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"Prez Sez" March 2010 by Derek Chu, NYCC President

Cycling Advocacy in the New York City Area

In 2010, "...bicycles will increasingly be perceived as the only solution for urban-traffic problems." So wrote the staff of *The Economist* magazine in the December 2009 publication, *The World in 2010*. Interestingly, they also predicted that bicycles (and white wine, among other things) will be "cool." This month's Club "Bulletin" contains articles about three advocacy issues in our region:

- "Team T.A." is in its second year as a fundraising event
- An update on the increased use of rumble strips on New York State roads
- An update on plans for the replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge

SIG Update

As this Bulletin is distributed in the first week of March, registration for the A/B/C SIGs will be closing. NYCC has experienced record demand for spots in the SIGs. Our volunteer cycling leaders have shown boundless enthusiasm and dedication in preparing to kick-off another successful SIG season in which they will train 400 cyclists. Our indefatigable leaders certainly do NYCC proud!

As an example of the enthusiasm and demand for the SIGs, the B-SIG closed registration on February 8th after only eight days of open registration with a phenomenal 61 cyclists registering on February 1st. Is it cool to be in a SIG or what?

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!

Transformation: NYCC Continues to Perfect Its Operations and Communication

The Board of Directors and our volunteer committees continue to make strides in improving the operational efficiency and ability to serve and communicate to our members.

- **NYCC.org** – In early February, the Club's website was migrated to a new Internet Service Provider (ISP) host. The web team led by Tatiana Kamorina and Jim Reaven worked many hours to ensure a seamless transition. Thank you, Web Team! We have moved to a stable host with reliable site redundancy to ensure a robust NYCC.org site during our busiest traffic season in the spring.
- **"Diamond Jubilee Gala"** – Brainstorming continues on the possible format and venue for the 2011 "Diamond Jubilee Gala" celebrating NYCC's 75th Anniversary. Christy Guzzetta and Jody Saylor are leading a committee comprised of cross-functional Club members to develop suggestions to be made to the Board of Directors.
- **Safety** – Cycling safety is the paramount concern for our ride leaders and the Executive Board. Each monthly Board meeting begins with a safety review of any cycling incidents or other related issues.
- **Website Request for Proposal** – In March, the RFP to upgrade the NYCC.org website will be sent to several vendors for comment and bid.

NYCC and Cycling Advocacy

NYCC offers Club rides and events that range all over the City, Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, and near upstate New York. Our SIG and STS rides will have 600 cyclists on the roads each weekend from February through May. With over 2,300 paid members, the NYCC is one of the largest recreational cycling organizations in the New York metropolitan area and as such, the Club has a vested interest in our region's cycling advocacy issues.

In 2010, NYCC will take a more active role in advocacy – we will support and coordinate with Transportation Alternatives (TA), New Jersey Bike Touring Club (NJBTC), and 5BBC (Five Boro Bike Club) in their efforts. In particular, we will be meeting with TA, NJBTC, 5BBC, and CRCA (Century Road Cycling Association) to coordinate and develop an actionable strategy for safety upgrades for cyclists and pedestrian on the George Washington Bridge and Route 9W in Bergen County, NJ.

Call for Articles

We are looking for submissions of articles about your cycling travels globally – send us your travelogues. As always, send your articles (500 words or less) and comments to President@nycc.org.

With warmer temperatures arriving soon, as per *The Economist*, cycling continues to be a cool and viable alternative for urban-traffic problems. See you on the road!

2009 Ride Leader Tallies Are In!

by Mark Israel (V.P. Rides), **Adrienne Browning** (A Rides Coordinator), **John Pinto** (B Rides Coordinator), **Alan West** (C Rides Coordinator)

This past year, **301** wonderful members volunteered to lead rides! It's amazing! It's fantastic!

The top 10 leaders based on number of rides lead are:

Maggie Nguyen	125
Linda Wintner	80
Neile Weissman	62
Michael Notaro	49
Sharon Shachar	39
Susan Rodetis	39
Bob Ross	28
Jay Jacobson	26
Sue Foster	26

In appreciation of their incredible effort and dedication, these leaders, plus all other leaders having led 12 or more rides, will have a choice of either the current club jersey or a custom-ordered "Ride Leader" vest with the current jersey design (white background, red-and-blue Statue of Liberty with wheel design).

- 107 leaders with 6 or more rides will receive an NYCC water bottle and a pair of the current NYCC cycling socks
- 49 leaders with 3 or more rides will receive an NYCC water bottle

Next year it could be you! Pick-up directions for your NYCC swag will be posted on the NYCC website. Stay tuned...

NYCC Partners with "Team T.A."

by Molly Sullivan, Events Coordinator - Transportation Alternatives

Transportation Alternatives is excited to announce the launch of the 2010 TEAM T.A. What is TEAM T.A.? It is a group of cyclists dedicated to fundraising for Transportation Alternatives and training for the NYC Century Bike Tour. The team members range from newbies on freshly purchased wheels to experienced cyclists who commute to work every day by bike – and everyone in between!

As New York City's leading advocacy organization for cyclists, pedestrians and mass transit users, Transportation Alternatives fights for safer streets every day. Each member of TEAM T.A. is going to be a major source of support for T.A.'s advocacy efforts by raising \$1,000 over the course of the spring and summer. The fundraising deadline is September 12, 2010.

Why September 12? Because it is the date of the 21st annual NYC Century Bike Tour!

