

## Sprocketeer Newsletter

October 2008 Volume 2, Issue 4

### Trip report: CAzBike Sends Representative to Pro Walk/Pro Bike Conference

*Peter Mather*

When the CAzBike Executive team first asked me if I would be willing to represent the Coalition at Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2008 in Seattle, I felt both honored and a bit humbled about being chosen to attend this biennial conference. I went to the conference with the objectives of gaining personal knowledge, learning information we could use to help the Coalition, making contacts, and putting the word out about our Coalition activities. I hope that I accomplished these tasks.

I began to get my first positive impressions of Seattle as a bike-friendly and multi-  
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*This is actually a Congressman.*

*Photo courtesy of Trek®*

*His state, Minnesota, used a good portion of a tobacco settlement for health related issues like biking.*

*Read about other happenings in Peter Mather's report on ProWalk /Pro Bike 2008.*

### San Francisco's First Sunday Streets a Success!

According to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, "Thousands of adults and kids took to the streets to play during the first very successful Sunday Streets event! The route from Chinatown along the Embarcadero all the way down Third Street to the Bayview became a huge playground full of hula hooping, yoga, dancing, roller  
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### Arizona Rated 3rd Best State for Bicycling

Early in September, the League of American Bicyclists published the rankings of the first Bicycle Friendly State competition by scoring all 50 states on more than 70 factors. The states were scored on responses to a questionnaire evaluating their commitment to  
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bicycling and covering 6 key areas: legislation; policies and programs; infrastructure; education and encouragement. The top four were Washington, Wisconsin, Arizona and Oregon.

League President Andy Clarke said, by phone, that the rankings were an

aggregate of many factors. A modest number of states had relatively high marks and a large number of states were in the middle, and other states had opportunities to improve. Actually all states have opportunities to improve, but we already know that.

Arizona’s application was put together by Coalition member Michael Sanders, the Bicycle-Pedestrian coordinator for the AZ Dept. of Transportation. He formed a committee of involved bicyclists that provided the information required, then he packaged it in a winning form. Well done Michael and the committee. 

Rankings of all states and a detailed description of the project available at [www.bikeleague.org/news/090508bfs.php](http://www.bikeleague.org/news/090508bfs.php).

Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

CAzBike is a proud member of LAB and IMBA

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Monthly Meeting - Everyone welcome  
3rd Monday of every month  
7PM VA Hospital Call ahead for directions or you’ll get lost 602-686-1302

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Either	on line	or	by mail
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			P.O. Box 54488, Phoenix, AZ
			85078-4488

Membership Rates:  
\$25 Individual  
\$30 Family  
\$150 Organization  
\$200 Business Sponsor

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.

modal community through the window of the airport shuttle on my trip from the airport to the hotel – bike riders everywhere and the use of various types of mass transit. Seattle has long been known for its monorail but what I also observed was the use of light rail, trolleys using overhead electrical lines but with regular rubber wheels, and hybrid-electric busses. What I learned during the conference was that Seattle has worked hard to provide for alternative means of transportation. This has taken the cooperation of everyone from the mayor on down the line. Seattle has developed a Complete Streets Checklist that must be filled out for every new transportation improvement project.

In addition to general sessions and social events, the conference had over 90 regular sessions and 20 mobile workshops to choose from. One highlight was my mobile workshop trip to the Cascade Bicycle Club founded in 1970. This group now has over 10,000 members and 16 full-time staff. In addition to sponsoring over 1,200 rides a year, it acts as the bike advocacy and

education group for the Seattle–Tacoma area. Its strength in numbers and organizational structure makes it a real player in bike advocacy and education in Seattle and the State of Washington.

I attended several sessions, one of which was led by the Coalition's own Arizona Safe Routes to Schools representative, Brian Fellows. Another session was co-lead by Reed Kempton, CAzBike member, who discussed how Scottsdale had created its master transportation plan. Arizona was well represented at the conference with about 15 attendees. As far as I know, Minnesota may have had the most representatives for the size of its state and its distance from Seattle with about 45 people at the conference. Minnesota used a good portion of its tobacco judicial settlement money for health related issues such as biking. Out of a total of more than 800 participants at the conference, over five percent came from Minnesota. Other delegates came from every state of the union, Canada, Europe, and even Asia.

On a more national level, I attended a session titled the "Reauthorization of the US Highway and Transit Bill." In a nutshell, a new transportation bill is working its way through Congress. The problem at this point is that probably little will be done with the bill until we have a new President. This bill probably will be brought up again with a new President and a new Congress in January. One of the speakers thinks that the bill may be debated and voted on in the first 100 days of the new Congressional session and that the bike community needs to stay on top of it. Although I had a plane to catch and did not hear him personally, Congressman James Oberstar (D-Minn), our real hero in Congress and Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, spoke at the closing session. He basically told us: "Tell me what you want; I'll put the power of the committee chair to work for you."

