

Chicago Critical Mass is out for Blood!

Donate blood with LifeSource using the CM99 group code



The Summer 2006 CCM Blood Drive was a great success with 17 total donations. Thanks to all who participated!

Look for another blood drive soon. We hope to get even

more donations next time. Remember, blood donations and blood component donations are always needed, year-round.

Anytime you go to LifeSource to donate blood, use the CM99 group code and your donation will be credited to Chicago Critical Mass. Or donate with any other blood collection service. One pint saves three lives!

There is a LifeSource donation center conveniently located near Chicago Critical Mass's staging area:

State of Illinois Donor Center
100 W. Randolph St.
1-877-LIFESOURCE
www.lifesource.org

(chicagocriticalmass.org)

Chicago Critical Mass is out for Blood!

Donate blood with LifeSource using the CM99 group code



The Summer 2006 CCM Blood Drive was a great success with 17 total donations. Thanks to all who participated!

Look for another blood drive soon. We hope to get even

more donations next time. Remember, blood donations and blood component donations are always needed, year-round.

Anytime you go to LifeSource to donate blood, use the CM99 group code and your donation will be credited to Chicago Critical Mass. Or donate with any other blood collection service. One pint saves three lives!

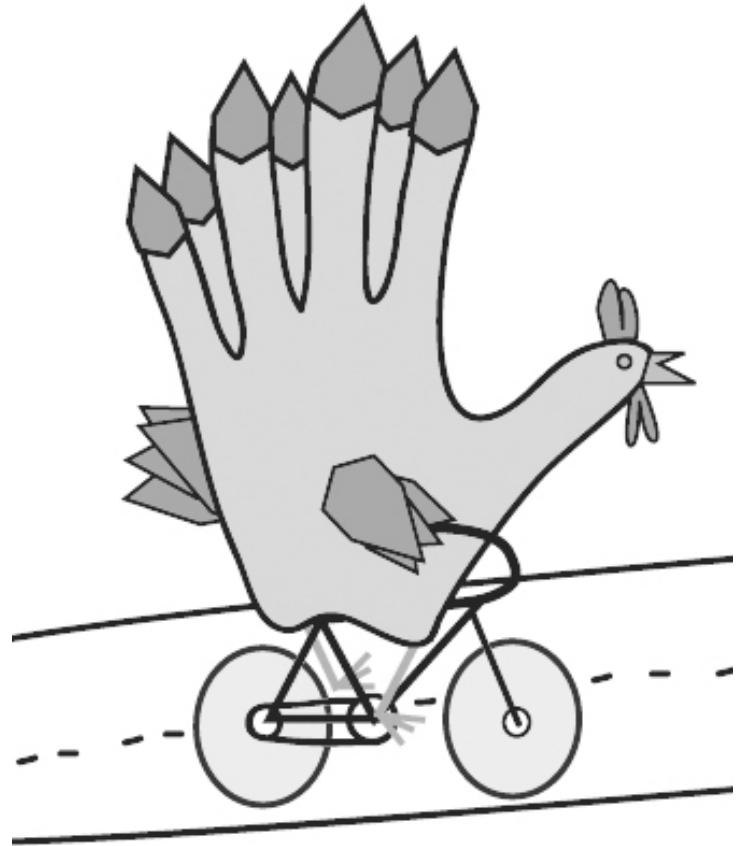
There is a LifeSource donation center conveniently located near Chicago Critical Mass's staging area:

State of Illinois Donor Center
100 W. Randolph St.
1-877-LIFESOURCE
www.lifesource.org

(chicagocriticalmass.org)

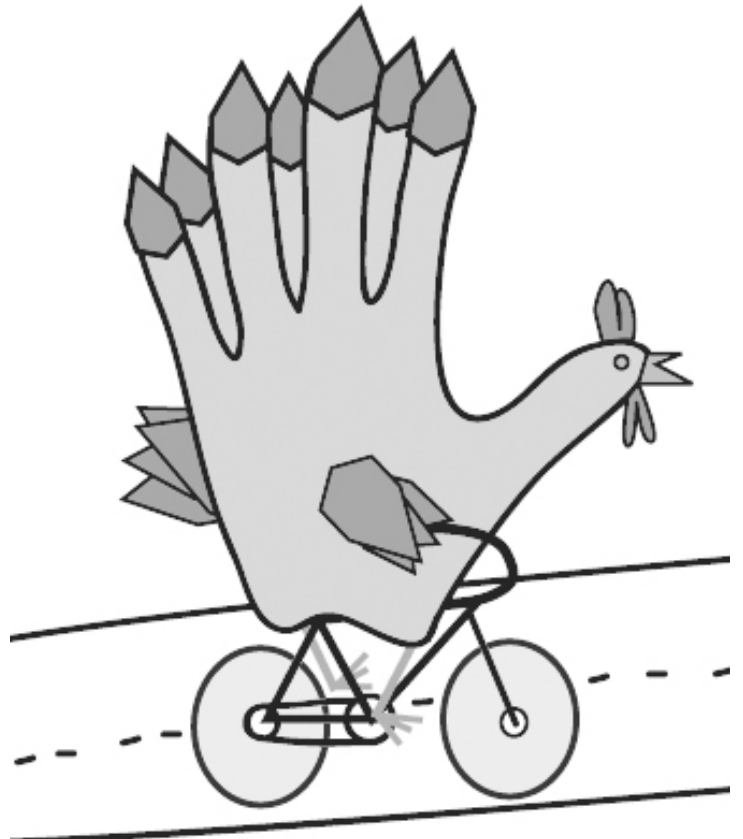
The D e r a i l l e u r

An Unofficial Publication of CCM • Nov. 2006



The D e r a i l l e u r

An Unofficial Publication of CCM • Nov. 2006



The Power of Critical Mass3
 Kraftwerk13
 Bike Winter 2007: Rolling in a Winter Wonderland15
 A Letter from Santa22
 Car Pigs23

Cheerleader: Special thanks to J. for getting (and keeping) me on a bike, introducing me to CCM, and providing support as I work on my projects. The turkey would like to thank you for the front cover placement.

