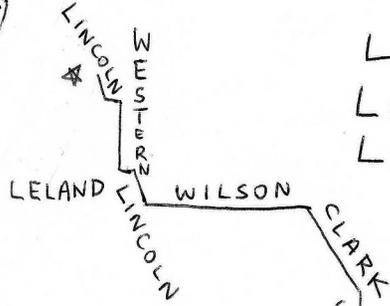


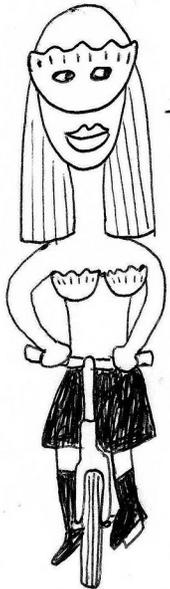
# THE POLKA RIDE

JANUARY 29, 2010

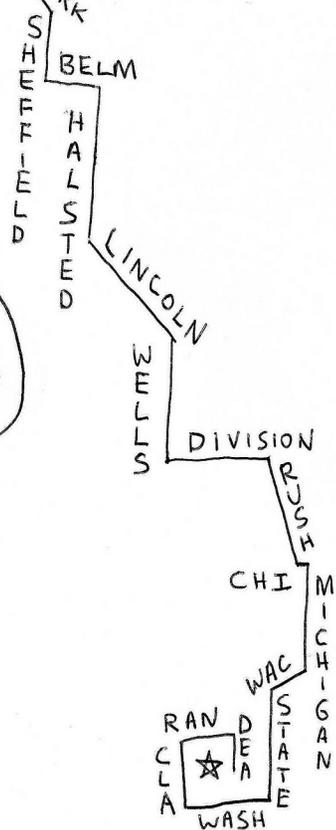
LET'S RIDE TO  
LINCOLN SQUARE  
LANES TO PARTY  
WITH THE  
POLKAHOLICS!



CAN'T READ MY  
CAN'T READ MY  
NO THEY CAN'T READ  
MY...



LADY  
BABKA



# THE 2010 POLKARAILLE R

Special edition of *The Derailleur*, an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass.



GET READY  
TO PARTY  
WITH



# 2010 CHICAGO CRITICAL MASS POLKARAILLEUR

## Fuzzy Polka Ride Memories

Roll out the bicycle, we'll have a big mass of fun.  
Roll out the bicycle, we've got the cars on the run.  
Roll out the bicycle, we'll have a whole lot of fun.

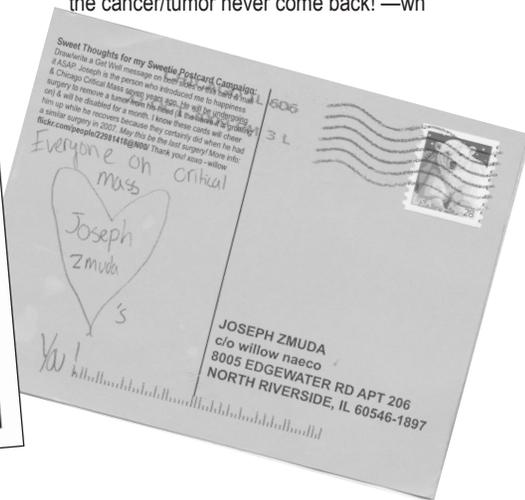
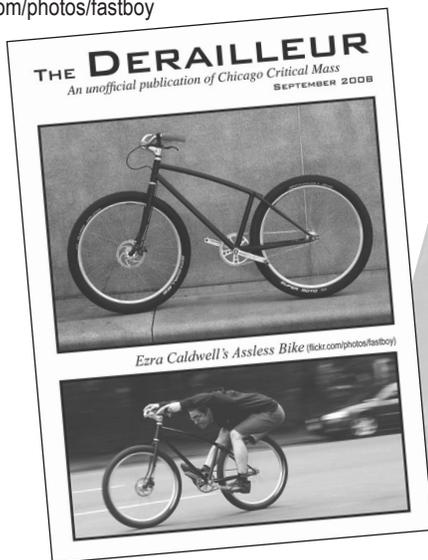
Everyone should roll the bicycle, because Critical Mass is here, polka!  
—Dan Korn

