December 1999
Come to the Holiday Party!
Monday, December 6th
See the back cover for details!

Why Is This Man Smiling?
Answer Hidden on Page 2.
President's Message

by Ben Goldberg

As everyone knows, our board elections were concluded at our November club meeting. I'd like to give my sincere thanks to this year's board and to especially recognize those departing members. Douglas Riccardi did a great job as PR director for the second year in a row, after having been on the board previously as Bulletin Editor. Not only did Anne Grossman do a wonderful job organizing our holiday party and the all-class picnic in the Cloisters, she has single-handedly raised the culture level of the club with her events at the ballet, symphony, and theater. Karin Fantus gave us a year of wonderful B rides. The board will miss her experience and level-headedness. Beth Renaud did so much for the A riders in the club, she'll be a tough act to follow. Jody Sayler found several wonderful locations for our club meetings - no small feat - and gave us a year of great club programs. Rob Kohn has been an incredibly dedicated bulletin editor, perhaps the most difficult role on the entire board. Jeff Vogel, who contributes to the club in so many, many ways, added his voice of experience and his ability to stimulate intense discussion — to our board meetings and a large dose of humor to the minutes. Finally, I'd like to bid a fond farewell to Gene Vezzani, who served this year as past president after being president for three years. He has been a great resource for me, a true voice of reason and calm. I'll miss him on the board, but won't hesitate to call him when I need advice.

Douglas, Karin, Anne, Rob, Beth, Jody, Jeff, and Gene — thanks so much!

The new board will be fabulous, too! Laurie Nisco was kind enough to remain on the board, switching to membership director. Lynn Sarro is moving over to special events, after having been a great membership director. Ira Mitchneck will remain at treasurer, ensuring that club funds are properly accounted for. Gary McGraime will continue his important work as VP of Rides, for which I'm very grateful.

Laurie, Lynn, Ira, and Gary — thanks for hanging in there!

I'd like to welcome our new members, whom I'm really looking forward to working with. They are Wendy Cohen (PR director), Cathy Martone (VP of Programs), Irv Weisman (Secretary), Frank Grazioleti (A-rides coordinator), Paul Hofherr (C-rides coordinator), and Don Montalvo (bulletin editor). As its first order of business in January, the new board will officially appoint a B-rides coordinator. A wonderful candidate for the position has stepped forward, so there will be no gap in our slate of B rides.

I'd like to wish all of our members the best in this holiday season, and to encourage everyone to keep cycling throughout the new year. After all, even our highest-tech bikes should be Y2K compliant!

See you on the road!

WHAT'D YOU THINK?
The Escape New York Committee is requesting feedback on what you did and did not like about the event this year. Work on ENY starts in February. So, this is your chance. Speak now or forever hold your peace.

Please send comments to Bob Hancock at rhancock@panix.com.
Club Rides

RIDE LISTINGS: To lead a NYCC ride next month and list it in the bulletin, contact the Ride Coordinator (see page 2) for that ride class on or before this month's club meeting date.

BEFORE YOUR FIRST RIDE: Please read about club rides on page 10.

BE SMART - WEAR A HELMET; NO HEADPHONES.

Unless otherwise stated, precipitation at starting time cancels the ride.

**PEDIANTIC EDITOR'S NOTE:** The millennium (and the Twentieth century) do not end this year. They end on December 31 of next year. The year 2001 is the first year of the new millennium and the 21st century. (There was no year 0 in our reckoning of time. Thus the first century was the years 1 through 100, inclusive, the second century the years 101 through 200, inclusive, etc.) I have not, however, changed any listings to reflect this. You're welcome. (Ain'tcha glad I'm leaving?)

Wednesday, December 1

**B17+:** 12+ MI 7:15 PM Wednesday Evenings In the Park

Leader: Jim Galante (212) 529-9627
From: The Boathouse

We will continue to ride at least two and probably three laps in Central Park, as we've been doing in the previous months. It's been not only safe, but fun. So bundle up and get your midweek ride in. Rain, Hail, Sleet, or Snow will cancel.

**A/B/C:** 1+ MI 6:00 PM Snowskate Ice-skating and Cheek to Cheek Tango

Leader: Paul "Snowman" Rubinfarb (212) 740-9123
From: Wolman Rink, walk one block N of Central Park South and 6th Avenue.

Join NYCCers for frosty gliding 'neath ice-tineded willows and the Silhouette of the Plaza Hotel, doing the "Last Skater's Waltz" (if they play it). Admission $4, skate rental $6. Please pin on your lapel a card reading "NYCC" so we'll recognize each other. About 8pm we'll leave rink for a sensuous tango dance at the Flatiron district's Dance Manhattan Studio (39 West 19th St., 5th floor). No previous dancing experience necessary.

Saturday, December 4

**A19:** 55 +/- MI 9:00 AM Someplace called Nyack

Leader: Tom Laskey (212) 496-1636
From: The Boathouse

This is how the century will end, not with a bang but with a hilly ride to Nyack. Some might think leading their last ride of the millennium to Nyack might be something of an anti-climax. What do they know? We'll do Crusher and all that stuff to make things a little more interesting. Rain or temps below 30° at 8:00 am cancel.

**B18:** 65+/- MI 9:00 AM Lunch In Nyack Via the Lakes

Leader: Spencer Koromilas (212) 867-8678 (SpencerNYCC@Juno.com)
From: The Boathouse

Winter in coming! Soon the roads will be covered with snow and ice! So what's a little rain, and cold! No problem, we aren't afraid of "of man winter" ... we have fleece, Gore-tex, and booties! So, time to get your winter shells on, and join me on an invigorating ride to the other side of the river, thru lovely Bergen and Rockland counties. We will first ride west by Tappan Lake, then north by Lake De Forest, then east to the Hudson River and Nyack for lunch. Return on 501, and a little reunion with our friend Churchil! Leave your suntan lotion home! Required: Fleece, Turtle Neck, Warm Gloves, Tights, Jacket, Booties, Helmet. Cancells: If nobody shows up ... I will cancel the ride ... then again, maybe not!

