

# AUSTRALIA

## BENDIGO, VICTORIA

Helen Cronin local BUGS secretary is largely to be congratulated for getting the information out and getting the support mechanisms in place to make this our first ride a great witness and hopefully have an impact in a bridge building manner for cyclist and road users alike.

Support of the local newspaper and Regional ABC radio have been outstanding, and believe this will flow on for another week with more media coverage to come.

Police support on the day was sensational with all intersections where there were lights controlled for the peleton to be kept as a witness as intended in mass. We have been given encouragement for them to be involved anytime we intend to undertake such rides.

On the day it was thought that about 200 cyclist took part but would suggest that this may be a bit inflated and more reasonable to suggest around 130-150 riders did attend.

The ride was over about a 8 klm straight stretch of road. A tongue in cheek comment was the difficulty for cyclist to reframe from speaking and ride slow was our greatest challenge. The group was well disciplined and maintained the formation and kept to the provided bike lane allowing a free flow of traffic for other road users. The peleton covered more than a street block in area and for some riders was there first contact with such a huge group of riders of all disciplines.

While recent events of the death of a cyclist was still very raw for some the intent of the ride did not lose its focus and we are grateful that the media respected this aspect of the ride and kept the three primary purposes the focus.

Overall we were pleased with the result and look forward God willing to participate again next year so please keep us in the loop.

Thank You,

Regards

*Eddie Barkla*

## BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Ride of Silence was a great success in Brisbane. We had about 110 Cyclists turn up for the ride. We had one police escort. I was interviewed by Channel 9 as well as ABC. Although I didn't get the chance to either hear or see the media interviews other people have spoken to me and told me that they either heard the radio broadcast or saw the Channel 9 grab.

The riders were very keen and SILENT. We had a lot of interested Onlookers as we rode around the city. Unfortunatley, by the time the Qld Ministers representative turned up most people had already left. I

have had heaps of people thanking me and prepared to assist for next years event. We have made it our mission to double this years turn out & get 200 people out there on there bicycles.

It was a great ride and it will only get bigger and better in the years to come.

We have Perth onboard for next year and also I have also received a Contact for Adelaide. I am sure it will be easy to pick up Canberra due to the culture of cycling in the ACT. Would also like get Cairns involved also.

Thank You all for your assistance & support.

Happy & Safe Cycling to you all.

Kind regards

*Jeff/sles*

## **MELBOURNE, VICTORIA**

A great ROS, moving and poignant and the weather gods were kind, even if the breeze was very cool and brisk.

In great spirits a strong gathering of upwards of a hundred riders Across all cycling interests, from families to bunch road riders and elite athletes rode a circuit of Melbourne CBD through the Law Courts precinct, shopping precinct, street malls, city markets, Arts precinct and the City Coroner buildings. Many onlookers were handed brochures and greeted the ride with applause. At the conclusion of the ride at State Parliament House the riders gathered to an address from Simon Gillett of the Amy Gillett-Safe Cycling Foundation to hear news of initiatives in cycling advocacy. Others spoke of their injuries from being hit by motor vehicles and the names of deceased riders were read solemnly.

In a moving and poignant tribute to lost cyclists and all committed to Spread the word and come back next year with more riders and louder voice.

Melbourne Photos: <http://flickr.com/photos/72663690@N00/tags/silence/>  
Press: <http://news.ninensn.com.au/article.aspx?id=102133;> (Associated press)

clipping from Cycling News: Memorial Ride of Silence announced-  
<http://www.cyclingnews.com/news.php?id=news/2006/may06/may02news2>

Radio: Melbourne, live interviews SEN1116am, 774ABC, SER radio.

The Melbourne ride which first started in 2005, and now 2006 was a Positive step to raise awareness and remember the sad fact that too many cyclists have died and continue to die and suffer injury on our roads. Simon Gillett was present at the Melbourne Ride of Silence. In July 2005, a horrific road accident in Germany killed his wife Amy Gillett-Safe and left five of her Australian cycling teammates badly injured. All of Australia grieved with Simon and also with her family and friends. Amy Gillett Foundation website:

<http://www.amygillett.org.au/>

We rode riding in memory of Russell Mockridge, Deborah Gray, Anthony Marsh, Amy Gillett-Safe, Luke Harrop, Darren Smith, Matthew Cole, Penny Croft, Allan Scott, Ian Humphrey, Aaron Butler and Saul Pasque, as well as all others who have been killed.

In Australia, an estimated 35 cyclists are killed each year while cycling. A further 2500 cyclists are injured, and possibly more incidents go unreported. Most of these incidents occur in our cities and suburbs. With this ride, we hope to educate motorists that cyclists have the legal right to the road and to watch out for us.

In 2006 the Australian Ride of Silence took place in the cities of Melbourne Bendigo, Sydney and Brisbane, further details on the International Ride of Silence website: <http://www.rideofsilence.org/>  
Cheers

*Rob Eke*

Coordinator Melbourne Ride of Silence

## **SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Despite the short lead time and limited resources we had about 60 cyclists take part in the inaugural Ride of Silence in Sydney.

The ride was conducted quietly and safely and regarded with some interest by the public we passed.

I had two radio interviews before the start and two more on Friday night. One was recorded and only went to air this morning (2UE). The ride was also mentioned on ABC news bulletins this morning, a bit late for riders to plan, but good publicity anyway.

There were a couple of news photographers, one from the Sunday Telegraph (News Limited/Fox).

We had friendly cooperation from the police, who provided a lead and tail car.

The turnout was a tad disappointing, but as a training run for the future it was invaluable.

My proposal is to now try and have the dates for next year's rides incorporated into all the cycling calendars around the country. This means acting soon as next year's cycling events are planned well in advance.

If RoS in America could give us their dates we should try and work in closely with that.

Looking forward to hearing about your rides.

PHOTOS FROM THE RIDE: <http://www.moz.net.nz/photo/2006/05/20-ros/>

cheers

*Michael McGrath*

## **Cyclists take to the road for annual Ride of Silence**

By: Zachary Baehr, Leader managing editor  
05/23/2006

Whenever dad asked son to go for a bike ride, the son refused.

But when a local event was organized by the Bellevue Bicycle Club in part to honor the late Mike LeDent, son Jeff was ready for his first bike ride ever.

"It's something really important for my dad," Jeff said. "It's my first ride; I wish it would be with him."

In October of 2005, Robert "Mike" Ledent was killed when a truck driver struck him along Cornhusker Road west of 36th Street.

Last Wednesday, the club gathered about 50 riders for a nine-mile trek through Bellevue. It was the second Ride of Silence the group has done, but the first since the death of Mike LeDent.

In addition, club president Howard Grant said, the ride is designed to create awareness among automobile drivers.

Grant said the group hopes people recognize bike riders as partners on the road.

Jeff LeDent said his mother, sister and brother-in-law showed up to ride. Regular club members also showed up, in addition to those just looking for a reason to ride.

Nathan and Cathy Tebo, their nephew Cody Suhr and family friend Shannon Edgar all showed up to show support and take part in the cause.

The Tebos said they, too, hoped the event would raise public awareness that bike riders shouldn't be looked down upon just because they are a part of traffic.

LeDent said the anger surrounding his father's death has been pushed aside.

"Today is really about doing something my dad would have done," he said.

## **CANADA**

### **British Columbia**

## **KELOWNA, BC**

Report on the Kelowna BC Canada Ride of Silence due to very last minute organization (I only found out about the event 2 days before it)

We had about 7 people show up and we rode it was good...no media coverage though.

*Alvin French*

## **QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS/ SKIDEGATE, BC**

Queen Charlotte, BC (population 1200 in the Queen Charlotte Islands), on 24 hours notice, got a grand total of 8 (eight) riders who rode 15km in silence and then broke into..... A. those chatty folks who wanted to just ride back and those folks (also chatty) who decided to go and do some hill workouts in preparation for a bike race scheduled for the weekend on the mainland.

Did notify the weekly rag, the Queen Charlotte Islands Observer" (on 4 hours notice) but no coverage.

NEXT year, we'll know of this event in advance and do some organizing and promoting..... beyond this year's e-mail circular among friends.....

Cheers,

*Peter Lake*

## **VICTORIA, BC**

Hi! This was the first RoS in Victoria, BC. We just had 12 cyclists, but the feeling was just right. Unfortunately I'm an amateur publicist, or we may have had more! Your wonderfully designed posters were up everywhere, but the media just didn't do much with the press report.

*Ellen Lavoie*

## **ONTARIO**

### **TORONTO, ONTARIO**

<http://bikelanediary.blogspot.com/2006/05/ride-of-silence-photos.html>

30 riders, rained all day but nice for the ride.

60 last year.

*Martin Reís*

## **WINDSOR, ONTARIO**

Here's the report I sent our local police here in Windsor, Ontario. They were helpful in establishing a route although they had no officers in cars or on bicycles to join us. Maybe next year. We had good media coverage locally before and after the ride and hope to develop it even more next year. We were ecstatic to be part of your world-wide network. Keep up the good work. Alan

Dear Sgt. Corey: The inaugural Ride of Silence went well May 17, and organizers of the Caboto Velo Club expect to hold it again next year.

Despite unsettled weather during the day and the fact it rained just before our starting time of 7 p.m., 75 riders participated. We completed the 17-km route by 8 p.m., well before sunset.

Several motorists along the route appeared to honk in support of the riders. There were no reports of motorists or pedestrians being inconvenienced. With media reports and word-of-mouth, hopefully, more residents will learn to recognize and support the goals of the Ride of Silence.

Efforts were made to obey all traffic regulations. Lead riders generally waited for those who had to stop for red lights or traffic.

The hope of Caboto Velo Club members is that the ride will become a regular annual event and help promote healthier relationships between responsible cyclists and motorists who share our city streets. Regards,

*Alan Henderson.*

## **QUEBEC**

### **GATINEAU, QUEBEC**

Pouring rain. Two people showed up. The ride did not take place

*Alain Gauthier*

### **QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC**

We had around 150 bikers for our ride, somewhat fewer than last year. For this year, we had a "Patron de Peloton" or pack leader in English. His name is Vicent Tremblay, a young cyclist (17 years old), victim of a crash with a car last year. He is a paraplegic in a wheel chair and he deposited the flowers at the site of a cyclist who was killed by a Truck last year also.

We had excellent media coverage, we had several paper articles and a

coverage on the local television station.  
Look forward to your compilation and for next year.

*Guy Cyr*

## **RIVE SUD DE MONTREAL, QUEBEC**

Il pleuvait partout au Québec.

Certains organisateurs ont même dû annuler leur Tour ( Ride )

Pour le nôtre qui sera beaucoup important l`an prochain, car notre président est un annonceur à la télévision, il est déjà en préparation.

Ci-annexé une première parution dans une journal pour celui de cette année.

A bientôt

(It rained all over Quebec. Some of the organizers had to cancel their ride. Next year, our ride will be even bigger since the president is a TV announcer and is already preparing for it.)

*Leon Thériault*

## **CHINA**

### **HONG KONG**

#### **Mass rides in seven countries pay silent tribute to comrades killed on the road**

##### **Felix Chan**

Twenty cyclists ignored the bad weather and made a 90 minute journey last night to commemorate fellow riders killed on roads across the world.

The "Ride Of Silence" began in 2003 in the United States after the death of an endurance cyclist who was hit by the mirror of a bus.

Cyclists at more than 200 locations in seven countries marked the event yesterday.

The Hong Kong ride, from the clock tower next to Tsim Sha Tsui ferry terminal to Tai Kok Tsui began at 7pm and was organized by the Hong Kong Cycling Alliance.

Alliance Chairman Phil Holmes said he learned about the event from the web after racing cyclist Brendan Chui-Hsiu-hon, 38, was killed in November by a minibus in Sai Kung that had crossed a double white line to over take.

It follows a similar ride by about 350 cyclists to commemorate Chui shortly after his death.

“I contacted those people (other Ride Organizers) and posted the photograph of Brendan on the website. A few of us felt we could participate in that,” Mr. Holmes said before the event.

“The ride itself will be nothing formal. There will be no applications and we are not going to make any noise- it is not a protest. It is just a ride to join with other cyclists around the world to commemorate those cyclists who have been killed on the roads.”

Last year, eight riders lost their lives on Hong Kong roads, they were among more than 1,400 recorded accidents involving cyclists, according to Transport Department figures.

Mr. Holmes said the low awareness of other road users, especially by truck drivers, and speeding vehicles were the two major threats facing cyclists. He said the situation had not been helped by a lack of cooperation from public transport operators in providing the facilities to enable cyclists to take their bikes around freely and the government’s lukewarm response to the concept of making Hong Kong a cycling-friendly city.

Mr. Holmes said the authorities ought to create a taskforce to investigate what it could do to promote cycling in Hong Kong.

“They often say in Hong Kong it is too congested and you can’t fit cycle lanes in roads, and so on. There is not a willingness to explore the possibility,” he said.

## ENGLAND

### LONDON, ENGLAND

#### **Ride of silence honours cyclists**

**Cyclists will be riding through London in silence as a mark of solidarity for those killed or injured on the roads.**

Wearing black armbands, or red ones to represent the injured, the riders will visit three sites where cyclists were killed by cars in 2005.

Riders will gather at Hyde Park Corner on Wednesday evening before setting off on the 10-mile route.

The Ride of Silence also aims to raise awareness of cyclists and promote their right to share the road in safety.

The event, which starts at 1900 BST, is part of an international Ride of Silence which started in the US in 2003.

Riders will pass the sites where Jason Wong, Apijak Srivanavit and Harriet Tory died in accidents last year.

Similar rides are also taking place in the UK in Aberdeen, Yeovil and Fovant.



Cyclists will wear black armbands

<http://www.rideofsilence.org.uk/>

*Benjamin Jefferys*

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **LOWER HUTT**

Unfortunately it was left a little late to advertise but we are determined to make it an annual event and get alot bigger next year.

It is winter here in New Zealand and we had the ride at mid day but next year we will look at a 4pm start which should suit more people.

yours in riding

*David Smith*

## **SCOTLAND**

### **ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND**

Decent turn out (26) for the first time with fairly short organizational time, and nice and safely!

I'll make it better next time, promise!

*Andy Cruickshank*

## **USA**

### **ALABAMA**

#### **BIRMINGHAM, AL**

In B'Ham we had around 250 riders. It looked slightly up from last year. There was more interest in the ROS in the days leading up to it here - last year I was a committee of one. This year I had five others helping me who had participated in last years ride and wanted to help this year. We invited at the local mayors, but none took us up on the invitation to participate. I was interviewed and that story aired several times on that network the day of the event (morning and evening newscasts). We disappointed the local networks did not get more coverage of the ROS as it was happening. We did get a photo and bylines in the paper the next day -front page of the Local Section - which was an improvement of being buried in the six page of last year's

newspaper. Additionally, the paper carried a lengthy article yesterday about cyclists in B'Ham who ride to work and the need for improved shoulders, bike lanes, ect. They used a quote from me about cyclists having a right to be on the road and mentioned the Ride of Silence in that article, so I thought that was a good victory there. Overall very pleased with the ride and the numbers this year - still feel like we can get more next year.

Sincerely

*Patrick A. Ferkany*

## **HUNTSVILLE, AL**

We had 5 riders here in Huntsville, AL. That's about the same as last Year but most of our advocates were tied up with preparations for a century on Saturday. Our local paper, "The Huntsville Times," ran the attached photo on the 2nd page of our local section on Thursday, May 18th. They also ran an announcement prior to the ride to publicize it.

Thanks

*Dave Stone*

## **ARKANSAS JONESBORO, AR**

About 20 people came out to the Jonesboro ride. Overall, I thought it went really well considering how quickly it was organized. The ride covered twelve miles and lasted a little over an hour.

Here's a link to the text version of the story. There's a link on The upper left side of that page to view the video.

<http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?s=4920334>

*Jeremy Speakes*

## **LITTLE ROCK, AR**

Our Ride of Silence went very well here in Little Rock. We had 74 riders show and everyone observed the rules very well. We even had a few folks along the route stop and bow heads so the word must have gotten out. I am not sure if we got any media coverage but one of our riders works for the local paper so it could happen still. I will check with the other coordinator to see if we got any coverage. This is the second year for our ride and we already making plans for next year. I wish it wasn't necessary though.

We rode a route that is marked as part of our city's bike route and

just last year a cyclist was hit by a car on this route.

Thanks for all you do for this worthy cause.

*Ian Hope*

## **ARIZONA PHOENIX, AZ**

The Phoenix Ride had about 33 participants. We rode an 11 mile loop on the AC/DC Canal. The Canal path runs along some of the busiest streets in downtown Phoenix so I think we were visible. I chose the canal path rather than streets because there were so many volunteers who never street cycle.

It is my understanding that our participation level was equal to the 2005 ride coordinated by Anne Goth. Phoenix doesn't do daylight savings time, so nightfall is around 7:30PM. At least half of our ride was in full dark. I think that's why we had low participation. Many cyclists are not equipped to ride in the dark and did not participate.

