



Published by

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

2121 Broadway, Rm 204, New York, N.Y. 10023 (212) 255-0971

JUNE/JULY '86

BIKING IN BROOKLYN: AN INTERVIEW WITH COMMISSIONER SPEIGEL

FOURTH IN OUR SERIES OF TALKS WITH THE CITY'S HIGH-UPS WAS OUR INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK CITY PARKS AND RECREATION BROOKLYN, COMMISSIONER JULIUS SPEIGEL. IN FUTURE ISSUES WE'LL BE REPORTING ON MEETINGS WITH MORE BIG APPLE OFFICIALS.

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND BICYCLISTS MAKE USE OF PROSPECT PARK. THIS, SAYS THE PARK'S PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, IS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUTERS, RACERS AND RECREATIONAL CYCLISTS WHO RIDE THE PARK WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS IN A YEAR. SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF BIKERS IN A PARK WHICH MEASURES JUST OVER 500 ACRES.

COMM. SPEIGEL: "THE PROBLEM IN BROOKLYN IS THAT WE HAVE SO FEW PARKS FOR BICYCLING. PROSPECT PARK IS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EVERY WEEKEND FROM 7 PM FRIDAY TO 6 AM MONDAY AND DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER FROM 10 AM - 3 PM AND 7 PM TO 10 PM AS WELL - BUT BICYCLISTS MUST SHARE THE ROAD WITH JOGGERS AND PEDESTRIANS."

A LITTLE LIKE CENTRAL PARK'S WEEKEND CONFUSION. WE ASKED IF, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, EVERYONE HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION. WERE THERE ADEQUATE MARKINGS TO INDICATE THIS?

COMM. SPEIGEL: "OF COURSE THEY SHOULD. BUT THERE'S AN OCCASIONAL BIKER WHO DOESN'T. IN FACT I WAS HIT BY ONE RECENTLY. I WAS RIDING MY BIKE IN THE PARK, GOING THE RIGHT WAY, AND THIS GUY CAME SPEEDING DOWN ONE OF THE SLOPES. I'VE HAD MY BIKE FIXED. BUT IT REALLY ISN'T THE SAME. FORTUNATELY, I AM OK."

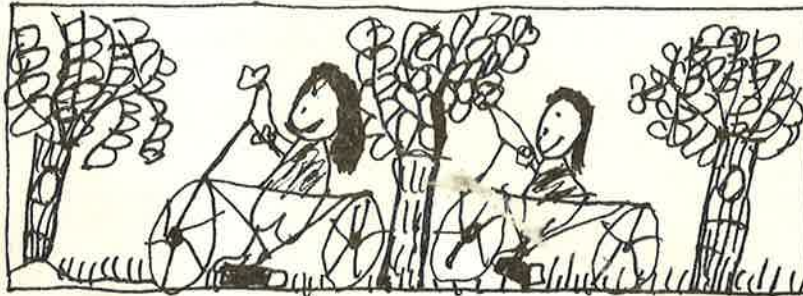
WE'VE HAD COMPLAINTS FROM MEMBERS, WHO RIDE IN THE PARK, ABOUT BROKEN GLASS, TWIGS AND DEBRIS ON THE ROADWAYS, HORSE MANURE AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND, MORE SERIOUS, POTHOLES IN THE PARK'S ROADWAYS. DID THE COMMISSIONER HAVE A SOLUTION WE ASKED?

COMM. SPEIGEL: "BROKEN GLASS WAS A PROBLEM - THANKS TO THE BOTTLE LAW IT'S BETTER NOW. WE DO OUR BEST TO KEEP THE PLACE CLEAR. RIDERS AND HORSES FROM THE STABLES USE OUR BRIDLE PATHS. AND ENTER THE PARK AT THE MAIN GATE - AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE HORSE CARRIAGES AS THEY DO IN CENTRAL PARK. WE CLEAN UP THE HORSES' MESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE QUESTION OF POTHOLES IS ONE OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT - THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT OR US."

WE ASKED WHAT OTHER BIKEWAYS COME UNDER THE BROOKLYN PARKS COMMISSIONER'S JURISDICTION?

COMM. SPEIGEL: "WE HAVE THAT WONDERFUL STRETCH OF BIKING DOWN OCEAN PARKWAY. THEN THERE'S THE 3 1/2 MILE BOARDWALK AT BRIGHTON BEACH, WHICH IS OPEN TO BIKING TILL 10 AM EVERY DAY - CONSTRUCTION WILL BE GOING ON THERE THIS SUMMER. AND, OF COURSE, THE OVAL IN MARINE PARK WHICH, ON A NICE DAY, GETS MORE BICYCLISTS THAN PROSPECT PARK. ALSO THERE'S THE BIKEWAY FROM PLUM BEACH ALONG THE BELT PARKWAY TO THE QUEENS BORDER, AND ANOTHER NICE BIKEWAY FROM 69TH STREET, NEAR OWLS HEAD PARK, PAST THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE. OWLS HEAD IS TOO HILLY FOR BIKING - I WOULDN'T WANT TO RIDE THERE. WE

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Summer Bongomo, age 7

SEE PAGE 8 FOR A SPECIAL RIDE ORGANIZED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE PARKS.

