

2008 Ride of Silence Events Report



Note: Photos embedded in this report were provided by the event organizers as attachments and are still their property. No permission is given by us for anyone else to reuse these photos without permission of the individual event organizers.

Total 2008 Riders: 7,955

Number of Locations Reporting in: 105 (out of 299 known locations) 35%

(7 locations did not note # of riders)

Alabama

Montgomery, 50 Riders

Our 1st ever here in Montgomery went well tonight. 50 or so attended, and there was a little media attention. The local paper ran a story this morning on pg A3.

Event photo: <http://tinyurl.com/45kw52>

Bruce841

Arizona

Green Valley, 50 Riders

This was the third year for us to sponsor the local Ride of Silence observance and we have grown to close to fifty participants. We spent a lot of time on publicity - newspaper articles, media announcements, posters in stores and public areas, bicycling group announcements, and word-of-mouth, helped to spread the word. Pre-event newspaper media coverage this year was

fantastic. We also teamed up with ROS groups in nearby Tucson on publicity. Refreshments were offered by the local Green Valley Bike & Hike shop prior to the ride. We had excellent support from the Pima County Sheriff organization, the local Sheriff Auxiliary Volunteer group (SAV), the Sahuarita Police Department, and the Green Valley Fire Department for the ride. Officers from the Sheriff's Motor Unit and the SAV escorted the ride. We used the same seven mile route as last year. Because Arizona does not observe daylight savings time, we elected to start our ride for the past three years at 6:00 PM rather than the suggested 7:00 PM. At that time of the year it gets dark for us at 7:30. The need for bicycle lights would severely reduce the number of people who would participate. We note that other Arizona rides follow our suggestion for an early start.

A four minute presentation on this year's ride may be viewed at <http://youtube.com/watch?v=De90s3Mki1c>

or higher quality here: <http://www.scvbac.org/ros2008.html>

Publicity releases may be viewed on the 'advocacy in action' page at www.scvbac.org

Chuck Hill, Organizer



Members of the Pima County Sheriff's Department Motor Unit escort riders through Green Valley.

Mesa, 83 Riders

Our turn out for the Mesa, Arizona location was around 83 riders. There could be more as some people may not have signed in. The weather was a bit windy to start with a cool breeze at the turn around. The night went beautifully, as new friendships were made.

We want to thank all who have put their time and hard efforts to bring this event to the heights that it is.

Connie Hancock, connie@usscreen.com

Modesto, 9 Riders

This was our 5th year and it did not have a very good turn out. There were 2 tandems and 5 singles, we rode the 9.8 mile route in just under 1 hour, we keep the pace at 12 mph, which was ok for most. Last year we had over 25 riders, not sure what happened this year other than the fact it was very windy, which might have kept some people away. We did not get any coverage from the newspaper like we did last year. We will do it again and hope to increase the numbers.

Louis Levin, louis@priority1res.com

Verde Valley, Cottonwood, Sedona, 20 Riders

The ride night was stormy with gusts of wind...we started at 7pm instead of the Arizona 6pm start, which I think would have been much better...Still we had a turnout of 20 people. An okay beginning. We had newspaper coverage, flyers, an ad and some bike club notice...We read off a partial list of names of Arizona cyclists killed and injured in the past few years that we have become aware of...it was alarming and very moving. Unfortunately the bag piper got lost and no showed the event.

On the whole I was disappointed with the level of involvement from the local cycling community. Hopefully we can start next year at the 6pm start time and draw a larger crowd and more community involvement.

Midge Steuber, organizer, kaibablady@gmail.com

Tucson, 100-120 Riders

We had a nice turnout. I'm guessing 100-120 people. We had the help of local Police and KMSB-11 followed us around our 9 miles route.

Special thanks the Jean Gorman for setting up a well organized ride.

MarcRBarnes

California

Irvine, 100-150 Riders



We had between 100-150 riders at the Irvine, CA ride last night. Good representation from the OC Rebel Riders, Bicycle Club of Irvine, Warriors Society, Trail Angels, SHARE MTB Club & SoCal Trailriders.

Good media coverage and a police escort shutting down all the intersections for us. Great cause. I was

glad to be a part of it.

Ericfoltz

Sacramento, 18 Riders

The last riders have signed in and were ready to ride. The rules have been reviewed. First On Scene event medical services <http://firstonsceneems.com> has donated two vehicles with light bars to escort the cyclists, one at lead, one at rear.

18 cyclists participated, most were members of the Sacramento Bike Hikers, several found out about the ride from the Ride of Silence web site and some contacted me by e-mail.

The route distance was 9.5 miles. Starting in front of Sacramento City Hall, crossing the Sacramento river pass by the West Sacramento City Hall, back across the Sacramento river and around the California State Capitol building, returning to the start.

The ride took until 8:20 and it was beginning to get fairly dark. Some riders brought lights and turned them on, I was one of those.

Next year the route will be shorter so that we can finish within an hour. There were too many stop lights and the group had to stop several times to keep from getting separated.

Also, the route chosen has one stretch where cars were going much too fast 50+.

The temperature was in the 70's very cool for Sacramento in May, but the wind was very strong, blowing at 20+ with gusts of 30+.

I did no publicity, as this was my first event of this kind. Next year a much stronger effort will be made to publicize the ride. Some pictures were taken, if they are sent to me I will send you copies.

David Azevedo, david@williamswriting.com

San Francisco

[Cyclist Killed in San Francisco on Ride of Silence Day.](#)

Temecula, 80 Riders

The Second Annual Ride of Silence for Riverside County California was held in Temecula California and drew about 80 riders. The ride was made even more special this year by Sheri Possehl, who lost her son Jesse in a bicycling accident last year to a hit and run driver. His brother Alex rode in the ride with a black arm band for his brother. His sister Caitlyn was also present.

Present were members of the Riverside Bicycle Club, one of the oldest and largest in the nation, and the ride was led by members of Cal Pools Racing Team for the second year in a row. They also brought their team car.

The ride will be shown on Time Warner Cable (CNN) in June. Photos are available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/27388607@N07/>

TEMECULA: Ride of Silence memorializes cyclists who have died. Annual event seeks to increase safety, awareness

By CATHY REDFERN - Staff Writer | Thursday, May 22, 2008 10:00 AM PDT ∞

Bicyclists wearing black arm bands leave Old Town on Front St during the Second annual Temecula Ride of Silence in which cyclists remember those who have died doing what they love. (Photo by Andrew Foulk - For The Californian)

Steve Chitraroff, left, and his son Kahlo, 9, look at the photos of people who have died in past year riding bicycles before the start of the second annual Temecula Ride of Silence. (Photo by Andrew Foulk - For The Californian)

TEMECULA ---- Joining comrades on wheels in many cities, a group of cyclists rode quietly along the streets of Temecula on Wednesday in the annual Ride of Silence.

Every year, the bike ride begins at 7 p.m. on May 21 in communities in several countries, according to the group's Web site.

The slow-speed, somber procession seeks to honor those killed or injured on public streets while riding bikes, and has spread quickly after its May 21, 2003 start in Dallas.

The five-year tradition was prompted by the death of a cyclist who was struck by a school bus, said Steve Lusky of Wildomar, who spoke before Wednesday's ride and said he has had several friends hit and killed by vehicles while riding.

It is the second year the ride has taken place in Temecula, and it drew about 75 cyclists to the Old Town starting line. Organizers say about 75 people rode in the memorial ride last year as well. Among the riders Wednesday was the 15-year-old brother of Meadowbrook teen Jessie James Possehl, who died last year in a hit-and-run crash while riding his bike near his home.

Clad in a black shirt patterned with white skulls, Alex Possehl spoke with the brevity of a teen. And the Temescal Canyon High School student is a teen who has endured tragedy, as he was with his brother when the crash occurred.

"I want to make sure motorists see us riding and that they are aware we're out there," he said. Wednesday's riders circled The Promenade mall twice and returned to Old Town.

For many of the adult riders, that was a short trip.

Lisa Frick, 45, of Murrieta, said she typically rides for three or four hours, with fellow members of the California Pools Racing Club.

A triathlete and counselor at Margarita Middle School, Frick said she joined Temecula's Ride of Silence two years running because she hopes it makes cycling safer. She said she knows of several people hit and injured by cars while riding on local streets in the 15 years she has been cycling regularly.

"It's needed to raise awareness that we're out there sharing roads, and to give us some space," she said. "I hope it encourages respect on both sides. It's the responsibility of cyclists to obey the rules, too.

"... The intent, obviously, is not to anger anyone."

To facilitate safety and good relations with motorists, organizer Rick Peoples encouraged riders to proceed single-file on the right-hand side of the street whenever possible, and reminded them, lightly, not to pass or race. The ride covered about 10 miles and lasted about an hour, Peoples said.

The mother of Jessie James Possehl, Sheri, also spoke to the group briefly, thanking the riders for participating. "Have fun and be safe," she added.

And with that, before the brightly-colored cyclists rode off, they stood silently, draped over their bikes, as they listened to Lake Elsinore resident Steve Twigg play "Amazing Grace" on a bagpipe.

As Sheri Possehl and her 9-year-old daughter, Caitlynn, watched them go, Possehl said a friend played a bagpipe at her son's funeral last year. The haunting sound brings back memories, she said.

"It upsets you too, doesn't it?" she asked, looking down at her daughter. Caitlynn just nodded.

The pair walked up to Twigg, as he was putting his instrument in the trunk of his car, and found that he knew that bagpiper Mike Slagle, of Wildomar, as both play in the UC Riverside Pipe Band.

Nearby, organizers were putting away a board that showed photographs of those who have died in bike accidents ---- people of all ages, from Newport Beach to New York.

Liz Bibb, 64, of Temecula, said the 140 names were "merely a handful" of those on the Ride of Silence's Web site. Bibb said her husband, Bill, went on the ride and that she knows the hazards of cars as all pedestrians do.

And while the car-versus-bike debate can be a very heated one, not many would argue with the danger of automobiles, including Southwest City Coach driver Sheri Tilton, of Temecula, who was working in Old Town on Wednesday.

The ride is a good idea, she said.

"As long as they ride safely and don't get hurt," she said. "A lot of bicyclists and motorcycles dart out of nowhere and act like they are invincible. They are really very vulnerable."

Contact staff writer Cathy Redfern at (951) 676-4315, Ext. 2621, or e-mail credfern@californian.com

Rick Peoples

Colorado

Colorado Springs, 35 Riders

I'm reporting from Colorado Springs, CO...We had 35 riders attend. All but two rides rode to the ride. We traveled up and down the main streets of downtown for an hour remembering those who have been injured and those we have lost.

Charlotte Miller, millercyclingworks@gmail.com

I would say there were definitely 40 riders. A good turnout, many went to socialize afterwards.

Amy Seltzer

Glenwood Springs, 25 Riders

We had 25 riders participate this year. Down from 100 last year, weather played a part as did a lack of publicity. We have plans to increase our numbers next year.

Jim Neer

Connecticut

Hartford, 9 Riders

I was asked to turn my blog entry into a report. I had to lead the ride at the last minute due to the other leader's family emergency so i am not as familiar with the program, but i think its a great idea. Please let me know if you need anymore info. I also attached a link to the blog entry which has two photos there aren't many as it was a bit wet!

william

Lightening, thunder and downpours of cold rain didn't deter nine riders from meeting in Elizabeth Park yesterday and riding together to honor and remember fellow cyclists who have been killed or injured on the public roads as part of the international Ride of Silence. The worst of the weather occurred just before the ride as Rachel, who rode all the way from New Britain, got to experience in all its wet glory! And DANG! Did it rain! I think it started just as I left my house and continued for a while after I got to the park.

We all certainly enjoyed the ever-changing weather. The ride left Elizabeth Park in a light sprinkle and returned with sun shining between brooding clouds. All went well. No issues with downpours, motorists or flat tires.

We rode down Asylum Avenue into downtown, under the arch, around the Capitol Building, down Capitol Avenue, down Boulevard in West Hartford, right onto Raymond Rd, past the Police Station, meandered through Blue Black Square and its live and rockin' 50's band and returned east along Farmington Avenue and down a side road back into the park. wow. Can you say that all in one breath?

I kept stopping myself from talking, which was hard, as part of the ride. It was also hard as I am sure there were things other people wanted to say or share as well. It was weird not talking at all and knowing there was a line of people behind me! But it did force me to think and ponder much more, which was interesting. A few times I felt more celebratory than somber and wanted to smile and shout...but didn't.

Though we all knew what we were doing, nobody watching us ride by had any idea of what was going on; we were just nine people on bicycles. The Ride of Silence idea wasn't clear. Next year I will certainly make a pair of signs to put on my rear rack and will encourage others to make signs as well. "Ride of Silence" or remember "Joe Smith" or "share the road" would all be great messages.

I did make a sign incase we needed to block traffic that said "Thank You For Waiting" on one side. The other side is for people who feel the need to honk their horns and reads, "Honk If You Love Bicycles." I never got to use the sign on the ride, but I did later on by accident at The Half Door. I was showing it to Rachel, Rich H (the cool eyeglass case dude) and Steve Tizzle when another table must have seen it and a young woman gave us a "HONK" later as she left. Good times. Good Times.

Well, I have no idea who everyone was and I was a bit nervous, but I think it all turned out well and I am super happy so many people braved the weather and came out to support something important. Thank you to everyone. Keep riding safe and see you next year.

<http://ccbabikeeverywhereblog.blogspot.com/2008/05/ride-of-silence-may-21st-2008.html>

William

Delaware

Rehoboth Beach, 45 Riders

The Sussex Cyclists forth annual Ride of Silence was believed to be another successful ride in support of an international event. The ride is held in hundreds of locations around the world on the same day and same time to memorialize the cyclists that have been injured or killed due to accidents with motorists and to raise awareness of the bicyclist's rights to share the roadways.

The pre-ride promotion from local newspapers was provided by The Cape Gazette, The Milford Chronicle, The Seaford Times, The Laurel Times, The Daily Times, to name a few, as well as the Delaware State News. Bicycle shops and Health Clubs in Kent and Sussex Counties were also supportive of the event in displaying posters and distributing flyers for the event. The Bethany Chamber of Commerce provided email promotion to riders of their Ocean to Bay ride. Radio promotion was provided by Gary John on Eagle 97.7 and Cool 101.3. Jesse Lanier and her crew from WBOC television provided excellent coverage of the pre-ride and actual start of the ride.

