



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

August 2011

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

BICYCLE ACCESS COUNCIL MARKS TEN YEARS...

As Pennsylvania's state-wide bicycle only advocacy organization. Launched in 2001, BAC has continuously served the needs of individuals and bike clubs by responding to state and local issues and providing a clearinghouse of information. Operating with a small budget provided by memberships and donations, BAC works to ensure that the rights of bicyclists on Pennsylvania roadways is represented at every opportunity with PennDOT and the General Assembly.

PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLE TOURING ROUTES...

Are affected by Marcellus Shale operations. On a recent field view with PennDOT officials, BAC toured the northern tier counties bicycle routes to evaluate the impact of big trucks and high traffic counts on what were desirable roads for BicyclePA Routes J, Y and G. What's your experience? BAC would like to hear from bicyclists from that area or touring through it.

SHARE THE ROAD ON THE PINE CREEK TRAIL...

Really means share the road with *cars!* — Huh? A “failed road” (that's PennDOT-speak for a roadway that just gave way along the hillside) needed a detour while being repaired. With limited choices in the rural area, the Pine Creek Trail was the best option. This is located in Lycoming County, Brown Township. The shared trail section is approximately 1.6 miles located between Rattlesnake Rock access area and Cedar Run. Road repairs and returning the trail to non-motorized use is expected to be completed by November 2011. So, now there's a good chance to experience a real “dear” in the headlights encounter on the trail, as in, “Oh, dear!”

BIKE REPAIR 'APP' IN CASE YOU NEED ONE...

On the road or in the garage. It didn't take long before someone created an ‘application’ for your smart device to help with repairs. You can now download step-by-step repairs with illustrations onto your iPhone or iPad. Android versions are available too. iPad cost is \$3.99 (hint: on the Apps Store page, search for bike repair)

Ed note: BAC does not endorse and is not associated with BikeRepairMobile.com

PENNDOT HAS A NEW ADDRESS...

But they never moved. E-mail addresses for state employees was changed over on July 29 from the former *at*state.pa.us to *at*pa.gov recently. Old addresses will still work, but this may play havoc with e-mail program contact folders.

STILL NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNELS...

With a trail development plan for the **Pike-2-Bike Trail** located in Bedford and Fulton Counties. This is the eight mile portion of Pennsylvania Turnpike that was abandoned in 1968 when a replacement bypass was opened to eliminate the two 2-lane tunnels (Rays Hill and Sideling Hill) that backed up traffic and had a high crash history. Currently owned by the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy since 2001, no action has been considered due to lack of funding and squabbles over control by various entities.

The P-2-B trail is open to bicyclists and hikers who want the unique experience of going through long tunnels. Sideling Hill at ~6,700 feet long, is built so it's not possible to see light at the other end when you enter. Rays Hill, at ~3,200 feet, has a soft glow visible at its opposite end, but still sufficiently dark to require high intensity lights. If you ride through, be sure to remove sunglasses and be prepared for a chilly and drafty experience—both tunnels hold a constant temperature around 55°F.

Currently, the “official” website is down (www.pike2bike.org); however, current access information may be obtained by contacting Murray at Grouseland Tours, 814-784-5000 or (www.grouseland.com). There is no charge to ride through unescorted.

Contact BAC for a ride cue sheet for local routes to enhance the riding experience.

Dates to Remember

- Aug 27** **Shoo-Fly Classic Bike Ride, Oley, PA. Berks County Bicycle Club**
20, 40, 60 mile options. BikeReg.com registration, or (610) 670-4875 for info
- Oct 9** **31st Annual Central Bucks Bicycle Club Covered Bridge Ride.** *Choose from 20, 30, 33, 50, or 63 mile options. Ride starts at Tinicum Park, Erwinna, PA*
Registration now open on-line at: www.cbbikeclub.org/cbr

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 roadways 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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