

The Gainesville Cyclist

June 2000

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Cycling Club, Inc.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

June 21 (Wed) Summer Solstice Trek at Boulware Springs

This event is being planned to inaugurate the newly formed "Friends of the Gainesville/Hawthorne Trail," the citizen support organization for the state trail. This event will be a potluck dinner with drinks and paper plates provided. Drop off your dishes at the spring house, and then "trek" the trail from 6 to 7:30 by bike, blade, jog, walk, stroll or just saunter up to the first overlook. Time is flexible but we will eat at 7:30 with a short program afterwards to present the CSO plan. This is the longest day of the summer so we may reconvene for sunset over the prairie around 8:45. Plan to join us and bring family and friends. For additional info, contact Linda at LBCrider@aol.com or Chandler Otis at Chanbike@aol.com.

July 15 (Sat) Summer Picnic at Fanning Springs

Come enjoy swimming, road riding, rail trail rides and off-road trail riding. Rides meet at 9 am, food starts at noon. GCC will serve the traditional hamburgers and hot dogs, please bring a covered dish!

Fanning Springs State Park is about a 45 minute drive west of Gainesville. Take State Road 26 west through Newberry and Trenton. At Wilcox Junction, turn west (right) on US 98. Fanning Springs is on the south side of US 98 just before the Suwannee River.

The Nature Coast Greenway has quite a bit more pavement now than it did last year. Road riders may want to cycle the flat, lightly traveled farm roads in the area.

Manatee Springs, in Chiefland, also has 8 miles of off-road, family oriented trails. Off road riders may want to visit Manatee's trails then come join us for lunch.

If you have questions or want to help with the picnic, please call Chandler at 377-1728 or email at Chanbike@aol.com.

September 30 - October 1

Gainesville Cycling Festival

Horse Farm Hundred

Santa Fe Century

It'll be here before you know it!

11TH ANNUAL FRANK STARK RIDE THE NEW MILLENIUM

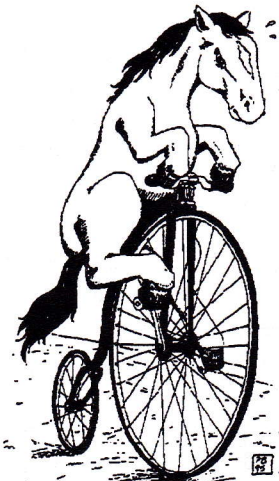
July 9, 2000 Boca Raton, FL, 18,33,62, & 100 miles

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:

(561) 883-9961 OR ejliner@gate.net

Register online at activeusa.com Event ID 100487
Or Pick Up Registration Form at Sports Authority

· Sheriff Escorts · SAG · Lunch By Carrabba's Italian Grill
· O'Douls · Treats · Free Massages · Year 2000 Jersey





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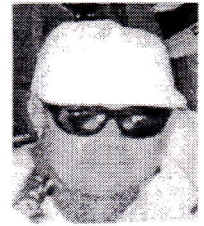
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President's Message



The Music of the Night

Night riding has been said to be dangerous, more so than day riding, and this may be true. However I take exception to some of the statistics that have been produced on this subject. My personal experience is that night riding has potential danger, but not inherent or insidious danger. Like scuba diving and flying, when a person is properly trained and keeps the appropriate continuous level of anxiety for the dangers involved, pays heed to the requirements for safety devices and stays aware of surroundings, the dangers are minimal.

You and I both know who is getting killed at night. We see them (just barely) out riding without lights, reflectors or light colored clothes. They ride against traffic, don't abide the traffic rules and half the time are inebriated. In short, consciously or unconsciously they are trying to commit suicide. If these people were eliminated from the statistical factoring the numbers of people killed or injured riding at night would be infinitesimal.

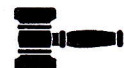
I often hear people say that cave diving gets people killed. That is true, lots of people get killed in caves while scuba diving. On the other hand the incident of divers with actual cave diver certification that get killed is so small it's only notable for its rarity. In other words, with all of cave diving's potential dangers the people who get killed are those without the good sense to appreciate that cave diving can be lethal without specialized training.

