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# ChainGuard

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Volume 18 No. 2

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

March–April 2004

On guard for bicyclists throughout the San Diego region.

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## Bicycle Coalition to Increase Visibility through Local Events

Sure, we've always been around—parking bikes at EarthFair, handing out flyers at the Velodrome Swap Meet, hanging out on Bike to Work Day. Well, now we're expanding our outreach, and we need members' help! Over the next several months, the Coalition will be participating in several events, and we need our membership to participate and/or volunteer. Here's what we've got on tap:

**April 25<sup>th</sup>—EarthFair in Balboa Park.** All day, we do valet bike parking for EarthFair. One of our best attended, largest crowd events, it takes about 16 volunteers to pull this off. Come spend a couple of hours parking bikes for folks who were smart enough not to drive to EarthFair, and soak up the “bikes are cool” buzz. Contact Jim Baross at (619) 280-6908 or <jimbaross@cox.net>.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>—Karl Strauss Beach to Brewery Ride.** In celebration of the San Diego lifestyle, the Karl Strauss Brewing Company is hosting a one day festival featuring a bike ride, bands, and of course, hand-crafted Karl Strauss beers. The Karl Strauss



Beach to Brewery kicks off at 11 AM with a six mile beach cruise. The ride begins at P.B. Bar and Grill and winds through Pacific Beach finishing at the Karl Strauss Brewing Company Pacific Beach Brewery on Santa Fe Street. From noon until 6 PM revelers will be entertained on site at the Karl Strauss Brewing Company Pacific Beach Brewery by a variety of Southern California bands, local merchants, food and fun. The proceeds from the Beach to Brewery event will benefit both *I Love a Clean San Diego* and the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition. Come out and ride, or volunteer at the start.



**May 21<sup>st</sup>—Bike to Work Day.** Want a free breakfast? We will have plenty of energizing stations open all over the county during the morning commute time, where anyone on a bike will find free munchies and conversation served up by volunteers. How about more and better prizes? This year we're dropping the free T-shirts (you've got enough of those, anyway) in order to bring you an expanded list of valuable prizes, including some cool cruiser bikes from Electra Bikes and Breezer Bikes, and lots of bright night time lights for those late night bike commuters. Other great prizes will be added as the date approaches.

Watch for coverage on your local radio and TV stations, and tell all your friends to register at our website, <[www.keepsandiegomoving.com](http://www.keepsandiegomoving.com)>. You must register to win one of the prizes!

Nervous about riding in traffic? At many San Diego worksites during May, the Coalition will be offering Smart Cycling classes. This one-hour class, designed for presenting

*Continued on next page*

over the lunch hour, covers the basics of safe cycling and bicycle commuting. Ask your human resources representative to call K.C. Butler at (858) 679-1027 to schedule a class at your worksite!

Shimano has agreed to spend \$500,000 promoting the state-wide Bike-to-Work week, May 17-21. During the week, many local San Diego bike shops will be giving out goodie bags provided by Shimano. To take the Shimano Challenge, or find out about events in other cities, visit <[www.bike-to-work.com](http://www.bike-to-work.com)>.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>—Ride the San Diego River event.** It's going to be great fun along the river, with cleanups, demonstration projects, free trolley rides, jazz concerts, and other stuff. The Bicycle Coalition will be leading a couple of rides around/along the San Diego River. We're still looking for a few ride leaders, and hope many bicyclists come out that day to experience the San Diego River. For more information about all the other San Diego River events happening on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, go to <[www.sandiegoriver.org](http://www.sandiegoriver.org)>.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>—San Diego Omnium 2004,** Three days of racing—Friday June 25: Margaret Nolan TT Challenge, Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>: Buckman Springs Road Race, Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>: Huennekens Criterium. The Bicycle Coalition has been asked to provide volunteers to help with this event, in return for a substantial donation to the Coalition. Can you help? No bicycling experience required, so invite your friends

and neighbors to come volunteer and experience these bicycle events and help the Coalition at the same time. To volunteer, contact Kathy Keehan at (858) 487-6063 or <[execdir@sdcbc.org](mailto:execdir@sdcbc.org)>.

## Free Bikes for Fire Victims' Children

Do you know someone who lost a bicycle due to last October's wildfires?

Poway's Bike Empire bike shop owner Tim Gill, who lost his home in the fires, wants to help the children of families who lost their homes, too.

For those children who lost their bicycles in the fire, Tim wants to give them a new bike. Gill has also received some donated helmets and other items to give to fire victims.

**You can help!** Cash donations for bikes for the children of fire victims can be made to the Coalition, and 100% of your tax-deductible donation will go to purchasing these bikes. Letters acknowledging the gifts will be mailed to all donors by SDCBC, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

Mail your donation, payable to SDCBC, to Bike Empire Bike Shop, 12624 Poway Road, Poway 92064, or check our website, <[www.sdcbc.org](http://www.sdcbc.org)>, for instructions. Be sure to write "bikes for fire victims" on your check.

For more information on the program, call the bike shop at (858) 679-0306.

