

# The Roadrunner

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CYCLING CLUB

## Bicyclists speak out on Three Feet for Safety law

Bicyclists may breathe the fresh air of the great outdoors a bit easier now that the "Three Feet for Safety Act" is the law. The bill, AB 1371, requires drivers of motor vehicles which are passing bicyclists proceeding in the same direction on a highway or rural road to maintain a distance of three feet for safety. If this distance is not maintained, drivers may be fined from \$233 (no injury) to \$959 (injury to bicyclist). The law went into effect Sep. 16.

How will drivers know whether or not they are giving three feet for safety? The width of a car door is three feet, and drivers should observe this clearance even when the bicyclist is riding in a bike lane. Bicyclists, in turn, should pull over on rural roads to let cars pass if more than five cars are lined up behind. (It is illegal for motorists to cross a double yellow line.)

"The law shows that everyone matters out on the road," said People Power Director Amelia Conlen, while Scotts Valley Police Chief John Weiss said, "The driver has the greater responsibility (for safety)."

Some SCCCC members were hopeful but apprehensive about drivers giving bicyclists more clearance on Santa Cruz roads.

Janet Starr: "I am skeptical that car drivers will have heard of the law. More public relations work is needed, but this (press conference) is a good first step."

Rob Attack (retired judge): "The three-foot law won't make any big difference, although it may have some slight effect just by being published in the newspaper. There will be more benefit as more people learn about it."

Susan Cook: "The three-foot law will empower bicyclists to approach motorists and say, Please give me three feet."

Aven Switzer: "I ride often on King Street, which is way too tight. Cars won't allow bikes to take the road and drivers are only looking for the first opportunity to pass bicyclists."

Jack Johnson: "I'm all in favor of the law, but bicyclists have to practice good behavior also."

David Lawrence: "Anything that creates more space between bikes and cars is good. People will be more aware of the three foot distance if it is the law."

Triple A Business Manager Kathy Michaelson said AAA will distribute 150,000 stickers publicizing the new law through its emergency road service.

—Grace Voss



SCCCC members attended Sep. 16 press conference at city hall to support the Three Feet for Safety Law (AB 1371).



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## SCCCC social calendar dates

Here's a reminder that late October is the season for SCCCC's annual ride and potluck luncheon. This year's event starts at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 26th at the Aptos home of Jim Wheeler and Harriet Wrye. Coffee and rolls at 9:30 a.m. will precede a 10 a.m. ride. (Ride details TBA.) Club members are asked to bring food for a potluck lunch according to the first initial of their last name: U-Z finger food, O-T salad, H-N side dish and A-G main dish. Ride details TBA.

Also, please mark social calendars for the club's holiday party, which begins at 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m.) Sunday, Dec. 7 in the clubhouse of Tradewinds Mobilehome Park, 4160 Jade Street in Capitola. (Park in the large parking lot by the elementary school nearby.) SCCCC will supply the main dish, and members are asked to bring food according to the following formula for last names: A-H side dish; I-O appetizer and P-Z dessert. Bring a white elephant gift for the gift exchange;; financial contributions to Second Harvest Food Bank are optional.

## SCCCC Meeting

**7p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014**

**Simpkins Swim Center**

**979 17th Avenue**

## Club Shorts: *Jim and Harriet tour Tuscany, Croatia*

In August, Jim Wheeler and Harriet Wrye rode their tandem in Tuscany, Italy, along with eight other couples plus trip leaders Chuck and Judy Nichols of Nichols Expeditions. The trip included visits to Stella, Cortona, Montepulciano, Montalcino and over a Herculean pass into Savano. The second leg of their trip included Palermo for a horse trek across Sicily, after which they toured Croatia. They will return to Aptos by mid-October.

The seventh annual **San Francisco Bicycle Exposition** takes place Saturday, Nov 22 at the Cow Palace in South San Francisco. Doors open at 11 a.m. for this all-day event concerning all things bicycle. Admission is \$5. Free bike valet parking available or \$10 for auto parking. Bicycle vendors from all over the US will be in attendance. A Swap Meet is also on the program.

Arthur Rodriguez of San Jose will provide bike mechanics instruction throughout the day. The schedule is 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Light Repair Work; Noon: Flat Tire Repair Demo and Tubeless Tire Set Up; 2 p.m. – Derailleur Adjustments Demo and Other In Demand Demos; 3 p.m. – Blindfolded Flat Tire Repair Contest; 4 p.m. – Kryptonite U Lock Break IT Contest.

About 330 bicyclists took part in the **Santa Cruz AIDS Project Ride**, on Sept. 21, raising \$42,000



Jim Wheeler and Harriet Wrye in Italy.

for the organization. SCAP is part of Encompass, the largest non-profit in Santa Cruz County.

March 10–12 are the dates for the **2015 National Bike Summit** in Washington D.C. which is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists. **SCCCC is offering a \$1,000 grant for a member who has helped the club in the past year and who wants to attend the conference.** More information at 10/22 membership meeting. Theme for the conference is Bikes+. Early registration is \$399 with \$100 more for members who attend the all-day women's forum on March 10. All events take place at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown DC. Go to [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org) for more information.

**Attila Bekes**, a former Hungarian road racer and current woodworker, won \$5,000 for his handcrafted wooden bicycle (photo at left) at the 2014 Western Design Conference last month in Jackson Hole, WY. Bekes crafted his bike from quarter-inch, laminated plywood from a computer design. Dozens of plywood sheets are used in the bike's widest areas. Bekes uses both a belt sander and hand sanding, comparing his finished product to a jigsaw puzzle. —Glide A. Long



**THE ROADRUNNER** is the official newsletter of **THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CYCLING CLUB**. It is published bimonthly, sent out via email to members and is available at local bicycle shops, the Santa Cruz Visitors Bureau and local libraries and chambers of commerce. Submissions (articles, photos, and letters) are gladly accepted. Email is easiest, but we'll entertain all options. Contact us at: **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CYCLING CLUB P.O. BOX 8342 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-8342**

or [www.santacruzcycling.org](http://www.santacruzcycling.org)

**THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CYCLING CLUB** is a nonprofit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code. The club's mission is to bring cycling to all levels of riders and encourage healthy lifestyles through education, friendship, teamwork and fun. The club is known for its annual **Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge** held the last Saturday in July. Proceeds from this event go to the club's educational activities.