Here is the link to the new piece in the Scottsdale paper.

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/0517sr-bike0517Z9.html>

Tailwinds Always,

*Rita Walter*

## **GREEN VALLEY, AZ**

This is the first time that we have observed this and we had 27 riders attend which we believe was a good turnout.

*Chuck Hill*

### **Ride of Silence set to debut in Green Valley**

According to the League of American Bicyclists, more than 700 cyclists lose their lives each year while riding. On Wednesday, Green Valley cyclists will take part in the "Ride of Silence," a nationwide event to honor the memories of those lost to cycling injuries. "We lost a dear friend of ours, Fred Hettig, on March 22," said event coordinator Chuck Hill. "We thought it would be an appropriate way to honor Fred and all the riders we've lost." The event began in May 2003 in Dallas when Chris Phelan organized this ride in memory of his friend Larry Schwartz. "There are no brochures, sponsors, registration fees or T-shirts at this event," Hill said. Over the past three years, the "Ride of Silence" has grown to include nearly 300 communities in six different countries, with this being the first year for Green Valley. The event will begin at the Green Valley Recreation West Center at 6 p.m. The group will ride through Continental Road to Camino Del Sol, then head south, making a loop at Retorno de Anza before returning to the starting point. Local cycling enthusiasts Jim Jordan and Bill Adamson will lead the seven-mile ride. "We hope to see a pretty good crowd for this event," Hill said. "The Santa Cruz Bicycle Committee has done a great job putting this ride together." The "Ride of Silence" requires that all of the riders wear

helmets, with the option of wearing black arm bands. Riders are asked to pedal no faster than 12 miles per hour and ride in single file.

"The goals of this ride are to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured, raise awareness to the existence of other cyclists and to ask that we all share the road," Hill said.

nprevenas@gvnews.com | 547-9747

## **CALIFORNIA**

### **ALBANY, CA**

In Albany, we had a total of 12 riders. It was a very good ride, taking A lane (of some 4-lane streets, so we didn't hold up traffic) around Berkeley and Albany, with a banner in back, "Ride of Silence for Injured Cyclists", with our red and black armbands.

I had sent press releases to two local newspapers but apparently did not get any coverage before or after.

Riders found us through notices on the local bike coalition lists, and from the website as mentioned at Road Bike Rider.

*Tom Ayres*

### **FULLERTON, CA**

We had a nice little group of 25 people. Some we invited some came from your web site. We did not do this ride official thought the city ie. permits and such. But we kept the ride very tight and orderly. Everything went fine. The Commute by Bike people rode with us and did this write up. <http://commutebybike.com/2006/05/18/orange-county-ride-of-silence/>

Thank you again

*Mike Miller*

### **MARINA, CA**

We had the first ever ROS in Marina (Monterey) California last night. Despite frozen tundra conditions, we had 28 riders and excellent coverage at local TV KSBW. See below. Riders described the evening as "moving". Thanks for allowing us to be part of the ROS.

<http://www.theksbwchannel.com/news/9237881/detail.html#>

*James Wrona*

### **MODESTO, CA**

We had 15 riders, which is up from 3 years ago when we had only 4. The local paper did a short story on the ride, I will try to locate it and send you a copy.

*Louis Levin*

## **NAPA, CA**

We did the ride of silence last night in Napa and had 15 riders. We read the names of people we knew who had been hurt/killed by cars while on their bikes. Powerful!

*Roger Bartley*

## **OAKLAND, CA**

Hi: Just wanted to let you know we did our first ever ROS in Oakland, CA this afternoon. I co-organized and co-sponsored it with Ron Bishop of EBBC. We had a good bunch of riders who stayed together in a slow, meditative procession through the city, including twice around Lake Merritt. Everyone was affected. We even got some Bay Area TV coverage. We all wore yellow T shirt with your logo in black on the back, and it not only helped us stay together, but helped identify us as a group. We had people asking us who we were and what we were doing.

*Harvey Hyman*

## **QUINCY, CA**

We had 11 people ride in our town of 5500 (Quincy, CA). The riders ranged in age from about 10 to 68. It had the "sponsorship" of about 15 local organizations and individuals and was coordinated (along with a ride in nearby Graeagle) by the Plumas Sierra Bicycle Club.

There is little of note to report. The ride was approximately 9 miles long. We hope to have more riders next year.

*Tom Frady*

## **REDDING, CA**

We had 21 riders on a beautiful, warm evening. The feedback was universally positive - it was very moving. We started and ended the ride at a spot where our club recently dedicated some new bike racks to a member who died last year, so it gave it special meaning.

Our local paper printed announcements about the ride, but did not send a reporter or photographer. We will definitely do another one next year and with some more planning time and organization; get more riders and more media out.

Regards,

*Keith Ritter*

## **SAN DIEGO, CA**

The San Diego Ride of Silence was, by all accounts, a Raging Success! We received media coverage in the San Diego Union-Tribune (the only major daily newspaper in San Diego):

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20060517-9999-2m17bike.html>

... and on the National Public Radio affiliate, KPBS 89.5 FM:

[http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kpbs/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE\\_ID=915449](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kpbs/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=915449)

... and on the local Fox Television affiliate, XETV-6:

(( doesn't seem to be on their web site ))

We had over 60 cyclists riding through Old Town and Downtown San Diego.

Next year, we are shooting for 600 -- the year after next, 6,000!

Here is our website:

<http://www.geocities.com/RideOfSilence/>

Respectfully and Proudly Submitted,

*Frank Paiano*

## **SANTA MONICA, CA**

Texas Senator Rodney Ellis rode in the Santa Monica ROS. He said there were 50 riders. He had a great time.

*Robin Stallings, Executive Director*

Texas Bicycle Coalition, [www.biketexas.org](http://www.biketexas.org)

## **COLORADO**

### **COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**

In Colorado Springs, CO we had over 35 riders. This was the first time the ride was held here and I feel it went very well. The route traveled high profile streets and lasted 1 hour. No media coverage. We're looking to do it again next year.

*CHARLOTTE MILLER*

## **DENVER, CO**

Hello! We had a great turnout for our inaugural year. 34 riders, and we had some local media; however, we were not aired, but at least they were there. I am curious as to the other Colorado chapters what #'s they had. If you could let me know, that would be great (we represented Denver). Next year we plan to start earlier to promote the event and call in our media connections as this year, we just wanted to see how it went.

Thanks for letting us help out on such an important public safety ride and awareness.

Regards,

*Doris Rigoni*

## **GOLDEN, CO**

From the RoS Golden, Colorado headquarters, here is the RoS report:

This year brought **17** riders to Golden, Colorado under a darkening, stormy sky. I was the only rider in our group to personally know anyone who had been killed (2 friends) and we had one rider who had been hit by a car. We also had representation from a cycling policewoman in Golden. All were deeply touched by the reading of the names of the fallen, and the stories about how those people lived and died.

After the ceremony we rode slowly and in silence around North Table Mountain in Golden for approximately an hour. Afterwards I received feedback from a first time rider who told me he has ridden literally hundreds of group rides and never has he been so moved by an event. He said he was deeply touched and won't ever forget it.

In my perception first time RoS riders are typically anxious about having to ride so slow, but I continually receive feedback that the silence in combination with the slow speed is what brings them to a high sense of awareness and meditation on the purpose of the ride.

The ride was beautiful; it is something different for me each year and meaningful in different ways to all of us, but we are all touched.

A few pictures are attached, as well as my speech. We had news coverage from the Golden Transcript and the story will be posted this Thursday. There is an article on the Denver ride here: [http://9news.com/acm\\_news.aspx?OSGNAME=KUSA&IKOBJECTID=48cc1b55-0abe-421a-00e6-3f40b6575510&TEMPLATEID=0c76dce6-ac1f-02d8-0047-c589c01ca7bf](http://9news.com/acm_news.aspx?OSGNAME=KUSA&IKOBJECTID=48cc1b55-0abe-421a-00e6-3f40b6575510&TEMPLATEID=0c76dce6-ac1f-02d8-0047-c589c01ca7bf)

Thanks for all your hard work to grow the RoS and make it a success on so many levels.

*Kristin Stewart*

## **CONNECTICUT**

### **WESTPORT, CT**

Beautiful night. Light turnout, 15 riders. One mother whose very

artistic daughter had died in a bike accident in Boston came to see us off. Coverage in two local papers.

Now what will speak loudest is how we ride every day, on every road.

It's such a great set of events. You all have done such a phenomenal job. And I truly believe it is Larry's quiet, unassuming, thorough and simple dedication to cycling -- and how he made it his life -- that has engendered this reaction. There are tens of thousands of Larrys out there; and they all deserve to put as many miles under their wheels as they possibly can.

I don't know what other communities do, but here in Westport we start off each ride with a roll call. I am attaching a copy of this year's remarks, in case it can be of use in any way to other Rides of Silence leaders.

May 17, 2006

Westport, CT

123 bicyclists are injured every day in motor vehicle crashes (U.S. Department of Transportation highway safety administration)

2 bicyclists are killed every day in motor vehicle crashes (Same)

85% of those bicyclists who are killed in the motor vehicle crashes are not wearing a helmet. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

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What's the single most important thing you can do before you get on your bike?

Put on a helmet.

What's the single most important thing you must do after you get on your bike?

Come home safely.

Nothing else is even close.

So when we head out of here, we will observe all stop signs. All stop lights. Yield at all turns.

We will go no faster than 12 mph. And we will ride quietly, in single file.

I have some black ribbons that you can pin around your arm, if you'd like.

But arm bands are just a symbol. And the fact that we will not say a word while riding this ride is really just a gesture. What speaks loudest is how we ride every day, on every road we choose.

The way we ride says we know we share the road and are ready to share it, responsibly. We don't hog the road, we don't antagonize motorists, we don't flout the law.

It's a hard standard. But it's how we learn to ride with each other and with motorists at all times. So we have many years of riding with friends in front of us.

And honor the memories of those friends who no longer can ride with us.

We ride for them, so their passing will not have been for naught.

We ride for them, because they can't ride for us.

So let's be careful out there. And let our procession speak for itself.

Like last year, though, the last words we will utter are those of friends we used to ride with, that each of us chooses to remember.

So as you ride, please remember:

LARRY

PHYLLIS

WAYNE

KIRSTEN

TERELL

THOMAS

{ROLL CALL. Others call out additional names as well}

[LARRY SCHWARTZ, Wylie, Texas May 2003]

[PHYLLIS HASSAN, Granbury, Texas May 2004]

[WAYNE CAMPBELL, San Antonio, Texas July 2005]

[KIRSTEN ANN MALONE, Westport, Mass. June 2004]

[TERRELL MURDEN, Richmond, Va. January 2006]

[THOMAS BRUNI, Baltimore, Md. July 2005]

The numbers can be updated each year.

A tip of the helmet to all of you. And if there's any way I can help you in the coming year deal with the "tsunami" as Chris calls it, please don't hesitate to call or write.

All the best,

*Tom Steinert-Threlkeld*

## **DELAWARE**

### **REHOBOTH BEACH, DE**

The Rehoboth/Lewes Delaware ROS attracted 28 riders. This was less than last year, but there was a fatality last year just before the ride and emotions were running high. Also the weather was threatening. Local TV covered the ride and state police provided a great escort.

*Tony Pezone*

## **FLORIDA**

### **BONITA SPRINGS, FL**

We had a very well organized, dedicated and solemn ride. It included 44 people which is a high percentage of those club members who were still in town. The wife of our Club co-founder, who had died in a bicycle accident last Aug helped lead the ride. Our local community security patrol provided a continuous uninterrupted 11 mile ride at approx. 12mph. We received good local press, articles 15 and 18 May and TV coverage Channel 7 on 18 May describing the objectives of the ROS. I was honored to participate.

*Kathy & Jack Heckel*

### **CLEARWATER, FL**

Suncoast Cycling Club's first annual event went well. Since I became aware of Ride of Silence only about one month prior to the event date and did not have much time to plan and publicize, I was quite pleased with the turnout. Due to area traffic problems on May 17, some were still arriving as we left the parking lot, making an accurate count difficult. However, we felt it was important for solidarity on the national level (and for safety reasons with dusk approaching at

approximately 8:15) to leave promptly at 7 as publicized. The last head count five minutes prior to departure was 43 riders, so I feel comfortable estimating attendance at 45-50.

Other area clubs were contacted and some press releases were sent out, however I received no direct responses to the releases and don't believe there was any coverage of our local event. I would hope to change that next year with more preparation time. A co-worker told me she saw some footage on one of the news channels but I have a feeling it was probably the Tampa ride, as we saw no media along the route here in Clearwater/Palm Harbor.

I look forward to growing next year's event.

*Ruth Ridge*

## **JACKSONVILLE, FL**

We had only 5 riders and 4 bikes. Hopefully, we will do better next year. I tried, I sent out press releases to the newspaper, tv news stations, and cycling groups. I sent out posters to the local bike shops. I took over organization of this at the last minute, plus a Lance Armstrong Wear Yellow ride was scheduled for the same day and time. Scheduling these two rides to fall on different days and times would help.

*Kathryn McGoldrick*

## **JUNO BEACH, FL**

Well it was a beautiful night with a cool Northeast Breeze of around 10mph. With electrical tape black armbands 17 riders (can someone confirm the count) headed out to "ride in silence" remembering those who have been injured or killed while cycling. Two of Philip E. Myers coworkers, not exactly the spandex type, joined us as part of the group. The beach route was ideal. Riding at a measly 10-12mph was a new experience for most of us for sure! The speed, weather, and purpose of the ride combine into an almost surreal experience. Listen and smelling the surroundings and feeling the presence of the group, know similar rides were taking place simultaneously across the Eastern Time zone, made the ride feel a lot bigger than it was. At the end the positive energy of everyone was amazing. I hope everyone was as moved as I was. Thank you everyone for showing up. I plan on doing this again next year.

Thanks,

*Jan Pitcairn*

## LAKELAND, FL

Just a quick note. We held the ride as specified. We had 40 - 45 riders participate and we consider that successful, and a good start.

We were not able to get any pre-event press, but there was press at the site and we got a large photo and explanatory caption on the front page of our Local and State section (B) on Wednesday morning and that will help in the future.

Thank you for staying with this. Also, I did have some hits from the web site. Appreciate it.

*Allan L. Richards, Editor*  
Polk Area Bicycling Association

## MIAMI, FL

We had over 300 people, lots of photos and press coverage.

*John Voss*

## ORLANDO, FL

18 riders in Orlando in a beautiful evening!

Thank you,

*Zahid A. Buttar*

## PUNTA GORDA, FL

On May 17, 2006 approximately 80 rides started from Gilchrist Park on Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda for a silent tour of the city. It was an amazing sight to see that number of bicycle riders moving slowly and silently around the city.

Many wore the Black Arm Band to show support and mourn the deaths, and a select few wore the Red Arm Band signifying that they had been hit by a motor vehicle while riding their bicycle. We rode to **HONOR** bicyclists who have been injured or killed; to **RAISE AWARENESS** that bicyclists use the roadways; and to ask that we all **SHARE THE ROAD**

**THE RIDE OF SILENCE WILL NOT BE SILENCED  
AND WILL RETURN NEXT YEAR.**

Thank you to all the riders who turned out, it was a moving experience

*Earl Lang*

## SUNRISE, FL

We had over 100 riders. It was a huge success - can't wait for next year - I'm aiming for 500 riders or more.

*Celia Conti*

## **TAMPA BAY, FL**

I didn't promote the ride as much as I could have because the city was going to make me get a permit and perhaps close down the street. I wasn't happy about that, because one of the purposes of the ride (i thought) was to co-exist with cars. So I toned it down a little.

We had about 50 riders of all shapes and sizes, including a lady on a beach cruiser with a dog in her basket and a pro road racer gal that was towing her 3 year old behind her. Quite the diverse crowd, but all well behaved.

We had a good group...ironic thing is, we were riding along in one of the only designated bike lanes in the city and a guy in a van yelled at us to "get on the !@# side walk???" Some people are just plain crazy.

I plan on taking charge next year and to have several hundred people. I would love to hear about all the other rides. Thanks,

*Liz Lawrence*

## **GEORGIA**

### **CHAMBLEE, GA**

10 riders. A few more than last year. Nice route, solemn ride. No Media coverage, but did not try.

*DAVID CRITES*

Executive Director

GEORGIA BIKES!

[www.georgiabikes.org](http://www.georgiabikes.org)

## **IOWA**

### **CHARLES CITY, IA**

We had 7 riders and rode 5 miles including main street in Charles City. The police Department covered all major intersections. The night was



endorsement of the North Iowa Touring Club Board of Directors.

