

THE 2006 Report

THE 2006 REPORT TO LEAGUE-AFFILIATED CLUBS

Promoting and Protecting Your Rights as a Cyclist

In the Florida Courts

On March 30, 2006 the Boca Raton Bicycle Club, Bruce Rosenzweig, and the League entered a legal battle that has far-reaching implications for cyclists across the nation. That was the day we challenged the plans of the Florida Department of Transportation for reconstruction of a key roadway in Palm Beach County, Florida.

On September 1, an official letter of complaint was delivered accusing the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) of neglecting to follow their own roadway design guidelines along certain stretches of Route A1A near Boca Raton. As any club cyclist who has ridden this popular route will tell you, this is a critical roadway for everyday cyclists as well as club riders. There is space to add wide, frequently swept and maintained bike lanes and sidewalks along most of the corridor. Instead, a handful of influential homeowners (who themselves have encroached on the public right-of-way) have persuaded FDOT to ignore their own manuals and put in sub-standard bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, such as three-foot unmarked shoulders that will be swept only once or twice a year.

The case is important for cyclists like Bruce Rosenzweig who use this corridor every day—both as a cyclist and motorist. Palm Beach County has one of the worst crash records for cyclists and pedestrians in the nation, in part because roadway design hasn't kept up with use. The bike club sees the highway as a critical destination for rides in and of itself, and as a bellwether for what happens on other streets and highways as the county continues to grow. The League is concerned because Florida has set the national standard for the design of "complete streets" that accommodate all users. If the DOT is allowed to ignore its own standards in this case, it sets a terrible precedent.

A decision in the case is expected in the coming weeks. A victory will force FDOT to follow
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On the Road:

Thanks to all the clubs and advocacy groups that have given us the chance to ride and meet with you so far this year. We've learned a lot from all of you:

Charles River Wheelmen
(Boston, MA)
Vancouver Bicycle Club
(Vancouver, WA)
Silicon Valley Bicycle
Coalition (San Jose, CA)
Coastal City Cyclists
(Charleston, SC)
Spartanburg Freewheelers
(Spartanburg, SC)
Narragansett Bay Wheelmen
(Rhode Island)
Capitol City Bicycle Club
(Olympia, WA)
Greater Arizona Bicyclists
Association (Tucson, AZ)
Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists
(Phoenix, AZ)

And the numerous clubs and groups involved in events such as:

Cycle Across Maryland
TOSRV (Columbus, Ohio)
Ride of Silence (Dallas, Texas)
Harlem Valley Rail Ride
(New York)



Narragansett Bay Wheelmen Support Education and Legal Programs

Our year got off to great start with the news that the Narragansett Bay Wheelmen was contributing \$1,500 to each of our education and legal programs. The gift was enough to formally kick-off our revamped legal program, and to support two LCI seminars (which means 20 more certified instructors on the street). Bill Nesper, our education program manager, followed up by riding with the club in May on the annual "League Birthday Ride" in and around Newport, RI. The Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club is hosting a bicycle-friendly community training in October to help Omaha become a better place to bike.

their bicyclist-friendly design guide. Better yet, a victory will let other states know they can't neglect cyclists' rights and ignore community benefits at the behest of a few wealthy homeowners.

In the California Courts

An equally critical lawsuit is playing out on the other coast. There, cyclist and runner David Prokop is taking on the City of Los Angeles because poor trail design caused him a serious injury when riding the LA River Trail some years ago. Once again, the principles at stake are huge. The California Association of Bicycling Organizations (CABO) and John Forester have joined forces with Prokop because his case highlights a long-standing miscarriage of justice that sets the duty of care for paved trail design in California at an astonishingly low level.

The League will be filing an amicus brief in support of Prokop because, once again, the precedent set by California has national implications, and directly affects the safety of millions of cyclists in California. There is no excuse for allowing poor trail design to be the norm in a state where bicycling is more established than in almost any other.



In the Criminal Courts

Barely a day goes by without us hearing of a cyclist being killed on the road in terrible circumstances. Indeed, we learned just recently that the number of cyclists killed annually in traffic crashes has risen dramatically in the past two years from 620 to 780. An increasing number of them seem to involve distracted drivers, drivers who are unlicensed and/or uninsured, and drivers who simply aren't paying the necessary attention to where they are going.

Responding to these tragedies is tough. In the past year we've written to prosecutors and judges to support tough charges and sentencing—and still we read of drivers being rapped on the knuckles for taking the life of a cyclist. We've helped set up memorial funds and have dedicated a page on our website to victims of car-bike crashes. We rode in the Ride of Silence in Dallas this May, and have highlighted the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin's Ghost Bikes program in our publications.

Most recently, we have established a network of lawyers who specialize in handling personal injury cases involving bicyclists—and we plan to extend this to include expert witnesses in the near future. This legal services directory can help cyclists determine what to do if they are involved in a car-bike collision.

We have also launched a page on our website where you can find your state vehicle code and driver's manual to see just what is expected of drivers and cyclists on the road in your state.

Bicyclists aren't the only ones who suffer from the complacency that allows dangerous driving to go unchecked. We are committed to making common cause with traffic safety advocates such as MADD as well as with motorcyclists, pedestrians and even drivers who are victims of errant drivers themselves. We encourage you to do likewise at the local level.

In the Court of Public Opinion—We Speak Up for Cyclists!

The task of changing attitudes about cycling also requires a consistent public message that cycling and cyclists should be encouraged. In 2006, as part of our Share the Road Campaign, we partnered with Clear Channel Communications to produce two radio PSAs promoting cycling. Our online media center now includes six radio PSAs, two television PSAs and resources for making your own.