Thanks again for sending me. I hope it was time and money well spent. 🚲

## San Francisco's First Sunday Streets a Success!

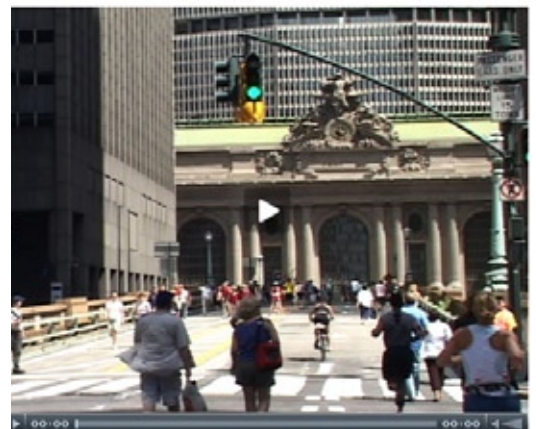
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skating and of course bicycling. It was fantastic to see so many people participating, especially so many parents and kids--we lost count of the number of kids out learning to ride their bicycles on the car-free streets." San Francisco's first Sunday Streets events, where four

miles of downtown streets were closed to cars, took place August 31st and September 14th.

You can check the video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWq-peK3C1o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWq-peK3C1o)

or  
[www.sundaystreetssf.com](http://www.sundaystreetssf.com) 🚲





# In Memory of: "Captain" Leon R. Smith 1931-2008



Since our club began, we have been blessed with the unique personality of Leon Smith. Long ago, back in his military days, he was dubbed Captain America. He was so patriotic that the soldiers around him said that if he was ever cut, he would surely bleed red, white, and blue. He also made a habit of swooping in to save them, just like the super hero.

In his later years, that title was shortened to Captain, with no explanation needed. There was only one Captain and no one questioned that he carried that title. For those that have not heard the news, our Captain came to the end of his adventurous days last weekend, passing away at his home. Depending on what version of his life story you track with, he was somewhere in the range of 81 to 83 years young.

For many years now, at our club event rides, trailing the group would be a pick-up truck bringing not only SAG support, but also providing sage advice. Our gentle riders on Saturday mornings and those that joined the Koko romps once a month on Sunday at Kiwanis Park were encouraged and inspired by the company of a man who had jam packed a whole lot of living into his time on earth. We are less, because of his departure, but greater for having known him.

Sue Fassett

What a sad loss. I rode with the Captain 10 or 12 times over the past couple of years. Because together we accounted for about 150 years on two wheels, he was my inspiration to get out the door on days when everything else said "take the day off." Sometimes he asked me to ride point which gave me a little lead, but he always kicked my butt in the end. I hope he went peacefully, although I know his choice would have been to buy it by being elbowed into a tree by some hotshot sprinter.

Rest in peace Captain. You were an inspiration to all who rode with you.

Bob Hoebermann

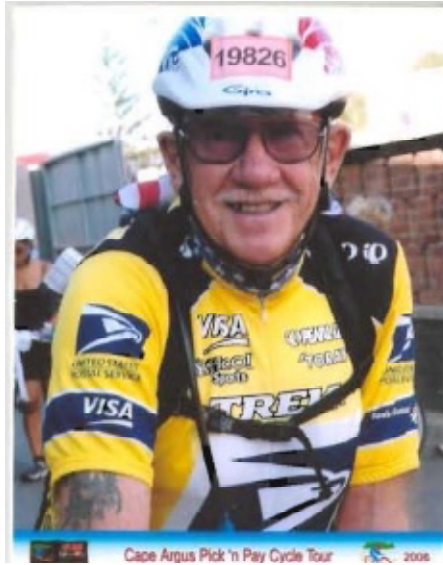
*Leon has been a good friend and great contributor to the cycling community for at least the past 15 years. He has helped dozens, possibly hundreds of beginner cyclists get started (myself included).*

*He also did charity work in Guadalupe, AZ, and contributed generously to several worthy causes. Planning bike trips and activities was fun for him, and he was good at it. El Tour de Tucson, Cochise County Classic, Palm Springs Century, Mining Country Challenge, Casa Grande Century, MS150, and August trips to San Diego were some of his favorites. The "Captain" even packed up his Trek and flew to the Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour in South Africa a couple years ago. It is the world's largest cycling tour, with 35,000 riders doing a 109 km course. When he didn't ride in an event, he loaded his truck with refreshments and gear to offer support and rides to weary cyclists. Leon had a zest for life and a sense of determination that kept him going for 77 years!*