Contributors: Devin Breen, Judas Iglesias, Howard K., Garth Katner, bikewinter.org, and chicagocriticalmass.org. Thanks for your support!

Cover: willow naeco.

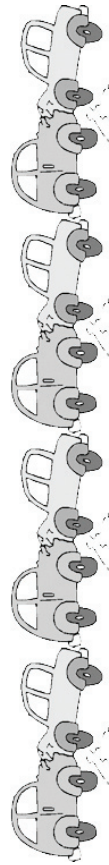
Disclaimer: The businesses, clubs, and individuals mentioned in this issue are not necessarily connected to Chicago Critical Mass.

Submissions Needed: If you would like to contribute articles, illustrations, ideas, etc., send them to TheDerailleur@gmail.com by the 8th of each month. Complimentary copy available upon publication (sorry, no payment).

The Derailleur is an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass (chicagocriticalmass.org). This issue was compiled by willow naeco. Send compliments, complaints, and contributions to TheDerailleur@gmail.com.

© 2006 The Derailleur
 Copyrights belong to the individual authors, artists, and photographers.

Car Pigs (Sing to the tune of "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath)



Drivers gathered in their masses
 Sitting on their bloated asses
 Lazy minds that cause obstruction
 Source of more and more destruction
 In the streets the engines burning
 As the car machine keeps turning
 Death and hatred in their eyes
 Poisoning the rain and skies (Oh Lord yeah!)
 Politicians hide themselves away
 Build another overpass
 Why should they go out to drive?
 Leave it to the middle class
 Time will tell on their power minds
 Making roads just for fun
 Cramming people into metal cans
 Wait til the judgement day comes (Yeah!)
 Now in darkness cars stop turning
 Ashes where the engines burning
 No more car pigs have the power
 Hand of God has struck the hour
 Day of judgement, no more oil
 On their feet the car pigs toil
 Begging mercy for their sins
 Satan laughing spreads his wings

–Judas Iglesias (bicycleuniverse.info/stuff/music.html)

The Power of Critical Mass3
 Kraftwerk13
 Bike Winter 2007: Rolling in a Winter Wonderland15
 A Letter from Santa22
 Car Pigs23

Cheerleader: Special thanks to J. for getting (and keeping) me on a bike, introducing me to CCM, and providing support as I work on my projects. The turkey would like to thank you for the front cover placement.

Contributors: Devin Breen, Judas Iglesias, Howard K., Garth Katner, bikewinter.org, and chicagocriticalmass.org. Thanks for your support!

Cover: willow naeco.

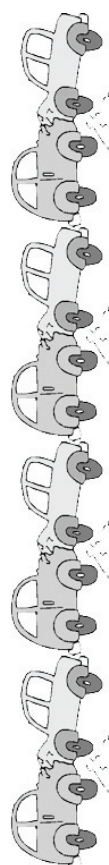
Disclaimer: The businesses, clubs, and individuals mentioned in this issue are not necessarily connected to Chicago Critical Mass.

Submissions Needed: If you would like to contribute articles, illustrations, ideas, etc., send them to TheDerailleur@gmail.com by the 8th of each month. Complimentary copy available upon publication (sorry, no payment).

The Derailleur is an unofficial publication of Chicago Critical Mass (chicagocriticalmass.org). This issue was compiled by willow naeco. Send compliments, complaints, and contributions to TheDerailleur@gmail.com.

© 2006 The Derailleur
 Copyrights belong to the individual authors, artists, and photographers.

Car Pigs (Sing to the tune of "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath)



Drivers gathered in their masses
 Sitting on their bloated asses
 Lazy minds that cause obstruction
 Source of more and more destruction
 In the streets the engines burning
 As the car machine keeps turning
 Death and hatred in their eyes
 Poisoning the rain and skies (Oh Lord yeah!)
 Politicians hide themselves away
 Build another overpass
 Why should they go out to drive?
 Leave it to the middle class
 Time will tell on their power minds
 Making roads just for fun
 Cramming people into metal cans
 Wait til the judgement day comes (Yeah!)
 Now in darkness cars stop turning
 Ashes where the engines burning
 No more car pigs have the power
 Hand of God has struck the hour
 Day of judgement, no more oil
 On their feet the car pigs toil
 Begging mercy for their sins
 Satan laughing spreads his wings

–Judas Iglesias (bicycleuniverse.info/stuff/music.html)

A Letter from Santa

Ho, f***** ho, ho, Merry f\$%^&#@ Christmas. Yeah, yeah, yeah, Santa's heard it all before. "Santa! Santa! I want stuff! Give me more STUFF!" I tell ya what, all that thankless consumerism is really starting to give old Santa a rash. You all seem to think that Santa exists for no other reason than to bust his ass every Christmas just so you can get the latest bit of tawdry crap you saw on your teevee last night. Christ! Well, when it comes down to it, Santa will probably end up giving in (Santa always has been a softy), but Santa ain't gonna like it! You might ask yourself how Santa copes. I'll let you in on a little secret: the answer is "barely." Ho, ho, ho! (Santa really busts himself up.) Anyway, Santa always finds it therapeutic to blow off a little steam during the "shopping" season by getting together with all his fellow Santas...(What? You didn't think there was just one of us? For the entire planet?! What a rube!)...Anyway, like Santa was saying, Santa likes to get together with his mates and head on out on bicycle (to keep Santa's girlish figure) for a bit of pre-season merrymaking. Santa invariably does a bit of drinking and, well, sometimes things get a wee bit out of hand. Deal with it. It's Santa. If you complain, ya won't get nuttin' but coal in your stocking (lousy ingrate). So check out the bikewinter.org calendar for the info. on where we'll be meeting. Come on out and buy Santa a drink. -Santa

