Club Happenings

October 3-4 (Sat-Sun) **Gainesville Cycling Festival**

Two Centuries in Two Days! The Saturn Santa Fe Century, and our own Horse Farm Hundred. The deadline for mailing your Gainesville Cycling Festival Entry Certificate is Saturday, September 26. If you are in Gainesville, you can mail it on Monday. It can be hand delivered to the club address up until 9:30 pm on Wednesday, September 30. After that, bring it with you to register on the weekend of the ride. Your certificate is worth $5 off on the entry fee for the Horse Farm Hundred. This is your one chance during the year to participate in a major touring event without having to travel out of town. We hope to see you on the road!

October 10 (Sat) **Club Switches to 9 AM Standard Ride Start Time**

But beware! Many of our increasingly independent minded groups are choosing different times. See the Ride Schedule for clues, but get on the email list if you really want to know!

December 5 (Sat) **Holiday Party**

Put it on your calendar! Details in the next newsletter.

CONTACT

The Gainesville Cyclist is published every other month, a fact that makes planning club events difficult due to the lead time needed to get information in the newsletter. Which is why more and more events are announced on our email list (gcc-fla@cycling.org). Email announcements allow a group of club members to plan a ride or a trip and announce it to the club much closer to when the event occurs, when they know better whether their personal lives will allow them to support or participate in the event.

Currently, there are 322 members of the Gainesville Cycling Club. At least 143 members are on the email list. Another 38 have told us they have an email address, but have not elected to receive list messages. If you have email and want to be an active club member, you should be on the list! To join, just send an email with your name to RCPBIKE@aol.com, stating you want to be on the list.

Robert and Kurt were seen riding one of these at a recent ride!
True Love?

Back about six or seven years ago, back when I was just starting to get serious about this thing called cycling, I returned from a somewhat prolonged ride, later than the prescribed time. As I carefully put away my bike in its honored place next to the front door, my body covered with a combination of dripping sweat and road grit, maintaining that silly self-satisfied grin that newbie cyclists always have, my wife remarked through clenched teeth, "I think that you love that bike more than you love me!" Hmm...I thought, is such a thing even remotely possible? Could I "love" my bike, a mere machine, a collection of metal, plastic, rubber and grease? Not to wax too philosophical, but it didn't seem very likely.

As time went on this subject faded from my consciousness, other things in my life displaced such idle contemplation. My marriage went on the rocks and my life became in some ways a very unpleasant thing to behold. I found myself escaping to the comfort of my regular solitary evening bike rides, where alone with my thoughts I could extricate the meaning of the world and my existence in it unfettered by the confusion of everyday trappings. With the riding and the thinking came new clarity and an awareness emerged in my emotional state that probably would never have surfaced otherwise. My bike, for all its metal and paint, had saved me thousands of dollars in therapy. And it never asked anything in return but a few minutes of attention on an irregular and infrequent basis to keep it going. My bike became my counselor and ...a silent friend. I never actually spoke to it, but it heard my whispers, and the wind, the sun, the sky and the moon came to talk to me. The lights along a city street provided a clear path, a sidewalk showed the way. Wherever there was a mile of previously untrod path, paved or unpaved, in Gainesville, I found a modicum of relief from the pain and mediocrity of my average day.

So once again I found myself asking, "Can I love a machine?"

Honestly, I still don't know the real answer to that question. But I can tell you that I think of my bike as a friend, something that will listen to my problems with sympathy, ...absent of reproach or reprimand. When I look at it today all I feel is positive, happy emotion. Even at the rare moment it demands some replacement parts, these things seem trivial compared to the benefit the bike has given me. These tiny gifts are a small return to my bike for the benefit and joy of having such a true friend.

But do I love my bike? ......I don't know, but I will share this thought.

My bike still rests in its place of honor by the living room door, in the wooden stand that I cut and stained for it so long ago. Regularly I wipe it down removing the dirt and grease from places where these things shouldn't be. I make an adjustment here and there. I stare at the beauty of its form. On the wall above the bike are mementoes of our good times together, now part of my cherished memories. I suspect that we will always be friends.