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## Rail trail progress will be bit by bit

As a volunteer at last week's Bike to Work appreciation breakfast downtown, I also helped answer questions about the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, or "The Rail Trail" as it's been nicknamed. I serve on the board of directors for Friends of the Rail Trail, and I am just starting to feel comfortable enough with the details of this long-range plan to field questions about it. Also present was the senior planner of the Regional Transportation Commission, Cory Caletti, who I knew would come to my aid if someone asked a question that I couldn't answer.

It was surprising how many people



Bart Coddington, left, and Dave Dominguez enjoy pie at Gizdich Ranch rest stop at AIDS ride. Photo by Karen Nevis.

had not heard of the trail. Some were college students new to the area who took the popup info and appeared very excited about the finished product. Others were locals who either hadn't heard about the rail trail or who had heard a little here and there but didn't know too many details.

For the record, details of the rail trail master plan may be found at: <http://www.sccrtc.org/projects/multi-modal/monterey-bay-sanctuary-scenic-trail/>. When completed, the trail's "spine" will be within the 32-mile Santa Cruz Branch Rail right-of-way, adjacent to existing train tracks. The rail trail will co-exist with existing and potential future train service, and abide by conditions set forth as part of the rail purchase. (The RTC purchased the rights to the 32-mile line two years ago.) Many successful rail-with-trail projects may be found across the nation.

To build this trail, the RTC will apply for funds from Caltrans and other public entities in the coming years, as well as ask the community for funding support. Local support is critical

since Caltrans looks to see evidence of community support in grant applications before providing funding. As a result, it's hard to say what the final cost of the trail will be and how much will come from federal and state funds.

Two segments of the trail have received funding, one segment on the Westside of Santa Cruz and the other in Watsonville. However, work will not begin until permits and environmental studies are complete. All 32 miles of the rail trail will be built bit by bit over time. Kind of like, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." The public needs to be patient and supportive. This web page has links to sign up for news updates, or to donate to the ongoing outreach and education effort. <http://santacruztrail.org>.

—Maura Noel, SCCC president

## Frequently asked questions on implementing Three Feet for Safety law

(Editor's note: AB 1371 or the Three Feet for Safety law went into effect Sep. 16. The California Bicycle Coalition answers some frequently asked questions about it.)

### Why do we need this new law?

Plenty of traffic laws reflect the fact that many road users — pedestrians, school children, emergency workers and road crews — are especially vulnerable to passing motor vehicles. That's why drivers have special speed limits and special passing rules when approaching crosswalks, schools, emergency vehicles and road crews. Specifying three feet as the minimum passing distance extends the concept to bicyclists.

### How will this law be enforced?

A driver who is observed to be violating the law can be cited. Many people will obey the law, and some won't — and won't get caught. That's a problem with enforcement, not with the law itself. The law is invaluable for cases when a bicyclist is injured in a

collision. It establishes a clear basis for citing motorists for unsafe passing.

### What are the penalties for violations?

The Three Feet for Safety Act contains two penalties. For a violation that does not result in an injury, the base fine is \$35, which becomes a \$233 fine for the offender once court and administrative fees are added. For a violation that involves a collision injuring a bicyclist, the base fine is \$220, which becomes \$959 with fees.

**How do motorists tell if they're giving at least three feet?** By doing what they already know how to do. Motorists park their cars with enough space so they can open the passenger-side door — which is about three feet wide — without hitting another car or wall. That's how much clearance they should give a bicyclist when passing in the same lane. Or, motorists could just simply change lanes in most cases.

**How do motorists give three feet on narrow roads?**

State law has never guaranteed motorists a right to pass whenever or wherever they want. Motorists may only pass when it's safe to do so. This doesn't change with the Three Feet for Safety Act. The new law requires motorists to slow down and wait to pass only when it is safe to do so. Motorists have to be prepared to demonstrate that three feet were NOT available and the slower, closer pass was done according to the law. This is a higher burden of proof for drivers than we have under the current law, which places no conditions on how to pass at a "safe distance."

### May I cross the double-yellow line to pass a bike?

Technically, no. However, police have the authority to exercise discretion when enforcing the law and have consistently said they are unlikely to ticket a motorist who straddles the double yellow line to provide three feet of clearance, provided they do so safely and carefully.

# First-time riders with SCCCC share their stories

## Michael Burns

A first ride with SCCCC that stands out for me was a Thursday ride five years ago out of Gateway. I had just moved to Santa Cruz and wanted to discover biking routes in the area as well as bikers who could help me with the discovering.

Thursday rides have small turnouts, and there were three of us—Jim Denton, Tony Ornelas and me! I wasn't in A riding shape and I had no clue what to expect. We went up Highway 9 and Zayante, and I bonked near the end. Fortunately Jim shared both his trail mix and sugar pills with me, but I finished the ride on autopilot. (I can't even remember the route back, although I recall that we stopped at the Scotts Valley Market for lunch before descending Mountain Charlie.)

After that, I biked happily on the SCCCC Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday rides. I really know the local geography and have met many wonderful healthy, motivating and supportive people.

## Steve Troth

Danger Man, (top left photo) had recently retired from big city crime fighting and saving damsels in distress. One morning he came across a *Sentinel* article for a cycling class for beginners—six weeks long and bikers must be able to ride five miles over flat roads. Easy enough, so he mounted his mighty steed and set off for the first class.