22

A Letter from Santa

Ho, f***** ho, ho, Merry f\$%^&#@ Christmas. Yeah, yeah, yeah, Santa's heard it all before. "Santa! Santa! I want stuff! Give me more STUFF!" I tell ya what, all that thankless consumerism is really starting to give old Santa a rash. You all seem to think that Santa exists for no other reason than to bust his ass every Christmas just so you can get the latest bit of tawdry crap you saw on your teevee last night. Christ! Well, when it comes down to it, Santa will probably end up giving in (Santa always has been a softy), but Santa ain't gonna like it! You might ask yourself how Santa copes. I'll let you in on a little secret: the answer is "barely." Ho, ho, ho! (Santa really busts himself up.) Anyway, Santa always finds it therapeutic to blow off a little steam during the "shopping" season by getting together with all his fellow Santas...(What? You didn't think there was just one of us? For the entire planet?! What a rube!)...Anyway, like Santa was saying, Santa likes to get together with his mates and head on out on bicycle (to keep Santa's girlish figure) for a bit of pre-season merrymaking. Santa invariably does a bit of drinking and, well, sometimes things get a wee bit out of hand. Deal with it. It's Santa. If you complain, ya won't get nuttin' but coal in your stocking (lousy ingrate). So check out the bikewinter.org calendar for the info. on where we'll be meeting. Come on out and buy Santa a drink. -Santa

22

The Power of Critical Mass

It began by accident. In my experience, most good things do. I was approaching Jackson Boulevard on a beautiful late September day in 2004, and there it was—hundreds of cyclists, of all shapes and sizes, parading through the street, smiling, whistling, ringing, and loving their lives. I yelled out, "What is this?" Their resounding answer? "Critical Mass!"

As I studied the Mass, an uncontrollable smile grew across my face. Then laughter, as I cheered alongside the throngs of pedestrians around me. Jumping up and down, I thought: whatever this is, I want in. Whoever these people are, I want to share their world.

Like most children, my first real experience with transportation freedom was with the bicycle I received as a gift for my seventh birthday. I learned to ride it in the gravel alleyway behind our house on Ashland and Montrose where I became very familiar with scrapes, bruises, and cuts in the attempt. I later resurrected the same bike from a basement and used



3

The Power of Critical Mass

It began by accident. In my experience, most good things do. I was approaching Jackson Boulevard on a beautiful late September day in 2004, and there it was—hundreds of cyclists, of all shapes and sizes, parading through the street, smiling, whistling, ringing, and loving their lives. I yelled out, "What is this?" Their resounding answer? "Critical Mass!"

As I studied the Mass, an uncontrollable smile grew across my face. Then laughter, as I cheered alongside the throngs of pedestrians around me. Jumping up and down, I thought: whatever this is, I want in. Whoever these people are, I want to share their world.

Like most children, my first real experience with transportation freedom was with the bicycle I received as a gift for my seventh birthday. I learned to ride it in the gravel alleyway behind our house on Ashland and Montrose where I became very familiar with scrapes, bruises, and cuts in the attempt. I later resurrected the same bike from a basement and used



3

it throughout college. I still have that little bike...I probably always will.

After college I traveled for a year, and then I moved to Lakeview in the fall of 2003. I let the following summer slip by in a haze of long hours working downtown. The "L" became my primary source of transportation, which after commuting via car for six years, was a welcome change. I rediscovered reading and arrived to work relaxed and rested, not tired and stressed from the reverse commute to Schaumburg during the years prior.

I purchased a used Diamondback road bike in the spring of 2004. I rode it a bit, nothing special, and before long, the summer of 2004 was essentially over. I dreaded the upcoming winter. An overall sense of discontent permeated all of my actions and perspectives.

Shortly after my 24th birthday I discovered "The Mass." My first ride was in October of 2004, the Halloween Ride. I donned the flying squirrel costume and joined the assembled



4

it throughout college. I still have that little bike...I probably always will.

After college I traveled for a year, and then I moved to Lakeview in the fall of 2003. I let the following summer slip by in a haze of long hours working downtown. The "L" became my primary source of transportation, which after commuting via car for six years, was a welcome change. I rediscovered reading and arrived to work relaxed and rested, not tired and stressed from the reverse commute to Schaumburg during the years prior.

I purchased a used Diamondback road bike in the spring of 2004. I rode it a bit, nothing special, and before long, the summer of 2004 was essentially over. I dreaded the upcoming winter. An overall sense of discontent permeated all of my actions and perspectives.

Shortly after my 24th birthday I discovered "The Mass." My first ride was in October of 2004, the Halloween Ride. I donned the flying squirrel costume and joined the assembled



4

Snow Biking!

Any day with two or more inches of new snowfall in Chicago 7:00 p.m.

Handlebar (2311 W. North Ave.)

From the Handlebar, the group will head off in a random direction to enjoy the Winter Wonderland. All ages/abilities welcome. Info: bikewinter.org.

Event links, details, and contacts are to be found at the Bike Winter Calendar.

Point your browser early and often toward bikewinter.org and click on the Chicago calendar.

Users are encouraged to contribute and maintain listings for any winter cycling events they hear about, so contact me for the password.

Yours,
Howard K.
hk@bikechicago.info



CCM: Bikes are fun!

21

Snow Biking!

Any day with two or more inches of new snowfall in Chicago 7:00 p.m.

Handlebar (2311 W. North Ave.)

From the Handlebar, the group will head off in a random direction to enjoy the Winter Wonderland. All ages/abilities welcome. Info: bikewinter.org.

Event links, details, and contacts are to be found at the Bike Winter Calendar.

Point your browser early and often toward bikewinter.org and click on the Chicago calendar.

Users are encouraged to contribute and maintain listings for any winter cycling events they hear about, so contact me for the password.

Yours,
Howard K.
hk@bikechicago.info



CCM: Bikes are fun!

21

December Chicago Critical Mass Ride

Friday, December 29, 2006

5:30 p.m.

Info: chicagocriticalmass.org.

Evanston Bicycle Club Winter Ride

Every* Saturday, Sunday, Holiday

9:00 a.m.

