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From: "Bicycle Advocacy of Central Arkansas" <newsletter@bacar.org>
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To: <tomezell@aristotle.net>
Subject: BACA Newsletter March 2011 / Meeting Thursday the 3rd



Bicycle Advocacy of Central Arkansas



Wednesday, March 2, 2011



**Thursday, March 3rd @7pm
at The Oyster Bar**

Planning for Bicycles in Your Livable Community

Presented by:
David "Bud" Laumer, AICP, LCI
Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator of Arkansas
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
Planning and Research Division

For More Information:
<http://www.arkansashighways.com> or
<http://www.walkinginfor.org/assistance/contacts.cjm>

Have an issue you'd like to see addressed? Email info@bacar.org or bring it to the meeting!

See you there!

**Bicycles run on fat, and save you money.
Cars run on money and make you fat.**

**Workin' on our night moves
Tryin' to make some front page drive-in news...**

Bob Seger is coming to Rock City to play in concert at the Verizon Arena on April 26. With that as a lead-in to our next sermon, some may have heard that cyclist was hit and injured in a hit & run accident on Allsopp Park Road in Little Rock on Wednesday night. Shawn Dye is a bike commuter who works at the Sonic Drive Inn on Cantrell Road. He was riding home on Allsopp Park Road at approximately 8:30 p.m. last Tuesday night (Feb. 22) when he was struck by an unidentified vehicle. He was found a short time later, still lying in the roadway near his bike.

Without ignoring the issue that some unknown motorist hit a cyclist and left him by the side of the road like a stray cat, one contributing factor to this crash was that Dye was riding at night, on a dark & twisty road, without headlights and tail lights, which are required for riding during the hours of darkness. He had rear reflectors on his bike, and some reflective highlights on his backpack, but under those conditions with a fast-moving car and a probably less-than-attentive driver, those highlights probably won't be sufficient to make you visible to other drivers around you.

While it's more than just a little bit corny, the Vancouver (BC) bike club has posted a little jingle on nighttime visibility for cyclists, "Let's Get Visible," on YouTube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7DBf_Uxfeg



Yes it's corny as all get out (*bonus points if you're old enough to remember Olivia Newton-John*), but just corny enough to get you to remember it. How often do you consider how visible you are to other riders, or to other motorists at night? One exercise we use in the night riding portion of BACA's Bicycle Commuting Workshop is a night ride where we actually go out and see how our riding gear shows up in the headlights. For an example, here's a video of one of those exercises, conducted as part of an LCI training course in South Carolina last year: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epZdXfvrRmU>



Being visible, both in daytime as well as night, by positioning yourself where other drivers are expecting to see traffic, and by making yourself stand out from the background, is one of the most important principles of cycling, whether in traffic or on the trails. Riding at night is safe, and it's fun, as long as you follow the rules of the road and exercise a little common sense. So in closing, let's work on our "night moves"... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=lm61CYDrKf4](#)

**Get a bicycle. You will not regret it if you live.
~Mark Twain, "Taming the Bicycle"**

At the Capitols...

The Arkansas General Assembly is still in session, but so far few bicycling issues have surfaced. Senate Bill 154, which prohibits the use of hand-held cell phones while driving through school zones and highway construction zones, has been passed by both houses and signed into law, as Act 37 of 2011. It will go into effect on July 1. Senate Bill 136, which would allow those whose drivers licenses have been suspended or restricted due to a DWI conviction to continue to drive children to school, and HB 1229, which would negate lowered speed limits in school zones if children were not physically present in the roadway or adjacent sidewalks, have both been tabled in their respective committees and are unlikely to be revived during this session - which is a Good Thing.



