



ChainGuard

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition advocates for and protects the rights of all people who ride bicycles. We promote bicycling as a mainstream, safe and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation.

Spring 2013

BECOME A MEMBER OF SDCBC

Help improve bicycling in our community by joining the bicycle movement today!

Use the clip-and-send form in this newsletter, or visit www.sdcbc.org and click on the 'Join Us' button to select the membership level that is right for you.

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Mail change of address notices to:
SDCBC
P.O. Box 34544
San Diego, CA 92163
(858) 487-6063
development@sdcbc.org



May is National Bike Month

Andy Hanshaw, Executive Director

May is National Bike Month! We are gearing up for a month full of activities for all kinds of bicyclists. Whether you are a bicycle commuter, road rider, beach cruiser or novice, now is the time to re-energize your routine or start a new one by getting out on your bike! Read on for some ways to get involved, and visit our website throughout May to stay up-to-date on bike month events & activities: www.sdcbc.org/BikeMonth.html.

Get Involved

Become a Member

Wish there were more bike lanes, places to park your bike or someone to advocate for your rights as a bicyclist? Become a member of the SDCBC, your voice for a bike-friendly region, and you will be helping to accomplish important changes that will make San Diego County an even better place to bike. Join for a year during May for just \$20 (that's a \$5 discount!) AND you will be entered in a drawing to win the San Diego Tweed Bike. Already a member? Make a donation of \$20 or more during May and you too will be entered to win!



Win the San Diego Tweed Bike!

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From the Director



Get Ready for Bike Month 2013!

On May 1, together with our members, our regional and local elected officials and our partners including SANDAG/iCommute, we will launch an exciting month of rides, events and activities with a press conference and ride. Please join us at **9 am downtown at 401 B Street** as we ride together to the announcement at the County of San Diego Administration Building. Special guest speakers, including County Supervisor Greg Cox, will be on hand to provide inspiring words in support of our growing bicycle movement in the region.

Bike Month 2012 was a BIG success which included a record-setting Bike to Work Day in our region. We believe that this year's Bike to Work Day, scheduled for May 17th, will be even bigger.

2013 is off to a great start and we have so much to look forward to this year, including the activities and plans from our new committees (Advocacy, Education, Organizational Development, Bicycle Club Council and the Regional Bike/Ped Alliance), our first Open Streets event, CycloSDias, the return of the 6th Annual Bike the Bay and the always fun Tour de Fat. Read on for more details on these and other great things planned in the coming months.

Happy Riding!

National Bike Month: Get Involved (cont'd from page 1)

Participate in Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17th

Whether you are a regular bike commuter or are just interested in trying it out, join us this year as we support bicycling as a viable, environmentally friendly and cost-saving commute choice. Last year in our region, 7,200+ people participated in Bike to Work Day (BTWD) and nearly 138,000 bicycle miles were logged during the month using iCommute's TripTracker tool. 85 businesses throughout the region stepped up to host pit stops for cyclists on BTWD.

This year, we will again need pit stops throughout the county where riders can rest and pick up free t-shirts, snacks and encouragement. Visit www.icommutesd.com/Events/Bike-To-Work-Day to learn more and register for BTWD.

Attend a Ride or Event: There are numerous rides and events you can attend or participate in this month

including the Bike Month Kick Off event, the Amgen Tour of California, Bike Local Sundays and other community rides, Mini-CicloSDias and more. See our calendar on page 5 or visit www.sdcbc.org/BikeMonth.html to learn more.

Join a committee or advocacy group: Let your voice be heard! Join one of our newly formed committees or ask for help in contacting your local bicycle advocacy group.

Sign up for a class: Take one of our Urban Bicycling classes to give you the confidence you need to ride safely and legally in traffic.

Volunteer: We are always looking for people willing to volunteer their time with our organization. Whether it is working in the office, staffing events, or recruiting new members, we can always use a hand!

New Bike Lane, Sharrows Welcomed by North County Bicyclists

New roadway markings remind cyclists, motorists to share the road

Drivers and bicyclists traveling through Encinitas along Coast Highway 101 have seen a change to the roadway in recent months. In an effort to better accommodate the growing number of bicyclists in the area, the City of Encinitas added a new bike lane to northbound Coast Highway 101 from Leucadia Boulevard to La Costa Avenue. Crews also added a total of 140 sharrows and 28 “Bicycles May Use Full Lane” signs in both directions from K Street to La Costa Avenue to remind motorists that cyclists may ride in the center of the lane for increased safety and visibility.

