

VALLEY SPOKESMEN

Group Ride Schedule and Newsletter

*Come ride
with us!*

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club P.O. Box 2630 • Dublin, CA 94568 • www.valleyspokesmen.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been a member of Valley Spokesmen for over 10 years and this is the first time I have taken on one of the leadership positions. While I volunteered at a number of events, I felt I needed to give back to the club that provided me with a lot of enjoyment. Over the last few weeks I have been thinking about the most important things I could do over the next year to benefit the club.

The first is to continue the work started by the leadership team in 2015 to strengthen the club by involving more people in the operation of the clubs activities. We all benefited from the hard work of a small group of people who took on much so we could all ride and have fun. For the club to remain healthy it's critical we share the work. In 2015, the leadership team revised the organizational structure creating new positions and clear responsibilities. For 2016, I would like to continue to move forward, support our new directors in their responsibilities, and continue to find ways to broaden the base of workers. We all have something to contribute and I look forward to the enhancements that we can make to our events.

The second area of focus for 2016 is improving our safety on the road. While we always encourage everyone to ride safe, most accidents are preventable, but it does take effort on our part. I would like us work on three initial actions on to make our rides safer. #1: Report road hazards that we find while out on the road. Please use Bike East Bay's on-line hazard reporting system: (https://bikeeastbay.org/hazards_map). When a hazard is reported (on the Bike East Bay site) a notice is sent to the appropriate agency responsible maintaining the road. Bike East Bay follows up with the agency to close the loop. Many hazards exist because the responsible agency isn't aware of the problem and it gives the agency a chance to fix hazards before someone is seriously hurt. #2: Comment on road design issues where it impacts cyclists. You might think that our impact is limited but we can have a huge impact. Jim Duncan observed a design issue with the bike lane on the Foothill overpass over highway 580. Jim contacted CalTrans, his County Supervisor and the Dublin traffic engineer and the bike lane was moved and the lanes repainted to improve bike safety. Al Kalin is working to improve the safety of cyclists who ride Mt. Diablo. The road has a broken yellow line in the center of the road communicating to drivers that they may pass. This has resulted in a number of car/bike crashes with cars crossing the line to pass bikes going uphill and hitting descending bikes. The State Park service has put electronic "do not pass on blind turns" signs. This appears to have helped but the ultimate goal is to have the road painted with a double yellow line. Al has been making steady progress in bringing this issue to the attention of Park officials and his efforts are making progress. #3: Help improve the skills of members riding as a group. I would like to see us set up skills classes to help us all improve our riding skills. Our rides are a lot more fun when everyone comes back in the same condition they started in.

I look forward to working with the members and leadership during 2016. Have a safe & happy year!

Steve

STANDING RIDE OVERVIEW:

MONDAY and WEDNESDAY morning ride from Heather Farms leave at 9:00 a.m.

TUESDAY and THURSDAY conditioning rides from Dublin (Livermore Cyclery) leave at 9:30 a.m.

ODD FRIDAY morning ride from Central Park (San Ramon) at 9:00 a.m. Beginner Friendly.

JANUARY 2016

FRI. 1/1/15 4-L/S 25 miles (40 km) 9:00 a.m. Time for the traditional Valley Spokesmen New Year's Day ride to the summit (or as far as you want to go) of Mt Diablo. Meet in the Danville Railroad Museum parking lot for this social ride. Take I-680 to Diablo Rd exit; go west to Hartz and turn left; turn right on Prospect and left on Railroad Ave. Parking lot will be on the right. Bring water and snacks. Ride Host: Peter Rathmann, 925-336-0973.

SAT. 1/2/16 1-L/M 41 miles 9:30 a.m. San Leandro Marina – Alameda and Bay Farm Island. Starting at the San Leandro Marina, we'll ride a scenic loop around Bay Farm and Alameda islands including the former naval station and USS Kitty Hawk museum. Meet at San Leandro Marina parking lot on Mulford Point Dr. Take I-880 and exit Marina Blvd west. Route: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/3949198> Ride Host: Gary Hsueh, 510-334-1976.

SUN. 1/3/16 3-L/M, M, M/B 52-60 miles 9:30 a.m. STANDING VS 1st Sunday of the Month Ride. We will be riding a 52-60 mile loop from San Ramon Central Park and out to Livermore. There will be a group adding on the Flynn's to the route that is listed. We have a rest stop at the Starbucks in N. Vasco and Scenic, as well as the Starbucks on Vineyard in Livermore, before returning to San Ramon. Please feel free to join us and ride at your own pace. The route can be shortened after the 1st rest stop by returning on Greenville to Tesla and continuing on the route. Significant chance of rain will cancel this ride. Route Sheet: San_Ramon_Livermore_Loop_52.pdf Ride Host: Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581.

