



Official Newsletter
April 2004
Come Ride with Us

Free Wheelin'



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Bike Against the Odds Update

Hello Fellow Yellowjackets;

It seems like it was only yesterday that we successfully completed our first Bike Against the Odds fundraiser with the Breast Cancer Fund and I am here to tell you that we have already kicked off the planning meetings for this year.

For those of you who are new to the Yellowjackets, let me briefly explain. This event was the first major fundraiser kicked off by the Yellowjackets since achieving non-profit status. We teamed with the Breast Cancer Fund of San Francisco on October 19th to raise money for the cause (with Jim Collier's sister, who had been recently diagnosed with breast cancer, in mind).

Now, 6 months later, we are happy to report that Jim's sister is now a breast cancer survivor and we are off and running. You'll want to save the date, Sunday, October 24th, for this year's event which will prove to be larger and more successful than last year's event. So

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**Next Membership Meeting
April 8, 2004
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Ave (at Manila)**

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what's new and what's not for this year? We are increasing our goal to 500 riders! The \$40 registration fee remains the same as well as the minimum fundraising of \$100/ rider. All 4 routes will also remain the same.

Sponsor Levels have decreased with the minimum level set at \$500, with additional levels at \$1,000, \$2500, \$5,000 and \$10,000. These sponsorships are key to the ride and are an area where we can really use some support and assistance NOW.

As always, the money which is raised will go back into the community as grants and the groups are currently being decided upon. More news to follow as these groups are confirmed.

Community outreach will be very key to us this year in getting the 500 riders that we are targeting. Last year, most of our "advertising" was very limited as we were very late in our planning efforts. This year, we have brainstormed a small list of potential person-to-person outreach areas but would love to hear from you on your ideas. In addition to ideas, we will need volunteers to support these activities.

The Breast Cancer Fund has already completed a lot of the legwork on filing for the myriad park permits, and has begun contacting last year's corporate sponsors.

So how can you help? If you have ideas for corporate sponsorship, person-to-person outreach activities or you'd like to volunteer to support any of the outreach activities, please contact Audrey at akrupe@mindpring.com.



How to Contact Us



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Submit *Free Wheelin'* articles at any ride or club meeting, or call the Oakland Yellowjackets voice mail (510.986.9011) to make special arrangements. Handwritten or typed articles or hard copy with the accompanying file on diskette, are accepted. Electronic files can also be sent to the club's e-mail address.

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.

April 8, 2004

May 13, 2004



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.

April 17 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

2003 Season Kick-Off Ride

20 miles

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

Celebrate the start of the Oakland Yellowjackets 2004 riding season with a leisurely ride from Lake Merritt to Bay Farm Island on Alameda and back. Bike tech inspections, rest

stop facilities, SAG wagon and potluck picnic following the ride sponsored by Yellowjackets members. Registration opens at 8:00 AM and the ride begins at 9:00 AM.

April 24 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

Point Pinole

25/40 miles

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

Ride through residential neighborhoods of North Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Albany and Richmond, then regroup in El Sobrante. Light riders may retrace route to Lake Merritt, while others continue to Point Pinole pier and a clockwise loop around El Sobrante before returning to the lake.

May 1 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

Lake Chabot

29/35/42 miles

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

A counter-clockwise loop around Oakland and San Leandro. The outbound route is a flat cruise along Doolittle Rd by Oakland Airport and a modest climb up Fairmont Rd in San Leandro. Lights and Intermediates descend the south side of Lake Chabot and return via Bancroft Ave. or Foothill Blvd. Advanced riders complete the loop via Redwood Rd and Joaquin Miller Ave.

May 8 - BART - 7:15 AM

Tiburon Loop

17/46/55 miles

START: Embarcadero at Bryant St, San Francisco (**map**)

Nearest BART station: Embarcadero

A Bay Area favorite. This ride takes you across the Golden Gate Bridge and through Sausalito. Light riders go directly to Tiburon at the end of the Sausalito bike path and return to San Francisco via ferry. Others traverse Camino Alto and Paradise Drive, then return along the north shore of Richardson Bay. Advanced option riders add the Marin

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headlands loop after crossing the GG Bridge northbound.

May 15 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

Arlington

41 miles (shorter options to be determined by ride coordinators)

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

Travel through residential Kensington, El Cerrito and Richmond along Arlington, a scenic alternative to Key Route to get to El Sobrante. The ride returns to the Lake via San Pablo Dam Rd, Moraga and Pinehurst.