Here are the URLs of the Mason City Globe Gazette articles about the Ride of Silence:

<http://www.globegazette.com/articles/2006/05/10/opinion/doc44616af36c508055721672.txt>

<http://www.globegazette.com/articles/2006/05/18/local/doc446bfbde44113357618770.txt>

We also had a rider who had two cats in one of those mesh-enclosed child carriers behind his bike, in honor of all the cats that have been killed on the road.

*Steve Schurtz*

## **IDAHO**

### **BURLEY, ID**

Our ride went amazingly well! We had a good article in the local newspaper on Tuesday prior to the ride. I've sent you that article in a separate email. On Wednesday morning, a friend of mine and I along with one of the local sheriffs were guests on a local talk radio program. We had 25 minutes to talk about the origin of the Ride of Silence and what our event entailed. Having a sheriff with us was EXCELLENT because he was able to explain the laws that allow for cyclists to be on the road. He is a cyclist himself, so he was able to offer both perspectives.

About the ride--- We had an incredible turnout of at least 50 people!!! (A group photo of almost all the attendees is attached to this email.) I was fairly astounded with that given that we only had about 4 days to really get the word out. In terms of the group, we had a bunch of the usual riders, but we also had many people who are either very recreational riders or bike commuters. I did not expect that contingent, but it made perfect sense that those folks would feel inspired to come as well. The other thing that happened is that we had families bring their kids. There were wee little kids in trailers and a few 8-9 year olds on their own bikes who did the entire 9 mile course. Since I was in the back of the pack, I got to watch these little kids just hammer away and feel SO PROUD of themselves for having finished the ride. That was an unexpected side benefit to the whole thing. We had police escorts through the 2 counties our route covered. One officer rode in a patrol car behind the last rider and the other officer stayed up front for the part of the ride that was in his county. That was really helpful, too. As luck would have it, I had enough time to go to a local fabric store and buy material to rip some red and black arm bands which were distributed to anybody who needed them. Some folks had their own. Sadly, we have had deaths and injury from motorists in our area, so most of us wore both.

The people of this area were very excited and supportive of the Ride of Silence. More than a few people said that if we got 50 people for a ride that anyone only had a few days notice on, then we might expect an even bigger turn-out for next year when we'll have more time to plan. That would be so cool.

So that's the Burley edition of the Ride of Silence. I guess we have a pretty avid cycling community here in our little town. ☺

Take care and Ride On,

*Gina Bosco*

## **BOISE, ID**

We had a good initial ride in Boise, ID. We had about 25 people participate; not bad considering myself and my co-organizer only decided to do it the Monday of that week! Since we got started so late, we didn't pursue media attention (something to add next year!). My impetus was that my father was killed on his bike in April, after which I learned of your ride.

Our format was slightly different; we didn't want the ride to be too somber, so we chose to ride the first few miles silently, and from there on people were free to chat. My wife and I towed our two kids (3 and almost 2) with our tandem in the front of the pack. It was pretty cool.

When I introduced the ride, I asked if others had personal stories to share. Of the 25, one woman knew 2 people who had been killed on bikes, and another gentleman knew one person. Apparently there had also been a bike/car accident in Boise the prior week, but fortunately nobody was killed.

I thought it was a great first event. At this time I am considering organizing a more prominent ride next year.

Regards,  
*Raino Zoller*

## **ILLINOIS**

### **BLOOMINGTON, IL**

Not sure if you have heard from our 'Wheelers club', but it rained and lightning like never before from about 6 pm CST through the night. We had a Police escort and everything, but unable to ride do to inclement weather.

*Dan Gaines*

### **CHICAGO, IL**

Despite the inclement weather in the evening, the skies cleared just in time for the 7pm start of the ride. By my best "guess-timate", we had close to 50 riders depart from Daley Plaza in Chicago for the start of

the ride. Most of the riders stuck with us to complete a 9.5-mile loop through the city, even in the chilly conditions.

Thank you,

*Elizabeth M. Adamczyk*

## **DUNLAP, IL**

We had awful, awful weather for our ride. We had severe thunderstorm warnings and tornado warnings. I think we would have had around 100 riders for our first one if the weather would have cooperated. But, we had around 40 despite the nasty weather. I was going to cancel it, but everyone was raring to go. Attached is my little write up for our newsletter and it was on WEEK TV. Heres the website:

<http://www.week.com/Story.aspx?preview=&type=ln&NStoryID=50825>

It was entitled "Ride to Remember" by the TV station even though we Posted it as Ride of Silence.

*Kathy John*

## **JOLIET, IL**

Joliet RofS had approximately 70? riders and at least 20+ friends who didn't bring bikes because of the horrible weather. There was a severe storm with heavy rain, lightening, and very black sky from 5:30 pm right up to 7 pm. I didn't think we were going to ride. Even the police that arrived early warned of severe t-storms and hail just north of Joliet. At 6:45 pm I said at least we'll do the memorial tribute.

I talked about the RofS, a bit about my Mom, read the 102 names of the fallen and finished with the Ride of Silence poem. As I was finishing the last few of the 102 names of the fallen, the rain stopped and the black lifted. It was eerie and surreal. I said now we are supposed to ride and everyone said let's go so we assembled to ride. It was chaotic and took us a bit to get lined up. People had left their bikes on their vehicles as they arrived in the downpour and ran for cover under the overhang of the stadium bleachers. The banners were not taped on the van because it was pouring, I forgot about Randy Neufield from the Chicago Bicycle Federation mentioning the Drive With Care program and didn't give him the microphone, etc. Randy got to say a few words while we were getting lined up. I had cut black arm bands so we had those on too. Despite the weather and chaos, we rolled within minutes of 7 pm which was truly amazing.

The Joliet Police were beyond excellent. We were on major west side roads with 4 police cars, one in front, and 3 moving back and forth covering our left side. Intersection traffic was stopped in all directions. Some JBC friends and a guy from a local bike shop were sags at the back. It was a gloomy, darkened sky again just after we started and looked like a downpour any second that held off.

Even the policeman who was our lead said he would ride next year. He is a member of the JPD bike patrol. A few months ago I asked for the

bike patrol to join us and thought they were but somewhere that fell through.

With clear weather I believe that hundreds more would have been there. The Joliet, IL Ride of Silence cyclists made our presence known and honored the fallen.

There were several Chicago area publications that had an article about the Ride of Silence. I contacted the organizers of the Arlington Hts and Chicago RofS and Chicago Bicycle Federation (CBF) in March and we promoted the 3 Illinois cities together. As a result of my March press release sent to the League of Illinois Bicyclist (LIB), Chicago area bicycle clubs and friends, Dunlap, IL, Elmhurst, IL, Oak Park, IL and Bloomington, IL also hosted their own Ride of Silence.

You may have received some of the media articles from Elizabeth Adamczyk (Chicago) or Gary Gilbert(Arlington Hts) as most were from Chicago publications. If not, please let me know and I'll forward them to you.

Here is a link to the local Joliet Herald News.

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/features/4\\_5\\_jol4\\_silence\\_sl.htm](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/features/4_5_jol4_silence_sl.htm)

I hesitate to send it too you because there are errors in the article. My Mom was tragically killed 5/26/05. I am not from Joliet (never have been), and the quote/article was missing important info which would have made more sense. I spent an 1 1/2 - 2 hours talking with the reporter in about 8 phone calls. She wanted a photo of me and the newspaper had their own agenda. It's not about me, it's about my Mom, honoring cyclists tragically killed by motorists, creating awareness, sharing the road, legal system blaming the victims for being in the pathway of a motorist and not holding drivers responsible for their irresponsible actions, etc. The reporter wanted to turn the RofS story into a Mother's Day feature which I wanted no part of. As a result of me unwilling to be photographed and going along with their Mother's Day agenda, the article was lame considering all the info (and press release) provided to the reporter.

Thanks to you, Chris, Mike and others who keep the Ride of Silence rolling. I know I had 300+ emails, lots of phone call, etc, to organize the Joliet RofS. Your efforts are appreciated. The message is very important and hopefully saving families from going through the life changing pain, loss and grief of a senseless tragedy that you and I have.

Cycle on,  
*Sara Jo Briese*

## **INDIANA**

### **FORT WAYNE, IN**

I was a bit disappointed in the turnout but it was raining and had been raining for ten days. So the 25 people that came down were really pretty good. The parents of a young boy that was killed came to talk to us. Others told stories of how getting hit has changed

their lives. Just before 7PM we thanked everyone for coming down and then kept quiet as the riders rode through town.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Boling*

3Rivers Velo Sport  
Publicity Director

## **INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

We had 20 riders attend the Indianapolis Ride of Silence on May 17, 2006. Thunderstorms reduced our numbers somewhat. Nonetheless, we had wonderful support from the Lawrence Police Department (suburban Indianapolis) in providing our safety escort and a strong visual presence in the neighborhood. The silence did roar! God bless you in safe riding, and in all your efforts to bring our cycling and motoring neighbors together in a safe and caring sharing of the road.

*Mike Avey*

## **KANSAS WICHITA, KS**

We had 9 riders last year and 21 riders this year. I think the ride went quite well.

*Don Kramer*

### **OZ Bicycle Club of Wichita**

The following article appeared in the Wichita Eagle on May 17, 2006

#### **Ride of Silence honors killed, injured bicyclists**

A bicycle ride in memory of cyclists killed or injured on the road gets under way in northwest Wichita tonight.

The 12-mile ride will start at Northwest Christian Church, 10850 W. 21st North, just west of Maize Road, at 6:30 p.m.

This is the second year Wichita cyclists have participated in the national "Ride of Silence" effort.

Don Kramer, one of the organizers, said the pace will be slow enough to accommodate all cyclists.

Before the ride, Kramer said, he will read the names of Kansas cyclists who have been killed and who have been injured while riding. Last year, nine cyclists rode.

-- Joe Stumpe

## **KENTUCKY**

### **LEXINGTON, KY**

Reporting back from Lexington, Kentucky...

We had great weather conditions and a good turn-out of 50+ riders, which was about the same as last year.

I confess I was a little late in 'banging the drum', but it did go in our Bluegrass Cycling Club's Outspoken newsletter, and we did cancel all scheduled rides for the evening, so a tad disappointed in the numbers - but there you go.

I've attached for you a copy of a speech I gave at the beginning together with some notes that you might like to look over and use as you think appropriate.

Thanks for getting something like this going.

Regards

*Keith Batchelor*

Bluegrass Cycling Club

### **LOUISVILLE, KY**

In Louisville KY we had only about 20 riders, but many thanked us for putting on the Ride. We had good coverage on our local CBS affiliate. Quoted me on inattentive drivers can kill a rider in a moment, many drivers don't know bikes are legally vehicles and have a right to the road, and how we all mourn when any cyclist is killed. We're going to work harder on publicity and get our bike club to support the Ride more for next year.

*John Birkimer*

### **MADISONVILLE, KY**

We got involved in this at the last minute and we only had three people in Madisonville KY participate. We did 10 miles and we observed the 12mph speed limit. There was no media coverage here but we are planning to make this part of our club event for next year. I'm the current president of Pennyriple Area Cyclists and wore a red armband. The difficulty is the event this year was I came across this late in the game and we had a bike rodeo scheduled for West Hopkins Middle School for the same day.

*David Hack*

## **LOUISIANA**

### **MONROE, LA**

We began planning the ride 3 weeks in advance. We ran the ride info in two different papers free of charge. We contacted 2 different TV stations and had morning show interviews. We had one evening preview show. There were 47 cyclist at our ride. Our local sheriff dept. escorted the event. The ride went very well and had great acceptance. We had 3 cyclist participating who have been struck by motor vehicles and have survived. We look forward to participating in the event next year.

*Todd Poole*

## **NEW ORLEANS, LA**

This report won't take long because no one showed up. I think it was a busy week, post Katrina clean up, and controversial mayor's election.

Next time I will try to advertise more. Of course if y'all could get someone famous to ride with us would help.

*Donald Duzac*

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **ACTON, MA**

This ride was organized by the Nashoba Valley Pedalers, a touring bike club centered in Acton, MA. <http://www.nvpbike.org/>

A group of 13 riders with black arm-bands rode from Concord, MA, high school through the center of Concord. We stopped at the Concord Green, and before the Civil War memorial, had a brief remembrance of riders killed by cars. From there, we left to circle to the Minuteman National Historical Park. It was our plan to walk our bikes through the park from one street to another over the Old North Bridge, and interact with any other walkers if they were curious. However, recent heavy rains and flooding cancelled this walk, so we circled back through the center of Concord again to return to the start.

A local press reporter rode with us, and wrote this report for the Acton Beacon and Concord Independent;

<http://www.townonline.com/acton/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=503088&format=text>

*Bernie Kosicki, Leader.*

### **ANDOVER, MA**

The Andover, MA, location only had five riders. More had signed up but the weather has not cooperated with riding the past week or so in New England. Hopefully next year we

will have a lot more people as I will have more time to get the word out. We are a new bike club and are learning as we go how to make each event better.

Thanks

*Anne Lynch*

## **EAST LONGMEADOW, MA**

The East Longmeadow Ride of Silence had 60+ Riders and was covered by The local TV station. We also had Police cooperation in the form of Police escorts. Everyone involved really thought the event went off well.

Thanks

*Peter F Englert*

## **NORTHAMPTON, MA**

We actually had 60 people though not everyone made the entire ride.

Here is the piece that was published in the Springfield Republican.  
<http://www.masslive.com/search/index.ssf?/base/columnist-0/1147247417126940.xml?csw>

Ride of Silence Honors Meg Sanders

<http://www.cbs3online.com/news/local/2823586.html?video=YHI&t=a>

*Sheila Pecor*

## **WESTFIELD, MA**

The ride went great but we only had 35 riders - we worked diligently to get it in a variety of newspapers (starting 3 weeks before to get the news brief in) but only got it in the Westfield News the day before, then the day of & the day after with a picture. Had 2 community police officers ride with us & a motorcycle police escort that was great with the left hand turns. We honored Reign Salois who was hit while walking his bike in October of 1994 & then spent the next 11 years as a quadriplegic & passed away last year at the grand old age of 27. Going to do gang buster to get 100 riders next year. Must do better with the publicity & news media. Had at least 3 Ride of Silence going on this year in Western Mass or maybe 4? Had a cake & juice after with Reign's family & the riders - it really went well - wish we had more riders.

*Nancy Stolpinski*

## **WESTFORD, MA**

Our ride in Westford MA was small but special. There were only 8 of us, but it was a beautiful evening after a week of rain. As we ambled along at 12mph, I could smell the lilacs and apple blossoms. We saw the swollen ponds and streams, and heard waterfalls in places where there's usually just a trickle. It was very peaceful and a lovely way to remember those we've lost.

I got to meet some good people and wish I could have talked with them more about why they were riding. (The "silent" part was hard for me! :-). And I'm not sure, but I think we might have had the only unicyclist participating in the Ride of Silence ([www.unicyclemax.com](http://www.unicyclemax.com)).

I'm not sure what I could have done to reach more people, so I'd love any tips for next year. I did let some of my fellow indoor cycling instructors know about the ride, and they held moments of silence in their classes. We could definitely do more of that next year if it would be keeping with the spirit of the ride.

Thanks much for organizing this and for all your support. Whenever I asked a question, you got back to me immediately. Thank you!

Take care,  
*Tara Scanlon*

## **WORCESTER-WEST BOYLSTON, MA**

### RIDE OF SILENCE -- 2006

About 15-20 cyclists participated in the Ride of Silence organized by the SEVEN HILLS WHEELMEN of Worcester, Mass., on May 17, 2006, as part of the worldwide Ride of Silence ([www.rideofsilence.org](http://www.rideofsilence.org)). The 12-mile ride started in West Boylston at the bike rack near the Old Stone Church that the Seven Hills Wheelmen installed in 1995 in memory of two club members: Eugene D. Murphy, 76, of Worcester, Mass., and Robert J. Wall Sr., 55, of Grafton, Mass., who were killed by a motorist while cycling on Feb. 17, 1993, in Florida.

Other fallen cyclists who were specifically remembered by Ride of Silence participants included Laraine Lagatolla of Glastonbury, Conn., who was killed by a motorist while cycling April 13, 2006, in Cleveland, Texas, in the fifth week of a WomanTours cross-country bike tour for women over 50. One of the West Boylston riders had been on that trip. The group also remembered George M. Posner, 41, of Charlton, Mass., who died in a bicycle crash on June 3, 1990, in Charlton.

Ride leaders were Kim McCoy and Sue Hall, both Seven Hills Wheelmen board members. The ride took place on the first dry day after eight days of rain and drew more riders than expected, considering that the only advance media attention consisted of event calendar listings. A contingent from a Worcester racing team, Team Bike Alley, lent a

professional air with their matching jerseys, and held back with the group at the 12 mph pace until bursting up the final hill on Route 12.

*Seven Hills Wheelmen*

## MARYLAND

### BALTIMORE, MD

We had 11 people turn out from as far south as Florida and as far north as Pennsylvania.