He arrived with a large backpack full of camping gear, steel bike with down tube shifters, and long pants with rubber band chain protection. He felt the admiration of the ride leader and class newbies, who were drawn to his square jaw and stand-alone outfit.

The SCCCC ride leaders were pleasant, knew their ride basics and didn't send anyone home uninformed on bicycle safety. It was a terrific start to six weeks of training, as well as an introduction to a well-organized club.

That first class was fun—27 stops for donuts and coffee, 15 regroupings so no one was dropped, and at least 100 reassurances of "Looking Good!" All this while covering seven miles of paved blacktop. The remaining weeks passed, and friendships were established. By the third week, we had learned much about the paradise we live in and its adventurous roads. Now a veteran of



Steve Troth, left photo, and Norm Boehner



two years on these roads, the "D" man does not have the right words to say thank you SCCCC!

He does have one last word, however. The "A+" riders are actually mutants from another planet, sent here in small groups to avoid detection, and their mission is to take over the earth. To stay fit while waiting for their force of numbers to gather, they have joined SCCCC. These are the riders we all hope to be when we grow up. I hope their mother ship takes me with them.

## Norm Boehner

Going back, about eight years, I had been an avid mountain biker with my friend Jim Denton. For 14 years, he and I and a few wonderful mountain bikers met every Saturday. Then, one day, on a solo ride, I fell over the handlebars. I was 60 years old and on the ground with pain in my right forearm as well as where the handlebars caught my ribs and leg.

The following week, my wife and I were driving up the coast when we observed a line of cyclists, some with bright yellow jackets, some with beautiful, mature silver hair. I told my wife I bet I could do that. The next week Jim and I both bought sissy, skinny tire road bikes. In the SCCCC *Roadrunner*, I read about the Tuesday rides out of Aptos. Jim and I showed up and were so impressed. Two wonderful ladies, Grace Voss and Jeannine Peerless, greeted us warmly, and that became the beginning of a long and wonderful journey.

It did take a few rides with the club for the two old mountain bikers to learn group road bike procedures, after a stern comment about, "let us know you're passing and turn signals, you should use them, etc." That's my story of my first experience with the world's greatest bicycling club, and I'm sticking to it.

## Mike Heckel

There's no time like right now to find new rides and meet new people! It was about 10 o'clock on a Friday evening when I hit the Join Now website button for the SCCCC. Twelve hours later I was pulling into the Walmart Parking Lot in Marina for my first group ride with the club.

A bit trepidatious, but eager to



Mike Heckel

try new rides, I pulled in close to a likely-looking group of cyclists. Close, but not too close, as you can never be too careful around an alien group of strangers

wearing spandex. By the time the cycling abduction was over, about 3.5 hours later, I'd learned: 1) Fort Ord has some nice riding on empty roads! In 13 years in Santa Cruz, I've never seen traffic-free roads in the middle of a Saturday; 2) It's nice to stop for a chat and sandwich during the middle of a ride; 3) Having a supportive group around you makes the hills less hilly, and coastal headwinds aren't as bad when you follow in that sweet spot of someone slightly larger than yourself!

Our Saturday "C" ride on Sep. 20th was designated as a "No Drop" ride, and for someone who forgets his turn-by-turn cue sheet and has no GPS, it's quite a concept! You can hammer up a climb with your sweat blurring your vision and scream down a descent, or hang back, noticing there's more than a 20-foot-wide ribbon of pavement out there. Either way, you know that the collective caring of the group ensures nobody gets lost or left behind.

This group of spandex strangers turned out to be a great group of cyclists. Thank you JT Hart for leading a great intro ride, and thank you riders for welcoming me warmly on my first of, hopefully, many more rides with SCCCC.

# Minnesota bunkhouse offers welcome respite for tired bicyclists

Janet Rose and I started our cross-country bike trek from Seaside, Oregon on July 1, 2014, ending it on Sep. 15 in Westport, CT, where my niece lives. We then spent some time in Westport and New York before taking the train back to California, arriving in Santa Cruz on Sep. 25.

In between we had many happy, challenging and rewarding experiences. Highlights include traveling on the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Erie Canal. Both provided interesting history lessons as well as beautiful views and delightful bike trails. But what stands out the most are the people we met. From the locals in each community we traveled, to fellow travelers (foreign and domestic), they were engaging, friendly and helpful. That included several “guardian angels” who saved us from arduous conditions.

Two of these angels are Donn and Sherry Olson, who own and operate the Bicycle Bunkhouse near Dalbo, MN. On a hot day in August, we left Melrose, MN around 7 a.m. without a specific destination, riding the Wobegone Trail and the Soo Line Trails for about 30 miles, both shaded by a canopy of trees, flat and with no cars. We saw five sandhill cranes strutting in the grass before entering the town of Holdingford via a covered bridge. (Holdingford did a booming business in high quality corn



Richard Bedal and Janet Rose at the Continental Divide.

liquor during Prohibition.)

In Bowlus we left the bike trails and headed for Milaca. En route, because it was too early in the day to stop, we passed up Annie's Attic (a farm that allows bikers to camp) and the Rum Shack Bar and Grill that allows camping behind the bar. After riding 77 miles we arrived in Milaca, where we discovered both hotels were full. At this point, we were tired and hungry. Using our trusty Adventure Cycling map, we telephoned the Bicycle Bunkhouse, the nearest accommodation (17 miles further). They sounded cheerful and welcoming, so we bought two long Subway Sandwiches, quickly ate half of them and headed out.