B17 55 +/- MI 9:00 AM Mamaroneck, The Fun Way

Leader: Ed Fishkin (718) 633-3038
From: The Boathouse

Don't hold me to the mileage. We'll ride as far as we feel like it, as long as it's fun. The usual cancells.

B15/16 45 MI 9:30 AM Roundabout Route to Northvale

Leader: Carol Waaser (212) 581-0509 or biker-ca@rcn.com
From: Boathouse

It's not officially winter yet but I'm starting to slow down, so we'll just go to the Northvale Diner. But we'll wind around and put in a few extra miles first (we have to justify the pancakes and hot chocolate, after all). Rain, snow or temps below 32° at start cancel. Helmets and good social skills, please.

C13/14 45 MI 9:00 AM Pedaling to Piemont

Leaders: Dona Kahn (212) 990-9009 and Lynn Sarro (212) 722-8495
From: The Boathouse parking lot

Experience beautiful Piemont in late fall, when a bit of a chill in the air will make that lunch stop all the more delicious! Our favorite cycling destination is well worth the trip any time of the year.

Sunday, December 5

**A18:** 70 MI 8:30 AM 1000 Years of Cycling Solitude

Leader: Drew Olewnick (212) 431-1952 or drewo@interport.net
From: The Boathouse

Before the first snows can blanket the northern tiers, we'll cycle up to Westchester for one final paean to the roads of the 20th century. Short, steep climbs will keep us warm, as will infrequent, fast delti stops. Gravity will ultimately pull us down to the river's edge for a train return home. Two water bottles recommended, Metro-North pass required.

**A/B-18:** 65 +/- MI 9:45 AM Oyster Bay & Ted's Place

Leader: Spencer Koromilas, 212-867-8678 or SpencerNYCC@juno.com
From: Tramway Plaza (Second Ave. & 89 St.) @ 9:00 or the Statue of Civic Virture (Queens Blvd. & Union Turnpike) @ 9:45 AM

Time to get our legs warmed up, or should I say ... cooled off, it's getting cold, but it's about to get a lot colder, so ... lets enjoy the weather we have! Get the winter clothes out ... it's time to stay in shape ... that warm comfy couch will still be there! We'll ride the classic route thru winding tree lined streets, lovely horse country, the Long Island Sound, breathe in lots of invigorating Sea Air! Possible climb up Sagamore Hill to visit Ted's place, he wasn't afraid of the cold! Last one up the hill gets spanked with the big stick, unless it just happens to be me! Required: Social skills, winter clothes, winterized helmet, bad climbing skills! Can-cels: No one at Tramway Plaza, call 917-743-8952 to confirm! I might ride anyway!

**B17:** 55 MI 9:30 AM Nyack.Com

Leader: Jim Galante (212) 529-9627
From: The Boathouse

This may be your last chance to find out if your bike is Y2K compliant. Rain, hail, sleet and snow, or temps below 30° at start will most likely cancel.

**B16:** 45-50 MI 9:15 AM Staten Island Loop

Leader: Ron Grossberg (718) 369-2413 or Argee 401@aol.com
From: Staten Island Ferry

If you couldn't make this ride in November when I led it on a Friday, here's another chance. We'll take-in the unique sights of Staten Island such as the Tibetan Museum. One climb, up Light House Hill, and a picnic at Tottenville on scenic Raritan Bay. Plus (of course) a round trip on the Staten Island Ferry.
Wednesday, December 8

B17+ 12+ MI 7:15 PM Wednesday Evenings in the Park

Leader: Jim Galante (212) 529-9627
From: The Boathouse

We will continue to ride at least two and probably three laps in Central Park, as we've been doing in the previous months. It's been not only safe, but fun. So bundle up and get your midweek ride in. Rain, Hail, Sleet, or Snow will cancel.

A/B/C 1+ MI 6:00 PM Snowkist Ice-skating and Cheek to Cheek Tango

Leader: Paul "Snowman" Rubenfarb (212) 740-9123
From: Wollman Rink, walk one block N of Central Park South and 6th Avenue

Join NYCers for frosty gliding 'neath ice-tinted willows and the Siouette of the Plaza Hotel, doing the "Last Skater's Waltz" (if they play it). Admission $4, skate rental $6. Please pin on your lapel a card reading "NYCC" so we'll recognize each other. About 8pm we'll leave rink for a sensuous tango dance at the Flatiron district’s Dance Manhattan Studio (39 West 19th St., 5th Floor). No previous dancing experience necessary.

Saturday, December 11

A19 55 MI 9:00 AM Hills to Keep Warm

Leader: Ben Goldberg (212) 982-4681
From: Boathouse Parking Lot (just north of the Boathouse)

I'll find us a couple of hills to climb, probably Bradley and Tweed, so that we're able to keep warm. A quick stop in Piemont and we're headed home. Temp below 30° at 8:15 am cancels.

B17 50+/- MI 9:00 AM Haiku For You and Pearl River Too

Leader: Ira Mitchneck
From: The Boathouse

the caterpillar
time late in fall
still not a butterfly
hot chocolate
along pearl river

(Note: The esteemed Ride Leader asks that credit be given to Basho, the author of the haiku.)

B16 50+ MI 9:00/8:45 AM In Search of Little Muffins

Leader: C.J. Obregon (212) 876-6614
From: The Boathouse/Statue of Civic Virtue

One last millennial trip across the Queensborough Bridge, then out to Syosset and the Starlight to eat. Do they still have those little muffins?