*Barry Childress*

Cycling Advocate

BaltimoreSpokes.org

### FREDERICK, MD

The Frederick, Maryland Ride of Silence hosted 18 cyclists who rode 7.5 miles through the streets of downtown Frederick and surrounding neighborhoods. We had a good, safe ride and I'm confident we achieved the twin goals of honoring those who have been injured or killed while riding and raising safety awareness as our group was observed by many folks along the route.

Our ride was covered by the Frederick News Post daily newspaper and the Frederick County Gazette weekly newspaper.

The Frederick News Post did a story Sunday May 14th that can be viewed here:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=48942>

The Frederick County Gazette did a story May 25th that can be viewed here:

[http://www.gazette.net/stories/052506/walknew203028\\_31947.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/052506/walknew203028_31947.shtml)

Pictures from the ride can be viewed here:

<http://www.frederickpedalers.org/pages/photogallery.htm>

Next year we plan to spread the word farther and wider in hopes that even more people will join us in 2007.

Regards

*Brian King*

Frederick Pedalers

# MAINE

## BRUNSWICK, ME

### GENERAL

The Brunswick, Maine ROS attracted 30 riders on the first ROS in Maine. The ride route was designed to maximize exposure in two communities (Brunswick & Topsham, Maine) while having few intersection crossings and no left turns. We had police escorts for much of the ride. The ROS attracted not only members of the local sponsoring bicycle club but participants from the local college and others from as far as an hour away from Brunswick. The ride was 65 minutes long.

### RIDE MANAGEMENT/FEEDBACK

Most riders found the ride moving. We had a short briefing by the ride leader at the beginning but nothing at the end. Some people felt we should have had a 'huddle' at the end rather than everyone just fading away. Bringing some closure to an emotional experience. Also, we didn't emphasize enough that this was going to be a 'slow ride'. About 1/2 of the riders passed the leader at some point and so we got spread out --- losing the procession effect (but we later regrouped). Some riders took advantage of the police escorts and rode 2 & 3 abreast, which dilutes the 'share the road' message. Next time, we need to tell riders "don't pass the leader" and "maintain single-file".

### MEDIA

Calendar notices and press advisories were placed in 4 local papers. Press advisories were also sent to 3 local TV stations about 4 days prior to the event. There was a nice advance article in the Portland Press Herald (see attached) and one TV station came and filmed the ROS which resulted in about a 20 second spot on the late evening news.

-- *Tony Barrett*

## ROCKLAND, ME

Thank you so much your effort and dedication to this cause. We are very excited to be a part of the ride this year. This being our first year we were uncertain as to the numbers that may show up. In this area if you get more than 20 to show up for a ride than you are doing well. We had 22

people! The local police were also amazing as we were led by a cruiser with full lights and followed by a bicycle police officer. At every intersection a police motorcycle held traffic as the ride went through. Needless to say, we turned many heads and certainly increased awareness on the coast of Maine while paying tribute to those that have been lost or injured.

We look forward to 2007 with even more people!

Take care-

*Chris Christie*

Bikesenjava - Maine

## **MICHIGAN**

### **ADRIAN, MI**

Adrian Michigan, small college town south west of Ann Arbor near the Ohio border. Our first ROS ride, which was put together on short notice. Received advertising support from the LBS and our newspaper. We had 10 adults and two youth do the 11.2 mile ride. All had positive comments and we'll make it bigger and better next year.

Appreciatively,  
*Jim Dickson*

### **ANN ARBOR, MI**

The 1st Ann Arbor, Michigan USA Ride of Silence went well. We had the bicycle cops to help us with auto traffic. Between 40 and 50 riders attended under rain-threatening skies.

Ride bikes,

*Phillip Farber*

### **GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

The Ride of Silence rolled across the globe in over 260 locations worldwide (and continues until May 20th in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney AU, where these were shifted to the daylight hours on Sat., for rider's safety, and greater visibility to the public and media). 23 were held in MI, giving us the most of any state. Overcast skies and a brief shower as we were staging didn't dampen our spirits in Grand

Rapids. Thankfully by the 7:00 PM start conditions had improved considerably. We had just under a hundred riders again for this year, my feeling that risk of severe weather kept many cyclists from coming. (if you count the two kids that joined as we completed our route around John Ball Park, I'll round it up to a hundred) Riders coming in from Holland said they drove through some strong rains. I was somewhat disappointed that our turnout wasn't larger than last year's.

Our ride leaders were the family of Anna Sobie, an area cyclist who was struck and killed in Walker this past Sept. They were honored to be here tonight and greatly appreciated being involved in the Ride and in leading it, giving them a chance to remember their wife, mother, sister and friend, in an activity she loved. Roman, her husband told me afterwards that if Anna were alive, this would have been a ride she would have loved to be involved in. They had pictures of Anna with them to remember her, and to let us know who she was.

We had one small incident when a younger rider swerved into another and they both went down. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt, but one rider needed to take the Kentwood Cycle SAG. The Kentwood SAG vehicle had 5' banners on it; RIDE OF SILENCE". Many cyclists wore "RIDE OF SILENCE", SHARE THE ROAD", "REMEMBERING FALLEN CYCLISTS" or Sheets listing cyclists we were honoring. The sheets this year had much larger and bolder text, making them more visible to motorists. Most riders wore black or red arm bands, that were provided. Many riders had funeral style flags mounted on their bikes with the Ride of Silence flag attached.

And now for the many thanks that are needed. Thanks to Lt Pat Dean of the Grand Rapid Police for providing a GR Police patrol car to lead us. Thanks to Officer Tripp of the GR Police for leading us on our Ride. Thanks to Rev. Dr. David Smith of the Fountain St. Church for saying a prayer at the start of the Ride. Thanks to Ada Bike and Grandville - Kentwood Schwinn, for providing vehicles to support the ride. Thanks to Alger Cycle for donating the 100 flag sticks that Ride of Silence funeral style flags were attached to. Thanks to both WOOD TV and WZZM TV who came out and ran stories on the Ride on the 11:00 PM news, helping to let the public know why we hold the this. Thanks to Howard Meyerson of the GR Press who ran an article about the Ride a few weeks ago. Thanks to Rapid Wheelmen Geri Mariano and Judy DeYoung for greeting riders, handing out materials and getting releases signed. A big thanks to RW Mike Burden for getting Alger to donate the flag sticks, and his time printing the Ride funeral flags and attaching them all. Thanks again to RW Mike B. and Steve Johnson for helping riders mount the flags to their bikes. Thanks once again to RW Mike B., Jeff Festian, Joel Bierling and Victor Manske for dashing from intersection to intersection and acting as Ride Marshals, allowing us to stay together during the Ride. Thanks to RW Karen Dunnam for being our unofficial photographer. Thanks to Jim DeGracia of Jade who again this year mounted a regulation DOT SHARE the ROAD sign on his bike, and was at the end of the Ride. Thanks to all the West MI area cyclists who risked potentially severe weather conditions to honor and remember their friends, and to help make the road safer for all of us.

And for the last thanks, to the Sobie family for inspiring us in being there, to Judith Jolly, Larry Schwartz's partner, who's worked so diligently in getting so many new locations worldwide this year, and lastly to Chris Phelan, the Ride's founder and Larry's friend, who continues to encourage us all, and reminds us of why we sadly need to hold the Ride. As Mike B. noted last year, hopefully there will come a time when Rides of Silence are no longer needed.

*Mark Hagar*

Ride of Silence, Michigan Director

## **BATTLE CREEK, MI**

The Battle Creek R.O.S. went quite well for our first try. Media coverage was great! Check out [www.battlecreekenquirer.com](http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com) and we are on the front page today. Also of local interest is our comprehensive non-motorized transportation plan for the city. Check it out at [www.teamactive.com](http://www.teamactive.com). Thank you for putting this together. We can't wait to do it again next year and much bigger! What an honor to have participated...

Cheers,

*Brian Clissold, Co-president - Battle Creek Bicycle Club (bc2)*

## **DETROIT, MI**

The weather held out. Absolutely no rain. WE had about 120 for our first ride. It went off with no incident. We started a little late while waiting for Police that never showed, but they did support us along the route. Here is a picture of about 3/4 's of the riders at the end of the route. We all look forward to next year.

*Marc Broadnax*

## **HINES PARK, WESTLAND, MI (SE Michigan Coalition of Bike Clubs)**

The Hines Park ride was the first Metro Detroit Ride last year and drew about 250 riders along the scenic Hines Drive. Our organizer, Jeff Osowski has a new child and couldn't lead the effort this year, so I stepped in, along with the other bike clubs and got us going. Then I had to deal with the issue of which RoS to actually ride on, the one where my club rides, or the one in my hometown? A lot of our club members stepped forward in Ann Arbor, making the decision a little easier for me. Besides, I was actually riding with thousands of riders in 250+ locations worldwide, so the actual location of where I went wasn't important.

Thanks to "Smooth" Tom Sleeker at WVMV for having his station guys out there to welcome riders with some smooth Jazz and give us the speakers we needed to communicate with the large crowd. Unfortunately, the weather hadn't been cooperating

all week, making the crowds quite a bit thinner. A week of rain flooded the Rouge River, including major sections of our route along Hines Drive. The thunderstorms missed us to the north, but went through just as folks were making their go or no go decisions on whether to ride. Many folks ride into the RoS, and were cut off by the advancing waters. Even so, 65 brave people made it out to the ride.

The route? Well, we had to improvise. The route eastward was unavailable, so we turned west. The Wayne County Reserve Officers help us at the major intersections. Dave Duffield of the League of Michigan Bicyclists led the way with a Bike Trailer with Ride of Silence Signs on the sides and back. We had the lights going with the low light and cloudy weather.

I want to thank John Waterman and John Aquinas of the Programs to Educate All Cyclists ([www.bikeprogram.org](http://www.bikeprogram.org) <<http://www.bikeprogram.org>> ) for helping us with our route improvisation and getting the Wayne County Reserve Officers involved, Tom Sleeker for bringing the radio station, my students at East Middle School in Plymouth for making the armbands, and of course, the Downriver Cycling Club, Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, Cycling Saddlemen, Wolverine Sports Club, and the League of Michigan Bicyclists for coming together and making sure that this ride returned this year.

*-Mark Erzen*

President - Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society

## **HOUGHTON, MI**

Just wanted to send a wrap up from Houghton. We had 57 riders which was good for our first, given everything going on last night in our community. The Houghton police were awesome and we had TV coverage. Both TV and newspaper ran the story today. Everyone was very glad they participated and I think we will grow in numbers with each year. Thanks for all you have done. Great job on motivating so many in Michigan to do this. Thanks and be safe out there,

*Terry Smythe*

## **JACKSON, MI**

We had only 3 riders show up and with the sever weather warning issued until 8:00 pm we thought it wise to cancel our ride. Look for next year.

*Dave Spencer*

## **KALAMAZOO, MI**

We experienced much the same weather and I am sure it kept a lot of riders away. We rode with 57 people and I am sure it could have easily been 100 but the severe weather lurking mad even me uncertain that we would be able to get the ride in. Instructed my ride leaders where the 1/2 way point was and if at any point in time they could see or hear severe weather prior to the 1/2 way point to turn tail and get back in, fortunately the weather held until we completed the 12.5 mile route and then the rain began.

I had one sag vehicle sagging the route with magnetic ride of awareness logos on the side, the sag was helpful as we had one rider not feeling well that was picked up another who had a tire problem and oh yes none other than myself bringing up the rear flatted out at exactly the 1/2 way point. I thought about sagging in but was determined to finish the ride so I changed the flat and rode on.

We had coverage from WWMT 3 yesterday morning several times, as well as last night and this morning. I did a radio interview last Friday on WKZO and I was unsuccessful in getting the Kalamazoo Gazette out but I am not done with them yet.

We also had Life EMS volunteer to be at the ride so they moved along the route in case of any medical needs; we also had a pastor friend deliver a prayer before the ride and a photographer. We also had 2 riders Amy Mack and Kay Barker who rode with us and they were both injured very seriously in a car bike accident last spring that were the focus of the Ride of Awareness here last June.

I had some stencils made that were painted on the road showing the route just in case anybody could not follow the group and also made some road signs that helped people to find the ride location.

This just came in from one of the participants last night so I thought I would include it.

*Hey Mark,*

*Thanks for all your hard work on the ride last night. The turnout was good and the weather held out for us. There didn't appear to be any traffic tangles and the community seemed welcoming, so I would consider year one a success. Lisa Saley*

All in all a good start and I am sure we can do better next year.

Thanks for all you do to make Michigan the # 1 State in the Country, and have a great and safe ride season.

*Mark Rose*

## **LANSING, MI**

For the Lansing area (Haslett Middle School start) Ride of Silence this year there were 17 riders. The weather forecast locally for the time period 6 - 8 p.m. was for thunderstorms and hail. Thankfully that didn't come to pass. Under dark threatening clouds the Lansing group started their ride thru a quiet residential area to the semi-rural edge of the township (Meridian), then on to a 3/4 loop of Lake Lansing and back to the starting point. Local LMB area representative Christina Riddle spoke briefly before the ride start about the experience of being a hit-and-run cycling victim and the long and painful recovery after hospitalization. I used the attachments you put up of web to make fully laminated signage on neon colored paper. The riders attached this to their bikes creatively to communicate who we were and why we were there. The riders all rode safely and thought positively of the experience. A reporter and still photographer from The State News (the MSU student newspaper) came, got their story, and put it on the front page of today's issue. It was accurate and very well done. Also, had local cable (township channel) reporter/video journalist come to the start site do interviews about the ride. Haven't had a chance to see/follow-up on that yet. At least one rider expressed an interest in doing another possible site in the Lansing area next year (MSU/East Lansing/ to Capital). Hope this gives you a picture of what took place in Mid-Michigan.

*Lenny Provencher*

### **LENNON (Flint), MI**

We had a successful ride. The weather effected our ride in numbers only. I was keeping track of the radar and was quite sure that we would have a dry ride. The storm passed us by only a half hour or so. We rode on dry roads. The temp. was High 50's. The wind was light. Partly cloudy, overall a very comfortable night for a ride.

We had 11 riders, a very intimate group. We had a short memorial and prayer before the ride. We then left on our ride that came off without any incidents. We were few in number but very glad to part of the Ride Of Silence.

*David Otto*

### **SAULT STE MARIE, MI**

Good morning from the Sault. The weather held off and we had a wonderful ride. We had 16 riders, 15 bikes, 1 tandem recumbent trike. We left Pro Sports and headed out on our route and with the exception of an ambulance everything came off without a hitch. Just a side note, we may want to reconsider riding by or near a hospital. I would like to thank Dave at Pro Sports for the free ride t-shirts and use of his shop as well as my daughter Mikaila and her friend Carly for their help with the waivers and passing out the shirts.

Thanks for all of your help and we look forward to having a larger turnout next year.

*Tony Talenti*

### **TRAVERSE CITY, MI**

Nice job. Traverse City had two riders on a short, rainy, but pleasant ride. We at least kept the tradition going. Bob

Our weather was not good here in TC, cold, rain/drizzle, more like a November evening. As it turned out I was unable to attend our RoS due to the rain (and because I had my youngest daughter with me...I'd planned on bring her but she's small and would not have done well on 8th Street with the potholes and the cars splashing water on her). As the 7:00 hour approached last night, several members called to let me know that the rain had nixed their plans to ride, so I'm sure that we had fewer cyclists than we would have, had the weather held out.

Bob Otwell did head over to the meeting place at 7:00 to see if anybody else showed up for the ride, and I'm awaiting word on how it all went.

*Vita Morse*

### **MINNESOTA**

#### **BRAINERD, MN**

We had a very successful Ride of Silence. Thirty riders participated. Our club plans to make it an annual event.

## *Joe Stattine*

Paul Bunyan Cyclists

The Brainerd Dispatch article follows:

### **Bicyclists make Ride of Silence**

Members of Paul Bunyan Cyclists honor victims of accidents on public roads

By MATT ERICKSON  
Staff Writer

Members of Paul Bunyan Cyclists donned black arm bands Wednesday for a ride in honor of those who have been injured or killed while bicycling on public roadways.

Starting at the Paul Bunyan Trail head, the Ride of Silence took area bicyclists on a 12-mile tour of Baxter, Brainerd and Crow Wing County. They spoke as little as possible during the ride and stayed as close as possible to 12 mph.

Paul Bunyan Cyclists member Terry Ellevold (left) had a black band tied to his arm by fellow club member Joan Hamann before Wednesday's Ride of Silence. The armbands were worn in honor of bicyclists who have been injured or killed while riding. Brainerd Dispatch/Matt Erickson

The ride, which is being conducted throughout the world during Bike Safety month, also aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. Joe Stattine, Paul Bunyan Cyclists member and co-chair of the local Ride of Silence event, said though there are a number of bicycle trails in the area, they don't go everywhere that bicyclists ride.