Once again, we owe a gratitude of thanks to the Lt. Roger Willey and the Delaware State Police in providing the welcomed support of Corporal Brian Thomson and another unknown officer, who provided our safe escort down and back Delaware Route 1, which has been under construction and making traffic and riding conditions worse than ever.

There were approximately forty-five local bicyclists that participated in this year's ride. We formed a double pace line following Corporal Thomson at approximately 12 mph. Each of the riders wore either a red arm band, as a symbol that they had been personally injured due to a motorist while riding or they wore a black arm band, as a symbol of remembrance to the approximately 700 bicyclists that are killed annually while riding on the roadways. We were pleased that this year's ride was completed with no accidents or incidents.

I would like to thank all of you again that either provided support through the promotion via the media, displaying and distributing the ride flyers, safely escorting us on the ride, and all of the local bicyclists that showed up for the ride.

Ed Ford

I want to thank Ed for the fine job he did planning this ride. It all went smoothly, we had lots of publicity and we had the largest attendance we have ever had since the very first ride.

Tony Pezone

Florida

Brooksville, 12 Riders

We only had 12 people show up, but they were 12 NEW people. So I am hoping that next year will at least double that number. Again, everyone who rode agreed that it was quite a sobering experience and that they will be back next year. I have attached a photo of the group as well.



The Brooksville, FL group for 2008.

Steve Diez, Transportation Planner II, stevend@co.hernando.fl.us

Clearwater/ North Pinellas County, 41 Riders

Our ROS attendance was down from last year, but still a pretty good turnout - 41 riders, including some very young children. We opened the evening with a local minister/club member reading off a list of loved ones lost to car/bike accidents while I tolled a deep baritone bell for each name, including Larry Schwartz. Before departure the minister read the ROS poem aloud. It was, of course, very moving.

A slightly amusing but difficult part was on the Pinellas Trail portion, when along would come riders in the opposite direction calling out greetings, only to be met by stoney silence from a line of 41 people. Yikes! I felt a little bad for them, but did try to at least nod my head in acknowledgment.

Riding into the sunset down Curlew Road on the final leg, looking in my mirror and seeing a line of 40 silent cyclists behind me, accompanied by the flashing red and blue lights of the police escort, was intensely emotional. The absence of sirens and that special glow the lights take on at dusk was eerily beautiful.

Ruth Holmberg, North Pinellas Coordinator, rridge2@tampabay.rr.com

Jacksonville, 25-30 Riders

We had a fair sized crowd in Jville, 25-30 riders, no news coverage but the drivers were at least courteous. No one honked or yelled at us.

FloridaBiker

Sanibel Island, 12 Riders

Sanibel is a small resort town of just over 6,000 residents, and this was the island's first year to participate in the Ride of Silence. Our local event, hosted by the Sanibel Bicycle Club, included 12 riders, which was a good turnout given that it was the first year for the event; also, many



Islanders are gone this time of year.

Our Club felt it was important to participate to honor those cyclists who have been killed in collisions with motor vehicles and to draw attention to the general cause of bicycle safety. In our local county, we have seen an alarming rise in the number of cyclist fatalities. While our town is small, we felt that it was important to make a local statement and call attention to the situation.

The evening ride started at 7 PM and made a slow, silent 4 ½ mile loop around the center of town, beginning and ending at Sanibel Community Park. Riders wore safety vests and signs that conveyed the message of the event: "Ride of Silence", "Remembering Fallen Cyclists", and "Share the Road".

We believe our event was successful in helping to get the word out. Our local newspaper covered the Ride of Silence with a front page story, illustrated with color photographs, delivering the message to motorists and cyclists throughout the community.

Tom Sharbaugh
President, Sanibel Bicycle Club
sanibelbicycleclub.org

Link to article in The Island Reporter:

<http://www.islandreporter.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=4569>

Additional pictures from the Sanibel Ride of Silence:

http://www.kodakgallery.com/ShareLandingReg.jsp?Uc=az3qh9u.3piaprma&Uy=-kemp80&Upost_sig nin=Slideshow.jsp%3Fmode%3Dfromshare&Ux=0&UV=670159683054_343352250210&localeid=en_US

Try this link if the above doesn't work: <http://tinyurl.com/5e8x6b>

Georgia

Columbus, 100 Riders

Columbus Cycling Club held its first "Ride of Silence" on May 21, 2008. The desire and plans for a local ROS had been developing for over a year; but the loss of fellow cyclist, Scott Matty, early this year galvanized the cycling community in a way that infused this first event with meaning and an immediate sense of solidarity.

From the opening invocation and riders-instructions to the post ride fellowship picnic, the group shared memories of those struck by a vehicle and effectively carried the "Share the Road" message into the community, where onlookers and drivers responded with surprise and support all along the route. There was no official count but we estimate around 100 cyclists rode together that evening. The response from the participants and local community was positive and deeply felt. Every level of cycling was represented. The fast riders slowed down, the recreational cyclists rode a little faster, the long distance riders rode a fraction of their typical course, and the beginners had a wonderful first cycling experience.

Riders met at historic Weracoba Park, a welcome message, rider-instructions, initial thoughts and an invocation were offered before pedaling off accompanied by police escort. The first half of our ride took us to the center of downtown, passing alongside the Linwood Historic Cemetery, Broadway, the original Train Depot, and back to Weracoba Park. Offering this shorter option encouraged more new riders to participate. The second half of the route continued on Cherokee Avenue by the Columbus Country Club and along a beautiful in-town route featuring wide roads and many attractive neighborhoods. The route we chose is currently under review as recognized bike route, which is one piece of our application to attain designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Afterward, riders and family members gathered for a post ride potluck meal and fellowship in the park. It is our hope that the overwhelming response will send a positive message throughout our community.

Donna Hernandez, dhernandez@bcbsga.com

Illinois

Arlington Heights, 40 Riders

Arlington Heights (Illinois) Ride of Silence had 40 riders. For the first time in 4 years, we had decent weather. The ride was co-sponsored by the Arlington Heights Bike Club and the Arlington Heights Bicycle Commission. We were escorted by Officer Bob Hess of the Arlington Heights Police Department who one of the members of the police bicycle patrol unit.

Before the event, riders spoke about the reasons they were participating. To remind cyclists and motorists to safely share the road, to remember friends killed while cycling; to remember other cyclists killed while cycling; and to encourage safe cycling.

Gary Gilbert

Chicago, 150-200 Riders

More to come with my thoughts about the Chicago Ride of Silence, but I did want to forward along a Chicago Tribune article that got published. What continues to irritate me are the comments posted (mostly by motorists) that clearly indicate we still have a long way to go. But at least we were out making a statement in our numbers (about 150 riders this year) and our silence.

Here is the link to the Tribune write up and photo:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-memorial-bike-ride-web-may22,0,369302.story>
and the comments:
<http://www.topix.net/forum/source/chicago-tribune/T33F13B3L9QM6DHM0#comments>

Here is a link to more photos from the Chicago ride:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amykelley/sets/72157605295543233/>

Thank you again for your help and support! I already have ideas for next year's ride to address some of those motorists' concerns. I will look into getting plenty of flags (maybe orange) to signify us all as a procession (similar to the orange stickers of a funeral procession. That should help. We will also see what we can do about getting a stronger police presence along the entire route we follow.

Overall, however, all riders thanked me after the ride for organizing and I'm so grateful for the positive press we received from the media. We just need to work on getting the positive message out to the motorists sooner and more of it.

Thanks again!

Elizabeth Adamczyk, rideofsilence.chicago@gmail.com

(from a post-event [Chicago Tribune article](#))

On Wednesday night, about 200 people visited four intersections where fatal crashes occurred as part of the Chicago Ride of Silence, the local version of a yearly tradition now observed by cyclists in cities around the world.

"Unfortunately, as there is more cycling on the roads, there's an increase in cycling and vehicular

confrontations," said Elizabeth Adamczyk, organizer of the Ride of Silence. "We've had a few tragedies, especially the in past year, and that has really called attention to the Chicago ride."

In addition to Fabeck, 22, the deaths also include Amanda Annis, 24, and Blanca Ocasio, 19, who were killed six months apart at the same Logan Square intersection, and Matthew Manger-Lynch, 29, who was killed at Lincoln Avenue and Irving Park Road during a February street bike race.

Wednesday's memorial ride visited those three sites before ending at Western Avenue and Cortez Street, where the first ghost bike was installed in 2006 for Isai Medina, 50, the victim of a hit-and-run accident.

Pekin, 10 Riders

We only had 10 riders show up. I forgot what I learned in Boy Scouts. I did not "do my best". Next year I will have the word out early, local media coverage, and route planned for maximum exposure. I promise.

Bill Clark, wdclark190@comcast.net



Pekin, IL group

Indiana

Chesterton, 23 Riders

Can a Ride of Silence be a success considering it is a funeral procession to honor and memorialize fellow cyclists who were killed by a motor vehicle while they were out riding on a public road? I have learned that any Ride of Silence anywhere needs to be understood in context. Pedestrians or motorists might not understand, and even some fellow cyclists might not. To the riders who ride silently, rain or shine, it is a private and personal experience that can arouse a variety of different emotions; some powerful, some sad, and even overwhelming ones. But a fun-time ride it is not and the one on May 21st in Chesterton, Indiana was not.

May 21, 2008 twenty-three riders including at least one minor child, rode in silence (all totally silent except for two comments). The Chesterton police provided a lead escort with flashing lights, and an escort just behind also with flashing lights. We ran all stop signs and that one red light. At nearly all intersections the Chesterton police had blocked all traffic for us. On Calumet Ave.(downtown) cars felt obligated to pull over and stop as the patrol car plowed us our path. Some drivers got out of their cars to better see us. At the trailhead parking lot as we returned a small crowd had gathered to watch us as we approached.

Three names were announced just before we rode: Gary Martin, Gary Dudley, and Jane Robertson. Gary Martin and Gary Dudley were both from law enforcement and both killed on August 26, 2006 while riding in the COPS ride in Indiana to raise public awareness about survivors of law

enforcement personnel who'd been killed in the line of duty. Their support van was hit extremely hard from the rear forcing the van to impact the riders just ahead. The van had flashing lights and a large sign warning of bicyclists up ahead. Olga Martin (Gary Martin's widow) rode with us as did Gary Martin's nephew. Another rider proudly wore his jersey with POLICE written across the front, and he was not referring to a rock-n-roll band.

About 10 days ago I received an email from Mike Roe, a long-time resident of Porter County, whom I did not know. He was contacting me regarding the Chesterton RoS. He wanted to ride in honor of a lady named Jane Robertson who had been hit while on his racing team's training ride on April 26, 1989 in Frankfort, IL. She was not on the team, but the wife of a team member. She was hit from the rear by a motor vehicle that day, and the impact caused her death.

Gary Martin and Gary Dudley have both been added to the Ride of Silence national website In Memoriam list, and Jane Robertson's name will soon be there, if not already. Mike Roe sent in her name and data to the national Ride of Silence organization.

The leading patrol car officer told me he'd gotten two telephone calls earlier that day asking about this ride; and he told me the country-western radio station in Valparaiso had been announcing it and was saying hundreds of riders were expected. NW Indiana Times was running an article for several days in advance. A reporter from the Chesterton newspaper was there and wanted to ask questions about this Ride of Silence. And again the Post-Tribune was involved. Hopefully the NW Indiana media will continue to help publicize this international Ride of Silence and its relevance to NW Indiana.

Here's a link to the article:

http://www.chestertontribune.com/Duneland%20Community%20News/5232%20ride_of_silence_in_chesterton_jo.htm

If that link doesn't work, try this one: <http://tinyurl.com/45oqhc>

A very big thank you goes to Chesterton Police Chief George Nelson and his team of officers and reserve officers who arranged and provided the escort and blocked traffic for us. Their help made a difference.

The 23 of us rode to honor those cyclists killed or injured by a motor vehicle while those cyclists were riding on a public road; and we clearly rode as honored representatives for many other caring fellow riders. We also rode for ourselves, and for each other.

Bruce Jones, RoS organizer for Chesterton, IN, asanamale@yahoo.com

Indianapolis, 18 Riders

Thanks for the update.

Our ride in Indianapolis went well, with a rolling safety escort from the local police department. We had a total of 18 riders. Would love to see more. Thanks for your support.

Mike Avey
Oaklandon Christian Church
Indianapolis, Indiana

Iowa

Ames, 100 Riders

Many thanks go out to everyone who helped with the ROS. Terese Peters, who helped with the ROS logo we pinned our shirts, and to all who were pinners. Thanks Terese for donating an old bike to be painted for a "Ghost Bike" to be placed at Dan Wisnousky's accident site. Thanks to George Klotzbach for bringing up the rear of the pack on his motorcycle and helping fill in drivers ed talks. Thanks to Al Schuartz, Kelly Harriman, and Amber for driving the lead vehicle. Thanks to the Ames police officers who took care of us by directing some traffic and keeping traffic signals green at intersections. Thanks to Bike World and Skunk River Cycles. Thanks to Carol Williams, the Ames Tribune, Mel Crippen at the radio station, Dave Kramer at the Tribune, for coverage, and Angie Hunt with KCCI for sending out a camera man to cover the event for the 10 o'clock news. Thanks to all who helped get the waivers signed, and to Steve in getting arm bands handed out. Jorge Zamora for packing the ROS flyers into the NABR packets for the cyclists!

Our ride here in Ames, Iowa last night was great. We had nearly 100 riders participate and the weather was perfect. The route was around 6 miles and with a little police help at intersections went off like clockwork. It appeared to me that oncoming traffic was slowing to take in what we were doing. While traveling through a park, returning to the start location, I heard a few young men call out, "Hey! What is this for?" TV8 covered the Des Moines ride as well as ours and it aired at 10PM. The message given by the reporters was just what I had hoped for.