Panera Bread (Wilmette, IL)

*Updates/cancellation info: evanstonbikeclub.org.

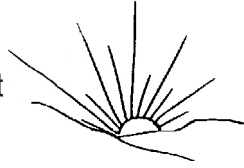
Sunday Sunrise Ride

Every* Sunday at sunrise

Scoville Park (Oak Park Ave./Lake Street
at Horse Show Fountain in Oak Park)

Join us for our Sunday Sunrise Ride

leaving from Scoville Park promptly at...sunrise! Route, pace,
and distance to be determined by who shows up. *Watch
the Oak Park Cycle Club listserv for last-minute updates/
cancellations. Info: oakparkcycleclub.org.



Evanston Bicycle Club Fast Loop to Lake Bluff

Every* Wednesday

9:00 a.m.

Centennial Park (Wilmette, IL)

*See evanstonbikeclub.org for info/exceptions.

20

December Chicago Critical Mass Ride

Friday, December 29, 2006

5:30 p.m.

Info: chicagocriticalmass.org.

Evanston Bicycle Club Winter Ride

Every* Saturday, Sunday, Holiday

9:00 a.m.

Panera Bread (Wilmette, IL)

*Updates/cancellation info: evanstonbikeclub.org.

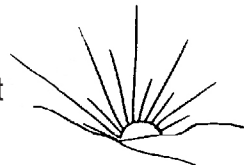
Sunday Sunrise Ride

Every* Sunday at sunrise

Scoville Park (Oak Park Ave./Lake Street
at Horse Show Fountain in Oak Park)

Join us for our Sunday Sunrise Ride

leaving from Scoville Park promptly at...sunrise! Route, pace,
and distance to be determined by who shows up. *Watch
the Oak Park Cycle Club listserv for last-minute updates/
cancellations. Info: oakparkcycleclub.org.



Evanston Bicycle Club Fast Loop to Lake Bluff

Every* Wednesday

9:00 a.m.

Centennial Park (Wilmette, IL)

*See evanstonbikeclub.org for info/exceptions.

20

multitude at Daley Plaza at 5:30 p.m. The experience, at first, was quite nerve-racking. I knew no one. Despite the limitations and negative interpretations I imposed upon myself, I proclaimed The Mass the highlight of the waning summer.

As I rode during subsequent Masses and other events, such as the Chicago Auto Show Shutdown, I began forming friendships with fellow cyclists. Critical Mass rides, and the Chicago cycling community at large, exude diversity. Messengers, commuters, Rat Patrollers, activists, artists, musicians, and entire families—all are accepted, all are family.

The Mass is a conduit; a living organism with tendrils that reach into every neighborhood, profession, race, religion, philosophy, creed, and sexual orientation.

This power is most evident as one observes the plethora of diversity during the rides themselves. But they are also evident within the bicycling community during the remaining 353 days of the year. During my frequent excursions through



5

multitude at Daley Plaza at 5:30 p.m. The experience, at first, was quite nerve-racking. I knew no one. Despite the limitations and negative interpretations I imposed upon myself, I proclaimed The Mass the highlight of the waning summer.

As I rode during subsequent Masses and other events, such as the Chicago Auto Show Shutdown, I began forming friendships with fellow cyclists. Critical Mass rides, and the Chicago cycling community at large, exude diversity. Messengers, commuters, Rat Patrollers, activists, artists, musicians, and entire families—all are accepted, all are family.

The Mass is a conduit; a living organism with tendrils that reach into every neighborhood, profession, race, religion, philosophy, creed, and sexual orientation.

This power is most evident as one observes the plethora of diversity during the rides themselves. But they are also evident within the bicycling community during the remaining 353 days of the year. During my frequent excursions through



5

the city I continue to form friendships with fellow cyclists at red lights, on the Lakefront Trail, and even via Internet mailing lists. The cyclists' mindset is refreshing, empowered by an outlook and a mindset I had only encountered previously during my backpacking excursions.

The combination of intelligence, responsibility, adventure, and raw guts, creates a common bond that is seldom present in the residents in my neighborhood, the commuters on the "L," or the business folk I encounter in the Loop. The bond the riders share enables conversations that cut through formalities, pretense, and the proverbial weather. Having nothing to hide and no walls (or windows) to hide behind, the possibility for meaningful human interaction becomes inevitable.

The notion of a community, of re-evolving the interaction between people on the move, is almost radical in today's hermetically sealed, air-conditioned, 55 mph car-based society. Imagine, for a moment, your day-to-day experiences with people. On the elevator, in a store, within your office,



the city I continue to form friendships with fellow cyclists at red lights, on the Lakefront Trail, and even via Internet mailing lists. The cyclists' mindset is refreshing, empowered by an outlook and a mindset I had only encountered previously during my backpacking excursions.

The combination of intelligence, responsibility, adventure, and raw guts, creates a common bond that is seldom present in the residents in my neighborhood, the commuters on the "L," or the business folk I encounter in the Loop. The bond the riders share enables conversations that cut through formalities, pretense, and the proverbial weather. Having nothing to hide and no walls (or windows) to hide behind, the possibility for meaningful human interaction becomes inevitable.

The notion of a community, of re-evolving the interaction between people on the move, is almost radical in today's hermetically sealed, air-conditioned, 55 mph car-based society. Imagine, for a moment, your day-to-day experiences with people. On the elevator, in a store, within your office,



Evanston Bicycle Club Winter Solstice Percussion Concert Ride

Saturday, December 23, 2006

5:00 a.m.

Howard/Western

Updates/cancellation info: evanstonbikeclub.org.



Chicago Cycling Club Bagel Ride

Monday, December 25, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Waveland Clock Tower
(Waveland/Lake Shore Drive
[3700N])

Join this annual 10-mile, 10-14 mph social ride which will probably end at The Bagel Restaurant for a Jewish delicatessen brunch. Neither snow nor sleet will keep us from our bagels, but the ride might be short and/or slow under those conditions. Info/updates: chicagocyclingclub.org.