Forecast of precipitation or wind-chill below freezing on 7:58 AM Weather Channel forecast cancels. Helmets required.

Sunday, December 12

A12 35+/- MI 9:00 AM Urban Assault (2)
Leaders: Rob Kohn (212) 787-3199 robk@dtsoft.com and Keith Goldstein (212) 982-9461 kg32@aol.com
From: The Boathouse

We had such a positive response to the first one we're doing it again. A12. NO HAMMERING, but "A" handling skills required at times. This is a cruiser, one-speed, beater, and commuter bike special. (Mountain and cyclocross bikes welcomed, but given wary glances.) This time we may go to Staten Island, or we may do Manhattan again, but in the reverse direction. Contact the leaders with any questions about gearing, tires, etc. Rain stops both leaders, but drizzle only stops one of them. Call Robin 630 if in doubt.

A/B18 24 MI 9:00/9:30 AM Track Bike Central Park

Leader: Gary McGraime (212) 877-4257
From: Starbucks at Columbus and 67th

Bring out your single speed (fixed gear) or road bike and enjoy a steady group spin around the C. P. LOOP. We'll focus on form and impressing others. Remember, "it's how you look" - author unknown, but looking for work. I'll bring a lock for those who arrive at nine o'clock or so to relax and warm up with a cup of tea or java. At 9:30 AM we're on the road. Bring a helmet and dress appropriately. Slick conditions cancel.

B17 55 MI 9:00 AM Backside to Nyack

Leaders: Bob Nelson (212) 557-7160 or bob@nylink.com and Paulette Megsge (718) 293-0885
From: Big rock across the sidewalk from the Boathouse

Paulette Megsge and Bob Nelson take the back way to Nyack, via routes 505, 303 and 340, via such landmarks as the Blanche St. hill and the Tappan Appliance Church (do you get a free microwave if you join?). We will make a stop in town for a quick snack. Co-listed with the Fast and Fabulous Cycling Club, New York's lesbian and gay cycling group.

C12 25 MI 9:00 AM Frostbite Ride #2 — Flat Rock Nature Preserve

Leader: Scott Wasserman (914) 723-5607 with Ed DeFreitas (5BCC)
From: City Hall

A bike-hike-bike trip to this Bergen County nature preserve, in New Jersey. Bring a lock, lunch or $ for it (which we will buy along the way) and maybe hiking boots. Co-led with 5BBC/TA. Helmets required, please.

Wednesday, December 15

B17+ 12+ MI 7:15 PM Wednesday Evenings in the Park

Leader: Jim Galante (212) 529-9627
From: The Boathouse

We will continue to ride at least two and probably three laps in Central Park, as we've been doing in the previous months. It's been not only safe, but fun. So bundle up and get your midweek ride in. Rain, Hail, Sleet, or Snow will cancel.
A/B/C 1+ MI 6:00 PM Snowkist Ice-skaeting and Cheek to Cheek Tango
Leader: Paul "Snowman" Rubenfarb (212) 740-9123
From: Wollman Rink, walk one block N of Central Park South and 6th Avenue
Join NYCCers for frosty gliding 'neath ice-tinselie wrappers and the Silhouette of the Plaza Hotel, doing the "Last Skater's Waltz" (if they play it). Admission $4, skate rental $6. Please pin on your lapel a card reading "NYCC" so we'll recognize each other. About 8pm we'll leave rink for a sensuous tango dance at the Flatiron district's Dance Manhattan Studio (39 West 19th St., 5th floor). No previous dancing experience necessary.

Friday, December 17
A/B/C 30 MI 6:45 PM Holiday Lights
Leader: Marty Wolf (212) 935-1460
From: The parking lot in front of City Hall (if not accessible, meet at the Broadway entrance of the parking lot)
Enjoy a friendly paced ride to Dyker Heights to pedal past some of the most extravagant Christmas displays in the entire NYC area. We'll stop for a bit to eat before returning to Manhattan, so don't expect to be home before 11pm. Important note: Call leader anytime during the week before the ride to confirm whether ride will go on.

Saturday, December 18
A15-25 70 MI 8:00 AM Gimbel's
Leader: Todd Brilliant (212) 274-9463
From: The Boathouse
This is not your ordinary (read: Nyack) type of A ride. Pack riding skills helpful. Call leader with questions or for details. Oh yeah, we will be riding in Westchester.

B16 50+/1 MI 9:00 AM Somewhere in Rockland
Leader: Fred Steinberg (212) 787-5204 or FCS1@worldnet.att.net
From: The Boathouse
We'll head for Rockland County and go as far as weather and interest permit. Climbing a few hills will keep us warm. The usual cancels.

B15 55 MI 9:30 AM Ridgewood For Pancakes
Leader: Carol Wasser (212) 581-0509 or biker-c@rcn.com
From: The Boathouse
We'll take a pleasant ride to Ridgewood, home of the best Pancake House in the tri-state area — we're not talkin' IHOP here! The French Toast is also legendary. In true B tradition, we ride to eat. We'll try to avoid any major hills on the return since half our blood supply will be in our bellies! Rain, snow or temps below 35° at start cancels. Helmets, of course.

C13 35 MI 9:30/10:00 AM River Road and Beyond
Leader: Gary McGraeme (212) 877-4257 or garynycc@aol.com
From: Starbucks at Broadway and 87th Street
Arrive at 9:30 for coffee or at 10:00 for ride departure. I'll bring a look for those who would like to meet early to warm-up with a cup of tea or java before venturing out onto the hilly wilds of River Road. Dress warmly and bring water, pocket food and your helmet of course. Precipitation or foul weather cancels. Call if in doubt.

