

The Knickerbikers of San Diego County

www.Knickerbikers.com

"Cycling is the sport of usefulness." ~ Fred DeLong - cycling writer



THE BULL-A-TON

JANUARY 2009

Vol. 35 No. 8

CONDUCT I hate to talk about conduct, but if I don't, then I regret it. Here is the way it is. Each thing mentioned has been a problem at one time or another on previous Baja tours. (1) First, I'm concerned with group image. We should deal with the Mexican people politely and as equals. No haggling about prices and treating them as "natives". (2) In the USA most eating establishments require that you enter wearing a shirt. I expect the same of you in Baja. (3) Drinking. Please don't drink hard stuff and ride. Don't laugh, I've had this problem. After riding, occasional inebriation is acceptable and good for the soul. Noisy - throwing up-inebriation should be confined to the remote desert campsites. In the towns, be mellow. (4) Most towns have a central plaza in which the community takes pride. You are welcome to sit on a bench and relax. However, if you begin to prepare a meal or start a major overhaul on your bike, the local constable may ask you to move on. (5) Do not invite strangers to camp with the group. (6) Pick up your trash.

DAILY MILEAGE OBJECTIVES We have eleven hours of daylight. Some days will have long shadows before we reach camp. It will be necessary to get up at predawn and ride at first light. This discipline must be observed the entire tour with the exception of the short run to San Ignacio from Vizcaino. Each kilometer from Tecate to Cabo San Lucas has an individual marker. Thus, you may calculate kilometers ridden, kilometers remaining, and remaining daylight. If you are at kilometer 10, and the days ride ends at kilometer 58, and it's after 4:00 PM, you're in deep feces. We'll have a personal discussion when you reach camp after dark. In truth, a rider not in by dark, really a matter of concern to everyone. We worry.

DRIVERS The Mexican motorists have always been very courteous and it is rare that they will jeopardize a cyclist. Normally, they will give you the lane when passing and will "hang back" and wait to pass safely in curved or vado areas. The buses are a little different, they're movin' on. Give them all the room you can. Worry most about the gringos, particularly the Californians.

EQUIPMENT Evaluate with care each item you are taking with you and ask yourself if you really need it. In years past, some people had so much unused spare gear, they were boxing it up and sending it to Tijuana by bus.

FOOD Eat at the small roadside cafes at your own discretion. The food looks and tastes good. However, none of these places would rate an "A" card from the health department. In your home town, you wouldn't be caught dead in a place like it. A best bet is to get along as much as possible on canned foods purchased daily on an "as need" basis. Tuna, vegetables, refried beans, peanut butter, and so on. Bananas and oranges are usually available. Most mornings, there is no place (or time) to obtain a breakfast. Thus, the night before, buy something to get you off the line in the morning.

ILLNESS Will occur to some of us without fail, it does every year. Sometimes a lot, sometimes a little. There will be intestinal disturbances, maybe the flu, or bad colds. What do you do? You ride as far as you are able, then hitch a ride to the day's destination. There never has been a problem in getting a ride. See OBJECTIVES.

MIRRORS I've always used the type of rearview mirror that mounts on my eyeglasses. I ask that you use some type of mirror. Many claim to be able to hear traffic coming and discern the type of vehicle. This is total bullshit. With the vados, knowing what is coming from behind can help eliminate tight situations for both motorist and cyclist. There is no room for a northbound vehicle, a southbound vehicle, and you, in the same place at the same time. Know what's coming.

MONEY Pesos are a must. In small towns you will have difficulty with notes of large denominations. For openers, I suggest at least \$150.00 in pesos. You may obtain more in the larger cities further south.

