



An Advocacy Organization

**Advocacy and Education** for Arizona Bicyclists

**CAZB**  
Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

## Sprocketeer Newsletter

September 2008 Volume 2, Issue 3

### First Bicyclist to Officially Ride the Light Rail Reports In

On March 21, Friends of Transit hosted a rail conference at Metro Light-Rail's Maintenance Facility (South of Washington Avenue off of 48th Street in Phoenix). Many of the movers and shakers that have helped bring L-R to the Valley of the Sun gave talks and then, just before lunch, the "Godfather" of M-L-R, US Congressman Ed Pastor spoke for a few minutes.

Following lunch, we were treated to a ride around the maintenance yard on a two-car train. Please see the photo. Since I had pedaled to the conference, I had my bike  
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*Gene Holmerud during the rail conference*



### T.I.M.E. Initiative Challenged by Secretary of State

*from the CAzBike board*

Our Secretary of State, Jan Brewer, has ruled more than 42% of the signatures collected were not valid. So the 261,000 submitted, less 42%, amount to less than the required 153,365. Besides the 40 or 50 I collected (mostly cyclists) and some by members of the

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### Phoenix to Get Rail Trail?

*Gene Holmerud*

About the middle of 2007, Union Pacific Railroad abandoned an industrial spur that led from just south of Chase Field to the north bank of the Salt River then extended to numerous warehouses located near the bank as far as about 30th Street.

It was originally built by the Southern Pacific RR, but in 1996,

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### Driver sentenced for killing bicyclist

Last year Valley cyclist Robert Walmsley was struck and killed by a hit and run teen driver. After fleeing the scene the driver's family attempted to hide the vehicle. A witness followed the fleeing vehicle and wrote down the license number. This ultimately resulted in recovery of the vehicle and arrest of then 16 y/o Victor Mejia. The time lag between the incident

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## Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

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Membership Coordinator: Alison Van Uum

Mountain Bike Representative: Tad Fagerholm

Safe Routes to School Coordinator: Heather Fowler

### Monthly Meeting

Everyone welcome

3rd Monday of every month

7PM

VA Hospital

Call ahead for directions or you'll get lost 602-686-1302

### Subscriptions / Renewals

Membership Rates:

\$25 Individual

\$30 Family

\$200 Organizations

To find out when your CAzB Membership expires:

Look at the address label. To the left of your name you will see a date in the format of YYYYMMDD to indicate the year, month and day your membership expires.

Send your check to CAzB at:

P.O. Box 54488, Phoenix, AZ 85078-4488

Thank You!

# Legislation

## Under 20?

### New laws will affect teens

Charles Sobczak  
DrivingMBA

The Teen Age Driver Safety Act (TDSA) became law on July 1, 2008. The law is weak, in that it is a secondary law like our seat belt law. Meaning law enforcement can't pull you over unless you've broken a primary law like speeding, improper lane changes without signaling or not coming to a complete stop before turning on red. You get the picture. As a law it allows us the opportunity to go back to our legislators and prove that those states that have enacted stronger legislation, ***coupled with better educational and training resources***, have significantly reduced serious injuries and fatalities amongst novice teen drivers in those states.

#### Components of the New Law are:

- Teens born January 1, 1993 or after will be eligible for their permit at 15 years and 6 months.
- Any teen under the age of 18 who receives their license after July 1, 2008 will be affected by the new law. The new law states that for the first 6 months of licensure they are only allowed to have one

non-family member teen passenger in their vehicle and are restricted from driving between the hours of 12:00 am and 5:00 am.

The GTSAC subcommittee wanted cell phones restrictions in the original TDSA but our legislators would not hear of it. Today cell phone usage continues to be a growing problem among drivers, especially teens.

**"GTSAC subcommittee wanted cell phones restrictions in the original TDSA but our legislators would not hear of it"**

An article in the Arizona Republic titled "Study: Many teen drivers ignore cell phone laws" says that even though laws have passed restricting

cell phone use while driving, teens disregard the law and continue to do so.

"People don't want to be inaccessible for even 15 minutes driving up the street," said Jeannie Harrison, a sophomore. In her eyes, the social lives of most teens revolve around their cell phones.