Sunday, December 19
A/B18 24 MI 9:00/9:30 AM Track Bike Central Park
Leader: Gary McGraeme (212) 877-4257
From: Starbucks at Broadway and 60th
Bring out your single speed (fixed gear) or road bike and enjoy a steady group spin around the C. P. LOOP. We'll focus on form and impressing others. Remember, "it's how you look" - author unknown, but looking for work. I'll bring a lock for those who arrive at nine o'clock so to relax and warm up with a cup of tea or java. At 9:30 we're on the road. Bring a helmet and dress appropriately. Slick conditions cancel.

B17 50+/1 MI 9:00 AM Park Ridge Rendezvous
Leader: Tom Laskey (212) 496-1636
From: The Boathouse
This is it, my last B ride for 1999 so join and make it something. We'll take a pretty straight, pretty flat route that offers much in the way of scenery despite it's straightness and flatness. Rain or temps below 30° at 8:00 am cancel.

C12 30 MI 10:00 AM City Island for Lunch
Leader: Dick Goldberg, richgold@acol.com
From: The Boathouse parking lot
A leisurely ride through some little-known and recently publicized "Summer of Sam," anyone? — Bronx neighborhoods to — where else? — City Island. Temp below 30° at 9 AM, wet roads or air cancel.

C12 25 MI 9:00 AM Frostbite Ride #3 — Pre-Xmas Closers Trip
Leader: Marisa Bekkerman (718) 783-5355, with Ed DeFreitas (5BBC)
From: City Hall
Bicycle back into history to visit a Medieval monastery brought enoes ago from Europe (reconstructed brick by brick & now part of the Metropolitan) and take in the majestic Hudson. Bring a lock, $ for lunch at St. Tryon Cafe and donation to museum. Co-led with 5BBC/TA. Helmets required, mistletoe optional.

Wednesday, December 22
A/B/C 1+ MI 6:00 PM Snowkist Ice-skaeting and Cheek to Cheek Tango
Leader: Paul "Snowman" Rubenfarb (212) 740-9123
From: Wollman Rink, walk one block N of Central Park South and 6th Avenue
Join NYCCers for frosty gliding 'neath ice-tinselie wrappers and the Silhouette of the Plaza Hotel, doing the "Last Skater's Waltz" (if they play it). Admission $4, skate rental $6. Please pin on your lapel a card reading "NYCC" so we'll recognize each other. About 8pm we'll leave rink for a sensuous tango dance at the Flatiron district's Dance Manhattan Studio (39 West 19th St., 5th floor). No previous dancing experience necessary.

Saturday, December 25
A18 60 MI 9:30 AM All I Want for Christmas Is ... an Order of French Toast
Leaders: Beth Renaud and Todd Brilliant (212) 274-9463
From: The Boathouse
Todd says that all the diners in Jersey will be open (doh, silly me for thinking otherwise). Armed with this knowledge, I'm ready for some holiday breakfast. Red and green clothing encouraged. Santa beards lauded. Please, no gifts for the leaders!

Sunday, December 26
A18 55+/- MI 9:00 AM Not Nyack...
Leader: Fred Steinberg (212) 787-5204 or FCS1@worldnet.att.net
From: The Boathouse
Let's hope for some nice weather and take a spin out to a diner somewhere in Bergen or Rockland. If the weather's unseasonably warm we'll loop Rockland Lake via a new route. 8AM NY1 temp below 30° winds above 25, cancels, as does precip, icy roads, etc. Call leader by 8AM if in doubt.

C12 25 MI 9:00 AM Frostbite Ride #4 — Xmas Lights In Dyker Heights
Leader: NYCC leader TBA and Ed DeFreitas (5BBC) (718) 946-3227
From: City Hall
Let's journey to this Brooklyn community to see bigger than life statues and Christmas related themes. Have a Dam Sum meal at a nearby Chinatown
neighborhood. Bring a lock and $ for lunch. Co-led with 5BBC/TA. Helmets required, please, that includes Paul Bunyan.

**Friday, December 31**

**C12** 25 Mi 10:00 AM  Yaohan & Ol' Blue Eyes  
**Leader:** Alfredo Garcia (212) 802-2441  
**From:** Plaza Hotel (59th St. & 5th Ave.)

Banzai, baby! Head to a Japanese mall, where Godzilla and Shimon don't exist. Venture further to Frank Sinatra Park and a lovely Hoboken greenway pier. Bring a lock, $ for lunch, post-X-mas millennium souvenirs and a ferry ticket ($3) to the World Financial Center. Ride should finish by 3:30 PM, in time to rest before the ball drops on Times Square. Co-listed with 5BBC/TA. Helmets required, yea baby!

**Saturday, January 1, 2000**

**A17** 55 Mi  10:00 AM Annual New Year's Day Ride  
**Leader:** Marty Wolf (212) 935-1460  
**From:** The Boathouse

The "start the year (and the millennium) ride" classic ride. A chance to get off to an easy-paced start. Brunch in White Plains at the Sea Star Diner. The obvious cancels.

**A16** 35 Mi  10:30 AM Hot Knish, Cold Weather  
**Leaders:** Beth Reneud and Todd Brilliant (212) 274-9463  
**From:** City Hall

Mrs. Stahl's doesn't have to worry about its wares being Y2k compliant, but let's head out to Brighton Beach for a tasting of their legendary knish (kasha or spinach? cheese or cherny? the choice is yours!). Temps below 25° at 9:00 cancel. If you're set on going out there, we could have a subway option excursion, but bring your own token.

**Sunday, January 2**

**A18+** 50+/ Mi  9:00/9:30 AM Queens for a Day  
**Leader:** Jeff "the King of Queens aka the Interrogator" Vogel (718) 275-5978  
**From:** Tramway Plaza (60th Street and 2nd Avenue) @ 9:00am, Queens Blvd. and Woodhaven Blvd. @ 9:30am

This is guaranteed to be the best ride you've done this millennium. Unless you rode yesterday. Off described as a curb-hopping expedition, this ride will offer several opportunities to dodge obstacles, ride down stairs and hope those curbs on this unique tour of Queens. They recently paved the streets of West Hamilton Beach and Ramblersville, but don't worry, we'll still have a good time. Brunch, at the 33-mile mark, will be at the one and only Flagship. A lap or two on the Kissena Velodrome completes our tour. This is still an A ride: pace line skills appreciated, social skills are mandatory.

