



PACELINE

**Alta Alpina
Cycling Club**

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Death Ride 2007 in the Rear-View Mirror

Jennie Hamiter, President

A great, big THANK YOU to EVERYONE who volunteered for this year's Death Ride. I want to express our appreciation at the great job the AACC volunteers did this year. Kudos especially to our club's Death Ride Coordinators, who kept it all on track, despite all the surprises and obstacles along the way.

Corey Bolton, Safety

Coordinator: Corey had a big learning curve, and an abrupt introduction to how to manage all of the course marshals, SAG drivers, signage, and other Death Ride safety considerations. Di Bolton, by proxy, ended up working some long days and making herself pretty indispensable, too.

Brenda Giese, Volunteer

Coordinator: Brenda's attention to detail and conscientiousness is very much appreciated AND required for the daunting task of coordinating the ride's hundreds of volunteers. Her husband, David, got pulled in too, helping her with registration all day Friday, then working the night shift at the warehouse from Friday to Saturday.

Michael Bayer, Logistics

Coordinator: Michael handled the ride logistics and supplies for keeping 3000 riders on the course safe, well-fed, hydrated, and happy.

John Seher, Death Ride Committee Member and Parking Coordinator:

Aside from all his other duties leading up to the ride, John is Parking Captain all day in the sun on Friday, then always plays the role of Motorcycle SAG Extraordinaire from pre-dawn to post-dusk on the day of the ride. He enthusiastically and tirelessly fixes flats, fetches bikes that have gone over cliffs, picks up riders with broken bikes or broken spirits, gives people his own tires that's he's brought along-he's amazing.

Tim Rowe, Death Ride Committee Member and Course Support Coordinator:

Tim has now finished his 17th year working for the Death Ride. There's not much Tim doesn't know about the ride; his knowledge and advice is invaluable. Though he ends up doing a LOT of very odd jobs the whole week leading up to the ride, this year he was specifically responsible for lining up course ambulances and tech support.

Kevin Willitts, Tactics Captain:

As "the guy in the radio van", Kevin is Command Central, "the brain" of the Death Ride, Volunteer #1. Any problem that requires moving supplies, emergency vehicles, or SAG safely around on the course is his responsibility. This year, Kevin was going to ride the ride, but at the last minute his replacement, Jim Strange, crashed his bike and was unable to do it. We owe a big thanks to Kevin for abruptly

Inside this issue:

<i>Death Ride</i>	2
<i>Tour de l'Abitibi</i>	3
<i>Road Race Series</i>	4
<i>2007 Mountain Bike Race Series</i>	5
<i>Dangers of Riding in the Tahoe Area</i>	6
<i>Board Meeting Minutes</i>	7

changing his plans for the sake of the safety of the ride.

TARA: A round of applause, too, for the Tahoe Amateur Radio Association for making Kevin's job possible; they're responsible for all the course communications, and literally the Death Ride could not happen without them.

ACCC: Thanks to Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director **Teresa Burkhauser** for working long hours, and for dealing with thousands of details and about as many problems. She even did a stint to Hermit Valley and back this year as motorcycle SAG with John Seher, and helped carry a bike back to Wolf Creek on her shoulder; thanks also to Teresa's family members that each year get called in for long hours of volunteer work during Death Ride week. Credit, too, goes to **Shannon** for climbing a big learning curve this year in helping with the Chamber's DR duties.



Death Ride 2007

Pictures by Dennis Pederson



Turn Around at Topaz



A Beautiful Day for Climbing Ebbetts



Heading into the Ebbetts S-Curves



Rider Up!



Hermit Valley Rest Stop



Cooling Down at Woodfords



Tour de l'Abitibi—Stage 3—Senneterre to Val-d'Or

Micah Herman

Today's race was the second longest stage of the tour for us at 94k of racing. Yesterday's stage was the longest at 118k, followed by the Team Time Trial latter on that day. We drove out of Val-d'Or over to the neighboring town of Senneterre which is about an hour away in a car. The road signs here are all in French, which adds to the whole different country effect. It rained almost the whole way over and only cleared out a little bit for the start. The streets were almost completely dry at the start, but it was still overcast and looked like it was raining everywhere else than where we were.



We warmed up for a little bit, then hit the start line with about 20 minuets until the start. In a race with 155 riders that all want to be at the front, you have to get to the start line really early. When we got the gunshot it was complete madness. 3 crashes happened just trying to clip in and get on our bikes. The speed when it starts is just crazy fast.

The race was a road race, but we did 5 circuits in town on a course that was about the same as a crit, 1 1/2k. They are super intense and very fast. I stayed in the top 20 to 40 for the circuits, and then for the first part of the trek back to Val-d'Or. The fan base is mind blowing. People stop work to come out and see us. We have a police escort that gets the traffic off the road; it also gets people's attention. They scream at you, people honk their horns, there are megaphones.

