

# THE TAILWIND TIMES

February 2007, Vol. 15, No. 2

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## Around the Tanks



### Around the Tanks - 70 and 50 Mile Options Sunday, March 18, 2007

Sponsored by West Valley Bicycle Club (GABA)

Feel like you're going 'round in circles? You will be if you join the West Valley Bicycle Club for a breezy ride around the White Tank Mountains. Seventy (70) miles (give or take a few) will give you a great workout and still get you back in time for lunch – or an afternoon repast, depending on how much time you spend at the famous West Valley rest stops. In addition to the goodies at the rest stops, roving SAG support and a spaghetti dinner when you finish the ride. Great food, West Valley style!

The ride begins and ends in White Tank Mountain Regional Park in the West Valley. You'll have little traffic to deal with for most of the route and it's flat. F-L-A-T, FLAT! (The route, not your tire!) You're going AROUND the White Tank Mountains, not over them. Well, almost. What goes down must come up and you'll climb back up **INTO** the park. Want to do a shorter ride? There's a 50-mile, out-and-back option.

**WHEN** Sunday, March 18, 2007. 7:30 am (Registration opens at 7:00 am)

#### WHERE

The ride begins and ends at White Tank Mountain Regional Park in Waddell, west of Phoenix. To get to the park, go west on I-10 to the Cotton Lane exit, north on Cotton Lane (or Loop 303) to Olive Avenue, then west 4 miles on Olive to the Park entrance. Or, take the 101 Loop to Olive Ave. and go west 14 miles to the park gate. There is a \$5 per vehicle charge to enter the park. Save \$\$ and our environment — carpool with a friend! Once through the gate, we'll be set up in Area 4, around the corner, up the hill on the east side of the road, about 2 miles from the gate. If you get to the Trailhead staging area, you've gone too far! See [http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/white\\_tank/](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/white_tank/) for directions to the park.

#### COST

- GABA/WEST VALLEY/PMBC and ABC Members -\$20, Non-members - \$25
- \$5 added late fee for "day-of" registration, and don't forget the \$5/vehicle park entrance fee.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** John (928) 684-3331, [JOplinger5200@msn.com](mailto:JOplinger5200@msn.com), Registration forms will be available on line at [www.sportsfun.com](http://www.sportsfun.com), at weekend club rides, and in the March copy of this newsletter.

**Fatal Accident during Casa Grande Century – Police Seek Information:** When Mike Mah was at Sag 1, one of the cyclists came up to him and said that a driver witnessed the accident involving Larry Harrison, and followed the hit-and-run vehicle all the way to Gilbert Rd and Queen Creek. At that point, the driver felt uncomfortable about following that vehicle any longer, and wrote down a license plate number. The driver turned around back to SR87 and tracked down a lone cyclist (John Williams), and gave him the piece of paper with notes. Unfortunately, we do not have the name and phone number of the witness, but the witness apparently drove a black Dodge Charger or Chrysler 300M. John told Mike he thought the offending vehicle was a gray or silver pick-up truck. **Should you have any information regarding this accident, please contact Jane Larson, Ride Leader.**

## **Purposes and Objectives of GABA and our member clubs:**

To promote interest and involvement in all aspects of bicycling.  
To schedule field trips, tours and other group riding opportunities for further development of individual cycling skills, and to instill safe riding habits.  
To initiate and publicize all types of bicycling events to attract out-of-state bicyclists to Arizona.  
To provide maps and route information to touring and commuting cyclists and to encourage bicycle use as an energy- efficient, healthful means of personal transportation.  
To provide instruction at all levels of bicycling skill and bicycle maintenance, including on-the-road repairs.  
To publish regularly a comprehensive newsletter of bicycling information about the events of all Arizona bicycle clubs, legislation affecting cyclists, and other cycling related news.  
To promote bicycle racing as a spectator sport and to refer those interested in race participation to local clubs involved in the sport.

