NYCC Archives – April 2011



April "President's Message"



By Ellen Jaffe

Fellow Members of NYCC,

I was hit by a bicyclist last Saturday. In Central Park.

I am fine. The bicyclist is fine. And given the current scapegoating of cyclists, you might not think the president of NYCC would want to highlight this!

Except that this incident precisely underlines the wrongheadedness of the present enforcement crackdown in Central Park that has selectively targeted only serious recreational cyclists ... leaving the vast majority of park users out of the safety equation.

The circumstance was this. I was jogging south on the west park drive, in the runners lane just before 86th Street when something bumped me from behind. Startled but still on my feet, I turned to see a young woman on a fat-tired rental bike 2 inches behind me falling over in slow motion.

She was all apologies as she got up and I pointed her to the open road as the right place to ride on a Saturday afternoon.

This was a tourist on a rental bike, riding in the runners lane, going perhaps 5 mph when she hit me. We were not near a crosswalk. She had no idea of park rules, that she should be riding in the road.

Multiply this individual's ignorance by the millions who use the park every year and either don't know the rules or, by habit, don't follow them ... and you have the recipe for many such incidents ... some of which do not end so well.

In this light, one has to wonder why only serious recreational cyclists are being singled out for ticketing when the entire universe of park users so obviously contributes to park safety.

This is our position ... that it would be in our interest to support a program that educates all park users. And to support NYPD enforcement against reckless behavior by all park users ... runners, skaters, motorists, walkers, tourists on bicycles ... as well as recreational cyclists.

* * * *

March has been an intensive month of advocacy for NYCC with its attendant ups and downs.



We stood on the steps of City Hall on March 23 to help introduce the Rodriguez-Gentile "Flashing Yellow lights Bill," which presently has the support of 10 council members. Though DOT is less than lukewarm in support we continue to think it a viable solution in hours the park is closed to traffic.

Our progressive March meeting with Chief Morris of Manhattan North, followed by his personal phone call informing me that speed trap tickets of 3/21 would be voided in person by NYPD officers that evening was a positive.

We will continue to look for solution on several fronts.

* * * *

This March of our 75th year was the focus of many wonderful things for the Club.



The Kids Ride Club Benefit on March 28 was a smash hit. It sold out, garnering universally good feedback that The Crosby Street Hotel was a fantastic venue and the evening itself a fun, wonderful way to support a program in which our membership is so deeply involved. Same time next year!

The SIGs are so popular this year that I still get beseeching emails and meet hopefuls looking to work their way in. Every year word of the SIG spreads ... especially when we have Wayne Wright participating in a national webcast staged by LAB about the mechanics of running such a large and successful ride program! Word is out that we have this crown jewel that is free!

Also on the stove, taking up several burners ... the 75th gala. I won't say much except this ... do not think about doing anything else on July 16. You'll soon see why.

Lastly, we reckon that this year a record has been set in getting together a new Club kit.

Within a mere three months time ... we've held a Club-wide design contest, held a Club-wide vote, have had our contest winner, Rolando Felix, complete the artwork and we've opened, for the first time ever, an online store with jersey, shorts, bibs, socks. Jacket to come. Waterbottle, too. All in three months!

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Ellen

NYCC in the Mix – NYPD Voids Tickets

Excerpted from the NYCC Message Board, March 22, 2011

| ejaffe | 10 tickets were issued today at the speed trap. |
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| | All 10 tickets will be voided. |
| | Every person ticketed should hear from the NYPD this evening or tomorrow. |
| | If you do not, please email mepresident@nycc.org |
| | You will not have to go to court. |
| | This is the doing of Chief Morris of NYPD Manhattan North, with whom we have met, who was chagrined to hear of the tickets, who personally called me earlier to share this and ask that it be passed along. |
| DPols | Good work. Good work. |
| cyerkes | thanks for the work on your part Thanks for the good work I hope the ticket recipients get an apology. (wishful thinking) |
| | Did we get any explanation for this ticketing?? |
| KEdwards | at least 1 person did get a personal apology I was just reading the comments under the the Gothamist article, and one of the cyclists that was ticketed this morning reports he actually got a visit tonight at home from NYPD, apologizing and saying the ticket would be revoked. Wow, I bet someone got in some big trouble over this (I hope)! |
| GRoss | Police harassment should not be forgiven It's not good enough that someone had to take the time and trouble to go over Wishniak's head and get the speeding tickets voided. This knid of harassment should not go unchallenged. |
| | Once the 10 tickets are voided, we should still file a CCRB complaint against Wishnia. The guy is obviously a liar and a thug and is a disgrace to the police force. He at least had the cover of the law when he initiated his red light harassment. He had no right to issue those tickets and was in flat violation of the posted speed limit and the Official statement of the Central Park web site that cyclists have to observe the 25 mph speed limit. |
| | I wrote Gale Brewer, my council person about this outrage, and sent a copy to Ellen. We need to keep up the pressure on this guy until he is reassigned or drummed out of the force. |
| | |