*The Derailleur*, January 2010. *The Derailleur* is an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass. This issue was compiled by willow naeco. Have a Happy Friday and be sure to Polka your patootie off tonight! **Thank you:** Dandy Don, John Greenfield, Dan Korn, Michael Burton, Big Shoulders Realty, Steven Lane, and Todd Gee. **Credits:** Original Polkaholics drummer Mike Werner designed The Polkaholics image on the front cover. Photo of The Polkaholics by Vera Gavrilovic. Lyrics © The Polkaholics and reprinted with permission of the lovely Dandy Don. Polka Ride map by John Greenfield. Polka instructions and other images modified from: bowlingballs.us/images/bowling-ball-480.jpg, breakthegridlock.org, chicagobikeshops.info, ctker.com/clipart-6576.html, create-a-mural.com/ill/web\_polka\_dots\_pink.jpg, ehow.com/how\_4279\_polka.html, i.ehow.com/images/GlobalPhoto/Articles/4623884/89696-main\_Full.jpg, mspace.com/polcascenezine, pinedaleonline.com/archive/2002/jan/scri-bowlingalley2jan19.jpg, and polishcenter.net/images/polka.JPG. lovelovelove —willow naeco

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

**Ezra Caldwell**, the bad-ass New York cyclist who rode his assless bike to and from chemo treatments to kick colorectal cancer's ass, is doing well. He and Hillary were married in June. I had the pleasure to meet Ezra and Hillary in November. They are two of the sweetest people you will ever know. It was an honor to spend time with them. His cancer story can be read here: [fastboycycles.com/teachingcancercertocry](http://fastboycycles.com/teachingcancercertocry) and his life after cancer can be followed here: [flickr.com/photos/fastboy](http://flickr.com/photos/fastboy)

**Joseph Zmuda**, the local cyclist who has been dealing with a non-cancerous skull-base tumor since 2007, continues to recover. He lost the ability to swallow because of a surgery in 2009. He has a g-tube for nutrition but is now able to eat some foods, such as pizza, milk shakes, and brownies. He's bummed about losing his job in October so if you have a Get Well postcard that you have been meaning to send, your card will really cheer him up. Thank you to everyone who has sent **Ezra** and **Joseph** well wishes and to those who have asked about their current health. May they both continue to recover and may the cancer/tumor never come back! —wn



## UPCOMING BIKE WINTER EVENTS



**Winter Bike Tour of Lincoln Square** January 30, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at East River Park (5100 N. Francisco) 773-255-6347 On our 3rd ride of the Bike Winter/Big Shoulders Realty winter ride series, we revisit Lincoln Square. Chicago Community Area #4 sits 7 miles NW of the Loop. The area is filled with wonderful examples of bungalows, brick-flats, courtyard apartments, and various Victorian houses and a number of requisite works by Clarence Hatzfeld, Dwight Perkins, and Louis Sullivan. Rain, Shine, Snow... We Go! Free Bike Winter balaclavas will be passed out before the ride.



**First Annual Bike Winter Swap Meet and Urban Bicycle Expo** February 6, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jaks Tap (901 W. Jackson Blvd.) 773-710-4143 Finally, a bike extravaganza in the winter months, with an urban transportation focus, presented by Chicago cyclists for Chicago cyclists. Join bikewinter.org, UIC College of Cycling, Active Transportation Alliance, and Big Shoulders Realty as we present the First Annual Bike Winter Swap Meet and Urban Bicycle Expo! \$5 suggested donation to attend the event.