After riding 94 miles (our longest distance) we arrived at the Bunkhouse just before sunset, totally exhausted. We were

greeted by a smiling Donn Olson who showed us around the facility. It is an amazing haven for traveling cyclists—a fully stocked refrigerator, shelves of various foods, solar shower, clean outhouse and plenty of beds for 20 people. If the beds are full Donn has space for people to set up tents. Some of the food is free, such as fresh eggs, and the rest inexpensive (he uses the honor system for payment). And he doesn't charge rent!

Donn also showed us a shorter route across Wisconsin that was much better than the Adventure Cycling route. This route included the delightful Mountain Bay State Trail.

According to Donn, the idea of a Cycling Bunkhouse started one night in 2005 when a small group of cyclists traveling through town asked if they could use his yard to camp. After learning his ranch was on an established bike route, Donn contacted Adventure Cycling and offered his place as a regular campsite. Next he converted his unused barn into a cycling bunkhouse. In 2013 he was featured in an Adventure Cycling article: [http://www.adventurecycling.org/default/assets/resources/20130601\\_BicycleFriendlyFarmerNorthernTier\\_D'Ambrosio.pdf](http://www.adventurecycling.org/default/assets/resources/20130601_BicycleFriendlyFarmerNorthernTier_D'Ambrosio.pdf)

So, what we thought was going to be a miserable day turned out to be one of our favorites—meeting Donn and Sherry Olson and staying at the Cycling Bunkhouse.

—Richard Bedal

## Pat Lawson experiences Bryce Canyon and Zion with Backroads Bicycles

My first outing with Backroads Company occurred on its Biking Bryce and Zion trip in mid-September. What a trip! I experienced the sheer scale of various Utah canyons firsthand by bicycle and on foot at a pace that allowed me to fully appreciate the beauty of the desert.

Twelve cyclists made up our group, plus three guides. Attention to detail included hotels, food, routes and special little touches which made the trip top-notch! I was worried about the temperature being too warm; however, while we had days in the high 80s and low 90s, we were well-hydrated and nights were cool.

Highlights included seeing the fall colors of Brian Head, the night sky in Bryce, an early morning car-free bike ride up to Rainbow Point (Bryce), an afternoon hike up Wall Street on the Queens Garden Hike (Bryce), biking out of Bryce and flying down Red Canyon before some killer climbs into the East Entrance of Zion National Park and being totally awestruck seeing the most vibrant shades of reds and pinks in the surrounding mountains. Also memorable were hiking up the inner gorge of the Narrows in the Virgin River at Zion in waist-high water and then, on the last day of the trip, biking leisurely along traffic-free

Zion Canyon.

The trip was stunning, especially since



Pat Lawson

I had never been to this part of the US. Mixing things up at the end of the trip, I traded my two wheels for four and rode an ATV through the desert before heading into Vegas to see a Cirque de Soleil show. What a great trip!

—Pat Lawson

## Weekly Rides *Rider Levels*

C Rides are between 25-35 miles, at 10-14 mph, with up to 2,000 feet of elevation. B Rides are for intermediate riders and are between 25-50 miles, at 12-16 mph pace, with up to 3,000 feet of elevation; A Rides are for experienced riders looking for a challenge. These rides are from 40 - 80 miles, at a 15-20 mph pace, with over 3,000 feet of elevation.

Bicycle club members lead social group rides for the enjoyment and pleasure of the bicycling community. While riders regroup along the way, we recommend riding with a buddy. If you don't come with someone, feel free to ask one of the other riders if you can ride along with them. Come prepared with extra tubes and know how to change a flat tire. Bring water, a snack and ID. Before the ride starts, every participant must sign a League of American Bicyclist (LAB) approved waiver stating that the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club is not responsible for any incident occurring during the ride. Saturday bicycle rides (or carpools) may start from the Capitola Community Center (Jade St/45th Ave) in Capitola. Route sheets will be emailed to the club mailing list about two days before each ride. Rain cancels rides.

**Tuesday ride:** Meet at 9:45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start for this social/leisurely paced road ride. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of month, start at Gateway Plaza (the shopping center on River St. near Hwy 1). No public water or restrooms available. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, meet at parking lot by the entrance to Nisene Marks Park, Aptos. The fifth Tuesday of the month is a leader's choice for start location. Distance will vary from 20-40 miles. Destinations include a lunch stop. Bring water and snacks. Questions? Contact: David Lawrence at [thewizarddavy@gmail.com](mailto:thewizarddavy@gmail.com). "Light" rides are offered in conjunction with the regular Tuesday rides for a less strenuous, generally shorter ride.

**Thursday ride:** Meet at 10 a.m. in front of the Corralitos Market in Corralitos for a moderately paced road ride of 25-45 miles. This is a No Leader—Decide and Ride. Bring water, snacks. OR,

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### Saturday, November 8 A/B Ride

#### Scotts Valley / Felton Empire Loop

Meet at Gateway Plaza at 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. start; East Cliff, Old San Jose, Granite Creek; add Felton Empire for A Riders. Coffee stop in Scotts Valley. A Ride=44mi/3800'; B Ride=32mi/2300'

**Michael Burns**.....925-586-3724

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### Saturday, November 8 C Ride

#### Royal Oaks via Trafton, Elkhorn, Vega

Meet at West Marina in Watsonville between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start. Regroup at Pajaro Valley Golf Course on Salinas Road for coffee/restrooms; 32 miles, 1193 ft/37 FPM.

**Petronella van Dam**.....831-454-6010

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### Saturday, November 15 A/B Ride

#### Fort Ord and Environs

Meet at Pezzini's, south of Castroville (park on the shoulder), at 8:45a.m. for 9 a.m. start. Carpool at CCC at 8 a.m. A Ride=50mi/3000'; B Ride=35mi/2000' C riders welcome. Lunch in Seaside.

