



An Advocacy Organization

**Advocacy and Education** for Arizona Bicyclists

**CAZB**  
Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

## Sprocketeer Newsletter

March 2009 Volume 3, Issue 1

### Making Progress

#### Verde Valley gets ADOT Bicycle Safety Awareness Program

*Matt Radar*

Last year, through a grant funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, ADOT announced a program to raise bicycle safety awareness in Arizona. The program was designed by bicycle advocates, law enforcement officers, government representatives, and the Gordley Design Group of Tucson. Bicycle advocates included members of the ADOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, the Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists, and the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition.

The program, dubbed "Be a Roll Model", included radio spots, newspaper advertising, bumper stickers, educational flyers/posters, and hang-tags. The hang-tags were intended to educate both cyclists and motorists and were to be attached to new bicycles sold in bike shops and big-box retailers.

It was decided to test the Roll Model program in an Arizona community before taking the program statewide. Many communities, including

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*Photo by Ian Wickson*

**Randy Victory, Vice President of the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition, is passionate about bicycles.**

### Extra set of eyes and ears on South Mountain trails

*Sharon Newman-Matt*

With assistance from the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, the City of Phoenix has protected this open space for over 75 years. The preserve sees upwards of three million visitors a year, including mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians and others, and it is the third most

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*Photo courtesy of City of Phoenix*

Got a digital camera lying around?

**CAzB needs one**

Preferably one with a view finder (not just a screen, 5 or more megapixel, and video clip capability

Please contact RS Matt  
602.686.1302





*Executive board meeting at Burton Barr Library  
Seated: Gene Holmerud, Peter Mather, Sharon Newman-Matt, Charlie Sobczak, Bob Jenson  
Standing: Radar Matt, Gail Hildebrant*

*Photo Gail Hildebrant*

**Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists**

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**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 could get lost 602-686-1302

**Subscriptions / Renewals**

Either on line or by mail  
www.cazbike.org/renew Send your check to CAzB at:  
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.




# Verde Valley Bicycle Safety Awareness Program

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Bullhead City, Mesa, and Tucson, submitted letters asking to serve as the pilot community. Representatives from Sedona, Clarkdale, and Cottonwood, including Mayor Diane Joens and the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition sent letters of support. It was the Verde Valley that eventually received the go-ahead by ADOT. The program was launched in May which is National Bike Month, using radio spots and newspaper advertising.

On Monday, November 10th, Randy Victory, Vice President of the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition, and Cottonwood Mayor Diane Joens met

with Wal-Mart Manager Jason Ferris to discuss distribution of the program materials at the local Wal-Mart. Ferris was enthusiastic about the public safety program, saying “We support this 120%!” Wal-Mart makes an excellent distribution point for the GOHS/ADOT program due to the large numbers of bicycles sold there. By the next day, Ferris had followed through with his vow to support the program, and every bicycle at Wal-Mart included a Be a Roll Model hang-tag and a bumper sticker.

With the support of Wal-Mart, bike shops, government, and bicycle advocates, the program has the potential to educate huge numbers of cyclists and motorists as the program goes statewide in 2009. 



*Photo by Mark Luffman*

*One of 50 bicyclists in Verde Valley's annual Christmas parade.*

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## More Eyes at South Mountain

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visited location in Arizona, behind the Grand Canyon and Saguaro National Park.


South Mountain, a 17,000 acre Sonoran Desert preserve located near downtown Phoenix is running the risk of being “loved to death” by high visitation and limited park staff. Sonoran Desert environments are particularly sensitive to the impacts of recreation. It was clear that something had to be done to help land management preserve the 75 year old preserve's ecology. Recreation Coordinator, PJ Conover explains in this month's IMBA Newsletter, “The city has to balance preservation and access, and it is a hard balance to find.” The Central Arizona Mountain Bike Patrol (CAMBP) was brought online to augment the natural resource Division's Park Steward program. “It is an extra set of eyes and ears

on the trail,” explains Conover, “and with the budgets the way they are, rangers can't be everywhere- it helps a lot to have the volunteers involved.”

CAMBP is an official member of IMBA's National Mountain Bike Patrol. Patrol members must pass a training program as well as being first aid and CPR certified. IMBA also has a Trail Ambassador program for those not having the medical certifications.

The Park Steward program helps actively monitor and maintain the areas of land that we protect and preserve. With a limited number of Park Rangers on hand to manage the



nearly 35,000 acres of public land, Park Stewards are a focal point for land stewardship. 

## Giant Bicycle™ Recalls Bicycles; Fork Can Break Causing Rider To Fall January 14, 2009 Release #09-096 Giant Bicycle's Recall Hotline: (866) 458-2555

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: 2009 model year TCR Advanced SL and SL (ISP) Bicycles and Frames

Units: About 1,000 Sold by: Authorized Giant Bicycle dealers nationwide from August 2008 through December 2008 for between \$3,300 and \$7,500.

Hazard: The density of the steerer tubes can cause the forks to crack and break, posing a fall hazard to the consumer.