Oh..., and the wife, well.... she's long gone now.

Following winds, my friends.

Rob Wilt
Off Road

by Offroad Director Brian Raisler

The big show is coming to town! For those of you who are interested in seeing some real serious offroad competition, you are in luck. Mark your calendars now for Oct. 24 and 25 at Hard Rock in Ocala... it is the AMBC Eastern Finals. Saturday will be dual slalom competition and Sunday will features the cross country races. This will also coincide with the Florida State Championship race #4. You will get a chance to see local racers and big name nationals competing on one of the premier courses in Florida. It is going to be a pretty big event. The typical local race is a lot of fun and filled with energy. This is going to be a whole level up from that. There will be big sponsors and lots of really fast racing action. If you have never seen a professional or semi-professional mountain biker race... it is definitely an attention getter; scary fast riding, excellent bike handling skills, smooth as glass cornering even over the roughest terrain. I have heard it described as watching a biker who looked like he was just riding a single rail right through the trail. Certainly something to be seen.

Another upcoming race item for your calendars is Nov. 15 for the FSC #5 race in Gainesville. Your hometown race held on a course that is not open to riding except for the one or two times a year when it is raced. This can be a great opportunity for anyone who is thinking about racing to give it a first try. You don't have to travel far and you can bring along the support of your family and friends (or choose to leave them at home so that they won't see the embarrassment of your first crash). If anyone thinks that they might be interested in racing on that date, please contact me and I will be more than happy to give you some background on it and help you sign up. My roommate, Jeff Meyer, raced his first real mountain bike race there last year and had a lot of fun doing it.

For those of you who don't know I have recently returned to school. After three years out of the game, I have decided to pursue a PhD. in Pharmacology/Physiology under the College of Medicine. It has been an adjustment for me, but things are starting to settle down in my life again. One of the good things that has come of this return to the classroom is that I am once again meeting many younger people interested in mountain biking. I am doing my best to get them out for some rides and interested in the club. Hopefully, you all may see some new faces around from my recruitment. Another aspect of my return to school is later nights and difficulty getting up too early in the morning. With regard to this and the cooling of the weather (we hope) I am going to shift my ride times back to Saturday at 1 PM. The meeting place will still be at the Plaza of the Americas in front of Library West. I am hoping that this might also increase some ridership among other GCC members who may miss a Saturday morning road ride and decide to come offroad with us. Occasionally, I will be organizing out of town trips which will necessitate our leaving earlier in the day on Saturday. Check your email for notices about those.

Jersey Update

If you are a small man or woman, or a large woman, you may be in luck! At this writing, those sizes are in stock at Primo.

Otherwise, you’ll have to put your name on the list. Send it by email (to RCPBIKE@aol.com) or to the club address, along with the size jersey you are interested in. By sending your name, you are agreeing to purchase a club jersey when enough people send in their names to make a purchase possible. If you change your mind, please remove your name from the list.

We need 40 to 50 names on the list to place an order. We won’t actually place the order until most of the money is collected, but don’t send it now since we don’t know exactly how much the cost will be (should be $40 to $50 range).
No Name Recumbent Riders

by Gary Kirkland

Is it a ride group?

In one sense yes. They ride as a group. On the other hand no. They don’t meet every week, they have no real catchy name yet and there is no real leader, unless sending out an e-mail message to three friends earns one that title. (It did, ed.)

Back in July Bruce Bush sent out an inquiry to three other riders of those bikes that look like two-wheeled lounge chairs.

His question, “How about an informal recumbent rally in August on the Hawthorne Trail?” got the wheels rolling when Sandra Fradd, Brian Walsh and Gary Kirkland responded with a decisive “Why not?”

Now whether four people constitute a rally, is up to debate but they did meet. Rode from Hawthorne to Gainesville and back and had the most relaxing grand time imaginable during a 30-mile conversation about anything and everything.