## **Questions? Comments? Here's who to call...**

**West Valley Bicycle Club (GABA Chapter):** 2007 Officers (pending) contact: [bettur@qwest.net](mailto:bettur@qwest.net)

**Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club (GABA Chapter):** Jay Stewart, Pres (480) 893-0303; Tom Adams VP & Mailing List (tla85258@yahoo.com), Quyen Nguyen, Treasurer (calypso850@yahoo.com); Jane Larson, Secy (Jlreports@qwest.net); Bob Beane, Newsletter Editor, (480) 961-1951, (marco3@cox.net).

**Moving or Changing e-mail addresses?** Please let your home chapter know - The Post Office will not forward the Tailwind times and e-copies won't find you unless we know where you are!!!

**Newsletter Deadlines:** The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Direct submissions may be mailed to the Newsletter Editor c/o Bob Beane, 4413 E. Graythorn St, Phoenix, AZ 85044. You may e-mail Bob at marco3@cox.net. E-mail submissions are currently being accepted in the following formats: Articles in MS-Word 2003 or older versions, information by MS-Word or standard e-mail, photographs preferred as jpeg or other common format attachments. Due to space limitations, articles will generally be edited to two pages, or less. We reserve the right to decline to publish any submissions, due to content, date of receipt, space limitations, or for any other reason.

**Web resources:** Additional and updated ride schedules and other club information may be found on the Web, including:

**Phoenix:** [www.sportsfun.com](http://www.sportsfun.com)

**Tucson:** [www.bikegaba.org](http://www.bikegaba.org)

**Prescott:** [www.prescottcycling.org](http://www.prescottcycling.org) (e-mail: [pcc@prescottcycling.org](mailto:pcc@prescottcycling.org))

**Flagstaff:** [www.flagstaffbiking.org](http://www.flagstaffbiking.org)

## **Newsletter Production...A Very Special Thank You**

Those of us involved in the production of the newsletter would like to thank **Toby House**, a non-profit agency servicing adults with serious mental illness in Maricopa County for over 27 years. These fine people are responsible for the reproduction and mailing preparation of the **TAILWIND TIMES** you are reading.

## **BIKE TRAVEL CASES:**

PMBC owns several hard shell bike travel cases for rental at minimal cost to members for up to four consecutive weeks. Eligibility: Club member in good standing for at least three months, refundable deposit required, and there is one of those legal-type rental agreements to be signed. For reservations or additional information, **contact Paul Nichols in person or via e-mail at "pnick44@qwest.net"**.

## **Sunrise/Sunset (Phoenix, AZ)**

Feb 1	7:25 a.m./6:00 p.m.
Mar 1	6:57 a.m./6:25 p.m.

## **FEBRUARY RIDE SCHEDULE**

*\*\*\*Please Note: Helmets are MANDATORY for all rides*

*\*\*\*Liability Waivers: If Ride Leader asks for riders to sign, and you don't, you are NOT part of the ride  
(Includes most major club/event rides. For a more comprehensive ride schedule visit [www.sportsfun.com](http://www.sportsfun.com))*

### **REGULAR CLUB RIDES (generally free to members, prospective members and guests)**

**EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY:** Bike rides are held throughout the West Valley. For information on meeting places, times, etc., call Gene Marchi (623) 546-8112.

**EVERY SATURDAY:** SATURDAY CYCLING - Kiwanis Park, Tempe (SW of Mill & Baseline, across from the sand volleyball courts). 25-40 mile rides with optional breakfast stop. Contact Sue Fassett at (602) 758-0722 or [suefassett@att.net](mailto:suefassett@att.net).

**EVERY SUNDAY:** SPIN CYCLE starting at Desert Breeze Park, located between McClintock & Rural, and Chandler & Ray, on Desert Breeze Pkwy. For more information, contact Glen Fletcher at [wgfletcher@cox.net](mailto:wgfletcher@cox.net).

**START TIMES FOR SATURDAY CYCLING AND SUNDAY SPIN CYCLE:** Jan 8:30, Feb 8:00, Mar 7:30, Apr/May 7:00, June-Aug 6:30, Sep/Oct 7:00, Nov 7:30, Dec 8:00.