THE BICYCLISTS' TRUTH SQUAD

If memory serves me right, in a past presidential election, the Republican Party appointed a "Truth Team" to follow the Democratic presidential candidate around the country. The purpose of the "Truth Team" was to give a "truthful" response, as the Republican saw it, to the Democratic candidate's statements. While it's true, if memory still serves me right, that the Democratic candidate won the election, it may serve the purpose of cyclists to adopt the same technique.

In the past year there has been a number of articles citywide in newspapers and local media about bicycling in the New York City area. Most of them have been either hostile or, at least, anti-cyclist. Added to this has been proposed legislation to restrict the rights of bicyclists. Without being judged too paranoid, one could easily suspect a concentrated campaign.

One way to handle this is to have our own "Truth Squad". to answer each and every one of the anti-bicycle articles with the "truth" from the cyclist's side. We do have members who've been doing just that. Ora Gelberg's answer to the January 21, 1986 article in New York Magazine on bike messengers; Mary Frances Dunham's response to an article in the May 18-24, 1986 of Our Town ; Jennifer Sonsini's letter to the New York Times, March 5, 1986 piece on keeping Central Park open to traffic year round, round the clock. To our knowledge, none of these letters were published.

From this, and past experience, it seems that one, single letter is not too productive. But a deluge of letters would be. The media would know that several 'someones' out there were paying attention and were willing to act. In light of this, City Cyclist hereby appoints each member of Transportation Alternatives as bonafide members of the cyclist's "Truth Squad" with the duty to answer these articles with a "Truth" letter, from the cyclist's viewpoint.

Of course, as we have been preaching, this alone is not enough. What cyclists need is a strong organization that can, not only answer articles, but push for a positive approach to cycling in New York City. For this purpose we have to increase our membership and the funds that allows us to operate. So again City Cyclist appoints each and every member of Transportation Alternatives a member of the Membership Committee. It is now everyone's duty to solicit new members into the organization. If you need extra copies of the City Cyclist, brochures or posters, call (212) 654 0388 and leave a message.

NOTE! WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE "TRUTH SQUAD" AND THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - AMONG A GREAT MANY OTHER MATTERS - AT THE JULY 7 MEETING. TAER'S WILL BE NEEDED TO HEAD UP THESE COMMITTEES. BE THINKING ABOUT IT. LA/JS

STREET PARKING FOR THE TRUSTY STEED ...

SOME IDEAS FROM ... Mary Frances Dunham

The dream of parking one's bike at ground level is a viable one! Promoters of bicycle transportation should consider what has been done on West 94th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. The block contains four sidewalk bays which extend into the street. The bays displace a few parking spaces, but do not alter the normal flow of traffic. Such bays provide space for bicycle shelters - capacity would depend on the size of the bay, the needs of the block's residents and cyclists.

These street bays are acceptable to the fire department. Street cleaning machinery moves around them, as it does around illegally parked cars. On west 94th Street, the bays provide visual air space, as well as additional sidewalk room. They give the block a restful and intimate feeling.

Another way to use street space for sheltered bicycle parking, is to construct shelters that approximate the size and shape of "dumbsters" - or even recycle a "dumpster". Used for receiving demolition refuse, the "dumpster" is parked "temporarily" in front of buildings where work is going on. Frequently they stand there for weeks, almost becoming part of the city-scape. Painted a discreet (or lively?) color, they'd be as visually acceptable as the line of parked cars in front and behind them. The height of bicycle shelters designed on these lines need not exceed the height of the average car.

To obtain street space for either shelter idea, will require considerable lobbying. Designing shelters on the "dumpster" line, would require skilled help. The benefits to bicyclists and the community, however, makes a try well worthwhile.

CITY CYCLIST

EDITOR: Jennifer Sonsini
 ASSISTANT EDITOR: Louis Avitabile
 CONTRIBUTORS: Mary Frances Dunham
 Alan Ginsberg

The City Cyclist is published six times a year by Transportation Alternatives, a not-for-profit bicycle organization dedicated to improving cycling in the New York City area through civic activity.

The submission of articles, photographs, letters and artwork is welcome and appreciated. All work submitted should be addressed to the editor at our office or call (212) 654-0388

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ARE INTERESTED IN THE RECREATIONAL ASPECTS OF THESE SHORELINE AREAS."

MIKE SEIGEL, COMMISSIONER SEIGEL'S ASSISTANT, ADDED: "ALTHOUGH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT BUILT THESE SHORELINE BIKEWAYS, THEIR MAINTENANCE IS NOW THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION."