"The whole idea of sharing the road with automobile traffic is an important challenge," Stattine said. "That's the goal of the whole ride. Bicycles are considered legitimate vehicles on the road. We want to share the roads with cars and feel safe about it."

Stattine said locally there have been few bicyclists injured in the past few years, but noted on Saturday a Brainerd High School student, Ashleigh Hakes, suffered minor injuries after she collided with a vehicle while participating in the school's triathlon.

"There are a fair number of injuries throughout the country, but we've been fortunate in our club," Stattine said.

In 2003 the first Ride Of Silence was in Dallas after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was hit by the mirror of a passing bus and was killed. The idea to have the Paul Bunyan Cyclists participate in the ride this year was put forward by club member Marc Halverson. Club members regularly ride together on Wednesdays starting from the Paul Bunyan Trail head in Baxter.

Ride of Silence co-chair Margaret Schaefer said promoting safety within the Paul Bunyan Cyclists is always important.

"There's no guarantees that we've got tomorrow," she said.

MATT ERICKSON can be reached at [matt.erickson@brainerddispatch.com](mailto:matt.erickson@brainerddispatch.com) or 855-5857.

## MINNEAPOLIS, MN

This is the first year that this ride went. We had 64 riders come and ride in a beautiful weather & sunset. Thank you for starting the fire.

*Stephan Kieu*

[tcbc@slkieu.com](mailto:tcbc@slkieu.com)

Ride Leader (Twin Cities Bicycling Club, [www.biketcbc.org](http://www.biketcbc.org))

### **silent tribute**

Bicyclists around the world will take part in Ghost Rides to honor fallen riders — and call attention to a problem.

BY RICHARD CHIN

Pioneer Press

A solemn procession will go through Minneapolis on May 17, a silent parade of tearful people, moving at a slow pace and wearing black armbands.

It will be just like a funeral march, except everyone will be on bicycles.

Called the Ride of Silence, the event is part of a burgeoning international movement to stage annual bike rides to honor the memories of cyclists killed by motor vehicles and to raise awareness among motorists that they must share the road with bicycles.

The Minneapolis ride is being organized by Twin Cities Bicycling Club ride leader Stephan Kieu. There also will be a Ride of Silence the same day in the Brainerd area, organized by Paul Bunyan Bicycle Club member Joe Stattine. This is the first year Ride of Silence events will be held in Minnesota.

The ride got started after a cyclist named Larry Schwartz was killed after being hit from behind by a school bus in Dallas on May 1, 2003.

Schwartz, 42, was a well-known ultra-cyclist, said his brother, Ron Schwartz, a St. Paul resident.

"It just shocked everybody. He used to ride 20,000 miles a year and just never had an accident. Everyone just knew him as a very safe person," said Chris Phelan, one of Schwartz's friends in Dallas. "We all said, 'My goodness, if that happened to him, what does that say about the state of cycling?'"

Shortly after the funeral, Phelan sent e-mails to other cyclists announcing a memorial ride for Schwartz.

"I didn't expect anyone to come out. I really didn't. If it was just me, it was OK, because I kind of wanted closure," he said.

But when Phelan arrived at the ride site, he found about 1,000 cyclists waiting.

"I remember standing there in front of everyone and they're all looking at me," Phelan said. "I told everyone to look around because statistics tell us that someone here won't be here next year."

The ride was slow and quiet.

"You could hear people weeping during the ride," Phelan said.

Phelan didn't plan that it would become an annual event or that it would spread to other locations. But "the next day, I was getting e-mails."

Thanks to electronic word of mouth, cyclists in other cities started contacting him, asking how to organize their own memorial rides.

"It's just me and a computer," said Phelan, a track coach. "Some people think there's a Ride of Silence glass office building in downtown Dallas."

In May 2004, about 2,500 people came to the second Ride of Silence in Dallas. At the same time, there were rides in about 50 other locations, from Hawaii to Montreal, Phelan said.

This year, Rides of Silence are scheduled on May 17 in more than 200 locations, including Australia, China, New Zealand and England.

"I've been told that I struck a nerve," Phelan said.

He said he thought the danger cyclists face from motorists was a problem just in Dallas or just in Texas or just in the South or just in the United States. But he has learned it's a problem for cyclists everywhere.

"They also had Larry Schwartzes out there that had no reason to be hit," he said. "It's just carnage on the road."

Stephan Kieu said a death of a friend and fellow rider last year led him to organize the Ride of Silence event in Minneapolis. In February 2005, Bahram Daneshvar was hit by a truck in Texas on a trip organized by a group of Twin Cities riders.

Kieu said the ride isn't designed to be anti-car or to impede traffic. The message is coexistence between cyclists and motorists. Cyclists need to obey traffic laws, but motorists need to realize cyclists have a right to be on the road, Kieu said.

"We should all be able to ride to work safely," said Kieu, a Minneapolis resident. "If I observe all the rules, I should not be bothered."

"My major goals in riding are as a grieving process for me and to raise awareness to sharing the road with cyclists," said St. Paul resident Stephanie Skulley.

She plans to participate in the Minneapolis ride in memory of her brother, Edward Sufilka, an Ohio paramedic, firefighter and police officer who was killed by a truck during a 2004 bike ride in Australia.

"I think it will be inspiring. I think it will raise awareness," said Edina resident Patty Carney-Bradley, who will be riding in memory of her brother, Jack Carney.

Carney was struck and killed by a motorist in October while riding his bike in Arizona.

Carney-Bradley said her brother was originally from Austin, Minn., and at least eight family members will be at the Minneapolis ride, wearing black armbands with photos of her brother.

"I'm looking forward to consoling others and being consoled," she said.

Typically, about 1,000 bicyclists are injured each year in crashes with motor vehicles in Minnesota. From 1995 to 2005, a total of 85 cyclists were killed in the state in crashes with motor vehicles.

"These are people fed up with taking their lives in their hands when they go cycling," Phelan said. "I'm just really incensed by the idea that motorists own the road. They don't. Cyclists legally have a right to the road."

The Ride of Silence Web site, [www.rideofsilence.org](http://www.rideofsilence.org), suggests all the memorial rides should be between eight and 12 miles long and scheduled to start at 7 p.m. local time on May 17, which falls during National Bike-to-Work Week. Cyclists are supposed to go no faster than 12 mph and are to remain silent during the ride.

"There is no brochure, no sponsors, no registration fees and no T-shirt," according to the Web site. Helmets are required and riders are encouraged to wear black armbands in memory of someone killed while riding, or a red armband if they have been hit or injured by a motorist.

"It's very emotional. Every time I've ridden on it, I've cried," said Judith Jolly, Larry Schwartz's partner.

In Iowa, riders will be following a hearse, Phelan said. In other cities, the ride will coincide with installations of "ghost bikes," bikes that are painted white and set up as memorials at locations where cyclists have been hit or killed by motorists.

The ghost bikes are part of another grassroots program, started by a bike mechanic in St. Louis, that has spread to other cities around the world.

"The whole thing is to get people to slow down," said ghost bike originator Patrick Van Der Tuin.

Richard Chin can be reached at [rchin@pioneerpress.com](mailto:rchin@pioneerpress.com) or 651- 228-5560

## **MISSOURI**

### **FARMINGTON, MO**

In Farmington, MO we a successful ride with 18 participants/ Two of the riders were local police officer.

Thanks for all the help! *Virginia Blaine*

### **SPRINGFIELD, MO**

I counted 23 people who rode most of the ride, two others that dropped about a mile into the ride, and one who showed up without a helmet and rode around the downtown area with two friends – a total of 28 that expressed interest in riding.

We had two people show up without helmets. I loaned the one helmet I brought as a spare to one guy. I didn't see the other person who was without a helmet until a couple of minutes before the start of the ride. I approached her and told her that helmets are required for the ride. She said she forgot it and lives 3 miles from the start point. She tried calling someone on her cell phone to bring her a helmet. At that point it was 7pm and time for me to start making a couple of announcements and begin the ride. My announcements were:

That it is a silent ride in memory of bicyclists who have been killed or injured on the roadways.  
To take care to not obstruct traffic, to ride single file.  
To not call out "All clear at intersections" for each person to be responsible for looking both ways  
at an intersection and decide when it is clear to go (stop signs).  
That we would ride at 12 mph or less and that I have a speedometer on my bike.

Prior to the ride a tv camera man approached me and asked if I was organizing the ride and I said  
yes. He asked if he could interview me and so we did that. I felt good about how the interview  
went on my part. On his part after I had answered all his questions he realized the light meter  
was not working properly. I tried to repeat what I had said before. I don't think the interview  
aired. A person said they saw about a 15 second clip of us riding, but no interview. I don't have  
a tv.

Our ride was a 12 mile loop in the city of Springfield, MO using mostly bike routes and bike lanes  
where possible. The route was redesigned a traffic engineer for the city. We had no problems on  
the ride until one of the riders put on his front brake too hard and went over the handle bars. We  
stopped and I went back where it happened and he was able to stand up after a few minutes. He  
had abrasions on both knees, his leg was swelling, and his shirt was black from the contact with  
the asphalt. He decided he was close enough to home that he would ride home. His name is  
Dave Christiano, the web master for Springbike, our bike club. I learned later that he said he was  
riding his wife's bike which is a regular road bike, and he is used to riding a recumbent.

I handed out MO Bicycling Statutes before the ride to people and the list of turns we would be  
making.

We made it back to the start point around 8:45pm. I will contact Dave and see how he is doing  
since his accident. That is all the significant details I can think of.

I would like to bring more spare helmets next year for the people who show up without them.  
It was advertised as requiring a helmet in most places but apparently some publicity did not  
include that vital information.

Take care,  
*Sandi West*

## **ST. LOUIS, MO**

85 riders

TV coverage from KSDK - Channel 4 in St. Louis

Pix at <http://flickr.com/photos/timrand/tags/rideofsilence2006/>

## **MISSISSIPPI**

## **NO REPORTS**

## **MONTANA**

## **GREAT FALLS, MT**

We had 20 cyclists and the ride went well, considering our last minute entry. Thanks to you and everyone who organize this event...til next year.

### **Crash victims promote better driver awareness**

By Paula J. McGarvey for The Montana Standard - 05/16/2006

Scott Bickford, shown above during a recent ride on Harrison Avenue, doesn't own a car. He commutes to his job on his bicycle. Bickford was struck by a hit-and-run driver in July 2005 and advocates driver awareness when it comes to sharing the road with bicycles. Walter Hinick / The Montana Standard

Bouncing off the hood of a car, hurling through the air and slamming into a telephone pole was not what Scott Bickford had planned for the evening of July 6, 2005.

"I was just riding to the convenience store to buy some pop," said the Butte bicyclist, who doesn't own a car and commutes by bike year round to his job at The Outdoorsman.

The night of the accident, Bickford, 36, said it was 9 p.m. but still daylight as he rolled down Excelsior Avenue at approximately 25 mph. As he came up on an intersection, Bickford saw a car approaching from the south with its turn signal on.

Bickford said that he assumed the car would wait to turn until he passed. He won't make that assumption again. The car did not stop and turned directly into his bicycle.

"The last thought going through my mind was, 'I can't believe he's doing this,'" said Bickford. From that point on, Bickford said his memory gets foggy.

"I do remember bouncing off the car. I never felt anything like that before," he said.

With blurry vision, Bickford recalls seeing the car that struck him disappearing down Hornet Street. The driver was never found.

Bickford spent the next four days in St. James Healthcare recovering from a broken collar bone, internal bleeding and severe bruising of his right knee.

"I destroyed my \$1,200 bike and I've got tons of medical bills," said the cyclist, who had no health insurance. Ten months later Bickford is still recovering and back to riding to work. As a commuting cyclist, Bickford said that he takes his life in his hands riding in Butte.

"Almost every day I ride to work I have to do evasive maneuvers to avoid getting hit. The drivers aren't looking for bikes out there on the road. They're only looking for cars," said Bickford, who added that he believes Butte's worst road for cyclists is Harrison Avenue.

Bickford's story isn't unique. Shelley Marie Windsor was riding her bike in Anaconda, when she was struck by a car in August 2004.

"I was going about 20 miles per hour and she was going between 20 and 25. I hit the pavement and just skidded," recalls Windsor, who didn't break any bones, but suffered from severe "road rash" leaving permanent scars from her hip to her ankle.

As in Bickford's case, the driver didn't stop. Fortunately for Windsor, eyewitnesses followed the driver and reported her license plate number to police.

"I'm really thankful to those people for looking out for me," said Windsor, who still is gun-shy whenever she rides in traffic.

Accidents involving cyclists and motorists in Montana are not uncommon. The Traffic Safety Bureau lists 167 crashes, 149 injuries and two fatalities for Montana in 2004.

*Susan Mackay*

## **MISSOULA, MT**

The ride of silence is growing in Missoula! There were 19 riders and a Full variety of styles, MTBers, Roadies, Downhillers, Cruisers, Urban Assault riders, Bike Dr shop owners, Adventure cycling, and several youth. I know it still doesn't sound like that many people but the ride is gaining strength in our area with 2 additional rides in outlying areas.

Adventure Cycling's Director, Jim Sayer told me at the end of the ride - "I think we should go for 100 riders next year".

Thank you again for starting this great tradition,

*Deb Adams*

## **BIGFORK, MT**

We had a very successful ride, approximately 30 riders showed up---we rode 14 miles, 4 on a bike path, then 10 on a paved county road. Little or no traffic, sunny 82 degrees, riding thru farm land with geese, ducks, pheasants, meadow larks, no head wind---it doesn't get any better. We all wore black arm bands, rode quiet, no flats, no mechanical problems and no problems with vehicle traffic. Let's do again next year!

*Chuck Harris*

Ride Coordinator

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **GASTONIA, NC**

Here is a report for Gastonia, NC's Ride of Silence. It was distributed to the Gaston County Cyclists and TeamCoaster.com mailing lists.

My estimate of the number of riders was closer to 50; we covered two city blocks riding single file.

There appears to have been no media coverage, either in Charlotte or Gastonia. An event called Bike Charlotte is receiving all the media attention in this area. Next year we hope to do better.

Dear Gaston Area Cyclist,

The following is a report from Gaston County's participation in the worldwide Ride of Silence this past Wednesday evening.

For pictures, select the photos link on the following webpage:

<http://www.gastoncountycyclists.com/RideFlyers/RideOfSilenceReport.html>

Ride of Silence Report: May 17, 2006 7:00 p.m.

Organization: Gaston's first time participation in this event was organized by Doc Bradshaw, the current leader of the Coasters Cycling Group & an active member of the Gaston County Cyclists. The ride was a slow-paced procession of cyclists riding single file.

Purpose: The ride was in tribute & in remembrance of those riders that have been killed in motor vehicle accidents, and to raise awareness to the importance of sharing the road.

2006 marked the fourth year of this international event's existence, & the first year of Gaston County's participation. Approximately 200 rides were organized worldwide.

Route & Ride Pace: 7.5 miles, which took approximately 44 minutes to complete. Riders proceeded in single file.

Roads Traveled: Start: Gaston County Courthouse, Marietta St. Gastonia, NC. Right onto Marietta, Left onto Long, Right onto New Hope, Left onto Court, Right at Emergency Entrance to Hospital, Turned at circle, Right onto Court, Right onto Cox, Right onto Aberdeen, merged onto Franklin, Right onto Marietta, Left at Gaston County Courthouse.

Support & City Approval: The Gastonia City Police provided fantastic support for our event, with two officers on motorcycles & an additional officer in a car. They provided rolling support at all the intersections. Additionally, the Gastonia Fire Department provided a fire engine at the rear of the procession. Ride organizer Doc Bradshaw obtained a parade permit beforehand, which was approved by the appropriate authorities.

Cost: There was no fee, nor was the ride a fund-raiser. Strictly speaking, the ride was not a protest. Our purpose was to honor the fallen, and to encourage motorists and cyclists to share the road. Participants: About 40 riders participated in the procession.

Problems: No significant problems were encountered, except one rider flatted about 500 feet from the end. She finished the event walking!

For more information about the national movement of this event, see [www.rideofsilence.com](http://www.rideofsilence.com) .

Sincerely,

*John Price*

[coastineditor@yahoo.com](mailto:coastineditor@yahoo.com)

GCC newsletter editor / webmaster

[www.gastoncountycyclists.com](http://www.gastoncountycyclists.com)

## **GREENVILLE, NC**

Thought I'd let you know that Greenville's EC Velo Bicycling Club had our Ride of Silence on 5/17/2006 at 7 pm. We had newspaper coverage and we did a 10 mile loop in about an hour. No talking, black armbands and the 10 folks that did the ride shared some thoughts about folks they knew who'd been hurt/killed while riding on public streets after the ride was completed. It was a safe and meaningful ride and we'll do it again next year with bigger numbers. Incidentally, I led the ride and we had no police escort.

