



May 2009 Bulletin

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May is Bike Month!

It's that time of year again. Transportation Alternatives, together with the NY Department of Transportation, has just kicked off Bike Month NYC, a month of cycling celebration for the boroughs.

Bike Month has grown since 1990 from a one-day celebration of biking to work, to a week long celebration of bicycling in New York City, to a month full of activities that showcase bicycling in New York City and the tri-state region. Cycling in New York City has grown by leaps and bounds in the past 19 years.

On an average day, 112,000 New Yorkers bicycle—up 10% over the past ten years and up 50% in the past two decades. This number continues to grow fueled by government and advocates' efforts to improve and promote biking. In fact, cycling has never been more popular. The DOT announced a dramatic 35% increase in bicycle commuters in 2008.

Plan your month filled with cycling parties, rides, tours, classes and races, and meet our area's old salts of cycling as well as the many new converts to the joys of two wheels. -- Editor

For a comprehensive list of events, request a [2009 Bike Month NYC Calendar](#) here from [Transportation Alternatives](#) or go to the [TA Web site](#) at www.transalt.org.

Here are a few hand-picked highlights of Bike Month NYC events:

National Bike to Work Day in New York City May 15, 7-10:30 am



T.A. is doing it again; meet at one of several bridges or parks for your "Thank You for Riding to Work" snack. T.A. will be at the East River Bridges (Queensboro, Williamsburg, Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridge), plus Madison Square Park and City Hall Park. Stop by for some hot coffee, quality reading material and your extreme commuter bag! National Bike to Work Day is brought to you by Transportation Alternatives and -- for the second year in a row -- Clif Bar. Click here for a StreetFilm of last year's

[Bike to Work Day.](#)

Borough President Snacks

Snack before or after work with your Borough President- take this opportunity to meet your borough president and meet other bicycle commuters in your borough.

Submit!

Have you a hankering to express yourself in prose? Do you have a wealth of information to share with the NYCC membership? Have you just returned from some far-flung spot and wish to tell everyone about it? Submit! Submit!

May 5, 7:30-8:30 am Brooklyn
 May 13, 7-8:30 am Staten Island
 May 15, 7-9:30 am Bronx
 May 21, 5:15-6:15 pm Manhattan

Bike Repair Workshop: Basics

Thu, May 7, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Free class for all levels on identifying parts and tools, diagnosing common problems and things you should know before buying a bike, plus how to change tires and fix flats. This is part of a four-class series, though there's no need to do the classes in order, or go to the beginner's class before any others. People can use the tools to repair their own bikes, though they cannot expect guidance for the mechanics. Bike workshops are free, but attendees are strongly encouraged to make a donation or become a Time's Up! member. 156 Rivington St. (between Suffolk & Clinton St in Manhattan's Lower East Side) in the basement.

Bring a 'Bent and Share the Love: The Brooklyn 'Bent Rally

Sat, May 9, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

For all recumbent riders and those who are curious about 'bents. Ride the park, talk shop, and shoot the breeze with the 'bent curious. Please note: demo rides are at the discretion of individual 'bent owners and waivers and ID may be required. For one-on-one 'bent demos, check out the "Ride a Bent and Raise a Buck" listing on the Bike Month calendar scheduled for May 16. Meet on Center Drive in Prospect Park. F train to 15th St.; Q, S train to Prospect Park, Brooklyn.



Bike Night at the Brooklyn Brewery!

Wed, May 20 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Please join Braking the Cycle (The AIDS Ride from Boston to NYC benefiting the Center's HIV/AIDS Services) in celebrating Bike Month at the Brooklyn Brewery. There will be live entertainment, games, contests and \$1 Brooklyn drafts. Brooklyn Brewery is at 79 North 11th Street, (1st stop in Brooklyn on the L train, then walk 4 blocks north, make a left on N. 11th and it will be on your right, 1 1/2 blocks up). See you there!

Location: 79 North 11th St. L train to Bedford Ave., Brooklyn

NYCycles

Sat, May 23, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

NYCycles will be hosting an event in Washington Square Park to spread awareness about its mission to bring a Bicycle Share Program to



New York City. At the event, NYCycles will give an ongoing presentation about the benefits of such a program and how it would be implemented into our City's culture and infrastructure.