Researchers conducted a study in North Carolina to see just how many teens obeyed the law when leaving school. They concluded that high school students used their cell phones at the same rate as before the law took effect.

Bottom line, ***parents need*** to be more engaged in their child's driver training and enforcement of the restrictions that you want your child to adhere to for their safety and the safety of others. Not just for the permit and licensing phase but for several years after. Why? According to the NHTSA research it takes five years to become an experienced driver. ***Parents get involved*** if you want to lower the odds of your child being involved in a serious injury or fatality crash. Isn't your child worth your involvement? 🚲

Charles Sobczak can be contacted at 602-300-1793



# CAzB in Motion

## Indian Bend Wash Trail Improvements Promised

Scottsdale Senior Traffic Planner Reed Kempton reports that improvements are on the way for the section between Osborn and Indian School Road. The pesky spot where several crashes have occurred will be resurfaced and water runoff will be rechanneled.

## Letter of Support from CAzB for Federal Funding of:

- Scottsdale trail project to complete the canal path from 64<sup>th</sup> St to Goldwater Blvd, with a tunnel under Goldwater Blvd.
- A new project in Phoenix which includes:
  - A lane diet and restriping of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave from north Phoenix to the central city.
  - A canal bridge.

## Design of Canal Gates

CAzB along with officials from MAG, the City of Phoenix, and Tempe met with officials from SRP regarding the design of future canal vehicle gates. The new gates will allow users to stay on the pavement when passing the gates. Openings will not be on the water side. Gate visibility will be improved with bright reflective striping.

## Discussion of New Striping plan for 48<sup>th</sup> St.

CAzB has met with City of Phoenix officials encouraging a new striping plan for 48<sup>th</sup> St between Guadalupe Rd and Pecos Park. CAzB objects to current plans for lane edge striping to be added to 48<sup>th</sup> between Guadalupe and Piedmont. These stripes are much too narrow for a bike travel and have no markings designating bicycles. CAzB has encouraged the city to study the feasibility of shared lane markings, or a lane diet with real bike lanes.



*You call this a bike lane?  
No way is this a bike lane. Notice how  
handlebars are wider than the asphalt.*



## New Faces

**Tad Fagerholm** has accepted the position of Mountain Bike rep for CAzB. Tad has years of mountain bike and trail construction experience. His job will be to keep us informed of represent us to issues regarding off road cycling.

**Heather Fowler** has accepted the position of Safe Routes to School coordinator for CAzB. SRTS is a nationally funded program trying to get kids out of the car, walking, and on bikes to school. CAzB will provide bicycling expertise as a resource for school based programs.

**Alison Van Uum** has accepted the position of Membership Coordinator. We thank **Brian Judd** for his years of service.

## New Places

R S Matt has travelled twice this summer to Flagstaff. He participated in the City of Flagstaff's first Bicycle Town Hall. This event brought cyclists, city officials, and organizations such as our together to help shape Flagstaffs future.

Sharon and Radar Matt travelled again to represent CAzB to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Summit for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors. They staffed an expo booth passing along bicycling information to the attendees. Members Richard Corbett and Eric Post gave formal presentations.

2008 MAG Bicycle Maps are being distributed to Valley bike shops by CAzB. A committee led by Peter Mather organized the distribution. Peter has been selected to represent us at the Pro Bike/ Pro Walk conference in Seattle in September. 🚲

## No 19th Ave Exit on Rio Salado

In the Rio Salado Nature and Trail area, on the north bank of the Salt River, the trail is paved about half way from 7th Ave to 19th Ave. Despite signs indicating a 19th Ave exit, cyclists will encounter a high chain-link fence. The reason: too much thievery of copper wire.