MANY BROOKLYNITES ARE SERIOUS ABOUT BI-CYCLING, FOR COMMUTING AND RECREATION. WE SHOWED COMM. SPEIGEL AND HIS ASSISTANT OUR BROOKLYN BIKE MAP, POINTING OUT WHERE THE RED BIKE PATHS COME TO AN ABRUPT HALT. ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR LINKING PARKS AND BIKEWAYS, AS QUEENS PARKS AND RECREATION HOPE TO DO? BROOKLYN, WITH ITS FANTASTIC SHORELINE AND GENERALLY FLAT TERRAIN, COULD SURELY ATTRACT BIKERS FROM FAR AND WIDE.

COMM. SPEIGEL: "I DON'T KNOW WHAT QUEENS ARE DOING. A CERTAIN RIVALRY EXISTS BETWEEN THE PARKS COMMISSIONERS! I DO KNOW THAT DEVELOPING THE SHORELINE IS A VERY POLITICAL SITUATION. EVERYONE WANTS A PIECE - IT'S VERY VALUABLE PROPERTY."

APPARENTLY NOTHING IS SLATED RIGHT NOW FOR EXTENDING BROOKLYN'S BIKEWAYS - BUT THAT COULD CHANGE. COMMISSIONER SPEIGEL HAS BEEN WITH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT 4 1/2 YEARS AND HAS A FINANCE/BUSINESS BACKGROUND, SO HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THESE PREDICAMENTS. HE IS A MONTREALER WHO, AS A GRADUATE STUDENT, CAME TO NEW YORK CITY TO GET A DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. HE HASN'T LEFT THE CITY YET. IN FACT, HE LIVES IN PARK SLOPE, JUST A SHORT WALK - OR BIKE RIDE - FROM HIS OFFICE IN PROSPECT PARK.

JENNIFER SONSINI

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT ON BROOKLYN'S BIKEWAYS IS A PROBLEM THAT HAS CONFRONTED ED RUDETSKY OF NEW YORK CYCLE CLUB. CITY AND STATE DOT, FEDERAL AND CITY PARKS ALL HAVE A HAND IN MAINTAINING THE BIKEWAYS. BUT OVER THE YEARS, MUCH HAS FALLEN BETWEEN THE CRACKS. ED WENT TO THE TOP AND CONTACTED JOSEPH LANDAU IN BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S HOWARD GOLDEN'S OFFICE. HE HAS MET WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS - NEW ASPHALT IS BEING LAID ON THE BIKEWAY ALONGSIDE THE BELT, FROM EMMONS AVENUE TO SPRING CREEK AND THE SUPERINTENDANT OF GATEWAY PARK HAS SAID THE WEEDS WILL BE CUT ON THE MARINE PARKWAY STRIP. (REPORTS ARE THAT THIS HAS BEGUN.) WITH SOME PRESSURE, THE BIKEWAY COULD BE REPAIRED FURTHER AND EXTENDED INTO QUEENS. THE RIDE WOULD BE QUITE WONDERFUL! ARE THERE ANY MORE EDS IN QUEENS AND BROOKLYN? - IF 'YES' CALL ED RUDETSKY AT (718) 436-3475 AND GET IN ON THIS CAMPAIGN.

WHEN MORE WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON THE BIKEWAYS WE WILL BE JOINING ED FOR A CELEBRATION RIDE, SOMETIME IN JULY - CALL ED OR JS/LA FOR DATE. A QUICK CALL TO LARRY REILLY, NYC'S DOT BICYCLE PLANNER, CONFIRMED THE ASPHALTING AND THAT THE BIKEWAY AT PLUM BEACH WILL BE RESTORED AS PART OF THE SEWER PROJECT THERE. LARRY ALSO TOLD US THAT WORK ON THE 59TH ST. BRIDGE HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED.

THE FIVE BORO BIKE TOUR AND THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES.

by Alan Ginsberg

As forecast in the April/May '86 edition of CITY CYCLIST, the Five Boro Bike Tour on April 27th, was "blitzed" by TA members.

While one member spent part of her day cycling with the thousands, handing out TA material en route, several others stationed themselves at the Manhattan and Staten Island terminals and on the ferry itself. Gail Boorstein, Lou Avitabile, Jennifer Sonsini, Carl Hultberg, Mary Grances Dunham, Steve Alexander and yours truly spent their day distributing flyers and the special \$1 membership cards to as many of the 20,000 participants as possible.

Due to these efforts TA now has over 75 \$1 members and several new regular members. This drive by those individuals who choose to help TA grow should be applauded by all. We should look at this event as just the beginning of the revitalization of TA. For while this effort did give us insight into the importance of the Five Boro Bike Tour and other events of a similar nature, it brought out their drawbacks as well. These large scale gatherings give us the mass audience we seek, they tend by their very size to relegate TA and other small groups to back stage. With this in mind, we should now ask, "how can we reach center stage?"