“For the thousands of people who ride Coast Highway 101 every week for recreation and transportation, the bike lane and sharrows are a welcome sight,” said Andy Hanshaw, executive director of the Bicycle Coalition. “They’re also markings of a more bike-friendly community, which we’re seeing en masse across San Diego County.”

Sharrows are a newer tool in the bike-friendly community toolbox. Adopted by Caltrans in 2005 as a universal marking for sharing the road, sharrows mark travel lanes that bicyclists and motorists share. The four-foot wide images—a bicycle with two arrows on top—help bicyclists position themselves away from parked cars and suddenly opened car doors, and they alert other road users that bicyclists may occupy travel lanes.

When a lane is too narrow for a dedicated bike lane, a sharrow has been proven to be an effective tool in increasing safety and awareness for all road users. Your San Diego County Bicycle Coalition reminds you as cyclists or motorists to follow guidelines for the new bike lanes and sharrows now adorning streets across the county.



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Know a bike shop or business that may want to join SDCBC's Member Incentive Program?

Contact development@sdcbc.org to make a recommendation.

SDCBC Jersey

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Coalition Board



San Diego County Bicycle Coalition Officers

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- Vice Chair: Dave Voss
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Committee Chairs

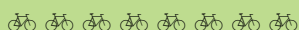
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- Education: Kerry Kunsman
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- Council of Community Organizations: Howard La Grange



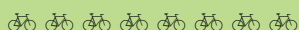
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- Carl Ebert/Bike Buddies
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- Greg Birch/Blind Stokers Club
- Bernard Bogard/Descenders Cycle Club
- Karl Rudnick/North County Cycle Club
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Executive Director: Andy Hanshaw
 Membership/Development Coordinator: Britany Statt



ChainGuard Editor: Isabella Furth

Bikes Mean Business

Reflecting on the 2013 National Bike Summit

Andy Hanshaw

In my role as SDCBC Executive Director, I've had the privilege to attend the annual National Bike Summit held in Washington D.C. for the past two years.

Held each March, the Summit brings more than 750 bicycle advocates from across the country together to rally for federal transportation dollars needed to make bicycling safer and more accessible for us and the riders we represent.

I've just returned, inspired and proud about the work we do. The response was very positive and we can all take pride in the team that represented San Diego County at this year's Summit. Together with colleagues from all fifty states and beyond, we learned from our hosts and leaders at the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) about the priority issues we "took to the hill" on a snowy, cold Wednesday.

Our San Diego team met with our Congressional Representatives including Rep. Scott Peters, Rep. Susan Davis and staff from Rep. Duncan Hunter, Rep. Juan Vargas and Rep. Darrell Issa. Additionally, I spoke about the work we are doing in San Diego to the office of Senator Diane Feinstein, along with my colleagues from across our great state. In all the meetings, we brought forward this year's Summit theme: "Bikes Mean Business." The economic impact of our local bicycling industry continues to grow: last year, in California alone the retail industry generated nearly \$1.2 billion in sales and created 9,741 jobs. Our representatives from California and across the nation heard the call last week. Bikes Mean Business!

At the conclusion of the day's events, we shared our successes and heard from LAB President Andy Clarke and Rep. Earl Blumenhauer of Oregon, a true champion for our cause on Capitol Hill. That experience of talking locally but banding together nationally for more funding for bicycle infrastructure was very memorable and rewarding. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

SDCBC Board meetings are held quarterly.

See Calendar for dates and locations.



ChainGuard has a New Look

Welcome to our Spring edition of *ChainGuard*! We hope this publication will provide in-depth and insightful stories on what matters to us most as people who ride in our region.

The SDCBC has recently decided to publish the *ChainGuard* four times per year (quarterly) instead of six. This new format provides more space for the articles and information that you want, while allowing us to save paper and postage by mailing paper copies less frequently and to fewer members. (This publication will be easily available online; as always we are happy to mail a printed newsletter to those who would like to continue receiving it that way.)

In addition to the quarterly *ChainGuard*, we also provide the most up-to-date information on regional issues, projects, events and opportunities through the SDCBC e-Newsletter, which goes out twice a month. If you are not currently receiving the e-News, please e-mail us at development@sdbc.org and we will add you to the distribution list.