THE
Knickerbikers
8th
Annual Baja Christmas Adventure

A 1065 Mile Bicycle Tour:
Tecate to Cabo San Lucas

Departing
December 12, 1982

200¢ Tour Fee Covers Motels and Campsites for 18 nights
No Support Vehicle - full touring loads
Bus or Airplane Return to U.S.A.
For Details Contact: Bob Wagner (714) 443-2532

Riding Schedule:

Day	Destination	Miles	Day	Destination	Miles
Dec 12	Ensenada	72	Dec 21	Loreto	0
Dec 13	Colonet	77	Dec 22	CD Constitucion	90
Dec 14	El Rosario	81	Dec 23	La Paz	132
Dec 15	Santa Inez	77	Dec 24	La Paz	0
Dec 16	Rosario	98	Dec 25	La Paz	0
Dec 17	Vizcaino	94	Dec 26	Las Barriles	67
Dec 18	San Ignacio	44	Dec 27	San Jose Del Cabo	52
Dec 19	Malacoac	84	Dec 28	Cabo San Lucas	18
Dec 20	Loreto	85			

To the left is page four of the very detailed route slip for The Knickerbikers 8th Annual Baja Christmas Adventure ~ 1982. Above is the route slip cover page. The cover page was published in September 2008 Bull-A-Ton.

Submitted by:

Sandy Shapiro

(more to follow!)

2008 Round Up AKA Words from Ken

Thanks to:

Sharon for encouraging people to lead rides during the year, and for the editing and production of the Bull-A-Ton. Eric also helped out, of course. She got a Knickerbiker Calendar, but she needs a gift from YOU! Lead a ride!

We had 36 ride leaders this year, which shows the depth of our volunteer group. The person who led the most rides (20) was Rhonwyn, and that included 8 dinner rides. The most cycling rides was a tie at 13 with Jeff and Robert Leone. Others with 10 or more were Sharon and yours truly (Ken King).

And isn't it nice to have potlucks? Thanks, Steve Gebler for hosting one. And I'm sure there were others besides us and Steve; I just can't remember who. I hope more people step up to do that in '09.

We had several out-of-town trips this year: Fern's Oregon trip covering the state from Mt. Hood to the Pacific Ocean. What a great two weeks! Here's something for our master tourist, who has lead a ride each year for many years now. Then there was Bob Laurence's LA trip that was done this year by Will Cronyn. It's always a favorite. Oh yeah, let's not forget the first annual Alaska ride! How adventurous was that! Then Ken had the desert campout in January and the New Mexico trip in September. Jeff led his Azusa ride as well as the GWBR. Some went on the Wildflower ride, the Cinderella ride, and the Tecate-Ensenada ride. Eric's birthday ride that is an overnight for many, so that counts, and others that I'm sure I'm forgetting. Thanks to all of those tour leaders: we are, after all, a TOURING club!

Even though we don't see much of Marge, she still leads the Thanksgiving, Labor Day and Memorial Day trips, so we all owe her a big debt of gratitude. Thanks, Marge! She's phasing out these days, so someone needs to fill her shoes. Eileen, Ernie and Nick have been helping out a lot on these trips.

Theme rides are always a lot of fun, and we have a few people who are good at planning ahead enough to do those. Judy and Al take the cake, with the Cinco de Mayo, the graveyard tour near the Dia de los Muertos celebration and the Oktoberfest ride, so thanks for that! Gayle Z and Barbara Dorris led the Miramar Air Show ride, and Robert Leone continues with the good but offbeat rides (mostly coffee rides, but the Timkin roller bearing ride is an annual thing now). Once again I'm probably forgetting some theme rides, but I encourage you to check upcoming events and plan a ride around it!

We have our heroes in the club, and two of them celebrated their 80th birthdays this year: Roy Lawrence and Joan Slote, so we had a nice ride and party for that. Another hero is Fern, who kept on with a plan to have an annual century ride, and each year it grows bigger! This year, over 22 riders completed the century; some of them for the first time! Fern led a total of over 1,000 miles this year, which was exceeded by only one other leader, who shall be revealed later. Other heroes are the sag wagon drivers that we had on the tours this year: Susan and Jeff on the Oregon ride and Scotty and Gail for the New Mexico ride. They did a great job taking care of us.