*I will never forget the good times we had, and what a unique and interesting character he was.*

Mark Miller

## Notes from his friends



Leon was one of a kind and the road will be such a different place without him. At Buddy's service, Leon broke down and said "When I first met Buddy you know I really did not like him but he grew on me" and I guess that's the way some feel or say how the Captain affected them. He could be so charming one minute and then a little cantankerous the next. He often took the counterinterview on just about any issue just to get the conversation in a stir. Leon had such a wealth of cycling knowledge and could turn on the charm to share it with beginners and especially with new women riders. I can only hope that I can remain as physically active through life as Leon and for me that is probably his greatest lasting gift to all of us who knew him as the Captain.

*In our thoughts, Lance and Janet*

### Memorial Ride and Gathering Oct 10

The Kokopedalli ride at 7am on Sunday October 12th at Kiwanis Park will be held in memory of Leon Smith, AKA "The Captain," to be followed by a life celebration in his honor.

After the ride, the Captain's crew invites all to join them at a gathering in remembrance of a man who never lacked for a story to tell and never turned down a chance to raise a glass with his friends.

The location is Macayo's Depot Cantina, at 3rd & Ash, just west of downtown Tempe. Start time is noon, munchies will be provided, cash bar. Host for this event is Mark Miller. RSVP Mark at [markonrimrock@cox.net](mailto:markonrimrock@cox.net). For info on the location, see [www.depotcantina.com](http://www.depotcantina.com).

# CAzB in Motion

## Noticed by Local Media

Gene Holmerud

Over the last 5 or 6 weeks, I have been interviewed three times on broadcast radio. It seems that the reality of \$4 or more per gallon of gas has increased the number of bicyclists on the road, and this has resulted in more frequent conflicts with motor vehicles on the road. This was the topic on National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" on August 26 (carried locally by KJZZ 91.5 FM). I was one of the call-in speakers and encouraged education for helping motorists and cyclists to follow the law and share the roads. That segment of the program can be heard by surfing to [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93987420](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93987420).

More recently, *The Arizona Republic* reported Arizona's 3rd place ranking in the League's Bicycle Friendly States program (see page 1 for more information). The article included interviews of members Radar Matt and Education Chair, Sharon Newman-Matt. Her husband RS Matt, was quoted extensively as was member Mike Sanders. Sharon may be seen driving her favorite two-wheeler at [www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/09/13/20080913bikefriendly0913.html](http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/09/13/20080913bikefriendly0913.html).

The report also caught the attention of both KAZG (an East Valley station, 1440 AM) and KTAR (92.3 FM). I was interviewed on September 16 on

KAZG for about 10 minutes and on September 20 on KTAR for about 6 minutes by Michael Dixon. Dixon recognized that one can actually forget how to ride a bicycle, then was quite surprised when told the way to make a quick right turn is to move your handlebars to the left.

Coalition members have commented positively on the information I presented.

Radar Matt receives the requests from these stations, which means real interest in our endeavor is raising. This can only be good. 🚲

## Noticed by Locals, Unfortunately

Gene Holmerud

Phoenix Police Officer (and Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator) Toby Ehrler met with a group of Ahwatukee cyclists before dawn on Thursday, October 2. He had requested any interested cyclist to be present. Coalition Board members (and LCIs) Radar Matt and I attended.

The issue arose from complaints by neighbors that cyclists were monopolizing the street and not observing stop signs. Officer Toby encouraged compliance with the rules of the road and came up with a good means for riders in a group to comply with stop signs. That is, groups of four (2 sets of 2-abreast) following each other make their brief stops as a group, then proceed (when path is clear). He pointed out that 4 cyclists have about the same footprint as

a motor vehicle, hence the spirit of the rules are followed. Being a cyclist himself, he can speak from experience.

Afterward, Toby assured us that the enforcement he is talking about is the same for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists alike. On that we agree.

One of the group members, while appreciating the education and advocacy work of the Coalition, expressed reservations about the meeting in an email. I replied that our involvement is that when any cyclist breaks the rules of the road, there is a motorist that says "See, they don't belong on the road" at best, or possibly, "The next one I see, they better look out" at worst.

That hurts every one of us. 🚲

## CAzBike Receives Grant

REI awards thousands of dollars in grants each year to worthwhile outdoor projects. Thanks to the application filed by CAzBike Outreach Director Rita Walter, we were one of the recipients. RS Matt accepted the \$5000 check from REI manager Robert Ford. The intent of the grant is to bring our education programs, primarily Road 1, to the entire state. We hope to announce details of the plan in the next edition of Sprocketeer. THANK YOU REI!!!