I look forward to organizing the ride again next year and have made mental notes on what can be done to attract more attention and draw in more riders. One idea was to approach instructors at spin classes, asking that they share the ride with class participants. I know there are cycling clubs in the area that race and need to find out the names of the organizers to cultivate more ROS participation. I would also like to see what it takes to get "advertising" on the exterior of our city buses. It would be nice to have them donate the space for a period of time. A local radio station interviewed my husband and I about a week before ROS and I understand that the early morning TV news spoke about the ride. It is just amazing to me the number of cyclists I talk to who have never heard of the ROS, even with all the newspaper, TV, and radio coverage. We all need to be diligent and creative in spreading the word. It would be great if we could network somehow and share ideas.

Julie Engeman, ride organizer

Des Moines, 160 Riders

Over 160 cyclists participated in the 4th annual Ride of Silence in Des Moines. Since May 2007 21 cyclists have been added to the list. 8 cyclists were killed and 13 were injured while riding their bicycle.

Event photos: http://bikeiowa.smugmug.com/gallery/4993941_ZHcne#299392878_C9XYf

Event video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aC-DL6TKFLY>

Mason City, 82 Riders

82 cyclists rode the 2008 Ride of Silence in Mason City, Iowa. We started in Central Park with opening remarks by Steve Schurtz, proclamation of May 21 as Ride of Silence Day in Mason City by Mayor Roger Bang, the "Ride of Silence" poem read by Geoffrey Delperdang, the list of Iowa cyclist killed since ROS 2007 by Earl Hill, and a recorded bagpipe version of "Amazing Grace". A real bagpiper could not be found for the occasion. Hunter Callanan was recognized as a local rider who had been injured by a car in the last twelve months; several other riders were present who had been injured in the past.

A North Iowa woman who was killed last year was recognized at the ride as well as on the 10PM KIMT-TV news. A blog comment from the Mason City Globe Gazette after the 2007 Ride of Silence was included in the opening remarks. "My mother taught me at an early age not to play on the streets. Play is defined as an activity done for enjoyment and recreation. Riding a bike seems to fit that description. If people choose to "play on the streets" and be an impediment to the flow of traffic, they take their chances. It comes with the territory. Don't expect me to feel

sorry for them. North Iowa is loaded with bike trails. No one claims these guys are rocket scientists."

The slow, silent 6 mile ride was led by Officer Larry Carroll of the MCPD and by Tim "Pace Car" Putnam. After the people stayed at the park to talk about riding, safety, and motorist awareness.

Plans are made for the 2009 Ride of Silence on May 20, 2009.

Steve Schurtz, sschurtz3@mchsi.com

Kansas

Wichita, 16 Riders

We had 16 riders and you can use the info, it's ok with me. We also had CH12 TV come out and we made the 10 p.m news on May 22, 2008. We also had one officer from the Wichita PD bike patrol.

We are forwarding this article from our local newspaper.

<http://www.kansas.com/news/local/story/411808.html>

Don Kramer, OZ Bicycle Club of Wichita

Kentucky

Bowling Green, 7 Riders

'Ride of Silence' remembers cyclists

JUSTIN STORY, The Daily News, jstory@bgdailynews.com

To remember those who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways, a group of seven cyclists participated in the international "Ride of Silence" early Wednesday evening.

Sponsored by the Bowling Green League of Bicyclists, the ride covered about 10 miles, beginning and ending at Fountain Square Park.

Forrest Halford, who participated in the ride by himself last year and organized this year's local ride, said the event originated in 2003 in Dallas, where Chris Phelan rode in memory of Larry Schwartz, a cyclist there who was killed after being hit by the mirror of a passing bus.

"I regard my bicycles as my primary form of transportation," said Halford, who travels several miles a day on his bike. "It's rare that I don't ride."

Riding bikes equipped with safety lights and wearing black armbands to honor cyclists killed while on the road, the group hoped to raise awareness among motorists, police and city officials of the cyclist's right to public roadways.

Halford told the group that their route would pass through Nashville Road, continuing on the road after a bike trail there stops abruptly.

Hundreds of cyclists worldwide embarked on the ride of silence at 7 p.m. Wednesday. In addition to the black armbands worn to honor the dead, some cyclists who were themselves involved in accidents on the road wore red armbands.

Robert Neidlinger, a staff member in the Western Kentucky University biology department, wore a red armband around his left arm.

Neidlinger, who cycles to work every day, was hit by an SUV last year on Nashville Road. He was able to ride away from the accident with a sore shoulder and a cracked helmet.

"If I don't wear that helmet, that could have done severe damage to my skull," said Neidlinger, who has a medical condition that prevents him from driving a car.

Neidlinger said that he hopes Bowling Green will follow the example of larger cities that provide more accommodation and space for cyclists on public roads.

"In a city like this (cyclists) aren't as obvious; there's not as many bike riders," he said.

Louisville, 50 Riders

I thought that our ride was a resounding success. I was expecting about 5 people and we had closer to 50 according to the newspaper (although David should have a better count). Believe it or not, the paper actually wrote a nice article about the ride, but some of the idiots in this city posted really negative comments on the forum for the article. If you would like to post the article on your website, the link is:

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805220420>

Also, I noticed some links on there to fallen cyclists stories. If you would like to post a link to our website, I would be honored. We tell Dad's story at www.sharetheroad4chips.com

Thanks again for posting our ride on your site. I plan to continue hosting these rides in Louisville on an annual basis and look forward to seeing them grow.

Sincerely,

George Cronen, info@sharetheroad4chips.com

Maine

Bar Harbor, 15 Riders

The Bar Harbor Ride of Silence attracted approximately 15 riders despite threatening storms. This year's 10-mile route left from the KOA campground at the head of Mount Desert Island, traveled down Route 102 to Gilbert Farm Road, then to Crooked Road, then Norway Drive, then back on Route 3 to the campground (a shorter 4 mile route was also featured). In contrast to last year's route, the Ride was far more visible to commuter and other traffic. After the Ride, we gathered around an informal barbecue for remembrances and fellowship.

We thank the Bar Harbor KOA for their hospitality, and the MDI Bike/Pedestrian Task Force and Friends of Acadia for their organizational support.

Photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/michaelcr/sets/72157605198212354>

Michael C Rosenstein, mcr@seaworthy.org

Maryland

Hagerstown, 50 Riders

The Cumberland Valley Cycling Club held its first Ride of Silence in Hagerstown, MD on May 21, 2008, under rainy skies, in memory of CVCC member Lloyd Clarke, <http://www.bikecvcc.com/LLoydClarkMemorial.html> who died on Sept 20, 2007, in Incline Village, NV, when an oncoming motorist made a left turn into his path.

Approximately 50 riders, including Lloyd's wife Sherol and daughter Elta, took part in the 10 mile ride, accompanied by members of the City of Hagerstown's bicycle police, and the Hagerstown City Administrator. The route covered the Hub City Tour Loop, which was mapped and marked with signs by the City in 2007.

The event received excellent coverage by the local media, including a two minute clip on our local NBC affiliate, WHAG <http://your4state.com/content/fulltext/?cid=16895>

Dick Cushwa, President, Cumberland Valley Cycling Club/Antietam Velo Club, rcushwa@msn.com

Rockville, 20 Riders

For the second straight year, we started right after a series of severe thunderstorms moved through the area, but in spite of that, we attracted 20 riders. This year's ride began from the plaza in front of the new Rockville Library in Town Center, and travelled in a silent procession approximately 10 miles through many areas of Rockville, all under the capable escort of the Rockville City Police. The final portion of the ride, a very busy stretch southbound on Route 355 from Gude Drive to Beall Ave., is where we most appreciated the police escort!

Denny Freezer, dennyfreezer@verizon.net

Massachusetts

Boston, 12 Riders

Despite wet weather, a dozen cyclists participated in a seven-mile ride from Davis Square in Somerville to the Boston Common. The ride was once again a moving experience for the riders, and this year we made an effort to let onlookers know what we were doing by wearing signs downloaded from the RoS website. Upon arriving at the Common, we gathered in silence for a couple of minutes, then I said a few words about why we were riding, and invited anyone else who wanted to speak to do so.

David Watson, Exec. Director, [MassBike](http://MassBike.org), david@massbike.org

Michigan

Adrian, 10 Riders

Enthusiastic riders joined this year's Adrian ROS! Many new faces and we hope they'll join us on our weekly rides as well. This year has been the driest of the three Rides yet, although what we lacked in precipitation was more than made up by the high wind. Great coverage again from the Adrian Daily Telegram, our local paper. Even though we posted it at our High School (which has a community service/involvement hours requirement for graduation) we were unable to pick up any youth riders.... guess they're out burning up fuel ;)

Jim Dickson

Ann Arbor, 50 riders

On May 21, 2008, the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society (AABTS) was privileged to participate in the Ride of Silence, joining bicyclists across the globe in a ride of remembrance. It was a beautiful Michigan evening. Over 50 bicyclists left Wheeler Park, at 7:00pm on the dot, riding single file on a 6.6-mile figure-eight loop through Ann Arbor's downtown and Old West Side. A few other cyclists, including Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, joined the ride en route. Each rider wore a black armband in honor of bicyclists who had died, and anyone who had ever been injured in a roadway crash wore a red band as well (one rider wore 3).

An Ann Arbor Police Patrol Car stopped traffic on North Main St at the ride start so that all riders could make the initial left turn with ease. Key volunteers from the AABTS held signs at corners to mark the turns; others AABTS members took responsibility as they rode to remind participants to stop for stop lights and signs. Ann Arbor Police Bicycle Patrol Officer Bonnie Rogers rode with the group, deftly moving ahead to stop car traffic at difficult left turns, and returning to the route at the end of the ride to help a very young rider who was struggling. For the most part participants were careful, motorists courteous, and onlookers supportive. By 8:00pm the riders had returned to Wheeler Park, welcomed by bagpiper Herm Steinman. There was a feeling of camaraderie.

The Ann Arbor News carried two announcements the week before the ride and featured a well-written article with 2 pictures the day after. Quite a few people made supportive comments on the M-live online blog during the week following the article.

Thank you to our local riders, volunteers, police and newspaper. And a big thank you to Mark Hagar for his consistent (and persistent) encouragement to all Michigan Ride of Silence organizers.

Ann Hunt

Battle Creek, 55 Riders

We had beautiful (albeit a bit chilly) weather for the 2008 Battle Creek Ride of Silence. 50 degrees and a nice NW breeze were ideal for our ride. We had about 55 riders participate on a route that took us on major evening driving roads for maximum exposure. Two Battle Creek Police Department officers escorted us throughout the ride, stopping traffic at intersections and allowing us to safely take over our fair share of the road.

Motorists were friendly, and some stopped and asked what we were riding for. While the ride was hosted by the Battle Creek Bicycle Club (www.battlecreekbicycleclub.org), our friends at Getaway Sports served as the start/finish location and even provided us with refreshments after the ride. The Club took the opportunity to remind local cyclists that sharing the road goes both ways, and cyclists are responsible for obeying the same laws that we expect motorists to follow. It was a successful event and we're hoping for an even bigger crowd next year.

Brian Clissold, brian.clissold@gmail.com TEAM ACTIVE RACING: www.teamactive.com

Boyer City, 30 Riders

Mother Nature was not cooperating again this year with temps going into the 30's, rain and wind. Sounds like last year all over again, in fact this is the third year in a row. Maybe we need a different date, like mid- July.

The attached note went to the local paper this morning covering the event. Since we announced a cancellation in mid-afternoon our attendance was much lower than planned, about thirty hearty souls participated in the program including City Government and Law Enforcement Agencies.

The Very Silent Ride

The third annual "Ride of Silence" was cancelled due to inclement weather on last Wednesday evening. However, the ride organizer, Donna Moll, lead the group in a brief program at the Veteran's Memorial Pavilion to honor those who have been severely injured or killed in an auto related accident.

This year we remembered Dr. William Crowley, a member of the North Country Bicycle Club here in Boyne City and frequent rider in the area while vacationing here with his family. Dr. Bill was struck from behind by a SUV while riding on a bicycle tour in Southern Ohio on May 11th this year. Many of us had the opportunity to ride with him here in Northern Michigan each summer. Our thoughts and prayers are with his lovely wife Mary and his two young daughters.

Donna gave each participant a black arm band with a "Share the Road" reminder card with all of the things a cyclist must know and do while sharing the roads here in Northern Michigan. Father Joe Muszkiewiak, the new Associate Pastor of St. Mathews Church, provided a blessing for the cyclists present. We appreciate the support from the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department and the Boyne City Police Department.

The "Ride of Silence" was conducted at the same time in over 285 locations in Michigan, 49 states and 20 countries on 5 continents. As we begin a new cycling season we remind everyone to proceed with caution, follow the rules of the road and have a great summer.

Michael Sheean

Detroit – East Side Ride, 32 riders

I lead a Wednesday night right ride on the Eastside of the Detroit area that is popular for this locality. We have a large cycling contingent in the Detroit area, and unfortunately we have had way too many of our own to remember for the 'ride of silence'. I have not advertised it as a "Ride of Silence", as I do not want to detract from official rides here.

I make an announcement at the beginning of the 6:30pm ride of my intentions. I stop the group at 7pm, make the announcement that we will be riding in silence, in memory of fellow riders, and I mention the names of local riders that are especially near and dear to us that we have lost. I asked if there are any others that we should be thinking of. Then we ride in silence for about 12 miles.

That is about it. I understand our Detroit Ride of Silence from Belle Isle was well attended.

Russ St. John

Detroit, Belle Isle, 135 riders

The Detroit Ride of Silence was a huge success. We had over 135 riders. The weather threatened as it has every year but that didn't hamper the riders. Between 6:30 and 7:50 we passed out black arm bands for all the riders, At 6:50 I did a explanation and brief description of the ride and route, some history, Read the Letter form the Governor, made mention of riders in Michigan that were killed on bicycles this year, a silent prayer and the rules of the road. Comcast supported this ride along with



about 6 bike shops and the Detroit Free Press.

The procession that started at exactly 7:00 PM proceeded from Bell Isle to Comerica Park. The procession rode slowly and quietly through downtown Detroit with the assistance of the Detroit Police at some of the intersections. We then proceeded back to bell Isle where we took a group picture. After the ride was officially completed, hot dogs, BBQ beans, salad and chips were served on Bell Isle sponsored by Macomb Cycle and Fitness for all the riders.