It is my conviction that we in TA must look not to events sponsored by others, in which we are simply participants, but instead to produce and create our own events. By carrying this out, TA in effect, is no longer part of the happening, but is the happening itself. Only by doing this can we hope to catch the attention of cyclists and the general public and thus become an organization to be reckoned with. To carry out this ambitious undertaking, we must utilize newspapers and radio to publicize TA's accomplishments and our Bike Rides. We could also utilize street theater and demonstrations.

In the coming months all members of TA should work together so that we can organize Bike Rides that will get us as much attention as possible. I would like to propose a "Bike to Work Day", that could be held monthly or even weekly. Above all, these rides will emphasize that TA is not just another recreational bicycling club, but an organization dedicated to cycling as a way of life which is a means of improving society as a whole

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that we should indeed participate in future Five Boro Bike Tours and similar grand scale events. We should also be at block parties, walkathons, ethnic parades and festivities as well. We should all be looking forward to a more vigorous, active TA whose revival can be attributed, in part, to the 1986 Five Boro Bike Tour.

R I D E S

R I D E S

Most of the rides listed here are courtesy of Appalachian Mountain Club bike committee. Please remember that what the leader says goes! Be on time, don't forget your patch kit and/or spare tube. And have fun!

Sun June 8. Brooklyn Waterfront Bikeride.
30-35 mi. via Esplanade, So. Brooklyn Bay Bridge, Coney Island. Mostly flat. Bring or buy lunch. Bring patch kit, etc. Meet at stairway exit on Brooklyn side of Brooklyn Bridge (before Tillary St. exit) to leave by 10:15 AM.
Paul E. Luce (718) 745-3017

Tues June 10. Lower Manhattan Cycle Circle.
5 Mi. On an enchanted (weekday) evening, let's bike around the tip of Lower Manhattan, seeing the open river front, Battery Park City, the Statue of Liberty, South Street Seaport, passing under 3 bridges, and concluding at 14th St. and 1st Ave. We can continue to a nearby pub for a bite. Some glass, traffic, possible "bushwhacking" on sidewalks, etc. Bring lock and patch kit. Meet at 6:15 PM at Stuyvesant Bike, 14th St. and 9th Ave. Mary Jo Carvelle (212) 578-2696 days, (212) 260-3576 eves before 10.

Wed June 11. Evening Biking. Continuing the weekly (except for the first Wed. of the month) night bike rides in the city. Come train with friends for the longer weekend rides. Routes, mileage and pace will vary according to consensus of the participants. Meet at 7 PM at Rutherford Place and 15th St. (Stuyvesant Park). Dress reflective! Plenty of parking available. Betsy Hanratty (212) 533-5093

Thur June 12. Urban Berserker Night Ride.
23 mi. From St. Marks Place to Washington Heights, from Central Park to Riverside Dr. Let it all hang out on a fast, challenging course with a few surprises. Fearsome climbs! Thrilling descents! Bonus sprints! Dress reflective and meet at 7 PM at Columbus Circle. Bring your big chain ring. To be repeated Thurs July 10 and Thur Aug 14 if survivors.
Gary Meyer (212) 928-4187 eve, (201) 740-8377 days.

Sun June 15. Bike to the Beach at Bayville.
80 Mi. Meet 8:30 AM at Maxwell's Plum (cor. 1st Ave. and E 64th St.) for a fast-paced

ride to Bayville in northern Long Island. The terrain has a few steep hills near the city limit, after which the scenery turns lovely and for the most part quite rustic. If all goes well, we'll have 1-2 hr. available to swim or sunburn. (30% or greater chance of rain cancels.) Irving Schachter (212) 578-5738 (Mon - Thur 7-9 PM)

Wed June 18. Evening Biking. See June 11th

SPECIAL BIKE TREK

The Brooklyn Lung Association is conducting a 3-day, 150 mile Bike Trek in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, June 20th, 21st, and 22nd (in cooperation with American Youth Hostels). It's a special event to raise money for the lung association's pediatric lung programs. For information, call or write: Brooklyn Lung Association
165 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 624-8531

Sat June 21. Bike/Swim Riis Park. 50 Mi.
Since it won't rain today, I'll bring the radio, you bring the Frisbee. Locks a must. Meet at 9 AM at City Hall (Manhattan) or 9:30 AM at Tillary and Cadman Plaza (Brooklyn). Pass the lotion! Fabian Truncellito (212) 564-6592

Sun June 22. Circular to Hoboken Ride. 30 Mi.
Meet 10:30 AM at bike shop on 6th Ave at 15th St. Up to Central Park, across GW Bridge River Road to Hoboken. Bring or buy lunch. Bring lock and 75 cents for PATH. Leader: Mary McInnes (212) 254-0293