“It was like hanging out but you’re moving. Somewhat of a roving social. Picture a fancy cotillion where you play musical chairs. The person you ride next to and chat with changes throughout the day,” is how Brian explained it.

He also was inspired to produce his own “Hey, hey we’re on recumbents” song to the tune of the theme from “The Monkees.”

The looks and the head swivels were part of the fun as trail riders were surprised to see this pack of unusual bikes rolling along at a pace of about 13 mph or a comfortable bike mosey.

“As always seems to be the case, large grins were prevalent, worn by both riders and observers!” Bruce noted.

Sandra said it was hard to tell if it was the bikes or the bikers or the combination of both that made the fun.

“Wherever you go on a ‘bend you can be sure to have a parade of curious observers who quickly become friends,” she said.

They also fielded some of the “What is it?” and “How is it?” questions from cyclists and rollerbladers sharing the trail. And while there are as yet no bylaws, meeting minutes, matching outfits or election of officers, the only act of official business that took place was an agreement that:

1. It was fun.
2. Let’s do it again.

And they did Sept. 12 on the Withlacoochee Trail. This time the group had grown to seven riders, including Jo and Jerry Lowe who made the trip from Perry to join the fun, and Jim Wilson of Gainesville who had a new recumbent on order, but made the 40-mile trip on his home-built model formed from two pieces of old bike frames, muffler pipe and some serious ingenuity. Wilson’s bike hadn’t yet gotten a coat of paint, so it wasn’t the prettiest model on the trail, but it was likely the most impressive. Wilson made the mistake of trying a recumbent out of curiosity and getting bitten by the bug.

As for future rides, there was a vow to tackle the bottom 40-mile loop on the Horse Farm Hundred in October. Plans beyond that still aren’t firm, other than the plan to plan. Anyone wanting to see a few highlights of the journey, visit Bruce’s website <http://www.gdn.net/~db/bent/> where he’s posted several pictures. Both Bruce and Sandra came equipped with digital cameras on the Withlacoochee ride. Anybody interested in joining — as much as it’s possible to join a group that’s not yet really a group — drop an e-mail to Bush at <bruce@musician.org> or give Gary a call at 373-4455 (home) or 338-3104 (work).

The rides are leisurely and 30 to 40 miles in length, and there is no requirement that you own or ride a recumbent. Anyone interested in looking, asking questions or just riding along is welcome.
**REST STOP REVIEW**

*by Tim Malles*

Mildred's Cottage Gourmet is the happening place in Micanopy and is fast becoming known as a rest stop and hangout for cyclists on the weekend. This place has become so popular with some of the riders that they will plead with the group when starting a ride: "I don't care where we go, as long as we stop at Mildred's!"

From Cholokka Blvd, Micanopy's main street, turn south onto Hunter Ave, a dirt road, for about a half block. Mildred's has the charm of an old country inn. Lean your bike against the fence and come on in. As you enter at ground level, a great room opens up and down with lots of brick and wood, stained glass, a fireplace and a spiral staircase leading to a private loft above. There is a little coffee bar tucked into one corner.

The food is excellent here. The menu offers unique, fresh, homemade salads, sandwiches, pasta, pastries, deserts and more. Living up to the gourmet in it's name, most of the menu items are decidedly too rich for most cyclist's rest stop tastes. (I've personally paid the price on the ride home on more than one occasion for over indulgence, an easy thing to do at Mildred's!) However, you can't go wrong with the muffins. What truly decadent creations these are, stuffed with fruit and topped off with a sugary, buttery crunch.

There is a fun and funky atmosphere here. An eclectic clientele runs the gamut from the uppity antique crowd to the local folk musicians jamming on the patio out back. Although the service has it's ups and downs, I've always found the staff to be accommodating to cyclists by providing extra ice water for those empty water bottles.

The rest of the town of Micanopy, (The town motto is: "Where Mayberry meets the Twilight Zone") is a great place for an extended rest stop. Don't miss O.Brisky Books, one of Florida's best book shops.