Marc Broadnax, Comcast Midwest, Director of Safety and Compliance,
Marc_Broadnax1@cable.comcast.com



(Post in the Wolverine Sport Club Yahoo group, the Wolverines who've had members go on to medal [gold] in the Olympics)

I participated in my first ride of silence this past Wednesday. About 100 of us left Belle Isle and silently pedaled at a steady 12 mph pace to Campus Martius and past Comerica Park and the Fox Theatre and then back to Belle Isle in cool, misty weather. It was a solemn tribute to those cyclists who have lost there lives while engaged in cycling. I especially appreciated the one guy who removed a pedal from his single speed and pedaled the entire ten miles with one leg.

Jon Levin

East Lansing, 34 Riders

We joined nearly 300 other events around the world. We had approx. 34 start out the ride, including 6 police officers on their bikes from the Lansing PD, MSU PD and one driving a patrol car from the E. Lansing PD. A couple more bicyclists joined us during the ride to the Capitol; one saw us while driving and rushed home and got her bike to join us. One cyclist, Ross Hill, rode his 1888 highwheeler in the event and back to MSU from downtown at an amazing clip.

We were honored to have Ann Larabee, sister of Dave Larabee, killed September 2005 by a drunk driver, ride with us again this year. Several others on the ride have been hit and injured by motorists; a few stories were shared at the end of the ride at the Capitol.

Here are some pics from the event; the captions will tell more about the event:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/flyingdutchman63/RideOfSilenceMSUELansingLansingMI>

Use this link if that one is broken: <http://tinyurl.com/68e6k2>

Our campus student news did this video report: <http://www.statenews.com/index.php/multimedia/video>

Tim Potter, bikes@msu.edu

Grand Rapids, 150 Riders

Under a cloudy, chilled - windy eve, 150 cyclists lined up for Grand Rapids' 4th Ride of Silence. Showers held off until we returned to Riverside Park. Our Ride went off well, with most motorists slowing down or pulling off to the side as we passed. Our 110 bright gold Share the Road / Ride of Silence T-Shirts made a strong statement as to why we were riding. A few minor "glitches", the one bike shop SAG vehicle never showed up, so I couldn't mount the Ride of Silence banner. And the GR Patrol car leading us took it literally that we were a funeral Procession, never stopping at stops signs & red lights. This didn't allow us to regroup at stops, and pushed some inexperienced riders to their max. (will be remedied next year)

Back at the park a woman came up to me and thanked me, saying now she had closure. Before I could enquire, she was gone, and I busy breaking down our set up. Later that evening she emailed me, thanking me again. I replied was she the woman who mentioned she had closure? She replied yes. Barb was a very dear friend of Patricia Fetting-Vora, whom we honored in our 1st Ride of Silence in GR in 2005, who was killed just a few short weeks before the Ride. Barb told me it was almost a year before she could get back on her bike.

"Hi, Yes that was me.

My friend Nancy and I learned how to properly ride on the road from Pat Fettig We went on to ride DALMAC in 97'. Pat road in many DALMAC's, she did the Quads...not me. The first day that the three of us road together was much like Wednesday...cold & wet. Nancy and I were VERY glad that we had the chance to remember her that way. We plan to participate every year.

I would offer to help you with the organization but I now live in Leelanau county.

Again,
THANK YOU!
Barb Schilling"

Now for all the thanks that are needed, to everyone who helped make the 2008 Ride a success:

- To the Rapid Wheelmen Bike Club volunteers that helped out prior to and at the Ride.
- To Alger Schwinn, Kentwood/Chicago Dr. Cyclery, Freewheeler Bike Shop, Cycle-Safe, the Rapid Wheelmen, Village Bike Shops, Speed Merchants & Favorite Silk Screening & Embroidery of Houghton MI, for the funds they donated that allowed us to purchase and hand out the 110 free t-shirts.
- To VeloCity USA in Wyoming for the 100 water bottles handed out to riders.
- To Lt. Pat Dean of GRPD, for providing a patrol car to safely lead us on our Ride, for loaning us the portable PA system to address riders, and to Officer Mark for leading the way.
- To Alger Schwinn for providing flag sticks that we attached our R of S funeral flags to.
- To Jim DeGracia of Jade Cycles who returned this year, mounting a regulation FDOT Share the Road sign to his bike, and being one of the last riders in our procession.
- To the members of the Grand Rapids & District Pipe Band for solemnly supporting us with "Amazing Grace" as we circled John Ball Park, and welcoming us back at Riverside Park.
- To Thomas Fish of Motion Initiatives, for saying the prayer before we left.
- To Shelley Irwin at WGVU radio for having an interview with me 2 weeks prior to the Ride.
- To WXMI FOX 17 and WZZM 13 News, for the outstanding pre-coverage on the Ride, which I feel helped increase the number of riders this year.
http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=92564
- To the East Hills Athletic Club, Michigan Athletic Club and the David D Hunting WMCA downtown for organizing Spins for Silence, to support the Ride and the help raise awareness of cyclists on the road.
- To Chris Phelan in Dallas, the Ride's founder, Tim Potter in E Lansing, our new webmaster who's been so busy, and the rest of the Ride of Silence board who made this a success globally. 296 Locations, in all 50 States, in 18 countries, on 5 continents.
- To all the greater Grand Rapids area cyclists who came out to remember family and friends, to make the road safer for cyclists, not only here in Grand Rapids, but worldwide.

And I'll close as always, paraphrasing Mike Burden after 2005's Ride [Hopefully there will be a day when Rides of Silence are no longer needed].

GR Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/PhotosByMgenta/RideOfSilence>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fotoman311/collections/72157605196878048>

Mark Hagar, Grand Rapids Organizer, MI Director, National Board Member

Grand Rapids - David D Hunting YMCA spin class, 15 Riders

The Ride of Silence held at the David D Hunting YMCA spin class on Wed, May 23 was an amazing experience. We had 15 participants on a beautiful sunny evening. The room grew quiet as we slowed our pace to pay respects to those that had lost their lives while cycling outside. With every new slide, the room became more reverent, and when the powerpoint presentation was over, and participants were getting ready to go, there was a somber and quiet atmosphere. It was a truly incredible experience. Thanks for letting us be a part of it. We hope that next year, we can have even more participants and increase the awareness of this cause even more.

Deborah MacDonald, Group Fitness Specialist, dmacdonald@grymca.org

Grand Rapids – East Hills Athletic Club spin class, 15 Riders

It went very well although I could not get the CD to play on my laptop. We did get the shirts and passed out the water bottles. 15 participants were very respectful and supportive of the event. Thank you so much for your effort. I really appreciate being a part of this great event. Thank you so much.

Peace and Blessings, Teri Harmon

Harbor Springs, 30 Riders

The inaugural year of the Harbor Springs ROS proved to be a test of local cyclists mettle. Temperatures at the start of the ride were dipping below 40F with stiff wind gusts and intermittent mist & rain. Approximately 30 local cyclists joined the procession despite the weather conditions. The sign-up sheet at the ride became unusable due to the rain but we had 30 signatures which I feel included most participants. We felt the turnout was extraordinary due to the poor weather conditions and considering that this was the first year. Riders ranged in age from 5 to 65 and included Three (3) cyclists injured by automobiles, including the organizer. Great thanks go out to the Harbor Springs City Police for the full ride escort and the Emmet County Sheriff's Department for their support and assistance with the ride. Additional thanks go to Blue Water Graphics for providing our Ride of Silence banner and to Ron & Velma Benson for getting volunteered (at the last minute) as the lead escort vehicle. I want to say Thank you to Chris Phelan and all Ride of Silence organizers for your inspiration and determination. We hope to greatly increase our numbers in 2009 and to increase awareness of motorists and safety of cyclists locally and globally.

I will try to gather ride photos, though there weren't very many non-cyclists with cameras in attendance. The local newspaper, the Harbor Light, published a wonderful full page photo page the week following the ride and has an online photo album at this link:

<http://harborlightnews.mycapture.com/mycapture/folder.asp?event=526418>

Their photos are available for purchase but can be viewed online, if necessary I could contact them to see if they would be willing to release some or all of the photos to the Ride of Silence.

Thank you,
Christopher Benson

Holland, 25 Riders

The Macatawa Cycling Club sponsored the 2nd Holland ROS. Twenty-five riders participated this year on a clear and very cool evening. Our route was 14 miles, passing through the Historic District, past several community parks, along Holland's famous Tulip Lanes which were in bloom, and through our downtown shopping district. The Holland Sentinel newspaper took pictures and ran a brief article noting the ride and its purpose.

Rick Kraai, Organizer

Houghton, 75 Riders

In spite of cold temps 75 showed up to do the ride last night. It went smoothly and was the best one yet. I did not get any good ride shots. We will be in the paper today and TV6 news showed up as well. Great ride, great awareness effort.

Thanks for all your hard work,

Terry Smythe

Jackson, 4 Riders

With my expertise in repairing bikes over the past several months, I invited to give a discount to my customers if they were to ride in this years ROS and to my surprise I had 3 takers. So this year Jackson had a total of 4 riders and I am hopeful that with some of the tips from the ROS organizers I can get Jackson Police to join us next year.

Dave Spencer

Kalamazoo, 65 Riders

Under cloudy skies, gusty winds, and cool temperatures the 2008 Kalamazoo Ride of Silence was ridden by 65 cyclists and we received media coverage from the Kalamazoo Gazette. We rode this year not only to remember all that have been killed or injured but with a special memorial for Jun Kojima who was [killed in Mendon](#) not far from Kalamazoo April 24th by an 18 year old motorist on a cell phone.

Jun rode in last years Kalamazoo's Ride of Silence and tragically and unnecessarily he is no longer with us. Jun's family lives in Japan and for obvious reasons were not at our ride but a friend of the family was present to record the departure of our ride to send to Jun's family.

Thanks to the Ride of Silence webmaster Tim Potter I was able to learn more about Jun as Tim & his wife are friends of friends of Jun's family here in Kalamazoo. I was able to have a large poster made of Jun on a bicycle ride and requested all riders to sign this poster prior to our ride and my intentions are to send this poster to his family in Japan.



I asked a good friend of Jun's, Jonathon to speak a bit about Jun prior to our ride and asked Jonathon to lead our ride this year also Pastor Shan Martin lead us in prayer prior to the ride and Gloria Culp from the Kalamazoo Pipe Band played as we departed.

Jonathon and several of Jun's friends who rode with us were all wearing t-shirts with Jun's picture on the back from last years Ride of Silence.



Our ride this year was publicized as starting from a rented parking lot at Western Michigan University however a week prior to the ride I learned that the street leading to the parking lot I rented was closed so I had to post signs leading to our new ride location a mile away. Our 12 mile ride went south on Oakland Drive (fairly high traffic volume) with a bike lane south into Portage and circling back North to Kalamazoo. We also received support from the Portage Public Safety department at a critical intersection.

Our thanks to the Ride of Silence organizers for your continued work.

Mark Rose

Lennon (Flint), 4 Riders

At Lennon (Flint) it was chilly and wet. We had 4 riders participate in the ride. We had a small in numbers but a meaningful ride.

David Otto

Menominee MI / Marinette WI, 10 riders

To say the least, I was disappointed in our ride turnout. We have a local bike club, Spokes and Folks, with over 70 members and not one of them showed up! We did have ten people that did show, braving the cold, windy, rainy weather, three were my family.

On the plus side, we did have a police escort, courtesy of the Menominee Auxiliary police, and we did ride through both Menominee MI and Marinette, WI, so we were in both states. We crossed two bridges, on being the Interstate Bridge on U.S. Highway 41, so we did get plenty of exposure. However, even though the local paper did show for pictures, they never even put it in the Newspaper.

I'm not giving up tho, I will try my best to get better participation next year, although I think I'll have a little trouble getting the police cooperation next year.

Bill St Martin, Owner, Cycle Path

Sault St. Marie, 4 riders

Well as it has in the past the weather didn't cooperate with the Sault Ste. Marie RofS. The temps were in the 30's and it was almost snowing along with high winds. The four of us who showed up did the ride and the warmed up as quickly as the heater would let us. This being our third ride we haven't had a good night of weather yet. Until this year it's either been rain or wind, this year we had both of those along with low temperatures. Hopefully the 2009 RofS will bring sunshine.

Tony Talentino

Spring Lake, 68 Riders

On May 21st, 2008 68 riders showed up for the Ride of Silence at Spring Lake's Central Park. They rode two by two for 8 miles through the Spring Lake area in complete silence using only hand signals to communicate. That was nearly double the number of participants of the inaugural ride at the Spring Lake location in 2007. The route was changed for the second annual Ride of Silence to increase our visibility in the community. The change allowed us to reach more people with



our message of sharing the roads. Many facets of the cycling community were represented. There were racers in spandex on carbon road bikes riding alongside comfort bikes pulling buggers and trail-a-bikes. There were grade school kids on bikes riding alongside bicycle police on their official police and sheriff bikes. It was great to see the wide range of participants especially the many families that came out for the ride.

The Spring Lake Ride of Silence would not have been successful without the help of many people and groups. I would like to thank individuals that helped out with registration and ride leading, the riders from the Spring Lake/Ferrysburg Police and Ottawa County Sheriffs Departments, the Ottawa County Sheriff for providing vehicles and officers to accompany us on the ride and provide traffic control at intersections and especially all the riders that came out. Thank You all for help and support in raising awareness of cyclist's right to be on the road and for helping us to honor those that have been injured or killed by motorists while riding.

Mark Stoll

Traverse City, 17 Riders

Despite the 43° windy and rainy weather, 17 hardy cyclists came to ride in memory of cyclists injured or killed while riding their bike. The importance of the purpose of our Ride of Silence was really brought home as Eli Wooley and his parents came to encourage, support and thank us for the memorial ride. Eli suffered severe brain trauma as a result of being hit while riding his bike last July. It was truly a moving experience!

The ride was sponsored by the Cherry Capital Cycling Club with support of TART Trails, Inc. The latter is the non-profit organization that is focused on developing an interconnected network of trails, bikeways and pedestrian ways. Publicity through the local media was outstanding. Of particular significance were the interview on Interlochen Public Radio (our local NPR news station) and the article in the Traverse City Record-Eagle (our local daily newspaper). The links to both are as follows: <http://stream.publicbroadcasting.net/production/mp3/wiaa/local-wiaa-709162.mp3> and http://www.record-eagle.com/local/local_story_142094552.html

respectively. Many volunteers placed posters with Ride of Silence details throughout the region.

