggested that we add the Tommy Thompson Trail and the Skagit County Parks and Recreation to our list of charities to be voted on which have included, not only those organizations which have received monies, but also Bakerview BMX. Gordon will place some information about each of the charities in the October newsletter.

The 2013 Skagit Bicycle Club annual meeting will be held at the senior center in Sedro Woolley on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:00pm. The Christmas party will be held at Skagit Gardens on Sunday, December 1st at 6:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm. The next SBC Board Meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, October 8th at Dimensional Communications on 1220 Anderson Road, Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted by Marci Maulden

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
RR	Road Ride		1		2		3		4		5		6
MTB	Mountain Bike						11:00 am Edgewater Park Mount Vernon MRR-Joy Ride Janice Lisherness 360 391 3931		9:00 am Conway Red Barn MRR-Breakfast Ride Jean Sattler-Will 360 710 9577		10:00 am Red Barn Ramble Conway Red Barn RR-All riding levels Jamie Wells 360 941 1270		
TT	Time Trial												
RLH	Ride Leader's Home												
Ride Pace:													
E	Easy under 10mph												
S	Social 10-12 mph												
M	Moderate 12-16 mph												
B	Brisk 16-20 mph												
ST	Strenuous 20+ mph												
If weather is questionable call the ride leader													
	7		8		9		10		11		12		13
	10:00 am MRR March Point Park & Ride Anacortes Mike Tallering 360 326 8523		6:00 pm SBC Mtg. Dimensional Communications 1220 Anderson Rd, M.V. Gordon Odegaard 360 421 0573		Contact Bill Thayer to RSVP for Annual Meeting Call: 360 7572679 Email: bhthayer@ frontier.com		11:00 am Edgewater Park Mount Vernon MRR-Joy Ride Jane Monroe 360 424 4619				10:00 am BRR Washington School - West Mount Vernon Jim Finch 360 770 5915		2:00 pm SRR RLH-17534 Fir Island Rd Conway Jeannette Folkertsma 360 445 5924
	14		15		16		17		18		19		20
	10:00 am MRR March Point Park & Ride- Anacortes Gordon Odegaard 360 410 0573				Annual Meeting All Club Members 6:00 PM Sedro Woolley Senior Center Guest Speaker Willey Wier		11:00 am Edgewater Park Mount Vernon MRR-Joy Ride rain cancels Kent Stellby 360 299 8912		9:00 am Conway Red Barn MRR Breakfast Ride Marshall Will 360 929 5003		9:00 am BRR Mount Baker Middle School-Mount Vernon Colby Plagge 360 540 4554		
	21		22		23		24		25		26		27
	10:00 am MRR March Point Park & Ride Anacortes Dan Sandstrom 360 708 7108 Steve Jahns 425 830 4981						11:00 am Edgewater Park Mount Vernon MRR-Joy Ride Linda White 360 770 1050		 Newsletter Deadline		10:00 am MRR RLH-17534 Fir Island Rd Conway Jeannette Folkertsma 360 445 5924		
	28		29		30		31	<div data-bbox="909 1627 1550 2037" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h1>October</h1> <h1>2013</h1>  </div>					
	10:00 am MR March Point Park & Ride- Anacortes Dan Sandstrom 360 708 7108 Steve Jahns 425 830 4981						11:00 am Edgewater Park Mount Vernon MRR Halloween Ride- Costumes!! Jerry Ziegler 253 906 7975						

Skagit Bicycle Club Membership Form

Club Information

Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00

Check One: New Membership
 Renewal

MAIL TO:

Skagit Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 363 Burlington WA 98233

OR

Use PayPal to join or renew your membership
online at www.skagitbicycleclub.org

Name
Address
City State Postal Code
Phones
Email:

You will receive your Newsletter via Email
...Unless you CHECK HERE
to receive the paper version (not in color)
via US Postal Service



Skagit Bicycle Club
Officers & Board
President
Gordon Ogedaard
jgode@wavecable.com
Vice President
Dan Sandstrom
dan.sandstrom@comcast.net
Secretary
Marci Maulden
mauldenm@earthlink.net
Treasurer
Marshall Will
cesiwill@msn.com
Past President
Jim Finch
JimF@wabulb.com

Board Members
Shaun Bridge
sbridge007@gmail.com
Justin Dahl
justin661@gmail.com
Chris Hanson
cahanson94@comcast.net
Dian Jahn
stevedianjahn@gmail.com
Colby Plagge
Colbyp@dimensional.net
Mike Tallering
mike.tallering@siemens.com

Volunteer Positions
Ride Coordinator
Janice Lisherness
360 391 3931 /360 466 3030
bikerjan1@hotmail.com
Spring Classic Co-Coordinators:
Marshall Will/Jill Langely
Bridge Sweep Coordinator:
Steve Jahn
Membership List
Marshall Will
cesiwill@msn.com

Website:
www.skagitbicycleclub.org
Web masters:
Jamie Wells
Jamie@skagitspringclassic.org
George Haigh
george@zappo.org
Tom Jacobson
Tomandlori@comcast.net

Mailing Address
The Skagit Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 363 Burlington WA
98233

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Editor Rose Ploeg
dutchpedaler@yahoo.com
See Ride Calendar for Deadline

Bike Travel Cases: Deposit is \$100 and is refundable upon the return of the case. The borrower is responsible for the pickup and drop off of the case.

Bike Travel Trailer: "BOB" bike trailer with a water proof duffel
Club Bike Racks: Four Yakima bike carriers attach to a roof rack 1 inch round bars front and rear. fork mount/ mounts for the front wheel. Currently kept in the Storage Unit in Mount Vernon. To check out and arrange a pick up of any of the above items contact Bill Thayer 360 757 2679 or Jane Monroe 360 424 4619

If you are having issues with the email edition of the Newsletter please contact us through the website or via Marshall Will at 360 929 5003 or cesiwill@msn.com. Copies of the newsletter will be mailed upon request.

Membership benefits include 10% off at the following businesses:

Bicycles NW
31531 SR 20
Oak Harbor 360 279 8919

Skagit Cycle Center
1704 S Burlington Blvd
Burlington 360 757 7910
1620 Commercial Ave.
Anacortes 360 588 8776
Arlington Velo Sport
Bicycle Shop
401 N Olympic Ave
Arlington, WA 98223
360-629-6415
www.stanwoodvelosport.com



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Burlington WA 98233