In order to properly prepare for this important ride, team members will be invited and encouraged to participate in training rides. An exciting new partnership between the NY Cycle Club and Transportation Alternatives will allow for some TEAM T.A. members to join NYCC's popular SIG rides. NYCC is famous for these rides and team members will certainly benefit from the expertise of the leaders and the camaraderie of their fellow riders. The NYCC ride leaders will be given one free pass for the NYC Century Bike Tour as a token of T.A.'s appreciation.

After the NYC Century Bike Tour, you will still be able to spot TEAM T.A. members as they cruise along the streets of New York City by their unique orange jerseys. These beautiful, bold jerseys identify the riders as advocates.

If you're interested, please contact Molly Sullivan (molly@transalt.org) to find out more.

Rumble Strips: Rough Ride for Cyclists

by **Alfredo Garcia**

June 2008: a cyclist riding at night encounters newly installed rumble strips on Route 100 in Westchester County. The rumble strips were placed as a safety measure for motorists. Richard Wilt, the rider, went over the ridged strips, then zoomed out of his bike, suffering lip and tooth injuries.

June 2009: the Westchester Cycle Club (WCC) sued the NYS Dept. of Transportation (DOT) to remove the rumble strips on Route 100. Club President David Wilson reasoned that more signage and a lesser but strategic number of placed rumble strips were alternatives that would benefit both cyclists and motorists. Other WCC members, who are lawyers, helped with the suit.

December 2009: A NYS judge ruled against the WCC, citing that the club did not have the right to use a law that allows citizens to question state actions -- namely the DOT installation of said rumble strips.

From LoHud.com, President Wilson said, "The ruling marks a setback for our campaign to repave Route 100 for safe cycling. But be assured that our fight will continue. The campaign on Route 100 sparked considerable activism within the Club. We garnered press coverage for the issues, and elevated our stature within the public arena. We will continue the fight through discussions with DOT and involvement with DOT on other planning issues."

Sources:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/08/nyregion/08towns.html>

"A Safety Move That Cyclists Call A Menace" by Peter Applebome, New York Times, June 7, 2009. Accessed on Feb. 26, 2010.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumble_strip

Rumble Strips, Wikipedia. Accessed on Feb. 26, 2010

<http://cycling.lohudblogs.com/2009/12/14/judge-rejects-lawsuit-over-route-100-rumble-strips/>

"Judge rejects lawsuit over Route 100 rumble strips" by Randall Wolf, LoHud.com, December 14, 2009. Accessed on Feb. 26, 2010

The Tappan Zee Bridge Pedestrian / Bike Path Initiative

by **Hank Schiffman**, NYCC Rides Librarian and Metro-North RR Liaison

On January 12, 2010, on behalf of NYCC, Richard Rosenthal and I attended the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting, which focused on the "Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project" in Tarrytown, NY. The meeting's purpose was to obtain community feedback for bike and walkways for the design of the proposed replacement span for the Tappan Zee Bridge. Metro North, Parks Department representatives, the Thruway Authority and other interests were in attendance, but the majority of attendees represented bicycling clubs and interests.

Meeting attendees provided input from the cycling community regarding the Project's pedestrian/bike path, specifically on the bridge itself. Although the final design of the structure and approaches have not been decided, planners are reaching out to our community as well as surrounding municipalities for feedback.

Although two pedestrian/bike paths (north side and south), are preferable, there are constraints. Currently, the northern right of way on the Tarrytown side is hampered by space: One bridge design has three decks: two symmetrical outer decks with paths on the outside and one inner deck with two rail lines. The other design, which has two symmetrical decks with rail lines beneath, will have a smaller footprint in width. Cost might ultimately be the determining factor. There was debate as to the volume of non-motor commuting that this bridge will carry. The proposed span is to be 3.1 miles, so foot traffic will not be heavy. The volume of bike commuting is unknown.

Access to tail links on either side of the proposed bridge should encourage cyclist traffic. Richard and I raised the example of the George Washington Bridge, which has frequent path closures and does not have alternatives due to the single path option. We also expressed our displeasure on the use of stairs. Participants showed eagerness to consider this future span as part of a network of connecting paths. Access and connections are important issues but this meeting was not geared to specifics, but rather needs. We do want to keep the design user-friendly, eliminate hairpins and avoid errors in past designs. Belvederes (protected viewing locations) would serve to keep traffic flowing. Restrooms are possible options. Connections between north and south paths, though desirable, would probably prove impractical with the amount of stairs needed to cross vertical space. This is a consideration for pedestrians.

The towns of Tarrytown and Nyack, NY, both have limited areas for automobile parking. As the proposed new span path is expected to become a tourist attraction, future traffic congestion is expected to be an issue. The use of Metro North parking facilities underused on weekends, might be a solution to provide parking access to pedestrians and cyclists.

The next panel meeting on February 17th will be a field trip to tour existing paths on local New York City bridges.

We want to thank the organizers for allowing the NYCC to be part of this most important and wonderful project. Further information is available at tzbsite.com.

RECAP -- Sixth Annual NYCC Volunteers Recognition Dinner

by Eunice Martínez, NYCC Content Editor

The Sixth Annual NYCC Volunteers Recognition Dinner held on February 24th at "Ichiumi" Japanese restaurant (located on East 32nd Street) was a rousing success with over 100 ravenous volunteers cheerily partaking of each others' company and Ichiumi's many delectable buffet offerings. A private room upstairs allowed for NYCC-only mingling and our Prez Derek Chu warmly thanked all the volunteers for so freely and consistently giving of their blood, sweat and gears to the Club. Our Director of Special Events, Hal Eskenazi, made sure that the night went smoothly and that everyone had fun -- he always does!

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