## Phoenix Succeeds!

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation department just completed a landmark bicycle project. Fifteenth Avenue from McDowell Rd to the Arizona Canal received a “Lane Diet.” The former four lane arterial was reduced to one lane each direction with a center turn lane and bike lanes. Traffic engineer Kerry Wilcoxson credits City Councilman Tom Simplot for getting the project going. Funding for a bike/ped bridge across the canal has been requested. Way to go Phoenix!



## Phoenix has another Opportunity for Success

Light rail has been the buzz for the last several years. As the first day of service draws near, contractors and government officials are working hard to complete projects on schedule. It stands to reason a thing or two might get overlooked.

It appears that such a thing happened on Jefferson along the light rail route. The eastbound bike lane starts near Chase Field. It is located on the south side of Jefferson. At Seventh St. the lane moves to the north side of the tracks along the business access route. At Twenty-Fourth St. it switches back again. There are no provisions for bicyclists to transition across multiple traffic lanes at these two locations. It appears that the city discovered this error about the same time as our own Gene Holmerud did. We are looking forward to a non-pedestrian solution from the city. 🚲



# Legislation

## Bill to Benefit Bicycle Commuters Passes Senate

The Senate version of the financial bailout bill extends commuter tax benefits to cyclists. It looks like there's an upper limit of \$240 per year:

**SEC. 211. TRANSPORTATION FRINGE BENEFIT TO BICYCLE COMMUTERS.**

**QUALIFIED BICYCLE COMMUTING**

**REIMBURSEMENT.**—The term ‘qualified bicycle commuting reimbursement’ means, with respect to any calendar year, any employer reimbursement during the 15-month period beginning with the first day

of such calendar year for reasonable expenses incurred by the employee during such calendar year for the purchase of a bicycle and bicycle improvements, repair, and storage, if such bicycle is regularly used for travel between the employee’s residence and place of employment.

**APPLICABLE ANNUAL LIMITATION.**—The term ‘applicable annual limitation’ means, with respect to any employee for any calendar year, the product of \$20 multiplied by the number of qualified bicycle commuting months during such year.

**QUALIFIED BICYCLE COMMUTING MONTH.**—The term ‘qualified bicycle commuting month’ means, with respect to any employee, any month during which such employee— “(I) regularly uses the bicycle for a substantial portion of the travel between the employee’s residence and place of employment, and does not receive any benefit described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1).”.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008. 🚲

## Tour de Tucson - Volunteers Needed

To staff the CAzB booth on Thursday,  
Nov 20  
Contact 602-686-1302

OCTOBER 2008

## Meeting

Time:

7PM

Location:

VA Hospital

Directions:

602-686-1302

Featured Speakers:

Charles Sobczak and Gene Holmerud present Operation Lifesaver - the international rail industry safety program (or how not to get smushed by a train)

OCTOBER 2008						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Renew On Line

Thanks to the webmastery of Ed Beighe, you can now renew at

<http://cazbike.org/renew>

Accepts either  
credit card  
or  
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# CAZB

Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

P.O. Box 54488

Phoenix, AZ 85078-4488

Outreach: 602.795.1711

Education: 602.686.1302

Membership: 602.400.6936

## Memorial Ride for Safety XI

Saturday, October 25, 2008 100K & 35 mile

Sponsored by Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club & Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

The theme is Safety and Share the Road. The safety message has grown out of the tragic cycling accident Winston Benson had approximately 11 years ago and we honor all those bicycle fatalities in Arizona since then. Let's all "Ride to the Right", "Share the Road", signal turns and hazards. The CAZBike is out there fighting for your rights as cyclists, so come out and support the ride. Ride goes rain or shine.

It's a great ride, great fun and a great cause. Bring a friend, and make at least one new one. Winston would like that.

The route is through Carefree and scenic vistas of Tonto National Forest and Pinnacle Peak, but we will not go to Bartlett Lake. We will visit the Sears Key Ruins towards Seven Springs. The new route will be a little easier and user friendly.

Entry fee will include a ride map, 2 rest stops, and a Bar-B-Que meal at the finish. Share the Road jerseys may be ordered at this event for a reduced amount.

All cyclists must wear ANSI or Snell approved helmets and obey all traffic laws. Ride Smart to Ride Again.

Registration: opens at 7:00 AM

Start times: 7:30 AM for 100K 8:00 AM for 35 mile

Location start/finish: AJ's parking lot at Pima and Pinnacle Peak Roads in Scottsdale, AZ For more information call Rich Rumer at 602-953-2585.