Night riding has a quality and character so different from day riding that it is difficult to convey its special pleasures to someone who hasn't tried it. I could tell you about the time I rode a power line trail one moonless night, stopped and turned off my lights and gazed up at stars brilliantly sparkling in the dark sky, absorbed the silence around me, while along either side of the trail, from the bottom to the top of the tall trees silhouetted against the inky sky, for as far as I could see, fireflies flickered their love beacons like a giant runway. Or how the wood smells so pungently sweet late at night, rich with the nectar of night blooming flowers, while unseen crickets and frogs chirp a chorus into the deep silence. Or how it feels to race through a familiar wooded trail with a bright headlight slicing its way through the dense black night air. Or perhaps to describe the excitement of seeing nocturnal animals, suddenly caught in the beam, revealed in their evening wanderings. I could relate the way the tepid night air of summer makes it preferable to the swelter of the day, how sunscreen is not needed for the ride, how the water bottles seem to stretch farther at night. And there is the solitude, the quiet, the alone of being that you can only feel at night. You would have to try it to really know if it is for you.

Do I recommend night riding for you? No, emphatically NO! I would never recommend that someone acquire a taste for living life a little closer to the edge. Those who decide to ride at night find that desire on their own, without promotion from anyone else. Hopefully they will bring, along with their desire to ride, a constant state of readiness to deal with whatever the night throws in their way. And if you come to ride with me, I will let you lead. Turn on your wide beam and prepare to brake quickly, in the glare of your headlight you may suddenly catch the glint of a six-foot spider web blocking the trail. Yes, there are risks, so that is the nature of the beast.

Following winds, my friends

Rob Wilt



Off Road



by Brian Raisler

San Felasco Trails Update

Many of you have received messages by email about the trail building efforts that are underway at San Felasco State Preserve. Dedicated groups of volunteers meet nearly every Saturday morning and often one evening during the week to push the trail a bit further ahead. I have been one of those volunteers on several occasions over the last few months. I am proud to say that several other GCC have come out to lend a hand as well. I am sure that those who joined the trail building crew found the experience to be as satisfying and rewarding as I did. I am pleased to report that the trail is progressing quite well. There are now two loops of single-track trail finished and we are moving toward a third. The total distance of the trails is over 10 miles now and each week that grows a little bit further. I have received a number of questions over the past few months about the trails and I thought that this would be a good forum to address some of them.

Are the trails open for riding?

No, the trails are not open to the public. Please do not go out and try to ride these trails yet. If you do so, you will be trespassing. The whole offroad cycling community can suffer from the inappropriate actions of a few people. If people ride the trail now, it sends the wrong message about our being responsible citizens. Work with the system, not against it. Besides the community impact of riding the trail right now, you can also have your bike confiscated and you will have to go to court to get it back.

When will the trails be open?

That truly depends on the efforts of the volunteers working on building the trail. In addition to building and grooming the trails, some Saturday efforts will be directed toward constructing a

designated fenced parking area. There are also plans for rain shelters and appropriate signage at some locations along the trail. One hurdle yet to be overcome is the need for a composting toilet to be installed at the trail head parking area. Apparently water lines are not available in the area, so a composting toilet must be installed. I have heard optimistic speculation that the trails could be open to the public as early as this next winter. Or it could be next summer before the gate swings open for open riding. It really does depend on the efforts of people like you.

What can I do to help?

Come out for a trail building day! It really isn't a whole day anyway. Really just a couple of hours in the morning. You will need a fat tire bike to get out to the work site. Of course, you will want your helmet, water, and other bike related goods you would normally take with you for a ride. Other than that, I would recommend a good pair of work gloves. There are typically more tools available than there are hands to use them. If you do bring your own tools they can be transported out to the site on a pull-behind-bike trailer. If you come, you will have fun, you will break a sweat, you will be awed by majestic beauty, you will be a part of making this trail a reality.

In order to encourage more people to come out and help with the trail, every other Saturday will be devoted to packing down the trail by riding over it repeatedly with our bike tires. This is important trail maintenance and also happens to be a lot of fun. Even if you haven't been out for a trail building day, come out and see what work has been done. You will see beautiful cathedral oak canopies that drape over the trail and pristine vistas that stretch out for miles (Yes, this is in Florida!). I am confident that once you have seen this trail, you will be back to help clear the next quarter mile.