**EVERY SATURDAY:** SUN LAKES BICYCLE CLUB – Starts from the Cottonwood Clubhouse on Robson Blvd between Dobson & Alma School, south of Riggs Rd. (Exit 167 from I-10). 35-40 mile breakfast ride at moderate pace. For information call Bob Prochaska at (480) 895-2601.

**MONDAY-FRIDAY:** PINNACLE PEAK PEDALERS – Rides of one or more days around the Valley and/or state. For information regarding upcoming rides call Vern Hines at 480-204-1419.

**Kokopedalli “No Drop” Rides (20-22 miles, with longer options):** Ride locations include Scottsdale (Chaparral Park), Mesa (Gene Autry Park) and Ahwatukee (various). Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kokopedalli> Get emailed ride reminders by sending a blank email to [kokopedalli-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:kokopedalli-subscribe@yahoo.com) For more info contact Kathy Mills at [khendricks67@earthlink.net](mailto:khendricks67@earthlink.net) or 480-235-5052 for details. See <http://www.sportsfun.com/gaba/rideschedule.html> for a multi-month ride schedule.

**ARIZONA BICYCLE CLUB** - The Arizona Bicycle Club is a Phoenix-based club that shares ride/event schedules with GABA clubs, and we offer member-discounted rates to each other's members for major rides.

### **MAJOR RIDES/EVENTS UPCOMING (most of these rides involve a rider registration fee or donation)**

**February 11 (Sun) Laveen Lions Foundation/West Valley GABA – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Laveen Country Challenge** 62, 30 & 15 mile rides with Laveen “Pit” Barbeque at 12:00 noon after the ride and prize drawing. Registration starts at 7:00 am. Events begin at 8:00 (Metric Century), 8:30 (30 mile) and 9:00 (15 mile family ride). Entry is \$35.00 prior to Feb 4 (\$30.00 GABA or ABC members). For more info, call Terri Cook at 602-237-2247 or visit [www.lensenet.com](http://www.lensenet.com). On line registration also available at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

**February 11 (Sun) Picacho Century – GABA-Tucson** 100, 65, 35 & 15 mile options, with registration and map pick-up at the intersection of Cortaro and Silverbell on the far NW side of Tucson. Each distance has a different start point along the route to Picacho Peak and back. SAG stops are placed for the longer routes, with lunch for all at the turnaround. Contact Ride Organizer Suzanne Couvrette at [update-editor@bikegaba.org](mailto:update-editor@bikegaba.org) or (520) 891-4661, or visit [www.bikegaba.org](http://www.bikegaba.org) for more information and downloadable registration forms.

**March 3 (Sat) APRA – Le Grande Bike Tour XX** Arizona Parks & Recreation Association's annual 100K, 50K or 10 mile family fun ride starting and ending in downtown Casa Grande. Call 1-800-335-PARK to register, or on line at [www.azpra.org](http://www.azpra.org).

**March 10 (Sat) ADA – Tour de Cure Tucson/Sahuarita** 1-888-342-2383 x7112 or [www.diabetes.org/tour](http://www.diabetes.org/tour) for info/registration

**March 18 (Sun) West Valley (GABA)** – See Page 1 for info.

**March 24 (Sat) ADA - Tour de Cure Phoenix** 1-888-342-2383 x7112 or [www.diabetes.org/tour](http://www.diabetes.org/tour) for info/registration

**March 24 (Sat) - Tour de Paradise** – Charity metric century ride from north Phoenix to Anthem and back in support of Beatitudes Center DOAR. 602-942-4154 or [bshea101@gmail.com](mailto:bshea101@gmail.com).