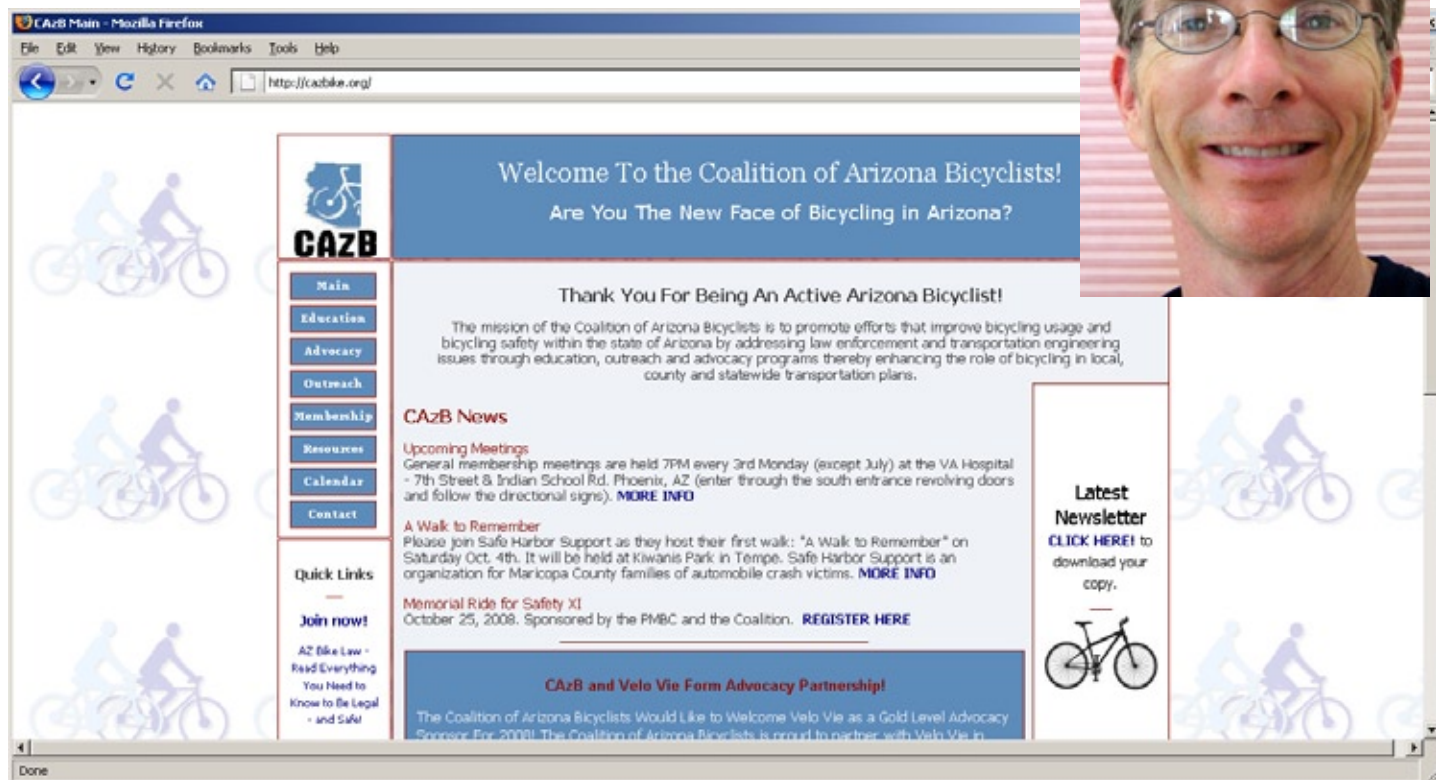
## Waiting for a Cazbike Jersey?

We will be placing an order in a few weeks. These jerseys are BRIGHT, and comfortable, and wear well! We hope to have a supply of popular sizes on hand by El Tour de Tucson! The price will be about \$70.

## Have you visited the newly redesigned CAzB website?

Ed Beighe recently took over the role of the webmaster Yeah, Ed!

Besides this site, Ed also runs [azbikelaw.org](http://azbikelaw.org) and a blog <http://azbikelaw.org/blog>. Both are informative.



## Driver sentenced for killing bicyclist

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and arrest made determination of chemical impairment impossible. June 13<sup>th</sup> the case of The State of Arizona vs. Victor Mejia was resolved. Mr Mejia was offered a plea bargain with the agreement of the Walmsley family. Mr.

Mejia, now 17, is being tried as an adult. He plead guilty to negligent homicide and leaving the scene of a serious injury accident. Both are felonies. He was sentenced to three years (less 144 days served) plus five years probation.

Cazbike was asked by the family to monitor the trial. Representatives were present at all proceedings. Cazbike wrote letters to the Judge and met with the prosecution. Board member Gene Holmerud provided testimony to the court. 🚲

## T.I.M.E. Initiative Challenged by Secretary of State

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Southwest Rail Corridor Coalition, nearly all of the rest were collected by paid workers.