Regards,

*Adrian Snyder, President*

--EC Velo Bicycling Club

## **RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC**

Good Afternoon All - Our ride in RTP went really well last night - Durham PD not only gave us traffic control but we had two officers on bikes leading the ride, a motorcycle officer riding ahead to stop traffic at intersections and a squad car bringing up the rear!

We even had several Durham Area Transit Authority buses acknowledge us with flashing lights and tooting horns.

I was interviewed in Channel 14 News on Monday before the ride and WRAL came out last night and ran a spot on the 10:00 news. The link to the WRAL broadcast is below -- our attendance was around 70 people - Black armbands in memory and red armbands for survivors (we had quite a few).

I had dinner with one of our riders/survivors (who is also a cycling team mate) after the ride and he said. "It didn't rain on us tonight - that was tears". I won't forget those words next time I'm out riding and get wet - They actually bring tears to my eyes now just telling you about them.

WRAL covered the Ride of Silence last night... watch the video by clicking the link below

<http://mfile.akamai.com/12947/wmv/vod.ibsys.com/2006/0518/9235676.200k.asx>

Stay well and safe -- *Blanche Dean*

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

## **NO REPORT**

## **NEBRASKA**

### **BELLEVUE, NE**

The Bellevue Bicycle Club of Nebraska checking in. We had a well represented ride tonight with full police escort. 3 television stations had coverage and 2 news print magazines were on hand. We had a total of 70 riders, exactly double the 35 we had last year. We had a very moving ceremony where the daughter of Mike LeDent said a short prayer as we stopped at the spot where he was killed in October 2005. The ROS for 2006 touched many people this year we are proud to have been able to do this on behalf of all cyclists worldwide.

Once we have converted the taped video, we will send you a copy of the footage and also load it to our website.

You can view photo's of tonight's ride at <http://bellbikeclub.org/gallery/main.php>

Please click on the Ride of Silence 2006 Album. There were several photographers so as we receive more pictures, we will upload them to the album.

Thank you,

*Howard Grant, President*

Bellevue Bicycle Club

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

### **HUDSON, NH**

This was my first Ride of Silence. Since I didn't find out about this Event until the last minute, I had little-to-no time to put this together or get the media involved. The people at Goodales Bike Shop in Nashua NH allowed us to use there parking lot and we had a grand total of 5 people participate. Goodales promised to help promote next years ride if we can let them know about it sooner.

The ride was 7.8 miles through downtown Nashua NH and next year I would like to add a few miles to the ride. Thank you for doing this.

*Don Lamothe*

NH Cycling Coach  
Team In Training

### **JAFFREY, NH**

Our ride of silence in Jaffrey NH was nearly rained out by the worst rain in the area in nearly 50 years. However the rain stopped for long enough for us to depart, and held until the last 1/2 mile of the ride. 7 persons rode a distance of about seven miles. the lead bicycle pulled a trailer with a large sign " Please..Share The Road." In spite of the small number to turn out , it was a meaningful experience .

Sincerely,

*Andrew Wallenstein*

## **NEW JERSEY**

### **DEPTFORD, NJ**

Our Ride of Silence, that left Action Wheels Bike Shop, in Deptford NJ, attracted about 30 riders. Most were from the area and routinely ride on our club rides. We did draw a few riders who had never been out with us before and one because his friend Barb was killed in an auto/bicycle collision last summer.

Everything went smoothly despite that fact that no one spoke to 'mark The road' or 'take the lane', like we are so used to doing on our group

rides. I was proud to be a small part of this larger experience. Many of the riders have contacted me to thank me for organizing it and to say how awesome it was to take part in it. I think it will just get bigger as years pass.

The Philadelphia newspapers had coverage for the area rides, mostly highlighting the rides in the city itself but we made contact with our more local papers to no avail. Now that I have experienced the ride and the rider response, I will work harder to ensure that our voices are heard in South Jersey. I am currently writing on an article that I will submit to 3 area papers, concerning the ride and bicycle safety in general. If anyone sees fit to publish- maybe as a letter to ed.- I will send you a copy.

Thanks to all who organize the Ride of Silence and maintain the website putting our collective message out there for all to hear. We look forward to next year's ride.

Take care,

*Patty Woodworth*

Action Wheels Bike Shop and Cycling Club

## **SOUTH SEASIDE PARK, NJ**

Unfortunately, we had reports of heavy thunderstorms in the area for early evening and it kept down the number of participants. However, we did attract 25 riders. Due to personal reasons and time constraints I was unable to establish much media contact for the event. However, those that participated will "pass it on" so next year ride will be much greater in size and we will contact media of all types.....

*Chris Napolitano*

## **NEW MEXICO**

### **ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

This is the third year that I've organized the Ride Of Silence here in Albuquerque, and each year I learn a little more about what works well and what doesn't go as planned. Last year, our route went through downtown Albuquerque where there are traffic lights every block, and this tended to separate us a lot. Also, I found out last year that if there are hills along the route (even small hills), it tends to break up the line, since some folks can't climb at 12 mph, and then they can't catch up since they're not supposed to ride faster than that. So this year I planned the route such that it wouldn't have as many lights, and would have as few hills as possible. Originally I had planned for half the route to be on roads and half to be on bike trails. However, based on a suggestion of one rider, I changed it so that 3/4 of the route was on surface streets. That seemed to work pretty well.

We had about 30 participants this year. That may not seem like a lot, but considering that the average weekday evening ride attracts about 3-4 riders, it was a large turnout. I explained to everyone what the purpose of the ride was (most already knew) and emphasized that we didn't want anyone from the ride needing to be remembered on next year's ride. In other words, "Be Careful Out There". We got started just after 7:00, and for the most part were able to stay

together for the first half of the ride. Toward the middle of the route, we broke up into two groups. We continued that way all the way back to the start/finish area. Just as we were completing the ride, the sun, which had been behind the clouds all evening, broke through. It was magnificent.

Afterward, I spoke with several of the participants who thanked me for putting on the ride. It was quite different than all of our other rides (silent, slow, single-file), and folks really seemed to enjoy that. Our bike club has had a couple members killed over the last few years, and it was nice to take time to remember them.

More lessons learned this year. For one thing, I think a re-grouping point halfway through would be a good way to help keep us together as a group for the whole route. Ideally, I'd like to make friends with a motorcycle cop or two who could block off the intersections so that we could stay together for the entire ride. I'll have to work on that.

All in all, it was a great ride. I'm looking forward to the one next year.

*-Mark Pasnewski*

## **NEVADA**

### **HENDERSON, NV**

The Ride Of Silence in Henderson, NV was a great success. We had riders of all abilities and ages (73-2 years old in a trailer!) We had a total of 31 riders. The ride was mentioned on a local morning news cast.

Thanks you  
*Paul Grube*

### **LAS VEGAS, NV**

I'm sorry to report that we did not have as many participants as we did last year on our First Annual Ride Of Silence. I did put out posters and contacted all of the bike shops in Las Vegas well as the whole membership of the Las Vegas Valley Bicycle Club (170+), Las Vegas Metro Police Racing Team (10), "Pro Cyclery" Racing Team (30+), "McGhies" Racing Team (35+) and "NuVision Cyclery" Racing Team (20+). All of these groups said they were going to send representatives, but none came except for the LVVBC. We had a total of only 15 riders which was most disappointing. The posters did some good to get out a few that were not club members.

Channel 3 (NBC) and Channel 13 (ABC) had full coverage for the late evening news. They both played it up to look as though there were hundreds of participants instead of the few we had. We read the names of the 12 people that died due to auto/bike accidents as listed by the

coroners office here in Clark County from May last year thru April this year. The 12 mile ride itself went off without a hitch and everyone was pleased to have participated.

We will be doing the Third Annual Ride Of Silence in Las Vegas next Year and I'll be getting the word out a lot sooner to our members, local bike shops and cycling teams. We now have some contacts with the local media and newspaper and hopefully this will help too.  
Sincerely,

*James C. "Jim" Little*

Vice President  
(Acting President)  
Las Vegas Valley Bicycle Club

## **MINDEN, NV**

I wish I could say it went well. The response was very small. After getting the county sheriff's ok and the highway patrol, I felt as if everything was going well. The department of transportation was another matter. The time frame we had, and the red tape involved didn't allow us enough time to do a community ride. We had to resort to a club ride which was not well attended.

Hope others were more successful.

*Tina Keegan*

## **NEW YORK**

### **ARMONK, NY**

The ride went great. One evening of sunshine sandwiched between a week and a half of rain. We had over 50 riders participate. The Town of North Castle(Armonk, NY) provided a police escort with lights leading and following the group. The distance turned out to be about 10 miles. I have pictures and articles that I will send under separate cover. For a first year effort with not a lot of time to plan, I was very pleased with the turn out. The riders that participated were very supportive of the cause and very sympathetic about Barbara's loss even though most did not know her. Sadly, many people have had their own close calls. With more time to plan, next year's ride should be even better. Hope all other rides went well. We need legislation with rules about passing bicyclists as well as more bike lanes.

Regards,

*Sally Sullivan*

## **BROOKVILLE, NY**

Huntington Bicycle Club (Greenlawn, NY) Report-Ride of Silence  
We had 16 riders on the Ride. The ride went quite well. Participants' noted that the Ride was an emotional experience as they rode in silence and thought of those that had passed doing what they loved, pedaling a bicycle.

*Richard Lubasch*

## **LONG ISLAND, NY**

Last night we had our 1st Ride of Silence. Here's a link to our Message Board with a ride report: <http://www.sbraweb.org/phorum/read.php?f=1&i=3736&t=3736> .

Next year we will certainly be registered with your site.

Thanks for organizing this special event,

*Norm Samuels*

## **NYACK, NY**

We had 23 riders for our first RoS. The ride went well though with little fanfare. There was an article in the local paper a couple days before the Ride that described the "event".

In truth the ride was unremarkable until one participant posted this on our club website which made it all more than worthwhile:

***"About 4 1/2 years ago my brother was hit by a car while riding in New Hampshire. The driver (85 years old) claimed he did not see him and hit him from behind. My brother bounced off the front window and landed about 25 feet from the location of the initial impact. He suffered a spiral fracture of his ankle, he had internal bleeding, a concussion - it was bad.***

***I invited him to today's Ride of Silence. Rob had not ridden on the road since that day. When we were riding back to Nyack he told me that he took back the road today.***

***Rob and I have ridden thousands of miles together, but the 14 we rode today were some of the best we have ever ridden.***

***Thanks"***

We will only grow from here...

*Eric J Goldstein*

Rockland Bicycling Club  
Event Coordinator  
Ride Leader

## **UTICA, NY**

Thanks to the weather, our numbers were just a little bit less this year.

But we rode on despite the weather and it did clear up nicely.

I know that tonight is kind of a rough night as many folks are preparing for Friday's festivities, and tonight is the only real night to rest and relax(yeah right, what's that?).

The UPD did their usual stellar job of blocking traffic and leading us In and out of the Rec center. It was awesome to witness how the Professionals handle traffic situations.

Now we can focus on Friday's ride and getting home safely from that as well.

Again, to everybody, even if you did not ride, I hope you said a Little prayer for anybody that you know that has had an encounter with a vehicle(or a dog even).

*Dave Taylor*

## **OHIO**

### **DAYTON, OH**

Eleven hardy souls braved threatening thunder storms in Dayton for three miles before the wind and rain and lightning drown us back to the cars. Several others showed up at the start but showed better sense than to ride. We'll try again next year. The press took a pass but the bicycle police stopped by at the start to talk about what we were doing.

*WALTER BURTON*

### **TOLEDO, OH**

We estimated that there were about 125 riders. Most of them were Seasoned riders but 1/4 were not. They lagged behind and we had concerns about this especially on the busy traffic route we took. We had talked to the organizers in Columbus who had done the ride last yr and they gave us good suggestions such as assign a couple of good riders to stay with them. Well we didn't have to deal with this issue much because the beginning route was on less traveled streets-it began

raining as we pulled out but really started pelting down within 3 miles of ride and then there was lightning so we turned around. We had made our point, every news channel was there and interviewed many of us -the Blade newspaper and many smaller newspapers. We were on Fox news, local CBS and ABC channels. Everyone got the message right "honoring anyone hurt or killed and promoting share the road." We lost two great people in the last yr to irresponsible drivers and we really made that point as well. We were lucky to have seven Toledo Mt Bike Policemen accompany us who protected us and stopped traffic at all intersections. It went very well. I have never seen a ride more publicized-we worked hard at this and everyone responded by posting signs in the windows of their bike shops, libraries etc. I work for a very large hospital and the PR department helped by sending out press releases-when Toledo Hospital talks the media listens and they announced it all day on the news.

*Judy Wright*

## **YOUNGSTOWN, OH**

The Youngstown, Ohio, R of S went well in its' inaugural year. We had no idea how many riders would show up as it has rained all week, but we were very pleased with 62 riders.

I am sure the weather turned some people away as it literally stopped raining only 3 hours before the event and even then, areas around town had downpours between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. A few hours after the ride it started to rain AGAIN and hasn't stopped since - we have had 10 straight days of rain! It is ironic, though, that I think I was stressing out over the weather forecast a week prior to the ride and I had a dream that it rained for days before the ride, and just before the ride the skies cleared, we rode without a hitch, and then it started to rain after. Isn't that exactly how it happened!!

We also had way too much "red tape" and political bull crap to contend with concerning the township police, trustees, sheriff department, etc, but we got around it and rode with motorcycle escorts. (The "politicians" did not like our highly visible, albeit busy, route.) Therefore, Dan DeSalvo and myself are already planning for next year to get the "crap" out of the way now and put the focus solely on the meaning of the Ride.

We had nothing but positive comments as the riders really enjoyed themselves. One rider said she couldn't believe how the silence got to her and I must say it was a "goose bump" heart warming ride. I know everyone is looking forward to the Ride next year and our plan is to double if not triple the number of riders (we are not Dallas by any means in terms of rider numbers!).

Thank you for creating such a meaningful event – I am sure Larry Schwartz is smiling upon you.

*Janice Jan Janin*

## **OKLAHOMA**

## **STILLWATER, OK**

We had a good turnout for the Stillwater, OK Ride of Silence. Where were an estimated 50 riders, including one City Commissioner and two members of the Oklahoma State University Bicycle Patrol in uniform. The Stillwater Police Department provided a police escort for us.

It was a very successful event.

*Don Norvelle*

## **TULSA, OK**

We had about 200 people this year. Our numbers were slightly down from last year but still good. We had no new print media but two local television stations that did a report on their evening news.

Thanks,

*Adam Vanderburg*

## **OREGON**

### **CORVALIS, OR**

#### **Riders pedal in silence for a cause**

By KYLE ODEGARD  
Gazette-Times reporter

*More than a hundred bikers turned out for Ride of Silence*

A few bicyclists chatted outside Osborn Aquatic Center at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, but more and more pedaled in.

It was an odd mix of mountain bikes, 10 speeds, cruisers, recumbent bikes and even a tandem, rode by people in spandex or those wearing jeans and T-shirts. The parking lot buzzed with conversation.

A few moments later, the cyclists pedaled off, eerily quiet.

The somber parade, a thin line only a bike or two wide, stretched for blocks, drawing the attention of passing drivers and people on sidewalks.

More than 100 bicyclists participated in the Ride of Silence on Wednesday night. The event, in its second year in Corvallis, is held to raise awareness of cyclists on the road

and mourn those killed by motorists.

Debbie Jensen, the mother of Robin Jensen, a bicyclist killed in a hit and run crash in the summer of 2004, helped organize the ride.

“This is wonderful, absolutely wonderful. A great turn-out,” she said, before the ride. “We need to get that awareness out there.”

Fellow organizer Jerry Rooney told the crowd that this might have been the largest gathering of bicycles ever in Corvallis.

Curtis Voss, 34, of Corvallis decided to participate partly because he used to live by the spot where Robin Jensen was hit.

“I went past her that night,” pedaling past the crime scene, he said.

Like many avid bicyclists, Voss has had close calls with cars. “It’s something I know real well.”

So does Terry Willard, 50, of Corvallis, who was clipped by a car backing out of a driveway on Highway 99 in Eugene about 10 years ago.

“That was scary,” he said.

Willard rode to help the cause but also for some exercise. He usually bikes a couple of times per week.

The Ride of Silence was held at 120 other locations in the United States and other countries at 7 p.m. Wednesday night.

Kyle Odegard covers Philomath and rural Benton County. He can be contacted at [kyle.odegard@lee.net](mailto:kyle.odegard@lee.net) or 758-9523.

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Ride Coordinators: Debbie Jensen, Jerry Rooney

We had an impressive turnout. Unofficial count put it at 140 riders and about 130 bikes. We rode 8 miles throughout the city of Corvallis, OR, (pop. 53,000) in about 1hr 15 minutes. We began with a welcome, a brief explanation of the rules of city riding, and a moment of silence for those whom we were honoring.