**March 24-25 (Sat-Sun) Road One Class for Women Class - The Science of Street Cycling (Coalition of AZ Bicyclists)**  
The Road I classes teach you the street riding skills needed to master operating your bike in any traffic. You will learn about Arizona bike law as well as accident avoidance. The class takes place in the classroom and on the bike. One or two day format depending on rider experience, \$35. **PMBC will reimburse Club Member's costs for the course upon successful completion of either the one or two day class.** Registration required. For more class and registration information visit [www.cazbike.com](http://www.cazbike.com).

...ride schedule, continued from previous page

**March 31 (Sat) PBAA – El Tour de Phoenix** 74 or 25 miles to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
[www.perimeterbicycling.com](http://www.perimeterbicycling.com)

**April 14 & 15 (Sat/Sun) GABA-Tucson SONOITA-BISBEE BIKE TOUR.** 69 miles on backroads from Sonoita through Fort Huachuca to Bisbee. Enjoy old world charm of quaint Bisbee! Your fee includes camping, 3 SAG stops each day, route sweep and baggage transport. B&B on your own. For info, contact ride organizer Suzanne Couvrette, (520) 891-4661 or [update-editor@bikegaba.org](mailto:editor@bikegaba.org).

**April 22 (Sun) 10th Annual Ride for the Children**

This ride to benefit the The Real Gift Foundation for Homeless Children has three options: 10 miles, 25 miles, and a metric century. The metric century takes riders through Paradise Valley and through the majestic hills of North Scottsdale. Check-in starts at 7:00 a.m. and the ride begins at 8:00 a.m. from Horizon High School at 56th Street and Greenway Road in Scottsdale. Visit the [Ride for the Children](#) web site for ride and registration information. **The Real Gift Foundation**

**April 27-29 (Fri-Sun) – Answer to the Challenge** Co-Hosted by PMBC and Landis Cyclery, this ride has 325 miles and 22,000 feet of climbing. GABA/PMBC/West Valley, ABC, USCF members registration is \$45.00, Non-members \$50.00, if registered by 4/21/07. Late registration adds another \$5.00, and might leave you without a hotel room in Strawberry. Registration forms and info are available on the PMBC web site at [www.sportsfun.com](http://www.sportsfun.com), or contact Dick Landis at [rlandis@algxmail.com](mailto:rlandis@algxmail.com).

**April 29 (Sun) PBAA – Tour of the Tucson Mountains** 70 or 27 miles to benefit the Arizona Alumni Association  
[www.perimeterbicycling.com](http://www.perimeterbicycling.com)

**May 5 & 6: Salt River Canyon Tour. GABA-Tucson.** Ride from Globe to show Low and back the next day. Great scenery, major climbs for experienced riders. Leader TBA.

**June 24 – 30 (Sun-Sat) – Bicycle Tour of Colorado** 418 miles with +35,436 total elevation gain. Steamboat Springs to Walden to Copper Mtn to Leadville to Kremmling to Steamboat. Fully SAGged week-long road biking tour of the Rocky Mtns. 303-985-1180

### **“Checking the Pulse” (What’s in the Bike Rags, and What’s on the Net?)**

*Assembled and Reported by Bob Beane*

Periodically (pun intended), I like to pass on to those of you who are “less addicted” to cycling (most) some of the interesting stuff I find in the pages of cycling publications and on “the Net”. Here are a few items from recent weeks, with credits given in case you wish further details and/or to subscribe to the sources. Editorial comments in “( )” are mine:

