

# Club Update



April 2005

## Bicyclists File to Defend Bicyclists' Rights

The League of American Bicyclists and leading bicycling clubs in Kentucky filed an Amicus brief in the Kentucky Supreme Court, March 28, 2005 to defend the rights of Kentucky bicyclists on the Commonwealth's roads. The case arose from a jury decision that a bicyclist seriously injured by a passing motorist (pulling two trailers) should not have been there and should have stopped and gotten out of the way while the motorist passed. The case was joined by the Louisville Bicycle Club, Ashland Cycling Enthusiasts, Bluegrass Cycling Club, Bowling Green League of Bicyclists and Chain Reaction

Cycling Club in Paducah.

The filing was prepared by Victor Maddox, a member of the Louisville Bicycle Club and partner in the firm of Tachau Maddox Hovious & Dickens, PLC in Louisville. The Amici Curiae and Motion to File are available at <http://www.bikeleague.org/documents/AmiciCuriae.pdf> and <http://www.bikeleague.org/documents/MotionForBrief.pdf> for your information. The brief was filed March 28. We do not yet know when the Supreme Court will hear the case.

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## Clear Channel Radio Disciplines Sacramento DJs

If there is any good news to come out of more offensive remarks from radio show hosts about bicyclists, it is the prompt and decisive action taken by Clear Channel executives in response to the latest outburst. DJs on Sacramento's KSTE station made light of swerving at bicyclists during a morning broadcast, February 24. Within a matter of days, Clear Channel responded by taking the hosts off-air, apologizing for the remarks, broadcasting bicycle safety PSAs, and adding bicycle safety information on the station home page.

Andy Clarke, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists, welcomed the prompt

response from Clear Channel. "Almost 18 months ago we agreed on a protocol for responding to such incidents – this is the first time it has been tested and Clear Channel has been as good as its word. Their quick and firm response prevented the situation escalating. We hope KSTE and the local Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates can turn this unfortunate incident into a long term win for bicycle safety." For more information, please visit [www.bikeleague.org/mediacenter/radioresponse.html](http://www.bikeleague.org/mediacenter/radioresponse.html)  
[www.sacbike.org](http://www.sacbike.org)  
[www.talk650kste.com](http://www.talk650kste.com)

## Illinois Bicyclists Fixin' to Fix Boub vs Wayne Case

The League of Illinois Bicyclists and Chicago-Illinois Bicycle Federation are firing on all cylinders to gather support for House Bill 2390, sponsored by Elaine Nekritz (D-Des Plaines) and Randy Hultgren (R-Winfield). This is a compromise bill to finally fix the problems caused by the 1998 "Boub" case in which bicyclists were

determined NOT to be intended and permitted users of the roadway in Illinois. This decision has had serious repercussions on the willingness of local governments to take any action to accommodate bicyclists.

## Letter from the League's Executive Director, Andy Clarke

### HOME MECHANIC:

As the warmer weather moves in, most of us want to spend more time riding and less time tuning our bikes. Keeping a regular maintenance schedule will prevent the costly off-season bill to resuscitate your bike. There are a few little things to remember to keep your bike in top shape.

Keep your tires inflated to the proper pressure. This little bit is one of the most overlooked things for cyclists. If you are not checking your tire pressure once a week, then you are probably riding on too low of pressure. A general rule of thumb is 100 PSI for a narrow tired road bike. Touring bikes and hybrids with wider tires should run 70-80 PSI. A mountain bike should run roughly 50-60 PSI when on the road, and less on trails for better traction. As always, check your individual tire's pressure ratings on the sidewalls and adjust accordingly.

Buy a small home chain-cleaner to clean and re-lubricate your chain frequently. A clean chain will do more than you imagined to increase your efficiency. A clean chain will operate at 98% efficiency. However that rating decreases quickly as the chain gets dirtier. Removing grit from your chain will also decrease wear on your chain and gears and prolong the time between changing.

Greetings! Spring has finally sprung in Washington, DC and we're looking forward to a great summer of riding. Folks in the office here are training for triathlons, racing in national-level teams, and gearing up for Bike New York in just a few weeks. And, you'll be pleased to know, the majority of staff ride to work most of the time!

I'm delighted to report that club affiliations with the League are at a high point: more than 480 clubs and 60 advocacy groups are currently members, up by more than 50 from just a few months ago. I'd like to think that's a result of the increased level of service and interaction that we're having with you - in recent months we have

- started this newsletter
- e-mailed you a regular [short] e-update
- established a listserv for club leaders
- reinstated the club phone call, and
- improved the club insurance package

Your feedback on all of this activity really is welcomed and invited.