No RSVP necessary; just show up! If you already have all the gear you need, show up to attend presentations by local gurus in various aspects of urban and year-round bicycle life. Any income from the show will help support our usual Bike Winter programming and help make the winter cycling season sparkle for the Chicago bike community, while promoting the bicycle as a year-round transportation solution. Visit [thechainlink.org/events](http://thechainlink.org/events) for complete event details.



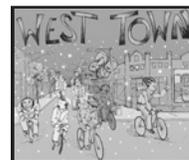
**Break The Gridlock Activism Social (and scheming event)!** February 6, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Jaks Tap (901 W. Jackson Blvd.) [cathy@breakthegridlock.org](mailto:cathy@breakthegridlock.org) Break The Gridlock is ready and willing to agitate for change, and we need to know: What are your dreams or demands of how transportation in Chicago should be? Don't miss this exciting kickoff to a new decade of Break The Gridlock as we strive to make a positive impact on Chicago's transportation options while supporting grassroots organizations working toward the same goal. Visit [breakthegridlock.org](http://breakthegridlock.org) to learn more.



**Critical Mass is Out for Blood - Blood Drive** February 22, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at LifeSource (100 W. Randolph St.) 877-543-3768 Join Critical Mass riders at the Thompson Center to donate blood. Tell LifeSource you're donating for group code CM99 to give CCM credit for your efforts to save lives. You can walk in or schedule an appointment. Visit [lifesource.org](http://lifesource.org) for a list of donor centers/hours.



**13th Critical Mass Bike Winter Art Show Art (any bike art!) submission deadline:** 11 p.m. February 3. **Opening Party:** February 5, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at New Wave Coffee (2557 N. Milwaukee Ave.) Art show runs through February 25, at which point the show will move to Rumble Arts Center. **Closing Party (West Town Bikes benefit):** February 26, 2010 from 6 p.m. to midnight at Rumble Arts Center (3413 W. North Ave.) Visit [chicagocriticalmass.org/artshow](http://chicagocriticalmass.org/artshow) to learn how to submit artwork and/or volunteer.

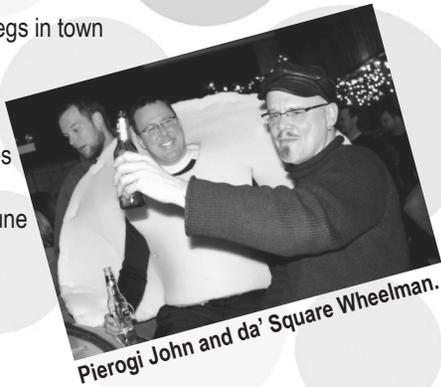


**Winter Bike Tour of West Town** February 27, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Humboldt Park (California/Division) 773-255-6347 Community Area #24 is a mere 3 miles from Chicago's Loop. Join Bike Winter and Big Shoulders Realty for a winter bike ride around the neighborhoods of Wicker Park, Bucktown, Ukrainian Village, East Village, River West, Noble Square, and Humboldt Park and enjoy some of the most dense and concentrated areas of architectural wonders in the city, along with a variety of community gardens, murals, and fascinating history. Dress warm and ride with us! Free Bike Winter balaclavas will be passed out before the ride.

All of these events and many, many more can be found at [thechainlink.org/events](http://thechainlink.org/events) or [bikewinter.org](http://bikewinter.org).

# CRITICAL MASS POLKA

Critical Mass, Critical Mass, get on your bikes and kick some ass  
 Tell those cars that they have to share the road  
 Those gas guzzlers have got to go  
 Critical Mass, Critical Mass, you got the greatest legs in town  
 Let's make a toast to the group with the most  
 Here's to Critical Mass!  
 On the last Friday of every single month  
 They meet at the Daley Center to ride their bicycles  
 All over Chicago, yes it is true  
 So c'mon now and join us as we sing this happy tune



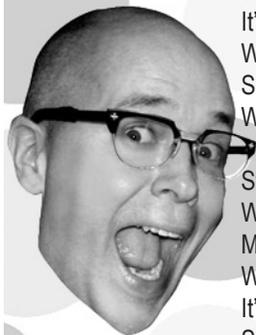
Pierogi John and da' Square Wheelman.