The ride started and finished at the old Railroad Depot which is now home to Station Espresso Bar and EuroStop Deli and took us through a shortened route (thanks to the inclement weather) through downtown Traverse City and some of the Old Town neighborhood. Just before the start I received a phone call from a lady who asked that I stress to all cyclists to make themselves as visible as possible, especially during darkness and waning daylight. That was an example of a concerned motorist who supports safe cycling.

Also below is a photo taken at the start of the ride.



Fred Schaafsma, Old Mission, MI

Westland, 50 Riders

We had 50 out on Hines despite the rain. :(Just once I'd like to have decent weather for the most important ride of the year!

Forgive me sending it to both your addresses but, I forgot to get it to you yest. and figured I'd hit both to get it to you before the w/e. Have a good 3-day w/e.

Dave Duffield, League of Michigan Bicyclists, Director At Large
(a BIG thanks to Dave for quickly stepping in and getting this Ride started, with the organizer missing, Mark H)

Ypsilanti, 20 Riders

Mark - On the first ever ROS in Ypsilanti, we had 20 people show up, on a 10 mile ride through the area. Most people had black armbands and three of us had red (I was seriously injured by a hit and run driver in November 2006). The event was announced by local radio stations and newspapers. Tonight's Ann Arbor News should also have a story on the Ann Arbor event and it already online at http://blog.mlive.com/annarbornews/2008/05/bicyclists_ride_for_remembranc.html.

Bob Krzewinski

Minnesota

Minneapolis, 8 Riders

The ride with pleasant weather conditions, 65 degrees at start time went well. I invited riders to join in the national Ride of Silence at the briefing which was informative for the whole group. Most seemed interested.

At the rest stop, eight of us (mostly, the slower B riders) regrouped, put on red or black armbands, used hand signals, and rode silently at 12 MPH for about 9 miles. I told them I was riding in memory of Bahram, my friend Lynne, and an injured club rider Dave Cummins and asked them to share who they were riding in honor of. Afterwards, riders remarked on the challenge of riding at a slower, steady pace, and in the silence, feeling an appreciation for life. That was powerful.

Katie Angle, katie.jim@comcast.net

Missouri

Springfield, 10 Riders

Springfield, MO's "Ride of Silence" drew a whopping 10, yes that's right, I didn't leave off a zero or anything, a whole TEN people at the start, and somewhere we picked up two more in route. Hard to understand as our (St John's) cycling club alone boasts 250 members this year, up from 85 last year, and only TWO of us showed up. And Springbike, who organized the ride, has a hefty membership as well, MANY of whom are members here. So I was pretty disappointed in the low turnout, especially on such a beautiful evening.

The ride itself was only about 10.5 miles, usually "around" 12 mph, with occasional bursts over 20 mph to regain the group when we got split up at traffic signals, but otherwise a nice slow pace. Only about 300 ft of elevation gain, so also a nice flat ride too.

We started/finished at the city center, rode past City Hall and the Courthouse/Jail Complex, and otherwise spent the bulk of the ride on very lightly traveled side streets. I would have expected we would ride down the main roads, so that we could create a little more awareness, but c'est la vie.

Most of the drivers we crossed paths with were polite and considerate, although there were a couple that obviously had NO idea what to do when confronting 12 bikes taking the main lane at an intersection, and I had one that accelerated so fast from his stop light a block away that I had to abort my turn that I started before his light even changed. By far and large though, most of the drivers were nice. Many many pedestrians waved and smiled, although most of the attention was centered on the lone recumbent in our group, as apparently nobody in Springfield besides the 12 of us had ever seen one, lol.

Anyhow, the 10-12 hardy souls that DID show up were nice folks. I got to meet a few of them, and hear some interesting stories, and swap some ride plans with a few who I am sure to see again, so all in all it was a nice evening jaunt.

JDRagsdale

Nebraska

Bellevue, 55 Riders, 30 Police Escort

The Bellevue Bicycle Club held its fourth Ride of Silence event. We had a 30 member police motorcycle escort consisting of police departments from Nebraska cities of Bellevue, LaVista, Omaha, Fremont, Lincoln and Blair and the Pottawattamie, Iowa County Sheriff's office. We had a total of 55 bicycle riders complete the nine mile loop. We stopped for a moment of silence at the site where Mike LeDent was killed on his bicycle in Oct. 2005.

Photos can be viewed here on this web site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/27156817@N03/>

We are proud to have been able to participate.
Lynn Rollins, President, Bellevue Bicycle Club

New York

Greenburgh, 25 Riders

The Ride of Silence down Central Ave in Greenburgh was led by Pearson Constantino who was seriously injured while riding on that road in 2006. We had some rain on and off that kept a lot of people from coming out- but we still had about 25 cyclists. Between the cyclists and our police escort we definitely were able to raise the awareness of drivers along Central Avenue- a busy and hazardous road in this area.

We also had some local news coverage <http://www.news12.com/WC/topstories/article?id=211820> - They misrepresented the purpose/planning of the Ride of Silence, but the publicity for road safety is good. The ride followed a third deadly (pedestrian) hit-and-run accident in Greenburgh this year, which accounts for the media misrepresentation. The ride was filmed as part of the documentary film THE LONG BIKE BACK www.longbikeback.com, which follows Pearson's recovery from his crippling hit-and-run accident and his attempt, with his brother Peter, to ride across America to encourage cycling and road sharing.

Julia Wrona, julia@ailujon.com, Director & Producer THE LONG BIKE BACK
www.longbikeback.com | www.ailujon.com

Massapequa Park, 20 Riders

This was our second ROS, however, I am not sure whether to count it as our first since last year we got rained out.

I organized this ride for our bike club as no one heard of it before. I am happy to report considering the threatening rain I consider it a huge success. We were 20 riders. Half were club members and the others joined us from our listing on the ROS site. A few of them were family members who had lost their nephew in NM and road for him. They were very appreciative that we were holding such a ride.

We had a few drops of rain and I thought that those might be tears from those above especially one of our own members who our club rode in memory of: Jay Suslan.

The route was just less than 9 miles which I thought was short, but was the best I could do without going on real busy hwy's, but it was perfect because any longer it would have been dark. The route took us through developments and semi hwy roads and a bit of a bike path that I needed to use as a connection. So I feel we covered all roads where awareness was needed.

Of course on the bike path there was a guy on a mtn bike coming in the opposite direction that swerved in our path to get around a couple of walkers and one of our members fell, but did not get injured.

Now I will hope for even better skies for next years ride. I am sure the turn out will be even bigger.

JoAnn Lettini, joann@EternalLites.com

NYC, 8 Riders

Thanks to all who rode with us in a bit of rain on this year's Ride of Silence in New York, and to those who joined us for pizza afterwards. We had eight riders on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, but the forecast of bad weather kept others away.

We rode for eight miles, down Riverside Drive, a final leg inside Riverside Park, and then a return along the same route. Despite the rain, it was a moving experience, and many of us who had not seen one another in years got a chance to catch up. We were all friends of Dino Tortu and rode with his wife Diane.

Dino was killed almost two years ago in Seal Cove, Maine, on a narrow road popular with bikers because of its proximity to Acadia National Park. Following the accident, a new bicycle safety law was

enacted in Maine, and the evidence of Dino's accident was presented to the legislature and



transportation officials in support of the bill.

Dino rode on the streets of New York City and in Europe for many years, was a member of Transportation Alternatives, and sparked my own interest in bike riding. New York City can be both a biker's paradise and a dangerous place, but the same can be said for any place bikes and motor vehicles share the same space. Please support bike safety wherever you live. With gas prices unaffordable for many, we can all expect to see more bikes on the road this summer. Be cautious, whether riding or driving.

Michael Zdyrko, dinosride@gmail.com

North Carolina

Charlotte, 156 Riders

It was a well attended ride. Participation has increased from 28 (2006) to 85 (2007) to 156 (2008). Good growth with many many thanks to Michael Gibbons. Great MOJO (15 or so) turnout last night for the Ride of Silence (fellow Mojo Mike Stieglitz and I organized it by the way) -- Rachel Giblin's parents rode as did Lee Ann Barry's husband and son -- it was moving and important -- we had 156 riders -- next year we should have 500 -- if you ride on the roads and are at all concerned about safety rides like this and the Mayor's ride are important ways to make a statement -- the more people the more press! see the News 14 interview and my blog post about it here!

michael gibbons, igibbs@mac.com

Elizabeth City, 18 Riders

We had 18 riders, mostly from the River City Cycling Club. Chaplin Mark Tanis from the United States Coast Guard started the ride with a very meaningful prayer. The ride went on without a hitch. We had a police escort for the entire ride. The local newspaper, "The Daily Advance" published a great article concerning the ROS. My wife and I were struck by a car while riding our bicycles in 2003, since then, we have held a ROS in our town. Thanks to all the riders throughout the world by showing their support of this event!

David and Linda Copley

Gastonia, 50-60 Riders

We had between 50 and 60 riders participate in Gaston County's 3d observance of the Ride of Silence. The Ride was endorsed by the Gaston County Cyclists (club), <http://www.gastoncountycyclists.com> and the Coasters Cycling Team, <http://teamcoaster.com> .

We had good police support, great weather and some media coverage. I didn't bring a camera and

don't know if anyone else took any pictures.

Gastonia Police Captain Rob Helton pulled some strings and had us a full contingent of police escort including a couple of sheriff's deputies, two motorcycle cops, several GPD cruisers and at least one NC State Trooper. Jay Beam and Tommy Jones rode in the lead and kept a good pace. Special thanks to Erin Cockfield, Ben's daughter, who played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes as we left the courthouse parking lot.

Our route took us down Long Avenue over to Gaston Memorial Hospital, where we circled the Emergency Room entrance. We returned via Franklin Boulevard, Gastonia's busiest street, back to the Gaston County Courthouse. There is some significance to our route. If you are involved in an automobile v. bicycle collision, you will spend time at either emergency room or the Courthouse or both.

Doc Bradshaw, doc@teamcoaster.com

Ohio

Columbus, 500+ Riders

We scored the perfect connection of Ghost Bikes and Ride of Silence last night. NBC4 ran several stories yesterday (one lunchtime interview with me at a ghost bike)...and, last night's piece at the Snoufeer ghost bike & covering Ride of Silence. We had an estimated 500+ people at the ride. Powerful stuff.

The NBC story is on this page...under second video box called "NBC4 Video"...scroll to "Ghost Riders" video. Nice comments from Larry...and, a surprise appearance from Steve Paletti at Antrim Lake! Thanks guys. <http://www.nbc4i.com/midwest/cmh/home.html>

Consider Biking is honored to drive these activities, and messaging, to the community.

Jeff Stephens, Executive Director, **Consider Biking**,
Serving Columbus & Central Ohio, jeff@considerbiking.org
www.considerbiking.org

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, 68 Riders

I want to thank you for a successful Ride of Silence event last night. Bill Wylie and Mike Zserdin were out of town and unable to participate, but everyone else saw that we accomplished what we set out to do - join with thousands of other riders around the world in support of bicyclists who have been killed and injured by motor vehicles.

Aside from two minor hitches (State Capitol electrical outlets shutting down in the evening, and a brief delay at a railroad crossing) everything went without a hitch. I counted 68 riders (including tandem stokers but excluding children in pull-behinds). Randy Cassimus' remarks were perfect, Bagpiper Robert Bruce began "Amazing Grace" precisely at 7:00 p.m., officer Thomas Maassen safely escorted bicyclists on the 4.8-mile route, and John

Covington's photography was exceptional. Attached are three images from last night which I will send



to members of the Oklahoma Legislature, with the message that we appreciate their efforts in support our safety on Oklahoma roads. Thank you for your work in making this event a success in Oklahoma City.

Tom Kilpatrick, Coordinator, tomokc@cox.net

Stillwater, 35 Riders,

We had 35 riders for the Stillwater, OK ride. We started at the Municipal Building. After a brief presentation by some of the Red Dirt Pedalers club members, we set out on an eight mile ride. The Stillwater PD provided an escort for the ride which went through the center of town, around a local lake and back to the Municipal Building.

Don Norvelle

Oregon

Beaverton, 20 Riders

This year, about 20 people showed up to participate in the Ride, down from our numbers last year. The 6 mile loop passed nine ghost bikes in solemn procession. Although we had no police escort, motor vehicle traffic even noticed as cyclists occupied an entire lane along a significant portion of the route and there was no impatience expressed by them. Anticipated cold, wet weather and previous commitments were the reason many did not attend this year as last.

We also bought 25 "Buttons of Hope" with two victims, Tim O'Donnell and Austin Miller's pictures on them and, apparently there are R of S armbands being made and sold on the internet. Are these your projects? If so, please continue your mission to remain personal in this endeavor and not develop into another marketing gimmick.

If they're not your programs, I would support part of the revenue from the proceeds go to your organization and lobby for that. It cost us \$125 for paint, stakes, and cable and transportation to get this done locally, not to mention promotion and marketing the event at community venues, bike shops, etc, and the time involved taking the life out of the bikes and getting them ghostlike. The bikes, ironically, were free. They were, as last year, donated by the Community Cycling Center – www.communitycyclingcenter.org <<http://www.communitycyclingcenter.org/>> from their continuous supply of big-box bikes that aren't worth more than the metal redeemed from the scrap yard.

Thank you for bringing this movement together.

Hal Ballard, Coordinator, "Westside Ride of Silence", acting Exec. Director, Chair, WashCo BTC

Corvallis, 90 Riders

(We have)... just completed our 4th annual Ride of Silence. Ninety riders showed up on a cool and windy evening to honor local cyclists killed or injured in bicycle/motor vehicle accidents. Cyclists of all ages began gathering at 6:30PM in order to leave Osborn Aquatic Center at 7. Many raised their hands when asked who among us had been injured in bike/car incidents. Debbie Jensen spoke in memory of her daughter, Robin, who was killed four years ago by a hit-and-run driver. Robin would have graduated from Oregon State University this spring. Jim Gau, president of the Mid Valley Bicycling Club welcomed riders and praised the Ride of Silence participants for coming out to make a show of the number of local people who ride bikes as commuters. The club was well represented. Jerry Rooney briefed the group on ride protocol and pointed out local resources from which cyclists could learn more about their legal rights and responsibilities and find a map of recommended local safe cycling routes.