**Wednesday, January 5**

**A/B/C** 1 + Mi  6:00 PM Snowkist Ice-skating and Cheek to Cheek Tango  
**Leader:** Paul "Snowman" Rubenfarb (212) 740-9123  
**From:** Wollman Rink, walk one block N of Central Park South and 6th Avenue

Join NYCers for frosty gliding 'neath ice-tineded willows and the Silhouette of the Plaza Hotel, doing the "Last Skater's Waltz" (if they play it). Admission $4, skate rental $6. Please pin on your lapel a card reading "NYCC" so we'll recognize each other. About 8pm we'll leave rink for a sensuous tango dance at the Flatiron district's Dance Manhattan Studio (39 West 19th St., 5th floor). No previous dancing experience necessary.

**Sunday, January 9**

**C12** 25 Mi  9:00 AM Frostbite Ride #6 - Staten Island — Giuoppi & Alice.  
**Leader:** Marina Bekkerman (718) 783-5355, with Ed DeFreitas (5BBC)  
**From:** City Hall

He was an exiled patriot from Europe, planning strategy to bring democracy to Italy. She was shooting historic photography. Pedal to their former residences at the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum and Alice Austen House, respectively. We'll lunch over for barbecued catfish and other Cajun fare or at Cargo's if closed. Veggies will be taken care of, nonetheless. Cruise on the SI Ferry, gratis. Bring $ for possible museum admission(s), lunch, and a lock. Co-led with 5BBC/TA. Helmets required, graci.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ROUNDUP**

Spring is right around the corner and it's time to begin thinking about SIG organization and participation. We expect to offer our members the best spring training season ever with an A, B, C and new "A19" SIG.

How are we going to provide skilled and enthusiastic people to pull this off? Look in the mirror. If you have graduated from one of the respective SIGs and you would like to give something back to the club or if you're unsure of your qualifications or schedule, call me. There are many ways you can help.

Gary McGraime  
VP Rides  
(212) 877-4257  
email: garynycc@aol.com

**Editors Note:** I would like to thank everyone who helped me get the bulletin together this past year. Your contributions, comments, suggestions, advice, and patience made my job easier. Please give Don Montalvo the same courtesy.  
—Rcb Kohn

![On October 16th, Laura Schwartz (left) and Suzanne Levin (right, still tan from her Caribbean honeymoon) presented an ENY t-shirt to ED of "Chowder House" fame. The occasion was yet another of their "Chowder Rides" to this charming Valley Cottage bistro.](image-url)
Where are you all? We look into our email at nycncnews@yahoo.com and if there is one item it's a lot. Please, please, don't e-mail each other the way we did over the election, e-mail the BikerBabes to keep the column going.

The Babes learned a lesson last month — i.e., check the source of the story. We wrote about Karin Fantus doing the Paris-Brest-Paris (PBP) this year and she contacted us to confirm that she too was thrilled with her performance at the PBP. But, she tells BikerBabes she was surprised to also read here that she completed the race. Although she rode over 600 miles of the course — and enjoyed most every minute of it — she says the eye-s fatigue which “did her in” was severe enough to force her to turn around but not so severe to stop the visions she had of making it to the turnaround at Brest, which would have given her the 750 miles needed to medal. No matter, she’s determined to see Brest for real when she competes in the next PBP in 2003.

Carol Waasser and Jay Jacobson were chatting at the boathouse and discovered they were both going to Costa Rica — she for biking, he for a touring vacation (by car?) — and it turns out they are going on the same day and the same plane late in December. Lynn Sarro and Dona Kahn are also scrambling to put together a bike trip to Costa Rica since they were dumped from the tour they signed up for (and paid for in September) for Cuba. Seems like the tour leader decided to insist that everyone on the tour go on a charter flight arranged by him to Cuba from Toronto on Cubana Airlines, whereas Lynn and Dona had planned to go to Costa Rica for a few days and then fly to Cuba to join the start of the tour. The tour leader decided these gals spelled trouble after many e-mails back and forth arguing about the fact that the tour was “offered” land only and “accepted” by mailing in the check (which was deposited) many months ago. Know a good lawyer? Supposedly, the refund is in the mail.

We all know how wasting time on a ride irks Stephanie Bleecher — even if it involves waiting for hubby Rich Borow to fix his flat. She even hates the seconds that tick by on refueling/bathroom stops. But she's figured out a way to make those stops as quick (and therefore as painless) as possible: double up in the bathroom — which she and Rich did recently at the Runcible Spoon (or were she and he starting the Runcible Spoon club, inspired by the Five-Mile-High club?). Ah, the joys of married life. Share and share alike. Rich even decided to share his wife's Victoria Secret's undies and used them fresh out of the wash to clean his bike chain!

Talking about making bathroom stops on the road, on a club ride when there were no gas stations for miles, a pit stop was required in the woods. Overheard by one of the women riders who went off into the bushes, “I finally did it without getting my socks wet!”

That’s all folks — don’t forget the holiday party and keep the dish coming.