We have our perpetual award this year, the second annual "gear grinder" award for the person who led the most rides. It contains a chain ring whose teeth are pretty much worn to a nub. It was Larry Zinn's, and it gave out in Idaho in 2007. Thanks for donating it, Larry. If we kept track of the number of miles ridden like most clubs, we could award it for that, but we don't. Should we? Think about it. Anyway, the first recipient of the gear-grinder award was Jeff Gianformaggio, and this year it's Rhonwyn! Remember it IS perpetual, Rhonwyn, so you have to return it next year! A special award goes to Jeff as the runner-up for almost every other award this year. Jeff DID win the "most flats" for the year by a wide margin, so here's his reward for that.

And we have a brand new perpetual award again this year.

And now for the Knickerbiker Service award, our long-standing perpetual award to the person who has done the most for the club. Four years ago it was Sharon, for agreeing to take over the Bull-A-Ton editing, and three years ago it was Fern for leading a tour. Two years ago, a new tour leader, Rhonwyn Curtis-Nicholson led the Sideways tour and wine tasting, so she won the award. Last year it was the person responsible for our web site, which is where most of the new riders learn about us: Doug Paulson. This year's recipient led several overnight tours, including the popular LA-San Diego ride, only he led it backwards! His main effort, though, was his Alaska tour this year. He also led a total of seven rides, and led the pack in total mileage with 1,142. Will Cronyn!

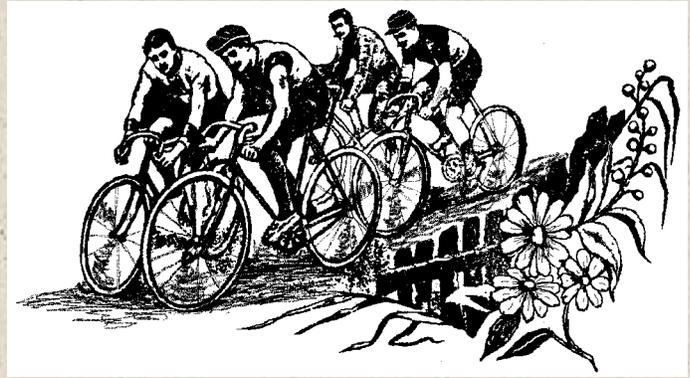
Thank you all; here's to more riding in 2009!

Ken King

What to see some photos? <http://knickerbikers.smugmug.com/>



Outings:



JAN							2009
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Want the Bull-A-Ton online? E-mail knickerb@san.rrcom and ask to receive the Bull-A-Ton electronically. You can choose to have either the print or the e-version. If you choose the latter, your subscription renewal is only \$10 instead of the \$20 for a print version.

THU JAN 01 9:00 AM 30 MILES *** EASY FIRST RIDE OF THE YEAR
MISSION BAY
South Shores Boat Ramp
located along Seaworld Drive, just East of SeaWorld.

Jeff Gianformaggio (619 255 2890). Take I-5 to Seaworld Drive. Park in the designated spaces in the parking lot of the Mission Bay South Shores Boat Ramp. Let's get the New Year off to a good start – and touring San Diego's finest spots is a great beginning! Jeff will take us through Fiesta Island, Mission Bay Park, Liberty Station and Harbor Island.

KNICKERBIKERS of SAN DIEGO COUNTY

EXCURSION RATING KEY

- **** SIGHTSEERS - Leisurely riding. Destination and scenic oriented. Frequent stops. No extreme grades. 8 - 12 mph
- *** TOURISTS – Moderate to brisk pace. Scenic roads including hills. Stops every hour. No one gets dropped. 12 mph
- ** SPORTS RIDERS - Vigorous, peppy pace. Possible steep grades. Good workout. Stops every hour or two. 15 -17 mph
- * MASTER RIDERS (Animals) - Anything goes. Possible pace lines. Slower riders dropped. Ready for competition. ? mph

PROMPT DEPARTURES

Rides depart 15 minutes past scheduled assembly time. Please be ready and waiting for departure.
Greet your ride leader!