Call it a bun run or a muffin ride, a rest stop at Mildred's can easily fit into any bike ride and the goodies and good company will keep you coming back for more.

**Adopt-A-Road Report**

*by Diann Dimitri*

Our last cleanup was on September 20th, finishing just ahead of the rain. We’re starting something new – separating the recyclable stuff from the regular trash. We got two large bags of recyclable material. A hardy crew of eleven turned out on a warm, overcast afternoon: Michael Cochran, Diann Dimitri, Nancy Groome, Kim & Rick Heiss, Jim Merkner, Jeff Meyer, Roger Pierce, Brian Raisler, Marty Tod, and Lauri Triulzi.

Special thanks to Barry Gibbons for bringing us his pick sticks and to Michael Cochran for towing services.

After the cleanup we headed to Brian Raisler’s house for pizza and conversation. Thanks, Brian!

The June 7th cleanup crew was Julie Baker, Diann Dimitri, Barry Gibbons, Lauri Jenkins, Russell Taylor, and Rob Wilt. Thanks to everyone whose help made this a relatively “fun” job. Our next cleanup will be in early December; the exact date will be announced in the next newsletter.
GCC Members Cycle Oregon

Barb Bergin, Lauri Jenkins, Janet and Burt Silverstein, Cliff Gionet, Bud Jones, Knut Kverneland, and Neal Jenkins ventured to the west coast for a week of cycling.

Lauri Jenkins wrote “The scenery was great, the entertainment was great, the organization was phenomenal. I would recommend this trip to anyone.” See the web site for more on the trip.

In training for Cycle Oregon, a large group participated in the Gliders riding group training century on August 27th. The kayakers caught these photos as they went by Brasington’s Silent Waters:

GCC Kayak Adventure

Three GCC members and a guest traded two wheels for a two-headed paddle for a serene trip down the Santa Fe River on August 23rd. Carolyn Hufty, Kevin Jones and his brother, and Roger Pierce enjoyed the great weather, calm waters, exquisite scenery, and gourmet lunch provided by Brasington’s Silent Waters.

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 bicycles items; the number of items per member may be limited due to space considerations.

Room for rent in my 3br/2bath home, non-smoker, female preferred. $300 includes utilities. Call Carol, 371-8695 or email glavin@gator.net.

New 42t chainring & 12-21 cassette for 8sp Ultegra. $25 ea. or both for $45.
Profile aero bar. One piece entry level model. Length adjustable. $25. Paul Zimpfer 462-5003 eves. 6-9pm best or e-mail to UVLR32A@prodigy.com.

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

CYCLO-CROSS TIRES - AVOCET Cross 700c x 35c, $30 for pair
WET SUIT - BAILEY nitrogen blown neoprene, 5 mm, black and red, long sleeve. Plush nylon inside & out. Spine pad, key pocket, clean, medium, fits man or woman $60

FLOOR FAN. Duracraft. 18” triple blade. Adjustable height. Two speed, very powerful. Good shop fan. $20. Excellent shape.

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.

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

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

Road Watch

CR 2054 running south out of Alachua has new pavement.
US 27/41 between Newberry and High Springs is being resurfaced and shoulders are being added.
The I-75 bridge on SW 20th Ave is being widened to include bike lanes.
October-November Ride Schedule
FOR CURRENT INFO, Call The GCC RIDELINE 538-8100 (courtesy of ALLTEL Mobile)

RIDING GROUPS

A Riders. (no Group Captain). Fast paced rides. The main group usually goes two to three hours this time of year. There is frequently a small group that will go longer. The ride may become very fast for some periods. Team Florida may begin to show up again and push up speeds.

Gliders. Andrew Gill, 338-9205, apgill@gnv.fdt.net. Rides in the upper B range (18-19 mph average). Rides will normally be around 50 miles in length.

Sliders. Bill Boyette, 338-2945, tteyob@aol.com. Rides in the lower B range (16-17 mph average) on Saturdays. Meeting times and places are sent to group members by email about a week before the ride. Call Bill or email to join the group.