- **Cycling in NYC?...I’m not a bike messenger!!!** – *Bicycling Magazine’s* December issue noted that NYC recently announced that they would add 200 miles of on-street bike facilities AND 40 miles of greenways in city parks over the next four years. The City will also offer free bicycle helmets and bike safety training to all city residents...(HELLO PHOENIX ...is anybody home?)
- **A Red Wine with a Cycling Connection?** – *Bicycling Magazine* offers up the gift suggestion of the 2003 Tommaso Bussola Valpolicella Classico Superiore TB (\$35-\$40). Describing this vintage, they write “Bussola, a rising star of the Italian wine scene, makes this red ripasso-style (the juice is fermented on Amarone skins), and the grapes are from the Veneto, the same region that birthed Pinarello and Campagnolo...(I’ve tried everything else...maybe there is something magic in these grapes that can help me climb better?)
- **Prescott Peavine and Iron King Trails** – *Rails to Trails* featured these Prescott MTB trails in the Winter 2007 edition of their magazine, saying “If this is how Arizona does rail-trails, you’ll never want to leave”. In a three page article, complete with numerous photos, the magazine gushed about the multi-use trails’ scenic properties and the sights, scenes, grub and other charms of the Prescott area...good press for good trails (Editor’s beef...While I heartily agree with the sentiment, seven miles of trail is much too short for most of us...How do we expand this gem to create a 25-30+ mile system that becomes a half or full day trail “destination experience”?)
- **“Where it All Began”** – From the dusty archives of the Boulder, CO, public library to a three DVD collection that can now be purchased, comes a labor of love and cycling chronicle that is “Red Zinger/Coors Classic”. The simple title understates both the work and the list of cycling phenoms who appear (LeMond, Hinault, Davis Phinney, Andy Hampsten, Ron Kiefel, Alexi Grewal, Wayne Stetina, Connie Carpenter, and on and on)...Footage bridges the third year (1977) to the glory years of LeMond and Hinault (1986 and 1987). As *VeloNews* states in the John Wilcockson piece on the creation of this set, and the reunion party that brought many of the riders and organizers together again on December 7, 2006, “To paraphrase a famous commercial, Three DVDs: \$60, The reunion: priceless. For info or to order the DVD set: [www.velogear.com](http://www.velogear.com).
- **Tyler Hamilton** – Having finished his suspension for supposed blood doping, the former USPS and CSC cycling star is now riding for the Russian-financed Tinkoff Credit Systems team.
- **Asian Games Results – South Korea** won several men’s and women’s team pursuit titles, **Japan** won the team sprint and women’s road race, **Hong Kong** won the men’s road race, **China** won the women’s TT, and **Kazakhstan** (minus Borat...D’Qd for shorts) won the men’s team TT. How long before an Asian team joins the field in the Tour de France?

## **“Tidbits” from Saturday Cycling...Read Me Now, or Wish You Read Me Later**

*Provided weekly by Sue Fassett, merely “re-published” by your Editor*

Sue Fassett recently confided in me that one of our Saturday cyclists told her “Sue, nobody reads the ‘tidbits’ at the end of your ride recaps...all they care about is the schedule.” As Yoda would say “foolish you be...better care might you take.” Yep, I’m gonna’ just brush off the helpful hints, suggestions and warnings provided free-of-charge by someone who puts more cycling miles in her legs in a year than I do in four or five years, and more than many cyclists in our club do in ten years...I have decided this month to give us all *one more chance*. Here are just a few of Sue’s thoughts from only the most recent months. Please read and “save as” (file name is your choice)...it just might change, or save, your life some day.

### **Emergency Vehicles and Bicyclists...(Jan 6, 2007)**

We were passed this morning by a couple of emergency vehicles (fortunately not coming to us!), bringing up questions about how their appearance applies to bicyclists. The answer is the same as at applies to cars. When an emergency vehicle passes, with lights and siren blaring, get as far to the right side of the pavement as you can and stop riding. If traffic is heavy, get up onto the sidewalk, if there is one. The cars diving to the right side of the road are focused on the emergency vehicle, *not on you*.

### **Cyclists as Ambassadors, and Sharing the Road...(Nov 25, 2006)**

And speaking of AhwaFooty, some cyclists are a bit disturbed by a letter that appeared recently in the Ahwatukee Foothills News. The writer voices the opinion that roads are built for cars, cyclists should not be on them... and that if we get hit by cars we are pretty much getting what we deserve...An interesting mindset, probably different than most of us would think. But it reminds us that when we are riding we represent not just ourselves, but cyclists as a whole. If one rider does something bizarre in traffic, that action ripples out into community and leaves a lasting impression. Know the rules of the road and abide by them. Know your rights, but take care to yield to cars their rights. Our goal is to share the road, not yank it away from drivers.