Do you have an old route slip and some memories to go with it?
Send them on over to Sharon at pezzie@san.rr.com *Thanks!*

SAT JAN 03

8:00 AM 50 MILES ***

RING-AROUND-THE-ROSY BAY RIDE

VONS - Clairemont Towne Square
4725 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont 92117

9:00 AM 42 MILES ***

MISSION BAY VISITOR'S CENTER
North parking lot

E. Mission Bay Dr. & Clairemont Dr, Mission Bay

Will Cronyn (619 823 0070). Your choice of where to start this ride! Either meet in the north parking lot of Mission Bay Visitor's Center at 9:00 AM or for extra credit/miles/hill, meet Will at Vons in Clairemont Square. Departure from Clairemont Town Square is at 8:15 AM

The following sites and sights will be included in this ride: San Diego Bay, birds, numerous bathrooms, Coronado for lunch (Greek & other choices at ferry landing), ferry ride (\$3.50 - no longer additional bike charge!), largest Naval base on West Coast (principal homeport of the Pacific Fleet). The hardest climb will be Harbor Drive bridge over railroad tracks (unless you elect to return to Vons).

SUN JAN 04

9:30 AM ±25 MILES ***

MIDWAY IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

MIDWAY TOWN CENTER

3950 W Point Loma Blvd
Park behind Blockbuster

Roy Lawrence (619 523 5522). To get to Midway Town Center, take I-8 to Sports Arena Blvd. or I-5 to Rosecrans Street. We will go downtown, up Golden Hill to South Park, North Park, and Hillcrest. Lunch will be at Souplantation at the end of the ride.

TUE JAN 06

6:30 PM 0 MILES ****

KNICKERBIKER KNIGHTRIDERS

SOLTAN BANOO RESTAURANT (619 298 2801)

4645 Park Blvd., University Heights

Priscilla Moxley (858 459 4187). Soltan Banoo is a Middle Eastern restaurant that is delicious and reasonable. Soltan Banoo opened its doors in March of 2003. Before that, Mahin and her two daughters Roxanne and Sanam ran Cafe Caspian across the street. Cafe Caspian, a tiny two room cafe came about through the encouragement of the community for Mahin to express her creativity and cooking. The girls soon joined in and had to quit their day jobs to help mom run what had become a restaurant. With only 20 seats and lots of people waiting, Cafe Caspian just had to expand; so the trio moved operations across the street. Now they work hard everyday to make Soltan Banoo as inviting as the old place with more recipes and tastier dishes.

SAT JAN 10

10:00 AM 27 MILES ***

TEMECULA WINE COUNTRY RIDE

ADOBE PLAZA

Jefferson Road in Temecula

Rhonwyn Curtis-Nicholson (858 453 3687). Take I-15 to Temecula. Exit on Rancho California and go west across the freeway. At the light turn right onto Jefferson. Head north about a mile or two. Turn left into the Adobe Plaza parking lot. We will bike through Old Town Temecula, around the Red Hawk golfing community, and then head out to wine country. Lunch will be a picnic at Wilson Creek Winery. They have a catering service there, where you can buy individual salads and sandwiches. We will of course do some wine tasting at Wilson too!

SUN JAN 11 9:00 AM 35 MILES *** ONE MOUNT & TWO LAKES RIDE
LAKE MURRAY & BALTIMORE
Southeast corner of Vons parking lot
La Mesa

Guy & Carolaine Laronche (619 466 0359). To get to the Vons parking lot, take I-8, exit Lake Murray. Continue for about a mile to Baltimore. The Vons parking lot will be on your left. Since last time (November 9th) the weather interfered in the completion of the ride we will do it again today! Hopefully the weather will cooperate this time! We will ride to the top of Mt. Helix, to Santee Lakes, Mission Trails Regional Park and Lake Murray. We will have lunch at the Lake Murray Cafe.

