

# Eagle Cycling Club

February 2018 Newsletter





## The Eagle Cycling Club

provides local cyclists with a variety of riding experiences. Our members can be seen on the road, in the hills, on tandems, and pulling kids along in trailers.

[eaglecyclingclub.org](http://eaglecyclingclub.org)

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Cover Photo: Skellenger Rd. 2/4/18 by Tim Thulin

Pictures and articles for the newsletter are welcome! Please submit them to [anothergarcia@gmail.com](mailto:anothergarcia@gmail.com) before the end of the month.



**Our next meeting: Monday March 12th at 7pm, Downtown Joes**

**Stop by at 6:30 for some social time!**

## Mountain Bike Hall of Fame Fairfax, Ca

Last Saturday I gave myself the day off from grading papers, and creating lesson plans. I decided to go do something I have wanted to do for years, go visit the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame in Fairfax, Ca. (Also known as Marin Museum of Bicycling). The MBHoF moved to the Fairfax location in 2015 from Crested Butte, CO. Although there is still a MBHoF museum in Crested Butte, CO, so be careful with the GPS location when you plan your trip!

The move to Marin made a lot of sense, since it was on top of Mt. Tamalpais that the sport we call mountain biking got its start. If you have never heard the story of the Repackers, (They were called Repackers because the grease would burn off in their coaster brake hubs after one run down the trail, and they would have to “repack” the bearings with grease). I would suggest checking out the documentary film *Klunkers* which I believe the club has a copy of at Bicycle Works in our DVD library. The short version is that many now familiar names started adapting mid-40's Schwinn heavy weight cruisers to ride them downhill as fast as they could, and eventually adapting them to ride back up the hill comfortably. Names like Gary Fisher, Tom Ritchey, Steve Potts, Joe Breeze, Charlie Cunningham, and Charlie Kelly.

The Marin museum has some amazing history stored within its walls. Charlie Kelly has become the historian of the Repackers, and had saved a large amount of the earliest records, and memorabilia. Kelly was the publisher of the first mountain bike specific magazine the *Fat Tire Flyer* which ran from 1980-1984ish.

Within the walls of the museum you get to see original bicycles dating back to the 1860's, Penny Farthing (Big Wheels), Safety Tricycles, and the first “Safety Bicycles” what we now call a bicycle. There is also an impressive collection of road bikes dating back to the 1950's. Many of the first true mountain bike frame builders (Breeze, and Ritchey) got their start by building and racing road bikes in the 1970's.

I spent a couple of hours just absorbing all of the history, and beauty in the machines. I talked with Marc, the President of the Board who was active in the early Repacker scene. There are plenty of stories to be shared between our club and the museum. I would like to organize a club outing, some Sunday when Joe Breeze is normally there. We can bring from our club archives copies of any photos members have from those early mountain biking days. I know Bob H., Tim T., Walt C. and Mike J. were all involved. If you are interested in joining me for a day in Marin, let me know!

Enjoy some of the pictures I took from the museum!





The earliest original bike they have, and one of the first to include pedals

Dating back to the early to mid 1800's, this bike features would spokes, and rims, with a band of steel around the outer edge.



This is one of the larger Ordinary or "Penny Farthing bicycles". The wheel is close to 60" in diameter, so it could only be ridden by someone with 34" long legs! The larger the wheel, the faster these bicycles went. They were prone to flipping forward, causing the rider to take a "header".



This bike is an early "Safety" bicycle, featuring a shaft drive (no chain). The famous African American racer Major Taylor raced on a similar bicycle later in his career. Looking at these older bike it is easy to see that there hasn't been much that has changed over the last 130 years!







A display of early Repacker bikes. They loved early 1940's Schwinn's because of the high bottom brackets, and sturdy frames. They would tear off any extra accessories to make the bikes as light as possible. Riding downhill with only a coaster brake. Later models they added hand brakes, and gears.



