



CHAINWHEEL CHATTER

Volume 48 Issue 12 | Established 1972 | December 2020

P.O. Box 22146 Lansing MI 48909-2146
www.biketcba.org
Promoting safe, social bicycling since 1972

Chainwheel Deadline

**January/
February
Newsletter:
December 1**

Send items to Sarynna Lopez Meza
by the indicated deadline.
chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org

Stay in touch with us!

Whether you are a beginner, casual or hardcore cyclist, the Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) is here to help!

The TCBA membership offers several perks, including access to the premier version of Ride with GPS (normally \$80/year, this app allows you to download and edit biking routes), as well as earning incentives when riding club miles (bike goodies, clothing, to name a few).

Be on the look out for information about **gift certificates!** These will be available soon and you can use them to gift a membership to someone or renew a membership! Check our website at biketcba.org for more information.

Find us and follow us on social media:

TCBA: <https://www.facebook.com/biketcba>

TCBA Membership

	1-Year	2-Year	3-Year	4-Year
Individual	\$15	\$24	\$30	\$36
Family	\$20	\$32	\$40	\$48



*Affiliated with the League
of American Bicyclists and
the League of Michigan
Bicyclists*

A note from the editor

As I write this, I can see some flurries outside my window so I guess winter is almost officially here (technically starting in 10 days but who's counting!). I usually run outside year-round, but the last couple of weeks have also included some hiking to be outside, and in the process I've found new trails (to me).

The trail discovery has been fantastic, especially since purchasing a new mountain bike recently! It's purple, and beautiful, and it's making my old, red one jealous. I took it for its first MTB trail spin to Anderson, along with a friend and our kids, and I had truly missed the joy of riding on trails. The next day, I took the afternoon off from work and took my son and a friend of his to DTE Park, which was fantastic! Can't wait to get back there in the spring. We also went hiking to both the Pinckney Recreation Area and Burchfield Park, and I was happy to see MTB bikers in both places, so we'll have to go back with my new bike next spring. As always, I applaud all of you who still ride outside in the cold!

This edition includes, along with a holiday statement from our President, an invitation to an upcoming Bicycle Film Festival, an article about the wonders of gravel roads, and 2 articles about how due to the virus and shutdowns around the world, some cities have started being more serious about bikes as transport. I hope you get to enjoy them.

And as this weird year comes to an end, I hope you continue to stay active and in touch with friends (technology has been a life saver for me!). I wish you a safe and healthy holiday season and from my family to yours, our best wishes for 2021!

I hope you are doing well and staying safe!

Sarynna López Meza - East Lansing, MI

Bicycle Film Festival

Suggested by Tim Potter



The 20th Anniversary of Bicycle Film Festival is arriving in East Lansing virtually on Dec 18-30.

Hosted by the MSU Bike Service Center and the MSU Office of Sustainability, where they help people discover the joys of bicycling and strive to encourage green transportation options for the community, the online program will provide everyone some much-needed bike-related entertainment and inspiration.

The curated collection of short films take you on a journey around the world as we learn about a charismatic Ghanian immigrant in Amsterdam who teaches refugee adult women to ride bikes – experience a birds-eye view of a BLM bicycle protest ride from New York to DC – feel the anguish of a father’s loss – the struggle of a young woman and her bike in Iran – and reprieve from genocide through cycle sport. And there’s a local collection, as the selection features MSU alum, Hilena Tibebe.

More information about tickets, as well as a trailer, in this link:

<https://btt.boldtypetickets.com/events/109731272/bicycle-film-festival-east-lansing>

A message from our President

A couple of notes from our President:

Happy Holidays!!!

Remember to shop your local bike shop this Holiday Season!

Also, a reminder that the Level 4 Ride Incentives for 2019 were Tail Lights. If you qualified for this level award and did not pick up your Lights from D & D Bikes, please contact Ken Schwartz, TCBA Board at Large at ken.schwartz@hc.msu.edu. If you do not contact Ken to obtain your Award, these will be considered undeliverable!

Saving gravel roads!

For all you gravel road riders, I read this article about a cyclist who is on a quest to save miles of historic gravel roads in Virginia. I know there are several similar roads in our area. I'm not sure how many of our unpaved /



gravel roads are historical in the sense of having been roads that farmers took 100 years ago or more, but I imagine several have been there for quite a while. The roads referenced in the article are narrower than a normal road (slightly wider than a car) and I can imagine they must be beautiful to ride in the fall, but I know we also have some fantastic gravel riding here. I hope you enjoy the story and,

whenever we can travel again, if you happen to be in Virginia, hope you can check them out!

https://wamu.org/story/20/10/30/loudoun-county-cyclist-save-miles-of-historic-gravel-roads/?utm_source=bikebits&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201202_BikeBits

Biking and Traffic

When the shutdown due to Covid19 started here in town in the spring, I remember noticing 2 things I had never seen before in my 11 years living here: ducks laying in the middle of our street and deer just roaming our streets. Sure, if you live out in the country that might be a normal sight, but I live between Frandor, MSU Campus, Grand River, and Michigan Avenue... not exactly a natural area. Both things were weird, and it made me wonder if the shutdown and lack of cars on roads would mean we would come out of the shutdown to a Jumanji-like jungle where animals had taken over. In my hometown in Mexico, which is nested between various mountains, this year has seen an increase of bears coming down from the mountain to hang out at people's backyards, pools, and crash the occasional BBQ. I think I went about 3 months without putting gas in my car because I wasn't really driving much (other than to meet a friend on the weekend for a long run outside of town to avoid the crowded River Trail). I wondered how long the good effects of not driving would last (carbon emissions are usually in my mind due to the nature of my work).

