

NYCC Archives – January 2011



January “President's Message”

By Ellen Jaffe

In any year, it would be an honor to lead our beloved Club, but to do so in 2011, our 75th anniversary year is my special good fortune.

New York Cycle Club was established in 1936 and for over three-quarters of a century, with no clubhouse or townhouse, NYCC has been an enduring presence in this great metropolis. This continuity speaks to the strength of our Club and to the power of the common joy that brings us together.

Such a watermark year presents shining opportunity to build on those strengths that got us here.

2011 will be our year to explore our 75-year history and to build community. We will work to get more members involved in our rides and programs. We will remind ourselves that NYCC is an integral part of the cityscape and has a particular role to play in the city's evolution.



The SIGS

What exactly will 2011 look like?

- What stamps our Club above all is the richness of our regular rides – weekday after weekend, year-round. Our V.P. of Rides, Adrienne Browning, and Ride Coordinators Lauren Gilker, Bill Laffey and Harry Woods will work toward a full calendar that assures something for everyone, every weekend, including weekly social rides of shorter duration.
- Our SIG and STS captains are already at work, organizing the country’s best spring training programs for recreational cyclists. More than four hundred lucky members of all pace levels will attend NYCC cycling college for free! [Note to SIG and STS hopefuls](#): You must be an NYCC member to sign up.
- We will develop a ride leader training program, spearheaded by our most experienced leaders.
- Every year, nearly one third of our members are new members. With Membership Director Jennell Francis in the lead, we will make a special effort to ease every newcomer into our NYCC family with a phone call or email and extra follow-through.
- Our monthly Club meetings, under the direction of VP of Programs Jen Rudin, will always be a time to socialize, as well as a chance to share a speaker or program of broad interest – starting with our guest next Tuesday, January 11, the city’s estimable Commissioner of Transportation Janette Sadik-Khan.



DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan and NYCC Member Claudia Kulesh

- With an eye toward engaging many more Club members, we will host a full calendar of Club happenings, sportive and otherwise. Special Events Coordinator Hal Eskenazi will engage fresh venues and new ideas. New partners like Apple will present new opportunity, like collaboration on a route-mapping workshop at their Soho store.

- With Reyna Franco and Lucia Deng at the reins, we will host fabulous weekends at the Berkshires and West Point.
- Under the leadership of ENY Chair Beth Bryson, Escape New York will continue to build its reputation as a jewel on the city's ride calendar – the “must-do” event, kept so affordable that anyone can ride, but yet so exuberantly run by Club volunteers that, to quote one 2010 rider, “everyone feels like a rock star.”
- With Public Relations Director Grace Lichtenstein in the lead, we will show off who we are with a significant New York Cycle Club presence at “Summer Streets” and other high-profile events.
- An important priority is our website. With Webmaster Jim Reaven and Content Editor Eunice Martinez in front, we will work to make it an intuitive, first-class communication tool.
- Then there is our 75th anniversary and the rich opportunity that surrounds it.
 - * Carol Waaser, our archivist/historian, will be sleuthing, researching and interviewing Club old timers. She will be compiling the 75-year NYCC narrative and codifying it for our website and publication. We will have our “lantern on the stern,” know where we came from, and fix our place in the pantheon of gotham sporting institutions.
 - * Turning our energy outwards toward the larger NYC community, we will stage benefit evenings as part of the fabric of our 75th.
 - For The Kid's Ride Club, we will partner with The Crosby Street Hotel, making use of their generously donated theater for a fundraising movie evening.
 - We will support the DOT initiative “Safe Streets” with a fundraiser. Details TBA.
- Along with a distinguished committee, Christy Guzzetta is deep into planning a 75th Anniversary celebration for our entire membership, including an unforgettable All-Class Ride and a meaningful, memorable evening to honor the Legends of our Club.



Escape New York, 2010

Important Membership Renewal Information

The Membership functionality of our website is up and running. If your expiration is February 1, 2011 or earlier, you should have received a renewal notice with a link to payment. In future, renewal notices will be sent out by email three weeks prior to membership expiration. Couples renewing or joining as new members, please sign up at active.com.



“Ours is a volunteer show and as such depends on getting people actively involved with it.”

– Maxim Vickers, long-time, active NYCC member who we tragically lost last month

Maxim wrote that 25 years ago but it could have been written today. Our all-volunteer Club has sustained itself since 1936 because members like Maxim cared a great deal.

Such members have showed all of us how any one of us with an idea and energy can make significant, positive change for our Club and for our community.

Think about how you want to contribute your time to NYCC in this watermark year.