Corvallis police officer, Christie Molina, joined us on her patrol bike. The Oregon State University racing team also rode with us as they have for the past four years.

We look forward to continuing this Ride of Silence tradition and will work to "fine tune" it for maximum effects.

Jerry Rooney

Pendleton, 10 Riders

This was our 3rd one in Pendleton. We only had about 10 of us, as the wind was howling and rain threatened. We ended up by cutting our route shorter than planned when said rain started pelting us. We always wear buttons featuring a woman who was killed in August of 2005. This is so very meaningful to her widower. He was actively involved in getting legislation in OR which stiffens punishment for injuries to non-motorized users of OR roadways and the 3-foot law.

Aint Doody

Salem, 19 Riders

This year we had 19 participants. Several of them were riding in memory of Tracey Sparling, a young cyclist killed in Portland, Oregon within the last year. Others rode in memory of Margie Scott who died many years ago. There were several participants who had had personal encounters with cars that resulted in nerve damage, but not severe injuries. We rode about 9 miles, starting at 6:00 pm so that our participants could be off the roads before dark. We still struggle with how to make known to the public what we are doing while we are doing it. We did get a press published release prior to the ride, but no press coverage at, during, or after the ride. Our invitation to the police department was not acknowledged, probably because we sent it too late. So how can we make it known to the public what we are doing between 6-7 pm? You do not want special shirts, so what can we do to tell the public that this is a "Ride of Silence"? Without so sort of on-the-bike publicity, we look like any other group bike ride.

Joanne Heilinger, bikes8cats2@yahoo.com

Pennsylvania

Allentown, 25 Riders

Our local Ride of Silence was a big success. We had about 25 riders, but more importantly was the excellent press coverage we had. I've emailed you the two stories complete with pictures. We also received letters of support from Gov. Rendell numerous other local and state officials. While none of the politicians was able to attend, they were aware of the event and voiced their support.

Thanks again for all your work. I look for our ride to grow next year. All of those that participated were deeply moved by the experience, and the feedback from those that missed out is one of regret and determination to show up next year.

Some local press we received:

"Quiet ride, point heard: Share the road,' say cyclists pedaling in Allentown to remember fallen riders"

By Chris Reber, of The Morning Call, May 22 2008

Mark Bowman knows firsthand the struggles that bicyclists face. The co-owner of South Mountain Cycles in Emmaus, where bikes are sold and repaired, Bowman sees the aftermath of clashes with speeding cars every day.

The complete article and some great photos can be viewed at:

http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-b3_5ride-r.6419512may22,0,3757331.story

(2nd of the two articles that appeared in the Morning Call)

"Silence prevails, but not because they're winded"

By Paul Carpenter, May 23 2008

No matter who has the legal right-of-way on a public road, the car-bicycle weight ratio is usually at least 150 to 1.

The complete article can be viewed at:

http://www.mcall.com/news/columnists/all-b1_5silence-r.6415318may23,0,4220801.column

Submitted by Rob Erbeau, organizer, at609@ptd.net

Williamsport, 41 Riders

Thought I'd give you some feedback on our wonderful ROS last night.

After an all-day rain, the skies cleared about 4 PM and we had a dry ride on a beautiful evening. We had coverage from 2 TV stations. Because of the advance press coverage in the local paper, people along the route knew who we were and why we were riding. They turned off lawnmowers, stopped walking dogs and stood silently and respectfully as we passed. Cars at 4-way stop signs waved us through every time.

In a town of 35,000 - I consider 41 riders a wonderful turn out. The local paper asked me to write an article reflecting on the ride. They will publish the attached story tomorrow.

I understand how being a part of this has helped you to heal from Larry's loss. It has done the same

for me as a friend of Laraine Lagattolla.

Thanks for all you have done to spread this message and the honor it is to be a part of it.

"Ya shudda se'ed the bikes!" The little boy was probably 7 or 8, standing on a porch in the 900 block of High Street and watching with wide eyes as 41 bicycles rolled past – the cyclists wearing an assortment of vivid colors and pedaling along in total silence. The boy, too, remained perfectly quiet until the last bike had passed; then called out toward the open front door of his house. I heard him because I was on that last bike, riding sweep on a slow 9-mile ride through the city of Williamsport.

At 7 PM on Wednesday night, 41 cyclists from Williamsport and surrounding communities joined in spirit with thousands of other cyclists all over the world for the annual Ride of Silence. At 7 PM on May 21st in 285 cities representing 17 different countries, rides were held to commemorate those who have been killed by a motorist while riding a bike.

The Ride of Silence began in Dallas, Texas in 2003 just 2 weeks after the funeral of endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz, who was struck by the mirror of a passing school bus and killed. Over 1,000 cyclists gathered for Larry's memorial ride – and the voice of the Ride of Silence has been heard ever since.

In Williamsport, not all who came to honor fallen cyclists were on a bike. Standing along the sidelines at Brandon Park on Wednesday night was Kim Wade, mother of Damian McCartney, the Williamsport child who was struck and killed while riding his bike near the park last year. Damian's photo has been added to the memorial on the Ride of Silence web site at www.rideofsilence.org.

The 41 riders that comprised the 2008 Williamsport Ride of Silence ranged in age from 14 to 74 and rode bikes that ranged from an old Roadmaster than might fetch \$10 at a yard sale to a Pinarello you couldn't touch for under \$7,000. The ride began at 7 PM at the Brandon Park band shell and made a 9-mile loop heading north out of the park and tracking along Grampian Boulevard and High Street, east on Third Street to Mulberry and back to the park before 8 PM. Riders wore helmets, used hand signals and obeyed all traffic laws. As the riders stopped at stop signs and waited for red lights, gaps between them opened and closed but a 12 mph pace was maintained.

The message of the Ride of Silence is threefold. We rode to honor those who have been injured or killed, to raise awareness that we are here and beyond that - to ask that we all share the road.

Barbara Jarmoska, barb@freshlife.com

Rhode Island

Cranston, 5 Riders

Holding the ROS a week later helped. The weather was actually ideal, and handbills were given out during previous bike-to-work-week events. With a forecast of thundershowers (which held off nicely), we still only drew 5 people, although I vented issues on camera and was shown during 11:00 news (right after a report of a pedestrian killed trying to cross another relentless major highway). You'd think gasoline at nearly \$4/gallon would bring more out in protest. All but one participants from out of state rode bikes to the ride, each a caring, concerned citizen, none from the epileptic local bike club, LAB, municipal or state offices (including bike-to-work day organizers), all of whom were invited.

There's an erroneous report on-line about our local rides in previous years from someone who didn't know what he was talking about. Every year, Providence mayor's office and police were notified, yet ignored us. But, at least, by determined repetition we're now drawing media coverage and getting posted on community bulletin boards.

Our route took in a huge billboard alongside a major beltway, which reads, "Who are the bikers? They're all bikers". At first the group cheered, as did I, until they realized this state sponsored PSA was

about motorcyclists, not bicyclists. Here there are 3 motorists for every bicyclist. But there are 20 for every 1 motorcyclist. So why to they merit a tax paid Share the Road message and bicyclists don't?

We made it a point in this, our 4th annual, to ride around the boundary of the state's 3 biggest cities, and notified all three mayors' offices. Only Warwick's Mayor Avedisian wished us "a successful event". This is the same gracious official who was so responsive when we asked to cut an opening in a guardrail that straddled a street, which blocked motorized traffic, where it wouldn't be safe, but also mothers with baby carriages and pedestrians. With this minor change, you no longer have to ride on two of the most dangerous, shoulderless roads in the area; it provides a decent alternative, which we purposefully took advantage of last night.

Afterwards, most of us took a quick spin on the adjacent, supposedly safe, bikeway. People peeled off for home until there were only two of us. Out of the darkness, three hooded thugs jumped over the railings and pummeled us with baseball bats. Fortunately, we're both extremely experienced riders and were riding moderately hard at about 20 mph, so the assailants bounced off and couldn't catch us on foot. We filed a police report. My helmet's cracked and buddy's lip is split, but we're alive, and I'm already planning next year's event. We aren't going to stop until the discriminatory policies, hate crimes, and horrific infrastructure here against bicycling are overcome.

Alan Barta, RI Ride Organizer

South Carolina

Bluffton, 60 Riders

We held our Ride of Silence on Sat, May 17 as most of us are retired and Sat was a better day for us. We received fantastic newspaper coverage and I want to mail you a copy of the article if you will provide me a mailing address.

Sixty riders participated as clubs from two other communities rode with us. Next year we expect even more as city riders will join us. We've had two local cyclists killed in the last two years and SC ranks 6th in the nation for bicycle deaths, so your ride is very important to us. We all thank you for creating this event.

Dave Kimball

Spartanburg & Greenville, SC, 125 Riders

The Upstate RIDE OF SILENCE was not quiet. Thanks to the 125 bicycling enthusiasts who turned out, and excellent media coverage, our message was visibly loud and clear. You may be aware, (from Channel 7 news coverage, and a small article on page A8 of today's Spartanburg Herald-Journal), that our Sheriff's escort pursued a vehicle that did not "Share the Road" last evening. That vehicle sped away and tried to out-run Sergeant Bradley at a very high speed and so he discontinued his chase. That vehicle later flipped near I-85 and two occupants went to the hospital. News Channel 7 mentioned the irony of this occurring during the ROS, as it is precisely the type of vehicular driving hazard we are hoping to impact. Our gratitude to Sergeant Bradley and Deputy Burgess. At the beginning of our ride we presented the officers with framed photos of their cruisers leading last year's Ride of Silence. WYFF, Fox, and WSPA TV all covered the event

Gerry Pate, photographer of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, has a great spread on the front page of today's UPSTATE section. He also provides a great on-line photo essay of the ROS at: <http://www.goupstate.com/> Click on PHOTO GALLERY on the right side of the page or try going directly to:

<http://www.goupstate.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=SJ&Date=20080521&Category=PHOTOS05&ArtNo=135355257&Ref=PH&Params=Itemnr=1>

Richard Dillard - Spartanburg Co-chair
Kimberly Morgan - Greenville Co-chair

South Dakota

Sioux Falls, 37 Riders

We had 37 rollers, and very little coverage. Stacey Steinhagen of KDLT television was the only one that bothered to show, but she did a great job! It was a very good ride, much smiling and waving from everyone not on bicycles, and I am including folks in cars!

Hootervil_mayor

Tennessee

Maryville, 42 Riders

Thank you for your assistance, we had a good ride in Maryville and made progress with participation from our local PD. We hope to increase participation next year with the addition of other local fire and PD bike officers.

This was our second year to participate in the Ride of Silence with 42 riders (up from 30 last year). We were thankful to have a member of the Maryville Police Department bicycle patrol join us on route. For many, this was the first experience to participate in a RoS. Once again, we were happy to see the Roth Family in attendance at the start of the ride. Jeff Roth was hit and killed while riding his bike in Blount County on August 19, 2006. His widow, Kathy Roth, founded the Jeff Roth Cycling Foundation to promote safe cycling and motorist education of the Jeff Roth and Brian Brown Protection Act. Learn more about the Foundation at www.jeffrothcyclingfoundation.org

Article published in Blount Today - 28 May 2008

<http://www.blounttoday.com/news/2008/may/28/maryville-ride-silence-honors-jeff-roth/>

Keith Webb, keith@jeffrothcyclingfoundation.org

Murfreesboro, 19 Riders

We had 19 riders- up from last year- and the local paper came and took some photos.
Cary Way, caryway@hotmail.com

Nashville, 100 Riders

My friend, Fred, did the ride in Nashville last night. He said they had about 100 participants and even had police officers assisting them on motorcycles to allow them through traffic lights.

Meg McKilty

Texas

Amarillo, 117 Riders

Participated in the Ride of Silence for the fourth consecutive year with 117 riders. Our 6.5 course this year started at Austin Middle School and took us through residential neighborhoods, past city parks, Amarillo College, near downtown and through a commercial district. Once again, the City of Amarillo issued a parade permit and we were led by three Amarillo Police Department squad cars (\$210) plus four volunteer APD officers on APD bicycles. Participants in this year's ride included the Mayor of Amarillo and the department head for Traffic Engineering. Ride leaders were the owners of our three local bike shops. Three riders wore red arm bands.

Ken Graham, graham.kenneth@sbcglobal.net

Austin, 40 Riders

We met again on the Pfluger pedestrian bridge over Town Lake (known as the Colorado River to everyone else) to start Austin's 4th (my 3rd) Ride of Silence. There were only 40 or so people riding this year; this small number is due in part, I'm sure, to a general lack of promotion but also, I think, to the fact that there had been no recent negative bicycling news (the tragedy south of Brownsville occurred shortly after RoS, you'll remember). A couple of riders spoke briefly about their reasons for riding and a representative from the Texas League of Bicyclists addressed the importance of riding safely.

We started rolling a little after 7. We hadn't made it through the first intersection when someone in a white Mustang blew by us with the horn blaring. Luckily, that turned out to be the only incident of the evening. There were quite a few kids on the ride this year, so we took a very relaxed pace through Zilker Park, back across the river on the Hike & Bike Trail, and then up to Lake Austin Blvd.

Unfortunately, when we got to biggest hill of the route on Enfield Road, the group really split up. This has happened in previous years, but there have been enough riders that we just separated into smaller groups. This year, though, quite a few people got isolated from the ride. This is partly because that hill brings is into downtown, where the stoplights every block tend to prevent regrouping, and also because the temperature was in the mid-upper 90s and many were really struggling. Several riders had to dismount and walk and one poor guy's rear derailleur just exploded under the effort. I would not be surprised if the route changes next year to avoid the more rolling parts of the ride. Finding a route through Austin without hills can be tricky, but I think we'll need to if we're going to maintain solidarity as a bunch.

We eventually made it to the grounds of the State Capitol where we were able to wait for everyone to catch up, which took a good 15 minutes. Once regathered, we made our way down Congress Avenue, across the river again, down Barton Springs Road and back to the Pfluger Bridge. We rolled in a little after 8, just in time to catch the start of a nice sunset over the water.