**Ric Eiserling**.....831-475-5397

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### Saturday, November 15 C Ride

#### Monterey/Pebble Beach

Meet at Bank of America Parking Lot, 200 E. Franklin between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. start. Graduation ride for Cycling for Starters Class; 26 miles.

**Myrna Sherman**.....831-761-0767

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### Saturday, November 22 A/B Ride

#### Ben Lomond Saunter

Meet at Scotts Valley Park/Ride on King's Village Rd. at 9:45 for 10 a.m. start; B Ride Zayante out and back; 26.6mi/22529'; A Ride Zayante/Bear Creek Loop; 35.6 mi/3341'; Lunch at Ben Lomond Market

**Bart Coddington**.....831-475-5234

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### Saturday, November 22 C Ride

#### Natural Bridges to Davenport/Swanton Loop

Meet on Delaware Ave. between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. start. Regroup in Davenport; Swanton Loop option. Lunch at Kelly's; 34.4mi/1984/1984 FPM.

**Bill McBride**.....831-239-6081

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### Saturday, November 29 A/B Ride

#### Paicines to Panoche and Mercey Hot Springs

Meet at 9 a.m. in town of Paicines (on Hwy 25 south of Hollister). Carpool from CCC at 8 a.m. Park on Panoche Road. Ride to Panoche for lunch. A riders go to Mercey Hot Springs. A Ride=71.4 mi/3840'; B Ride=55mi/2210'

**Grace Voss**.....831-247-8878

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### Saturday, November 29 C Ride

#### Gazos Creek to San Gregorio

Meet on the left side of Hwy 1 past Gazos Creek Road between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. start. Ride to Pescadero; buy lunch to take to San Gregorio Store. Return on Hwy 1; 28.9mi/2263'/ FPM 78.

**Janet Fogel**.....831-588-8995

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### Saturday, December 6 A/B Ride

#### South County Adventure

Meet at Gateway Plaza at 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. start; Freedom via East Cliff, San Andreas, Green Valley and Day Valley; A Riders do Rodeo Gulch; A Ride=56mi/2750'; B Ride=46.8mi/1905'

**Alan Eklof**.....831-332-1383

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### Saturday, December 6 C Ride

#### Kirby Park to Pezzini's

Meet at Kirby Park between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start. Ride via Strawberry Road thorough Castroville with lunch at Pezzini's; return on Elkhorn Road. 31.9 mi/1,761'.

**David/Jeanne Kadotani**.....831-588-3561

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### Saturday, December 13 A/B Ride

Meet at Nisene Marks Park at 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. start; Lunch at Summit Store; A Ride=52mi/5000'; B Ride=40.5mi/3265'; Ride leader needed.



Left photo, l to r: Pete Pearson, Roger Kern and Jim Denton were among the 6,300 bicyclists who turned out for the Oct. 2 Bike to Work Day, the largest crowd ever; center photo, Francis and Julie Kuo at lunch on Saturday Ride in Monterey, and, right photo, l to r: Bob Early, Grace Voss and Leonard Foreman at start of Tuesday ride.

**Saturday, December 13** **C Ride**  
**Gilroy/Morgan Hill via Uvas/Oak Glen**  
 Meet at Gilroy Sports Park at 5925 Monterey Frontage Road in Gilroy, between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. start. Lunch at Christmas Hill Park; 34.2mi/1178'.  
**Rod/Tina Armer.....831- 227-8418**

**Saturday, December 20** **A/B Ride**  
**Pescadero to Half Moon Bay—Inland Route**  
 Carpool leaves from CCC (Jade St/45th Ave.) at 8 a.m. for 9 a.m. start. (Park in lot by signal light on Pescadero Road); A Ride=45 mi/3500'; B Ride=41mi/3000'  
**Grace Voss.....831-247-8878**

**Saturday, December 20** **C Ride**  
**Watsonville via Corralitos, Manresa Beach**  
 Meet at West Marine Parking Lot between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start. Lunch at Manresa Beach; 25.4/1278'.  
**Paula Bradley.....831-234-7726**

**Saturday, December 27** **A/B Ride**  
**The After Christmas Ride**  
 Meet at CCC at 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. start; Ride details will be emailed during week prior to ride. Ride leader needed.

**Saturday, December 27** **C Ride**  
**Aromas/Pajaro Valley**  
 Meet at Aromas School, 365 Vega St. between 9:30 to 9:45 am for a 10 a.m. start. Lunch stop at Aromas Grill; 29.6 mi/1320'.  
**JT Hart..... 831-234-7726**

**Saturday, January 3** **A/B Ride**  
**Around the Monterey Bay**  
 A's meet at 7:45a.m. for 8 a.m. start at Nisene Marks Park Entrance. B's meet at 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. start at Kirby Park. Lunch at Turtle Bay Taqueria in Monterey; A Ride=95mi/3667'; B Ride=49mi/1763'  
**Peter Jones.....831-234-5555**

**Saturday, January 3** **C Ride**  
**West Marine to Gizdich Ranch**  
 Meet at the West Marine Parking Lot between 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. start. Ride by fields of South County. Lunch at Gizdich Ranch. 27.9mi/786', 28 FPM.  
**JackJohnson.....831-359-2501**

**Leaders still needed for two Saturday rides**  
 December 13th and December 27th still need ride leaders. Contact Peter Jones at [vwcafe@van-cafe.com](mailto:vwcafe@van-cafe.com) if interested.

## Pathways bicycle safety writer advises being aware of second car following

I have not crashed on my road bike yet. I used to fool myself by thinking my bike handling skills and good instincts were responsible for my close calls not becoming accidents. Sure, that may have been a factor, but there is a whole lot of luck involved also. We certainly can improve our odds by practicing safe riding practices, even though we all know we put ourselves at risk when we hop on our bikes.