Dim Sum Christmas

Monday, December 25, 2006

11:00 a.m.

Harold Washington Cultural Center (4701 S. King Dr.)
Ride from Bronzeville to Chinatown for some tasty Dim Sum and friendly conversation. Info: bikewinter.org.

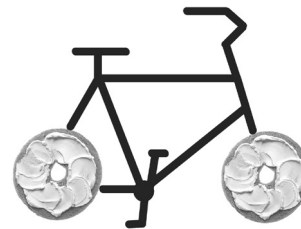
Evanston Bicycle Club Winter Solstice Percussion Concert Ride

Saturday, December 23, 2006

5:00 a.m.

Howard/Western

Updates/cancellation info: evanstonbikeclub.org.



Chicago Cycling Club Bagel Ride

Monday, December 25, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Waveland Clock Tower
(Waveland/Lake Shore Drive
[3700N])

Join this annual 10-mile, 10-14 mph social ride which will probably end at The Bagel Restaurant for a Jewish delicatessen brunch. Neither snow nor sleet will keep us from our bagels, but the ride might be short and/or slow under those conditions. Info/updates: chicagocyclingclub.org.

Dim Sum Christmas

Monday, December 25, 2006

11:00 a.m.

Harold Washington Cultural Center (4701 S. King Dr.)
Ride from Bronzeville to Chinatown for some tasty Dim Sum and friendly conversation. Info: bikewinter.org.

Santa Cycle Rampage

Saturday, December 16, 2006

Noon

Location: TBA (See bikewinter.org)

Dozens of inebriated Santas spread holiday cheer to shoppers. Full Santa suit required (fully costumed elves and dreidels grudgingly tolerated). Read reviews of past Rampages at bikewinter.org or read Santa's letter on page 22 for more information about this fantastic ride.

Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, come ride in the winter

Sunday, December 17, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Waveland Clock Tower (Waveland/Lake Shore Drive [3700N])

Join this Tour de Temples in hopes of seeing lots of menorahs in Lincoln Park, Rogers Park, Evanston, Skokie, and Hollywood Park. Stop for bagels along the way, or latkes if we can find them. Bring gelt for your lunch. Please wear your helmet. 32 miles at 10-14 mph. Info: bikewinter.org.

Pilsen Lights Ride

Friday, December 22, 2006

6:00 p.m.

18th/Blue Island/Loomis

Info: bikewinter.org.

18

Santa Cycle Rampage

Saturday, December 16, 2006

Noon

Location: TBA (See bikewinter.org)

Dozens of inebriated Santas spread holiday cheer to shoppers. Full Santa suit required (fully costumed elves and dreidels grudgingly tolerated). Read reviews of past Rampages at bikewinter.org or read Santa's letter on page 22 for more information about this fantastic ride.

Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, come ride in the winter

Sunday, December 17, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Waveland Clock Tower (Waveland/Lake Shore Drive [3700N])

Join this Tour de Temples in hopes of seeing lots of menorahs in Lincoln Park, Rogers Park, Evanston, Skokie, and Hollywood Park. Stop for bagels along the way, or latkes if we can find them. Bring gelt for your lunch. Please wear your helmet. 32 miles at 10-14 mph. Info: bikewinter.org.

Pilsen Lights Ride

Friday, December 22, 2006

6:00 p.m.

18th/Blue Island/Loomis

Info: bikewinter.org.

18

behind the safe walls of your home.

Your attitude and demeanor is strikingly different than the cutthroat competition and consistent aggravation that is exhibited while enclosed within your automobile. The automobile shades us, hides us, and allows us to view every other person on the road not as a human being, but as an inorganic entity, bent on the same competitive goal of moving a two- to four-ton consumer item through three densely-packed lanes of the same. There is a safety net, a solace, that people find within their cars. An escape from the world, as it is often phrased. I invite you to consider for a moment, in actuality, how free you are within your car.

When you consider the factors governing and regulating your time within your vehicle, the illusion of freedom quickly evaporates into a checklist of speed limits, traffic, pollution, insurance, payments, gasoline, physical inactivity, elevated blood pressure, and aggravation.

Conversely, the bicycle remains free of many, if not all, of



7

behind the safe walls of your home.

Your attitude and demeanor is strikingly different than the cutthroat competition and consistent aggravation that is exhibited while enclosed within your automobile. The automobile shades us, hides us, and allows us to view every other person on the road not as a human being, but as an inorganic entity, bent on the same competitive goal of moving a two- to four-ton consumer item through three densely-packed lanes of the same. There is a safety net, a solace, that people find within their cars. An escape from the world, as it is often phrased. I invite you to consider for a moment, in actuality, how free you are within your car.

When you consider the factors governing and regulating your time within your vehicle, the illusion of freedom quickly evaporates into a checklist of speed limits, traffic, pollution, insurance, payments, gasoline, physical inactivity, elevated blood pressure, and aggravation.

Conversely, the bicycle remains free of many, if not all, of



7

these restrictions. Personally, I experience deep relaxation whilst riding. I arrive at my destination exercised, invigorated, and clear-minded. When joined by hundreds, if not thousands, of fellow cyclists, the road transforms into a living, breathing, healthy community. There are no windows to roll up.

Cycling is not an escape but is instead a clear channel into the world. It raises your awareness, heightens your senses. Critical Mass amplifies and shares this power with everyone who encounters it—riders and non-riders alike. Pedestrians wave, cheer, and proclaim “Happy Friday” with “The Massive.” Every month more cyclists join the ride for the first time. The community is non-exclusive, non-competitive, and, most importantly, it’s fun.

The first time I experienced the magic that flows through Critical Mass was as I rode on Wacker Drive along the river. Being an evening in October, it was dark. The skyscrapers of the Loop stretched towards the dark sky, patchwork illumination defining each as a unique entity; cities within a



these restrictions. Personally, I experience deep relaxation whilst riding. I arrive at my destination exercised, invigorated, and clear-minded. When joined by hundreds, if not thousands, of fellow cyclists, the road transforms into a living, breathing, healthy community. There are no windows to roll up.