Among the riders were the parents of Robin Jensen, 18, killed in August 2004, by a hit-and-run driver while riding her bike home from her summer job. Robin, who had just graduated from Crescent Valley High School, was a police cadet and a lifeguard, would have started college in the Fall.

Throughout the ride, both county and city police accompanied us in their vehicles, though we did not apply for a "parade" permit. We did

not feel that our ride was a "parade" -- more likely, a group of cyclists taking a slow moving, memorial tour throughout the city obeying traffic laws as we rode.

Because we agreed to ride mostly in single file on city streets, there was a need to stop often so those who were slowed by traffic lights, etc. could catch up. Left turn lanes were troublesome because riders did not "bunch up" in the turn lanes. Thus it took sometimes several phases of red light-green arrow for them to complete the turn. Riders ranged in age from children accompanied by parents, to retirees in their 70's. The Oregon State University cycling team participated dressed in their team jerseys.

Police feedback at the end of the ride:

1. The ride was well organized and disciplined
2. No complaints from motorists.
3. No problems with traffic.
4. No falls or injuries.
5. No violations by cyclists or motorists.

Feedback from participants:

1. Some kind of ID of participants so motorists and observers would know the reason for such a large gathering of cyclists.
2. Instruct cyclists to "bunch up" at left turn lights so more could make their turn before having to stop for the red phase of the light.
3. Some riders showed up with no helmets. One said there was no mention of this requirement in the news article. Hand-outs and posters noted this, however.
4. The ride should have started at 6PM instead of 7PM because not everyone had lights, and we finished at twilight.

*Jerry Rooney*

*Debbie Jensen*

## **NEWPORT, OR**

It was highly visible and a beautiful, sunny ride. We had 36 teen and Adult riders and 6 infants. There was a strong headwind as we rode over the Yaquina Bay Bridge and completed a 4 mi. round trip ride. The Yaquina Bike Club members supported and the Newport Police put 2 squad cars on, to stop traffic at intersections and to turn on the bridge light for bicyclers. They followed us going over the bridge and waited for all the slow riders.

*Elizabeth Rose*

## **PENDELTON, OR**

Our ride was wonderful. We had approximately 25 participants on a 9.5 mile loop through our town. Gary Jensen whose wife Marilyn was killed in Aug. had buttons made that we wore. They bore pictures of Marilyn. He had also sent a button to Chris Phelan and to some people in

Portland. His daughter rode in Walla Walla, WA, with one of the buttons as well.

It was well received in our town. We had rather sparse newspaper coverage before the event. However, afterwards our local paper featured a nice article with a big picture. Gary Jensen was on a morning radio talk program in Pendleton. We will do this again.

I am forwarding you an email I got from Gary.

*Susan Kelley*

**Susan, that was a real nice article in the EO tonight, and you did a great interview. Thanks so much for your kind words. When I got home Wed. night, the phone was ringing and it was Marilyn's middle sister, in Portland. She said her and her husband had went to the local ride, and there were several hundred riders in a park. As she was walking around, before the ride, she saw an man wearing a "Marilyn Button", she went up to him and showed him her button and ask "where did you get my sisters button"? He said her husband sent it too me! He is Ray Thomas, and he is one of the Directors of the Oregon Bicycle Alliance, that I mentioned the other night, and a Lawyer, and I had sent him enough buttons for him and his office staff. Pretty cool huh?**

**There were also about 60 riders in Walla Walla, and a nice article in the WWUB, didn't mention Marilyn, but the picture of the riders, I can see at least 3 of them wearing her buttons! My job isn't done but those of you that keep helping me, are in my prayers. Thank you ALL!**

gary

**PS Today Weston-McEwen High School, had a memorial service for Marilyn and planted a rose in the Weston Memorial Rose Garden, in her memory, about 50 people attended, and was quite touching. Next Thursday the Library is having an open house 4-7pm and dedicating a special Album, (we have worked on all winter) and selling CD's, to a project that was near and dear to Marilyn's heart. Keeping her memory alive is a lot harder work than one might expect! Folks like yourself and other members of our club, make it easier. God bless you all.....gary**

## **PHOENIX, OR**

Our ride went great. We had 45 riders. It was quite a diverse group (racing teams, club members, town folks, etc.) We rode through two towns (Medford and Central Point). We had police escorts (on bicycles) with flashing blue lights from both towns. Our ride was 12 miles long at a 12 mph pace.

Media coverage was from both television and newspapers.

I had lots of real positive feed back and would expect twice as many Riders next year. Please send me a reminder next year to get started in the planning.

*Robert C. Korfhage*

## **SALEM, OR**

Our Ride of Silence went well, even if it was a small ride.

20 of us departed on the ride. We rode together, quietly through the streets of Salem, Or. There was no media coverage.

*John Henry Maurice*

In Salem, Oregon we had 10 participants on our 10 mile ride. We started at 6:30 pm in order to complete the route in daylight. We also had an accident victim at the start of the ride. He is still recovering from the incident of last August, and is still unable to ride.

*Joanne Heiling*

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **CAMP HILL, PA**

Ride of Silence Wednesday, May 17 7 miles 9mph

Marilyn Chastek-L, Ross Willard-S

25 people came to ride this special ride which was planned to raise awareness of cyclists on the road and to mourn those cyclists already killed by motorists. Before riding, Ross reminded the group of the purpose of the ride, and the riders who wore red armbands, signifying that they were injured by motorists, told their stories about their dangerous experiences. The others in the group wore black armbands. The route meandered through 2 cemeteries and roads around Camp Hill and Highland Park. The weather was threatening and we did get a little wind and rain, but we were appropriately rewarded by a rainbow. While the media was notified, so one showed up to cover the ride. Some local papers did list an announcement of the event.

*Marilyn Chastek*

### **PITTSBURGH, PA**

There are 2 webpages with details on the Pittsburgh Ride of Silence:

<http://www.thirdwave-websites.com/bike/Pittsburgh-Ride-Silence-2006.cfm>

<http://pittsburgh.indymedia.org/news/2006/05/23854.php>

Hope that helps with your data compilation!

~ *Sarah Rogers*

## **STATE COLLEGE, PA**

Our ride went really well. We had about 25 riders plus a police escort consisting of a cruiser and two bicycle patrol officers who blocked traffic for us at intersections. A report can be found at the Centre Region bicycle Coalition website:  
www.centrebike.org  
--

*Paul K. Simpson, M.D.*

## **RHODE ISLAND**

### **NO REPORT**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **BLUFFTON, SC**

On our Ride Of Silence we had 30 bicyclists ride the designed 6 mile route through our retirement community of Sun City Hilton Head here in South Carolina. We also had 3 other volunteers handling the refreshment table at rides end. Two of our volunteers took pictures during the ride. It was a beautiful day as we began our ride at 1PM. This early start time is due to our age and time commitments. It was a very impressive sight looking down the road seeing this group of bicyclists one after the other. We wore our club jersey which gave the ride another sense of visible impact. The group ended the route at a setting with a uniformed mannequin wearing a helmet, fallen over his/her bicycle. This is where our spokesman reminded us of our need for safety and better traffic conditions while bicycling. We were asked to think of someone near to us who has been injured or killed while riding their bicycle, and to offer a prayer in their name. All thirty bicyclists commented on having a touching moment, and were glad they participated.

PS - We had advanced local newspaper notice of the event, plus a newspaper interview on the day of the ride.

*George Heitman*

### **CHARLSTON, SC**

In Charleston, I rode in the ride of Silence with 150 other riders. This was also the day that we dedicated the bike-ped lane of the new Cooper River Bridge "Wonders Way" in memory of Garrett P. Wonders. There were several news stations that covered the event along with a

great article in the Charleston Post and Courier—you can visit their website to see that article.

In Spartanburg, SC we had 100 riders participate and in Columbia, SC we had 80! There was great media coverage for both of these events as well. The Spartanburg paper had a great article!

Thanks, and I agree this is a very powerful and worthwhile event!

I am copying the article below from Spartanburg!

All the best,

*Natalie Cappuccio Britt*

Executive Director

Palmetto Cycling Coalition

100 cyclists with yellow armbands tied to their left arms pedaled in a single file line that stretched for more than a quarter mile on Reidville Road Wednesday.

The cyclists' 10-mile Ride of Silence honored those who have been killed or injured in cycling accidents. Similar rides occurred across the nation Wednesday.

In recent weeks, two [Spartanburg](#) area cyclists have been injured in accidents with cars.

Vince Barnhill was hit Monday afternoon as he was riding down Highway 50 in [Woodruff](#). As riders pedaled silently, he was recovering from a surgery he had earlier Wednesday to repair his pelvic bone.

Another cyclist was hit riding home from Spring Fling on May 6. Jessalyn Story rode in Wednesday's event despite suffering a concussion when a car turned into her at the corner of Forest Avenue and [Union](#) Street.

Nigel Darrington rode to honor his brother, former state cycling champion Glenn Darrington, who died during a bicycle accident in 2002. A car was not involved in the crash.

[Spartanburg](#) Mayor Bill Barnet spoke before the ride, saying the city's cyclists are "an important part of who we are and what we want to be."

Head of the Palmetto Cycling Coalition Paul LeFrancois said that riders' safety depended on both drivers and cyclists following traffic laws.

LeFrancois said the most important thing was for drivers to pay attention and be on the look out for cyclists.

"We're a much smaller silhouette on the road," LeFrancois said.

He said many accidents happen when drivers do not see bikers as they turn.

Cyclists meanwhile should always ride in the same direction as traffic and stay as far to the right as possible unless they are turning.

Alexander Morrison can be reached at 562-7215 or alex.morrison@shj.com.

## **COLUMBIA, SC**

About 60 cyclists gathered in Five-Points for the 7:00 PM silent ride around the State House and nearby neighborhoods. Officers Reese and Turner from Columbia's police department did a great job of escorting the group, clearing the way at all intersections. The riders were respectful, silent and orderly, although not in single file. Derek Everline of the Cycle Center bike shop rode the whole way carrying an empty bicycle by his side in memory of his friend, Dillon Mitchell, a Carolinas gold medal cyclist, who was killed in an accident last year. Wach Fox 57, Channel 19 (CBS), and the State newspaper provided generous news coverage, interviewing the president of the local bicycle club and two Cycle Center employees.

*Anna Hiltiwanger*

## **GREENVILLE, SC**

We were very pleased with the success of our Ride of Silence, considering it was organized in about 7 days. We had 27 riders, including one tandem and one recumbent. One rider, who was hit by an automobile earlier in his life, rode with one leg.

Before the ride we handed out wristbands on which riders could write the names of cyclists who had lost their lives on the roads. I think almost all riders took one of the wristbands to honor specific riders.

WYFF TV, the local NBC affiliate, sent a cameraman to film us. We rode a 7 plus mile circuit at Donaldson Center, completely single-file, in complete silence. Speed was kept very close to a 12 mph maximum. Participants were very complimentary of the event. We plan a much much larger event in 2007!

We appreciate your including us and your interest in how our ride went!

*Ben Foxworth*

## **SPARTANBURG, SC**

In Spartanburg, S.C. we had a good turnout in spite of a thunder storm That moved through the area for 30 minutes prior to our ride and soaked our sign-in area. About 10 minutes before start time the rain quit, and a huge rainbow arched over the sky. Mayor Bill Barnet was on hand to make remarks (and although we were out in the county, he quipped the rainbow was specifically over the CITY!). We had about 105 riders who rode 5 miles out and 5 back on our Reidville Road Bike Lanes. County patrolmen did an EXCELLENT job of supporting the ride by stopping traffic at all intersections until we passed through. Two of our city bike police brought up the rear, as they do every year.

Our local bike clubs endorsed the ride, and provided refreshments afterward. This link will take you to the local newspaper article with their photo, and I have pasted in the article below.

<http://www.goupstate.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060518/NEWS/605180354/1051/news01>

*Richard Dillard*

### **Silent ride**

Spartanburg Herald-Journal  
Alexander Morrison, Staff Writer  
Published May 18, 2006

Nearly 100 cyclists with yellow armbands tied to their left arms pedaled in a single file line that stretched for more than a quarter mile on Reidville Road Wednesday. The cyclists' 10-mile Ride of Silence honored those who have been killed or injured in cycling accidents. Similar rides occurred across the nation Wednesday.

In recent weeks, two Spartanburg area cyclists have been injured in accidents with cars.

Vince Barnhill was hit Monday afternoon as he was riding down Highway 50 in Woodruff. As riders pedaled silently, he was recovering from a surgery he had earlier Wednesday to repair his pelvic bone.

Another cyclist was hit riding home from Spring Fling on May 6.

Jessalyn Story rode in Wednesday's event despite suffering a concussion when a car turned into her at the corner of Forest Avenue and Union Street.

Nigel Darrington rode to honor his brother, former state cycling champion Glenn Darrington, who died during a bicycle accident in 2002. A car was not involved in the crash.

Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet spoke before the ride, saying the city's cyclists are "an important part of who we are and what we want to be." Head of the Palmetto Cycling Coalition Paul LeFrancois said that riders' safety depended on both drivers and cyclists following traffic laws. LeFrancois said the most important thing was for drivers to pay attention and be on the look out for cyclists. "We're a much smaller silhouette on the road," LeFrancois said. He said many accidents happen when drivers do not see bikers as they turn.

Cyclists meanwhile should always ride in the same direction as traffic and stay as far to the right as possible unless they are turning.

Alexander Morrison can be reached at 562-7215 or [alex.morrison@shj.com](mailto:alex.morrison@shj.com).

## **SUMMERVILLE, SC**

We had a great ride. There were 57 riders of all types-roadies, mtb, recumbent, fixed gear, kids, and bmx team members. The two person motorcycle police escort was invaluable. They made everyone feel a lot safer, and stopped traffic at all the intersections. Our local paper had an article before the ride with the ROS logo, and picture with a nice caption after.

*Mark Greenslit*

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

### **ELK POINT, SD**

We had 16 riders leaving from Yankton, South Dakota. One rider was a two time survivor of a motor vehicle/bicycle accident. It was a beautiful day and all riders were very respectful of the day. Thank you for letting us be a small part of a very important day.

*Sue Moyer*

## **TENNESSEE**

### **CLARKSVILLE, TN**

We had 45 riders - - We used a 9 mile route thru the middle of Clarksville (Madison Street) and circled downtown. Our local police department provided 2 cars and officers that escorted us in a very professional manner. (That was really nice since we had about twice the crowd I was expecting and caused a little traffic slow down in a couple of places) no media coverage.

*Lynn Nicholson*

### **NASHVILLE, TN**

The number of riders who attended the Ride of Silence in Nashville, Tennessee was 40. I put this ride together at the last second and distributed the information through my site [www.NashvilleCyclist.com](http://www.NashvilleCyclist.com) and by emailing every possible cycling related group/person I know.

Since I did this at the last second we were unable to attract any media attention. Next year I will plan in advance and get more influential cycling enthusiasts involved. Everyone who attended commented on the positive impact the ride had on them, and were very appreciative of the opportunity. With proper planning we could easily have over 100 riders attend in Nashville.

*Tim Hall*

Ride of Silence Nashville  
owner/publisher - [www.NashvilleCyclist.com](http://www.NashvilleCyclist.com)

## **TEXAS**

## **BEAUMONT, TX**

Our 2nd annual ROS rolled out at 7 pm along with cyclists across the nation. 60+ cyclists attended as well as the local police, fire department and EMS. We rode an 8 mile loop in memory of local cyclist Kat Grantham killed in 2004. Television stations were present as well as local newspapers. I have strong hopes that this years ride will lead to "share the road" street signs, a first step in alerting motorists to our right to share the public roadway.

*Angi Walker*

## **COLLEGE STATION, TX**

Approximately 53 cyclists participated in the College Station, TX Ride of Silence at 7PM this evening. We turned some heads on the road with the excellent help from our police escort, and there both The Eagle and KBTX sent camera crews, with a short piece airing on KBTX this evening.

Thank you to everyone who participated or helped with the organization. Photos can be found at <http://shawnandlaura.net/graphics/ROS/>, and more will be uploaded as I get them.

*Shawn Hokanson*

## **DALLAS, TX**

Ride of Silence, 2006, year four.

We have come to call the Dallas Ride of Silence event the "Mother" ride as it is the first one ever organized.

We had some folks come in from Washington, D.C. to ride with us, Andy Clarke, Executive Director of the League of American Wheelmen, Elizabeth Preston, P.R. for the L.A.B as well as our own Preston Tyree from Texas, he is the Vice President of the L.A.B. With Michelle Holcomb, founder of BikeDFW, and Bud Melton, Chair of the Texas Bicycle Coalition, we had a good deal of support for our ride from those that work to make cycling safer.

The Mayor of Dallas proclaimed it "Ride of Silence" Day in Dallas, and her aide, Norman Herrera, came to ride with us also.

With the help of a P.A. system this year, many could hear directions and reminders of those that have passed on. All of this prior to the ride.