CLASSIFIED

Club members, call, mail, email, or fax your stuff that you no longer need to the editor for inclusion in this column. Priority will be given to bicycling items; the number of items per member may be limited due to space considerations.

Mule Camel Back with reservoir never used \$48 (list price \$69 plus shipping); Bike repair stand \$20; Bike rack \$20 (fits most) Linda C. McMahon 331-4089

White 1995 Kestrel 200EMS 54cm road bike, excellent, like new condition and has never been ridden in the rain. Ultegra STI components with an 8 speed cassette. This is the EMS as opposed to SCI road frame which means superlight (2.6 lbs.) and super strong. Look pedals but I also have Speedplay pedals I'd be willing to swap out. A new EMS road frame/fork combo alone sells for \$2150. I am asking \$1500 for the whole kit and caboodle. Tony Aliva, bike is on view at Primo Bicycle Works, 371-9650

All of the following items are offered by Rob Wilt, 380-0561.

CYCLO-CROSS TIRES - AVOCET Cross 700c x 35c, \$ 10 for pair

Ortofon CARTRIDGE (Dual TKS 55E with DN 155E biradial stylus). Provided as original equipment on Dual CS 627 turntable. Has only a dozen or so playings on the stylus. Was displaced by a Shure V15 type 5. This model originally sold for \$115. Excellent overall characteristics, low tracking weight. Will sell for \$50.

INDUCTIVE AMPLIFIER - Progressive Electronics Inc. Model 200B. Hand held model with speaker. \$ 25.

RAM, 30 pin SIMMs 1mb x 9, 80ns, \$5 each, 4 available

Vittoria bike shoes, black and yellow leather, size about 9 or 9½ mens, new \$20

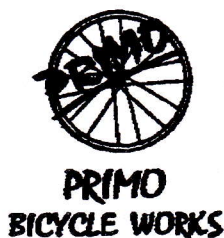
Airwalk casual shoes, black, gray and white, about size 9 mens, only worn twice, \$20

Jersey Status



We need small and medium women to go to Primo and buy jerseys! There is one small and several medium female cut jerseys left, so you are the ones in luck.

As to shorts, you must be a small or large male, and you had better hurry as there is only one of each left.



PERRY C. MCGRIFF, JR.
AGENT

The Commish Speaks

by Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
Commissioner (emailed to Steve Hach)

Four things you should be aware of:

1. The City and County have just started a Bicycle Master Plan. I sat in on the first meeting of the Steering Committee, and the consultants who are doing it are extremely savvy, but their emphasis will be on on-road facilities, and off-road commuting trails. On June 6, at 7 PM there will be a public meeting to hear the needs of the community, and you should make your wishes known, because they will have an impact in this forum.

2. Marlie Sanderson and volunteers have built a pretty spectacular single track trail in San Felasco Hammock Preserve. It may not be open to the public yet, but you can call him for details at the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council at 955-2200. He's an important person to know, because he's totally dedicated to off-road biking, has coordinated a number of trail-building efforts (including the Big Shoals Tract on the Suwannee), and he manages millions in transportation dollars.

3. I have for years been interested in having the awesome single-track area designated off the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail. While with the Alachua Conservation Trust, I purchased the perfect property for this, called the Jerevan tract -- 700 acres of scrub with diverse terrain and vegetation, and already somewhat ecologically hammered, and adjacent to the GVL/HAW Trail on the eastern end of the Preserve. On Wednesday, June 14 at 7 PM at the Prairie Visitors Center near Micanopy, there will be a public meeting to solicit comments on how to modify the Paynes Prairie Land Management Plan. This is a huge opportunity to gain more access.

4. I'm on the Goethe Forest Land Management Advisory Committee, and we are in the process of completing that plan. If you have not ridden the trails out there, you have missed some spectacular Florida scenery in a vast forest. The trails are well-marked, but not wimpy, being used mostly by horseback riders right now.

Bike on, Hutch

June - July Ride Schedule

RIDING GROUPS

A Riders. (no Group Captain). Fast paced rides from two to five hours. There is often a group that will do a shorter ride. The ride may become very fast for some periods. Team Florida frequently joins the group on Sundays.