## Coastal Rail Trail Still a Bumpy Ride

Solana Beach was the first city to break ground on the long-anticipated Coastal Rail Trail. Since December, bicyclists on the Coast Highway between Via de la Valle and Lomas Santa Fe have watched the outline of the

### SDCBC Board

#### San Diego County Bicycle Coalition's Officers

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Stephan Vance

Executive Director – Kathy Keehan  
Board meetings are held **the second Wednesday** of each month at 6:30 PM.  
Locations noted in Calendar Section.

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1.7-mile section of paved bike and pedestrian path take shape. Completion is expected for this section in fall 2004.

Oceanside was next, breaking ground on March 24<sup>th</sup> on a two mile section of the trail that will follow rail right-of-way from the north end of Buena Vista Lagoon toward the Oceanside Transit Center. Completion of this section is expected in June 2004. The trail will eventually connect to the existing San Luis Rey River Bikeway by crossing under the railroad tracks.

Meanwhile, Carlsbad is set to begin construction of a portion of its trail in October and complete it in September 2005, if some snags in their plans are resolved. The first phase includes only a mile-long strip actually in the rail right of way from Tamarack to Oak Avenues.

Future phases would continue north along Carlsbad's State Street to link up with Oceanside's portion. However, how the three mile gap between Poinsettia Lane and Tamarack Avenue will be done, no one knows yet. Trail sections have been proposed on city streets; however, city staff will continue to negotiate with the transit district to get as much of the trail within the rail right-of-way as possible.

The Coastal Rail Trail has been planned for some 18 years. Voters approved a half-cent sales tax increase in 1987, called TransNet, that provided for highway, transit and street improvements and included funds for bicycle projects such as the Coastal Rail Trail.

## Via de la Valle Bike Lanes

North County bicyclists may soon have something to cheer about when long-stalled plans to add bike lanes to a narrow section of Via de la Valle become reality.

Via de la Valle is a major North County east-west route between Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe. Just east of the I-5 freeway, between San Andreas and El Camino Real, lies a one-mile shoulderless section with blind curves, potholes, and a chronic traffic problem. Further east, the two-lane road has a narrow but rideable shoulder most of the way to where it intersects the Del Dios Highway. That first mile, however, scares even some of the best bicyclists.

The project has languished for several years on SANDAG's wish list for bicycle projects. Now the City has taken steps to move forward before the grant money is lost.

Final plans and permits are done, with construction bids due back sometime in May. Construction could begin in September, with completion by year-end, if all goes well.

The Coalition has questioned the design because of a

constrained, 900-foot section near the Santa Fe Downs development, where the bike lane would temporarily disappear and a narrow, three-foot shoulder would be substituted.

"This is the area where there is, for no apparent reason, a sidewalk on the north side. Moving the sidewalk back to make room for bike lanes would add over \$100,000 to the project cost," said Stephan Vance of SANDAG. "We should push for bike lanes along the whole project," countered Kathy Keehan, Coalition Executive Director, vowing to continue the fight for a proper facility for bicyclists.

An as-yet unapproved SANDAG grant, and some money from a near-by developer, are needed to fund the \$1 million + project, once the design is agreed upon.



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### ACCIDENT TIPS

- **Request a Police Report**
- **Seek Immediate Medical Attention**
- **Document All Witnesses**
- **Take Photographs: (Car, Bike, Clothes, Signage & Injuries)**
- **Lost Wages: *Have your doctor verify your non-ability to work in the form of a temporary disability slip which acts as proof.***
- **Lifestyle Change: *Document how the injury has affected life, family, and recreation and how it will do so in the future. Photos, training logs etc.***
- **Insurance Adjusters: *When an insurance adjuster calls you, tell him/her to contact your lawyer. Do not give a statement or sign records releases.***

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## Bike Lanes on a Sidewalk?

Construction on Civic Center Dr. in Poway near Poway Community Park (Thomas 1190 E4) disrupted a few bike paths and lanes in that area. Now that the dust has settled the block of Civic Center Dr. just west of Bowron Rd. has something definitely non-standard. While the City may think that bicyclists are safer on the sidewalk here, the amount of pedestrian and skateboard traffic may prove otherwise.

## Bike Parking at Petco Park

To help alleviate traffic jams expected near the new ballpark at Petco Park in downtown San Diego, fans arriving by bicycle have been promised stands to lock up their bikes. Thirteen stands accommodating 26 bicycles will be stationed near the ticket windows at Home Plate Plaza for use by guests and employees. There is a potential for adding more bicycle parking locations if the demand is there.

## On-line Bike Routes for Orange County

Orange Co has web accessible bike route maps at <http://www.octa.net/streets/bikeways/bikemap.pdf>. Officials locally are interested in having this kind of service for San Diego County, "but there is no money available now" we're told.

## Critical Massing in San Diego

There has been at least one Critical Mass bike event in San Diego City, according to an article in a local weekly paper, "Fahrenheit San Diego." If this is your type of celebration, you might contact [sandiegocriticalmass@hotmail.com](mailto:sandiegocriticalmass@hotmail.com). While the Bicycle Coalition is not involved in the Critical Mass movement, we support opportunities such as this one to demonstrate once again "Same Roads, Same Rules, Same Rights."