While browsing articles that I wanted to share, I first ran into one about how Bogotá, Colombia had made a big effort on creating bike lanes to deal with the problem that shutting down or limiting public transportation was creating, especially when it came to essential personnel being able to get to their work places. The mayor of the city came up with a plan to create a 52-mile dedicated bike network, which now has expanded enough that apparently 7% of the transportation occurs by bicycle, a percent that no other nation in LatinAmerica has at this point.

Then I found another article about something similar but in the US. The main point of the article was how we should move forward with reclaiming some of our cities from cars. The article went on to describe how after the shutdown, driving went down and while we were out still able to walk, run, or bike, we would notice how many areas were inaccessible to bikes and pedestrians. Then the cities decided to close certain sections to traffic and open them up to pedestrians. Then I read a paragraph that I thought was interesting: "The result, there and in other cities, was something Americans usually experience only while traveling abroad: stress-free walking and cycling, on streets where cars are courteous guests rather than dangerous dictators. In some spots, entire blocks were converted into plazas for open-air dining." I thought the article made a good point of trying to incorporate some of these things that we have mostly learned from the pandemic to apply them in normal times. Enjoy the articles!

Bike lanes in Bogotá: [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/to-tame-traffic-bogot-bets-big-on-bike-lanes?](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/to-tame-traffic-bogot-bets-big-on-bike-lanes?utm_source=bikebits&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201118_BikeBits)
[utm_source=bikebits&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201118 BikeBits](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/to-tame-traffic-bogot-bets-big-on-bike-lanes?utm_source=bikebits&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201118_BikeBits)

Reclaiming our cities from cars: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2418853/reclaim-cities-from-cars>

Classifieds

This section of the Chainwheel Chatter is published as a Service for TCBA members only, to advertise cycling equipment free of charge. To place an ad, send an email to chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org. Ads will appear for 3 editions, unless otherwise notified.

For Sale: 2008 Giant OCR3 (#666773) Road bike, compact frame to fit various sizes (XS), color red & silver, in almost new condition (was bought as a back-up bike), 24 gears, included are Owners Manual, X-pedo pedals (Shimano compatible), pump, tool bag with tools, bike computer, bell, mirror, rechargeable head light with USB charger. Asking \$400. 00. Contact Edie Belcher at 517-377-6711 (8/2/20)

TCBA - MEMBER CONTACT

Your respect is requested when using any of the numbers on this page.
Phone calls during family time and at late hours can be intrusive.

TCBA OFFICERS:

President:

Patrick Kelley (517) 242-6940
email: president@biketcba.org

Vice President:

Patricia Mead (248) 210-0337
email: vp@biketcba.org

Treasurer: K.C. Pullman-Harrison

email: treasurer@biketcba.org

Secretary: Deb Traxinger

email: secretary@biketcba.org

Events Director: Steve Leiby

email: director@dalmac.org

Board at Large:

Eric Dean

email: boardatlarge1@biketcba.org

Ken Schwartz (517) 332-7322

email: boardatlarge2@biketcba.org

OTHER GOOD NUMBERS:

Advocacy Committee Chairman:

Dale Flores Freeman (517) 974-6542
email: advocacy@biketcba.org

Bike Travel Case Use Coordinator

Phil Wells (517) 420-0125
email: philwells99@yahoo.com

DALMAC

email: dalmac@biketcba.org

DALMAC FUND:

Steve Leiby (517) 881-4137
email: DALMACFund@biketcba.org

DALMAC Treasurer:

Lou Cravotta
email: dalmactreasurer@biketcba.org

Data Protection Officer:

Dave Mansfield
email: webmaster@biketcba.org

LMB Office

email: office@lmb.org

Membership Coordinator:

Ed Usewick (810) 922-6934
email: membership@biketcba.org

Chainwheel Editor:

Sarynna Lopez Meza (803) 840-2277
email: chainwheelchatter@biketcba.org

Northwest Tour:

Patricia Mead (248) 210-0337
email: nwtour@biketcba.org
Website: www.biketcba.org/nwtour

Ride Coordinator:

Colleen Kelley
email: ridecoordinator@biketcba.org

Routes & Maps:

Dave Mansfield
email: routesandmaps@biketcba.org

SummerTour:

Ginger Royston
email: summertour@biketcba.org

T-Shirt Ride:

Bob Noble (517) 925-8028
Cell (517) 290-7271
email: tshirt@biketcba.org

Weather:

(517) 321-7576

Webmaster:

Dave Mansfield:
email: webmaster@biketcba.org

TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

<http://www.biketcba.org/>

Select Member Signup and follow the prompts!

Select options:

- Create a profile

- Renew membership online
- Select interests
- Volunteer opportunities
- Select electronic version of Chainwheel Chatter