

Happy Friday! Show everyone just how much fun it is to be on a bike!

•Be friendly to everyone you meet. You never know where your next friend might come from; maybe it's that cutie to your left.

•If you choose to drink, keep it under control.

•Clean up your trash. This is our city and every neighborhood belongs to someone. Trash containers are everywhere, so use 'em!

•SMILE!
Remember, we are having fun tonight. We're not pasty-faced for lack of sunlight, stuck in a cage waiting for traffic to clear...



chicagocriticalmass.org

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Please join me and other Chicago Critical Mass (CCM) riders to donate blood at LifeSource. (Donate sooner if you can.) Time: Call to confirm availability. Location: LifeSource, 100 W. Randolph St. Contact: lifesource.org or 877-573-3768. Mention code CM99 & LifeSource will give credit to CCM for your donation! If you've never donated blood before and are nervous/don't know what to expect, contact me (TheDerailleur@gmail.com). I've had great experiences donating blood and look forward to helping save lives in this simple way. If you are unable or unwilling to donate blood or if you are deferred, please consider joining the CCM Kiva team to improve lives in a different way. For more information, visit kiva.org/team/chicagocriticalmass. Thanks! -willow

Critical Mass Blood Drive July 3, 2009

Chicago Critical Mass
LifeSource Blood Donation Code

CM99

THE DERAILLEUR

An unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass



JUNE 2009

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DID YOU KNOW?
...if each person on the Plaza donated one dollar tonight, The Derailleur would no longer be in debt!

If you are unable to donate tonight, please send a donation when you can to:
The Derailleur
c/willow naeco
8005 Edgewater Rd. #206
North Riverside, IL 60546-1897

You can also make a PayPal donation to:
TheDerailleur@gmail.com
Thanks in advance, and to those who regularly donate, thanks again!

Welcome to the June 2009 issue of The Derailleur, an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass. To contribute to future issues or to host an assembly party, write to TheDerailleur@gmail.com. THANK YOU: Danny Vocal, Mr. Bike, and Kathy Schubert. xoxo -willow

The Easy and Hard Bicycle Competition

1) The bicycle evolved in the 18th century from a machine invented to help with WALKING, not RIDING!

- a) FALSE
- b) TRUE

2) The photo to the right is one of the earliest bicycles, the Penny-farthing. Why was it named that?



3) "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving." Who said this?

4) Which musicians brought us the following

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8) The photo to the right is of the designer of this competition as a cute 6-year-old in 1967 (the year he learned to pedal) with his bike. He is now an older man who comes to Critical Masses with a red bicycle!

Write down the brand name of his bicycle by



ASK MR. BIKE

HOW TO MOUNT A BIKE IN A MINISKIRT?

Mr. Bike sez: Want more smart-biking tips? Find 'em in my illustrated book, *Urban Bikers' Tricks & Tips*. Ask for it at book-stores everywhere, call 800/888-4741, or go to www.mrbike.com.

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bicycle classics?

- Bicycle Race (1978)

- Motorcrash (1988)

- My White Bicycle (1968)

- The Pushbike Song (1971)

5) Which country first saw a Critical Mass?

6) What part of the body does the derailleur sound like? (Clue: you sit on it on your bike.)

7) There are many more bicycles than cars in the world.

a) FALSE

b) TRUE

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bearing in mind the following clue: It shares the same name as an English 1960s hippie band and an American 1990s punk-inspired band!

9) Creative section: Why do we scream, "Happy Friday!" on Critical Mass rides?

E-mail your answers to danny.vocal@gmail.com by July 3, 2009. Answers will be printed in the July issue of The Derailleur. The most complete answers AND the answer for #9 deemed most creative by the competition creator will win a prize! You may choose between the following prizes: an annual subscription to E! Magazine or a copy of Derrick Jensen's excellent environmental book *The Culture of Make Believe*.

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So, you're going for a bike ride. Your body will get a workout and so will your bike. Have you checked your bike for mechanical safety? Timely bicycle maintenance can prevent a serious accident. Here is the ABC Quick Check, which you should do every time you ride.

Many items of the ABC Quick Check can be done visually; others require just a brief physical check. If you find that your bike needs adjustments beyond your ability, enlist the services of professional mechanics at your local bike shop. Don't know which bike shop to use? Visit chicagobikeshops.info for a directory of bike shops in the Chicago area.