Let us know if this is too much, not enough, not the right stuff, etc. And, please feel free to re-use the material we are sending you on your own club websites and in your own club newsletters.

In this Club Update you'll find a lot of good information. On the cover are three great examples of important steps being taken to safeguard our rights to the road. I'm delighted that the League has been able to work with local clubs and advocacy groups in each of these situations - and if there's an issue with which we can help you, please let us know.

There are also numerous activities in which you and your club can participate. I'd particularly draw your attention to the following opportunities to:

- register your club's rides and National Bike Month events at [www.bikemonth.com](http://www.bikemonth.com) and take advantage of the free materials and national promotions on offer there
- designate one of your club's signature rides as an Anniversary or Birthday Ride for the League

- send a delegation of your club members to the 125th Anniversary Ride in Providence, RI, June 10-12. Visit [www.nbwclub.org](http://www.nbwclub.org) for more details
- It still isn't too late to send someone to attend the Bicycle Educational Leaders Conference in New York City, May 2-4. [www.bikeleague.org/events](http://www.bikeleague.org/events).

Watch your mailbox for more detailed information about these and other exciting activities - you may have already received a packet.

Finally, please note the exciting news that "Patches are Back!". This isn't a spoof - unlike the lead story about LAW on April 1st on our website - we really do have a patch for sale to commemorate the 125th birthday. We thought it entirely appropriate to issue a special patch for this milestone in our history. We won't be re-instituting the patch program permanently, so buy now while you still can!

Now, get out and go for a ride....

Andy Clarke

## Ride with increased confidence with a BikeED class

Ride better and with more confidence this year: take one of the League's BikeEd classes. Over 500 League Cycling Instructors are scheduling classes during the spring all over the country. Classes are already scheduled in Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Washington. Please contact the League of American Bicyclists at (202) 822-

1333 or click [www.bikeleague.org/instructors/courses.cfm](http://www.bikeleague.org/instructors/courses.cfm) for upcoming courses in your area, or contact a League Cycling Instructor by calling the League or clicking [www.bikeleague.org/instructors/index.cfm](http://www.bikeleague.org/instructors/index.cfm).

A Road I course is perfect for ride leaders who want to become more conscious of the safety hab-

its they already know and practice without even thinking. Road I will help you instruct those new or less experienced riders you may be leading, in group-ride etiquette and roadway positioning. Road I Courses can be specially tailored to serve the needs of club ride leaders.

## League Board election ballots are in the Spring magazine

The Spring issue of the League's magazine will begin mailing on Friday, April 15. Inside will be an election ballot for positions on the League's Board of Directors. We encourage all League members to

learn about the candidates and to vote in the upcoming election. The deadline for return of election ballots will be June 6, 2005. Please visit the League's website to learn more about the candi-

dates and how you can vote in the election.

<http://www.bikeleague.org/members/electioncandidates2005.htm>

## Celebrate the League's 125th Anniversary with us

How You Can Join the Celebration!

You probably know the story by now. On May 31, 1880, a group of bicycling enthusiasts and business leaders met in Newport, Rhode Island to establish the League of American Wheelmen. For twenty years or more, the League was a powerful political presence, literally paving the way for our national highway system. The bicycle itself was a transformative vehicle – forever changing social norms and spawning much of the technology we now take for granted in planes and automobiles.

Granted, the following 100 years was a bit tougher on bicycling as a means of travel! However, we now have the enviable task of

celebrating our 125th anniversary. We're planning some signature national events to do just that – but the best part of celebration should be, with your help, at the local level. A birthday party of this significance is the perfect opportunity to educate the non-bicycling world about the joys of riding we take for granted, and to share with people the amazing story of the bicycle.

Here are some ways we invite you to join the celebration of the League's 125th anniversary.

- Come to the 125th Anniversary Weekend Ride in Providence, R.I., June 10-12. The Narragansett Bay Wheelmen ([www.nbwclub.org](http://www.nbwclub.org)) are hosting a series of rides, includ-

ing a trip to Newport, in conjunction with the Cox Cycling Classic on June 12. Join us for this great weekend of bicycling.

- Designate a club ride as a special 125th Birthday Ride. We'd be honored, and we'd love it even more if you'd consider a \$1.25 per rider contribution to the League!
- Buy the 125th Anniversary Patch! (see details in this Update)
- Highlight the history of your club or notable local cycling events through the years in your own club website and newsletters.