### **Have You Volunteered, Lately? (Nov 4, 2006)**

One of our members posed a question yesterday, that made most of the leadership of our club laugh themselves silly. The question was "How large a pool of volunteers do you have to draw on to run the club and club events?". This was a funny question, cuz the "pool" is small... and very shallow. It has only a few fish in it... and we keep catching the same ones over and over when we try to net helpers.

### **“Dress Like You Would for Strip Poker”...(Oct 28, 2006)**

Layers. Good when it comes to cakes...Also good when it comes to dressing for cycling at this time of year. How do you deal with a start temp below 60 degrees and a finish temp over 80 degrees? Dress like you would for strip poker, with bits and pieces that can be removed. Unless the starting temp is going to be under 50 to 55, most riders go bare legged still. Your legs are going to generate a lot of heat as soon as you start. Take care to not over-dress your upper torso, you should feel a bit chilled the first couple of miles. If you are warm from the start, you are going to be over heated before the end of the ride. Before adding a jacket, try adding an undie-shirt under your short sleeve jersey and a pair of arm-warmers. (Arm warmers extend from wrist to mid-bicep and can be slipped off as the day warms up.) To keep warm in the parking lot before the ride, steal your friends' body heat by excessively hugging everybody.

### **What’s Your Legacy?..You Can Do Everything Right, and Things Can Still Go Wrong...(Dec 9, 2006)**

This morning the riders who selected the long route rode past the spot where Wes Carnes was killed a few weeks ago. He was struck by a car while cycling on Lindsay Road, just north of Baseline. Wes was not a member of PMBC, but he was a "member" of Saturday Cycling, having stood among you in the parking lot now and then. We haven't talked much about the incident that ended this part of Wes's journey, for a reason. Wes was in the bike lane, where he was supposed to be, riding legally... doing everything right. But all of that "rightness" didn't keep him safe. From the perspective of learning something from this about cycling, the only lesson might seem to be that riding a bike can be dangerous. You can do everything right, and things will sometimes still go wrong. But we can learn a tremendous amount by considering the life that Wes led. He was man of huge commitments, to his family, his friends, his job, his church... and yet with all of that going, he made time in his life for cycling. He made seeking physical fitness... honoring his body... an important aspect of his life. He knew that the benefits of that would overflow into the other parts of his life. A most excellent lesson...

### **Just Who She Is...Our Very Own Sue...(Nov 11, 2006)**

Today's Tid Bits section is dedicated to No One...May the road of your life be down hill, with a tail wind...

## On-Target Advocacy Lesson Provided by ASU Professor

By Bob Beane

I recently read a very constructive article, from a cycling advocacy perspective, that was published in the Ahwatukee Republic. The author of the article was Dave Wells of Tempe, who happens to hold a doctorate in political economy and public policy, and happens also to teach at Arizona State University.

Dave's article was titled "Deadly Drivers Shouldn't Escape Substantial Penalties". In it, Dave reviewed the tragic death of Scottsdale cyclist John Carney, the car/bike accident involving cyclist Terry Earp that has left the playwright paralyzed, and the recent accident involving Jane and George Esahak-Gage that nearly killed the triathlete and injured his wife. He also included as an example the death of the Walls family of Chandler, rear-ended at the end of an exit ramp off the 101 in Scottsdale, all of whom perished when 29 year-old Haluk Kandas, who had a history of four accidents in four years, hit their minivan at 50 mph, turning it into a fiery death-trap.

The common element in each of the above accidents is that the driver at fault escaped with minimal monetary impact or jail time. It seems that Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas' office has an unwritten policy of not pursuing "deadly drivers" unless there is evidence of impairment. So, none will face criminal charges.