Gliders. Andrew Gill, 338-9205, apgill@gnv.fdt.net. Fast (18-19 mph), steady paced rides, normally from 50 to 70 miles in length.

LoBees. Paul Zimpfer, 462-5003 evenings, Z-MAN2@prodigy.net. Rides in the 15-16 mph range on Saturdays. Meeting times and places are posted via email.

HiBees. Not an official group, but usually go off the front of the LoBees.

Hunters Crossing Pedalers. Linda McMahon, 331-4089. Meets most Saturdays for a slower paced ride. This group also meets on some Sundays.

Newnans Lake Riders. Chandler Otis, 377-1728 (leave a message). A family and beginners group that meets Sundays to do a 15 to 35 mile ride.

Off Roaders. Brian Raisler, braisler@ufl.edu or 338-4594. Meets most Sundays. Special rides announced via email.

Bee Line. Bill Cochran, 371-4118 or Dave Wagner, 375-4496. Meets at various locations and times on weekends and weekdays, usually starting very early. Civil rides at a good pace with rest stops.

Feet First. Bruce Bush, bruce@musician.org. Recumbent bicyclists group. May do one or two rides a month.

Stray Cats. Rob Wilt, 380-0561, afn09010@afn.org. Slower paced rides at out of town locations, announced via email.

Fireflies. Rob Wilt, 380-0561, afn09010@afn.org. Tuesday and Thursday rides out and back on Millhopper. Lights required. Call the leader before joining this group.

G-H Trail Riders. Carol Glavin, 371-8695, glavin@gator.net. Sunday rides on the rail trail.

Centurians. Roger Pierce, 378-7063. Hundred mile rides and up, usually at out of town events.

EZ Riders. George Edwards 372-8974, gedwards@atlantic.net. Leisurely rides (well, glacially slow) with frequent stops to look at the flora, fauna, rocks, what have you, usually out of town and often on mix of pavement and forest trails. Announced via e-mail.

REGULAR STARTING TIMES AND PLACES

Always check your email for time and place updates.

GRU FACILITY RIDES

(NW 53rd Ave, north side, just west of NW 43rd St)

SATURDAY

All groups meet at 9 am unless otherwise announced in email.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

A Riders meet at 6:30 pm.

PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS RIDES

(University of Florida campus in front of Library West under the walkway)

SUNDAY

All groups meet at 9 am unless otherwise announced in email.

FT CLARKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

(9301 NW 23rd Ave)

SUNDAY

Off Roaders meet at 10 am.

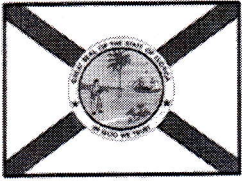
BOULWARE SPRINGS

(3300 block of SE 15th Street, second entrance)

SUNDAY

G-H Trail Riders meets at 9 or 10 am (email announced start time).





Florida

Bicycle Touring Calendar

(VERY ABRIDGED)

See the complete calendar on the World Wide Web at <http://www.afn.org/~bike/FBTC>