And these risks come in all shapes and sizes—from vehicles, other riders, road conditions and debris, animals, mechanicals, rider error and loss of concentration. As some club members have experienced injuries of late, the board is discussing how to improve rider safety awareness. One suggestion is this **Pathways to Safety**, a regular column in *The Roadrunner*.

**Today's Safety Tip—The Second Vehicle.** While traveling along a rural road, upon hearing a vehicle approaching from the rear, bicyclists naturally pull closer to the shoulder as the vehicle approaches. After the vehicle passes, the bicyclist tends to relax his/her line, drifting away from the shoulder and into the road. Be wary of additional vehicles behind the one which just passed. One of our best assets, our hearing, may be compromised from the sound of the lead vehicle.

Bicyclists should not rely only on a rear-view mirror (which will always have some blind spots), but remember to turn the head briefly to make sure the coast is clear before relaxing. Keep in mind that the following vehicle is the bigger threat because that driver's view is restricted by the lead vehicle. The second driver may only become aware of you within a matter of yards before passing. Stay aware and be safe!

— Peter Jones

# City's climate action director advises solar power to reduce emissions

An array of solar panels acting as a canopy for the parking lot of the Santa Cruz City Hall has proven its worth. In the first year, it has generated 350,000 kilowatt hours of power for the police department and 300,000 kilowatt hours of energy for city hall. Both are evidence of a significant increase in solar power used to run municipal buildings since 2008, a source of pride for Ross Clark, the city's hard-working climate action coordinator.

"Solar energy can be a significant player in dealing with climate change," says Clark, an affable husband and father of two young daughters who says he took the job of reducing carbon emissions with his daughters' future in mind. "It's fairly scary that the future results of climate change are happening so quickly," he says.

While the solar panels are helping to power municipal buildings, LED lights are replacing outdoor lighting downtown as well as within municipal garages, the Santa Cruz Wharf and even in the Loudon Nelson Theater. By the end of the year, Clark anticipates that 1,000+ homes will be powered by solar energy.



ROSS CLARK

by building better infrastructure, such as the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Path (due to open in November), and by re-doing the Beach Boardwalk approach to the railroad trestle bridge for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Regarding Arana Gulch, Clark says "The city went above and beyond to implement the habitat management part of the trail," and he refers to the trail as a gateway into the city for both bicyclists and pedestrians from the east (Brommer Street) side. The project is an example, says Clark, of "integrating bicycle projects into the general process of municipal planning."

Also supporting bicyclists is the funding for the segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail between Natural Bridges and the

For bicyclists, the city's Climate Action Plan has a goal of doubling bike ridership by 2020 from 2008 levels. One of the ways to encourage more bicyclists is

Municipal Wharf. (Construction is due to begin in 2016.)

On Clark's wish list is a carbon tax as "a way to get the world off carbon by pricing it at what it really costs." Another goal is to encourage 20% of city residents to reduce carbon emissions 30% by 2020. Since transportation creates 50% of total carbon emissions across the county, that may mean encouraging more drivers of automobiles to exchange their cars for a bicycle.  
—Grace Voss

## Ohana ride Oct. 25th

The U'ilani Fund gives a heartfelt *mahalo* to SCCCC for its continued support of The Ohana Ride and Luau. This event, now in its fifth year, takes place Saturday, Oct. 25, and it serves as an annual fundraiser for breast cancer.

Starting at 9 a.m. at CCC (Jade St. and 45<sup>th</sup> Ave.), the ride offers 25, 45 and 65 mile routes and a post-ride Hawaiian luau with entertainment by Patti Maxine at the home of Peter and Mary Ann Orr in Pasatiempo. (65-miler-riders start at 7:30 a.m.)

A special thanks to club members Marianne Benforado, Paul Edwards, Betsy Schwartz, Lilly Ann Popken and Tony Rall who have helped redesign the 65 mile route. Betsy and Lilly Ann, along with Judy Marsalis, Bob Vorce, Emilie Holder, Ed Kilduff and Marilyn Marzell will be posting route markers. Marilyn, along with Marianne and David Lawrence, have helped secure donations and recruit other volunteers such as massage therapists. Bruce Fihe, Pete Pearson and David drive SAG and shuttle services. Tina Ensign and friends will be serving a classic lunch at Gizdich Ranch, and the SCCCC Board graciously agreed to move the club's fall social event to Oct. 26 so that all the Ohana Ride workers could attend.

Anyone interested in riding or volunteering may contact Janet Fogel, [pookfogel@gmail.com](mailto:pookfogel@gmail.com). More info about the U'ilani Fund at [www.uilanifund.org](http://www.uilanifund.org). Again, a heartfelt *mahalo* to SCCCC for the *aloha* extended to the Ohana Ride.

## People Power Awards Dinner set for Oct. 19

People Power has nominated the following community leaders as candidates for its Sustainable Transportation Award. Winners will be announced Oct. 19 at the organization's annual dinner at the 418 Project (4 to 7 p.m. at 418 Front St.) Tickets are \$50 to \$150 per person, sliding scale.

Staff nominations are: Sarah Neuse and Paia Levine for their work with the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan; Grace Blakeslee for the Complete Streets Guidebook; Saskia Lucas for organizing Capitola Open Streets; Chris Schneiter for overseeing the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail and Cory Caletti for her work with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Master Plan.

Community Nominations include:

Melissa Ott, a bicycle intern with People Power and the City of Santa Cruz, who has organized both a bike class and bike newsletter at UCSC; Lynn Gallagher and John Dougherty, who represent the mobility-impaired community and who have advocated for this aspect of the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail; Allison Guevara for the Jewell Street Crosswalk Campaign; and Eduardo Montesino for his advocacy of both the Rail Trail and bike/pedestrian facilities in South County.

