

## December 2007/January 2008

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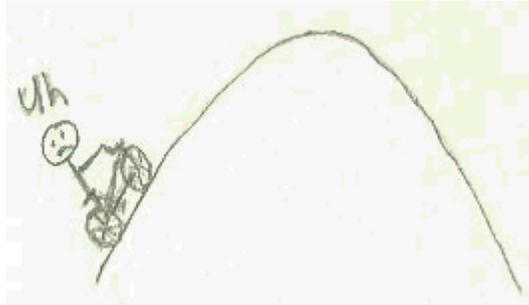
### **The Delta Pedaler Holiday Party** **Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Come to the holiday party and celebrate the season with all of your cycling friends! The whole family is invited. This year the party will be catered by the New Mecca Café, with soft drinks provided by the club. BYOB. Entertainment will be provided by the [BROKEN SPOKES](#), in, they promise, their only US appearance this year. All you need to do to join in the fun is be a club member, and find the location!

Directions: From Hillcrest (in Antioch), turn onto Via Dora. Left on San Gregorio Dr., left on Morro Dr., left on Ivy Ln., all the way down to the Clubhouse at the end. See you there!

# Annual Old Farts' Ride!

Saturday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM



Several older Pedalers have birthdays at this time of year and they like to show that they can still make it to the top of Mt Diablo. Younger riders are encouraged to join them! See the ride schedule for details or call Dave Stoeffler (King of the Farts) at 634-1793.



## Upcoming Events

### **Club Meetings:**

Round Table Pizza  
Meeting Room  
Sand Creek and Hwy 4 Bypass, Brentwood  
**New temporary location!**

### **January 6th 6PM**

#### Board Meeting

All club members are welcome to attend.

### **January 6th 7PM**

#### Social Meeting

John Coker will give a presentation on his and Margo's trip through Germany



Dave Stoeffler and John Nees – Marina – Carmel, Oct. 18th

## **Advocacy**

Remember – we don't just ride and party! Read on for Delta Pedaler's President Randy Huey's letter to California Attorney General Jerry Brown. For more information on the pedestrian/bicyclist crossing or to check out the appendices to the letter, go to [www.deltaped.org](http://www.deltaped.org) or the club's Yahoo! Group.

Jerry Brown  
California Attorney General  
Public Inquiry Unit  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento CA 94244-2550

Dear Mr. Brown:

Bicyclists and pedestrians in Eastern Contra Costa County are concerned that the Highway 4 Bypass Authority, a Joint Powers Agreement between the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley, and Contra Costa County, is not moving forward with the planning and construction of a pedestrian/bicyclist crossing of the Highway 4 Bypass as required by the Environmental Impact Report for this freeway construction project.

The Final Supplement to the 1994 Environmental Impact Report for the State Route 4 Bypass Project, dated October, 2004, (relevant pages included with this document as Appendix A) mandates that "grade separations between the Bypass right-of-way and the proposed trails" be provided. The EIR mandates that "(ped/bike bridge) project design plans and specifications be reviewed and approved prior to approval of construction contract specifications (for the Bypass)." This has not occurred and in fact, nothing is currently being done to forward the construction of the grade separation for pedestrians and bicyclists. The construction contracts have been let and construction of the freeway portion of the Bypass is nearing completion. Contact Bypass Authority staff, Dale Dennis, for information on the construction timeline of the Highway 4 Bypass.

Requiring the construction of this grade separated crossing of the Highway 4 Bypass for the Mokelumne Aqueduct Multi-use Trail is eminently reasonable. Before the construction of this freeway, a safe route between Southeast Antioch and Brentwood existed on Old Sand Creek Road. The construction of the Highway 4 Bypass severed this route. Members of the board of directors of the Bypass Authority have indicated orally (but not in writing) that they do not intend to provide a crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists of the barrier that they have constructed; they indicated that expanding highways for our motorized citizens is more important than providing safe crossings of those highways for our non-motorized citizens.

The Bypass Authority is currently negotiating with Caltrans to turn the ownership and operation of the Highway 4 Bypass over to Caltrans sometime in 2008. One of the recitals of the contract (District Agreement No. 4-1885-C, relevant pages included in this letter as Appendix B) indicates that "All Project and Bypass mitigation obligations outstanding at the time of an adoption of the SR4 Bypass into the State Highway System...will be performed by the Authority until completed to the satisfaction of those involved permitting agencies." Our concern is that the construction of the required pedestrian/bicyclist crossing of the Bypass for the Mokelumne Aqueduct Multi-use Trail will not be completed, or even started, without Caltrans' intervention. A letter to Caltrans from the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has not been answered.