MON. 1/4/16 9:00 a.m. Dick Skow will lead a group from Heather Farm every Mon. and Wed. morning. Monday rides will be shorter (25-35 miles) and more leisurely paced. Wednesday rides will be about 35-45 miles at a moderate pace. There will be a coffee or lunch stop on all rides. Meet at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Take I-680 to Ygnacio exit and go east; turn left at San Carlos Road into Heather Farm and park in the lot by the ball fields on the right. The route will be available at: <http://ridewithgps.com/users/74695/routes> at least 48 hours before the ride. Be sure to check for the ride listed with the correct date. Ride Host: Richard Skow, 925-939-6964, rcskow@astound.net for ride details.

MON. 1/4/16 Monthly meeting of Valley Spokesmen Racing Team at 6:30 p.m. at Livermore Cyclery, 2752 First Street, Livermore. Everyone welcome! Call Ted Vidnovic, 925-337-2803 or email: vidnovic@yahoo.com, for further information.

TUES. 1/5/16 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday morning ride starting at Livermore Cyclery in Dublin (in shopping center at the SW corner of San Ramon Rd. and Amador Valley Blvd.). Route will be determined by the participants. This is a good

ride for someone getting back to riding after a lay off for any reason. Be sure to let me know so I can tailor the ride otherwise you should expect a 14-18 mph pace. This is a social ride involving a Peet's Coffee stop. Ride Host: Bob Heady, 925-980-7989.

WED. 1/6/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

WED. 1/6/16 9:00 a.m. Wednesday ride from Fallon Sports Park. The routes for this mini-series of Wednesday rides vary each week. The route and map will be provided via VS list a few days beforehand. Ride hosts: Cindy Gilbertson and Gail Blanco

THURS. 1/7/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

SAT. 1/9/16 4-M 68 miles 8:30 a.m. Starting from San Ramon Central Park, we'll head down to Danville and Orinda. After the first break at Orinda Theater Square, we'll head over to Wildcat, Grizzly Peak, Skyline, and return through Castro Valley. There are a few rest stops along the way. This is a moderately paced ride with 4,400 feet of climbing. Please bring liquid and food. Please print the route sheet or load it to your GPS device. <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/6399876> Ride host: Joe Cheng, 925-683-9689.

SAT. 1/9/16 2 L/M 21/29 miles 10:00 a.m. Sycamore Valley Park & Ride. 1st in a series of weekly Feather Pedals conditioning rides leading up to the Cinderella Classic. This week's ride starts at the Sycamore Ave. Park&Ride lot at the NE corner of the intersection with I-680 in Danville. We'll head up to Blackhawk and then south on Dougherty and Bollinger into Dublin before returning through San Ramon. The Plus option adds an out-and-back to Las Trampas. Arrive 15 minutes early for ride announcements. <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/4348927> <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/4349001> Ride Host: Karin Ball

SUN. 1/10/16 2/M+B 47 miles 9:30 a.m. Tandemonium Ride. We're breaking out the tandems again and hoping to get a few more tandems, and a more diverse group of riders. We'll have a fast tandem group, as well as a slower tandem group. The single bikes can ride as their own group or off the back of the tandems. Tandems are a little slower up hill, but the descents are FAST and fun to ride in the drafts if you can. We will be doing a few regroupings. If you're able to join us, meet at Diablo Vista Park on Tassajara Ranch Rd. just east of Crow Canyon Rd. Link: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/7605761> Ride Hosts: Alberto Lanzas and Gail Blanco, gvblanco@aol.com, 925-872-1001.

MON. 1/11/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

TUES. 1/12/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

WED. 1/13/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

THURS. 1/14/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

FRI. 1/15/16 2-L/M No Drop 25-35 miles 9:30 a.m. This Odd FriDay series of rides will start at Central Park and be geared toward the riders who show. Central Park is located at the intersection of Bollinger and Alcosta Blvd., across from the Library. ALL riders are welcomed! We generally do a coffee shop stop near the end of the ride. (Beginner Friendly) Ride Host: Gail Blanco, gvblanco@aol.com, 925-872-1001.