Finally, another tool we've built to assist clubs and advocacy groups is our on-line Advocacy Center. You'll see that we've taken the pain out of writing to your elected officials and even your local government agencies by providing all the addresses, e-mails and contact information. This year we've helped state and local advocacy groups and clubs change laws and protect cyclists rights to the road in New York City; Anna and Dallas, Texas; Colorado; Arizona; New Jersey; South Dakota; Massachusetts; and Maryland. Take a look and see how the On-line Advocacy Center can help you.

Education Program Kicks into Gear

We recognize how important bike education and safety are to League-affiliated bicycle clubs. We have reached out to clubs with new offerings and increased the number of nationwide seminars to certify League Cycling Instructors. Here are some of the highlights:

Enjoy the Ride DVD

Club cyclists have the opportunity to set a shining example of appropriate riding behavior for others—motorists included. The League of American Bicyclists new 22 minute DVD, *Enjoy the Ride*, is the perfect teaching aid for new and veteran club members.

Hosted by Selene Yeager, and developed for use by League Cycling Instructors, this DVD teaches people how to ride confidently in and out of traffic. Topics include the pre-ride checklist, bicycle handling skills, and techniques for riding in traffic. This is something every club member and ride leader should see—and we've even done an 8-minute executive summary version which is perfect for showing at the next club meeting or banquet.

Certifying the Next Generation of League Cycling Instructors

League Cycling Instructors (LCI) are the backbone of the BikeEd program. That is why so far this year we have conducted 18 LCI

seminars which have certified 180 instructors. There are more than 850 LCIs throughout the country. Many are active club members and all are available to help clubs set up a new club member safety course or ride leader training.



What Have We Done for You Lately?

In addition to the many activities described in this issue of the *Cue Sheet*, we've also kept on improving our basic club program elements. The Club Insurance Program has better coverage and is easier to access; we've hosted Club Rep conference calls on evenings and weekends as well as during the workday; we've greatly enhanced the "Find It" features of our website to send traffic to your club and events; and we've opened a Club Corner on the website to put information on all these services in one place.

100% Behind the League?

Members of the Boca Raton Bicycle Club are —because every BRBC member is also a League member.

That's right, we have resurrected the 100% Club program, whereby for \$10 on top of club dues, all your members receive the benefits of League membership as well those of the Club.

Your members get a great deal, and we get a whole lot more clout in Washington DC and in legislatures and city councils across the country.

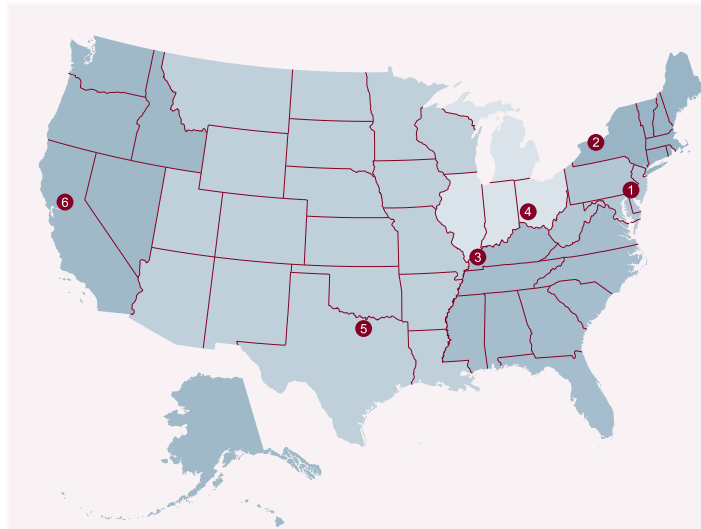
If you aren't quite ready for that, we encourage you to include a League membership form in your newsletter and on your website. Go to bikeleague.org/members/club to download the form.



League of American Bicyclists
1612 K Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006-2850
E-mail: bikeleague@bikeleague.org
Phone: 202-822-1333
Fax: 202-822-1334
Web: www.bikeleague.org

Club of the Year

Does your club have what it takes to be recognized as a club of the year? This awards program recognizes contributions to the community made by a league-affiliated bicycle club or advocacy organization. One club is honored in each of the six regions that elect a League board member. Winners will be hand-picked by the League board member in your region—so check the website or magazine for their e-mail address and get your nomination in by December 1. Awards for 2006 will be announced on January 15th, 2007 and will be published in the 2007 Almanac issue of *American Bicyclist*.



2005 Winners

- Region 1:** Rochester Bicycle Club
- Region 2:** Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Region 3:** Louisville Bicycle Club
- Region 4:** Dayton Bicycling Club
- Region 5:** Plano Bicycle Association
- Region 6:** Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates

2006 Nominations and Criteria

1. Nominations can be submitted by any party.
2. A 100-word nomination letter must be sent by email to the board member in the region the club is located in by December 1.
3. The nominated club or organization must be currently affiliated with the League.
4. Nominees must have:
 - a) achieved outstanding growth and/or development in membership, rides and/or programs in the past two years;
 - b) made significant contribution to their community;
 - c) improved conditions for bicyclists in their community;
 - d) made the most of their affiliation with the League of American Bicyclists.

Board email addresses can be found at bikeleague.org/about

2007 Dates to Remember

National Bike Summit
March 14-16

Don't miss the 2007 National Bike Summit. THINK: BIKE. Join us March 14-16 in Washington DC. Help us establish a National Bicycling Strategy.

BikeEd 2007
The National Conference
June 14-16

Discover the latest programs, techniques and resources for teaching bicycle skills to all ages in Austin, Texas.

LAB National Rally
November 16-18

Join thousands of fellow cyclists at El Tour de Tucson as the League rally heads to the southwest. We'll have a full program of rides and you'll discover why Tucson, AZ is a "gold" bicycle-friendly community.