We hope that these publications will be interesting, entertaining and informative—please let us know! And don't forget, we are always looking for ideas for future stories so please keep them coming.

Open Streets Events Coming to San Diego

San Diego will host its first ever Open Streets event in August! Called CicloSDias, this free Open Street event allows people to enjoy San Diego in a whole new way. The City of San Diego will close off a 5-mile stretch of street to vehicles and open it up as a place to walk, ride, play and enjoy the local shops and restaurants. CicloSDias San Diego celebrates our communities coming together for an unforgettable day of physical activity and fun! For more details or to check out the route, visit www.ciclosdias.com.

You can also get an up-close preview of what CicloSDias is about by enjoying a CicloSDias Mini! In each of these monthly events, part of a park is closed to automobile traffic and open for bicycles and pedestrians to enjoy.

Come experience one of San Diego's urban jewels in a new and exciting way. Our first CicloSDias Mini is Sunday, May 19, in Balboa Park at the Marston Loop. Mark your calendars!



Calendar

APRIL

- Apr 21: Bike Local Sunday: Hillcrest
Visit www.bikelocal.org for details.
Earth Day Fair at Balboa Park
- Apr 24: Quarterly Board Meeting: SDCBC Office, 7:00

MAY

- May 1: Bike Month Kickoff and Press Event
- May 3: Urban Bicycling Class: Part I—Intro to Safe Cycling (Oceanside). Visit www.sdbc.org for details.
- May 5: Cruising the Creek community bike ride.
Visit www.revealthecreek.com for volunteer opportunities and ride info.
- May 12–19: Amgen Tour of California
- May 17: Bike to Work Day
- May 19: Bike Local Sunday: South Park
Visit www.bikelocal.org for details.
CicloSDias Mini: Balboa Park, Marston Point Loop;
Visit www.ciclosdias.com for details.
Pedal to the Park: www.pedaltothepark.com

JUNE

- June 16: Bike Local Sunday: Mission Hills
www.bikelocal.org
CicloSDias Mini: Presidio Park, Cosoy Loop Visit
www.ciclosdias.com for details.

JULY

- July 21: Bike Local Sunday: Golden Hill
www.bikelocal.org
CicloSDias Mini: Golden Hill Park at 25th and A Street; Visit www.ciclosdias.com for details.

AUGUST

- Aug 11: CicloSDias: www.ciclosdias.com
- Aug 25: Bike the Bay: www.bikethebays.net

City of San Diego Promises Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements

In early March the San Diego City Council unanimously passed a resolution promising bicycle infrastructure improvements to enhance safety.

BikeSD worked on the resolution with Council Member Zapf in response to the deaths of two cyclists in separate incidents in the councilmember's district over the past year. The resolution calls for the City to plan and develop infrastructure projects, explore ways to make cycling safer, support grants and other funding to build facilities and maintain staffing to implement projects. You can read the complete resolution at <http://tinyurl.com/c4uus43>.

BikeSD and SDCBC applauded the resolution while also noting that it will take more than resolutions to ensure that all people who ride bikes are safely accommodated on our roads. Aggressive action is still needed to avoid more needless deaths and injuries to cyclists.

The councilmembers shared the commitment to making improvements for cyclists and acknowledged that actually getting projects off the ground can be difficult. Still, momentum has been building with Mayor Filner's recent announcement of the City's first CicloSDia, SANDAGs early action bike program and the approaching roll-out of a bike sharing program that will provide low-cost short-term bicycle rental around downtown and some beach communities.

The Coalition will continue to work with the City and other advocates to make sure that much-needed improvements for bikes are actually made and not just talked about.

Bike Local

Your San Diego County Bicycle Coalition recently launched a new Bike Local program to encourage more people to ride to their local businesses for shopping and dining. As part of this program, we invite you to explore San Diego County by bike and join us every third Sunday of the month for Bike Local Sundays. Each month will have a different destination, starting with the Bicycle Friendly Business Districts of the City of San Diego. Enjoy discounts at restaurants or shops at each destination! Visit www.bikelocal.org to check out the schedule.



