



June 2010 Bulletin

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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!

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"Prez Sez" June 2010

By Derek Chu, NYCC President



BICYCLING: STRIKE A BALANCE OR FALL

As we embrace the warmth of the month of June, I'm excited that summer is near. Yet, like so many NYCCers, I feel both dejected and relieved that the 2010 SIGs are over!

Albert Einstein once wisely wrote that "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." Life does indeed move swiftly and it goes even faster as we age (or so I've heard tell). As we all strive to keep that all-important balance on our bikes and in our lives, we especially look forward to the good times and fast descents.

As an A-19 SIG leader, I've made new friends and have proudly observed the evolution of rookie SIGlets as they develop into

capable and experienced "A level" cyclists. The SIGs bring balance to the Club by infusing NYCC with new members, new ride leaders and new energy! The full list of B SIG graduates is detailed below. Congratulations to all! The list of C, A19 and A Classic graduates will be printed in the July Bulletin.

NYCC All-Class Ride and Picnic – Saturday, June 12



Over 230 members and ride leaders participated in the annual All-Class Ride and Picnic at Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow, NY. The NYCC Ride Coordinators estimated 50 'A' cyclists, 110 'B' cyclists, and 70 'C' cyclists began the ride in Central Park. All cyclists departed by 9:10am before the NYRR 10K road race impacted the West Park Drive.

Thank you to the "Picnic Team" who bought the food and water, prepared the lunch pavilion, monitored and served lunch, cut watermelon, and then cleaned up!!: Hal Eskenazi, Glendon Gordon, John Kalish, Grace Lichtenstein, Irasema Rivera, and Scott Wasserman.

Special thanks to Lauren Gilker, a 2010 C-SIG graduate, who suddenly joined the team upon arrival and worked for the duration there. She was a great help!

Berkshires Weekend 2010 – Memorial Day Weekend

Having just returned from the NYCC Berkshires Weekend organized by Reyna Franco and Tom Laskey -- thank you, Tom and Reyna! -- I am energized by all the fun and fascinating NYCC people that I met while cycling, partying, and relaxing. We all come from different backgrounds but our shared passion for cycling creates a special bond that brings energy, vitality and balance to NYCC. A total 118 people attended the Egremont Country Club dinner, and we estimate 150-160 NYCCer's joined various Club rides. The clergy, staff and volunteers of Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock, CT, plan a special bake sale each Memorial Day Weekend for NYCC cyclists as over 140 hungry cyclists stop by for a rest stop.

West Point Weekend 2010 – July 3-5

There has been record interest in this year's West Point Weekend over the Independence Day holiday. The event – with over 110 spots – is sold out but a waitlist has been created. Weekend organizer Lucia Deng and her team have been working hard to plan another fabulous weekend of cycling near the U.S. Military Academy. Thank you, Lucia! See http://nycc.org/rides_4th.shtml for more information.



Governors Island "B"/"C" Ride, June 5, 2010

NYCC's TRANSFORMATION: A SPARKLING DIAMOND FOR 2011

The Club's 75th Anniversary is 2011 and NYCC is busy preparing for our "Diamond Jubilee":

- **Website Redesign** -- In late May, NYCC signed a contract with a vendor to revamp the NYCC website. A detailed Statement of Work (SOW) was finalized to provide an implementation roadmap for the underlying open source Drupal technology. Detailed work has begun on the design of the new technical architecture for the NYCC website. The NYCC Content and Web teams are working closely with the vendor's staff. I will serve as the overall Project Manager/Sponsor for NYCC and my professional background in process and IT consulting will come in handy in this role.

It is expected that the new site will go live in August. We'll continue to provide updates as we know a new site will disrupt the status quo communications and information flow among members with the new design, layout, navigation, membership process, eCommerce module, Message Board forum, and Rides submission system.

- **PayPal** – In March, NYCC adopted PayPal and OpenCart storefront software for the Club's e-commerce platform in order to process payments for the Berkshires Weekend group dinner and for the three-day West Point Weekend. As a result, NYCC has saved hundreds of dollars in transaction fees through the use of PayPal.
- **Club Meetings** – A concerted effort by the entire Executive Board to energize the monthly Club meetings has resulted in several exciting, well-attended (*i.e.*, very crowded) events which have broken even or turned a small profit.

Since January, the Executive Board has provided monthly updates in the Club Bulletin on NYCC's transformative

preparation for our "Diamond Jubilee." (Archives "For Members Only" available [here](#).)

NYCC'S PERFORMANCE BIKE DISCOUNT

From May 21-23, several dozen members participated in the NYCC-only club discount of 15% off the lowest price on performancebike.com. want to thank NYCC member and 2010 C-SIG graduate Darren Ortsman for putting NYCC in touch with Performance.