# POLKAHOLICS THEME

Ladies & Gentlemen, the show has begun  
 We are The Polkaholics  
 We're here to polka, it's second to none  
 We are The Polkaholics  
 It's wild, it's crazy, it's raw power fun  
 We are The Polkaholics  
 So if you think this is a joke-a  
 We're here to search and destroy and POLKA!

Steve is on drums and James is on bass  
 We are The Polkaholics  
 My name is Don and I have just one aim  
 We are The Polkaholics  
 It's wild, it's crazy, it's raw power fun  
 So if you think we're here for a mocha  
 We're here to search and destroy and POLKA!

Steve has got something he has to admit  
 I am a Polkaholic  
 Then there is James who knows he can't quit  
 I am a Polkaholic  
 My name is Don and I am an addict  
 I am a Polkaholic  
 So won't you help us feed our disease  
 And come and join our polka if you please



# POLKA RIDE PREVIEW

The most eagerly anticipated Chicago Critical Mass ride of the year is upon us: the 11th Annual Polka Ride! The tradition began back in January 2000 with a ride to the old Baby Doll Polka Club near Midway Airport. The Polka Ride has steadily grown over the years, with 45 cyclists pedaling to

the Baby Doll in 2000, and now typically draws hundreds of riders. After the Baby Doll closed a few years ago, the ride has found a new home at Lincoln Square Lanes in Lincoln Square. Like all Chicago Critical Mass rides, the Polka Ride will meet at Delay

Plaza (Dearborn & Washington) at 5:30 p.m. on the last Friday of the month. Routes are proposed and voted on by riders according to the simple rules of anarchy. A route will be proposed to Lincoln Square Lanes, at 4874 N. Lincoln Ave., where The Polkaholics will begin playing at 8 p.m.

# COMPILING THE EXTREME POLKA REVOLUTION!



Extreme Polka! That's right, pal, the new polka revolution

that has been bubbling up from the underground in the 1990s and 2000s now has an official name, having been dubbed "Extreme Polka" by our friends over at Cleveland International Records. And with a name like that, you know it has to be one helluva kick in the dupa! What am I talking about, you ask? Why, none other than the fabulous six-song "Extreme Polka" CD that you just can't live without! And just like the extreme polka movement, this collection is short, wild, and extremely great! How great is it, you ask? Well, get a load of the sensational artists and songs on this compilation: The Polkaholics with "Polkas on Guitar," Polkacide with their anthem "Oyez/Kielbasa, Beer, & Sauerkraut," Brave Combo with polka gems "Flying Saucer" and "Down at the Friendly Tavern," Big Lou The Accordion Princess with the non-stoppable "Go Man Go," and a Drew Carey

(that's right - Drew Carey!?!?) & Frank Yankovic collaboration on the infamous "Too Fat Polka." Any one of these tunes is well worth the price of this CD (\$9.54, or \$1.59 a tune - at [cdconnection.com/details/Various\\_Extreme\\_Polka/645774](http://cdconnection.com/details/Various_Extreme_Polka/645774)), so how can you lose? Hey pal, if you want the perfect six-pack for any party, "Extreme Polka" is definitely it!



Now if "Extreme Polka" whets your appetite for polka destruction, you might also want to consider its sire-apparent, "Polka Comes to Your Haus!" Put out in 1990 by Restless Records, this 13-song compilation CD chronicles the exploits of the "new wave" polka movement of the 1980s. Interestingly, just as on "Extreme Polka," both Polkacide and Brave Combo lend their polkatic talents to this CD (five of the 13 songs are by Polkacide or Brave Combo), proving how seminal these two great bands have been and continue to be. Most of the