SAT. 1/16/16 2 L/M 22/27 miles 10:00 a.m. Sycamore Valley Park & Ride. 2nd in a series of weekly Feather Pedals conditioning rides leading up to the Cinderella Classic. This week's ride starts at the Sycamore Ave. Park&Ride lot at the NE corner of the intersection with I-680 in Danville. Arrive 15 minutes early for ride announcements.
<http://ridewithgps.com/routes/4348927>
<http://ridewithgps.com/routes/4349001>
Ride Host: Kathy Kane kathymkane@gmail.com

SUN. 1/17/16 2 M 48 miles 10:00 a.m. West Dublin BART. West Dublin BART to Calaveras Rd. and back. Starting from south side mall parking lot west of Dublin BART, we ride south on Foothill Blvd to bypass town. Ride the southern summit of Calaveras Rd. and back. Leader will lunch in Sunol as we return. Option to shorten out & back beyond Sunol – go to 1st summit or as far as you wish. Option to lengthen join leader riding from Castro Valley BART at 9:00 to add a dozen miles one way. Must RSVP if meeting in Castro Valley BART (top of BART stairs). Rain cancels but wet roads do not. Co-listed with Grizzly Peak club. Ride Host: Steve Tracy tracy.steve@att.net or (510) 881-6042.

MON. 1/18/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

TUES. 1/19/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

WED. 1/20/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

WED. 1/20/16 9:00 a.m. See Fallon Sports Park ride details on WED. 1/6/16.

THURS. 1/21/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

SAT. 1/23/16 2 L/M 27/33 miles 10:00 a.m. Sycamore Valley Park & Ride. 3rd in a series of weekly Feather Pedals conditioning rides leading up to the Cinderella Classic. This week's ride starts at the Sycamore Ave. Park&Ride lot at the NE corner of the intersection with I-680 in Danville. Arrive 15 minutes early for ride announcements.
Classic: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/6149644>
Plus: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/6149644>
Ride Host: Chris Pham; cpham1@frk.com

MON. 1/25/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

TUES. 1/26/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

WED. 1/27/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

THURS. 1/28/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

FRI. 1/29/16 9:30 a.m. See Odd FriDay Ride details on FRI. 1/15/16.

SAT. 1/30/16 2 L/M 31/34 miles 10:00 a.m. Sycamore Valley Park & Ride. 4th in a series of weekly Feather Pedals conditioning rides leading up to the Cinderella Classic. This week's ride starts at the Sycamore Ave. Park&Ride lot at the NE corner of the intersection with I-680 in Danville. Arrive 15 minutes early for ride announcements.
<http://ridewithgps.com/routes/10907992>
<http://ridewithgps.com/routes/10908031>
Ride Host: Rebecca Wood rcwood1@sbcglobal.net

FEBRUARY 2016

MON. 2/1/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

TUES. 2/2/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

WED. 2/3/16 9:00 a.m. See Heather Farm Standing Ride details on MON. 1/4/16.

THURS. 2/4/16 9:30 a.m. See Tues./Thurs. Morning Standing Ride details on TUES. 1/5/16.

FRI. 2/5/16 9:30 a.m. See Odd FriDay Ride details on FRI. 1/15/16.

SAT. 2/6/16 2 L/M 35/38 miles 10:00 a.m. Sycamore Valley Park & Ride. 5th in a series of weekly Feather Pedals conditioning rides leading up to the Cinderella Classic. This week's ride starts at the Sycamore Ave. Park&Ride lot at the NE corner of the intersection with I-680 in Danville. Arrive 15 minutes early for ride announcements.
Classic: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/10909870>
Plus: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/10909989>
Ride Host: Karin Ball; khball2@yahoo.com

SUN. 2/7/16 9:30 a.m. See STANDING VS 1st Sunday of the Month Ride details on SUN. 1/3/16.

PLEASE NOTE --- HERE ARE RIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND CLINICS IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE

DAILY LUNCHTIME TRAINING RIDES: Join members of the Valley Spokesmen Racing Team and Lawrence Livermore Cyclotrons for daily training rides. Rides are 20-25 miles at a fast/brisk pace. Meet at 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Visitors Center on Greenville Road. NOTE: The group tends to split into fast and slow packs, so there is an option for a less vigorous pace. (Take I-580 to Greenville Road exit, go south on Greenville for about 3 miles, parking lot for the Visitors Center is on the right, look for the flagpoles). For ride/course descriptions, contact Rocco Hollaway at 925-422-9701: hollaway1@llnl.gov

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING 3-B (hilly route and brisk pace) 35 miles (56 km) 8:00 a.m. Join the VS Race Team for a 3-B 35-mile ride with 2-B option (a little less hilly). We'll ride from the Bankhead Theater (North First St. @ S. Livermore) up Tesla, Cross Rd., Patterson Pass, South Flynn Rd. (or you can skip the Flynn climb and take Greenville), Altamont Pass

Rd., residential streets to Dalton out to N. Livermore, Manning, Collier Canyon, Portola, and back to Livermore. Ride Leaders will vary. Contact Don Williams at 925-580-9395.