Cycling is not an escape but is instead a clear channel into the world. It raises your awareness, heightens your senses. Critical Mass amplifies and shares this power with everyone who encounters it—riders and non-riders alike. Pedestrians wave, cheer, and proclaim “Happy Friday” with “The Massive.” Every month more cyclists join the ride for the first time. The community is non-exclusive, non-competitive, and, most importantly, it’s fun.

The first time I experienced the magic that flows through Critical Mass was as I rode on Wacker Drive along the river. Being an evening in October, it was dark. The skyscrapers of the Loop stretched towards the dark sky, patchwork illumination defining each as a unique entity; cities within a



Performance Bike Cold Weather Riding Clinic

Sunday, December 10, 2006

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Performance (Halsted/Diversey, Chicago)

Come to the second free winter biking clinic hosted by Performance bike shop. The first clinic was a success and Performance intends to continue spreading the warmth. Topics covered include preparing your bike, proper clothing, bike maintenance, safety, and riding techniques. Enter the raffle for fenders, gloves, headgear, booties, etc. All participants will receive complimentary snack samples from CLIF Bar (clifbar.com) and will receive 10% off any non-sale item. Pre-registration is recommended, however, walk-ins will not be turned away. Call 773.248.0107 to register.

4th Annual Amlings Holiday Toy Ride

Friday, December 15, 2006

6:30 a.m.

Amlings Cycle (8140 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL)

Ride your bike approximately 12 miles from Amlings Cycle to Mystic Celt (3443 N. Southport, Chicago) to meet a waiting truck from the Marine Corps. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation. Eamonn Vaughan, owner of Mystic Celt, will serve breakfast to riders. Those not participating in the ride are welcome to drop off toys at Mystic Celt. Registration is required: amlingscycle.com or 847.692.4240.

Performance Bike Cold Weather Riding Clinic

Sunday, December 10, 2006

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Performance (Halsted/Diversey, Chicago)

Come to the second free winter biking clinic hosted by Performance bike shop. The first clinic was a success and Performance intends to continue spreading the warmth. Topics covered include preparing your bike, proper clothing, bike maintenance, safety, and riding techniques. Enter the raffle for fenders, gloves, headgear, booties, etc. All participants will receive complimentary snack samples from CLIF Bar (clifbar.com) and will receive 10% off any non-sale item. Pre-registration is recommended, however, walk-ins will not be turned away. Call 773.248.0107 to register.

4th Annual Amlings Holiday Toy Ride

Friday, December 15, 2006

6:30 a.m.

Amlings Cycle (8140 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL)

Ride your bike approximately 12 miles from Amlings Cycle to Mystic Celt (3443 N. Southport, Chicago) to meet a waiting truck from the Marine Corps. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation. Eamonn Vaughan, owner of Mystic Celt, will serve breakfast to riders. Those not participating in the ride are welcome to drop off toys at Mystic Celt. Registration is required: amlingscycle.com or 847.692.4240.

Thanks in part to a generous mini-grant from SRAM corporation, we have a quantity of attractive 2007 Bike Winter stickers to pass along, and we will do our best to make sure they are on hand at most events.

Chicago's Bike Winter events lineup is snowballing! As you read, events are being added daily, so listing them here would be woefully incomplete, but here are some highlights to whet your appetite like a snowflake melting on your tongue:

8th Annual Reindeer Ride



Sunday, December 10, 2006

9:00 a.m. registration

10:00 a.m. ride start

Viking Park (Gurnee, IL)

The Reindeer Ride is a nine-mile family fun ride. The route follows the northern section of the Des Plaines River Trail.

Your toy donation benefits the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. The

Warren High School Athletic Booster Club will provide an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast after the ride. Door prizes and reindeer games will be provided during breakfast. Decorate your bike for a chance to win a prize. Santa is expected to attend, so be nice and bundle up your family for a fun winter ride. Registration/fee information: mikesbikesgurnee.com or 847.662.8482.

Thanks in part to a generous mini-grant from SRAM corporation, we have a quantity of attractive 2007 Bike Winter stickers to pass along, and we will do our best to make sure they are on hand at most events.

Chicago's Bike Winter events lineup is snowballing! As you read, events are being added daily, so listing them here would be woefully incomplete, but here are some highlights to whet your appetite like a snowflake melting on your tongue:

8th Annual Reindeer Ride



Sunday, December 10, 2006

9:00 a.m. registration

10:00 a.m. ride start

Viking Park (Gurnee, IL)

The Reindeer Ride is a nine-mile family fun ride. The route follows the northern section of the Des Plaines River Trail.

Your toy donation benefits the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. The

Warren High School Athletic Booster Club will provide an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast after the ride. Door prizes and reindeer games will be provided during breakfast. Decorate your bike for a chance to win a prize. Santa is expected to attend, so be nice and bundle up your family for a fun winter ride. Registration/fee information: mikesbikesgurnee.com or 847.662.8482.

city. The other riders surrounded me, enveloped me. I had never seen the city from this perspective before.

In *The Immortal Class*, Travis Culley comments on the mindset surrounding the modern American in motion (Get from point A to point B as quickly as possible). Conversely, here I was, traversing the magnificent city at no more than 10 miles per hour. No destination at hand; none wanted. The only goal was the experience, the community, the freedom of motion, unrestricted by laws, ordinance, and the most oppressive constraint of all: time. Without the hand of time, the pace of the city—the speed, the deadlines, the stress of rush hour—washes away like a flash flood washing down the Chicago sewers.

The latest ride I participated in was the June 2005 ride.* The route was a fantastic, leisurely ride through some of Chicago's oldest South Side neighborhoods, culminating with a sunset at 63rd Street Beach. This was, by far, my favorite ride to date. It was also my largest ride. Over 1,400 cyclists snaked their way through Chicago that hot and sunny June afternoon.



city. The other riders surrounded me, enveloped me. I had never seen the city from this perspective before.