Sun June 29. Century Cycle and Swim. 100 Mi.
Meet at 8 AM at Maxwell's Plum (cor. 1st Ave and E 64th St.) for a very hilly and pretty ride to FDR Park (a.k.a. Mohansic State Park) in northern Westchester. A bike with lots of gears is virtually a 'must'. We will be riding along Sleepy Hollow Road, past Rockefeller Estates, and along farms replete with

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES RIDE

Sat June 28. Breezy Bronx Ride. 16 Mi. Enjoy the trees and waterways in our city's most northerly Borough. We'll pedal quiet streets and bikepaths alongside Pelham Parkway to Orchard Beach where we'll admire the view of islands and bridges and have lunch (please bring). Take IRT #2 train to Pelham Parkway station at 10:30 AM or #6 to Pelham Bay Park (last Stop), cross footbridge and meet at the foot of the ramp at 11 AM. Street parking available at both spots. Jennifer Sonsini (212) 654-0388.

(RIDES - Continued from Page 4)

horses and cows. We should reach Pleasantville at about 10 AM for a quick brunch after which we will cover the remaining 15 very hilly miles to the park and pool at Mohansic. On the way back, we will pass over the Croton Dam Reservoir Road for a stunning view of the surrounding hills. (30% or greater chance of rain cancels.) Irving Schachter (212) 578-5738 (Mon-Thur 7-9PM)

Wed June 25. Evening Biking. See June 11th

Sun June 29. Bike to the Shore. 40 Mi. Shores of City Island, that is, for a seafood dinner. Rolling hills, 10-speeds advised. Meet at 9 AM at Columbus Circle or 10:30 at 242nd St. IRT #1 Stop. Bring money, lock, spare tube and appetite! Leader: Carole Johnson, (212) 924-8851 (9-11 PM).

9th ANNUAL RARITAN VALLEY ROUND-UP
June 29, 1986

Central Jersey Bicycle Club invites you to join us in our 9th Annual Round-Up thru some of the most scenic areas of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. This year's rally will offer a variety of rides which will appeal to the novice and seasoned cyclist alike. All rides will be leader-lead or leaderless (maps provided). As in the past all tours have been carefully chosen for scenic beauty as well as freedom from urban traffic.

Raritan Valley Round-Up '86
Central Jersey Bicycle Club
Jenifer Rizzo
18-F Ari Drive
Somerset, NJ 08873

Sun July 6. Bike Bear Mountain - Century Ride 100 Mi. All the great outdoor spots - Seven Lakes Drive, a dip in the Lake, Joe's Deli! Meet at 8 AM - 168th St. and Broadway (IRT and IND) or 8:30 AM on the New Jersey side of the GW Bridge walkway. Fabian Truncellito (212) 564-6592.

Wed July 9. Evening Biking. See June 11th.

Thur July 10. Urban Berserker Night Ride.
See Thur June 12.

Sun July 13. Sunny Sunday Cycling. 25 Mi. Upper Manhattan and da Bronx: original colonial houses, Indian Caves. Contemporary 'California' wood homes and this year I will try not to get lost in Manhattan's last primeval forest. Meet at 10:00 AM at Central Park Boathouse on East Park Drive north of 72nd St. Bring lunch or money. Rain cancels. Dave Lutz (212) 624-0346.

Wed July 16. Evening Biking. See Wed June 11

Wed July 23. Evening Biking. See June 11

Sat July 26. Tall in the Saddle Cycle to Tallman Mountain Park. 50 Mi. Meet at Columbus Circle at 9:30 AM to spin across the GW Bridge and take Route 505 to Tallman. Bring spare tube, lunch, frisbees and hula hoops. Gary Meyer (212) 928-4187.

Sun July 27. Bike to the Ball Game. Softball, that is, in Riverside Park. A new concept in Biathalons. Bring your glove, we'll supply the bats and balls. Small beverage contribution. Any number can play. Meet at Columbus Circle at 9 AM to bike the 6 miles to the Park or call for rendezvous info to meet at the field. Who's on first. Carmen Pujols (212) 928-4187.

Sat., Aug. 2. Central Park and Prospect Park 25 miles. Ride 2 traffic free loops with a scenic connecting jaunt over the Brooklyn Bridge. Meet at Columbus Circle at 9:30 am. Carmen Pujols (212) 928-4187

Wed Kuly 30. Evening Biking. See June 11

MISSION: SENSATIONAL BIKE TOUR
September 27 and 28

Are you ready to join a great adventure?
Are you ready for an exciting challenge?
Do you want to meet new people, explore Long Island and be eligible to win great prizes: Then the Nassau MS 150 Bike Tour is for you! No matter what your biking style is, the MS 150 Bike Tour is an exciting opportunity to cycle along beautiful Long Island roads during the fall season.
Nassau County Chapter MS Society
3601 Hempstead Turnpike
Levittown, New York 11756