The article written by Mr. Wells taught me a lesson, in that it went on to suggest very specific actions that could be taken, legislatively, to address incidents such as those above...actions that might help prevent more of same, and which would provide some minimal sense of justice or relief to victims and their families. Beyond the article, that apparently received some noticeable response, Mr. Wells has gone forward with taking his suggestions to appropriate political bodies at the state level. A copy of the text of his recent e-mail letter follows:

"Dear Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees:

On Thursday, December 28, I had published in the East Valley Opinions of the Arizona Republic an op-ed entitled, "Deadly drivers shouldn't escape substantial penalties." (read it at <http://www.makedemocracymwork.org/columns/2006/12/28/deadly-drivers-shouldnt-escape-substantial-penalties/>)

The column hit a chord with readers—many of whom reported back to me their own frustrations with deadly drivers, who because they weren't DUI, didn't have charges applied to them.

One of my readers pointed out that Rep. Biggs had sponsored HB2208 last session ([http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/47leg/2r/summary/s.2208jud\\_corrected\\_asenacted.doc.htm](http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/47leg/2r/summary/s.2208jud_corrected_asenacted.doc.htm))

I would be interested, as would the folks I've cc'd here, in a dialogue about improving on HB2208's provisions as well as assuring that our county attorney actually pursues these cases. As you may know that office has an unwritten rule as reported by Republic columnist Laurie Robers to not prosecute non-DUI cases. Likewise, my students in this upcoming semester course on the state legislature may also wish to get involved.

The provisions which I had advocated, partly inspired by former New York Governor George Pataki's recommendations, were:

1. **ELIMINATE PROOF OF CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE FOR DEADLY DRIVERS.** For criminal charges when a driver causes the death or severe injury of others, being at fault should be sufficient if any of these apply: i) the driver had no license or it was suspended or revoked; ii) the driver had two or more other violations in the last 18 months; iii) the driver was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol; iv) the driver was fleeing a police officer; or v) the driver was previously convicted of vehicular assault or vehicular homicide.
2. **REVOKE LICENSES OF DRIVERS WHO KILL OR INJURE OTHERS.** Rather than suspend drivers licenses, which current law limits to no more than 180 days in the case of accidents causing death, we should revoke drivers licenses and then require the individual to successfully complete a DMV-approved accident prevention course prior to issuing a new probationary license that only becomes permanent with an established record of safe driving.
3. **INCREASE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR DRIVERS WHO CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.** Victims like George Esahak-Gage and Terry Earp face long and expensive battles for recovery, deadly drivers ought to be required to make substantial long-term payments into a victim assistance fund with wages garnished, if necessary.
4. **CRACK DOWN ON UNLICENSED DRIVERS.** Those who drive without a valid license ought to lose their vehicle. When these drivers commit other traffic violations, the vehicles should be impounded and in the most serious cases confiscated."

Mr. Wells also provided a comparison of proposed to current law, so that public officials can clearly understand the changes being requested. While the results of Dave Wells' efforts remain to be seen, the process he is following is impressive and clear. He has reinforced for me the value of clear and well thought out recommendations to public officials, many of whom are neither well-versed nor motivated enough to understand the issues that seem oh so clear to the cycling community. Rant and rail as we might, there is no substitute for outlining very specific, and reasonable, desired changes to existing laws.

If you would like to find out more about Mr. Wells' views and thoughts on the political process, or if you would like to simply thank him for his efforts on our behalf, he may be contacted at [Dave@MakeDemocracyWork.org](mailto:Dave@MakeDemocracyWork.org).

## Amgen Tour of California...Year Two

The Amgen Tour of California returns (following a very impressive initial year in 2006) with a second 700 mile, week-long professional road race to begin the stage race season. Already one of the top races in the world, the 2007 event will feature an opening weekend in the Bay area, and a finishing weekend on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Stages are listed below, and afternoon/evening TV coverage will be provided by "Versus" (the network formerly known as OLN).

For much more information regarding the teams, stages, route maps, etc., visit [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).