The segment of limited access highway in question is located completely within the city limits of Brentwood. The City of Brentwood has negotiated an agreement with the Bypass Authority (copy included as Appendix C) agreeing that the grade separation will, in fact, be a bridge. The Highway 4 Bypass Authority Board has indicated that it does not feel bound by this agreement because it was signed by its staff, rather than itself. The original of this agreement is held by Craig Bronzan, the Parks and Recreation Director of the City of Brentwood. He can be contacted at 925-516-4444. Bailey Grewal, the City Engineer of the City of Brentwood, has indicated that the City of Brentwood intends to hold the Bypass Authority to the terms of the agreement. He can be contacted at 925-516-5420. The City of Brentwood is a League of American Bicyclists "Bicycle Friendly Community." The City Traffic Engineer, Steve Kersevan, staff to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, can be contacted at 925-516-5420.

Some of the trails within Brentwood are operated and maintained by the East Bay Regional Park District. You may want to contact Jim Townsend, Trails Development Manager and discuss the construction of the Mokelumne Aqueduct Trail Bridge with him. Brentwood has completed the trail on both sides of the bypass.

The staff person charged with bicycle issues for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Brad Beck has indicated that countywide funds for the construction of bicycle facilities are limited and that his organization is not able to provide funds for the construction of this bridge. Furthermore, he indicates that the CCTA does not have the authority to release the Bypass Authority from the requirement to pay for the construction of the Mokelumne Aqueduct Trail bridge.

To their credit, the Bypass Authority has constructed crossings for two other regional trails; they just need a nudge in the correct direction for this one. The bridge is projected to cost approximately \$4 million. The Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission has offered to provide \$1.5 toward the construction of the bridge. The Bypass Authority has indicated that it will turn down this money because they (the Authority) do not wish to provide the required matching funds.

Jerry, please assure East Contra Costa Bicyclists that Caltrans will not sign this contract and take over the ownership and operation of the Bypass from the Highway 4 Bypass Authority until such time as the Bypass Authority designs and secures/provides funding for the construction of the Mokelumne Aqueduct Multi-use Trail bridge crossing of the Highway 4 Bypass as required by the EIR mitigation measure.

Should you have any question or desire further clarification, feel free to contact us.  
Thank you for your concern in this matter.

Randy Huey, President

## **Ride Reports**

### **17-Mile Drive - October 18th - Dave Stoeffler**

This ride was originally scheduled for the day before, but was changed due to rain. Three of us, John Nees, Jim Stegman and I did the entire ride. Jim Sherfy rode part of the ride the day before.

We started out in Marina, which is north of Monterey. There is a good paved bike trail that runs along the coast, with only one short detour into Seaside. In a short time, we found ourselves in Monterey, where the trail continues through the Cannery area. That part of the trail is a little tricky because we had to contend with quite a few pedestrians. It's a colorful area with plenty to see, and places to stop for refreshments and restrooms. The trail ends near the Pacific Grove border, but the street is wide enough that the riding is easy and safe. The road goes next to the coast so we made several stops along the way to enjoy the view and take some pictures with Jim's fine camera. We entered the 17 Mile Drive with a wave from the gate guard, and without having to pay. The route continues along the beautiful coastline with golf courses, where movie stars and the wealthy play, to our left. We stopped to watch some seals swimming on their backs in the surf. The route then goes inland where there are some short climbs when the road goes past estates that must be worth many millions of dollars. We again stopped to enjoy the view from the top of the cliff, with the crashing surf below. A short downhill brought us out of a gate, and into Carmel.

As the ride leader, I was negligent in finding a lunch spot in advance. As we were riding up the hill into downtown Carmel, we were discussing the situation and were overheard by a woman out walking her dog. She suggested a small out-of-the-way cafe, and gave us directions. The Chez Christine turned out to be the perfect choice. It had outdoor seating, room to park our bikes, good food, and good service.

As we headed back, we retraced our route through the 17 Mile Drive. Traffic seemed a bit heavier than in the morning, and we had our first, and last, negative experience when a big rig gravel hauler forced us off the road. When we entered Pacific Grove, we went through the center of the town, rather than along the coast. We returned to the bike trail for the trip north to our starting point. We passed a few pedestrians on our return trip. One was a bearded fellow who took great offense to us being on the trail. Fortunately, he couldn't run very fast.