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES RIDE

Sat. July 12. Queens Park Ride. 20 miles. Enjoy an almost flat ride through the parks and quiet streets of Queens. We'll take in Flushing Meadow, the Botanical Gardens and Kissena Park. On our return we'll stop to buy plants if the group wishes. Meet at 11 AM in the 111th St. parking lot near the Science Center (look for the rockets!). Take #7 train to 111th Street, exit right onto 111th and pedal a few blocks to the parking lot. Jennifer Sonsini (212) 654-0388

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES NEEDS TOUR LEADERS. CALL (212) 654-0388

PROGRESS REPORTS AROUND TOWN

Welcome back to work to Larry Reilly, NYC's bicycle coordinator. Late May saw his first day back in the office after many weeks at home. Larry says his neck injury occurred by turning his head while bicycling in Central Park. My own theory is that this would never have happened if more cyclists made themselves heard downtown.

Arnie Abramowitz in the Queens Parks Commissioner's office says he will focus on funding the bicycle map on which we have begun to collaborate when his seasonal rush is over. A remarkable system of interconnected, looped bicycle paths connect the Queens Parks (see ride listing) so if you use your bike to explore the city or to seek greenery this is good news.

The condition of this **Queens Bicycle Path Network** was evaluated late last year at the initiative of then Borough Parks Commissioner Diane Chapin. Three City College Landscape Architecture students examined the feasibility of linking all major parks in the northern section of Queens via a bicycle system composed of bike paths, lanes, and routes in order to enhance park use by bike riders. A large segment of the system already exists.

If you live in Queens and would like to see near or long term improvements in these bikeways you will have to take action. It shouldn't be an uphill battle because this year the #1 budget priority of our City's Community Boards is Parks maintenance and the Dept. of Transportation has a large budget for repair and upgrading long neglected roadways but NOTHING will happen without outside interest. Phone me (212/866-7489).

One of the wonderful people who responded to our efforts at the 5-Boro Tour is Harris Graber, a professional cartographer. He has joined our endeavor to make a bicycle map of Manhattan. **If you ride in Manhattan and do**

not live (t)here please send a card to T.A. with your name, address and phone # and a brief notation of your most travelled or favorite routes. Perhaps a map will encourage the timid to discover the joys of bicycle transportation.

The brave may be interested to learn of or join an initiative taken by some city cyclists who will soon test the first "CYCLIST ALERT" pothole marking kit. To prepare for using this kit report the hole by calling:

Manhattan	566-2018
Bronx	931-3770
Brooklyn	643-9747
Queens	520-3311
Staten Island	390-5124

If the hole is near the curb you should provide relevant alternate side of the street parking information so the hole fillers can show up at the appropriate hour. DOT says potholes will be filled within 7 to 10 days.

For replacement of your list of parallel bar sewer grates posing a hazard to cyclists **write down a list of hazardous grates and send it to:** Commissioner Harvey Schultz
Dept. of Environmental Protection
Municipal Building/1 Centre St.
NYC 10007

Or you can send your list to me c/o T.A. Don't you think the Dept. of Environmental Protection should be working for cyclists?

The timid and the brave citywide will, we hope unite in support of the bicycle code/pledge initiated by Carl Hultberg and the Ecology group of the NY Greens. The Greens support the adoption of a realistic set of traffic laws designed especially for cyclists. For the near term a cyclists code of personal safety and respect for pedestrians has been drafted. Some form of visible identification (green armbands?) will be part of this voluntary, self-policing cyclists ethic and safety code.

Gail Boorstein

MANY BICYCLISTS ARE GOING AGAINST THE CITY'S GRAIN

THIS WAS THE HEADLINE ON TODD S. PURDUM'S ARTICLE IN THE WEEK IN REVIEW SECTION OF THE MAY 25, 1986 SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES. HE BEGAN "WHILE MUGGERS AND ASSORTED OTHER THIEVES STILL POSE A DANGER ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY, OF COURSE, IN RECENT YEARS A NEW THREAT HAS EMERGED SPEEDING ALONG ON TWO WHEELS." Wow! THIEVES, MUGGERS AND BICYCLISTS IN THE SAME SENTENCE. A GRAPH TITLED: RIDING ROUGHSHOD SHOWED THE INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS - 399 IN 1981 TO 707 IN 1985. AND MR. PURDAM MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 747 REPORTED INJURIES AND 2 DEATHS REPORTED LAST YEAR; ABOUT 2 MILLION CYCLISTS ON THE CITY STREETS DOUBLE THE NUMBER A YEAR AGO; ROUGHLY HALF THE BICYCLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVE BIKE MESSEN- GERS IN MIDTOWN STREETS. MR. PURDAM MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ANALYSE ANY OF THE FIGURES. WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENTS? SPEEDING CYCLISTS? JAYWALKING PEDESTRIANS? THE ARTICLE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DRAWING

SHOWING BICYCLISTS COMMITTING A NUMBER OF ACTS OF MAYHEM AS THEY MOVED ERRATICALLY THROUGH THE CITY STREETS. THE ARTICLE DOES A GREAT DISSERVICE TO THE BICYCLING COM- MUNITY. IT INDICATES THAT CYCLISTS ARE IR- RESPONSIBLE AS A GROUP. MOST CYCLISTS ARE LAW-ABIDING AND USE THEIR BICYCLES IN A SAME MANNER.