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A is for AIR.

- Check tire pressure. Tires should be inflated to the rated pressure noted on the sidewall (pounds/square inch). Use a gauge to verify you have reached the recommended rate.
- Check for damage to the tire sidewalls and/or tread. Sidewall damage is common if the brakes aren't adjusted properly. If the bands of the tire are showing below the surface, you need a new tire -- now!

B is for BRAKES.

- Check the brakes for pad wear and adjustment. Visually check the brake-block pad. If less than 1/8" of rubber shows at any place, replace the brake-block/pad assembly. Make sure the brake blocks are parallel to and aligned with the side of the rim when applied.
- Check cables and housing. Cables need to travel smoothly. If the cables stick, apply lubrication at the ends of the housing and work it in by applying the brakes several times. Frayed cables should be replaced.

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C is for CRANK SET, CHAIN, and CASSETTE.

- Check the crank set. The crank set consists of the bottom bracket, the crank arms, and chainrings. To do this check, take the left and right crank arms in your hands and attempt to move them sideways. If both move, you have a problem with the bottom bracket. If only one moves, the individual crank arm is loose and must be secured. A bike with a loose crank arm should never be ridden.
- Check your chain for wear; 12 links should measure no more than 12-1/8".
- If your chain skips on your cassette, you might need a new one or just an adjustment.

QUICK is for QUICK-RELEASES.

- Quick-release hubs need to be tight, but not too tight. The proper pressure is obtained by pushing on the quick-release lever so it leaves an impression on the palm of your hand. The closed lever should face

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- up and back to minimize the chance of catching on anything while you ride.
- Quick-release brakes, which are opened when removing or installing wheels, need to be in the closed position. When closed, check to make sure the brake pads aren't rubbing the rims.
- Quick-release seat clamps, on mountain bikes and some hybrid bikes, need to be in the closed position. Check to be sure your seat is at the correct height.

CHECK is for CHECK IT OVER.

- Take a brief, slow ride to check that your brakes, derailleurs, and shift levers are working properly.
- Inspect the bike for loose or broken parts; tighten, replace, or fix them.
- Pay extra attention to your bike during the first few miles of the ride.

ABC Quick Check information is from bikeleague.org and seattlebiketours.org.

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My name is Lee Diamond. Every month, my company Big Shoulders Realty sponsors a neighborhood bike tour. Each tour is of a different community area in Chicago, an exploration of that area's history, its architecture, and the story of how it came to be the place it is today. The tours are authored, narrated, and led by me. I spend 40-80 hours each month preparing the ride, documenting and researching properties and stops, and photographing examples

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of impressive structures for online virtual tours. The rides are always free and go regardless of weather. They don't sell anything. We aren't checking out properties for sale, just ones that are impressive or offer a clue to an area's past. These are no-drop rides, so all are welcome and no one gets left behind. We only ask that you behave responsibly, which includes wearing a helmet. We have bikes and helmets to lend to those without, gratis. To find out more about our tours or see where we are headed this month, visit bigshouldersrealty.com/things/tours.php



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One of many great features at thechainlink.org is the events calendar. Casual rides, races, and so much more can be found there. Here are some upcoming events: **The Buddaas Got Married Celebration Bike Parade & Brunch** June 27 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 5726 N. Hermitage. Tony and Marlene have tied the knot. Let's tie tin cans behind our bikes and have a parade! If you don't know Tony and Marlene, now's the time to meet them. Bring along your friends! **Summer Babes & Elegant Bachelors** June 27, 2009 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1425 N. Damen. A stylish bicycle tour of Chicago's retro cocktail patios to a soundtrack of classic jazz. No registration fee; all are welcome. Required: necktie and/or sports jacket for gentlemen. Recommended: beautiful city bikes and vintage cruisers. **FBC Full Moon Fiasco** July 7. Meet at Gingerman (3740 N. Clark) at 8 p.m. and ride at 9 p.m. Open to anyone with

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pedals, we ride every full moon. **Open Streets** August 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See what it's like when streets are filled with people and the street becomes your playground. There is no event registration and participants can join in at any point along the route. **What event(s) will you add to the calendar?** Go to thechainlink.org/events, click on Add a Ride or Event, and type in the information. It's that easy!



Joey on her way to heaven, a drawing by one of Kathy Schubert's friends.

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