additional cuts are by bands who may not be together anymore, but who certainly shone like a bunch of crazy polka diamonds back in the day! This is Old School, extreme polka-style! For example, there's Rotondi (very tongue-in-cheek polkateers from LA), Polish Muslims (Detroit's wild n' woolly polka assimilators), Das Furlines (all-girl band dressed to kill in spandex and dirndls, with their monster hit "Nichts Nein Frankenstein"), and Mark Shurilla and the Blackholes (you HAVE to hear their song "Blitzkrieg over Kenosha" - this is polka insanity at its best!) - and with liner notes, band photos, and contact information, this CD is a gold mine for those of you out there trying to piece together the incredible history that polka is! So how do you put your sweaty li'l palms on this awesome CD, you ask? That might seem like a bit of a polka problem, given that it was released over 10 years ago and is long out of print. Well, why not do as I did and get it on eBay! I've seen it on auction several times for reasonable prices, so it's definitely out there to be had. So do yourself a favor, pal, and have this polka come to

your haus!! Believe me, this is one houseguest that you'll be happy to have around! And if any of those unwanted houseguests do show up at your door, just crank this CD on full blast and they'll be on their not-so-merry way (if they don't leave, they can't be all that bad, right?).



Well, if those last two CDs haven't already blown your mind to the preeminent polka possibilities that are out there, then I have another CD to lay on you that is guaranteed to put you on a polka trip you'll never forget! Released in February 2002 (hey – that's 2/2 and polka is 2 beats! Coincidence? I think not! Therefore, I am not!!), the "American Polka" compilation CD put out by Trikont from Germany (trikont.de) is the most amazing polka compilation that has ever been assembled. For starters, the variation on this 25-song collection is stupendous! For example, in terms of more traditional polka, pretty much every style of American polka is represented. There's Polish style

polka by Li'l Wally, Ampol Aires, Li'l Richard, and Walt Solek; Dutchmen style by Whoopee John and Karl & the Country Dutchmen; Slovenian style by Frankie Yankovic; Tex-Mex Conjunto by Narcisco Martinez; Tex-Czech style by Joe Patek's Orchestra and the Shiner Hobo Band; and Scandinavian sounds by the Lager-Olsen Quartet. All of these artists are giants in their genres, and it's very rare to find one polka compilation that cuts across so many polka divisions. But, that's just the start. You see, this CD also includes a very healthy (or unhealthy, depending on your point of view) dose of modern polka experimentalists and extreme polkatis, including Polkacide, Brave Combo, The Polkaholics, Happy Schnapps Combo, Polish Muslims, Das Furlines, Los Lobos, Elliott Sharp, and Guy Klusevsek. Plus, the CD comes with a 22-page booklet (half in German and half in English) with extensive polka history (written by ace musicologist Christoph Wagner), band bios and information, and a whole slew of amazing photos (many of them by the incredible shoot-first-ask-questions-later photographer Dick Blau of "Polka Happiness" fame) that portray and

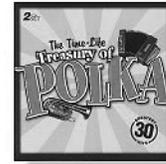
define a thousand American polka stories. My favorite photo is the one on the back cover showing polka pal Kali dancing with my dad! I admit that I am pretty biased about this CD, but I know that with one listen and look at it, you'll hear and see what I mean.

Finally, two other fine CDs with a little more emphasis on traditional polka also deserve mentioning.



Polka Heroes, Volume 3," put out by Cleveland International Records. This edition includes some modern polka sounds from Big Lou and The Polkaholics, as well as more traditional polkas from Li'l Wally, Bob Doszak, John Stanky, and The Smilin' Scandinavians, to mention a few. All in all, there are 26 polkas here from mostly current polka bands that are out there polkaing their fannies off every weekend. Also, this volume seems to have a broader range of styles than the last two volumes of this series, which had more emphasis on Slovenian bands perhaps

(after all, Cleveland is the center of Slovenian polka). It's definitely a CD that won't leave your player without a dance!