Performance also sent NYCC a box of goodies to raffle off at the May and June Club meetings. Thank you Performance Bike! We hope to partner with you again in the future.

VOLUNTEER FOR NYCC: BALANCE AND BENEFITS

In keeping with Einstein's quote cited above, help maintain NYCC balanced and moving – the Club could not function without new volunteers stepping up to the plate to help in various capacities.

A few of the benefits of helping NYCC are:

- Giving back to the Club
- Addressing the varied challenges of a complex non-profit organization
- Making great new friends
- Advancing a shared passion for bicycling on behalf of all of us

We have experienced lawyers, graphic designers, finance, and technology professionals who have volunteered their skills to the Executive Board yet we still need many more volunteers.

Please step up and get in touch to offer your help in any capacity – you'll be happy you did and you'll be surprised how rewarding giving back can be!

Contact me, Derek Chu: president@nycc.org

2010 B-SIG Graduates



With great enthusiasm and dogged perseverance, this year's B-SIG aspirants completed each of the demanding instructional rides. In full force and with a rightful sense of accomplishment, they attended the boisterous B-SIG graduation where they were lauded for their achievement and conferred entry into the NYCC B-SIG order. And just as that B-SIG newbie glow is beginning to fade and their B-SIG diplomas are framed and hung with care, NYCC shares the names of each of this year's B-SIGGIES and welcomes them into the fold!

B-18

Kat Baronowski
 Brian Cantrell
 Regina Chiu
 TJ Cordero
 Deborah Cox
 Joan Dicolibis
 Kevin Donahue
 Jason Goolush
 Jefri Gootkin
 Eli Graf
 Susan Graham
 Marisa Hanson
 Fred Harris
 Seth Holladay
 Carla Hunter
 Rachel Kastrinsky
 Edwin Kim
 Claudia Kulesh
 Adhish Lal
 Steven Lee
 Santiago Machimbarrena
 Matthew McDonough
 Keith Morton
 Chris Nolter
 Michael Osborn
 James Pallot
 Carlos Perea
 Ilian Petrov
 Rachel Preiser
 Osvaldo Principe
 Christine Scott-Hayward
 Dan Sieber
 Nicole Snow
 Tom Sufleta
 Karen Trank
 Stephen Twilley
 Charles Val
 Alexa Wilson

B-17

Thais Alexander
 Ken Barrows
 Johanna Campos
 Kristina Cordero
 Dominick Diorio
 David Dubovsky
 Kristen Edwards
 Lisa Ellerton
 Liz Gately
 Michael Gewirtz
 Ellie Glicklich
 Julie Grant
 Christopher Hayes
 Karin Jacobson
 Kristine Kern
 Leonard Kirsch
 Andrew Kuziemko
 Chris Lotts
 Rudy Lucas
 Simone Lutz
 James Notice
 Luci Olewinski
 Philip Papas
 Sherri Rosenberg
 Jennifer Rudin
 Norma Sax
 David Scher
 Jeremy Semble
 Deborah Sharp
 Tim Shepard
 Craig Shuster
 Craig Sloane
 Joel Stewart
 Antonia Stolper
 Stacy Young

B-16

Cal Azzouni
 Ruben Bacades
 Nancy Benowitz
 Lori Berkowitz
 Julie Blackburn
 Olive Blessing
 Kate Brady
 Gianluca Croce
 Jim Finder
 Kerri Fox
 Allison Heim
 Richard Kaufman
 Jen Landolt
 Eunice Martinez
 Lorna McCrave
 Patrina Morgan
 Laura O'Neill
 Alicia Principe
 Diane Smykowski
 Michele Thompson
 Todd Tilev

NYCC AMBASSADOR**NYCC Member Tony Manton Gives Aussie Tim Mulligan a Tour of Manhattan and Brooklyn**

Aussie Tim Mulligan (l.) and NYCC member Tony Manton take a break from their ride.

By Tim Mulligan, Warragul, Australia

In late February while planning a trip to Monterrey, Mexico, via New York to visit my daughter on student exchange, I put a short notice on the New York Cycling Club message board. I was contemplating ways of being in New York that involved more than the predictable sights and I wanted to meet some locals to hear from them about their place. So my notice asked about the viability and safety of getting about on bike. I received several replies, all saying that New York was a good place to ride but with some provisos.

One reply in particular was a pleasant surprise. Tony Mantione, a long-time member of NYCC, wrote that he was setting up his own cycling tour company and offered me a complimentary tour of Manhattan or Brooklyn, or both if I wanted.

I quickly replied that I would indeed like to tour both places and after numerous emails where we got to know each other in a fashion, a date in late April was established.