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**Letters to the Editor**

I am a Urologist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and a cyclist. As I am sure you are aware recent reports show that cyclists are at an increased risk of developing erectile dysfunction (ED), or impotence, than are other athletes. I am currently undertaking a questionnaire-based study in an attempt to either clearly define this relationship or disprove the recent literature. If in fact a relationship exists, it is my hope to define the variable factors in cycling (i.e. seat tube angle, length of cycling, length of rides, etc.) which may put cyclists at risk for the development of ED. The study will be placed on the internet and in fact is presently online on www.cyclingsurvey.com. As the power of the study and results depend on the number of respondents, I would like to ask for your assistance in reaching the general cycling population. This could be achieved by placement of a note in your news letter or simply forwarding this e-mail to your members. I can be contacted at jat11@columbia.edu.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. John A. Taylor III, MD
I had originally planned for this the first installment of my new column to be filled with loads of diagrams meant to lay out hard core rules for all kind of different scenarios. Realizing that making rules also means making enemies and that diagrams take up a great deal of space, I decided to take a more general approach. My goal here is not to lay down "the LAW" but to make riders aware of situations where they might be able to be a little more perfect.

Some of the most rampant disregard for good riding style I see these days involves riders' positioning of themselves at stop lights or stop signs. The worst case of this usually involves a group of riders pulling up on both sides of a stopped car and then, when the light changes, they do a Tour start, jockeying for position as some cross again in front of the car to return to the right side of the road. Almost always this produces the same effect on the driver: throwing their hands up and shouting some expletive. Oddly enough, some riders actually believe they are in the right and unfortunately yell back.

I thought it might be best to mention some ideas from John Forester's Effective Cycling regarding this matter. Let's assume most people make their way through a right turn. When making a left turn however, he suggests the following: In a left turn only lane, ride at the right side of the lane. In a lane serving left turns as well as straight through traffic, ride at the side nearest your destination. For example, when proceeding down Hudson Terrace before making the turn onto Palisade Avenue, I would suggest riding at the right side of the left lane. Many riders move all the way to the yellow line and then, in order to get back to the right side of the road, have to cross in front of cars also making the turn. Also consider taking the center of the lane where there is even the slightest chance that a driver may go straight instead of turning. By doing so you can avoid being hit as you turn.

Then there is the issue of what to do when the car is at the light or stop sign first. This is where things really get ugly on the road, mostly thanks to cyclists but exacerbated by the fact that motorists do not always use their turn signals, or at least not early enough. Many times a leader will try to sneak a group of riders along the right of a stopped car, only to find that when the light changes, the car was planning to turn right and now has to wait (and honk) while 15 riders get by. Similarly, a group turning left will think they are clever by moving to the left side of a stopped car only to find that the car had similar intentions. I have never understood riders that move to the left of a car when they plan to go straight, unless, of course, the car has a right turn signal on.

Since cyclists often claim they are not given the same privileges as cars, may I boldly suggest dealing with these situations as cars would (or should): take our place in line behind stopped cars. With large groups, it might be necessary to double up and take the entire lane. This might not be popular with motorists but it is really the most sensible and safe solution. If cars still inch past a group of waiting riders, I would make sure they see you signal as to where we are going; straight or left.

One last thing: so many times these situations are worsened by riders using a stop to regain a place they wanted in the line. If you are behind, it might mean you are slower, and by putting yourself again in front of others, you are only making it necessary for them to pass you again. Even on slow rides I have seen riders bunch up at every stop, just in order to begin jockeying for position once the group resumes riding. A friend of mine aptly compares these riders to a size 12 trying to cram into a size 6 dress.

When riding alone, it is much easier to get past cars at intersections without creating too many problems. When in a group, I think we can all be more aware of our place in the traffic flow and try to avoid creating situations where we only serve to antagonize drivers. These might be the same drivers who decide to take it out on another cyclist when they have had enough.

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**Introduction to Club Riding and Effective Cycling**

Irv Weisman is offering his traditional course designed for members who are relatively new to our sport and for those who want to increase their bicycling savvy. We'll discuss bike fit, brakes, derailleurs and their adjustments, repairing flats, smart selection and use of gears, ride and short tour planning, map reading, traffic safety skills, and dressing appropriately for the weather and comfort. The course will be held indoors on Saturday or Sunday from mid-January through February. You will then be able to join the B or C SIGs in early March for road training. Irv hopes to lead the C SIG which will put into practice what you learned in class, and then train you for moderate distance riding (up to 50 miles or so).

Please contact Irv soon (by December 20) so that he can send you more information and get information from you. Phone Irv at: 212-567-9672 or email at: mclarke@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu or write: 1755 Riverside Drive, #5K, New York, NY 10034.

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**RESERVE NOW FOR THE NYCC HOLIDAY PARTY**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 7-10PM**

Don't miss the fun this year! This is the perfect opportunity to schmooze with all your cycling buddies and impress them with how great you look in nice clothes instead of the sweaty stuff they usually see you in. We're back at the elegant St. Maggie's Cafe, a hidden jewel in the heart of Wall Street. The restaurant is at 120 Wall Street (near South St.) and is 2 blocks east of the Wall Street subway stop for the #2 and #3 trains. Buffet dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, bread, 4 entrees (including vegetarian), cake, and dessert. A cash bar is available. $35 per person before November 30th, $38 at the door. Please make your check out to the NYCC (not Anne Grossman) and send it to:

Anne Grossman
205 West 15th St. #1P
New York, NY 10011
MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK CYCLE CLUB BOARD MEETING
September 7, 1999 *

Present: Karin Fantus, Ben Goldberg, Rob Kohn, Gary McGraime, Ira Mitchneck, Laurie Nisco, Beth Renaud, Douglas Riccardi, Gene Vezzani, Jeff Vogel

Absent: Anne Grossman, Lynn Sarro, Jody Sayler

The meeting commenced at 6:41 PM. We all wished Laurie a Happy birthday and then discussed her long trip to Guatemala. All C rides must now be submitted in Spanish.

The minutes of the May 18 and June 22 meetings, as prepared by Gary and Ben, respectively, were approved.

Harry Chapin’s song “Taxi” was discussed. I promised Harry’s name would be in the minutes.