However, Steve Farly is a solid supporter of it as well as being an AZ State Representative from the Tucson area. He advises that an appeal may be effective.

Let's hope so. Cycling and commuter rail need all the help we can get. I never said it was perfect or even really great, but that it would be far, far better than doing nothing, and because of the political process, 2012 will be the next chance for such a major

proposal. By then we will be mired in brown skies, paying for gas at something close to \$10 a gallon, and squandering hours and hours of our lives sitting in traffic. 🚲

# Fall Class Schedule

## Road 1 for Commuters and Beginners

**CAZ-101**

October 18-19, 2008

Our Nations' premiere street bicycling program taught by instructors certified by the League of American Bicyclists in Washington DC. Learn the basics of bicycle and helmet fit. Learn state bicycle laws. Learn how to predict and prevent crashes, and how to bail out as a last resort! Learn how to operate your bicycle in a skillful and confident manner, in any traffic-any time! This class is designed to be of value to new and veteran cyclists. This two day program includes a flat repair and lubrication module.



*The Instant Turn is just one technique you will learn at the Road 1 class*

## Road 1 for Experts

**CAZ-101-E**

October 25, 2008

Road 1 presented at an accelerated pace with maintenance and bicycle theory material omitted.

## Road 1 for Women

**CAZ-101W**

November 8-9, 2008

Road 1 taught by female instructors and mechanics. A History of the Bicycle- A Woman's Perspective is also presented.

## Basic Bicycle Maintenance

**CAZ-095**

December 6, 2008

Just the very basic skills you need to keep rolling. Tire repair, cleaning, lubrication, and cable adjustments. Approximately four hours.

## Mountain Bike Basics

**CAZ-102**

January 10, 2009

Not a stunt riding class!! Just the basics you need to know to get started riding the trails. Location to be determined.

### **Class times:**

Most classes begin at 7AM and end at 5PM

### **Cost:**

Free

### **Location:**

Veteran's Hospital unless noted otherwise

### **To sign up :**

visit <http://cazbike.org/BikeEd.htm>

or call 602 686.1302

# Volunteer Opportunity

*Sharon Newman-Matt*

*Phoenix Area Bike Patrol Director for Perimeter Bicycling*

I enjoy riding in the Perimeter Bicycling events, but I don't enjoy racing.

So what do I do? I joined the Bike Patrol.

I get the T shirt, the rest stops, the cheering crowds, the ride, the finishers medal, the bananas & bagels & I pay a reduced fee.

What do I have to do for this?

I take a bike patrol training class every other year. I help out at the start line. I provide to the riders (yes it is a timed event) minor medical & mechanical support as I am able. I help encourage them when they are running out of steam, and I cheer them on to the finish line.

Now you're wondering "Why belong to bike patrol?"

I enjoy the ride and I enjoy helping people. I want to share that joy with the other cyclists & to help them get in. Every member of the bike patrol team has their favorite story.

Let me tell you mine.

My husband (Radar) and I were riding as partners. At about the 30 mile we encountered a rider who had ripped his derailleur out of his frame. Radar was able to make it rideable...sort of... Radar made his bike into a single speed. We learned that this was his first El Tour de Tucson. He was going to ride it last year, but his bike had been stolen a week before the event. He continued on and we stopped to help some one else. We again caught up to him 5 miles from the end. The police had pulled him over. It was dark and he didn't have lights. We told the police officer that he could ride with us and our lights would let him complete the event. He was very grateful



**Bike Patrol Needs You**

for our help. He told us that 2 years before, he had been a Chicago police officer and that he had to take a medical retirement after being involved in a burglary and injured in a shoot out. This ride had been his goal as he faced his long recovery.

That was more than 10 events ago, and we have more stories. Just ask us. You don't need to be a mechanic or a medic! If you have a kind word, can change a flat, and take charge in a crisis, Bike Patrol is for you. Did I mention the bananas and bagels?