## Bike Co-op?

Local interest is gathering for San Diego to join the ranks of bicycle friendly havens like Roxbury, MA, Berkeley, and Pittsburgh, by opening a bicycle recycling and tool-share co-op. Here's how a co-op can work:

- people bring in their unused ten speeds from their basements for tax donations.
- volunteers strip down old bikes for parts or scrap metal recycling.

- fixed up bikes are sold cheaply; the money goes to rent and shop upkeep.
- people can come in and use (not abuse) the tools to fix their own bikes.
- volunteers give bicycle fixing workshops.
- volunteers help community kids fix their bikes

Fixing bicycles is fun and satisfying, but the tools can be expensive, and not everyone needs a shop stand in their own garage. Our volunteer organizer is currently looking for space such as a garage or warehouse—if you can help contact the coalition—[execdir@sdcbc.org](mailto:execdir@sdcbc.org).



## National Bicycle Distributors Conference

Bike distributors from all over the nation held their conference in San Diego in February at the Holiday Inn on Harbor Drive. As with previous conferences, members of the SDC Bicycle Coalition provided ride leaders for morning tours of San Diego. Thanks to Greg

Zackowski for organizing the rides and making us look good! We impressed them with good riding and great weather.

## Juniper blocked at 6<sup>th</sup>!

All traffic except pedestrian traffic is apparently stopped crossing 6<sup>th</sup> Ave at Juniper and banned from making left-turn movements into or out of Balboa Park there. This change cuts off access to and from Balboa Park and the commute routes many of us (bicyclists) have been using for years. The change was probably done to “calm” local car traffic problems but now also blocks the calmest of traffic—bicyclists and pedestrians. We are asking for the City to agree to remove some of the posts and put up the some small signs that say “Except Bicycles.”

## SDCBC Calendar

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Velodrome Swap Meet.** 8:00 AM–noon. San Diego Velodrome in Balboa Park.

**Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – SDCBC Board Meeting.** 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. Open to everyone.

**Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Sweetwater River Bridge Ribbon Cutting.** 10:00 AM. Pepper Park in National City.

**Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer night.** 6:30–8:30 PM, Location Friars Village Condo Complex. Envelope stuffing, pizza eating and story sharing. Please join us!

**Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – SDCBC Board Meeting.** 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. Open to everyone.

**Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Bike-to-Work Day.** Just do it!

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ride-the-River events.** You rode to work, now ride for fun!

**Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer night.** 6:30–8:30 PM, Location Friars Village Condo Complex. Folding the next edition of this newsletter, eating pizza and having fun. Hope to see you there!

## Sweetwater River Bridge Ribbon Cutting April 17<sup>th</sup>

We’ve been waiting a long time for this, and it’s finally here! The opening of the Sweetwater Bridge will be at 10:00 AM Pepper Park in National City. (Thomas Bros. Page 1309 G5). Luminaries expected

to attend include Supervisor Greg Cox and Coronado Councilman Phil Monroe. Come express your support for bicycle projects by attending this happy event!

### Spare change?

Has your membership expired? Check your address form on this newsletter. If your membership has expired, or is set to expire soon, why not take a moment to renew?

Regular individual annual membership is only \$25.00 to help support SDCBC and to bring you the *ChainGuard* for a year. Or join for “A Buck A Week” (\$52 per year) and receive a SDCBC bumper sticker and a copy of “Street Smarts”. Join for \$100 a year and get a special SDCBC T-shirt to show your “Velorevolutionary” spirit!

Other levels of membership, tax-deductible donations, and bicycle club member discounted memberships are available. Call (858) 487-6063, e-mail to [execdir@sdcbc.org](mailto:execdir@sdcbc.org), or visit our web site at [www.sdcbc.org](http://www.sdcbc.org) for more information and registration.

Or just send your (large) check and this registration form to: SDCBC, P.O. Box 34544, San Diego CA 92163

#### Membership Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

add my e-mail address to the SDCBC email list-server.

please do not share my name with other organizations.

Membership Level/Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# SDCBC Fights for Freeway Access

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition is taking on Caltrans over bicycle access to a section of freeway.

The Coalition filed a claim in the Superior Court of San Diego County claiming Caltrans District 11 officials have unjustly denied bicyclists access to a one mile section of freeway shoulder on Interstate 805. The claim stems from a request by a coalition member for access to the freeway shoulder between Nobel Drive and Governor Drive.

Access to this section of freeway shoulder became an issue when an interchange was added to I-805 at Nobel Drive, creating an opportunity to cut five miles off trips between the two interchanges, avoiding numerous intersections and a significant climb up Genesee Avenue. When the request was denied by District 11 Traffic Operations staff, The Coalition stepped in to help, claiming District 11 failed to follow its own standards for evaluating bicycle access to freeways.

After several face-to-face meetings with District 11 staff failed to change the decision, The Coalition decided there was no alternative but to pursue legal action. Local attorney and Coalition member Dale Larabee, and his partner Josh Gruenberg, have agreed to represent the Coalition in possible legal action on a *pro bono* basis. If the claim is denied, the Board will decide whether or not to file suit.

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*Has your SDCBC membership expired?  
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