Jon Hagar

<http://picasaweb.google.com/danorton/20080521RideOfSilenceAustin>

Coppell, 20 Riders

Live life to the full. That was the advice of Patti Dean just before the Coppell Ride for Silence. Patti's cyclist husband, Greg, was hit and killed by a motorist at the intersection of Freeport Parkway and State Highway 121 in Coppell in July 2007, less than two miles from the Ride of Silence start at Coppell High School.

Patti told the roughly 60 riders to do whatever they wanted to do in life, whether it was an Ironman, an ultra, or just picking up the phone to talk to someone important to them. Follow your dream and "keep riding," she said.

The cyclists rode out to the strains of Amazing Grace, played by a Coppell High School trumpeter. Ride marshals were provided by the Carrollton Cycling Club, which organized the ride. Riders broke into four or five groups as traffic lights split the pack around the 11-mile route. A sag wagon was provided by TLC for Bikes of Coppell.

Returning to the high school, the riders stopped in two facing rows until everyone had arrived, then, heads uncovered, listened to Taps.

Mike Gibson, MGibson@netbsa.org

Last night I participated in my first ever [Ride of Silence](#) in Coppell, TX. This was one of only many cities around the world that had a Ride of Silence. The Coppell ride was to honor Greg Dean (as well as all other cyclists who have been killed due to a bicycle/motorist accidents) who was killed on July 22, 2007 by a motorist that ran a red light. I had only ridden with Greg on a couple occasions and only talked with him briefly, however he seemed to be a wonderful person.

I have only been riding for my 4th year now and somehow I had never heard of these rides. This may be possible because I was in a rural area of Indiana since starting to ride. However, I am now in the not so rural Dallas/Forth Worth area.

The Ride Of Silence is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph and remain silent during the ride. There is no brochure, no sponsors, no registration fees and no t-shirt. The ride, which is held during Bike Safety month, aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for those who have been killed or injured.

During the ride I participated in, what I saw was a beautiful procession of cyclists honoring those who have passed on due to bicycle/motorist accidents. I also witnessed cyclists obeying all laws and riding with proper cycling etiquette which is something that I have rarely seen. I always try to use proper cycling etiquette and do at least 95% of the time.

I reflected on my own riding actions as well as those of others which I have witnessed over the few years I have been riding. I have seen a lot of cyclists riding, especially in the Dallas/Fort Worth area that do not follow proper etiquette when riding. This causes bad relations between cyclists and motorists. We all as both cyclists and motorists need to lead by example to help promote better relations. If we can follow all the rules on one day each year, we can do it on all rides all the time.

I believe the actions of the [Ride of Silence](#) as well as those of [Yield to Life](#) are the correct way in the effort to raise awareness and change the mindset of both cyclists and motorists.

by Robert Wade (aka Cycle Jockey), <http://cyclejockey.com>

Dallas, 2,000 Riders

After a few last minute glitches on the start/finish area we managed to secure our parking lot at T.P. Hill at White Rock Lake with the blessing of the Dallas Parks Dept.

The course we take, with police escort, is just under 10 miles in a loop around the beautiful lake. We had a tent for volunteer sign up and many cyclists joined up as a volunteer ride marshal and received a bib with "Ride Marshal, please do not pass, shhhhhh. " on it. We also had some amazing parking lot volunteers.

Judith Jolly came to help with her new baby girl in tow.

We had announcements prior to the ride and I started out with a brief run down of ROS etiquette... wear a helmet, no cell phones, no headphones, two abreast, 12 mph or less and please, no passing! I introduced my 7 year old grandson and mentioned that he is one of the reasons for my directing this event every year.

I handed the mike to Michelle Holcomb, of BikeDFW, and she challenged everyone to take a L.A.B. Road 1 course and to continue on to becoming an LCI (League Cycling Instructor). Michelle and I became certified as LCI's in February of this year.

Finally the mike was handed to Chris "Coach" Phelan, the founder of the ride. Chris spoke of the history of the ride, the huge number of ROS events going on around the world.

When he was done we mounted up to ride out as the bagpiper, Doug, played the mournful sounds of Amazing Grace. He plays till the last rider is out of the parking lot and we could hear the music wail across the water as we went on our way. Very somber.

Jim, my husband, and I were followed by a few friends and a half dozen tandems from DATES, Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts Society, as they rode with empty stoker seats and had saddles strapped on with ribbons to signify the passing of one of our own. Behind the stokers were ride marshals and then hundreds and hundreds of cyclists as far as the eye could see, all riding two abreast and keeping quiet.

Many wore black armbands and some wore the red ones to show support for cyclists that have been hit and injured.

We made our way around the lake with hot but beautiful weather conditions and everyone was respectful of our presence. We passed a huge flock of geese and they were noisier than all the cyclists that passed them!

As we came to the end we lined up and the tandems went up to join the bagpiper in a line so that we might ponder the loss of friends and fellow cyclists while we waited for the end of the procession to come in. We had a follow police vehicle as well and as they approached the end the bagpiper played Taps twice, so that everyone would hear it. Coach Phelan rode with his fist raised, as is tradition.

When the bagpipes were quiet I thanked all the riders for being there and wished them safe passage home.

We had an immediate photo shoot with Bicycling Magazine. Coach Phelan, Me, Michelle Holcomb, Mike Keel, Judith Jolly and Mark Norman of the board of ROS. We will be conducting an interview shortly, to go along with the photos.

The volunteers had done a phenomenal job of packing all the signage and tables, chairs into my car for me and that was a blessing. I want to thank Kathy Kilpatrick for heading up many of the volunteers for me.

We ended our night with a bowl of spicy crawfish and a tall cold drink and talked of the ride till late into the evening. It was delightful to see children on the ride, and we are proud of our grandson, Iain, and little Daniel Holcomb for riding the whole way without saying a word!

I haven't a real clue as to how many cyclists there were, but it numbered in the many hundreds and when I looked back over a 1/2 mile section I could see no end to the procession. I was deeply moved and very proud and honored to direct this event for the third year.

Gail Spann, Director of the "Mother" ride, Dallas, bikingail@aol.com

Houston, 100 Riders

The Houston Ride of Silence went off without a hitch. We had about 100 riders. I sent out press releases to all the TV stations and the Chronicle. The Houston Chronicle came out and shot some pics and gave us a nice blurb in the Metro section today.

I gave a little talk at the end asking the folks who came out to contact their state rep.s in support of the Safe Passing bill and to lobby for bicycle infrastructure in general and bike hooks on Metro trains in particular.

Metro's cycling team was with us in full force with many Metro employees on the ride in their Team Metro jerseys.

I put up some signs about the ride but was forced by the park rangers to remove them.

Matt@icycletexas.com, iCycle Bike Shop
www.icycletexas.com

Lufkin:

An article my friend wrote about our ride tonight. Our first in Lufkin, TX! I will send you more information about our ride in the next few days....

http://www.lufkindailynews.com/hp/content/news/stories/2008/05/22/ride_of_silence.html

Jeremy Webb [rideofsilencelufkin@gmail.com]

Virginia

Kilmarnock

Our 2008 Ride of Silence was held in Kilmarnock, VA on May 21. We had a smaller group of riders this year due to a lack of pre-ride publicity. The route was the same eight mile course through town. The ride was held in memory of a local cyclist killed the year before and it was covered briefly by the local paper.

We are hoping to do a better job of publicizing the event next year and getting more riders involved. Stephen Radcliffe, sradcliffe@nnwifi.com

Harrisonburg, 35 Riders

Here is the report we published in our newsletter. Although the newspaper didn't cover the ride our local TV station did a story with video. Probably still available through

<http://www.whsv.com/home/headlines/19163059.html>

A few mis-spoken references but an interview with a PRO-CYCLIST Jeremiah Bishop of TREK/VW who lives in Harrisonburg and rode with us.

On May 21st, 2008 at exactly 7PM local time around the world and in Harrisonburg the Ride of Silence was held. The ride began in 2003 in Dallas to remember endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz who was killed while riding. The event is now held in 48 states and 9 countries. The Harrisonburg Ride of Silence left HHS at exactly 7PM with grey and windy conditions. Just as the 35 riders clipped in a double rainbow appeared on the eastern horizon. Good karma and a fitting beginning to a solemn ride. This year the ride was held in honor of Joseph P. Hiney who was killed on Rt 33 June 2nd, 2000. The procession traveled into downtown Harrisonburg stopping when necessary but occupying one lane. No motorist seemed intent on disrupting the long line of silent cyclists. Each stop and start was accompanied only by the snapping of cleats into pedals. No one broke the Ride of Silence. Our flag

bearer held steady in the strong winds and experienced cyclist rode bar to bar with novice, with everyone maintaining the 12 mph pace. No attacking tonight, just silent remembrance of those we have lost or seen injured. Many red arm bands were worn with the black morning bands. Red indicates riders who have been hit while riding. Safely back to the start, everyone again enjoyed each others company. All were glad for the experience and hope to have a save year until we can once again pull out the Ride of Silence banner.

F Marshall Hammond, marshall_hammond@merck.com

Waynesboro, 12 Riders

Reported by Joe Downs, www.nbc29.com:

As the old saying goes, the race often goes to the swift. Wednesday night in Waynesboro, however, it went to the silent. <http://www.nbc29.com/global/story.asp?s=8362579>

A dozen cyclists gathered at Waynesboro High School to participate in "The Ride of Silence". It's a world-wide event to mourn those riders who have been either killed or injured by motorists. Riders hope to raise awareness of the dangers they face and want drivers to recognize their right to share the road.

Joan Leake

Washington

Bainbridge Island, 50 Riders

We are pleased to report the first annual Ride of Silence was a huge success on Bainbridge Island, WA. About 50 riders showed up (twice what we expected) and we had a full police escort courtesy of our fine Police Chief Matt Haney.

We had a piper send off the riders and we had great press coverage.

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2008/may/21/ride-of-silence-is-a-rite-of-remembrance/>

Clearly this is now an annual event for Bainbridge Island.

Thank you for all the work you have done to honor those riders who we have lost on the roadways! (Including my racing coach from the 1960-70's John Hood, Sr.)

Kim Bottles, kbottles@rafn.com

Bellingham, 10 Riders

We did our ride May 14, with 10 riders. Here's a photo of it. We rode in memory of Mr. Terry Mathews, a 50 yr old local cyclist killed 4/30/08 in a collision with a car driver. We're planning on meeting with



local law enforcement & elected officials to improve local efforts to prevent and respond more effectively to such events. We've had 4 cyclists hit in the recent 6 months, much more than usual. Keep up the great work.

Chris Covert-Bowlds, MD, cjcovert@hinet.org, Mt Baker Bike Club, www.mtbakerbikeclub.org

Seattle, 200-220 Riders

We had maybe 200 riders last night here in Seattle. I thought it was better than last year, as we managed to stay grouped together better. There were two places on the route we were asked to remain single file for both safety and impact issues, but the Byrne Gas race team simply couldn't do this, and for some reason, felt a need to ride to the center of the lane (great photo opportunity for their race team, I suppose) and make certain they postured their group to the front of the pack. I would much prefer the entire ride be done in a column of 2 abreast (begin just a little bit military minded) and have a police escort, so that it could literally be seen as a funeral procession, but there seems to be little interest, at least here, in doing that. Although our numbers were smaller this year, I thought our group was far more serious minded and much more somber along the route.

Ride Safe, everyone. Here's hoping we are all here to do it again next year.

RaleighDon

By my count, with volunteers who also rode, we had between 210 and 220 riders this year.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWUkl_-9bvM

Michael Snyder, msnyder@zserf.com

Kent/Auburn, 17 Riders

17 riders for our inaugural ride. Not a huge turnout, but I was pleased given that the weather was cold, windy, and raining. A woman from the Kent Reporter was at the start of our local Ride of Silence on May 21. The article appeared in the Auburn Reporter on 6/4/08:

http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aub/opinion/19469529.html

John Calnan, john.calnan@comcast.net - - [Blog](#)

Pics:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jcalnan/sets/72157605506194304/>

My Blog Entry:

<http://www.calnan-web.com/weblog/2008/05/21/ride-of-silence-kentauburn-2008/>

Wisconsin

Marinette WI / Menominee MI, 10 riders

To say the least, I was disappointed in our ride turnout. We have a local bike club, Spokes and Folks, with over 70 members and not one of them showed up! We did have ten people that did show, braving the cold, windy, rainy weather, three were my family. On the plus side, we did have a police escort, courtesy of the Menominee Auxiliary police, and we did ride through both Menominee MI and Marinette, WI, so we were in both states. We crossed two bridges, on being the Interstate Bridge on U.S. Highway 41, so we did get plenty of exposure. However, even though the local paper did show for pictures, they never even put it in the newspaper.

I'm not giving up tho, I will try my best to get better participation next year, although I think I'll have a little trouble getting the police cooperation next year.

Bill St Martin, Owner, Cycle Path



Ride of Silence - International

Note: Sorry, we cannot provide accurate translations of non-English language reports; please consider using [Google Translation](#). We've provided some translations using Google Translation where we felt the translation was helpful.

Antarctica, 9 Riders

Palmer Station

As with last year's inaugural Ride of Silence at Palmer Station, Antarctica our ROS was confined indoors to the small gym on a pair of stationary bicycles. Shortly before 7PM the nine riders assembled, the ride schedule was reviewed, crocheted wrist bands were distributed and we were ready to ride on the now side by side Lifecycle and spin bike.

Juan Carlos Zabala, a fish biologist from Spain and I lead off the ride. Both "JC" and I wore black and red bands. He had sustained several broken bones when hit by a car while in residence at Stanford University. Our eyes followed the lines of Ride of Silence poem attached to the handlebars on each cycle.

At 7:10 IT specialist Carla Appel of Portland, Ore. took over for me on the Lifecycle. Boating coordinator Adam Swanson, also wearing a red band replaced JC on the spin bike. Adam, now living in Newfield, NY, was struck by a car while a student in Duluth, MN.

As Carla and Adam pedaled I slowly walked on one of the treadmills while JC sat on a weight bench and looked through printouts of various articles written about last year's ride. The other riders,

awaiting their 10 minute cycle stretched, warmed up on the elliptical trainer or quietly muscled weights.