NYCC Spreads the Word – New Central Park Pilot Program

Excerpted from the NYCC Message Board, April 6, 2011

| ejaffe | NYCC has learned of a pilot program to be launched immediately in Central Park. We believe our source is |
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| | reliable. The program is as follows: |
| | Between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday, barring reckless or dangerous riding, the police will not enforce red lights in Central Park. |
| | Cyclists must still yield to pedestrians in or about to enter the crosswalk. |
| | If there are complaints about reckless cyclists during these hours, then the program will end. |
| | In addition, this past week the lights on the Park Drive were synchronized to 25 miles per hour. In theory, those doing fast laps will be able to do a significant portion, if not the entire lap, with green signals. |
| | We know this is not the entire solution. Many of us can only do our training rides in the evening or during mid-day hours. However, it is a significant start for which we are appreciative. |
| | NYCC continues to work toward a more complete resolution to our issues. |
| | We are contacting other cycling groups to alert them to this pilot program. |
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| | More than ever, responsible, civil cycling behavior is important. |
| | It's up to all cyclists to make this work. |
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| gross | Pilot Program Congratulations to our always hard-working president and whoever helped make this happen. We all need to be attentive to the pedestrians so this pilot program works and then work to extend it to mid-day and evening hours. |
| | Despite our collective hyperbole about NYPD harrassment, fictitious speed limits, rogue precinct captains, NYPD official obliviousness to real cyclist hazards (e.g., salmoning, blowing lights on the streets, sidewalk riding etc.) and the like, our ever-patient leadership has managed to encourage a reasonable and face-saving compromise. Let's all make it work. |
| Dwight Schrute | Thank you First, thank you for your hard work on this. You are right, many of us due to our schedules, ride/train during midday or evening car free hours (midday is not crowded with few pedestrians crossing except for on the lower loop). |

| | Timing the lights to 25 mph doesn't help most riders. Pros can maintain a 25mph pace, but 99 percent of amateurs cannot. |
|----------------|--|
| DHudes | 25 mph With the lights synchronized to 25 mph at all times, I expect a reduction in automobile speeding. |
| Dwight Schrute | "Pilot" program Funny this is being called a "pilot" program as this was pretty much the policy during car free hours for the past 30 or so years. |
| LWintner | thank you Ellen (and whoever else managed to accomplish this) - thank you so much. My little Tuesday/Thursday morning group will be greatly relieved at this news. And, we promise to behave! Regards, Linda |
| HWoods | +1 The CP Wed Ride & Dash thanks all those who worked to help earn back at least some of the rights that were unfairly taken from us. And asks that every cyclist in the park remember that we are always only one ugly incident away from losing those rights for good. So no yelling, cursing, buzzing or general bad manners. We need to set an example for all cyclists out there, and call out the ones who insist on acting rudely. |
| DPols | Kudos to all whose hard work Kudos to all whose hard work made this happen. This is really the only logical compromise for the short term. It accomodates most cyclists who bike laps for training or fitness, minimizes cyclist and pedestrian conflict, and has the support of legal precedent- the leash law litigation. Hopefully, if we make this work we can get more liberal hours to accomodate a broader range of schedules. Also, I would encourage the police to record day and time of accidents requiring police assistance, and I would encourage both the police and cpc to press those who complain about offensive cycling behavior to specify time and day so future enforcement efforts can be more narrowly targeted and supported by empirical data. |
| HBedi | Thank you so much To our Madame President and all those who kept the issue in the forefront, a great big hug from the cycling community. I can now do loops in the morning again without a sour pit in my stomach, and constantly looking over my shoulder. Thank you thank you again and again! Now let's hope this "pilot program" is extended to the rest of the day. Happy riding, Harv |