This is Otis Guy's Repacker bike. Recently Peter Sagan came out for a ride and got to experience what it was like to be a Repacker on this bike with Guy. He was amazed at what it took to control the bike.



Here we see one of the first bicycles specifically designed to be a mountain bike. Built by Joe Breeze. He built 10 of this original series (Series 1 or Mark 1). Most of them were bought by original Repackers, Joe's is in the Smithsonian, and I think this one is Charlie Kelly's.



I need content for the newsletter, please send me pictures from your rides, fun activities that you did, or any questions about cycling in the area. Creating this newsletter is difficult without the help of the club!

## Ride Schedule

This schedule tries to capture all regular rides happening in or around Napa, regardless of who leads or sponsors them. Not all of the rides on the schedule are led or sponsored by the Eagle Cycling Club.

Eagle Cycling Club rides are rated by the pace, terrain, and mileage range as follows:

**Pace:** (1) Easy (8-12-MPH) (2) Moderate (12-15 MPH) (3) fast (16+ MPH)

**Terrain:** (A) Mostly flat (B) Rolling (C) Some hills (D) Hilly (E) Mountains

For example, a ride described as 1/A/15-25 would be a ride at an easy (1) pace, on a mostly flat (A) course, for 15-25 miles. A ride described as 2/C-D/40-60 would be a ride at a moderate (2) pace, on a course with hills (C) that might be steep or sustained (D), for 40-60 miles. For a full description of the ratings, download the [Ride Classifications Document](#).

## Eagle Cycling Club Rides

### **Saturdays**

**9:00 a.m.** Variable route

Variable route with a monthly set rotation. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Browns Valley Market, 3263 Browns Valley Rd. For more info contact Doug Pettie at [415-747-6965](tel:415-747-6965) or [dap1000000@aol.com](mailto:dap1000000@aol.com).

1st Sat: Carneros Loop, 2-B-25

2nd Sat: Avenues Loop, 2-B-30

3rd Sat: Dry Creek Rd, 2-C/D-25/45

4th Sat: Dead End Ride, 2-B/C/D-20/45

5th Sat: Special Ride outside Napa, 2-C/D-40/60 (carpool from the market)

### **Sundays**

**10:00 a.m.** Variable route, 2/C-E/30-60.

Now the only ECC Sunday ride. Variable route. May be significant climbing. Meet at Bicycle Works, 3335 Solano Avenue. No drop policy, frequent regrouping. Actual ride time varies with ride mileage. For more information contact Jim Fitch/Genny Fox [707-226-5038](tel:707-226-5038).

### **Tuesdays**

**10:00 a.m.** Variable route, 3/A-E/40-50

Meet in the parking lot by the Ranch Market at the corner of Wine Country Ave and Solano Ave at 9:00 a.m. The ride will be 40-50 miles at an average speed of 18-21 mph.



For more information contact Ron Lemos at [707-294-2796](tel:707-294-2796).

### **Wednesdays**

**8:30 a.m. SHARP!** Carneros loop, 1-2/B/20.

A leisurely two hour ride in the Carneros district. No drop policy. We regroup regularly, and usually takes a group photo at the “Pigs 4 Sale” sign. Meet at Dwight Murray Plaza, at the infamous missing clock tower, on First between Main and Coombs. Refreshments at the Model Bakery afterwards. Rain cancels. For more information, call Bob Hillhouse at 707-253-7000 or 707-252-1246.

**5:00 p.m.** Mt. Veeder loop, 2-3/D/20.

The classic clockwise Mt. Veeder loop. Meet at the corner of Browns Valley Road and Redwood Road. Go over Mt. Veeder and return via Dry Creek Road. Optional return with the 6:00 p.m. counter-clockwise ride. No leader.