At the national level, around midnight on Saturday, February 19, the U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 1, the continuing resolution intended to provide funding to run the federal government for the remainder of FY 11 at FY 2010 funding levels. The bill is now before the Senate for their approval starting February 28. H.R. 1 continues funding for both the Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School programs at the same amount for which they were funded in FY 2010. However, H.R.1 discontinued funding for a number of other programs, most notably the TIGER II grant funding awarded under the ARRA, or 2009/2010 "stimulus bill." Among these deleted funds were \$15.3 million pledged for construction of the Razorback Greenway bike trail between Fayetteville and Bella Vista in northwestern Arkansas.

Bike advocates in northwest Arkansas have been taking this pretty hard, since the Greenway was envisioned as a commuter and tourism boost similar to the impact that the Arkansas River Trail has had here in central Arkansas. Compounding the problem, the local Congressman is holding to the party line in refusing to restore funding for what they perceive to be "frills" as far as transportation infrastructure is concerned. (See, "Republicans kill Trail Funding" at <http://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/republicans-kill-trail-funding/Content?oid=1563001>)

I was able to set up a district meeting with my Congressman last week, Rick Crawford from the 1st District of Arkansas, who also sits on the critical House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. While Mr. Crawford was supportive of holding onto funding for the Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School programs at their current (2010) levels, funds from programs such as the

maligned "stimulus" legislation (TIGER funds are awarded under the ARRA recovery act) were widely seen as wasteful spending, and the expectation is that the affected communities should be funding these sorts of projects, not the federal government.

Several BACA members will be headed to the National Bike Summit in Washington, DC next week to work directly with Arkansas's Congressional delegation to try and ensure that cyclists and other non-motorized transportation get their fair share under the forthcoming reauthorization bill which will be crafted this summer. But what it takes is a galvanized, and active constituency, communicating their needs to their representatives; whether you take the effort to go to a summit meeting, or simply pick up the phone from home and call...

What have you done today for your rights as a cyclist, and as a citizen?

**The bicycle is a curious vehicle.
Its passenger is its engine. ~John Howard**

Bicycle Advocacy of Central Arkansas is a registered non-profit that receives no government funding. The future of BACA relies solely upon gifts from individuals, companies, and foundations who believe in our vision.

We are asking a yearly member's due of \$15 per year. Please consider your dues today as a gift to nurturing and growing the routes of our future in Central Arkansas.

BACA gets PayPal...

Several members have been asking us to look for a way to make donations or dues payments on-line, and now BACA has that ability. Using "PayPal," you can pay your dues, make a charitable donation, or soon, sign up for bike safety classes and other events all on the BACA web site, using your own PayPal account, electronic fund transfers, or even credit cards. Look for the "Join" or "Donate" buttons in the lower right corner of BACA's home page, at <http://bacar.org>.

You may also mail your gift to:

Bicycle Advocacy of Central Arkansas
P.O. Box 55677
Little Rock, AR 72215

or bring it to the next BACA Meeting, Thursday, January 6th.

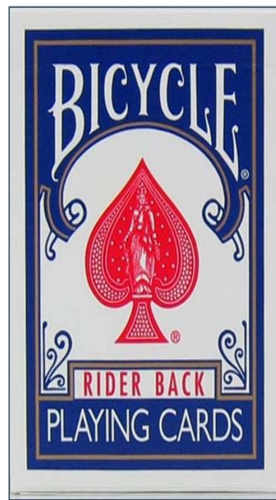
When you give to BACA, what do you get?

Your dues and contributions provides the opportunity for BACA to send delegates

to Washington, DC each year to visit with Congress and advocate for better cycling conditions in both in Central Arkansas and the state. It also allows us to have a presence in Central Arkansas by attending community happenings to provide information about BACA, sponsoring events such as the Annual Bike To Work Day, contribute to local cycling causes, produce public service announcements, newsletters, and a website. **BACA could not accomplish these things without your help.**

**Life is like riding a bicycle -
in order to keep your balance, you must keep moving.
~Albert Einstein**

What Do I get for my BACA Membership?