I hope to lead this ride again next year with more advanced notice. Those few of us who went this year thought it was one of the most beautiful rides we had ever ridden. The distance was 53 easy miles and it took 2 1/2 hours to drive to Marina. It was a great ride!



Photo: Jim Stegman

## Ride Schedule

### Ride Ratings:

Casual  $\Delta$

Moderate  $\Delta\Delta$

Experienced  $\Delta\Delta\Delta$

Hammerhead  $\Delta\Delta\Delta\Delta$

+ next to  $\Delta$  means that skill level and up.

### Hill Ratings:

1 Essentially flat (Delta roads)

2 Low hills, rollers (Montezuma Hills)

3 Hilly - moderate length climbs (Deer Valley, 3 Bears)

4 Mountainous - steep grades/long climbs (Mt. Diablo)

## Regular Weekly Rides

### **Monday Night Ride**

Road  $\Delta+$  Approx. 7.5-miles per loop

Weekly 7p.m. Meet at Albertsons on Lone Tree near Starbucks' parking lot. Leader: Jan McGreer 757-8731 Please RSVP

### **Wednesday Night Mountain Bike Ride**

Moderate  $\Delta\Delta+$  Hill Rating 3+

Weekly – 6:30 p.m. 8 mile + ride

Mountain Bike - in the dirt! Meet at the gate on Fredrickson Rd., Lone Tree Way to Golf Course Rd. Right on Fredrickson. Will ride though Black Diamond Mines. The course varies. Show and go. Must have helmet. Rain 24 hours before cancels. Ride Leader: Rynie or Mike Quan: 706-1141

### **Sunday Morning Road Ride**

*The Weekly Ride.* All rides meet at Panama Bay Coffee Co. near the intersection of Balfour and Walnut in Brentwood.

Start time for routes 2 & 3 is 9 a.m. October - March; 8:00 a.m. April - September.

Two routes are offered:

#### **Route 1 –**

Road  $\Delta$  Hill Rating 1.5, Approx. 18-25 miles. Start time is always 9:00 a.m. This is a good introductory ride to our club. The group stays together by the faster riders looping around and repeating some sections, usually the climbs, while the slower riders go at their own pace. There is one moderate hill and several lesser climbs in each direction, and an optional difficult climb at the halfway point. We aim to return to the Panama Bay Coffee shop at about the same time as the Route 2 group. Ride leaders: John & Margot Coker (925) 439-1190.

#### **Route 2 –**

Road  $\Delta\Delta+$  Hill Rating: 1.5, Approx. 30 miles, moderate pace, regroup occasionally. The ride goes out through Byron to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and Interpretive Center, and returns through Brentwood. Good training ride for those who would like to learn how to ride in a paceline. Bring \$ for coffee afterward. Ride Leader: Dave Stoeffler (925) 634-1793.

## Club Rides

### **Annual Old Farts Birthday Ride - Mt. Diablo**

Road  $\Delta\Delta+$ , Hill Rating 4, 40 miles

Saturday Dec. 1st; Time: 9 a.m.

Start from Arbolado Park, Walnut Creek. Take Ygnacio Valley Rd. to Oak Grove Rd. Go east to Arbolado Dr. and turn left. Turn left into the first parking lot at the park. Restroom nearby. Several older Pedalers have birthdays this time of the year and like to show that they can still make it to the top of the mountain. Younger folks are very welcome to come along. There is an option to stop at the junction, about 60% of the climb. If the weather is good we will ride down to Danville for lunch, and ride back to the start, mostly on trails, through Walnut Creek. Bring \$. Leader- Dave Stoeffler 634-1793, dstoeffler@sbcglobal.net

### **San Francisco Museum Ride**

Road  $\Delta\Delta$ , 25 miles

Tuesday, December 4; 10 a.m.

Join Randy for his fun tour of San Francisco's best museums. What make them best? Well mainly because they are all FREE on the first Tuesday of the month. We will start out from the front of the Ferry building at the Embarcadero, and depending on our interest, we will set out to sample the offerings at either the SFMO or the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Then we will wind our way over to the DeYoung in Golden Gate Park, where we will also stop for lunch in their beautiful outdoor cafeteria. If we have time, we will finish off the day with a spin around the flower conservatory before heading back to the Embarcadero for the BART ride home. Bring money for lunch, and shoes without cleats. Museums DO NOT ALLOW SHOES WITH CLEATS.  
Leader: Randy Huey 925-518-8439

## Pleasant Hill to Crockett and Martinez

Road Δ, Hill Rating 2, 32 miles

Saturday, December 8; Time: 10 a.m.