Graham Love and Jordan Murphy saddled up at 7:20. Both call Harvard, MA home but until September Palmer Station is their home. Through the next wintery Antarctic months Graham will be a busy carpenter and Jordan will have her hands full dealing with the various forms of physical waste generated on the station.

University of Alabama Birmingham graduate student and returning Palmer Ride of Silence cyclist Craig Aumack rode next alongside Northeastern University fish biologist Bill Detrich. Craig wore a red band and maybe reflected back on his bike accident while a student a UCSB. Bill told me he would ride in memory of those who had lost their lives cycling the streets of Boston.



Palmer Station, Antarctica Ride of Silence 2008 participants: in front left to right: Juan Carlos Zabala, Carla Appel, Jordan Murphy, Adam Swanson; standing left to right: Graham Love, Craig Aumack, Bill Detrich, Maggie Amsler, Chuck Amsler

My husband Chuck and I took the final pull at 7:40. Though I wore the red band, I think Chuck may have been more scarred than me by witnessing my minor car collision. We probably shared similar thoughts about cyclists we know have had injurious as well as fatal encounters with vehicles.

Next year I will not be in Antarctica and will be able to participate in my hometown's local Ride of Silence in Birmingham, AL. I hope ROS Antarctica continues but I mostly hope that the spirit of ROS continues to expand in the US and across the globe enhancing the safety and simple enjoyment of being on a bicycle.

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Amsler, mamsler@uab.edu

Australia

Reports from other Australian Rides of Silence. Ten Rides were held in Australia this year!

Adelaide:

<http://adelaide-in-photos.blogspot.com/2008/05/ride-of-silence.html>

Canberra, 200-240 Riders

http://svana.org/sjh/diary/2008/05/24#2008-05-24_01

Geelong, 18 Riders

Distance 8km

Notes 18 participants rode along the Barwon River trail and return as some were not comfortable on the road system. Leaving at 10am on Saturday 24th May. All wore black armbands and adhered to the ROS principles.

Russell Lindsay, cafe9zero@optusnet.com.au

Melbourne images:

<http://www.goldburg.com.au/gallery/v/dallas/bike/ros08/>

Melbourne RR (+foodie!)

<http://redduckcurry.blogspot.com/2008/05/ride-of-silence-and-lamb-backstraps.html>

Sydney, 100+ Riders

[Event photos](#) by Phuong - or <http://tinyurl.com/67yyz3>

[More photos](#) by David Edwards - or <http://tinyurl.com/62pkmp>

Over a hundred riders turned up to the start of Sydney's Ride of Silence on Saturday. We had beautiful sunny weather and a successful ride, though the going wasn't as smooth as we had hoped.

Despite a police escort bringing up the rear, we seemed to hit every red light in the city, making it impossible to move as a bunch. After two hours of continual regrouping we decided to shorten the route and headed for the state house of parliament for a wreath-laying ceremony.

We had better coverage from the media than before with several radio stations conducting interviews with myself and riders in the throng.

2SER community radio are working on a program about the ride which should be podcast in the near future. I'll pass the link around when it happens.

I've attached a piece from today's Sun Herald that focuses on Lee Rhiannon who addressed the riders before the start. Great to know that at least one political party understands the urgency of improving road conditions for cyclists and pedestrians.

We hope to have a link to photographs in the very near future too, thanks to Dave who made a sterling effort despite having to fly to Hobart shortly after the ride.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out as marshals, put up posters and took photos. A big thanks to Chris who put together the route and organised the professional-looking reflective vests with ROS logos on. It certainly makes a difference having someone to share the load.

I must thank Jenni too for promoting the ride on the Push On website and joining us on the ride.

Michael McGrath, accent@swiftdsl.com.au

Townsville:

<http://tropiccycle.blogspot.com/2008/05/ride-of-silence.html>

Brazil

Belo Horizonte, 100 Riders

Our ride was great. We were almost 100 cyclists, and we had no trouble. A local TV channel shown our ride and interviewed some organizers, but unfortunately we couldn't get the video.

Above, some photos and one video, made by ourselves.

Congratulations for the initiative.

Humberto Guerra (Belo Horizonte, Brasil - group Mountain Bike BH)

<http://img98.imageshack.us/img98/5934/mg4209lx1.jpg>

<http://img262.imageshack.us/img262/709/mg4217yj3.jpg>

<http://img228.imageshack.us/img228/6426/mg4228tx8.jpg>

<http://img262.imageshack.us/img262/3103/mg4236sn3.jpg>

<http://img262.imageshack.us/img262/4615/mg4238hx1.jpg>

<http://img262.imageshack.us/img262/8805/mg4255cu3.jpg>

<http://viniciusmz.multiply.com/photos/album/99>

<http://viniciusmz.multiply.com/video/item/29>

Bolivia

Santa Cruz, 26 Riders

We are pleased to confirm:

WHAT: Ride of Silence

WHERE: Santa Cruz-Bolivia (South America)

WHEN: Wednesday 21th. May 2008 Hs. 19:00

NR. OF PARTICIPANTS: 26 persons

ROUTE: Av. San Martin-2do. Anillo-El Cristo-2do. Anillo-Parque Urbano (round trip)



This our first experience was honour our pedalists killed in Statistics show Jan through May pedestrian/cyclists deaths in the of Santa Cruz. The Police also event. Local TV media and various notes about our ROS.



great and we could the roads. 15th. about 240 streets and avenues participated in this newspapers made

Tks for your support with necessary information to make this real and best regards from your friends: PEDALEROS DEL URUBO from Santa Cruz-Bolivia.

We'll keep in touch....Until 2009 ROS! GM-PDU: <http://spaces.msn.com/members/urubo/>

Canada

Gatineau: 30 cyclists

Despite the threatening cold weather that was preceded by much wind and rain, there was a turnout of around 30 people, including the two organizers, and five helpers. There was also a police escort of three cruisers and two police officers on bicycles.

The former mayor of Gatineau Michel Légère gave a short speech. He is still a well-known personality in Gatineau and was also the founder of the "Route Verte" (the best riding path in the world according to National Geographic).

Unfortunately, there was not a lot of local media coverage but we managed to get two radio interviews. We will double our efforts next year to get the word out for this important event.

The spirit of the Ride of Silence went over well with the participants and the police. I received a lot of support during the event, and one very moving testimony from a mother of a young cyclist killed by a car the year before.

Julie Gilbert
julie.gilbert@servicecanada.gc.ca

Rive Sud de Montréal, Québec

Il a plus toute la semaine j`usqu`aux dernières heures avant le départ. Cela a fait hésité plusieurs cyclistes. Dans notre région, l`an passé, il faisait 2 degrés Celcius, il pleuvait et il ventait et on s`en souvient. Plusieurs cyclistes avient dû abandonner gelés par le froid et la pluie

Cette année, il faisait encore froid et la pluie s`est arrêtée quelques heures avant le départ. Notre président d`honneur, M. Marc Cadieux est le PDG de l`importante Association du camionnage du Québec. Il a tenu à encourager les organisateurs et à les féliciter pour leur efforts. Nos anciens présidents d`honneur ont tenu aussi à accompagner les cyclistes durant le Tour

Le Tour du silence de la Rive Sud de Montréal, portait pour les trois premières éditions, le nom de Tour du silence du Mont-Bruno.

Depuis deux ans, tous les clubs de la grande région *Rive Sud de Montréal*, se sont regroupés pour son organisation sous le nom **Tour du silence de la Rive Sud de Montréal**.

Malgré le temps incertain, quelques cents cyclistes ont tenu à accompagner les présidents d`honneur et ont déposé des fleurs là où des cyclistes se sont fait mortellement happés.



Les organisateurs sont déjà à préparer l'an prochain.

« La vie, c'est comme une bicyclette, si nous nous arrêtons, nous tombons » Einstein

« Tous pour un , un pour tous »

Léon Thériault, Président , ltheriault@videotron.ca

China

Hong Kong, 80 Riders

We had our Hong Kong RoS on Wednesday. Around 80 riders in strong solidarity with those 13 cyclists who died on our roads last year. There were all kinds of bikes and cyclists there, reflecting a valuable unity. It was also a time to spread a much-needed message that cyclists have equal rights on the road, which was seen and understood by many onlookers, and to stay in touch with other riders. A good ride.

Martin Turner, martinrededge@gmail.com

Shenzhen:

<http://www2.biketo.com/bbs/redirect.php?tid=59030&goto=lastpost>

Mexico

Xalapa, 50 Ciclistas

Tuvimos éxito con la Marcha en Silencio Xalapa 2008, estamos preparando el material fotográfico y de video para presentarlo a los medios de comunicación incluyendo el internet. También lo voy a presentar en el primer congreso nacional de ciclismo urbano que se va a realizar del 4 al 8 de junio en la ciudad de México.

Fuimos 50 ciclistas y aparte algunos familiares. Contamos con el apoyo de 1 patrulla de tránsito y afortunadamente no hubo caídos u otros incidentes. Tanto niños como adultos mayores y mujeres hicieron presencia en este importante evento. El director de turismo del municipio nos acompañó en la salida y ofreció en nombre del alcalde de la ciudad algunas palabras en apoyo a los ciclistas.

Mañana salimos a concluir la ruta de Cortés en Bicicleta, el martes empezamos a trabajar con el material de la marcha.

Le ofrecimos a los compañeros ciclistas realizar una cena en la que se muestre en video y fotografías nuestra marcha y la de otras ciudades del mundo. Ojalá nos puedas apoyar y enviar fotografías y videos para esta reunión.

Sin más por el momento me despido deseándole lo mejor.

(Google translation)

We succeeded with the march in silence Xalapa 2008, we are preparing the photographic and video material for submission to the media including the Internet. Also what I am going to present in the first national congress of urban cycling to be carried out from 4 to June 8 in Mexico City.

We were 50 cyclists and some families apart. We count on the support of 1 patrol transit and fortunately there were no dead or other incidents. Both children and older adults and women made presence in this important event. The director of tourism in the municipality accompany us

in the departure and offered on behalf of the mayor of the city a few words in support of cyclists.

Tomorrow we go out to conclude the path of Cortes by Bike, on Tuesday started working with material progress.

He offered to fellow cyclists make a dinner in which they appear in our video and motion pictures and other cities around the world. Hopefully we can support and send photos and videos for this reunion.

Raúl, [Xalapa Prociatismo](#), xalapaprociatismo@yahoo.com.mx

Spain

Aranjuez: 30 riders (Very good too because Aranjuez is a very small place).

Barcelona: 15 riders

Linares: 20 riders

Madrid, 50 riders

Some pictures of the Madrid ROS 2008:

<http://sports.webshots.com/album/563545442ZBQYPs>

[Jose M. Benayas Sanchez](#)

As previously scheduled, at 19:00 hours on May the 21st, about 50 cyclists met up in Casa de Campo (Madrid's biggest park) sympathizing with the Ride of Silence event. Prior to the event's start, TELEMADRID, the Autonomy's TV station, broadcasted live and interviewed some of the participants, helping that way to the dissemination of the event. Unfortunately the program's closing time did not allow them to be live when the starting time, but we consider very valuable the time they gave us because of the audience the station has on the afternoons; not forgetting the rest of the media that have been very helpful supporting the idea since we launched it.

The ride started after Eduardo Chozas, a former professional cyclist very popular in Spain, read the poem devoted to our disappeared comrades. Besides Eduardo Chozas, who supported the idea since the beginning, Lute Anguita, Pipe Gomez y Alfonso Triviño joined and stated their solidarity with the project, as it links with the work they are performing, since several years, to improve the physical wellbeing of the Spanish cyclists. The ride was authorized by the local authorities and cared by the local Police though the course ran across a lane used by many Madrid's cyclists. Some more cyclists joined the ride along the course to reach the figure of about 100. The event finished after a course of 18.9 kms, at an average speed of 18.8 kms.

As tradition sets, the next meeting will be on the third Wednesday of next May, at 19.00 hours. There we will wait for you in order to put ROS where our disappeared comrades deserve.

Palma de Mallorca (Balears), 50 Riders

You can see the news about Ride of Silence in Mallorca (Spain) at :

<http://www.balearsport.es/ampliacion.php?id=8340>

<http://www.esciclismo.com/ampliada.asp?id=7176>

and you can see the photos at.

<http://picasaweb.google.es/Xiscofotodos/RideOfSilenceMarchaEnSilencio>

Numbers:

Kms : 12 kms.
Cyclists : 50
Time : 40 minutes.
Perfect control by the local police.

Thanks for your initiative.

Sinto Sanz, cicloturisme.fcib@gmail.com

Comisió de Cicloturisme de la Federació de Ciclisme de les Illes Balears



Valencia, 15 riders

Zamora, 100 Ciclistas

Hemos realizado la marcha del silencio en Zamora (Spain) y toda la información está en :
http://www.bicizamora.com/Paginas2008/080521Rideofsilence/silencio_21-05.htm

Unos 100 ciclistas se concentraron en la Plaza Mayor de Zamora (Spain) a las 20:30 horas. Despacio y en silencio se realizó un recorrido por las principales calles de la ciudad para regresar a la Plaza Mayor, donde se dió lectura al poema y se recordó a nuestros compañeros fallecidos en los últimos años”.

Podéis coger las fotos que deseéis para vosotros.

(Google translation)

We conducted our march of silence in Zamora (Spain) and all information is at:
http://www.bicizamora.com/Paginas2008/080521Rideofsilence/silencio_21-05.htm

Near 100 riders joined in Plaza Mayor of Zamora at 20:30 hours. Slowly and on silence they was along the main streets of the city. Afterwards they returned to Plaza Mayor where it was read the poem in memory of our defeated colleges in last years.”

Paco Fernández, www.bicizamora.com

West Indies

Charlestown, Nevis, St Kitts & Nevis, 40 Riders

For the second year the global movement 'Ride Of Silence' received a contribution from the bike riders of Nevis, a joint venture between TNCTC and 'Bikes Not Bombs' Nevis, put a total of 40 cyclists on the road in downtown Charlestown. The ride commemorates the cyclists around the world who have been killed or injured by motorists, Nevis is proud to be involved in this valuable silent protest that draws awareness to the tragedies happening daily on our roads, get involved all of you car drivers "share" the road.

Winston Crooke, windsurf@sisterisles.kn