After some brief announcements were made, we listened to the solemn bagpipes playing Amazing Grace as we rolled out at 7:00 p.m.

With police escort, plenty of volunteer ride marshals and 2500 riders we made quite a sight. All of us riding, not a peep was heard but the sound of tires rolling on asphalt and gears clicking.

Family members of Gary Glickman, Gary Arnold were there to honor these two men. Judith Jolly and her husband and baby were there to help with the start/finish line up.

We rode one lap around the lake, many people stood and watched us ride by, all were respectful.

As we came to the finish there were signs reminding people to line up on either side, this was a great success. Everyone waited as the last riders came in, including Chris "Coach" Phelan, the founder of the ride. As he came through the middle the bagpiper played a soulful rendition of TAPS. Coach had his thumb raised as many raised their thumbs back at him in a sign of solidarity. Many people were able to mourn the loss of good friends during this event, it was an amazing ride. Tandems rode with empty stoker seats, others wore photos of friends or family that had been killed while riding.

Black armbands signified the death of a cyclist, red for those that have been injured by motorists.

When the bagpiper finished with TAPS, Gail Spann, the ride director, held her arms up in the air and thanked everyone for coming.

It was such an honor to be a part of the running of this event, a time for cyclists to mourn.

*Gail P. Spann*

The "Mother" ride director, Ride of Silence organization.

## **HOUSTON, TX**

We had an excellent Ride of Silence from Herman Park yesterday evening. I'm guessing somewhere around 130 riders attended. I think quite a few got a late start because as I was driving away, riders were still coming in.

Great job John Lewis of organizing the start!

*Woody Speer*

## **WEST HOUSTON, TX**

I am Happy to announce that we had a great turnout for the first ever West Houston Ride. We estimated 50-75 riders showed up of all ages. I believe the youngest rider as around 7 years old. The ride started nicely with a prayer from a local church deacon. We arranged a police escort from one officer but at least 3 showed up. This allowed us to stay even safer.

The good news is that a reporter from the Katy Herald showed up and interviewed many of us.

Afterward we hung around and talked with everyone and most had a good story to tell and mentioned how they have been effected by Motorist VS. Bicyclists accidents. A few teary eyes were seen and a very somber hush rode along with us as One of our local cyclists recently was killed by a hit and run motorist on this past Sunday.

Overall the ride was great and many promised to contact their City Council member to get the local government involved in awareness of Bicyclists on the roadway.

Thanks for leading the charge in Dallas this was a great ride for a great cause.

*Chris Holmes*

Bicycle World and Fitness

## **SAN ANTONIO, TX**

The 3rd Annual San Antonio Ride of Silence went very well. By my count, we had about 120 riders. While that was down a bit from last year, given that San Antonio is a one horse town (and that horse being the NBA Spurs) and their big playoff elimination game was going on in the same town (we won't get into a Spurs/Mavericks debate here), I am pleased with the turnout. We didn't aggressively get to advertise the ride like we did in years past though. I'll take responsibility for that as I have been laid up the last couple of weeks with a broken collarbone I sustained from a mtn bike crash. Needless to say, I didn't get to ride in this year's event, but it worked out well enough as I got to take pictures and answer press inquiries without having to distract from the ride, itself. We did a better job with the media this year. In addition to the local paper, the S.A. Express-News running this article in today's paper (<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/metro/stories/MYSA051806.3B.bikride.1d095743.html>) accompanied by two photos, reporters from radio station WOAI 1200, La Prensa newspaper and two television crews covered it (I didn't get home in time last night to see what footage aired, but was told by other friends and family that it was good. In attendance at our ride was Melissa Campbell, the widow of Wayne Campbell, a prominent local attorney who was killed last July on an early morning training for the MS150 Bike to the Beach. I wouldn't want to begin to imagine the pain and suffering Melissa and her five children have gone through. And in their loss, it would be too easy to be bitter at the institution of cycling. Yet despite it all, there she was, one of our biggest supporters and advocates. On that subject, I mentioned to her about the memorial page on the RoS website and we would very much like to add Wayne's name and link to it: [http://obit.porterloring.com/obit\\_display.cgi?task=Print&id=241587&listing=C](http://obit.porterloring.com/obit_display.cgi?task=Print&id=241587&listing=C) urrent. I'm also attaching a photo of Wayne from the 1998 Hotter'n Hell. Please post them or forward to the site's webmaster or let me know what I need to do to make it happen. Also, in a bit of coincidental timing, Melissa's family held a press conference earlier in the day as they filed a wrongful death civil suit against the truck driver and company that killed Wayne.

I was most disappointed with the lack of any representation from SA's bicycle police. Despite having strong collaboration with them in other community projects and even sending an invite to their division commander (a fellow cyclist who sits on the SA Bicycle Mobility Advisory Commission with me) AND discussing it with several other members this past weekend, we got nothing. I guess unless you pay them for their time,

they could care less, even if the cause directly benefits them too. It's almost shameful, if you ask me.

The biggest obstacle we continue to face on this ride is keeping everyone together and moving forward. Because the route snakes back and forth through downtown San Antonio and all traffic control devices are rightfully followed, the ride gets stretched out and we often had to stop to regroup. A parade permit and hired police escorts would remedy that and unfortunately that costs a good chunk of money. But I'm hoping to do some fundraising to cover those costs so that the ride will flow better next year.

The following are photos taken during the ride:

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-1.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-1.JPG)

Riding south on N Alamo

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-2.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-2.JPG)

Turning at Navarro and Augusta into Central Library

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-3.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-3.JPG)

Regrouping point at Central Library

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-4.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-4.JPG)

Riding up Navarro (crossing over the Riverwalk in background)

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-5.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-5.JPG)

Turning at Navarro and College St.

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-6.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-6.JPG)

Turning South on St. St. Mary's St off of College St.

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-7.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-7.JPG)

Regrouping point at Milam Park

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-8.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-8.JPG)

Regrouping point at steps of City Hall

[http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006\\_ROS/ROS-9.JPG](http://www.george.longoria.com/images/mypics/2006_ROS/ROS-9.JPG)

Ride finish back at HemisFair Park (note: shortly after this photo was taken, a video crew from TNT set up to take footage of this exact spot for the night's national broadcast of the Spurs/Mavericks game.

Coach, thanks for all your work, inspiration and encouragement. The international cycling community is truly better off for it, and without which, the San Antonio ride wouldn't have happened. I was really glad to see the Texas Bicycle Coalition step up their involvement this year and hope we can count on their continued support in the future.

Sincerely,

-George E. Longoria

## **TEMPLE, TX**

Had 17 riders yesterday, more than our regular Tuesday or Thursday club ride numbers. This included some new riders not seen at earlier club rides.

I was late getting started on ride prep this year, but look forward to a larger turnout, more police participation and media coverage next year.

*William Keller*

Temple ride coordinator

## UTAH

### AMERICAN FORK, UT

The Ride of Silence was a success in American Fork, Utah. We had about 80 participants with local police escort and a neighbor for a SAG vehicle. I'm happy to report that no one had to be picked up by the SAG. Everyone was safe and seemed to have a pretty good time. News coverage was good with a pre-event article and a photographer was out on the course at several points. They will publish photos and another article on Friday. If you would like it I'll send both articles. We had a guy from New Mexico who is here working this week go with us. We found him a bike and he was happy to participate. He even got an interview with the Brigham Young University TV photographer/reporter as did I.

The husband of a lady killed a few years ago was on the ride too.

Thanks for starting something good.

*Stan Swallow*

### ST.GEORGE, UT

Our ride went well for a small community. We had 17 riders and two others who came but were injured and couldn't ride. We figure it's a beginning and we will grow it next year. We are part of a couple of groups who are being advocates for bicycles and pedestrians in this area. We have partnered with governments sharing the costs of share the road signs.

We didn't have any press coverage. We had issued a press release before and our cute, blond spokesperson read the following statement before our ride. (She was on crutches and unable to ride.)

On May 17 at 7:00 PM, the Ride of Silence will begin in North America and roll across the globe. We will take to the roads in a silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public often isn't aware of these rights, and sometimes not aware of the cyclists themselves.

The purpose of this ride is:

To HONOR those who have been injured or killed

To RAISE AWARENESS that we are here

To ask that we all SHARE THE ROAD

I have been hit and severely injured. This is my own message.

**A plea to be seen. . .**

Please start seeing me. Please don't throw, yell or swerve at me.  
I may be your neighbor, your bishop, priest or pastor.  
I may be your healthcare provider, your child's school teacher or a member of the PTA.  
I may be your boss, or your employee, or a consumer at your business.  
I AM a taxpaying, car driving, insurance holding citizen. Much more of my time is spent behind the wheel, but when I can I am riding my bike.  
I am commuting to save gas, respect the environment and improve my health. I am riding for fun and social interaction. Those riding with me are doing the same and may also be someone you know and interact with often. We are obeying the traffic laws and thoughtfully traveling routes that will be safer for us and may cause the least inconvenience to traffic.

Please think before you pass to close or throw something at us, as it may cost us our lives.

Over the past five years these cyclists have been killed on Utah roads

Bryan David Gordon  
Zachary David Hendrickson  
Ben Casper  
David Vara  
Natalee Wilson  
Joseph Harrison  
Derek B. Lake  
Megan Buchanan  
Joey Mahana  
Samuel B. Hall  
Kade Roseman  
William Fails  
Ronald Hirschi  
Josie Johnson

Judy Pierce  
Gregorio Rodriguez  
Steve R. Williams  
Donald Pymm  
Claude O. Williams  
Eli S. Miller  
William Corliss

We are riding in their memory

*John Reed*

**VIRGINIA**

## **RESTON, VA**

I would like to let you know that the ride leader, John Hamilton, did not show up for yesterday's ride. In fact there were just 3 people there, including myself and my husband. So the 3 of us rode the route and were very glad we did as each of us have known someone who was killed in a cycling accident. At the end of the ride we decided to let you know that we felt that the ride leader was rude for not showing up.

Thank you for your efforts. The ride was a healing process.

*Vivian Coss Gimbrone*

We had 3 riders at the appointed start location (15 minutes before the Appointed time). The organizer did not show by 15 minutes after the appointed time. The three of us rode anyway.

Peace - *njg*

## **ROANOKE, VA**

Despite a very hastily (2 days notice) organized ride, 40 riders turned out for the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Roanoke, Va. Ride of Silence. We rode approx 9 miles at 10 mph, and had a lot friendly waves and people pointing at us along the way. One firework was thrown at us by a passing Subaru. The ride was led by Dick Bradshaw and Jim Palmieri, whose wife, Maggie Palmieri, was killed in a car-bike collision nearly 3 years ago.

A few spits of rain turned into a gorgeously bright rainbow by the ride's midpoint, where we stopped for a few minutes. There was also a rainbow on the day Maggie died, Jim noted.

A reporter and photographer from The Roanoke Times covered the ride and gave us centerpiece treatment on the front page of the local news section the next day. Here's a link to the story: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/65655>

*Dan Casey, President*

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club (Virginia)

## **WASHINGTON**

### **EVERETT, WA**

Here is a link to a great story on our event in Everett, Washington. The actually we had 35 riders, not simply "more than 20." It was a great success. We also had a brief story in the same newspaper prior to the event letting people know about the ride.

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/05/18/100loc\\_b1cyclists001.cfm](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/05/18/100loc_b1cyclists001.cfm)

*Kristin Kinnamon, president*

BIKES Club

## **SEATTLE, WA**

We had a large turnout in Seattle -- 500 - 700 riders. It was sunny (at the start) and warm. Those of us who worked to put the event together were pleased with the turnout. From the feedback we've received, most participants were fairly pleased, as well. We gotten a few suggestions on how to make the event be even better next time.

We did discover that it was difficult to keep this large of a group together, due to stop lights and one bridge crossing. Those of us at the front slowed down to 10 mph, and even rode the brakes on downhills, but still it was tough to keep together as a single group. Not that we necessarily thought this was a bad thing, it was just the reality of the situation.

Several newspapers had coverage of us leading up to the event:

<http://www.seattleweekly.com/news/0620/brain-city.php>

<http://archives.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=bike17m&date=20060517&query=ride+of+silence>

<http://archives.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=here16m&date=20060516&query=ride+of+silence>

<http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Content?oid=31705>

Sincerely,

*Duane Wright*

## **SILVERDALE, WA**

We had about 50 riders and everyone was so appreciative of the opportunity to show they cared. I will organize another one next year and will forward a news article in a separate email. THANK YOU for your work on this as well!

*JILL Priest*

'Ride of Silence' to Honor Fallen Cyclists

**By Seabury Blair Jr., For The Kitsap Sun  
May 16, 2006**

Noel Barrett, struck and killed while riding his bicycle on Bond Road in August 1996.

Thomas A. Kendall, killed while riding his bicycle on Highway 305, north of Agate Pass Bridge on Bainbridge Island.

Lt. Cmdr. Orlando Suarez, died in the hospital after crashing his bicycle on the shoulder of Kitsap Way on March 13, 2004.

Robert Dean Butler, struck and killed by a car while riding his bicycle on Bond Road on Feb. 3, 2005.

In the United States last year, 720 bicyclists died in crashes with motor vehicles. In the decade since Noel Barrett was killed, more than 7,100 bicyclists lost their lives in accidents on roads and highways across the country.

On Wednesday, bicyclists from throughout the county are invited to join local cyclists Jill Priest, Scott Park and members of the West Sound Cycling Club in a "Ride of Silence" in memory of those killed in traffic accidents. The ride is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at Silverdale Cyclery.

Bicyclists throughout the nation will be pedaling in more than 200 of the memorial rides. In addition to the Kitsap ride, bicyclists will honor their dead companions on rides in Seattle, Renton, Everett and Tacoma.

All events are free. The Kitsap ride will be about 10 miles and bicyclists won't be pedaling faster than 12 miles per hour.

The first Ride of Silence was organized by Chris Phelan in Dallas in 2003, after his friend and endurance bicyclist Larry Schwartz was killed when he was hit by the mirror of a passing bus. Ride of Silence events are held every May during National Bike Safety Month.

The national rides are promoted by noting that "there is no brochure, no sponsors, no registration fee and no T-shirt. ... The ride is a chance to show respect for those who have been killed or injured."

Bicyclists who join the rides keep their conversation to a minimum and pedal silently and slowly. Priest invites riders to wear black armbands in memory of friends who lost their lives on the road.

Priest lost a friend in a car-bicycle accident last year in Chelan. Her friend was struck by a car from behind while pedaling along the shoulder of the road.

The ride will retrace the route of the memorial ride that was held following the death of Suarez, who was on a training ride down Kitsap Way west of the Highway 3 overpass.

Park was riding with Suarez when the accident occurred, and helped put together the original memorial pedal.

Priest says she hopes the Ride of Silence will raise awareness about bicycle safety, both for motorists and bicyclists. Essential for bicyclists, she says, is wearing extremely bright clothing to increase visibility.

Besides the tragic and often avoidable cycling deaths, more than a half-million riders are injured badly enough to sustain a hospital emergency room visit. It is estimated that of those, 67,000 suffered head injuries - and at least half of those might have been prevented had the rider worn a helmet.

Obviously, helmets are required on the Ride of Silence.

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## **TACOMA, WA**

Our Ride of Silence went very well considering it was our first time Doing this. Next year we will be far better prepared and hope have a much bigger gathering. We had 36 riders this year. There wasn't any on-site media coverage but there was an article submitted to our local newspaper, The News Tribune. I am still looking for it, though. There was also a bit of coverage on a local radio station out of Seattle. We bought red and black bandannas which the riders tied to their arms and we received reports from the riders that they were getting cheers, horn acknowledgements, etc. along the route. Everyone was very satisfied with the awareness they brought about from their ride.

Our route was not flat and in fact did have a rather long climb at about a three or four percent grade, I believe. It's hard to find a route around here that doesn't have a hill to climb.

Please let me know if you need more information.

Sincerely,

*Corkey Smith*

Member

Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club

## **WALLA WALLA, WA**

Walla Walla had around 50 riders. We got local coverage from our paper in the form of a press release before the event and photographs but no story after the event. I've contacted the paper for the pictures, etc. but they don't have a system of downloading it. I also had a brief interview with NPR. A Seattle reporter called me to see why small towns were involving themselves in the Ride of Silence. Thank you again. It was a very powerful event.

*Jean Byrne*

## **WENATCHEE, WA**

For our second ride it was great. Doubled our numbers....we had over 50.....we got noticed and that is the point.....I will take a more aggressive role next year and advertise to a much greater extent.

*Linda Haglund*

Director, Wenatchee Valley Sports Council

## **WISCONSIN**

### **GREEN BAY, WI**

We had rainy weather in Green Bay and only 25 riders showed. The ride went well and everyone thought it was a worthwhile experience. No media coverage. One problem rider that wanted to try and turn the ride into a "Critical Mass" type of ride.

*Kevin Kohrman*