Strategic Plan Update: State of Cycling in San Diego County

On Saturday, April 6th, SDCBC presented the State of Cycling in San Diego County at the Lafayette Hotel. The event commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Bicycle Coalition's 5-year Strategic Plan and reported on progress of bicycling in San Diego.

Attendees received updates on new partnerships and initiatives enhancing local cycling, the Bicycle Coalition's new board and committee structure, key cycling programs and infrastructure, and how to get more involved to make San Diego a more bicycle-friendly county.

Bicycle Coalition President Kevin Wood says cycling in San Diego County is booming: "From record-setting fundraising to expansion of community advocacy groups, the Bicycle Coalition continued its influential presence in San Diego this past year while moving forward with new initiatives and a new mission: To advocate and protect the rights of all people who ride bicycles."

Highlights of the State of Cycling in San Diego County include:

- Launch of the nation's largest bike-friendly business district initiative and Bike Local Sundays to attract everyday bicyclists to ride to local businesses.
- Record success of SDCBC's signature event Bike the Bay and the Tour de Fat, which together raised more than \$83,000.
- Commitments from San Diego's new mayor to make the city better for cyclists and the launch of CicloSDias, the city's first Open Streets event.
- Founding of new bicycle advocacy groups, including BikeSD, BikeWalk Solana Beach, and other committees in Oceanside, Encinitas, Coronado and Chula Vista.
- Bicycle advocates supporting bike-friendly infrastructure decisions at public hearings in Encinitas, San Diego and other communities around the county.

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Business card size ads cost \$250/year.

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Bike Shorts: Freedom at 14!

Nicole Burgess



This April Fool's girl spent her 14th birthday traveling the streets with friends, enjoying smiles and laughs, and having fun.

When her hoped-for birthday sleepover party conflicted with a gymnastics class she and several of her friends attend, we made a deal: any girl who came to the sleepover would have to be willing to ride to the class in Liberty Station—by bike, at night.

Equipping 10 kids with bikes, lights, and helmets—we were off! We were a parade down Voltaire, through Loma Portal for a roller coaster of a ride, and then crossed one of the busy intersections on Rosecrans. It is only a few miles, but is one of the

more difficult short commutes to do by bike. If it were easier, many High Tech High students might ride, as well as the thousands of students who have after-school activities in the area.

We hope that improvements to Nimitz will provide a safe facility for all riders wanting to travel the short distance by bike.

The ride was a great success, and the girls and their bikes were ready to hit the beach the next day. Being 14 is great! Learning to enjoy freedom on a bike is amazing!!

I hope drivers will keep an eye out for all the new young riders in Ocean Beach and Point Loma. Two years from now, these young riders could find themselves behind the wheel so it is important for them to start learning the rules of the road. Studies have shown that experienced bike riders will become better car drivers.

Thank you to all the girls and boys that enjoy daily commutes by bike in the Peninsula area. I hope many others will experience the great feelings from riding a bike and take pride in being an active commuter—it really does matter.

Best quote of the night from one of the girls: "Wow, I never thought biking could be so much fun!"

MEET A FRIEND. HEAD DOWN TO THE BOARDWALK. TAKE A QUICK COFFEE BREAK. RUN BACK TO THE OFFICE. CHECK OUT THE GARDENS AT BALBOA PARK. GO TO THE GYM. GET TO A MEETING. WORK ON YOUR BICYCLE. DO THE LAUNDRY. TAKE A STROLL AROUND THE GASLAMP.

To receive more information about the car2go service and to register for membership, visit our website sandiego.car2go.com.

**CAR
2GO**

JOIN THE RIDE!

Become a member of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition and help us make our region a better place to bicycle.

Members receive exclusive benefits including discounts on SDCBC merchandise and events.

For a full list of benefits visit www.sdcbc.org/joinus.html.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Email: _____

How I heard about SDCBC: _____

- \$25: Individual Membership
+ Regional Bike Map
- \$52: "A Buck a Week for Better Bicycling"
+ Map, Socks, Sticker
- \$100: Velorevolutionary Membership
+ Map, Socks, Sticker, Water Bottle, SDCBC Bag
- I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible donation
in the amount of _____ to further support
bicycling advocacy and education in the region.

I would like to receive the ChainGuard quarterly newsletter (check one):

- Electronically (saves postage and printing costs!)
- By U.S. mail

Note: a portion of your membership dues is tax-deductible!
Contact development@sdcbc.org for details.



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