Gary initiated a discussion of increasing the number of ride leaders. Suggestions included:
1. requiring that all SIG graduates lead two rides
2. have one month where all rides have a co-leader who is new to leading rides
3. allowing rides to be listed via E-mail without listing in the Bulletin.

The Board voted 9-1 in favor of listing three leader training rides (A, B & C) where the club would pay for lunch, of up to $6, for up to 20 people who have never led a ride.

Ben said we would be out by 8:30.

We all enjoyed Beth’s dinner. Curry chicken wrap from Emerald Planet.

Jeff reported that he finally received two of the three Minutes Books from the former Club Secretary. Jeff also advised that minutes from ten of the meetings during the former Secretary’s tenure were missing from the books.

Ira had “Nada” to report. Ben asked him to summarize the Club’s fiscal health. “Good” was his complete response.

Gene announced that he got married last month. He requested permission to solicit members’ comments, via E-mail, regarding a Central Park Conservancy Focus Group meeting. Permission was granted.

Rob reminded the Board of the Bulletin deadline and said Don Montalvo would like to be Editor next year.

Ben said we would be out by 8:30.

Gary reported on our new general meeting location, the Citrus Cafe. The club guaranteed a minimum of 50 people at $20 each and advanced $1,000.00. Gary and Karin volunteered to speak to the manager regarding their policy as to members who show up for the program only and not for dinner, and to make other final arrangements. The Board discussed moving meetings to Monday nights without making a final decision.

Jeff reported on the Club Getaway July 4th Weekend. Club Getaway donated six gift certificates to the Club. Two will be raffled off at the ENY Century. Jeff asked the Board to decide what to do with the four remaining certificates. A decision will be made at the next Board meeting.

Jeff also stated that he would like to organize a Club Getaway weekend for July 4, 2000, but believed Christy Guzzetta was going to try to organize a trip to West Point that weekend. Ben said he would speak to Christy to avoid having conflicting weekend trips.

Ben led a discussion of All-Class rides. He reiterated our policy that no rides be listed that conflict with an All-Class ride, that All-Class rides should start and end in New York City, that we currently have three All-Class rides, Kingsland Point, Oyster Bay and the Summer BBQ.

Gene suggested that an information box be placed in the Bulletin describing an All Class ride with all pertinent details. Jeff said he had been requesting this for years.

Ben said we would be out by 8:30.

Laurie reported that several rides were E-mailed to her while she was on vacation and therefore did not make it into the Bulletin. She requested that they be put on the E-mail list. The Board agreed to stay with its policy of not listing rides via E-mail if they weren’t in the Bulletin first.

The next item on the agenda was elections for next year’s Board. Ben said he hoped everyone would continue to serve next year. Jeff asked if that meant they had to finish out their term this year.

Ben moved that the Board authorize the spending of approximately $1,500 for the purchase of additional club jerseys. The motion passed.

Ben advised that the by-laws require that the Board approve the change of venue of the club meeting. Jeff said it was never voted on in the past. Gene said it was his understanding that a vote was always required. Jeff indicated that such votes were omitted from prior minutes. The Board approved the change.

Someone asked if the meeting would end at 8:30. It was 8:35.

Gene said we should not wait until we are requested by the Central Park Conservancy to move the start of our rides from the entrance of the Boathouse. Suggestions were the Boathouse parking lot, Tavern on the Green parking lot, the hill & the bench across from the Boathouse, Columbus Circle and others. Gene requested that the ride coordinators ask all ride leaders to use an alternative starting location. To their own astonishment, Jeff and Gene agreed on something for the first time all year. Beth was opposed, stating we had a right to meet there. Karin insisted we try to get bike racks in the Boathouse vicinity. Gene agreed to ask the Conservancy for racks. The Board voted 7 to 2 with 1 abstention, “to actively discourage the use of the Boathouse entrance as a meeting place”. It was also agreed that the SIGs would be requested to meet elsewhere next year.

The meeting will end at 8:30. It was now 8:55.

Karen reported on a series of Randonneur Rides to be listed as “R Rides”.

The Board voted 8 to 2 to advance $2,500 to the Century committee.

The Board decided to hold the next Board meeting on November 2, 1999. Future Board meetings were considered. Laurie said she thought all Board meetings were on Tuesdays. Jeff indicated that he thought that this year’s Board was going to rotate days. Ira got up to leave. So did other Board members. Jeff and Laurie tried to continue the discussion. There was no longer a quorum. The meeting unoffically adjourned at 9:08pm, not 8:30.

Respectfully submitted

Jeffrey H. Vogel

* NOTE: The above minutes are the official, "approved for publication in the bulletin" minutes. No arms were twisted. They have not, however, passed the other Vogel’s style review.
NYCC RIDES are led by volunteer leaders who plan the route and maintain the listed speed (eg B15 = B Style / 15 mph cruising speed - see charts). Our rides are described by pace and style because it's more fun when the group is of similar ability. We ride for fun, fitness, and food.

RIDE STYLE indicates the type of riding. See chart at right. CRUISING SPEED indicates the ride's speed on flat terrain. AVERAGE RIDING SPEED over rolling terrain is 3 mph less than cruising speed. This will vary plus or minus 1 mph, according to terrain. OVERALL SPEED, including all rest and food stops, is about 3 mph less than average riding speed.

SELF-TEST: Assess your personal cruising speed by riding 4 laps (24.08 miles) around Central Park at a comfortable pace and matching your time with the chart. NOTE: Riding fewer than 4 laps will give you a false assessment. (The northern end of the park can be dangerous - ride with other cyclists.)

YOUR FIRST NYCC RIDE: Be conservative. Choose a ride easier and shorter than you think you can ultimately handle. You won't enjoy struggling to keep up with a ride that's too fast for you. Nor will the group enjoy waiting for you. It's a good idea to call the leader a day or so before the ride, and introduce yourself when signing up at the start.

