

Chainwheel Chatter

B.I.K.E.S. Club of Snohomish County
January 2023





Prez Sez

Ten Really Random Thoughts from The Prez

If your cat weighs more than your bike, it's time to put the cat on a diet.

Have you ever wondered at all the incredible things that the phone in your pocket can do? It can help you find where you're going, order your next meal, make sure you don't forget your dental appointment, buy tickets for a train ride, and tell you how many steps you've taken today. Get this ... I even used mine recently to make a phone call. The experience was both quaint and amazing.

A club member bought an e-bike (he doesn't really need one) and took it on a slower-than-usual-for-him club ride. You know what he experienced? FUN! Hearing about it is causing me to think "what out-of-the-norm bike thing can I do this year to have FUN?"

My favorite Christmas movie of all time is Scrooge, starring Albert Finney. It is a musical version of the classic Dickens story made in 1971. You either love it or hate it. I love it.

By the way, I think people have it all wrong when they use Scrooge as a derogatory character trait. Scrooge is a character who exemplifies the ability to change, see a different and true reality, experience and show compassion and extreme generosity, and accept the gift of redemption. Call me Scrooge and I'll take it as a compliment.

Did you know that the club homepage (bikesclub.org) is updated frequently? If you don't look at it periodically, you may miss something.

Speaking of looking at computers, have you ever looked at one of your bike rides on RideWithGPS or Strava and thought "that looks like a rabbit"? If so, you've done something artistic. Google "Strava Art" and you'll be amazed.

Even if you have no money, you can always give the gift of a smile and well wishes. Sometimes that alone will bring a needed boost to a fellow person. You never know, so just do it.

Have you ever read anything written by Grant Peterson? He's written a couple of easy-to-read books and he owns/runs a bike shop in Walnut Creek, California. He's an ambassador for "practical bike riding". Sign up for his emails at rivbike.com - he always has a viewpoint which will make you think. Sometimes it's about cycling and sometimes it's about other important stuff.

A new year always offers an opportunity for new beginnings, new challenges, new endeavors. What new thing will you do in 2023?

The recent passing of valued club member Bill Weber is a reminder that life is short and that every day is a gift. My hope is that you will be able to enjoy and be grateful for each and every day in the new year. Thanks, Bill.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Now get out and ride your bike.

Keep on pedalin',

Prez Drew

president@bikesclub.org

Bill Weber, 1956-2022

Bill Weber's wife Barb asked that club members be informed that Bill passed away Dec. 15, 2022. Bill was a past president and officer of BIKES and always a ready volunteer. He used to lead pumpkin rides each fall, and was always welcoming to kids and new riders. He was appreciated by many B.I.K.E.S. members for his mentoring as a ride leader and his knowledge of roads and rides throughout Snohomish County. Bill and his son Tom did RedSpoke for many years. They always wore unique jerseys to go with their custom Houle bicycles.

Bill served as "Santa Bill" at many B.I.K.E.S. holiday parties, and earned the lead of the annual lighted rides with his over the top decorating of himself and his bicycle (plus a great music soundtrack that attracted passersby to appreciate riders in our glory). Bill worked as a bus mechanic for Mukilteo School District for 35 years, and his mechanic skills carried over to bicycles and everything else. He volunteered at Sharing Wheels Community Bike Shop and also served on Everett's Transportation Advisory Committee and with the condo association where his son Tom lived.

Another long time member and former B.I.K.E.S. president Dan Scott remembered Bill on the club Facebook page: "Bill was a great dad, a great guy, and wonderful cyclist. A very talented person willing to help anyone. He will be sorely missed."

A memorial ride for Bill will likely be scheduled in the spring.



Vice Prez Sez

Best Bike Tech Thingy Ever.

One of the biggest safety challenges biking is to be aware of traffic. Over the years I have tried to be as aware as possible - by wearing a mirror, looking around a lot, listening. I've got pretty good at my awareness, but would occasionally get surprised by a car passing. Then a couple of years ago my kids got me a Garmin Varia Radar unit and I have been ever grateful - it has virtually eliminated those scary moments when an unseen car appears from behind. The Varia has a built-in tail light and a detector that alerts me to cars within 150 yards behind me.

It uses an audible alert tone, like "deedle-deedle-deedle", and displays moving dots on the right side of my bike computer representing the approaching car or cars. Its very cool how it shows three dots for three cars, and they move up the edge of the screen as they get closer. When they have passed and it's safe again it gives a single beep and its screen turns green. They are a bit pricey at \$197 for the cheapest version on Amazon, and up to about \$400 for a version with built in camera, but I get so much value from it that I think it's worth the price. Besides working on Garmin devices, it also works on other bike computers, on cell phones via Bluetooth and even with RideWithGPS. If I have managed to catch your interest, you can read a full review at <https://www.dcrainmaker.com/2020/05/garmin-rtl515-rvr315-cycling-radar-review.html>

Keep riding and be safe!

Vice Prez Jim
vicepresident@bikesclub.org.

News You Can Use...

New Club Jerseys
Limited time offer

As a club member or anyone - this is finally your opportunity to purchase a genuine BIKES club jersey from our vendor Primal. An official store has been opened where you can order one, or two, or three! Here are some important things you need to know ...

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER https://via.primalcustom.com/collections/ts-878](https://via.primalcustom.com/collections/ts-878)

All orders need to be placed by January 16. Then the store closes.

You do not need to create an account with Primal when you place your order. You will need to put in a shipping address which should be your billing address. It will not ship to this address as all orders will be bulk shipped to avoid excess costs.