Location: Washington Square Park; 6 train to Astor Place; R, W train to 8th St.; or A, C, or E train to West 4th, Manhattan

Ride to the "World of Chocolate"

Thu, May 28 8:45 am - 4:30 pm

The World of Chocolate (Supreme Chocolatier) is a chocolate manufacturer located in Staten Island. They have a wonderful retail store where youâ€™ll be able to purchase their chocolates. We'll also go for a picnic lunch in charming Willow Brook Park. The terrain is relatively flat, and the pace will be leisurely to moderate. Bring lunch or money for it, a good working bicycle with your tires inflated to the appropriate psi, a bicycle pump, two spare inner tubes, a light bicycle lock, and a smile.

MEET 8:50 AM at the Loeb Boathouse in Central Park located on the East Drive, North of the 5th Ave. & 72nd St. entrance to the park,

OR 9:50 AM - Manhattan side of Staten Island Ferry (bicycle waiting area)

OR 10:20 AM - Staten Island side of Staten Island Ferry (bicycle waiting area).

Bike Punk After Party

Fri, May 29 9:00 pm - 2:00 am

To close-out Bike Month NYC, Time's Up! Environmental and Bike Advocacy Group teams up with Team Spider (New York's Bike Punk band) to bring you a post-Critical Mass night of punk bands celebrating all-things-bike. Bands include: Team Spider, Wombat in Combat, and surprise friends!

Details: All ages welcome. Sliding scale donation of \$5 - \$10 at the door.

Venue: Angel's Lounge, 990 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY
Doors open 9 p.m., til late. \$10 general, \$5 student

Location: JMZ to Myrtle Ave.; 990 Broadway, Brooklyn

CRCA Women's Racing Clinic

Sat, May 30 5:15 am - 7:45 am

Tempted to Try Bicycle Racing?

Not sure how or where to start? Hereâ€™s the answer: Women from the Century Road Club Association, New York Cityâ€™s road racing club, are presenting a three-lap simulated race around Central Park. Experienced women racers will ride with the field, providing instruction, assistance and advice. Many local racers started their careers at this clinicâ€”you can too!



Informational Session:

Nervous? On the fence? Clinic instructors will ease your jitters at a Q&A on Thursday, May 28, 7p.m. at A Bicycle Shop, 163 West 22nd St. (btw 6th & 7th Ave.), RSVP required, \$15.

Location: 6 train to 77th St.; event held at 72 Central Park West, NYC

Prez Sez

Hi folks!

I'd like to begin by thanking those who e-mailed me during April with ideas for future club meetings. Now that I've collated all the messages that were sent, you should be hearing from me shortly.

I'd also like to "warn" those who have been posting on the message board thread regarding younger people in the club. Some of you will be hearing from me directly too. Some really good ideas were mentioned that deserve further exploration.

The SIGs are coming to an end (B-SIG graduation is on Tuesday, May 12th). As this happens, the number of rides posted usually increases. This will help resolve another message board thread, asking where all the rides have gone. Of course, another way to help with this is for anyone (SIG grad or not) to post a ride in May in June in July in August.

As the weather warms and the days continue to grow longer, I would encourage everyone to get out on a club ride. And if there is no ride suited to your needs and preference, lead one yourself. If you are unsure about leading, contact the C, B or A Ride Coordinators (e-mail addresses can be found through the Contact Us link). The ride coordinators can help immensely, from tips on what to do to help in finding a co-leader. Leading can be fun and highly addictive!

Memorial Day is approaching, and with it, the club's annual sojourn to the Berkshires. This is always a high point of the spring. And if you're trying to figure out how to spend the Fourth of July, the club has a weekend of fun at West Point planned. It's a wonderful way to celebrate America's birthday.

On Sunday last, I was doing a recovery ride to Breezy Point, and had stopped to watch my daughter's boyfriend run a 5K race on the Rockaway boardwalk. As I left and made my way back to Beach Channel Drive, I saw a cyclist crossing B116th Street wearing our club's new jersey. I waved, and headed off in the opposite direction from him (which was just as well he would have dropped me like a bad habit!). It reminded me that there are well over 50 people wearing the jersey already. That's a pretty good start. And he looked really good in it too!

The **Montauk Century** and the **Bloomin' Metric** are just a couple of weeks away. Both are wonderful rides! I highly recommend either of them.

Finally, May is "Bike Month," so be sure to check out NYCC's event round-up in this month's bulletin. You can also go to **Transportation Alternative's Web site** for events, commuting tips and other valuable information.

Be safe, be well, and I'll see you on the road.

Thank you,
George Arcarola
President, NYCC

May Rides

To see this month's rides listed by the week or month, [click here](#). (password required)

May Events

For a list and description of this month's events, [click here](#).

Bike Shop Discounts

To access your discount card and a list of bike shops offering discounts to NYCC members, [click here](#) (password required)

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