Ride with Randy through Franklin Canyon and along the Cummings Skyway to Crockett. Continue along Carquinez Scenic drive for a lunch stop on the Martinez waterfront, and then follow Alhambra and the Canal Trail back to Pleasant Hill. Bring water and lunch or money to buy. The ride will leave from the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Directions: Take I-680 to Willow Pass exit, go west on Willow Pass, cross Contra Costa Blvd onto Taylor Blvd, turn right on Civic Dr into Community Center park lot-LOWER lot. Rain cancels. Call if in doubt. Co-listed with the Valley Spokesmen.

Ride Leader: Randy Huey, 925-518-8439

### **Ride Guidelines**

All riders must wear a helmet. One need not be a member to ride, but all non-members must sign a release form. Bring a sufficient number of water bottles plus a tire pump, spare tube, and patch kit. Carry your membership card and ID with medical information. Riders under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Ride leaders have the right to refuse to allow any rider to participate in any ride at their discretion. "No-Drop" rides will have a "sweep" at the back of the group who will make sure that no one is left behind. Rain cancels all road rides, and rain 48 hours prior cancels all mountain bike rides. Heavy fog also cancels all rides. Call your ride leader if you are not sure or want more information

\*For a list of centuries and other paid rides, see the Ride Listing section at [www.deltaped.org](http://www.deltaped.org)

### **Ride Leader Incentive Program**

The club has ride leader incentive program to encourage club members to lead rides. If you lead a minimum of 5 rides in a year, you will earn a free family club membership for the year following. The rides must be listed in the newsletter, and canceled rides do not count.

Contact the club ride coordinator, Mike DeMicco, at (925) 778-3000; email: [blaster186@comcast.net](mailto:blaster186@comcast.net), if you have any questions.

## **DELTA PEDALERS**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>President:</b>	Randy Huey, (925) 679-0375
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dave Stoeffler, (925) 634-1793
<b>Secretary:</b>	Matthew Poertner, (925) 427-7930
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mary Engleton, (925) 778-2515
<b>Ride Coordinator:</b>	Mike DeMicco, (925) 778-3000
<b>Editor:</b>	Kathryn Thomas, (925) 308-7786

### **APPOINTED COMMITTEES**

<b>Registrar:</b>	Mike Thomas
<b>Finance:</b>	by committee
<b>Publicity:</b>	by committee
<b>Program:</b>	DP Board
<b>Safety Coordinator:</b>	Dave Stoeffler
<b>Historian:</b>	Jan McGreer
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Matthew Poertner
<b>Advocacy</b>	Dave Stoeffler, Dick Anderson, Ole Ohlsen
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.deltaped.org">www.deltaped.org</a>

## Member News

### **BECOME A MEMBER!**

**Why should you join the club?** The Delta Pedalers is the only club representing Eastern Contra Costa County. When you join the club, your membership fees support, and you benefit from, the club newsletter and website, access to the club Yahoo Group list (email list, ride files, club mileage, calendar, photos), contacts with other cyclists in your local area, club ride clothing, and events such as the Spicer Camping Trip and the Christmas party. We also advocate for cyclists in East County in an attempt to make bicycling safer for all cyclists, both adults and children, and strive to encourage cycling as a means of transportation. Also, taking part in club activities develops lasting friendships among cyclists.

We need your support! We would like to grow the membership so that we can put on more rides and events, including our own club-sponsored century and club tours. Please join the club or renew your membership to help support the club and cycling in our area!



Do you have a ride report, pictures from a ride, advocacy issues or ideas for articles you would like to see in the newsletter? Email the editor!  
kate\_p@sbcglobal.net

## Sponsors

Please support our local sponsors:



### Panama Red Coffee Company

4431A Balfour Rd.  
Brentwood CA 94513  
925-240-0536  
[www.panamaredcoffee.com](http://www.panamaredcoffee.com)



### Aladino's Pizza

1324 Sunset Dr. Antioch CA 94509



### Flagg Building Improvements

[flaggbuilding.com](http://flaggbuilding.com)



Jim McFarland

[www.thewheelpeddler.com](http://www.thewheelpeddler.com)