Incidents/Injuries: Giant Bicycle has received one report of the fork cracking with no reported injuries.

Description: This recall involves 2009 TCR Advanced SL Team, SL 0, SL 1, SL 2, and SL (ISP) model bicycles and frames in silver, charcoal, blue and red. The words "Giant" and "TCR Advanced SL" are printed on the frame. Steerer tubes with "B", "N" or "P" at the end of the serial number are not included in this recall. Other "TCR" model bicycles are not included in the recall.

Remedy: Consumers should stop riding these bicycles immediately and contact an authorized Giant Bicycle dealer for a free inspection and replacement fork.

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including pictures of the recalled product, go to:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09096.html>

## DUI Driver Sentenced in Killing Tucson Bicyclist

On the evening of January 12, 2008, Jose Rincon and his friend Oscar Perez were riding their bicycles to a friend's house in their home town of Tucson. That morning Jose, an honor student, had taken entrance exams to University High School. The fourteen year olds were going to celebrate a friend's birthday. They did not get there. A vehicle driven by Glenda Rumsey rear ended the two adolescents. Both boys were thrown from their bikes. Oscar was not seriously injured. Jose's head impacted the windshield. He never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at University Medical Center. The Rincon family learned later that "Guapo" had passed his exam with the highest possible score.

Ms. Rumsey was found to have blood alcohol in excess of .20. On what would have been Jose's fifteenth birthday, December 15, 2008, Ms. Rumsey, 42, was found guilty of manslaughter and other charges.

The sentencing was held January 20, 2009. Representatives from CAzBike, Bradfund, and other bicycle groups joined over one hundred friends and family for the proceedings. The Rincon family pleaded passionately for a sentence that would include consecutive sentences for all charges. The defense pleaded for leniency citing her lack of a prior record and her two children age ten and twelve. Superior Court Judge Richard Fields sentenced Rumsey to 14 years, all sentences to run concurrently.

To see a video about Jose go to [www.tucsoncitizen.com/ss/byauthor/108174](http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/ss/byauthor/108174)

## Bike Swap Meet Sunday, April 5, 2009

- Free to buyers & sellers
- New bikes
- Used bikes
- Bike gear

More info 602.781.5604 or 602.547.1909

7:00am-12:00 pm

Kiwanis Park

6111 S. All American Way

Between Baseline & Guadalupe Roads • Tempe AZ

## Silent Sunday Returns Each Month in 2009

*Sharon Newman-Matt*

On Silent Sundays, bicyclists, tots in strollers, in-line skaters and wheelchair users get to call the Park's roadways their own. Starting at 5 a.m. the park's roadways past the Central Avenue gate will be reserved for non-motorized use. All other park entrances and parking areas remain open to vehicles.

Sprocketeer publisher Lisa Cozzetti is a Silent Sunday regular. On her last foray she counted 150 wheeled users including a pair of handcycles.

At over 16,000 acres, South Mountain Park/ Preserve often is referred to as the largest municipal park in the country. It boasts 51 miles of primary trails for horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking for all ability levels. The park/preserve's main entrance is open 5 am to 10 pm.

2009 Silent Sunday dates:

January 25	May 24	September 27
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February 22	June 21	October 25
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March 22	July 26	November 22
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April 26	August 23	December 20
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## IMBA Needs Your Support for National Park Service Rule Change

IMBA Really Needs Your Support for National Park Service Rule Change

The National Park Service recently announced a rule change that will improve mountain biking opportunities on agency land. IMBA urgently needs your help to make sure we get 10,000 comments supporting the rule change. Our opponents are already kicking into high gear and we'll be severely outnumbered if we don't rally our members by the thousands.

This rule affects 391 NPS units, including lesser-known NPS properties, like national recreation areas, that are likely to be near your hometown. Chances are there's a NPS unit near you.

To help with this campaign please go to <http://tinyurl.com/imba3>



*Photo by Francine Edwards  
Randy Victory riding the same trail  
again and again*



# Legislation

## Massachusetts Legislature Passes Historic Bicycling Bill

The Bicyclists Safety Bill introduces changes in law for bicyclists, motorists, and police officers!

Here are some of the highlights:

### Signaling -

It is not necessary for a cyclist to signal if it is necessary for your safety to keep both hands on the bars.

### Single File -

Mass cyclists were required to ride single file. They may now ride two abreast, but must facilitate passing by faster traffic.

### Dooring -

Citations and fines may be issued for opening a car door in front of a cyclist.

### Passing -

A motorist must pass bikes by a safe distance, and may not pull back in front of a bicycle until it is safe to do so. If a lane is too

narrow to pass a cyclist within the lane, a motorist must use another lane to pass. If that is unsafe the motorist must wait.

### Right Hook -

Motorists are forbidden to make an abrupt right turn after passing a cyclist.

### Left Turns -

Motorists are to yield to all bicycles, on the road or a shoulder, when making left turns.

### Motorist Liability -

Motorists may not use as a legal defense for causing a crash with a bike that bicyclists are permitted to ride to the right of traffic.