It's like Nevada City for 100k.

Anyways, when we got out of town it started to sprinkle a little, and the attacks came. There was one that had like 40 guys in it that had about 20 seconds and none of the US national guys, so they were forced to chase. We caught it after a long period. It started raining after the break had been established and that kind of discouraged any serious chasing. The rain only lasted 20 min or so, then it changed to a drizzle, so

we picked it up a little bit. The roads dried up and we had a left hand turn followed by a large hill about 5 miles down the road. Coming into town just got faster and faster as the gap came from about 2:00 down to 1:00 into the circuits of Val-d'Or. I was in the top 15 to 20 trying to get Trent (our team sprinter) into good position. There is a steep little hill for 150 meters at 5 to 6% that really strung things out single file. I moved positions on the first 2 laps with Trent on my wheel, but on the last one I was dead, so he was on his own. I drifted back to about 50th to 60th coming through the last few corners before the finish. Trent was top 20 I think, but the break hung on for the win, so it didn't really count for much.

I was happy I stayed with the lead group, about 100, because 50 or so guys didn't. The group was about 2 1/2 blocks long because there were 100 riders stretched single file. We averaged 27 mph, so not as fast as the first stage's 29 but still hauling.



Mike Sharp Spraying Riders at Pickett's Rest Stop



Five Pass Sticker and Pin at Carson Pass



The Plight of the Tahoe Road Cyclist

Darla Mazzoni, Vice-President

As you drive in to the South Shore on Hwy. 50, there is a "bicycle friendly community" placard by the "Welcome to South Lake Tahoe" monument, which boasts our bicycle friendliness as a community. "Bicycle friendly" communities such as Davis, CA or Boulder, CO and many others, deserve that designation; they in fact make efforts to ensure the safety of cyclists and promote bike riding both for eco-friendly reasons and physical fitness.

I am an avid road cyclist. I ride the roads of Tahoe, including all the mountain passes surrounding the basin. While riding my bike, I have been spit on, screamed at, and run off the road. Other avid cyclists I know in town have been shot at with guns, pelted with beer cans, had liquid thrown at them from passing cars, and assailed with profanity from motorists while cycling. A friend of mine was severely injured recently when a motorist got too close with his car and hit him with their side mirror. Another friend had her rear-end slapped by a passenger in a car while she was cycling down Pioneer Trail!

Hundreds of cyclists use Pioneer Trail, South Upper Truckee, and Luther Pass every day. Luther Pass is the gateway to the best cycling in Hope Valley and beyond, yet road cyclists have no lane of their own. Cyclists are forced to ride to the left of the fog line on many parts of Luther Pass, as the pavement to the right is crumbling and falling apart. It has become one of the most dangerous roads for us to ride, although, this road is extremely popular with cyclists. It's a shame when Luther was paved a few years ago, that they forgot about the road cyclists. A couple of cyclists I know have been hit by cars while descending this pass and came close to dying. I teach a road cycling class through Lake Tahoe Community College. I teach my cyclists the rules of the road, cycling etiquette with other cyclists and motorists, and skills to survive on the road. We follow the laws of the road. We hug the side of Luther Pass, as close to the dirt as we can get, yet too many times my students have been run off the road ascending the pass

by motorists getting too close to us.

The local road cyclists would be grateful if the bicycle coalition would place a "Share the Road" sign in both directions on Luther Pass. "Share the Road" signs would alert motorists that cyclist use this road and these kinds of accidents might not occur.

Pioneer Trail is heavily used by cyclists. There is so much glass and debris in the bike lane that flat tires are pretty much guaranteed. The asphalt in the bike lane in many places is falling apart, and makes for a very uncomfortable and unsafe ride for cyclists. Cleaning the designated bike lane, filling in pot holes, and the installing "Share the Road" signs, is a small request for a "bicycle friendly community".

The South Shore is a cycling community. Road cyclists agree that something needs to change. Motorists need to realize that road cyclists are human; we have families, lives and feelings. We are promoting physical fitness, and keeping health care costs down. We are riding our bikes instead of using our cars, thus helping the environment and conserving gas. We are happy people; just take a look at our faces when we are riding. Cyclists are always smiling.

Please, understand the plight of the road cyclists and be respectful of our sport. Please give us space as you drive by. When you get too close to us with your cars, the wind from your car whips us around like rag dolls and the rocks and dirt that kick up and pelts us, hurts. Not to mention, it scares us to death and is extremely dangerous. How would you feel if you hit us? Please don't honk your horn at us, we know you are there. Please respectfully share the road with us. We all own the road equally.

Please help to make this "bicycle friendly community" designation a reality rather than a designation that has little meaning to road cyclists.