"EVERTIME I GO INTO A SENIOR CITIZEN CEN- TER ... BICYCLISTS ARE ONE OF THE MAIN TOP- ICS OF CONVERSATION." PURDAM QUOTES COUNCIL- WOMEN CAROL GREITZER, WHO REPRESENTS MIDTOWN MANHATTAN AND WAS ONE OF THE SPONSORS OF THE REGISTRATION LAW. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNA- TIVES HAS ALWAYS ADVOCATED THAT CYCLISTS WHO RIDE SO THAT THEY ARE A DANGER TO THE COM- MUNITY, SHOULD BE STOPPED AND PUNISHED. THE CITY CYCLIST INTENDS TO ENVESTIGATE THE NUM- BERS IN THE ARTICLE AND WHAT THEY MEAN AND WILL REPORT BACK IN ANOTHER ISSUE. THE REST OF THE ARTICLE WAS DEVOTED TO COM- MERCIAL BICYCLES AND THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THEIR OPERATIONS.

MY FIVE BORO HIGH. ... MARY FRANCES DUNHAM

THIS YEAR I ENTERED NEW YORK CITY'S FIVE BORO BIKE TOUR HALFWAY THROUGH ITS COURSE. I REACHED QUEENSBORO BRIDGE AS THE FIRST CYCLISTS, THE TRUE DEVOTEES, WERE VEERING INTO THE ASCENT. THEY SWOOPED PAST ME LIKE A MIGRATION OF POWERFUL BIRDS. I MERGED WITH THE THROG THAT FOLLOWED AND WE SWARMED OVER THE BRIDGE TOGETHER.

A ROCK BAND WAS BLARING CHEERFULLY WHEN WE REACHED QUEENSBORO PARK. EVERYONE WAS ENJOYING A MID-TOUR BREAK AND THE VIEW OF MANHATTAN ACROSS THE EAST RIVER. I RELAXED HERE TOO, AND DID SOME PUBLICITY FOR TA, PASSING OUT FLYERS AND THE SPECIAL \$1 MEMBERSHIP CARDS TO INTERESTED CYCLISTS. I CAMPAIGNED IN THIS STYLE AT THE TOUR'S OTHER REST STOPS.

PART WAY THROUGH BROOKLYN WE PASSED SOME HASSIDIM WHO HAD COME OUT TO WATCH. THEIR SOMBER CLOTHES, CHARACTERISTIC SIDE CURLS AND QUIET FAMILY GROUPS CONTRASTED STRONGLY WITH THE TOUR'S MOTLEY PILGRIMS. MANY OF US WORE SKIN-TIGHT RACING TOGS, OTHERS SPORTED BRIGHT ORANGE TOUR VESTS.

I RELISHED THE VARIETY OF BICYCLES, TOO. FRAGILE LOOKING RACING BIKES, STURDY ATB'S, TANDEM AND THOSE FETCHING "RECUMBENTS". YOUNG CYCLISTS DASHED FORWARD ON BMX'S, TWO WHEELMEN PERCHED HIGH ON THEIR "PENNY-FARTHING", OUTDISTANCED MODERN 2-WHEELERS. CHILDREN PEDALED BESIDE PARENTS AND TODDLERS CAME TOWED IN TRAILERS.

I SHARED THE EXCITEMENT AT THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE. SPECTACULAR FROM A CAR, IT IS, OF COURSE, MUCH BETTER VIA BICYCLE. THE LONG ASCENT CURVES UPWARD SO GENTLY IT CAN BE PEDALED ALL THE WAY. BUT I WALKED, PAUSING IN MY SKYWARD COURSE TO VIEW THE HARBOR BELOW. AT THE SUMMIT, I REMOUNTED. COASTING

DOWN WAS ECSTASY. THE ROAD WAS OURS! THE BRIDGE WAS OURS! AND THE CITY WAS OURS, FROM END TO END!

THREE YEARS AGO I RODE THE FIVE BORO FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT RAINED DISASTROUSLY. MANY CYCLISTS ABANDONED THE COURSE EARLY - BEFORE LEAVING HOME, IF THEY WERE WISE! OR THEY RODE, LIKE ME, HELL-BENT TO KEEP WARM AND FINISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THIS YEAR'S TOUR MADE UP FOR THAT ONE. I EXPERIENCED WHAT A CELEBRATION THE TOUR IS - A FEAST OF CYCLING, FANTASTIC SCENERY AND GOOD COMPANY!