### Rental Helmets -

Bicycle rental dealers must make a helmet available for each bike rental.

### Police Training -

Law now dictates that police officers receive training on bicycle law, dangerous cyclist behaviors, and dangerous motorist behaviors.

### Police Enforcement -

Law dictates that police use the same state wide procedure for cyclist enforcement that is used for motorist enforcement.

### Bicycle Registration -

Mandatory bicycle registration has been repealed. 



## Proposed Flagstaff Helmet Ordinance

*Jack Welch*

The proposed Flagstaff Helmet Ordinance that would only involve children under the age of eighteen has become a "formal" city council agenda item and will be discussed further and voted on sometime in January 2009. Those of us who favor such a law were well represented in recent city council work sessions and by a 5-2 vote the proposed ordinance was moved forward.

We expect more opposition during those future considerations. The Flagstaff Biking Organization and the Coconino County Safe Kids Coalition are the main proponents of the issue along with Mayor Sara Presler who has been more than willing to serve as the main "water carrier" in favor of the ordinance.

Those opposed cite individual rights, invasion of privacy, personal liberties and person responsibility as their main reasons to resist the passage of such a law. They are adamant in their belief that parents should make the choice for their children in regard to wearing or not wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle.

# CAzB in Motion

## CAzB Represented at Light Rail Opening

Gene Holmerud

On December 27, the Coalition eagerly participated in the Valley Metro Light-Rail Opening Ceremonies. The Metro folks graciously provided us a booth with tent and electricity. During the day several members answered questions from the many people that stopped by. Our Education and Safety materials and a number of trinkets were given out.

Cycling with light rail is a natural combination. For a cyclist, most means of transit expand our destination horizons. For normal users of transit, bicycles expand one's destination horizons. The same advantage to both groups of users! This is not lost on Metro's thinking in that they have provided many bicycle-friendly aspects to their service and public campaigns. Federal regulations require but two bike racks per transit vehicle. Early in planning, the Coalition and Metro adopted four, twice the requirement. During off-peak times additional bikes may be brought on board and



Photo Gene Holmerud

*Getting on the very full trains was a challenge.*

held by a standing passenger in the loading areas.

All park & ride stations and some others have places to lock bicycles. The Tempe Transportation Center, near where our booth was located, had a bike valet service that includes clothing lockers & showers for a monthly subscription.


Coalition members Alison V-U., Gail H., Sharon N-M., Charles S., Radar M., Peter M., John Z. and Gene H. participated. Gene's oddly-equipped bicycle generated several



Photo Gene Holmerud

*Charles Sobczak, Director at Large, was wearing two hats, representing both CAzB and Operation Lifesaver. The adjacent booth was vacant, so Charles and Gene expanded into it to double our exposure to the crowd.*

comments and questions. Rich R. brought his PMBC ride group by to cheer us on.

Our thanks to Valley Metro for providing the facilities and to our members that participated. A job well done. 

I think we all support individual rights, personal liberties and personal responsibilities while being opposed to the invasion of our privacy, but the notion that all parents know what is best for their children is a difficult position to defend. It would be great if that were true, but the many examples of irresponsible parenting are so overwhelming as to make that argument against a child helmet ordinance appear to be an unfortunate abstraction when paired against reasoned discourse.

That said, we believe those opposed to a local child helmet law are sincere and thoughtful people and deserve a thorough hearing of their objections. Our hope is we can all reach some common ground and agree on a compromise that will improve the safety of any child riding a bicycle in Flagstaff. Perhaps that will require a more refined clarification and understanding of proposed enforcement issues.



## Spread the message "Share the Streets, Bikes Get 3 Feet"

- Highest visibility color
- High quality
- US made Canari Cyclewear.

Order on line

[www.cazbike.org/jersey](http://www.cazbike.org/jersey) or

Call Ed Beighe 602-281-5735



## Meeting:

7PM

Location:

**VA Hospital**

Directions:

Basement meeting room

**602-686-1302** for detailed directions

Featured Topics:

**Electric bicycles**

March 2009

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

## Opportunities to increase your riding skills

All classes are free and open to anyone

Location VA Medical Center,  
7th St. & Indian School,  
Phoenix

Registration: 602.686.1302

Class times: Start 7am Finish  
5pm unless noted otherwise.

### Road 1 for Experienced Cyclists

Feb 21 Road 1 presented at an accelerated pace with maintenance and bicycle theory material omitted. CAZ-101E

### Road 1 for Women

Feb 21 - 22 Road 1 taught by female instructors & mechanics. Includes History of the Bicycle from Woman's Perspective. CAZ-101W

### Bicycle Maintenance

Mar 21 Tire repair, cleaning, lubrication, and cable adjustments. The basic skills you need to keep rolling. Class ends at 11am CAZ-095

### Mountain Bike Basics

Mar 7 Not a stunt riding class!! Just the basics you need to know to get started riding the trails. CAZ-102  
Location TBD



# CAZB

Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists

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