May 22 - BART - 7:15 AM

Dumbarton-Alpine

39/58 miles

START: Union City BART

Discover a bike-friendly path across the bay via the Dumbarton Bridge bikeway. Once across the bridge, the short loop for Lights and Humane Intermediates roams around Palo Alto before returning to the Dumbarton bridge eastbound back to Union City. The longer loop continues on to Sand Hill Road, then loops around Portola Valley and Los Altos before rejoining the return path of the short loop.

May 29 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

Tunnel & Grizzly

38 miles

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

Climb up the Broadway Terrace, Old Tunnel Road and part of Grizzly Peak Blvd, then reap the rewards of your effort with an exhilarating descent on South Park and Wildcat Canyon Rd. Practice your paceline skills along San Pablo Dam Rd into El Sobrante and return to Lake Merritt via Key Route. Light and Humane Intermediate riders may have alternate routes as determined by their respective ride coordinators.

May 31 - LAKE - 9:00 AM

Memorial Day Decide-and-Ride

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

Meet at the Children's Fairyland parking lot and depart on a decided route at 9:00 AM.

June 5 - BART - 7:00 AM

Morgan Territory

47 miles (shorter options for Light and Humane Intermediate groups)

START: Concord BART

A ride circumventing the foothills of Mount Diablo. Ride through Clayton and the ranch country surrounding Marsh Creek Springs, then tackle a challenging but shaded and picturesque climb. Hard work pays off with "the Plunge" on the eastern side of the Black Hills towards Livermore. The ride continues on a counter-clockwise path through Danville and ends at the Walnut Creek BART station. Shorter, less strenuous ride options for Light and Humane Intermediate groups will be arranged by respective ride coordinators.

June 12 - AWAY - 7:00 AM

Calistoga Picnic Ride

20/47/53 miles

START: Bothe-Napa State Park or caravan from Children's Fairyland, Oakland

RIDE-AND-DECIDE OPTION: Those who prefer to ride locally may meet at Children's Fairyland and depart on a decided route at 9:00 AM.

The ride travels south on Silverado Trail, which Light riders will cruise on until Yountville before returning to Calistoga. Others will head East along Hennessey Lake and travel through the lesser known of Napa County's wine region along Chiles and Pope Valleys. The return features a climb to the town of Angwin and an exhilarating descent on Howell Mountain which bottoms out at Silverado Trail and the home stretch back to

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Calistoga.

Post-ride picnic and ride support sponsored by OYJ members. Non-members must pay a nominal fee to cover ride support costs. Bring your swimsuit and enjoy the pool at the park after the ride!

June 19 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

Dublin Grade

33/62 miles

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

This ride warms up on Doolittle Rd by the Oakland Airport into San Leandro, crosses over Castro Valley via Fairmont and Lake Chabot, then traverses the Dublin Grade (Dublin Canyon Rd). Light riders end in Pleasanton and return via BART. Option riders continue north through San Ramon, Lafayette and Moraga, then ride back over the ridge via Pinehurst.

June 26 - LAKE - 8:00 AM

Palomares Option

31/37/80 miles

START: Children's Fairyland, Oakland

All groups climb "BBR" (Burdeck-Butters-Robinson) and ride to Castro Valley via Redwood Rd. Light riders finish up at the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. Others climb and descend Palomares Road in the southbound direction. Intermediate riders finish at Fremont BART, while advanced option riders return via Niles Canyon, San Ramon, Moraga and Pinehurst.

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

REQUIRED: Helmet, waiver, ID with emergency 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

By this time you have all probably concluded that it was senseless to establish New Years resolutions. Also, if you set them you have more than likely destroyed all but one. Guess what that is? Your correct...To ride and party with the Yellowjackets, the best bicycle club in the bay area. How do you assure that you will keep the resolution? Go to, Oaklandyellowjackets.org, pull up the application form, print and fill it out, submit it along with your \$30.00 check, at once. How do I know this will help you keep the resolution? Because when a yellowjacket spends money they always get their money's worth. Try it, it really works....Don't wait until it is too late, April that is, for you will not be in shape.

I will be checking the mail box on a daily basis....Ha!

Al

Club Officers, Chairpersons, and Ride Coordinators

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