NYCC Member in Focus

Before the recent unrest erupted in the Middle East, our own Adrienne Browning and Bill Laffey took a cycling trip through Turkey. Although not an Arab country, Turkey is overwhelmingly Muslim. It is unique in the Middle East because of its secular, democratic government and membership in the NATO alliance. From 1993 to 1996, Tansu Penbe Çiller made history by serving as Turkey's first (and to date, only) female Prime Minister. Despite the Westernized and secular trappings the country has donned for almost 90 years, Turkey's rural areas are generally conservative and religious.

Our Cycling Trip in Turkey

By Adrienne Browning, NYCC Vice President of Rides



After returning from a cycling trip through Romania and Bulgaria in the summer of 2007, which ended in Istanbul in northern Turkey, I had my heart set on a cycling trip down the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Unfortunately, by the time it got to the top of my cycling "to-go" list (our honeymoon in Provence, followed by our "ancestral" pilgrimage to Ireland took priority), Experience Plus, the

company I was hoping to tour with, had decided that the trip was logistically problematic and was not going to run it that year.

Left to my own Internet devices, I found what appeared to be the *only* cycling trip through Turkey, run by a Bulgarian adventure company called Penguin Travel. Orlin, my new buddy at Penguin Travel, kept Bill and me hanging by a thread for almost a year before finally confirming the trip two weeks before departure (everything paid for in advance, of course...).

With that auspicious start, we hopped on a plane to Kayseri, Turkey. Not the Mediterranean coast – I couldn't find anything in that region – but dead center in the middle of Turkey, an area called Cappadocia. It was quite a tourist destination, really, with tour buses lined up at many of the open-air museums. But no tour bus for us! We had a cycling adventure to begin, from Cappadocia south across two mountain ranges, finally to the Mediterranean Sea for a fleeting dunk in its bath-warm water – more on that later.

We were greeted at the Kayseri airport by our two Bulgarian guides, Orlin and KoKo (not his real name, but easier to pronounce) who spoke English rather well, and our Turkish guide Serdar, who didn't speak English so well. There were only four participants in our cycling adventure – Dee from Australia, Hans from Norway, Bill and me.

It was hot and dry in Kayseri. We had our first detour on the way to Goreme, a walk down a dirt road – sand actually – in platform sandals and the clothes I'd been wearing for about a day to visit the "Valley of Love," a collection of unusual rock formations in the shape of, well, you can figure it out. We sat down to our first tea under an umbrella a mile from nowhere. Everyone in Turkey drinks tea. All day long. Even gas stations serve tea. Serdar stopped for tea every two hours.

Every day was an adventure with Orlin, Koko and Serdar. It turned out that the Turkish guide Penguin Travel had previously used was too expensive so they found Serdar through some connection. To our amazement, he was rewriting the trip as we traveled, throwing the itinerary to the wind.



We cycled through some of the strangest geography on the face of the earth, reminiscent of <u>Bryce Canyon</u> in Utah. And we visited the Underground City at <u>Derinkuyu</u> –12 levels of underground living caves, all connected by an intricate network of tunnels, that housed up to 50,000 people. These tunnels were all carved out of the natural limestone *by hand*, circa pre-C.E. to around 1200 AD.



We cycled over very arid mountains encountering very poor villages. We arrived at a tea stop for the van at the only village with a "café" consisting of a single table outside. I pulled up on my bike dressed in typical cycling clothes – time to relieve myself. BUT NO. Women weren't allowed in the café. And, apparently, a woman in cycling clothes was quite a novelty because the entire male population of the town lined the curbs, sitting and quietly staring. To have such an attentive audience was quite unnerving. Bill wisely suggested that I leave quickly – which I did.

On our cycling tour, cyclists in general seemed to be a novelty, we only saw two other cyclists in the week we were riding. The motorists hooted and hollered and honked, but were otherwise respectful of our space on the road.