Local Merchant Discount Program

For discounts from these local merchants, please visit the AACC website at www.AltaAlpina.org





Board Meeting Minutes—July 2, 2007

Secretary, John Seher; Other Board Members, Jennie Hamiter, Michael Bayer, Dave Gaskin, Libby Oakden, Steve Thomsen, Di Bolton, Cory Bolton, Peter Costa, Mike Beam and Dennis Pederson. Others Present: Bob Sullivan

1. Monthly Status Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Dave Gaskin reports a bank balance of \$45,982.29 as of June 17, 2007. Dave also reports that he is preparing the information package for the Club's tax filing.
 - **Memberships:** Michael reports we have passed the 200 mark in total memberships.
 - **Newsletter:** Editor Libby Oakden invites the membership to submit cycling related articles for the membership to enjoy, particularly interesting anecdotes about the Death Ride..
 - **Website:** Dennis Pederson reported all information on the AACC website has been brought up to date.
 - **Twilight Road Races:** Twilight Road Races: Director Di Bolton reports a good attendance at the Thursday night races, typically about thirty participants.
 - **Twilight Mountain Bike Race Series:** Director Michael Beam reports that the race series was a success, with the usual turnout about twentyfive riders. Mike turned in the financial records for the series and reported that the series was completed under budget. General comments from riders were that next year we should have more mountain bike races and perhaps a fall cyclocross series.
 - **Junior Team:** Coach Mel was not present. AACC Juniors Micah Herman and Heath Medeiros will be competing at the Junior National Championships in Pennsylvania in July.
 - **Carson Valley Classic:** Steve Thomsen again reports that everything is ready. Volunteers are needed for the numerous tasks, including follow vehicles for the road race. ROP will be at the event to help.
 - **Adopt-A-Highway:** Cleanup coordinator Pete Costa has scheduled the next cleanup day for Saturday, July 21, the week after the Death Ride. There will be coffee and snacks and a road ride afterwards.
 - **Clothing:** The re-order for AACC hooded sweatshirts has been received, and they are available at Big Daddy's Cycling and Fitness in Gardnerville.
 - **Weekend Rides:** No report on weekend ride activities.
 - **Bike Advocacy:** Tim Rowe reports the new Carson City bicycle map that the Club supported is ready and is available at local bike shops.
2. **Death Ride:** John Tim, and Michael reported that preparations were proceeding smoothly, though there have been a few problems with suppliers and product sponsors not performing as expected. Alternative sources are being explored. DR Volunteer Coordinator Brenda Giese has sent volunteer lists to the various DR Captains.
 3. **Looking Ahead:** Club President Jennie Hamiter requested that the Board and the Membership consider the Club's priorities for activities, and particularly how the budget should be allocated to these activities. Comments on this topic are welcomed, and members are encouraged to attend future BOD meetings to voice their opinion on this topic.
 4. **Death Ride Slots for AACC Volunteers:** The Board reaffirmed the policies that members may gain entry to the Death Ride by volunteering both the current year and the previous year and that membership dues are non-refundable.
 5. **Donation:** The Board voted to donate a complete AACC clothing kit to AACC member Frank Dixon who lost his house in the Angora Fire.
 6. **Motorist Terrorism:** Club member Jim Schulz sent a letter to the AACC BOD describing his recent scrapes with aggressive drivers in the Lake Tahoe area. Everyone present at the BOD meeting was quick to describe similar experiences. The Board asked MTB race series director Mike Beam, who works in law enforcement and has been the victim of hooliganism on the highway, to prepare an article for the *Paceline* about what to do in these circumstances.
 7. **Tour of Carson Valley:** Jennie reports that there were about 140 riders participating, and that the Club garnered two new memberships from the discount membership offer.
 8. **Events:** The King of the King timetrial and The Genoa Cyclocross will take place again this year. Dates for these events will be set at subsequent BOD meetings.
 9. **Next Meeting:** Monday, August 1, 2007, 6 pm, Pizza Factory in Gardnerville.



Alta Alpina Cycling Club

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Bowers Mansion RideAugust 11
 Tour of Smith ValleyAugust 12
 Paris Brest ParisAugust 20
 King of the King Timetrial September 9
 Thursday Night Races .. every Thu @6:15

MOVED? GOT NEW CONTACT INFO?
 Have you moved? Has your e-mail address changed?
 Don't miss out on the latest AACC happenings!
 Update your info at www.AltaAlpina.org; click on "Membership"

Alta Alpina Cycling Club Board Members

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 Libby Oakden
 Newsletter Publisher:
 Michael Bayer

The club is about and for you! All AACC members are welcomed to participate in our **Board Meetings** held the **first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.** The location alternates between the Gardnerville Ranchos and Stateline.. Join us on **September 10** at the **Pizza Factory** in the **Gardnerville Ranchos.**