Prices is \$60 + sales taxes.

Jerseys will be delivered mid-March and jersey guru bikerdude Lou will receive all orders in one bulk shipment then distribute accordingly to customers.

[ORDER NOW. OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY!](#)



January BIKES Club Meeting.

The next BIKES Club meeting is set for 7 PM, January 12, 2022 at the Snohomish County PUD Building. 2030 California St. Everett, WA 98201

What if I really like online Zoom meetings?

Our intent is to get back to all in-person meetings. But, if you really want to stay online, at least for now, please let [Prez Drew](#) know.

BIKES Club has monthly club meetings for members on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September to May. No meetings in the summer or December.

New Motor Vehicle Safety Tech

Speed governors have been required on European Union busses at least as far back as 2005 limiting powered speeds to 100 kph (62 mph). A newer technology has been developed called Intelligent Speed Assist (ISA) that should help drivers control vehicle speed in various speed zones. This new ISA technology will be required on all new vehicles sold in the EU beginning in 2024. But not yet in the USA. Why? Read this article on pages 12 – 13 in the winter 2022 issue of American Bicyclist magazine from the League of American Bicyclists https://issuu.com/bikeleague/docs/american_bicyclist_winter_2022. There are also other bike related articles that may tickle your thinker.

Stay well and have a great ride!

Rick Proctor

Tour de PNW 2023

Do you want to do an adventurous, no camping, bike tour across Washington and maybe even into Idaho? This tour is designed for active senior bicyclists to ride their bikes eastward in a series of 5-day tours, or phases, across Washington and Idaho. Riders may do 1, 2, or all 3 phases. [Click here for more info.](#)

Stay well and have a great ride!

Rick Proctor

ASK THE WRENCH

The Wrench is on vacation this month. He'll be back with a new column next month if he can negotiate a satisfactory contract for the remainder of 2023. In the meantime, continue to send your bikey questions to drew@roadbikewrench.com and he'll answer them in a future Chainwheel Chatter.

—RBW

Road Bike Wrench (Prez Drew)



Coming Up...

January Club rides

There will be a variety of BIKES Club rides scheduled through January on the [Calendar](#). Some rides may be posted the day before the scheduled activity. Rides can be cancelled or changed when weather conditions are forecast to be sufficiently foul as determined by the Ride Leaders and which forecasts they think may be accurate. Keep up with ride changes by subscribing to [Ride Updates](#).

[Rides Calendar >>>](#)



Ride Leader Corner

Ride leaders,

During winter it's a good time to think about multi day bike tours, which have been a part of the BIKES club in past years. Over the years that I have belonged to this club we have had two & three day events- Leavenworth Weekend, Yakima Wine Weekend, and longer tours - Idaho Hot Springs Tour, the Lost Corner, and Glacier/Waterton National Parks, Idaho Trails, Olympic Discovery Trail, Willamette Valley, and more.

Tours can have a lot of sub categories, from self-contained camping to moteling and having gear hauled by a willing driver. From hub and spoke (staying in one place and doing rides from there) to moving each night as you cycle along a route. There are many ways to tour.

If you are thinking of leading a tour, you will get more members participating if you can let folks know ahead of time. To that end a new Tours calendar is being set up and details of how to use it will be posted soon.

As always **thank you** for listing club rides when conditions allow

Dan Scott,

Ride Leader Coordinator

leadaride@bikesclub.org

New Membership options

[Membership Benefits>>>](#)

COVID-19 persists

[Temporary Precautions for BIKES Club Ride During the COVID-19 Crisis.](#)

Max Group Sizes

Ride groups may now have 12 riders or less as determined by the Ride Leader. The number includes the Ride Leader. The ride posting and registration page should indicate the maximum number of riders for the ride.

[Online Reg - Step by Step>>>](#)

[Online Registration Process for Ride Leaders >>>](#)



Rider Miles

Top riders for December

Linari	Steve	4073
Proctor	Rick	2965
Tweedy	Christine	2573
Scott	Dan	1722
Kawamoto	Debbie	1690

How many Club miles do you have?



Club meeting minutes

Catch up here to read the most recent meeting minutes. Log on to the club website to access all meeting minutes.

[Meeting Minutes >>>](#)



Sharing Wheels

Sharing Wheels News

Nonprofit partnerships make biking better

By Kristin Kinnamon, Sharing Wheels board president

Sharing Wheels Annual Meeting, Board Members Wanted

Anyone interested or involved in Sharing Wheels is encouraged to attend the nonprofit's annual meeting and board elections on Jan. 18. The meeting is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Sno-Isle Food CoOp board room (upstairs). [Please RSVP](#) as a light dinner will be available.

Sharing Wheels is looking for a few more board members to serve the organization as community leaders and policy-makers. [Learn more from this blog](#), and contact Kristin Kinnamon for additional information bikenbus@gmail.com.

See all the events at [Sharing Wheels Calendar](#)

[Sharing Wheels Website >>>](#)

Other Links

League of American Bicyclists

Click on the link below to read the League blog and catch up on League efforts around the country. BIKES is a member of the League of American Bicyclists and it is through the League that we purchase our club insurance.

[League of American Bicyclists>>>](#)

Adventure Cycling

Whether you like your adventures in the saddle or from the armchair, Adventure Cycling will inspire. You might also find reviews of new bikes and equipment and tips on how to enjoy or improve what you already have.

[Adventure Cycling >>>](#)



bikesclub.org

Comments or suggestions? Send an email to:

[Newsletter Editor](#)