We continued to have all sorts of adventures. We enjoyed lunch in a potato farmer's backyard Serdar talked him into cooking potatoes and peppers to complement our picnic of bread, cheese, sausage and Turkish delight (indigenous candy). We followed a steep descent to the cobblestone streets of a small village. We cycled from the arid mountains to a verdant river valley lined with floating restaurants, followed by a steep climb back up to the other side of the valley (this time on paved streets, thank God), through mountains lined with ancient churches carved into their side, the church ceilings and walls painted with frescos that had been desecrated by the Ottomans who believed that painting eyes was evil.



On a walk one evening, we were shown how to collect fresh walnuts by a young boy herding his cow and, afterward, we were brought by this enterprising youth to a remarkable church with ceiling frescos, eyes intact (these were somehow missed by the superstitious Ottomans). Of course we all gave the "young businessman" a nice tip for his efforts. One day after another long several-hour climb, we cycled through a very green narrow valley that went down, down, and was lined by apples trees laden with apples (we only picked two) opening up to an incredible vista of a beautiful mountain range in the distance.



We then stayed in a larger city, Nigde, followed by a night in a tiny village up against grand jagged mountains. We stayed in a pensione – a family-owned guest or boarding house – run by a son and his mother. The son had worked at a bank in Istanbul up until the previous year when his father died. He returned to the village to help his mother run the guest house. We discovered that his father had also collected rugs. We fell in love with one that was made by the mother's friend, a villager. That rug now graces the entrance to our front hall. Bill and I also enjoyed a walk we took through the dirt streets of the village, strolling with the chickens and families bringing their cows home from pasture.



Our cycling was cut short by a very rainy day. We had spent the evening in Ciftehan, a hot springs sparesort – it was so much fun to swelter in the hot baths! The following day we ended up in the van driving, not cycling, to the Mediterranean. The weather cleared when we got there and we were able to roll up our pants and walk into the bath-warm water – its soothing temperature was a real surprise to me. In the water, a stone's throw away, was a fortress on an island, originally built by the Romans.



All in all, we had a great cycling adventure with lots of surprises, not the least of which were the god-awful bicycles. I told Penguin Travel I wouldn't promote their company unless they replaced the bikes.

The company's president told me that they have. You can check it out yourself at Penguin Travel.

Want to know more about Turkey? Visit the website of the Turkish Embassy, Washington, United States of America http://www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr/AboutTurkey.aspx.

Preorder Your New NYCC Jersey Now -- Arrives in Time for Summer!



Want to sport the new NYCC jersey this cycling season? The online NYCC team store is now open and taking orders - **CLICK HERE** to order.

Be sure to place your order by April 25th and in June you'll be riding the roads wearing your new NYCC jersey, shorts, bib shorts and socks.

Coming soon to our team store: the NYCC jacket!

Access the Fit Guide.

Designer: Rolando Felix

Memorial Day Weekend: Register for the Egremont Country Club Dinner Dance: NYCC Berkshires Weekend - Make Early Reservations Now!



Spring is around the corner and the NYCC 2011 Berkshires Weekend (May 27-30) is less than 2 months away. Join us for 3-4 days of cycling on country roads, in the beautiful Berkshires. We've got rides for cyclists at every level. And we are returning to the Egremont Country Club on Sunday, May 29th for our windup dinner and dancing! Be part of the fun! If you have doubts, ask anyone who was with us in 2010.

REGISTER NOW for the Egremont Country Club Dinner Dance! The cost is \$45 per person until May 11 and \$50 per person thereafter.

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: Lodging is at a premium this year because of another event taking place this same weekend. Don't get shut out. Reserve a place to stay today! Book your favorite B&B in Sheffield or Great Barrington now before they are sold out! Follow this link for lodging in the southern Berkshires: http://southernberkshirechamber.com/berkshire-bed-and-breakfasts.php.

After you make your reservations, send your email address to Berkshires@nycc.org so we can forward you the ride information when it is available in late May.

New routes and new ride leaders are always welcome. Let us know if you would like to help out this year. You make the weekend fun and exciting.

For further information, go to the <u>Berkshires Weekend page</u> or contact Reyna Franco at <u>Berkshires@nycc.org</u>. Up-to-date information will be posted on the <u>nycc.org</u> website, Message Board and eWeekly.