BEFORE ANY RIDE: Check that your bike is in good riding condition: brakes and derailleurs working well, tires pumped to the pressure specified on the sidewall. Eat breakfast:

BRING: spare tube, tire levers, patch kit pump, water, snacks, money, and medical ID, emergency phone numbers. We also suggest: lock, rail pass. Leaders may specify other items in their ride listings.

BIKE TRAINS: On Saturdays and Sundays, MetroNorth has scheduled specific trains to/from Grand Central Station to accommodate large groups of cyclists. Bike trains are indicated by a bicycle symbol on the MetroNorth timetable. Schedules change frequently. The following is the most current one available.

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Bike passes are always required. There are no Bike Trains on holidays. Refer to roster for restrictions which apply at other times. If you are leading a ride and absolutely require a Bike Train at another time, you must call NYCC's Metro-North liaison, Jeff Vogel at (718) 275-6978, or Window 27 at Grand Central or by calling (212) 499-4398 for an application.

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League of American Bicyclists Meets with Head of FHWA
To Discuss Bicycling Issues

Washington, DC — The League of American Bicyclists held a meeting on Capitol Hill on November 2, 1999 with Kenneth R. Wykle, the head of the Federal Highway Administration, and Congressman James L. Oberstar, ranking member of the House Transportation Committee, to focus national attention on an increasing problem for cyclists — the design and usage of rumble strips. They also discussed strategies for a stronger implementation of TEA-21 for cyclists.

In order to prevent cycling accidents caused by rumble strips and to keep roads and shoulders open to cyclists, the League requested that FHWA coordinate further research on rumble strip design and usage that will be bicycle-friendly.

"We understand that rumble strips are effective in preventing run-off-the-road fatalities of motorists," said Jody Newman, executive director of the League, "but we want to make sure that we don't injure or kill cyclists in the meantime."

Administrator Wykle agreed to the League's request that cyclists be included in the research efforts and development of further guidance on rumble strips. He also said that they will consider limiting the federal push for rumble strips to interstate highways until the research and guidance have been completed.

During the meeting, the League praised the memorandum that Kenneth Wykle issued a year ago after a similar meeting in Congressman Oberstar's office, which was the strongest support for bicycling that the Federal Highway Administration has ever expressed, and discussed ways to ensure a strong and positive implementation of TEA-21 for bicycling. As a result of these discussions, the FHWA Administrator agreed to request a follow-up report from all FHWA division offices around the country to assess their progress on the pro-bicycling directives contained in his memorandum.

Newman invited Tim Young, an active bicycle advocate from Wyoming, and Gary MacFadden, executive director of Adventure Cycling, both of whom have been concerned with the rumble strip issue, to attend the meeting with her. Also in attendance at the meeting were John Fegan, bicycle/pedestrian coordinator for the Department of Transportation, and Nadine Hamilton, DOT Congressional Affairs Director.

Founded in 1880 as the League of American Wheelmen, the League of American Bicyclists promotes bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation, and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle friendly America. Membership includes 35,000 individuals, 455 bike clubs, and 49 state and local advocacy organizations.
Complete the order form below and mail it with your check made payable to the New York Cycle Club to:

Gene Vezzani
35 West 64th Street, Apt. 9-H
New York, NY 10023

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Our magnificent new 1999 New York Cycle Club long sleeve jersey was designed by club member Richard Rosenthal, manufactured by Louis Garneau and is scheduled for delivery October 18th. These jerseys are made of Micro-AirDry, a non-allergenic fiber with excellent wicking qualities, and they feature an extra-long 15 inch zipper plus three large rear pockets.

Our new jerseys are priced at only $57 plus $3.20 Priority Mail shipping.

Order early, we sold out of the long sleeve version of this jersey very quickly last year.

1999 RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in New York Cycle Club ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity") for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin, I ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. Further, I acknowledge and understand that any risk and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the action or inaction of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" MENTIONED BELOW (i) there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not reasonably foreseeable at this time, and I FULLY AND HEREFOR Release, DISCHARGE, AND WAIVE ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, DAMAGES, AND COSTS I HAVE CAUSED TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ANY LIABILITY RESULTING FROM MY INJURIES, DEATH, OR LOSSES WHICH MAY BE SUSTAINED BY ME IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ACTIVITY DURING WHICH I PARTICIPATE.

☐ New ☐ Renew ☐ Change of Address Date ________________ Check Amount __________

PLEASE PRINT OR USE ADDRESS LABEL. ZIP CODE IS REQUIRED. Mail this application with a check made payable to the:

New York Cycle Club, P.O. Box 20541, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023.

NAME: ____________________________ SIGNATURE: ____________________________

ADDRESS / APT: ____________________________ SIGNATURE: ____________________________

CITY: ____________________________ STATE: ____________________________ ZIP (REQUIRED): ____________________________

DAY TEL: ____________________________ NIGHT TEL: ____________________________ E-MAIL: ____________________________

Check, if applicable: I do not want my ☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ E-mail published in the NYCC semi-annual roster.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1999. Please check the appropriate ring:

☑ Individual — $21 ☑ Couple residing at the same address — $27
Come to the
NYCC Holiday Party
MONDAY, December 6th

Don't miss the fun this year! This is the perfect opportunity to schmooze with all your cycling buddies and impress them with how great you look in nice clothes instead of the sweaty stuff they usually see you in. We're back at the elegant

**St. Maggies Cafe**
120 Wall Street

Buffet dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, bread, 4 entrees (including vegetarian), cake, and dessert. A cash bar is available.
$35 per person - before November 30th. $38 at the door.
See page 8 for full details.

2 blocks east of the Wall Street subway stop for the 2 and 3 trains.