TUE JAN 13 6:30 PM 0 MILES **** KNICKERBIKER KNIGHTRIDERS
THE FISH BUCKET SEAFOOD MARKET AND GROTTO
6030 Santo Road, Tierrasanta (858 715 0221)

Doug Paulson (858 442 1672). The Fish Bucket, on Santo Road, is just off Highway 52, next to USPS. Fresh fish at reasonable prices. Tierrasanta's hidden gem!

THU JAN 15 6:00 PM 0 MILES **** BIKE NITE 2009!
HANDLERY HOTEL
950 Hotel Circle North

A Celebration of the Bicycle Coalition! We're 20, and we want to have a party, and you're invited. Celebrate with us the successes of the past 20 years and look forward with us to even more success in the future. Everyone welcome - the more the merrier! Appetizers and no host bar. \$20 fee covers the costs of the party and raises money for our education programs throughout the county. Don't miss the fun!
Online registration closes: 01/13/09 11:59 PM Website: <http://www.sdcbc.org>

FRI JAN 16 ~ 20 miles *** DESERT CAMPING ADVENTURE
through WITH A CYCLING CENTURY
MON JAN 19 ANZA-BORREGO STATE PARK

Ken King (858 450 0373). Ken is interested in getting some Knickerbikers out to the desert to staff a pit stop for the 2009 Stagecoach Century, but he wants to combine this with a camping and hiking event. So we can bike, hike AND camp! In the desert! The fifth annual Wells Fargo Stagecoach Century (<http://www.shadowtour.com>) on Saturday January 17 (details below) is a pristine desert ride travelling through California deserts on County Route S2 in east San Diego and Imperial Counties. Marvel at stunning vistas from five desert passes along the route. *Bicycling Magazine* has rated Stagecoach as a "Best in Cycling Event" three years in a row! Here's your chance to enjoy a hassle-free 100-mile ride with just two lonely stop signs, at the ideal time of year for desert cycling! The out-and-back course is fully adjustable for your own mileage preference and offers full rider support in both directions. Ken will reserve a camp site for Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Aqua Caliente, which has a large "therapy pool," clean hot showers and good hiking nearby. We can support the riders on Saturday and ride or hike on Sunday. Come on out early Friday morning and stay until noon Monday if you want, or just come out for either Saturday or Sunday. We will hike either Blair Valley or Moonlight Canyon, and perhaps go over to the Goat Canyon Trestle via Dos Cabezas. If you are interested, let Ken know right away. The price will be nominal, and it will depend on how the meals will be handled (group or individual).

SAT JAN 17 9:00 AM 28 MILES *** POWAY DEAD END COUNTRY ROADS
 (VERSION 2)
 Corner of OAK KNOLL ROAD and POWAY ROAD
 Park on Oak Knoll (south side of Poway Rd.)
 Not in the shopping center

Lois Horowitz (858 610 3444). Take the Poway Road exit from I-15 going east. Oak Knoll is 1- 2 miles along and is one block short of Pomerado. Please remember to park on the street, not the shopping center which is very small.

We will go down some very picturesque country roads in Poway. Expect to hear roosters, smell fertilizer and see picket fences. Most of the ride will be fairly flat with some small rollers. One of the dead ends has a small hill but it will be over before you can start whining. And think of the return ride. I may throw in one or two more neighborhoods to bump the ride up to 30 miles.

We can eat at the Mexican restaurant in the mall or across the street at the Italian restaurant.