April 25: NYCC Special Event: It's All About GPS! EMS Breaks It Down



It's all about GPS! An NYCC evening at Eastern Mountain Sports for GPS novices and pros alike.

Adam Sherlip of EMS will show us the best cycling choices available and demo their features. Also on hand, a rep from Garmin who will showcase their latest offering and answer questions.

EMS will offer NYCC members special promotion pricing at this event.

Date: Monday, April 25

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Place: Eastern Mountain Sports, 530 Broadway (corner of Broadway and Spring Street)

Oh What a Night! Save the Date: July 16, NYCC's 75th Anniversary Celebration



To celebrate NYCC's diamond anniversary year, you're invited to a very special event.

It will be a day of riding and a night of partying like none the club has ever known -- a *Gala*, filed with entertainment, history, friends and fun.

Come honor the legends of the Club, past, present and future. Come hungry. And get ready to dance.

When: Saturday, July 16

Rides: 9:00 am @ the Central Park Boathouse

Party: 7:00 pm @ reBar, 147 Front Street, Brooklyn

REGISTER NOW for the dinner at reBar.

The cost is: \$36 per person until June 7 * \$45 per person June 8 - July 8 * \$55 per person July 9 - July 16

Save the date and check out the details at nycc.org/gala. Special early bird pricing is in effect, so get your tickets now.

NEW! NYCC Photo of the Week: NYCC's Kids Ride Club Benefit

Every week, we will feature an NYCC photo here. Send your photo(s) with caption(s) and photo credit(s) to bulletineditor@nycc.org for consideration.

This week's photo was taken by Montana Tilley at NYCC's Kids Ride Club Benefit.



NYCC members in background: (l. to r.) Johanna Campos, Liane Montesa, Peter Morales, Kevin Johnson

APRIL 5, 2011 - NYCC BOARD MEETING

Present: Ellen Jaffe, Adrienne Browning, Beth Bryson, Arden Rodgers, Grace Lichtenstein, Nicole Snow, Bill Laffey, Brigitte Padewski. Morene Bangel gave Ellen her proxy.

Time Noted: 6:30pm

We discussed whether there were any impediments to a BOD member giving another member his/her proxy vote. Ellen explained that there was nothing in the bylaws to prevent this.

Agenda

- I. General Topics (Ellen)
 - 1. Advocacy Update FYL Bill, looking to lobby more CCMs to sign on, 'Idaho Stop' as alternate, CPC, Chief Morris, latest arrest Christy Thede.
 - FYL bill has 10 sponsors. Ellen asked all members to email the Transportation Committee member in their district to sponsor the bill. NYCC website has links to relevant email addresses.
 - Ellen and Carol Waaser met with Transportation Committee staff members to discuss the issue.
 They also met with Manhattan North Chief of Police Morris, the day before the 10 speeding tickets were given out and then voided with personal visits to ticket recipients by the NYPD.
 - Another CPC meeting will be held on April 13th at 6:00pm, to be attended by Ellen and Adrienne Browning.
 - 2. **75th Gala Update** Advertising campaign starting shortly.
 - A timeline is being developed for the Club to be put on website.
 - 3. **Archive Team Assembled for History Timeline** Carol Waaser and Paula Froke are doing a number of video interviews of long time members.
 - 4. **NYCC Online Store Update** Sales to date(29 jerseys/6 shorts), selling well at this point. A good opportunity for the Club to make \$\$. Question raised on how to increase sales abroad and expand market generally. Someone said there was a way to position key words to get on top of Google returns.
 - 5. **eWeekly Redo** Extensive discussion on whether we should allocate \$400 requested to html formatting of a design to be created by Cathline Marshall, a NYCC member who volunteered to work with Eunice to design a new eWeekly. Vote passed with eight to fund this expenditure, limited to this amount and nothing more.
 - 6. **Bike Month** Review rides and promotion. "Social Sunday" rides will be posted on the website so that non-members can join the rides. They are open to the public.