## National Bike Month™, starts in less than three weeks!

The month kicks off in style in New York City with Bike New York, the Great Five Boro Bike Tour on May 1, featuring 30,000 riders touring the five boroughs of New York City. Immediately following this is the Bicycle Education Leaders Conference, also in New York City, May 2-4.

Visit these sites to:

- List your National Bike Month event

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

- Sign up for Bike New York at [www.bikennyork.org](http://www.bikennyork.org)
- Register for the Bicycle Education Leaders Conference at [www.bikeleague.org/events](http://www.bikeleague.org/events)
- Order your Bike to Work Week posters and supplies at

[www.bikemonth.com/supplies.htm](http://www.bikemonth.com/supplies.htm)

- Find out more about Bike to Work Week at [www.bike-to-work.com](http://www.bike-to-work.com)
- Discover details of BikeTown events in 20 communities at [www.bicycling.com/biketown](http://www.bicycling.com/biketown)

## “Bike the Strike”- Pedal power can help Philadelphia travel

The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia announced plans to help thousands of stranded Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) commuters “Bike the Strike” on June 15. “If there is a SEPTA strike, avoid the stress of huge rush hour traffic jams and ride your bike to work,” said Bicycle Coalition President Dennis Winters.

To help new bicycle commuters,

the Bicycle Coalition is partnering with Philadelphia's bike shops to provide free bicycle safety checks. Bring your bicycle to any shop in Philadelphia and get your tires filled to the correct tire pressure, get your chain oiled and make sure your bike is mechanically safe.

Free Philadelphia Bicycle Maps will also be available at bike shops. “Philadelphia is a great

city to bicycle in, especially if you avoid streets with lots of automobile traffic,” said Alex Doty, Bicycle Coalition Executive Director. “Our bike maps can help you take advantage of more than 190 miles of bike lanes in the city.”

For more information about how to get the word out in your area, please contact [www.bicyclecoalition.org](http://www.bicyclecoalition.org).

Share your experience with others. Join the League's Club Leaders listserve to exchange ideas and advice with other advocacy and club leaders.

<http://lists.topica.com/lists/Leagueclubleader>

### **Patches Are Back!**

**This is not a mis-print. The League has a new patch available The League is celebrating it's 125th anniversary with this commemorative patch that is in-stock and ready to ship. Supplies will be limited, so we encourage you to place your orders now by phone or by visiting the League's website at [www.bikeleague.org/commerce/Store.htm](http://www.bikeleague.org/commerce/Store.htm) Cost is determined by the size of your order and could be as inexpensive as \$1 each, depending on the quantity. Below is a graphic of the patch design.**





**Working for a bicycle-friendly America**

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## **Club Rep Update**

**2005 Insurance Information is available online at [www.bikeleague.org/members/info\\_for\\_clubs.htm](http://www.bikeleague.org/members/info_for_clubs.htm)**

The League mailed insurance information to all of our affiliated Clubs and Advocacy Organizations in late January. This same information is also available online at **[www.bikeleague.org/members/info\\_for\\_clubs.htm](http://www.bikeleague.org/members/info_for_clubs.htm)** for you to download and print. Please take a moment to view all of the information here and let us know if there are other ways that we can help you get League's information. If you have any specific policy questions do not hesitate to contact us or American Specialty directly at (800) 245-2744.

**Post all of your upcoming events on the League's website!** The League's Ride Guide receives over a million hits a month, 44,000 hits per day! Don't miss out on your chance to advertise your ride event to the public. Go to **[www.bikeleague.org/members/post\\_rideguide.htm](http://www.bikeleague.org/members/post_rideguide.htm)** to see directions for posting your event.

A printable .pdf version of this newsletter is available online at [www.bikeleague.org/members/newsletter.htm](http://www.bikeleague.org/members/newsletter.htm)

### **Dates to remember;**

#### **May 2005– National Bike Month**

**May 2-4, 2005– Bicycle Education Leaders Conference, New York, NY**

**May 13-15, 2005 LCI training seminar in Denver, CO**

**May 16-20, 2005 Bike to Work Week**

**May 18, 2005– Ride of Silence- at various locations across the US**

**May 20, 2005– Bike-to-Work Day**

**May 20-22, 2005 LCI Training Seminar in Oklahoma City, OK**

**June 10-12, 2005– Narragansett Bay Wheelmen host the League's 125th anniversary**

**June 10-12, 2005 LCI Training Seminar in Springfield, MO**

**June 17-19, 2005 LCI Training Seminar in Spokane, WA**

**June 24-26, 2005 LCI Training Seminar in Carmel, IN**

**Please visit [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org) for more details on these and other events**