**6:00 p.m.** Variable Route, 2/D/20-25.

Usually a counter-clockwise Mt. Veeder loop, going out on Dry Creek Rd., and returning on Redwood Rd. Meet at Bicycle Works, 3335 Solano Avenue. Bring lights in the winter. During the winter and on rainy days, we will go on a less hilly ride (usually a Carneros loop). This is a no drop ride, for all levels. For more information, contact Dave Pruett at Bicycle Works, 707-253-7000.

### **Thursdays**

**10:00 a.m.** Variable route, 3/A-E/40-50

Meet in the parking lot by the Ranch Market at the corner of Wine Country Ave and Solano Ave at 9:00 a.m. The ride will be 40-50 miles at an average speed of 18-21 mph. For more information contact Ron Lemos at [707-294-2796](tel:707-294-2796).

**5:30 p.m.** Variable route, 2-A/D-20/30.

This ride meets at Bicycle Works. The route will be determined by the group and the distance will be between 20 to 30 miles. Great warm up for the longer weekend rides. Lights will be needed during the winter months. This is a no drop ride and rain cancels the ride. For more information, contact Espen Jensen at [707-315-5114](tel:707-315-5114) or [espenjensen@mac.com](mailto:espenjensen@mac.com).

### **Fridays**

**8:30 a.m.** Bike Friday, 1-2/A/10

Bike Friday is an easy, mostly flat ride to Yountville via Solano Avenue. There is a yak stop at the structure at the end of Solano Avenue in Yountville. Alternate routes are planned impromptu from there. Some ride up-valley, some return via Solano Avenue to Napa for coffee at Panera. The up-valley groups tend to ride a bit faster. Occasionally, a group will ride up to Hennessey and do the Lower Chiles Valley loop. Rain cancels. For more information, contact Doug Cleveland at 707-252-3985, or [velobruin@att.net](mailto:velobruin@att.net).





## Classifieds

2016 Specialized Roubaix Comp Disc purchased 10/2016 from Napa Cycle Sports. In great condition. **No wheels. \$1700 or best offer.** Email Claus: [themaddane@gmail.com](mailto:themaddane@gmail.com)



2010 Electra "Hawaii" women's beach cruiser. Purchased 10/2010 from The Hub. My wife has ridden this exactly 3 times for approx. 200 yards! It's like new. \$200 or best offer.

Email Claus: [themaddane@gmail.com](mailto:themaddane@gmail.com)





**As always, ride safely, and happy cycling!**



The wall of vintage road bikes at the Marin Museum of Bicycling or MBHoF. Many of the early mountain bike builders (Breeze, and Ritchey) were trained by Albert Eisentraut, one of the most famous frame builders in California.

**Photo by A Garcia**

TJ Perry and the Forest Trail Alliance have been busy building trails around Napa County. Here is a screenshot of a new trail going in at Moore Creek Park.

**Screenshot by A Garcia, Video by TJ Perry**



Link to [Eagle Cycling Club Ride Calendar](#)

### **Upcoming Centuries:**

For a list of the upcoming season's century rides, visit the following links:

<http://www.bbcnet.com/RideCalendar/default.aspx>  
<http://www.bikecal.com/asp/century-result.asp>.

### **Ever wanted to lead a ride of your own?**

Now you can! We are always looking for more ride leaders, particularly for slower-paced family fun rides. For more info on scheduling a new ride, contact Doug Pettie at [dap1000000@aol.com](mailto:dap1000000@aol.com).

**President:** Chris Lougee  
**Vice President:** Alex Innocent  
**Treasurer:** Genny Fox  
**Secretary:** Richard Pastcan  
**Co-Treasurer:** Kelly Pepper  
**Webmaster:** Nancy Tracy  
**Newsletter Editor:** Andre Garcia  
**Ride Schedule Chair:** Doug Pettie

**Membership Chair:** Bob Hillhouse  
**Skyline Park Representative:** T.J. Perry  
**Tour of Napa Valley Director:** Co-Chairs Linda McFeely, Bob Frappia  
**Cherry Pie Criterium Director:** Felix Riesenberg

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