- 7. **General Membership Drive** Membership is down below 2,000. Not sure why. Cards were given out to leave in bike shops. People should do what they can to get new members. Bike month events should bring in more members.
- 8. **Berkshires Weekend** Dinner registration about to open; Tom Laskey rides. A, B, C Ride Coordinators need to keep in close touch with Tom to keep lists of all rides led.
- 9. **West Point** Lucia Deng masterminding, deposit. BOD voted to authorize \$2,000 deposit to the Thayer. Passed with eight votes, one abstain. They will be allotting us king-size bedrooms, with either fold-out sofas or cots. Will cost a bit more due to cot cost. Dates will be switched for the BBQ and boatride, we assume due to fireworks schedule.
- 10. Newcomers Ride Nail date and destination. Has been in July . . . change to June? Ellen will contact Gary McGraime, who has been head of this event for several years. General agreement to change the venue from Pascack Park, which has gotten old. We discussed various alternatives, including Liberty State Park and Piermont, Goswick pavilion. Date is now set for Sunday, June 12 at Piermont. We may provide light lunch (due to difficulty for 100+ people to buy lunch in Piermont).
- 11. All-Class Ride Nail date and destination. Has been in June . . . change to August? Voted to change this to August 7th. Ellen suggested Oakland Beach Park near Rye Playland. Brigitte will be talking with the facility people to determine costs and availability for that date. Food vendor TBD.

II. Treasurer's Report (Arden)

- \$32,196 in the bank.
- At this point in the year, we have spent \$6,000 more than we took in in revenue. Last year, we were \$2,000 ahead.
- Membership dues are ahead \$11,000 of last year, but website costs are up also.
- Looking to expand market for new jerseys to increase revenue. However, unclear if such
 revenue is "unrelated business taxable income" such that we need to pay tax on it. Arden is
 looking into this tax issue.
- **III. Secretary** (Morene not present)

Approve March minutes – minutes approved.

- IV. Membership Report (Jennell not present)
 - 1,992 members
- V. Content (Eunice- not present)
 - eWeekly makeover, discussed earlier in meeting

VI. Special Events (Brigitte)

- KRC Benefit Review Profit, when best to present check? Made approx \$2,500 for the Kids Ride
 Club. Great event, great venue. Everyone seemed to enjoy.
- Eastern Mountain Sports GPS event in April.
- Apple Store Event iPhone apps, perhaps in May.
- Also discussed finding new venue for the holiday party and perhaps having a bowling event one month.

VII. V.P. of Rides (Adrienne)

- Ride Leader Tally Whether "in park" rides should be counted. Discussion began on this
 issue, to be continued next month when more BOD members are present. Pros and cons, do
 not want to discourage volunteerism. Possibly providing a side list of park rides led.
- 2. **A-SIG as One Organization** with different levels, like the B and C. Ellen and Adrienne will schedule a meeting after the SIG with the respective SIG captains to discuss the idea.
- 3. **Status of "Ride-Related" Web Improvements** What has been done over the past month on the website, status of my "to-do" items. Still problems with overall site, so none of "to dos" have been done. New volunteer helping with Drupal developer to make site faster.

VIII. Rides Coordinators (Bill, Nicole, Harry)

- Nicole having problems with email connections
- Bill to lead series of "historic site" rides with Carol W. after SIG season.

IX. V.P. of Programs (Jennifer – not present)

April Meeting – How are the RSVPs? Push to get more attendance at this meeting – VBT is sponsoring gala and giving two trips to Tuscany to the Club. Want good attendance. Grace raised problem of newcomers not feeling welcome at meetings. Adrienne volunteered to staff the newcomers table at April meeting. Alert Teresa. Audio prep. No AV. How to conduct raffle. Freebies to give out. Travel literature to put out. Ellen obtained literature from Europe, Grace will also get info from VT sent to Ellen. Primalwear fit kit on premises 6::30pm - 7:15pm and after the meeting. Victoria Ross arranged for this.

X. Public Relations (Grace)

- Membership Drive How to promote the Club?
- Card Distribution Also posters made for the VBT April Club meeting, distributed to BOD to post in LBS.
- Tabling at Columbia Presby: April 18 A health fair type event.

- New Amsterdam Bike Show: April 30 Table to be provided by TA after some cajoling.
- New banner for tabling? Discussion over cost
- XI. Escape New York (Beth)
 - General Update
 - New Amsterdam Bike Show April 30
 - 5BB Tour Table?
- XII. Webmaster (Jim)
 - Review of Ryan and Phil's work

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Next BOD meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 6:30pm