### Thank you SCCCC ride leaders

Jim Denton (2), Alan Eklof (2), Jim Wheeler and Harriet Wrye, Ric Eiserling (3), Bart Coddington, Tony Rall (2), Alan Eklof, Karen Nevis, Dave Dominguez, David Giannini Bill McBride (2), Maura Noel, John Bono, JT Hart (2), Grace Voss (2), Petronella van Dam, Frank and Vita Pritchard, Jack Johnson, Lilly Ann Popken (2) and Bruce Fihe.

## Bike-friendly projects, results of SCMC and Bike Smart rodeo dates

Two bicycle-friendly projects are in the works, one nearing completion in November and the other set to begin construction next year. The Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail will open soon, acting as a safe, off-road connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between the County and the City of Santa Cruz. Costing \$6 million, the Broadway Brommer bike and pedestrian path provides a multi-use trail connection between Broadway at Frederick Street and Brommer at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. It is an accessible trail of pervious concrete which spans Hagemann Gulch with a 340-foot-long stress ribbon bridge, and a viaduct that crosses over the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor drainage system at Arana Gulch. The project has taken 20 years to complete.

The second project will widen East Cliff Drive between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lake St. (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) to allow for bike lanes and pedestrian paths (decomposed granite) on both sides of the street. Cars will be allowed to park on the ocean side of this stretch of busy roadway, with the paved surface expanding into the vegetation on the non-ocean side of East Cliff Drive. This project, costing \$4.9 million is known



(Construction nears completion on Brommer Street side of Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail, above, and, right photo, Broadway side at Frederick Street)

as the Twinlakes Beachfront Project. It recently received \$250,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy. The Santa Cruz RTC has provided \$200,000, with the county providing \$4.4 million in funding. This project has been promoted by County Supervisor Neal Connerty, who walked the neighborhood seven years ago to discuss it with residents. Construction starts in 2015.

### SCMC RESULTS

The financial results of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge, the main fundraiser for SCCCC, show a best-ever profit of \$15,841.27 according to Tina Ensign, club treasurer. Total income from registration of nearly 500 bicyclists, plus the sale of club clothing was \$33,990, while expenses totaled \$18,148.73.

### BIKE SMART VOLUNTEERS

Bike Smart, an Ecology Action program that trains elementary school students to ride their bikes safely, needs volunteers! Called Bike Rodeos, these 'parking lot workshops', held mostly at elementary schools, need adults to help out. Here are the dates and locations of rodeos for the next few weeks. Please contact Elise Ehrheart at 831-515-1324 if interested.

- Bradley Elementary School, 321 Corralitos Road, Watsonville (10/21 and Oct. 23)
- Puente Health Fair, Pescadero Elementary School, 620 North St., Pescadero, (10/19)
- Del Mar Elementary School, 1959 Merrill St., Live Oak (Nov. 13)
- Lamplighter Salinas Mobilehome Community, Salinas (Nov. 22)

—Rhoda Bike

## Coastal Watershed Council bike tour highlights San Lorenzo Riverwalk

Greg Pepping, executive director of the Coastal Watershed Council, knew a good opportunity for bicyclists to learn about water flow when he saw it. After the Oct. 2 Bike to Work Day's free breakfast ended downtown, Pepping escorted several bicyclists on a short, educational ride along the Santa Cruz Riverwalk (formerly the San Lorenzo River Trail). While the miles were few, the information was plentiful. Pepping, who has directed the CWC for eight years, shared the following facts about the river, its levees and the San Lorenzo River Alliance, an environmental group working with City Hall to make the river more accessible to all ages. Here are some San Lorenzo River facts:

- 64% of the drinking water for Santa Cruz residents comes from the San Lorenzo River, including Loch Lomond Reservoir.
- River levees, built in 1955, have protected the downtown area, which is situated in a flood plain. The down side is that the levees obstruct views of the river from downtown, a "visual disconnect".
- The City of Santa Cruz has installed sturdy trash receptacles, and plans are underway to install more lighting for the riverwalk; the intent of both measures is to encourage more people to use the riverwalk at all hours.
- A noise emitting system to deter illegal camping under



L to R: Ted Lorek, Greg Pepping, Karen Kefauver, Petra Mottishaw, Marie Brayman, Denis Ruttenberg and Kieran Kelly.

- river bridges is in effect.
- A design for the final bike/ped segment of the riverway, a connection at the Soquel Avenue Bridge involving Branciforte Creek, has been funded. When complete, the Santa Cruz Riverwalk will be five miles long.
- Replacement of the bridge over the river by The Boardwalk is included in the rail trail plan; cost will be \$8 million and it is not yet funded.
- Kaiser Arena, a building on the south end of the riverwalk, will host the NBA's D Basketball League's All-Star Game in January, 2015.

# Local bicycle shops

These shops are supporting our bicycle club with discounts on bicycling accessories. Discounts vary according to the shop. Ask sales clerk for club discount.

Another Bike Shop  
2361 Mission Street  
427-2232  
Open seven days–10AM–6PM

The Bicycle Trip  
1001 Soquel Avenue  
427-2580  
Monday–Saturday–10AM–6PM  
Sunday–10AM–5PM

Bill's Bike Repair  
2826 Soquel Drive  
477-0511  
Open seven days but call first!