- June 25 (Sun) **The Daytona Bike Club Mount Dora Ride**
Mount Dora FL 16, 26, and 50 mile rides. There is no fee, its free.
Cindy Ernest (904)738-3777.
- July 8 (Sat) **Cartersville Century**
Cartersville GA 30, 62, and 100 mile options. Ride the beautiful
back roads of Bartow County in this summer
ride. Marianne Gilliam 404-724-9917.
- July 9 (Sun) **11th Annual Frank Stark Celebration Ride**
Boca Raton FL 16, 29, 62, or 100 miles. The route follows A1A
north from Boca Raton to Palm Beach, then back.
There is a catered pasta meal at the finish. Boca
Raton Bicycle Club, PO Box 810744, Boca
Raton FL 33481-0744. (561)883-9961
- July 15 to Aug 20 **National Bicycle Greenway's NBG2000**
Miami FL Ride to Washington, DC. Dale Lally
831-426-8830.
- July 29 to Aug 20 **National Bicycle Greenway's NBG2000**
Tampa FL Ride to Washington, DC. Mark Brunson,
831-426-8830.
- Aug 5-6 **Dog Days Pedal & Paddle**
Live Oak, FL Suwannee River State Park 9 miles west of Live
Oak. On and off road cycling in the cool(er)
morning hours with water-based activities in the
afternoon. Suwannee Bicycle Association, PO Box
247, White Springs FL 32096. 904-397-2347.
- Aug 5 (Sat) **Bowdon Founder's Day**
Bowdon GA 10, 25, 50, 66, and 100 miles. Tommy Messer
D:(770)258-3378 E:(770)258-9240. Norman
Padgett (770)258-2451. Bowdon Sertoma Club,
P.O. Box 313, Bowdon GA 30108.
- Aug 6 (Sun) **9th Annual Covington Century**
Covington GA 30/50/75/100 miles. Boasts 95% flat terrain. Al
Strickland 770-787-1229 or 770-787-8193.
- Sep 1-4 **Tour of Sebring**
Sebring FL Sponsored by the West Palm Beach Bicycle
Club. James R. Corbitt, 5 Sheldrake Ln., Palm
Beach Gardens, FL. (561)622-9909.
- Sep 2 (Sat) **Autumn Challenge Century Ride**
Montgomery AL 100 miles and shorter. Montgomery Bicycle
Club, PO Box 23116, Montgomery AL 66123.
- Sep 3 (Sun) **18th Annual Historic Savannah Century**
Savannah GA 25, 50, 100 miles on flat terrain. Coastal Bicycle
Touring Club, PO Box 14531, Savannah GA
31416. fax: 912:651-9008. 912-651-351-7798
- Sep 9 (Sat) **3rd Annual Dr. Fenner McConnell Bike Ride**
Milton FL (near Pensacola) 25, 65 and 100 mile options
through rural north Santa Rosa County and
Blackwater State Forest. West Florida
Wheelmen, P.O. Box 9321, Pensacola FL 32513
Al (850)-932-3977, Bill (334) 626-9653.
- Sep 9 (Sat) **Birmingham BC's 27th Century (& Double)**
Birmingham, AL 30, 60, 75, 100, 125, & 200 miles. BBC, PO Box
55283, Birmingham, AL 35255, (205) 991-6154,
(205) 995-2013, or (205) 664-3669.
- Sep 10 (Sun) **10th Endless Summer Watermelon Ride**
Baldwin FL 27/49/73/100 miles. Lunch and watermelon after
ride. Olympic size pool. North Florida Bicycle
Club, PO Box 550963, Jacksonville FL
32255-0963. (904)721-5870
- Sep 10 (Sun) **Annual Assault on Sugarloaf**
Clermont FL 30, 56, 100 or 112 miles. All rides make a
challenging climb up Sugarloaf Mountain.
CFT/Sommer Sports, PO Box 121236, Clermont
FL 34712. (352)394-1320 fax (352)394-1702
- Sep 16 (Sat) **16th Annual All-You-Care-to-Eat Century**
Huntsville AL 16, 25, 50, 62, 100 mile routes in scenic TN &
AL. Spring City Cycling Club, PO Box 2231,
Huntsville AL 35804. J. Miernik (256) 852-5019
or M. Holderer (256)883-9982.
- Sep 17 (Sun) **South Broward Wheelers 16th Century**
Cooper City FL Brian Piccolo Park. 100, 62, 25 mile rides. (954)
846-0126 - leave a message. South Broward
Wheelers, POB 290723, Davie FL 33329.
- Sep 17 (Sun) **Freewheeling Hilly 100**
Dade City FL A challenging ride in the hills of beautiful
Hernando and Pasco Counties. 18, 34, 62 and
100 miles. Sponsored by Tampa Bay
Freewheelers and St Petersburg Bicycle Club.
Belinda Carlson (813)985-5933 or Nancy
Armitage (813)855-3910.
- Sep 23-24 **2nd Annual Bike Florida "Share The Road"**
Kissimmee FL **Rally and Exposition (in cooperation with the
Florida Bicycle Association)**
Will be held in historic downtown Kissimmee at
Lake Toho. Recreational rides, bike expo booths,
film festival, demonstrations and Florida Bicycle
Association's annual meetings. Rides from
10-100 miles. (407)343-1992.
- Sep 30 (Sat) **8th Annual Saturn Santa Fe Century**
Gainesville FL A tour through the lush forest and pasture land
north of Gainesville up through the Santa Fe
River valley. 100 or 55 miles, or 18 mile
Millhopper Ramble family fun.
- Oct 1 (Sun) **20th Annual Horse Farm Hundred**
Gainesville FL The Gainesville Cycling Club's tour through the
picturesque horse farms of northern Marion
county. 102 mile ride (and a 55 mile option that
doesn't get into horse farm territory) starts at the
Morningside Nature Center. The 45, 30, and 25
mile touring rides start in Irvine.
- Oct 7 (Sat) **Clean Air Bike Challenge**
Winter Garden FL West Orange Bike Trail.(407) 425-5864.
- Oct 8 (Sun) **6th Annual Rails to Trails Bike Ride**
Inverness FL The Withlacoochee State Trail is a 46-mile long
paved, linear state park. You can determine your
own ride distance. (352)726-2180 (Betty &
Dave). Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee, PO
Box 807, Inverness FL 34451-0807.
- Oct 13-15 **Mt Dora Bicycle Festival**
Mt Dora FL 3 to 100 miles. All meals are included in the
registration fee. Mt Dora Chamber of Commerce,
PO Box 196, Mt Dora FL 32757. (352)383-2165