SAT JAN 17 26/50/100 MILES THE 5TH ANNUAL STAGECOACH CENTURY
 266 WEST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
 Ocotillo, CA 92259
 80 miles east of San Diego, just off Interstate 8

For details and registration, www.shadowtour.com

SUN JAN 18 9:00 AM 25 MILES *** STAMP SHOW RIDE
 MISSION BAY VISITOR'S CENTER
 North parking lot
 E. Mission Bay Dr. & Clairemont Dr, Mission Bay

Robert Leone (858 272 4710). From Mission Bay Park we're riding to Sandical, the biggest annual event for San Diego's philatelic community. Admission is free. We're going to skip the "Bourse" and head straight up to the exhibit halls. In the past, Sandical exhibits have included Antarctica, Literacy, Dinosaurs, US Officials, Cambridge University photocopy stamps, "shipwreck covers," "astrophilately" and V-Mail. Who knows -- you may find a great bike touring idea! We'll spend a lot of time there, so we'll quickly drop into Mission Valley for lunch.

TUE JAN 20 6:30 PM 0 MILES **** KNICKERBIKER KNIGHTRIDERS
 THE VENETIAN RESTAURANT (619 223 8197)
 3663 Voltaire Street

Rhonwyn Curtis-Nicholson (858 453 3687). This little Italian Restaurant has stayed true to their family recipes for over forty years pleasing generations of families. Throughout the years the Venetian was part of the prestigious Zagat Rating, featured in San Diego Magazine, and revealed to numerous viewers of various local television channels. Even after receiving numerous awards this local Point Loma restaurant is still humbled by the fact that many professional athletes, TV personalities, established chefs, and food critics enjoy their delicious Italian cuisine.

Do you have an old route slip and some memories to go with it?
 Send them on over to Sharon at pezzie@san.rr.com *Thanks!*

SAT JAN 24 9:00 AM 39 MILES ***/** LET'S BEAT LANCE!
CORNER OF SAN ANDRES DR. and VIA DE LA VALLE
(east of 1-5), Del Mar

Robert Leone (858 272 4710). From San Andres at Via de la Valle (east of 1-5), we'll climb up to Escondido for an extended coffee break near the finish of Stage 8 of the Tour of California. We're sure to beat Lance and the rest of the pro racers there, seeing as we'll have a four week head start. Then we'll rapidly descend to Rancho Santa Fe. We'll either lunch there or in Solana Beach. Lots of climbing, but we'll have plenty of regroup. A great way to work off the last of the holiday pounds!

SUN JAN 25 9:00 AM 25 MILES **** CHULA VISTA FOR LUNCH
OLD TOWN TROLLEY PARKING LOT

Gail Roberts (323 828 7461). We will ride mostly along Harbor Drive and the bike path. The San Diego Trolley is a trolley-style light rail system which began service on July 26, 1981 making it the first modern light-rail system in California. The San Diego Trolley is currently the sixth most-ridden light rail system in the United States.

TUE JAN 27 6:30 PM 0 MILES **** KNICKERBIKER KNIGHTRIDERS
PAT & OSCAR'S (619 295 6200)
8590 Rio San Diego Drive

Susan Vogel (858 279 9863). When Pat & Oscar opened their first restaurant in 1991, they had a great vision of creating a family escape they couldn't find in San Diego - one similar to their special dining experience at home. They wanted a good value, where one night a week the cooking and dishes were left behind. The recipes had to be the highest quality, true to family tradition and fun to share. The kitchen had to be the "Heart of the House". The atmosphere had to be casual yet relaxing, where something is always happening. And the décor had to be warm yet family-friendly, where nothing is "fancy" so that a kid can be a kid. With almost 20 locations later, this dream has been brought to millions of people who have stopped to smell the breadsticks

SAT JAN 31 9:00 AM ±25 MILES *** SPIN THOSE WHEELS!
COSTA VERDE SHOPPING CENTER
La Jolla Village Drive and Genesee
Trophy's Parking Lot, University City

Belle Jour (619 787 7427). No leader; no problem! Let's meet up at Costa Verde and cycle out and about! Those who show up will decide the route and the lunch spot!!