**Prologue – San Francisco** Sunday, February 18th

**Stage 1 – Sausalito to Santa Rosa** Monday, February 19th

**Stage 2 – Santa Rosa to Sacramento** Tuesday, February 20th

**Stage 3 – Stockton to San Jose** Wednesday, February 21st

**Stage 4 – Seaside to San Luis Obispo** Thursday, February 22nd

**Stage 5 – Solvang (time trial)** Friday, February 23rd

**Stage 6 – Santa Barbara to Santa Clarita** Saturday, February 24th

**Stage 7 – Long Beach (circuit race)** Sunday, February 25th

## International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) 2006 Report Card Tidbits...

- **Top Dog (State) in the USA: Oregon** – World class trails, statewide trail plan, great trail access, clubs.
- **Global Superstar: Scotland** – Nationwide plan for bike parks includes construction, management, tourism.
- **Most Endangered: Montana** – Forest service seeks to eliminate access to 700 miles of singletrack.
- **A Model for AZ?** – Named one of IMBA's 37 "Epic rides", the Syllamo Mtn Bike Trail opened just three years ago. Designed and partly constructed by retired park ranger Joe Dabney, the trail system includes over 50 riding miles, about 90% of which is single-track. There are variations in difficulty, river and mountain views, and a stop at Blanchard Springs Caverns. The trail is located near Mountain View, Arkansas, is open year-round, and costs a whopping \$3/day to ride. Details: [www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/recreation/syllamo\\_bike.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/recreation/syllamo_bike.html).

## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SUPPORTING MEMBERS...

**S.W.E.A.T. Magazine:** Fitness articles, gear reviews and event schedules. Available free in bike shops and fitness centers around the Valley.

**FITNESS PLUS:** Available in bike shops and fitness centers throughout the Valley.

**PAT'S CYCLERY:** 929 E Main, Mesa. (480) 964-3330. Trek, Diamondback, Schwinn, Sun (recumbents).

**LANDIS CYCLERY:** 1006 E Warner, Tempe (480) 730-1081, 2189 E Southern Ave, Tempe (480) 839-9383, 712 W Indian School Rd, Phoenix (602) 264-5681, 10417 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale (480) 948-9280. Specialized, Trek, Kestrel, Fisher, Thule bikes and accessories.

**JAVELINA CYCLES:** At the new location at Chandler Blvd and 48<sup>th</sup> St, SW corner, next to Va Bene restaurant and the new Gelato shop. (Ahwatukee) 480-598-3373. Titus, Raleigh, Fuji, Felt bikes, and more.

**TEMPE BICYCLE:** 330 W. University, Tempe (480) 966-6896.

**BIKE DEN:** 4312 W Cactus, Glendale (623) 938-0989. Bianchi, Litespeed, LeMond, Gary Fisher, Univega, Nishiki, Mountain Cycles, BMX and recumbents.

**BIKESPORT:** 12035 n 59<sup>th</sup> Ave, Glendale (623) 979-3474. Schwinn cycling & fitness, Giant, Paramount.

**OASIS CUSTOM BICYCLES:** 5815 w Hearn Rd, Glendale (623) 978-6787. Linear & BikeE recumbents.

**MIKE'S BIKE CHALET:** 5761 E Brown Rd, Mesa (480) 807-2944. Cannondale, Giant, road & mountain.

**BIKESMITH CYCLE & FITNESS:** 723A N Montezuma, Prescott (928) 445-0280. Schwinn, Specialized.

\*\*\*Supporting members provide annual financial support to PMBC through event proceeds, raffle prizes (including goods and services), ride support and technical assistance, volunteer participation in club events, publications of event schedules, in addition to all sorts of support for the cycling community, for which they deserve our support and patronage. When visiting a supporting member, thank them for their support, let them know that you have seen them listed in our newsletter, and let them know that you are one of nearly 500 GABA members cycling in central and northern Arizona ...

**GABA – Phoenix Metro**  
PO Box 26788  
Tempe, AZ 85285

**GABA – West Valley**  
PO Box 8125  
Glendale, AZ 85312