In the meantime, a happy, healthy and safe New Year to all and see you soon!

Ellen

NYCC Film Review



“Chasing Legends”

Film Review By Felix Marte, NYCC Member since 2009

Director: Jason Berry

Producer: Ken Bell

Composer: Haik Naltchayan

Narration: Phil Liggett

Runtime: 95 minutes

First screened during the Tour of California in May 2010, “Chasing Legends” is a Gripped Films documentary about the Tour de France shot using HD cameras mounted on bikes, cars, helicopters and helmets. The film includes commentary from Lance Armstrong, Eddy Merckx, Mark Cavendish and George Hincapie. “Chasing Legends” was screened on Thursday, September 30, as a special one-night only event.

The opening scene of “Chasing Legends” takes us back to a much simpler but no less passionate time in cycling when a bike was made of unforgiving materials and “shook the bones” of its intrepid rider. The film swiftly shifts gears and brings us into fantastic high-definition images of the Tour de France interspersed with wonderful historical segments and laced with a good soundtrack. A real treat are the glimpses of what happens behind the scenes of a pro-tour team that you never see in normal race coverage.

Yet the film doesn't cover the 2009 Tour completely enough, skimping over the pivotal mountain stages and not talking about the GC contenders at all – an odd omission given that this film is about the Tour. No links are made between the Columbia/HTC team (who are more or less followed in the film and from whose perspective much of the segments are presented) and the "legends" alluded to in the film's title. So it seems to be neither entirely about Columbia/HTC nor about the legends of the Tour. In fact, "Chasing Legends" does not really explore the legends aspect very much, if at all. Eddy Merckx, a cycling legend, is featured but does not discuss his tour victories. Instead, he provides anecdotal accounts of what it was like participating in the Tour.

So you find yourself struggling to describe the film. I had to settle on it being "a little bit about the 2009 Tour de France, mostly from the perspective of the Columbia/HTC team, with a sprinkling of Tour history thrown in, all cobbled together." But it's hard not to like the film because all those little bits are great bits. Even though the film may feel like a loose collection of parts, never exploring any of its several themes completely, I still felt that "Chasing Legends" was very enjoyable and would recommend it to any cycling race fan or fan of the Tour de France.

For more information about "Chasing Legends," visit www.ChasingLegends.com.



Jon Orcutt, Director of Policy for the NYC Department of Transportation, at our January 11 Meeting

Annie Moore's was standing-room-only at our January 11 meeting when Jon Orcutt stood in for Commissioner Sadik-Khan who was waylaid at City Hall by the impending snowstorm.

Jon is Director of Policy for DOT and has contributed to transportation policy in the city for over 20 years. He spoke of the urgent need for advocates in the cycling community and in our Club to step up and actively defend DOT initiatives.

Advocacy Issues

NYCC Alert: Where You Can Help

Voice your opinion about the proposed bike licensing law. Email its sponsor: eulrich@council.nyc.gov And sign off as an NYCC member. For more information, read the *New York Post's* "Pol Pushing ID Tags"



Updated: Fri., Jan. 14, 2011, 7:05 AM

'Sticking' it to bikers

By SALLY GOLDENBERG and TOM NAMAKO

You may soon need a sticker to ride.

In a bid to rein in rogue cyclists, all adult pedal pushers in the city will be required to get an ID tag affixed to their bikes if a city councilman has his way, *The Post* has learned.

Eric Ulrich (R-Queens) says he is floating the proposal -- which would require a small fee -- because "there seems to be a double standard when it comes to enforcing the traffic laws. Bicycles are involved in accidents, unfortunately, across this city."

He added that many cyclists don't have identification on them if they get into an accident because "they're in Spandex or whatnot."

Ulrich says that many of his constituents are seniors and that "people on bicycles scare the hell out of them. Sometimes they can be an intimidating presence on the city streets."

Cycling in New York is booming. The Department of Transportation is adding 50 miles of bike lanes per year, and DOT numbers show a more-than-100 percent increase in everyday bike commuters -- from 8,499 in 2006 to 17,451 now.

But city cyclists don't exactly agree with Ulrich's reasons for proposing the measure.

"Wearing cycling clothing does not prevent you from carrying identification. Almost all cycling jerseys have multiple pockets," said Andrew Crooks, 34, owner of bicycle shop NYC Velo, near Union Square.

Implementing the registrations would be a waste, he said, adding, "It's not a good use of resources to re-create a system that already exists."

Cycling advocacy groups said they'd lobby against the idea.