Believe it or not, Time-Life has also got infected with the polka itch, releasing "The Time-Life Treasury of Polka," a two-disc, 30-song collection that pays tribute to many great polka artists of the past and present, and includes

a very good mix of polka styles. Some of the past polka giants include Frank Yankovic, Li'l Wally, Six Fat Dutchmen, Walk Solek, Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren, Happy Louie, and Larry Chesky. Some of the more current artists include a cavalcade of some of the best-known polka bands of the 1970s and beyond, such as Eddie Blazonczyk, The Dynatoners, Lenny Gomulka, Joe Oberaitis, and Brave Combo (notice that BC are on almost every compilation in this article—they are popular polka pushers!). Carl Finch of Brave Combo does a commendable job

commenting on the condensed history of polka on the five-page liner notes, including helpful descriptions of how the many American styles differ. Writing about the recent polka resurgence, he notes, "Polka music is making more sense to the masses again."

There it is, irrefutable proof that the polka revolution is in full swing! So hey, pal, what do you say? Are you with us, or against us? C'mon and join the extreme polka fun!!

—Dandy Don

Reprinted from Polka Scene Zine (myspace.com/polkascezene)

## CHICAGO BIKE SHOP DATABASE

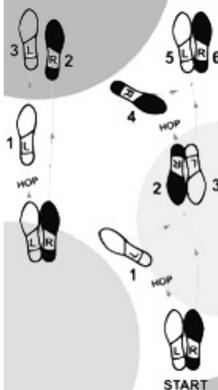
The goal of the Chicago Bike Shop Database is to maintain up-to-date information about all bike shops in the "Chicagoland" area (all areas covered by the Chicagoland Bicycle Map). The database was inspired by a summer 2004 bike shop tour during which Chicago cyclists John G. and Steve M. visited every bike shop in Chicago—by bike—in one weekend. The data they collected and the pictures they took appear on the site. Visit [chicagobikeshops.info](http://chicagobikeshops.info) for a complete list of shops, a map of shops via Google Maps, to read (and add your own!) customer reviews and feedback about shops in the database, and to learn how



to add a shop that is missing. Sample listing: **Nearly New Shop** 3826 N. Broadway, Chicago (3826N/800W) 773-525-0692 Mon-Sat: 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Sun: closed. Average rating: 4.5/5 from 86 comments. Sells used bikes? Yes. Sells used parts? Yes. Offers Active Transportation Alliance discount? Yes. Offers rentals? No. Description: Ron Ashley, Proprietor. In business since 1999. Brands sold: Schwinn, Fuji,

Nishiki (among others). Also sells rims, tires, tubes, and handlebars. A Nearly New Shop only sells used, restored bikes. They service the bikes they sell. Low prices for bikes made between 1950 and 1983. Classic Schwinn cruisers a speciality. Most recent feedback: "Both men who work at the shop were very helpful. I found a nice bike for a reasonable price. They gave me instructions on how to ride in the city and also how to register my bike with the city." —Whitney Rating: 5 on 01.24.10 This shop was last sent an information update request on June 24, 2006, to which they responded.

## HOW THE HECK DO I POLKA ALONG TO THE POLKAHOLICS?



### Polkaing Fool #1

Stand opposite to your partner (#2).

Place your right hand on #2's waist. Extend your left hand, palm up, to your side with your arm bent.

Grasp #2's hand in a loose grip.

Stand with your feet together.

Just prior to the first beat, do a small hop off your right foot.

Step forward with your left.

Step forward with your right foot and bring it together with your left.

Do a little hop with your left foot.

Step forward with your right foot.

Step forward with your left foot and bring it together with your right.

Repeat.

### Polkaing Fool #2

Put your left hand on your partner's (#1) R shoulder.

Bend your right elbow and place the palm of your right hand lightly on #1's outstretched palm.

Stand with your feet together.

Do the opposite of what #1 does.

Just prior to the 1st beat, do a small hop off your left foot.

Step back with your right foot when #1 moves his left foot forward on the 1st beat.

Continue following, in reverse, the directions for #1.