After the long haul across the Pacific from Melbourne and then from Los Angeles to New York, I was relieved to have Tony pick me up and take me to my accommodation in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Family and friends had joked about meeting up with someone I had never met who had a very Italian name and who came from Brooklyn. Tony's emails suggested he had a good sense of humour but I refrained from making any jokes about 'the mob' or the cost of protection. By the time of our first meeting, I wasn't at all concerned, if I ever was, and Tony certainly didn't fit the big and imposing image of a mobster.

When I left home the riding weather had been that of mild and still autumn days with cooling evenings. New York had been suffering late snows and a punctuated start to spring riding, but by the time of my arrival in the latter part of April, the riding weather was just about perfect as it was on the day of our tour. It began with the crossing of the Williamsburg Bridge.

I would have liked to have ridden my own bike but was glad not to have to worry about the whole process of transport and security. In any case, Tony had recently purchased new Trek hybrids, which fit the terrain well and cater for a range of riding capacity. Not my now-familiar and much-liked 29er, but fine for the job.

Around the country town of Warragul, a bit over 100 kilometres east of Melbourne, there is little in the way of traffic and much of it can be avoided by taking to the hills and forest to the south or by riding the new bike path to the next town. I was hoping to keep out of danger in New York by keeping to the bike paths, and the grim memorial on the approach to the Williamsburg Bridge of a white bike tied to a pole where a rider had died indicated that was probably wise. The bridge crossing was noisy but separate from cars and I was welcomed to Manhattan by Mayor Bloomberg and Borough President Stringer's welcome sign on Delancey, a little disappointing that the welcome was not personally extended but the sign was a nice touch.

From that point on I learned that Tony considers the road his as much as any vehicle and we mixed it with cars, trucks, buses and the ubiquitous yellow cabs up First, Third and Sixth Avenues to the relief-filling entrance of Central Park. The loop to the north of the park and down to West 72nd was more relaxing amongst some attractive bike traffic -- hybrids will keep pace with road bikes when the incentive is there. Down the Hudson River Greenway, past Chesley

Sullenberger's airport alternative, we mixed it with some obsessive Saturday morning body traffic before passing the World Trade Centre site and onto the Brooklyn Bridge.

After crossing from Manhattan to Brooklyn with a good many photos taken, including the iconic shot of the Empire State Building between the towers of the Manhattan Bridge, we rested and fuelled up at a popular market in Red Hook before tracking across to Prospect Park and through the tightly housed streets towards the Shore Parkway Greenway and the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

With so many people living in Brooklyn, it shouldn't have been surprising that there was little room even amongst the more affluent brownstone-housed streets for gardens or garages. Not until Shore Road did there appear to be a freestanding house with space surrounding it for a garden and only occasionally did tree-lined streets relieve hardened suburbia. Another striking characteristic of Brooklyn was the ethnic divide that appeared to occur almost on crossing a major road: whether Caribbean, Arabic, Russian or the more particular divide that makes up the Hasidic Jewish community. Like many cities around the world that have had high levels of immigration, New York is a big melting pot, but the constituent parts are not necessarily melded as one. I was nonetheless grateful that the Hasids didn't drive on Saturdays, leaving the streets in their neighbourhood nicely free of traffic.

After another stop and photos of the graceful Verrazano Narrows Bridge, we pushed along the shoreline into a brisk southeasterly wind where Tony's 'trackydacks' came into their own. Prior to arriving in New York, Tony advised me on attire for the planned trip with consideration for the time of year. He also told me not to bother with 'fancy smancy' cycling clothing, a pair of jeans would do.

So on the morning of our ride, although a little cool to begin with, I chose shorts and shirt for the clear skies while Tony went for changeable conditions and several degrees removed from fancy smancy with tracksuit pants and windcheater. We were out to ride, not to impress.

By definition the last stop should have required a ferry ride or substantial bridge crossing but we somehow arrived on Coney Island without either. A run along the boardwalk past the simple and dated entertainment of another era led to Brighton Beach where Tony asked if I wanted to catch the train home after much of the day riding. I had the feeling that our trip had also been a bit of an endurance test and although a little tired I wasn't going to finish the tour by train. A left onto Bedford Avenue with the wind at our backs, the long, last stretch from the bottom of Brooklyn to the top was only interrupted by traffic lights.

At the end of a fairly long day out, I was still a little surprised to find that we had travelled almost exactly 100 kilometres with the greater part on roads and all without incident of any kind.

Not long after our ride, I was catching up on news from home, which included a developing turf war for access to Melbourne's streets. With a growing number of people travelling to work by bike, antagonism between mostly car drivers and cyclists has sometimes resulted in abuse and occasionally in acts of gross stupidity. Although some cyclists seem bereft of common sense and choose to ride on the road in heavy traffic when a paved cycling path runs alongside, it is largely, I believe, the impatience and intolerance of car drivers that is causing the conflict.

I may have been lucky, but for the whole day out there appeared to be respect and caution given by New York's drivers -- an example that would be nice to see followed in Melbourne.

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