



Official Newsletter
November 2003
Come Ride with Us



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Bike Against the Odds

When the project was first conceived Jim Collier and I had a vision of organizing a cycling event to benefit breast cancer. From the standpoint of charity events we knew there were a number of walks and runs dedicated to breast cancer, but we knew of nothing locally in which the cycling community made a visible contribution to help battle this dreaded disease. Once the idea was conceived we set up a series of organizational meetings to determine if our idea had any merit; what impediments got in the way of putting on such an event; and, determining what organizations would benefit from our work.

From the beginning, members of the Oakland Yellowjackets played a leadership role. Kathy and Ron Starkey, Curt Council, Audrey Rupe and Jim Collier were off the front, leading the way with key decisions and significant contributions of time, money, and passion. (Beth Dempewolf, my significant other and professional event planner, also made extraordinary contributions as well.)

Once we determined which charity we would be working for and once

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**Next Membership Meeting
March 2004
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Ave (at Manila)**

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we had the imprimatur of Oakland' finest, and knew we were a go, our meetings evolved into its next phase. Instead of a motley crew of 6 or 7, we were now as many as 22 people, including staff from the Breast Cancer Fund, meeting at either the Starkey's or Curt and Audrey's house. (BTW Great Brownies and Pizza) Again, the Yellow Jackets demonstrated their commitment to the community and to the cause, as Yellow Jacket members fueled our new growth. (Much to my chagrin I was the only BBC member.)

THE WEEKEND OF THE RIDE

Anticipation. This was the culmination of months of planning. Here it was. We still had a lot of work to do. Pack up the trucks, organize, mark the course, get the food and water and a zillion other things that a zillion other people worked on. We had a work/dinner party Friday night at the Starkey's. The highlight was a vodka cream sauced rigatoni with proscuitto, grilled chicken and salad. My work productivity after dinner was half of what it was before dinner.

Saturday Ron and Curt spent over eight hours marking the course. I was still tired so I had Beth serve me breakfast in bed. (Yeah. Right. If you believe that I've got a bridge I'd like to sell you.) Saturday night Ron looked beat. I saw him when we went over to pick up the truck Saturday night. I went to bed early knowing I would have to wake up at 4:00 am to get to the lake by 5:00 am, but I was so wired I woke up at 2:30 and couldn't get back to sleep. Arriving at the lake I had a sense of excitement. I knew it was going to be a good day

THE DAY OF THE EVENT: October 19, 2003

All that is good in this world was found on

this day. The weather was perfect. The venue was our on beautiful theater of good vibes. It was a coming together of community, people, cyclists, and cancer survivors. When Jim Collier made his comments he tugged at my heartstrings because of the purity of truth in his words. His sister's comments were inspirational and a perfect balance to the emotion

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How to Contact Us



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of the moment. I was thankful to be a part of this day.

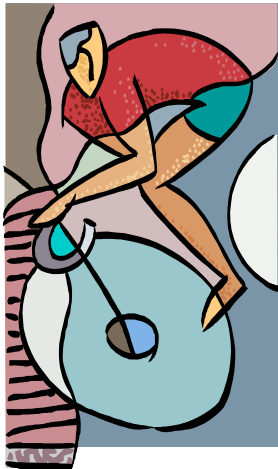
POSTSCRIPT

Monday, October 20th, I got a voicemail from Jeanie Rizzo, executive director of the Breast Cancer Fund, and I quote "...I have just heard the most amazing and phenomenal stories about yesterday...I can't thank you all enough and I know our relationship continues on...phenomenal, phenomenal event. I think that it is an amazing start to the next event of the decade...."

Tuesday, October 21 Beth Strachan, Program Manager for the Breast Cancer Fund advises that the preliminary numbers indicate that over \$96,000 was raised at the Bike Against the Odds event.

Yes, this was an extraordinary ride!

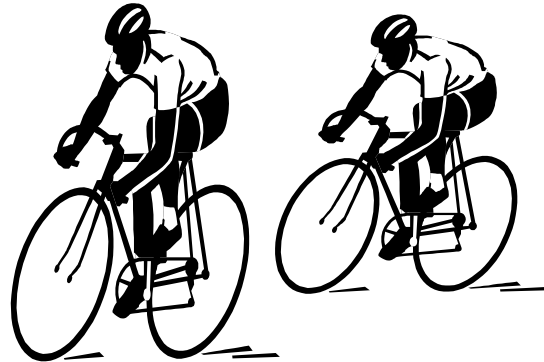
Marc Alan Fong



Meeting Schedule

Membership meetings are on the second Thursday (unless otherwise noted in the newsletter) of every riding season month. Meetings are held at the Rockridge Branch of the Oakland Public Library, located at 5366 College Ave. (at Manila). Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

March 2004



Off-Season Ride Schedule

Off-Season Rides (October to April) - Sat. 9 am Every Saturday during the off-season rider's meet at the Children's Fairyland Parking Lot at Lake Merritt in Oakland, decide on a route, then depart at 9 am sharp, weather permitting. Routes during the off-season are typically shorter, 25 - 45 miles on moderate terrain.

Check the Yellowjackets website for additional ride information

The Yellowjackets have a no drop policy and will leave no light or humane intermediate rider behind!

REQUIRED: Helmet, waiver, ID with emer

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gency Info.

RECOMMENDED: Two bottles of water minimum, high energy food, pump, spare tubes, tools, patch kit, padded gloves, padded cycling shorts, protective eye wear, sun block.



From the Office of the President

THANKS:

You, the club members did it. What did you do? --- You made the year the most successful in terms of injuries. No serious injuries were encountered for the first time in my riding experience with the club. Great job.

You made the Monterey ride the most successful ever...We had more riders than at any-time in our history. The ride was injury free and you even seemed to turn the weather around when it looked like we might be covered in fog and mist. Great job.

You made our first effort in the arena of charitable work a success. Our, Bike Against The Odds, tie-in with the Breast Cancer Fund was a huge success...As you will read, at another location in the newsletter, we raised a substantial amount in a short period of time. Great job.

You signed up..signed up..signed up, and we were able to declare a record number of members...over 200, that is. Great job

Finally, you stepped up to the plate, when asked, and, as a result, the year went smoothly in every area...For that I am very grateful and wish to offer my thanks to all.. Great job.

**BOTTOM LINE YOU DID A GREAT JOB,
AND WE HAD A GREAT YEAR..**

REMINDERS:

Don't get flabby over the light season...

Set aside December 20th, for the party of the century.

The Kickoff ride, April 17th is only a few months away.

The Clothing is on order...I will contact you as soon as the arrival date nears. If you have orders outstanding and have not paid we need your funds.

Ride safely in the off season so we can talk about you next season..

Thanks for everything!

Al

Club Officers, Chairpersons, and Ride Coordinators

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