Randonneur

By Jim Wilson as told to Gary Kirkland

The question of why, isn't one you tackle when riding along half-lost in the dark and in the fog and in the cold somewhere in Central Florida.

But in the calm light of day, when the aches of riding are easing, it's easy use the mountain climbers "because it's there" to explain the why and inspiration for trying the challenge of the "brevets."

It's a French thing.

"Randonneurs" (translation: ultra tourists) ride "brevets" (translation: certifications). By riding progressively longer timed certification rides, those who qualify get the opportunity to try the granddaddy of them all, Paris-Brest-Paris, the oldest timed bicycling event in the world.

PBP is a 1200 Km — that's 750 miles American — 90-hour endurance test held in northern France every four years. While the 8.3 MPH average speed requirement seems modest, the clock is always ticking, even when the rider is off the bike to eat, sleep, or make repairs.

Boston-Montreal-Boston, held in the non-PBP years, duplicates the distance of PBP. Due to the weather and steeper climbs of Vermont's Green Mountains, BMB is considered the tougher ride. This year's

BMB will be held in August.

But before booking a flight to France or Boston, came those Brevets, I was part of a group who began the series hosted by the West Palm Beach Bicycle Club.

The qualifying brevets are 200, 300, 400, and 600 Km, or for those of you who don't speak metric, that's 124.3, 186.4, 248.5 and 372.8 miles, with time limits of 13, 20, 27, and 40 hours, respectively.

Paris-Brest-Paris (PBP), first held in 1891, was conceived by a French journalist, Pierre Giffard, as a test of the newfangled "safety bicycle". Medical experts universally condemned the idea of a 750-mile trip from Paris to the Atlantic Ocean and back as sure suicide. Although seven women signed up, their applications were denied at the last moment.

About half the 206 starters beat the ten-day time limit. The fastest rider, Charles Terront, finished in 71 hours 22 minutes. He rode on pneumatic tires, invented just two years earlier by the Michelin brothers. The second fastest rider, Jacques Jiel-Laval, rode on solid rubber. This finishing order demonstrated the superiority of "pneus" and heralded the demise of the traditional tire.

The wild success of PBP spawned later imitations, such as the Tour de France, and its notoriety inspired another Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin, to found the modern Olympics in 1896.

In 1931, due to declining interest from professional cyclists who saw PBP as too specialized and risky, the "randonneur" class was added. These amateurs were allotted 90 hours to complete the ride. In 1956, PBP became an amateur-only event. To qualify, a randonneur completed a series of shorter, unsupported training rides or "brevets". A brevet is run as a tour, not a race, and finishers are traditionally listed alphabetically, rather than by time.

The 200 and 300 were relatively tame. Both were held in flat South Florida on fairly windless days. Although the 300 corresponds roughly to a double century, I was able to complete the ride in daylight. By deviously hiding well back in the paceline, I actually felt pretty good at the end, and I didn't have to do any navigating.