*If you have a kind word, can change a flat, and take charge in a crisis, Bike Patrol is for you.*

Ready to enlist? Enroll in either of these classes

9.29.08	6:30PM to 7:30 PM	Location: Phoenix VA Medical Center
10.30.08	6:30PM to 7:30 PM	650 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix
		6th floor waiting area

Please RSVP before noon of day of the class    602.686.1302    or    602.277.5551 x 7506



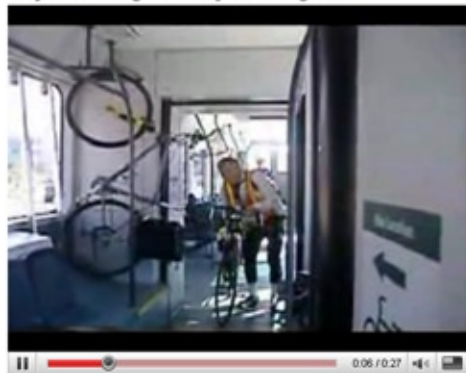
## First Cyclist on Rail


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with me. Each vehicle will have four racks. Most trains will be a consist of three vehicles. Thus up to 12 bicycles can be carried on each train. Note that the racks are internal, not on an outside-front, fold-down platform as is the case with Valley buses. In addition to the 12 racks, during off-peak hours, a cyclist may stand with their bike on the floor in the entry areas.

While this may have been the first “user” bicycle to “ride the rails”, Radar, Sharon and myself had an earlier experience last fall. For ASU’s Homecoming football game, one L-R vehicle was towed to just outside Sun Devil Stadium and was on public display (static). That’s when Radar video recorded me loading my bike onto one of the racks. That video can be seen at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_g-9yX5RkQ0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_g-9yX5RkQ0). Construction has been in progress

Bicycle Loading on Valley Metro Light Rail



for two or three years. All traffic along the route has been affected. Pedestrians and cyclists have had difficulty and will continue to need to be careful. I put together a Power Point presentation on considerations a cyclist must have. The images can be viewed at [http://s182.photobucket.com/albums/x2/geneous42/Cycling\\_with\\_Light\\_Rail/](http://s182.photobucket.com/albums/x2/geneous42/Cycling_with_Light_Rail/). 

## Phoenix to Get Rail Trail?

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the “EssPee” was bought by the UP. With containerization and piggy-backing totally changing the rail freight industry, rail-served warehouses are few and far between, particularly on valuable real estate. Attached is a collage of Google Earth images of the abandoned right-of-way.

Since I knew that an organization called “Rails-to-Trails” existed, I started to inquire about this right-of-way. The Pedestrian and Bicycle committee of the Maricopa Association of Governments provided encouragement as has the City of Phoenix. The City of Tempe did something similar, but it took 5 or 6 years to arrange a deal with the railroad. The real potential of the part that leads from Chase Field to the Salt River is that the Rio Salado Project has already installed a number of multi-use trails along the banks of the Salt. These are now complete from 7th Ave to 16th St and are planned to go farther. The old tracks were only about 50 feet from one of the R-S trails. Thus, downtown Phoenix could be linked to a broad swath of that part of Phoenix. One major drawback, is that some of the trail-to-be is not “pretty” and could



*All that is left of the south Phoenix industrial spur is a wye. This is 6th St, looking South across Grant St. Barrier is a few hundred feet to south.*



be considered “un-safe” (although I walked my bicycle through the “worst” part). This could be overcome by proper pavement, lighting and crossing signals. The major roads to cross are Lincoln St., Buckeye and Mojave. There is an underpass for Maricopa Highway (I-17), so the access roads would need crossing signals. The other streets are light commercial or residential.



## Phoenix to Get Rail Trail?

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Normally the land is offered to adjacent property owners. I have asked the UP public relations person for AZ & NM what, if any, has been sold, but have not gotten an answer. Since the whole right-of-way is within one City Council District of Phoenix, it would follow that Phoenix would be the main source of funds, with State or Federal "parks" a supplement. Coalition member Reed Kempton, who has extensive experience in designing trails tells me that 10-foot wide cement is about a \$ million and a half a mile to install. So we're talking real money here.

Most Rails-to-Trails projects are in rural areas. This is an opportunity for cycling, both commuting and recreational, to be separated from automobiles and trucks, that links two destinations, namely downtown Phoenix and the existing trails of the Rio Salado project which provide access to many more destinations in this urban setting. 🚲



# CAZB

Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

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