"We're adamantly opposed to any legislation that would require licensing or registration of bicycles," said Kim Martineau, a spokeswoman for Transportation Alternatives. ". . . [T]he deterrent effect it would have on cycling would be enormous."

Instead, the group calls for "better, more targeted enforcement" of existing laws.

One biker saw an upside, saying lost or stolen bikes could be identified. "Right now, [recovered] bicycles just get auctioned" by police, said audio engineer Chvad Bernhard, 37.

Add'l reporting by Vinita Singla

NYCC Alert: Where You Can Help

Central Park Alert: The past week has seen a ticketing blitz by police directed at Park cyclists running red lights. This has occurred regardless of hour or density of traffic, pedestrian or otherwise, leaving a number of our members with \$270 fines.

While the Club is working for clarification and a favorable resolution, it is in your interest to be forewarned.

NYC DOT Director of Policy Challenges Cyclists to Show Leadership in Defending City Pro-Bike Actions

By **Grace Lichtenstein**, NYCC Public Relations Director



PHOTO: JOHN KALISH

Annie Moore's was standing-room-only last Tuesday at the first New York Cycle Club meeting of 2011, as a senior NYC Department of Transportation official called on cyclists to "show more muscle" in supporting city changes that have benefited bike riders.

Jon Orcutt, DOT's Director of Policy, was an emergency substitute for the scheduled speaker, Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, who was waylaid at City Hall by the impending snowstorm.

Orcutt, who has developed and contributed to transportation policy in the city for over 20 years, recited the great progress city cycling has made on Sadik-Khan's watch, including many more painted and protected bike lanes, new on-street bike parking areas and racks, and the coming bike-share program similar to those already operating in cities such as Paris and Montreal.

The result, he said, was a huge increase in the number of bike commuters and frequent recreational riders. "As cycling grows," Orcutt said cyclists must "figure out how to use that importance" and become more involved in the politics of transportation.

Orcutt warned that there has been a backlash against what he called "the city's visible embrace of cycling." A different city administration could undue all the improvements, he said.

"Cyclists are not providing public leadership" in actively defending DOT pro-biking initiatives, he said. He exhorted cycling clubs, individual commuters, even bike shops to wrest control of the debate and "be a lot more vocal" in fighting bad behavior within the cycling ranks.

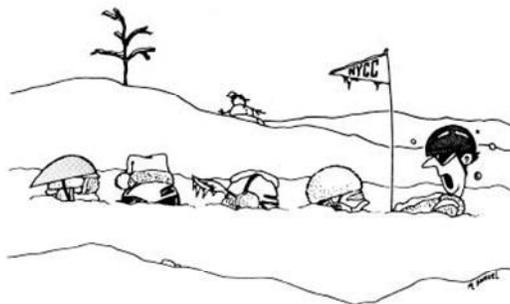
The city is about to launch a new campaign labeled "Don't be a jerk!" against unsafe riding – running red lights, riding one-way streets the wrong way, riding on sidewalks. Orcutt urged all riders to support the campaign and to welcome increased police enforcement of safe riding rules.

Orcutt concluded, "If we can overcome some of the negativity, we can do amazing things with cycling" in New York.

NYCC Bulletin

JANUARY 1990

WINTER RIDING...



"Red light!"

P.O. Box 680877 Bklyn. NY 11202-0019 812-848-3800

RED LIGHT! It was on a lunch break during a frigid winter ride to Saddle River in 1986 that NYCC member Michael Samuel found himself scribbling his feelings onto a napkin ... of a ride so snowy only helmets protruded!

That sketch turned into the cover of the January 1990 NYCC Bulletin.

The rest is history ... an unbroken string of 82 charming and delightful Michael Samuel NYCC Bulletin covers through 1996.

JANUARY 4, 2011 – NYCC BOARD MEETING

Present: Ellen Jaffe, President; Bill Laffey, Adrienne Browning, Arden Rodgers, Eunice Martinez, Jim Reaven, Grace Lichtenstein, Lauren Gilker, Jen Rudin, Beth Bryson, Jennell Francis, Hal Eskenazi, and Morene Bangel.

Time Noted: 6:30pm

Ellen welcomed the new board members.