Hunters Crossing Pedalers. Linda McMahon, 331-4089. Meets at the GRU facility on NW 43rd St just north of NW 53rd Ave, most Saturdays for a slower paced ride. On one Saturday of most months some members of the group meet at an out-of-town starting location--see newsletter articles announcing locations or call the RideLine. This group also meets at the Plaza of the Americas on some Sundays.

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

Centurians. Roger Pierce, 378-7063. Hundred mile rides and up. We do many out-of-town invitational centuries. Group members usually ride with the A Riders on weekends.

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.

off road group. Brian Raisler, braisler@ufl.edu or 338-4594. Meeting times and places usually announced via email on the club list (gcc-fla@cycling.org).

recumbent group. Bruce Bush, bruce@musician.org. A new group without a name. May do one or two rides a month, announced on the club email list.

REGULAR STARTING TIMES AND PLACES

GRU FACILITY RIDES
(On NW 53rd St, north side, just west of NW 43rd Ave)
SATURDAYS
Gliders and Hunters Crossing Pedalers meet at 9 am.
Sliders depart at 8 am (but check email for time and place updates).

PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS RIDES
(University of Florida campus in front of Library West under the walkway)
SATURDAY
A Riders meet at 9 am.
off road group meets at 1 pm (check email)
SUNDAY
Gliders, A Riders, and Newnans Lake Riders meet at 9 am.
Florida
Bicycle Touring Calendar
(VERY ABRIDGED)
See the complete calendar on the World Wide Web at http://www.afn.org/~bike/FBTC

Oct 9-11  BRAG Georgia Bikefest
Metter GA Bike Ride Across Georgia (BRAG), PO Box 87111, Stone Mtn. GA 30087-0028. (770)921-6166.

Oct 10 (Sat) Poplar Head Jubilee - Mule Metric Century
Dothan AL Circle City Cyclists. Poplar Head Park, adjacent to the Dothan Civic Center. (334)792-1011 (The Bike Shop)

Oct 10-11 Tour De Swamp

Oct 16-18 Mt Dora Bicycle Festival
Mt Dora FL A major cycling event, limited to first 1500 applicants. Select one, two, or all three days to participate. Tent and RV camping available at Mt Dora High School; most area motels are booked; the brochure has many lodging options for you to explore. Rides range from 3 to 100 miles. All meals included in the registration fee. Mt Dora Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 196, Mt Dora FL 32757. (352)383-2165

Oct 17 (Sat) WFW's Fenner McConnell Fall Century Ride

Oct 22-24 Florida Trails and Greenways Conference
Miami FL Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel. (850)942-2379, fax (850)942-4431

Oct 24 (Sat) 15th Annual Spaghetti 100
Miccosukee FL 100 mile, 100 kilometer, 50 kilometer. Jim Mann (850)422-0302.

Oct 25 (Sun) Intracoastal Century
Cocoa Beach FL 100/50 miles. Registration opens at 6:30 am, ride start at 7:30 am. Spacecoast Freewheelers, PO Box 320622, Cocoa Beach FL 32932-0622. (407)784-4686. Start at Econo Lodge (800)553-2666, ask for "L-Bike Rate." Book early due to John Glenn's launch.

Oct 30 - Nov 1 BikeFest Spektacular
Lake Wales FL 3-day event; various distances (5 to 80 miles) and activities for the family. Polk County Sports (941) 676-3445.

Nov 1 (Sun) Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club's Annual Gulf Coast Cycle Fest

Nov 6-8 Florida Fat-Tire Festival
White Springs FL Suwanee Bicycle Association, PO Box 247, White Springs FL 32096. 904-397-2347.

Nov 8 (Sun) Bob Mohr's 10th Annual Lake Okeechobee Lark
Belle Glade FL West Palm Beach Bicycle Club's 120 mile ride around the lake. 62 mile option. West Palm Beach Bicycle Club, PO Box 6581, West Palm Beach FL 33405-0581.