Dave's Custom Bikes  
910–A Soquel Avenue  
423-8923  
Tuesday–Sunday–9AM–5PM

Family Cycling Center  
912 41st Avenue  
475-3883  
Monday–Saturday–10AM–6PM  
Sunday–10am–5pm

The Spokesman Bicycles  
231 Cathcart Street  
429-6062  
Monday–Thursday 10am–6pm  
Friday–10AM–7PM  
Saturday–10AM–6PM  
Sunday–Noon–5PM

The Bike Coop  
1156 High Street  
457-8281  
Monday–Friday–10AM–6PM

Bike Station Aptos  
36 Rancho del Mar  
688-4169  
Monday–Friday–11AM–6PM  
Saturday–10AM–5PM  
Sunday–Appointment only

Scotts Valley Cycloport  
245 Mount Hermon Road  
Scotts Valley  
440-9070  
Tuesday–Thursday–10A,–6PM; Friday 10AM–7PM  
Saturday–10AM–6PM; Sunday–Noon–5PM

Watsonville Cyclery  
25 East 5th Street  
724-1646  
Monday–Saturday–11AM–6PM;  
Sunday–Noon– 5PM

The Bike Church  
703 Pacific Avenue 425-2453

Epicenter Cycling  
Aptos Station, 8035 Soquel Dr. Suite 23  
662-8100  
Monday–Friday–11AM–7PM; Weekend–8AM–4PM

AND...

1730 Mission Street, Santa Cruz  
423-9000

Sprockets  
1420 Mission Street  
426-7623  
Monday–Friday, 9 AM to 6 PM  
Saturday—8 AM to 6 PM  
Sunday—9 AM to 5 PM

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**831-234-4663    [www.maverickmailing.com](http://www.maverickmailing.com)**



**JOIN AND RENEW ONLINE at [www.santa cruz cycling.org/club](http://www.santa cruz cycling.org/club)**

Santa Cruz County Cycling Club Membership Application/Renewal Form

The Santa Cruz County Cycling Club is a group of bicycling enthusiasts with a wide variety of interests and abilities. The mission of the SCCCC is to promote bicycling for all ages through education and organized bicycling events. Included in your membership is a subscription to The Roadrunner, the club's award-winning, bimonthly newsletter, which publishes a schedule of rides and bicycling announcements. In addition, local bicycle shops offer a 10% discount for club members. The club's website, [www.santacruz cycling.org](http://www.santacruz cycling.org) provides a home base for your club activities. Annual membership dues must be paid to remain a member in good standing. **Dues become due on Jan. 1st of each year based upon the term of your membership.**

Member First Name	*Member Family Name	*Member Contact Email
*Member Contact Telephone	Member Ride Cell Phone	___New Member ___Renewal Member ___Include on Printed Roster ___Add to SCCCC Email list
2nd Member First Name	2nd Member Family Name and Email	One Year Memberships ___Individual \$25 ___\$30 for RR Mail* ___Family \$35 ___\$40 for RR Mail* ___Junior \$10 ___\$15 for RR Mail*
2nd Member Contact Telephone	2nd Member Cell Phone	Three-Year Memberships ___Individual \$60 ___\$75 for RR Mail* ___Family \$90 ___\$105 for RR Mail*

\*Street Address

\*City

\*State

\*Zip

\*Roadrunner Newsletter delivered by US Mail

## League of American Bicyclists (LAB)

## Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement")

Each applicant for membership shall read and sign the following Release Agreement

In Consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in Santa Cruz County Cycling Club ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity") I for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. Acknowledge, agree and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the Activity and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.

2. Fully Understand that: (a) Bicycling Activities Involve Risks and Dangers of Serious Bodily Injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death ("Risks"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions of others participating in the activity, the condition in which the activity takes place, or the negligence of the "Releases" named below; (c) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I fully accept and assume all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs and damages I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

3. Hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and agree to indemnify and save and hold harmless the Club, the LAB, their respective administrators, directors, agents, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of the premises on which the Activity takes place (each considered one of the "Releases" herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the "Releases" or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations.

I have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature(s) of additional family members 18 years or older

Date

Please complete the following for any minor (18-year-old) family members:

## Minor Release

And I, the Minor's parent and/or legal guardian, understand the nature of bicycling activities and the Minor's experience and capabilities and believe the minor to be qualified, in good faith, and in proper physical condition to participate in such activities. I hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and agree to indemnify and save and hold harmless each of the releasees from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on the minor's account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the "releases" or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations and further agree that if, despite this release, I, the minor, or anyone on the minor's behalf makes a claim against any of the releasees named above, I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss liability, damage, or any cost that may incur as the result of any such claim

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Minor

Please sign waiver — Incomplete Forms Will Be Returned

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ dues for membership in the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club which entitles me to all the rights and privileges of membership.

Make check payable to SCCCC and mail to: Santa Cruz County Cycling Club, P.O. Box 8342, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8342

## November–December, 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					5	1 Club Ride Cycling for Starters Ride
2 Volunteer to lead a ride	3 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	4 Club Ride GP	5 Sign up to lead a ride!	6	7	8 Club Ride Cycling for Starters Ride
9	10	11 Club Ride NMP	12	13 Ride Safely!	14	15 Graduation Ride (Cycling for Starters)
16	17 Clean your bike!	18 Club Ride GP	19	20	21 Go for a bike ride!	22 Club Ride SF Bike Expo
23	24 Ride Safely!	25 Club Ride NMP	26 Clean your bike!	27	28	29 Club Ride
30	1 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	2 Club Ride GP	3	4	5 Sign up to lead a ride!	6 Club Ride
7 SCCCC Holiday Party 5 p.m. Tradewinds MH Park	8	9 Club Ride NMP	10	11 Volunteer to lead a ride	12	13 Club Ride
14 Clean your bike!	15 Roadrunner deadline for jan/Feb	16 Club Ride GP	17 Go for a bike ride!	18	19 Clean your bike!	20 Club Ride
21	22	23 Club Ride NMP	24	25 Have a safe holiday!	26	27 Club Ride
28	29	30 Club Ride Leader's Choice	31		GP is Gateway Plaza	NMP is Nisene Marks Park

Santa Cruz County Cycling Club Membership Card  
 www.santacruzcountycycling.org (Valid only with member's mailing label.)



SCCCC  
 PO Box 8342  
 SANTA CRUZ, CA  
 95061-8342