You can sign up to lead a ride for the Knickerbikers in several ways:

- call 619 787 7427
- email pezzie@san.rr.com
- www.knickerbikers.com
Click on tab marked "Outings" and then click on -> Sign up to lead a ride!
Once you are there you can also see the calendar and available dates.

That's all it takes to get *your* ride into an upcoming Knickerbiker Bull-A-Ton!

Coming Events:



Psssst!

Lance Armstrong is expected to pedal about San Diego in February as part of the 2009 **Amgen Tour of California**. Billed as an international, world-class cycling road race featuring elite professional teams and athletes from around the world, the nine-day race throughout California will cross the finish line in San Diego. The ninth stage will begin in Rancho Bernardo and end in Escondido, cheering North County's tourism promoters. Organizers say the February 14 - 22 competition will be Armstrong's first U.S. race of the season after a three-year hiatus and also a tune up for his potential return to the **Tour de France**.

FRI JUN 26
through
to be determined

**THE GREAT 2009 SD Knickerbiker Ice Worm,
Chena Hot Springs, Moose, Denali Park, Drunken
Forest, Full Moon and Prince William Sound
ALASKA TOUR**

First Announcement for THE GREAT 2009 SD Knickerbiker Ice Worm, Chena Hot Springs, Moose, Denali Park, Drunken Forest, Full Moon and Prince William Sound ALASKA TOUR

Yup, we're doing it again. Rendezvousing in Anchorage Friday, June 26 for up to 1000 miles of fabulous Alaska **road** biking in 21 days including 2 full days in magnificent Denali Nation Park. Lots of shorter travel options ranging from riding with us from Anchorage to North Pole (a Fairbanks 'burb), 10 days/450 miles; or Fairbanks-Anchorage with 2 full days in Denali National Park, 9 days/350 mi; or Anchorage-Denali, 681 mi/15 days with return to Anchorage by train, or...or.... Nominal accommodations: 2/3 camping, 1/3 motelling but there's lots of flexibility ranging from all camping to 4 nights camping, rest motelling. With about 21 hours between sunup and sundown each day, no worries about getting from A to B before dark (and even during the 3 hours of sundown, it's not really dark), or having to pack 'em up and move 'em out promptly each morning. Individual expenses will vary wildly depending on each rider's choice of mix of camping, motelling, restauranting, and camp stoving but I will be posting estimates for the 2/3-1/3 mix we did this past summer along with lots of other info and tips including the importance of taking sun block (seriously!). Questions already? Home: 858 581 6530, cell: 619 823 0070, email: kbalaskaride@att.net

Got some friends you'd like to see on a bike ride? The Knickerbikers will be pleased to send a complimentary Bull-A-Ton if you provide the pertinent info' below:

→	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____	→	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
→	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____	→	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please send this form to: Knickerbikers of San Diego County
8590 Cliffridge Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037

The City of San Diego is reconstructing the 1st Avenue bridge over Maple Canyon in Bankers Hill for seismic and structural improvements. This major project will require a closure of 1st Ave. at the bridge starting November 17, 2008, and lasting approximately one year.

All Route 11 service will detour to 4th and 5th Avenues between Laurel St. and University Ave., serving all local Route 3 stops. When accessing 4th & 5th Avenues from 1st Avenue, not all cross streets go through. There is a bridge at Quince Street., but note that the bridge has steep stairs.

Bypasses for 1st Avenue include 5th Avenue, State Street becomes Reynard becomes Goldfinch, and State Street right turn on Grape Street.

"TOUR OF ENCHANTMENT" NEW MEXICO 2008

When we last left Ken and his gang, they had just checked into The Ghost Ranch at Santa Fe ...

We were a short walk from the Santa Fe Plaza, so it was fun to explore the place the next day, which was a layover day. I decided to take the bus tour, and while I was waiting for that to start, Bonnie, Merle and Susan showed up, so we all climbed on the bus and enjoyed an hour and a half learning about the town. After that, Gail M and I walked up Canyon Road, where a lot of Santa Fe's galleries are located. The town has over 100 galleries, and the volume of art works sold is second only to New York. Most of us saw the Georgia O'Keefe museum that had recently installed an excellent exhibit. After happy hour various groups walked the two or three blocks to the plaza and dinner.