You get a voice for cyclists' rights in Central Arkansas, and in Washington as well. Membership with BACA ensures that skilled advocates are looking out for your interests with the Arkansas legislature in with Congress, keeping the roads open to cyclists, and working to establish a more informed government and public. Membership aligns you with other Arkansans to create a unified voice for cyclists to participate in state and federal transportation issues. Membership is the best way to be a part of a proven, effective advocacy group.

BACA is keeping a close watch on issues that affect cyclists in the Arkansas Legislature, as well as the progress of the transportation authorization bills and other legislation in Congress, as well as sending delegates each year to the National Bike Summit to meet with our Congressional delegation and directly seek support for Arkansas cyclists.

As a paid BACA member, you're also a member of the Alliance for Biking and Walking [<http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org>], a national advocacy group for pedestrian and bicycling issues, with access to their training events and library of advocacy resources.

BACA's eNewsletter: This monthly email provides quick information about BACA advocacy efforts, legislative updates, and education events, relates interesting stories from the cycling world, and features details about upcoming events and rides. This email is distributed to hundreds of email addresses and is a great way to stay informed of the progress of BACA's programs and initiatives.

Action Alerts and Event Updates are sent to leverage our grassroots support at times of legislative urgency. These emails keep you informed of the rapid actions of our state and federal legislators, and provide you with an opportunity to participate in the legislative process at the most critical times. Event Updates are sent to regional audiences to inform members of special events, fun cycling-to-dos such as cycling related art exhibits, auctions, movie nights and more.

Insurance: Beginning in February 2011, BACA members and volunteers are covered by both general liability and participant accident insurance while participating in BACA activities and events. In addition to general liability protection, if you are injured while taking part in a BACA ride or other scheduled event, our policy will provide you with up to \$10,000 in secondary medical insurance coverage.

We're looking at ways to provide you with even better benefits for your memberships dollars (15 of them, to be precise). One option under consideration is to combine BACA membership with membership in the League of American Bicyclists, in much the same manner that BACA membership is concurrent with membership in the Alliance. League partnership would add an additional \$15 to our current member dues (making BACA's annual dues \$30 rather than \$15), but this would get you other advantages of League membership, such as a free subscription to *Bicycling* magazine as well as the League's *American Bicyclist* and monthly and bi-weekly e-newsletters.

Is there something else that you'd like to see BACA offer? Let Tom, or any of the other Board members know, and we'll work on that!

**Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride.
~John F. Kennedy**



Regime Change

Changing leadership has been a main topic on the news about the palm-tree republics in Egypt and Libya, where citizens have been rising up to overthrow dictators who have been running these countries for the past 30 to 40 years. While it's not quite as much of a revolution, nor have our board of "dictators" been in power for so long,

BACA will be looking at some of the same issues at our March meeting. Yes! It's time for our annual elections!

The primary task for this month's Board meeting is to nominate a slate of candidates for BACA officers for 2011. The offices of president, vice-president,

secretary, and treasurer are elected (or re-elected) annually; this year we have two at-large positions (Gordon's and Claibanne's) up for two-year terms, and one at-large position available for one year to complete Charlie Hight's vacated term. Committee chairmen are not elected positions, but are appointed by the Board of Directors.

Once we have our slate of candidate, we'll hold our actual election at the April 7 BACA meeting, and the new (and returning) officers will assume their positions at that time.

Want to help make a difference in cycling here in central Arkansas?

**There's no more "bully pulpit" to do so than to
serve as one of BACA's directors!**

**When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the
human race. ~H.G. Wells**

An Interesting Article:

Tom Vanderbilt, author of the 2009 book *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)*, has an excellent article on the state of cyclist/motorist relationships and attitudes in the March issue of *Outside Magazine*; currently on the news stands or accessible on-line at the following link:



http://outsideonline.com/adventure/travel-ga-201103-new-york-bike-commuting-sidwcmdev_154507.html

Hope to see you all at the March meeting on Thursday night, where, as always, there will be fun, friendship, and good food!

Tom Ezell

BACA President

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