BICYCLE REPAIR COURSES

Adult Education Department West Side YMCA
5 West 63 St. New York NY 10023 (787-6557)
INTRODUCTION TO BIKE REPAIR (Two Sessions)
Monday 6:30-8:30 PM June 2, 9
Members \$15 Non-members \$17
ADVANCED BIKE REPAIR (two sessions)
Monday 6:30-8:30 PM June 16, 23
Members \$15 Non-members \$17
BIKE REPAIR WORKSHOP (one 5-hour session)
Saturday 10 AM-3 PM June 28
Members \$25 Non-members \$30

Anyone interested in being on the mailing list of BIKES NOT BOMBS,



Mail to:
Bikes Not Bombs
P.O. Box 5595
Washington, DC 20016

CUT HERE

SEND TO: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES, 2121 BROADWAY, NY, NY 10023

Okay. I'm pushing for pedals. Here's my check made out to Transportation Alternatives.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____

PROFESSION _____

HOME PHONE _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

- \$15 Regular membership
 - \$20 Regular membership + TA T-shirt.
Size: S, M, L, XL
 - \$25 Dual regular membership (2 people at same address)
 - \$35 Sustaining member (+ T-shirt and Brooklyn bike map)
 - \$100 Patron (+ T-shirt and Brooklyn bike map)
 - \$6 T-shirt with TA biker logo. Size: S, M, L, XL
 - \$3 Brooklyn Biker map
- \$ _____ Total amount enclosed

HERE ARE MY SUGGESTIONS FOR GOALS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SHOULD PURSUE:

I'm interested in volunteering more than just money! I can help with:

- (1) Art work and graphics (10) Letterwriting
- (2) Attending hearings, meetings (11) Membership recruitment
- (3) Bike maintenance (12) Newsletter
- (4) Clerical work (13) Printing
- (5) Engineering/planning skills (14) Safety
- (6) Fund raising (15) Street fairs, rallies
- (7) Leading bike rides (16) Telephone calls
- (8) Leafletting (17) Typesetting
- (9) Legal work (18) Writing articles
- (19) Other _____

BUILDING A BIKE MAP LIBRARY.



The Pennsylvania Bicycling guide consists of a statewide map and four quadrant maps which divide the commonwealth into four sections: Southeast, southwest, Northeast and Northwest.

The guide includes the following information: numerous cross-state routes for bicyclists, campgrounds, tourist information, area bicycle clubs/racing clubs, emergency amenities in rural areas only, topographic details, existing bikeways around the state, historic/scenic areas, etc.

There is no charge for the statewide map. However, each quadrant map will cost \$1.25 which includes handling charges. If you purchase the entire package of 5 maps, the cost is only \$4.50. Send to:



Pennsylvania Dept of Transportation
Sales Store
P.O. Box 2028
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2028

SEPTEMBER 14. JIM NIKOL WILL LEAD A RIDE THROUGH FOREST HILLS AND BEYOND ALONG THE TERMINAL MORaine ON THE WISCONSIN GLACIER. MEET: 1 PM. AT LIRR FOREST HILLS (E OR F TRAINS TO CONTINENTAL AVE.) NO RAIN DATE.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 7 1986 AT 6 PM
AT
THE KITCHEN
WASHINGTON SQUARE CHURCH
135 W. 4TH ST.

TA IS MOVING AGAIN. BECOME PART OF THE PROCESS. HELP DETERMINE THE GOALS AND PROGRAMS OF TA AND BE ACTIVE IN CARRYING THEM OUT.

WEST STREET BIKE PATH ... PAINTED AWAY

PEDALERS HAVE ASKED WHY THIS PATH ALONG THE HUDSON HAS BEEN OBLITERATED. NYC DOT HAS PLANS TO REMOVE THE AREA FROM AUTOMATIVE USE AND MAKE IT WALKABLE/BIKEABLE/SIT-ABLE. PEOPLE ORIENTED. BUT THE STATE OWNS THE LAND AND WOULD LIKE IT USED FOR CARS. THEY HAVE PUT THE AREA OUT FOR BIDS AND DON'T WANT, EVEN ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, THE PEOPLE ORIENTED PLAN. IF YOU LIKE THE CITY'S IDEA BETTER, QUICKLY CALL GAIL BOORSTEIN - 866-7489 -

IF YOU LIKE THE CITY'S IDEA BETTER, CALL: GAIL BOORSTEIN - 866-7489 QUICKLY !

Transportation Alternatives
2121 Broadway (Rm. 204)
New York, NY 10023
(212) 255-0971



To:

Edward Ravin
3847 ORLOFF AVE
BRONX, NY 10463