The colds have taken a toll: on the last day from Santa Fe to Albuquerque, only 11 of the 19 riders finished the trip on bicycles. The others retrieved their cars by hitching rides to Albuquerque, driving the 70 miles back to Santa Fe and then driving to Albuquerque for our farewell dinner and the last night of the tour. The weather continued to be close to perfect; yes, we did have light headwinds for part of the day, but overall it was ideal. Those of us who chose to ride were very thankful that Willard Chilcott, a Santa Fe friend of mine, had dropped by earlier with very detailed directions for an alternative route out of town. The original route would have taken us on a busy road that was undergoing major construction, but Willard's route had a nice bike path rimmed with many yellow blossoms of chamisa (rabbitbrush). Thanks, Willard!

On the way to Albuquerque we visited Cerrillos and Madrid on the Turquoise Trail, an official "National Scenic Byway." Cerrillos was a sleepy village whose only store was closed, but Madrid was a lively tourist place, with shops converted from the old mining cottages. At 30 miles, it was an ideal place for lunch. After some moderately tough climbs to about the 55-mile mark, we enjoyed a long downhill into Albuquerque. On the last evening we had our traditional hosted dinner in an informal ribs-and-beer sort of place with large portions and an active staff. Gutter gifts were presented (articles found along the way that were given to others on the trip) as well as a book with New Mexico photography each for Gail and Scotty. Ken was given a nice yellow jersey with a New Mexico logo.

Thus the trip concluded: no injuries, some tanned faces, arms and legs, and stronger leg muscles. I enjoyed riding with each of these cyclists; thanks for sharing your vacation with me. And a special thanks to Scotty and Gail for taking care of us!

Ken King

It's nice to warn those behind you about hazards, but some people overdo the warning. They yell "Pothole!" "Rock!" or "Dead skunk!" at full volume. Others point at the object with such an animated gesture that they swerve dangerously.

Here's a better way to be the eyes of a paceline:

* Alertly scan the road. You can't point out danger that you daydream out of existence. And if through inattention you spot something too late, your after-the-fact warning may do more harm than good. Riders could veer in a panic, touch wheels and crash. So pay attention and look far enough ahead to smoothly lead the line past each hazard.

* Point, don't shout. There's usually no need to call out the name of the obstacle. Your yell may not be understood by riders toward the back, anyway. Simply remove one hand from the bar and extend that arm down toward the side where the danger will be when you pass it. Do this about 10 seconds in advance, then move over smoothly. Some riders like to snap the fingers of their extended hand to wake up those immediately behind.

Tip! One time a yell is helpful is when nasty stuff like glass, gravel, sand or ice covers the lane, like in a corner, and there is no way around it. As soon as you realize the predicament, shout the name of the hazard so riders behind can fend for themselves. Same goes when you see a loose dog up the road or you spot a danger (like a pothole in a patch of shade) too late.



PHILOSOPHY. Our club, the Knickerbikers of San Diego County, was established on Friday, May 31, 1974. Forty-three charter members subscribed to the idea that a regular program of bicycle touring experiences could be offered without involving institutional encumbrances. In effect, our club was purposefully not organized. There are neither rules nor regulations, no club officers - aside from our tongue-in-cheek representative office of Knickercommander (the club servant) - and no business quorum. Everyone is still responsible for himself or herself. It was and still is a simple idea, which is to go ride our bikes! Two founding principles guide our group behavior: it's nice to be noticed, and it's fun to be a kid again.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please make check payable to Knickerbikers and mail to 8590 Cliffridge Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Check: 1-year print subscription \$20.00

1-year e-mail subscription \$10.00

All subscriptions include membership in the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition.



09/01