- Ellen discussed a process for design of a new club jersey, opening it up for Club-wide competition; keep it open for three weeks, have the designs to review at the next meeting, pick three or five. Do a Club-wide vote of those choices, maybe do a whole kit this year. Ellen brought up the January Club meeting at which Janette Sadik-Khan was the guest speaker.
- Jen Rudin said we already have a number of people who RSVP'd for dinner. Club business will be discussed after dinner.
- Adrienne said Jay Jacobson sent a letter to her about an idea to get more people to lead rides; pass around lists at the meeting for people to sign up to lead rides.
- Ellen discussed 75th anniversary and the committee formed to plan the weekend. July 16th will **likely** be the date of the party (they are thinking about working the all-class ride into that weekend); looking at a place in DUMBO for dinner on the 16th. Christy Guzzetta, Committee Chair, will present to us at the next Board meeting.
- Ellen discussed 75th anniversary fundraiser for Kids Ride Club at the Crosby Street Hotel, using their 99-seat theater. Hotel will donate theater, staff drinks. We pay food costs and movie rental cost for "Chasing Legends."
- Carol Wasser is researching, archiving, writing Club's history, looking for old photos (Club was founded in 1936), old bulletins, anything relevant. She is also interviewing all Club old-timers she can find.
- Ellen discussed Bike Month in May; spoke to Apple store in SoHo about having a program re: mapping on a Mac. Also discussed an NYCC Bike Month ride to attract new members. It was agreed that having the Newcomers Ride in May made more sense than in July.
- Talked about getting into TA listing.
- Richard Rosenthal has owned the URL newyorkcycleclub.org, is willing to sell it to us for \$60.
- Ellen discussed putting together a curriculum for Ride leader training. Linda Wintner and Paul Hofherr are interested in spearheading a committee. Harry Woods is interested in helping develop the program as well. It would be optional, a trial program.

The Board agreed that sending a few leaders to the 5BBC training program (cost of about \$60 each) might help the committee structure a basic framework for such a program. The goal of such a program would be to create consistent instruction in some basic tenets of leading; *e.g.*, accident response, sign-in procedure, leader, etiquette, and more.

- Arden gave Treasurer's report. Checking account, approximately \$3,000. Money market, \$35,297.58. Total is \$38,297.58. ENY has \$1,700 left over. Non-ENY bank bill is \$36,560.13.
- Jennell said we have 2,179 members. Tallies of ride leaders were handed out.
- Adrienne has ride coordinators meeting with the SIG groups and STS leaders to discuss safety and insurance issues. Adrienne is motioning to formalize: To require all people signing up for a SIG or an STS to be Club members. It has to go on website. Website won't let you sign up for a SIG without being a member (it won't be visible). Absolutely need to be a member to sign up for SIG or STS. Adrienne is also coordinating Metro North schedule for SIGs and STS.
- Website. (Jim Reaven). We changed the colors of the fonts, made the Message Board more usable. Got existing members successfully transferred. Cue sheets have been almost 100% transferred over. We have a new developer. Hope to have renewing up and available within two weeks.
- Eunice spoke about content (bulletin). Work has to continue. Beth suggested spelling out Escape New York instead of just ENY; all agreed.

Garnering content for the Bulletin is very difficult to do, plus the need for the Bulletin has diminished as the website has become the prominent communication tool. Eunice would like to put a motion to the Board because her position has changed from what's currently in the bylaws, editor's position in the bylaws and what she proposes the revised description should read: "Paragraph G, content managing editor," instead of editor.

"The content managing editor shall be responsible for editing and managing all Club website and eWeekly content and for the posting of photos to the Club's website. He or she shall be responsible for archiving the President's monthly statement to the Club and any other relevant materials submitted for posting to the Club's website by members of the Club or outside parties. The Content Managing Editor will manage the optional assistance of a content team, which will work toward providing various types of website content for the Club."

Ellen said this would be a change in the bylaws, Eunice made a motion that we change the format of the Bulletin and move it from a print document that gets circulated to one that is on the website. The function would change from a Bulletin to the President's statement and other sections.

ELLEN JAFFE: How about a motion to integrate what had previously been traditional content for the Bulletin throughout the site in ways to be determined, and once a month aggregate a full selection of content to be archived in a PDF?

There was a second. Motion passed unanimously.

- Adrienne wants to have the ability to put “Out of Bounds” content onto website, including travel logs, et cetera. Brought up categorizing snow shoeing, ice skating, etcetera, other non-riding activities, in category separate from “rides.” (Would be a dropdown as a Club activity.)
- Beth gave Escape New York report, will bring specifics next month. Checks were presented to Transportation Alternatives and Recycle a Bicycle. We gave \$8,500 to each. We also gave \$500 to Saddle River and \$2,000 to Piermont. We also made donations to the food pantry.
- Discussed candidates to fill Hal’s position.
- Grace made a motion to approve expenditure to send someone to the National Bike Summit conference in Washington, D.C. in March, run by the League of American Bicyclists. Motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.