In *The Immortal Class*, Travis Culley comments on the mindset surrounding the modern American in motion (Get from point A to point B as quickly as possible). Conversely, here I was, traversing the magnificent city at no more than 10 miles per hour. No destination at hand; none wanted. The only goal was the experience, the community, the freedom of motion, unrestricted by laws, ordinance, and the most oppressive constraint of all: time. Without the hand of time, the pace of the city—the speed, the deadlines, the stress of rush hour—washes away like a flash flood washing down the Chicago sewers.

The latest ride I participated in was the June 2005 ride.* The route was a fantastic, leisurely ride through some of Chicago's oldest South Side neighborhoods, culminating with a sunset at 63rd Street Beach. This was, by far, my favorite ride to date. It was also my largest ride. Over 1,400 cyclists snaked their way through Chicago that hot and sunny June afternoon.



Riders passed out water, Popsicles, and kind words. With music in tow, the Critical Mass shared Chinatown, Hyde Park, the University of Chicago, open fire hydrants, unparalleled skyline views, and a magnificent beach.

I learned more about Chicago's South Side that day than I had through all of my previous life. Why? Because instead of barreling through the streets in a frantic attempt to get to my destination (as I used to do), I let it soak in. I opened myself up to the faces, the architecture, and the unique atmosphere of each neighborhood. The people we encountered were, and always have been, more receptive to our understanding and goodwill than most would believe. They respond in kind, welcoming the pedal pushers and opening themselves up to the fun we're having.

Granted, there are always exceptions. If life were perfect, it would be pretty boring. But exceptions always evolve. At one point in our recent history, the automobile was the exception. As industry changed and the pace of commerce increased, bicycles became the exception. Now, once again, what was



10

Riders passed out water, Popsicles, and kind words. With music in tow, the Critical Mass shared Chinatown, Hyde Park, the University of Chicago, open fire hydrants, unparalleled skyline views, and a magnificent beach.

I learned more about Chicago's South Side that day than I had through all of my previous life. Why? Because instead of barreling through the streets in a frantic attempt to get to my destination (as I used to do), I let it soak in. I opened myself up to the faces, the architecture, and the unique atmosphere of each neighborhood. The people we encountered were, and always have been, more receptive to our understanding and goodwill than most would believe. They respond in kind, welcoming the pedal pushers and opening themselves up to the fun we're having.

Granted, there are always exceptions. If life were perfect, it would be pretty boring. But exceptions always evolve. At one point in our recent history, the automobile was the exception. As industry changed and the pace of commerce increased, bicycles became the exception. Now, once again, what was



10

Bike Winter 2007: Rolling in a Winter Wonderland

More and more cyclists are embracing the bicycle as year-round transportation, and bicycle-related businesses and organizations are getting the message!

Inspired by Chicago's grassroots Bike Winter campaign, cyclists in cities around the Midwest, including Milwaukee, Madison, Ann Arbor, and St. Louis, are following suit by building their own palette of events to keep people riding through the year.

Forty winter biking advocates representing all corners of the Chicago bike community attended the Bike Winter 2007 kickoff meeting in October.

A series of well-attended educational workshops and bike winterizing clinics have been graciously offered by Mr. Bike, the Chicago Cycling Club, Performance/Halsted, REI, the UIC College of Cycling, and the West Town Bikes crew in October and November.



15

Bike Winter 2007: Rolling in a Winter Wonderland

More and more cyclists are embracing the bicycle as year-round transportation, and bicycle-related businesses and organizations are getting the message!

Inspired by Chicago's grassroots Bike Winter campaign, cyclists in cities around the Midwest, including Milwaukee, Madison, Ann Arbor, and St. Louis, are following suit by building their own palette of events to keep people riding through the year.

Forty winter biking advocates representing all corners of the Chicago bike community attended the Bike Winter 2007 kickoff meeting in October.

A series of well-attended educational workshops and bike winterizing clinics have been graciously offered by Mr. Bike, the Chicago Cycling Club, Performance/Halsted, REI, the UIC College of Cycling, and the West Town Bikes crew in October and November.



15

sewing in the pockets. A buddy of mine, who owns Broadway Shoe Repair down in Lakeview, came to the rescue. He only charged me \$5.

The roll-up now contains what I consider to be my five most essential tools. The first is a small Sterling A-1 Bicycle Wrench. Forget the Park folks. The tool pioneer, Frank Mossberg, invented this beauty, the original bike wrench, back at the turn of the 20th Century in Attleboro, MA. The other tools include a #15 & 17 cone wrench, three steel tire irons (that double as spoke wrenches as well as various sizes of cone and other wrenches), a small screwdriver, and a tire gauge. To protect my small investment I also bought a jar of Sno-Seal. Atsko has been making this wonderful stuff for years. My grandfather used it to waterproof his fishing boots. All you need to do is heat the leather slightly with a hair dryer then slather on the Sno-Seal. Let it set overnight and wipe away the excess with a clean cloth. I did this three times to the roll-up as well as the outer bag.

And that's how you get yourself a cool leather tool bag and retro roll-up for no more than \$10.

—Garth Katner

Garth Katner (Da' Square Wheelman) writes Bicycle Diaries, which can be read at bicycle-diaries.blogspot.com/.

14

sewing in the pockets. A buddy of mine, who owns Broadway Shoe Repair down in Lakeview, came to the rescue. He only charged me \$5.

The roll-up now contains what I consider to be my five most essential tools. The first is a small Sterling A-1 Bicycle Wrench. Forget the Park folks. The tool pioneer, Frank Mossberg, invented this beauty, the original bike wrench, back at the turn of the 20th Century in Attleboro, MA. The other tools include a #15 & 17 cone wrench, three steel tire irons (that double as spoke wrenches as well as various sizes of cone and other wrenches), a small screwdriver, and a tire gauge. To protect my small investment I also bought a jar of Sno-Seal. Atsko has been making this wonderful stuff for years. My grandfather used it to waterproof his fishing boots. All you need to do is heat the leather slightly with a hair dryer then slather on the Sno-Seal. Let it set overnight and wipe away the excess with a clean cloth. I did this three times to the roll-up as well as the outer bag.