Nov 14 (Sat) North Port FL Tour of Boca
Boca Raton FL A police-escorted tour. Registration starts at 12:30 pm and the ride at 1 pm. Patch Reef Park. Boca Bicycle Club Hotline (561)362-0244 or Jill Smithson (561)360-0030.

Nov 15 (Sun) 19th Annual Horrible Hundred
Clermont FL 31/71/102 miles, Waterfront Park 8:30 am. Florida Freewheelers, PO Box 916524, Longwood FL 32791. (407)788-2453 fax (407)788-7433.

Nov 15 (Sun) Ocean To Lake
Stuart FL 14, 30, 51, & 77 mile rides. Treasure Coast Cycling Association, PO Box 2559, Stuart FL 34995-2559. Kurt Kahlsom (561)334-8581, Don Roseman (561)220-7597.

Dec 4-6 Secret Santa Weekend
White Springs FL Suwanee Bicycle Association, PO Box 247, White Springs FL 32096. 904-397-2347.
The Florida Recreational Trails Council (FRTC) is an advisory council to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT). The council currently has 23 members composed of one representative from each state and federal agency that involves trails, including: water management districts, Florida Communities Trust, Game and Fish Commission, Division of Forestry, FDOT, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service. Local governments have one rep as do urban trails. There are two reps for: private landowners, commercial outdoor interests, jogging, hiking, horse back riding, paddling and bicycling.

Appointments are made by Virginia Wetherell, Secretary of DEP for two year terms. The user group rep's terms are staggered; so for example, one bicycling rep's term is up each year. Bicycling is presently represented on this council by George Borelli (architect from Orlando who loves off-road and rail-trail riding) and me.

The council meets four times a year to forward the trails agenda of the state of Florida. Recently the council has drafted and adopted trail design guidelines and a trail designation procedure. The council frequently drafts and sends official letters to the governor, agencies and others addressing issues and topics concerning trails. The council also has an active legislative sub committee which keeps members informed of pending greenway and trail related legislation.

At each meeting reps give status reports and share information about their constituencies or agencies and bring forth any issues of concern or interest. The first meeting I attended had a major presentation on the conflict resolution process, and there was much discussion about pursuing a conflict resolution process for trail use in Florida.

One of the major activities of the council is ranking applications for OGT's share of the P2000 funds which are set aside for land acquisition for trails and greenways (3.5% per annum). In 1997 this process funded acquisition of rail trail connectors in Alachua County for the Gainesville-Hawthorne, Waldo Road and Downtown bike trails. Some of the other ranked projects for bicycling in past years include: St. Marks Trail Extension, Van Fleet Trail, West Orange Trail, Cedar Key Tail and many more.

In the coming year this council will probably be merged with the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council. Details of the structure and function of this new council are still pending and must be enabled by legislation passed by the state legislature. Updates on issues and activities of the council are posted on Florida's statewide list servers at forba@cycling.org (for off-road bicycling) and at fba@cycling.org (for all other cycling).
BUSINESS SPONSORS

These businesses provide discounts to club members who present their yellow membership card:

- Bike Route 15%
- Campus Cycle Works 15%
- Chain Reaction 10%
- Gator Cycle 10%
- Gator Frame Painting 10%
- Ominski Massage $10 off
- Primo Bicycle Works 10%
- Recycled Bicycles 10%
- Streit's Schwinn Cyclery 10%
- Water World 5%

Some restrictions apply, ask for details at the store.

Planning for 2000? The Gainesville Cycling Festival is scheduled for September 30 - October 1, 2000.

The GCC has many members outside of Alachua County. Other Florida cities include Beverly Hills, Coconut Grove, Deland, Delray Beach, Ft White, Hawthorne, Jacksonville, Lake City, Melrose, Miami, Ocala, Orange Springs, Orlando, Palatka, Palm Beach Gardens, Punta Gorda, Sarasota, and Williston. Further afield, we have members in Acworth, GA, Albany, CA, Greenville, SC, Hebron, IN, New Market, VA, New York City, NY, Rochester, NY, and Newtownards, Northern Ireland, UK.