The 400 was the toughest. Held near Clermont and Mt. Dora, it featured 25 MPH winds and four climbs over Sugarloaf hill. The 27-hour limit ruled out sleeping and meant a substantial portion had to be ridden at night. I finished at 3:24AM, after riding the last 100 miles alone and becoming lost several times in the fog and the cold. Only 13 of 31 riders successfully completed this brevet. Two riders were hit by cars, but neither was seriously injured.

The 600 was held in Gainesville on April 8-9. Since being lost in a cold, dark fog was not a feeling I relished, I volunteered to help lay out the course and compose a cue sheets. Thanks to Bike Florida's T.J. Juskiewicz and GCC's

own Chandler Otis, I managed to sneak a peek at Bike Florida's "Springs Training". Combining their five-day route with GCC's Sante Fe Century, I devised a two-part course: a 275-mile loop visiting Branford, Ichetucknee, Chiefland, Cedar Key, and returning to Gainesville where the randonneurs could sleep before tackling the SFC route the next day. Under the guise of surveying store stops, I selfishly navigated the entire route and familiarized myself with each turn. The majority of the fifteen riders chose to start at 2AM to finish their night miles early in the ride. I left with two strong Orlando riders who had done long pulls during the 300. A tacit agreement emerged: They'd do all the work, and I'd keep them from getting lost.

Despite a cold, strong headwind on the rough road to Cedar Key, we arrived back in Gainesville shortly after sunset. The Weather Channel predicted stronger winds and temperatures in the low 40s overnight, and it was not difficult to convince my "domestiques" to finish the ride the next day in less hostile weather. After a hot bath and eight hours of sleep, the last 100 miles was a breeze.

So now I've qualified to start BMB. But am I qualified to finish it? After the ride, I posed this question to Jim Solanick, a veteran of PBP and several BMBs. "Maybe," was his resounding endorsement.

For more information on randonneuring, visit <http://www.rusa.org>

For a narrative of PBP 1999, see <http://www.halcyon.com/peterson/pbp.html>

"Riding in a group pushes you beyond your limits and helps your riding skills. When I was learning to fly in the Air Force, I'd go out alone with an instructor. But by the end of the course I was flying in formation, which is more difficult. Riding in a group is very similar to that."

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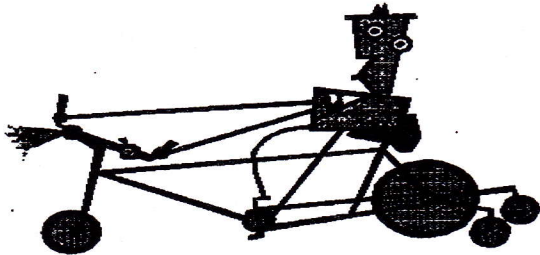
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The Gainesville Cyclist

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Ads are \$5 per column inch or \$25 for six column inches (which may be broken into multiple ads in different issues); the standard ad is two column inches (2" x 3", a 1/2" narrower than a business card).

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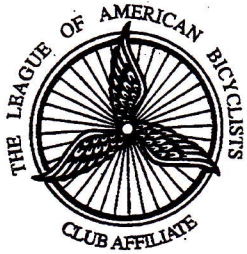




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Cycling Shorts




1 Welcome new members Mary Bast, Doug Folkerth, Leslie Folkerth, Jackie Fullenwider, Brenda Hunter, Berdell Knowles,, Bob Newman, Jim Pollard, Laura S. Press, Judy Richards, Deonna L. Roberts, and Marly Wilson of Gainesville, Thomas Mohan of Ocala, and Roy E. Roberts of Newberry.

1 Andrew Gill and Linda Crawford completed the Mt Mitchell Century in May (the last 30 miles are all up hill, very steep!).

1 A club is forming in High Springs, the Santa Fe Cyclists. Contact Lys Burden if you would like to ride with them.

1 Sorry about the newsletter being late this month. A combination of late submissions and a balky new computer held things up. Next month I will be on the road at deadline time (always the third Friday of odd numbered months), but will be able to receive inputs via email. The August newsletter should be out during the second week of August.



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