And that's how you get yourself a cool leather tool bag and retro roll-up for no more than \$10.

—Garth Katner

Garth Katner (Da' Square Wheelman) writes Bicycle Diaries, which can be read at bicycle-diaries.blogspot.com/.

14

the exception has returned as an exceptional movement.

The concept of flow is prevalent throughout Critical Mass; both the literal sense of moving fluidly through the streets and the metaphorical notion of the effortless chain of positive events that occur before, during, and after the ride. Everyone, at some point, experiences the concept of flow within his or her own lives. When recalling a day where everything just worked, consider the power you felt over your own life. For cyclists, an excellent analogy of flow is the act of riding in and of itself. During a heavy rush hour street a path suddenly opens before you. Or you discover a faster, less trafficked route from your apartment to work.

Flow is contagious and, like a bike rolling downhill, picks up momentum over time. The Critical Mass flows through the streets, spilling out in every direction, generating currents for all who experience it. Become present to the flow in your own life. Listen to it, nurture it, and ride it.

Experiencing the world at human speed, that is cycling's gift



11

the exception has returned as an exceptional movement.

The concept of flow is prevalent throughout Critical Mass; both the literal sense of moving fluidly through the streets and the metaphorical notion of the effortless chain of positive events that occur before, during, and after the ride. Everyone, at some point, experiences the concept of flow within his or her own lives. When recalling a day where everything just worked, consider the power you felt over your own life. For cyclists, an excellent analogy of flow is the act of riding in and of itself. During a heavy rush hour street a path suddenly opens before you. Or you discover a faster, less trafficked route from your apartment to work.

Flow is contagious and, like a bike rolling downhill, picks up momentum over time. The Critical Mass flows through the streets, spilling out in every direction, generating currents for all who experience it. Become present to the flow in your own life. Listen to it, nurture it, and ride it.

Experiencing the world at human speed, that is cycling's gift



11

to me. This is the gift I am committed to give to others as I share my experiences and welcome them, reacquaint them with an old friend they knew as a child, seven years old, learning to traverse the world on two wheels, self-powered, free from restraint, empowered with a freedom of movement that most people deny is possible, but everyone hopes to achieve someday. Why not right now? Try it on. I'll see you at the next Mass.

The Chicago Critical Mass starts at 5:30 p.m. at Daley Plaza on the last Friday of every month.

-Devin Breen

**This article was published on Pedal Pushers online magazine on August 19, 2005.*

Photos that accompany the original article can be found at devinbreen.com/articles/power-of-critical-mass/.



12

to me. This is the gift I am committed to give to others as I share my experiences and welcome them, reacquaint them with an old friend they knew as a child, seven years old, learning to traverse the world on two wheels, self-powered, free from restraint, empowered with a freedom of movement that most people deny is possible, but everyone hopes to achieve someday. Why not right now? Try it on. I'll see you at the next Mass.

The Chicago Critical Mass starts at 5:30 p.m. at Daley Plaza on the last Friday of every month.

-Devin Breen

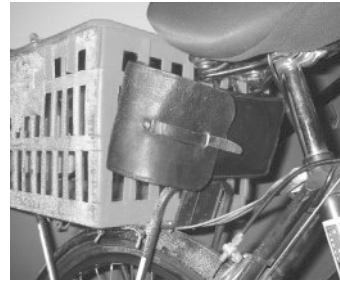
**This article was published on Pedal Pushers online magazine on August 19, 2005.*

Photos that accompany the original article can be found at devinbreen.com/articles/power-of-critical-mass/.



12

Kraftwerk



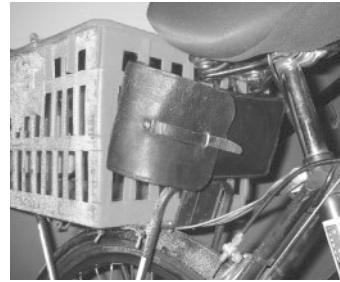
The German techno band? Not quite. This article is all about DIY arts-n-crafts. I've been stuck at home the last week or so with my usual early winter head cold. When I got through all my current reads I decided to finish a leather tool bag (see photo) I'd

been working on since last spring. I originally got it at a local army surplus store. As I've written before, I'm a cheap SOB. I didn't want to drop the big bucks on a Park Tool BK Roll-up Workshop. Basically, mine contains a spare inner tube, 12" zip-ties great for the temporary replacement of lost nuts, and a new leather roll-up bag. I found a free source of quality leather in the golden alley next to my apartment building. Over the years I've dumpster-dived enough cool retro furniture to fill a good-sized apartment. Like I said, I'm cheap!

Somebody had trashed a large travel bag in a dumpster. It was in great condition although the zippers were busted. A tag inside revealed that it began its life in far-off Venezuela. I cut a piece large enough to hold my tools in four pockets with a protective fold-over flap. The only challenge was

13

Kraftwerk



The German techno band? Not quite. This article is all about DIY arts-n-crafts. I've been stuck at home the last week or so with my usual early winter head cold. When I got through all my current reads I decided to finish a leather tool bag (see photo) I'd

been working on since last spring. I originally got it at a local army surplus store. As I've written before, I'm a cheap SOB. I didn't want to drop the big bucks on a Park Tool BK Roll-up Workshop. Basically, mine contains a spare inner tube, 12" zip-ties great for the temporary replacement of lost nuts, and a new leather roll-up bag. I found a free source of quality leather in the golden alley next to my apartment building. Over the years I've dumpster-dived enough cool retro furniture to fill a good-sized apartment. Like I said, I'm cheap!

Somebody had trashed a large travel bag in a dumpster. It was in great condition although the zippers were busted. A tag inside revealed that it began its life in far-off Venezuela. I cut a piece large enough to hold my tools in four pockets with a protective fold-over flap. The only challenge was

13