



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

November 2007

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

This issue of the **Bicycle Access Council News & Digest** is a monthly communication with members and supporters. You may view past issues that started in January 2005 by going to the **BAC** website.

FALL BACK TIME...

Is here again at 2 AM, Sunday, November 4, when we return to Eastern Standard Time. 2007 is the first year to begin the time change on the first Sunday in November as part of the Energy Act of 2005. Next time we have to reset our digital gadgets is March 9, 2008 in the switch to Daylight Saving Time.

LIGHTS ON BICYCLES...

Are required according to the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, §3507, when in use between sunset and sunrise. A front white light which must be visible from 500 feet (that does not mean it must light up the path ahead for 500 feet). A supplemental front white light may be flashing.

Lights are also required for "vehicles" any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons or vehicles are not clearly discernible for a distance of 1,000 feet. A bicycle is considered a vehicle in Pennsylvania.

WHERE'S A BUS BIKE RACK WHEN YOU NEED ONE?...

At publictransportation.org you'll find links to every transit option you'll need for connections if traveling. Here's a direct link: <http://tinyurl.com/322tra>

PIMP YOUR RIDE...

With the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). Affiliate Bike Clubs may list a single ride event in the annual almanac issue of the *American Bicyclist* at no charge, but the information must be submitted by November 16. The magazine goes to press in December. Clubs may list more than one ride on the LAB's website. Contact the LAB for details.

AN IOWA COUNTY DID WHAT...

To **RAGBRAI**? It banned the annual event from passing through Crawford County in the future after a lawsuit settlement for \$350,000 was awarded to a 2004 rider's widow. The rider was killed when his wheel was caught in a roadway centerline gap. County officials expected riders to "keep to the right" and not cross the centerline. Other riders crashed in the same area. Neither RAGBRAI, the state of IOWA, or the towns on the route were sued because of a solid Ride Waiver signed by the bicyclist, but the county was not legally covered. The ripple effect across Iowa and other states is being monitored by bicycle advocates. For a partial bit of the story, see <http://tinyurl.com/yrwoe7>

SOME BACK PEDALLING...

By Mary Peters, US Transportation Secretary, is now on record. Ms. Peters made remarks August 15 following the Minneapolis bridge collapse about US transportation funding that declared Transportation Enhancements for some bicycling projects as "inappropriate." She now has clarified that bicycling *is* a welcome part of the transportation system. At least we cleared that up!

To see her latest remarks, check out <http://tinyurl.com/2l33g4>

DON'T GO OFF IN A HUFF...

A Huffy™ bike that is. Huffy is recalling about 22,000 of its 2007 "Howler" and "Highland" bicycles because the cranks can unexpectedly come off, causing the rider to lose control, fall and suffer serious injuries, according to a press release from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Huffy has received two reports of the crank coming off, resulting in one injury.

The bicycles were manufactured in China and sold at Kmart stores nationwide from May 2007 through July 2007 for between \$80 and \$100. The CPSC advises to stop riding the bicycles immediately and contact Huffy Corp. at 888-366-3828 to receive instructions on tightening the crank

CHINA SYNDROME...

All bike manufacturers in China will have to number their products and print the numbers on them from December 1, 2007 to prevent rampant bike theft, according to a government notice. Known as the "bicycle kingdom", China is home to 470 million bicycles. Almost four million bikes, including 700,000 electric bikes, are stolen every year in China, costing bike owners a collective two billion yuan (US\$267 million). China launched a nationwide campaign to crack down on bicycle theft in the first half of this year.

MISSION STATEMENT...

The Bicycle Access Council is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves as a forum for Pennsylvania bicyclists and as an ombudsman for bicycling issues.

It is the objective of the Bicycle Access Council to make bicycling on roads throughout the Commonwealth safe, respectable and a transportation choice by educating its members and the motoring public.

All funding for the Bicycle Access Council comes from memberships and donations. Annual membership is \$20 per year. BAC does not share membership information.



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