EVERY 1st SATURDAY MORNING each month. 4-S 45-60 miles (72-90 km) 9:00 a.m. Join the Wheels of Thunder and Valley Spokesmen Racing Team on a joint training ride. The ride starts in downtown Pleasanton from the parking lot on Neal Street between Main and First Streets (across from the drive-through milk store). The pace varies with re-grouping at the top of most long climbs. Most routes have turn-around points for those wanting shorter versions of the ride. All riders are welcome, but be warned that these are not entry-level rides. Each ride is a "no-drop" ride on rolling terrain that is close to 18 mph and is a good place for fit new riders to start. For information call Bob Fusco at 925-899-4027.

RIDE REVIEWS

Nov 27: Cason and I opted for the "longer option" Black Friday ride. We were joined by Kovarus rider Dave Garcia. Dave is a skilled and saavy racer and he rode with us to Highland Rd., encouraging and Mentoring Cason who was a bit uncomfortable in the cold wind. Dave pushed on ahead, needing to get back to D'ville at a quicker pace than we could muster. When we reached Highland Rd., we opted to head west and skip Patterson Pass on this cold and windy day. We stopped at the Starbucks on Dublin Blvd. at Tassajara to warm our fingers with some hot chocolate. Remounted and reinvigorated, we galloped back to IHT for the run back to SRCP. We made a steady 20 MPH into the wind as if trying to redeem ourselves for blowing off the wind farm. We vowed to return to face The Wall another day when the wind chill was above 20 degrees. Joe Allen

Nov 28: A cold, but sunny day.....nice biking weather.....in memory of "Cyclista Sue." After the ride many of us gathered at Ruby Hill Winery to toast to Sue's life. Her younger sister Jacquie Cituk and her husband joined us. They played an 18 minute DVD of Sue's life in photos.... 2nd youngest of 5 children, 2 sisters, 2 brothers; Brownie; Softball player; married and divorced once; 2 PHD's; traveled to 34 countries; spoke 5 languages; kayaker; fencer (as in fencing); avid cyclist; scientist – met Stephen Hawking; authored two books; she was creamated in her favorite bike jersey along with her helmet for the journey ahead; ashes will be spread in Italy Clay

Dec 5: Thank you, Janet and Doug, for a wonderfully fun evening!!! Thank you for all your hard work on the parade and for all your hard work on feeding the hungry parade participants!!! It was a delightful evening filled with great memories!!! Thank you so much!!! Kathy Koos

Thanks to the Ondriceks and everyone who worked on the preparations for the parade. There were sizeable crowds lining the entire parade route with lots of kids waving as we went by. Peter

This bluebird heard quite a few comments from the crowd about the young riders from the audience, of which half was kids.

Your grandsons were great ambassadors for cycling and the VS club. They will be required to attend next year too. Feel free to petition for airfare reimbursement. More likely an incentive like a thermos of hot chocolate (or gallon box of decaf) would get more kids out (and get the

attention of other riders waiting) for the parade. Kids maybe could arrive closer to start time? I will be happy to shag the gallon from Peet's next time. Steve T.

Dec 12: Brahim picked a nice day for our ride out Tesla/Corral Hollow to Tracy with sunny skies and comfortable temperatures. Our return took us through Mountain House and past the Bethany Reservoir before returning along the aqueduct and over Altamont Pass. Peter

Dec 12: Thanks to Julie Hampton and Dick Ward both for hosting tonight's ride to see some of the Danville lights and also for inviting us to their home for post-ride refreshments and partying. Peter

Dec 18: Kathy's ride today was originally planned to go to the summit of Mt. Diablo, but the clouds hovering at the 2500' level made that seem less appealing than usual. So we opted to instead drop down the north side into Walnut Creek for refreshments and then climb back up to the junction. Peter

Dec 25: Gail and Alberto hosted today's Christmas ride from Diablo Vista Park over to Livermore before returning through Pleasanton, Dublin, and San Ramon. Started off a little chilly but the sunshine and our pedaling efforts soon warmed us up as we rolled through the hillsides north of Livermore that have finally turned green again. Peter

Dec 26: A little brisk this morning for the start of our ride from San Ramon Central Park but the climb to Schaefer Ranch got us properly warmed up – only to be chilled again on the descent of Dublin Canyon. The 5 Canyon and Fairview climb warmed us up again and we were rewarded with spectacular clear views of the bay and SF from the summit of Hayward Ave. The recent storms did a nice job of clearing all the haze out of the air. Peter

Jan 2: Today 17 of us enjoyed a ride that gave us many scenic views of the bay from the San Leandro Marina to Alameda, the USS Hornet, Bay Farm Island, and more. It was nice to get some sun, and very little wind, though it did get colder later. We split up naturally into a couple of different pace groups, and some of us skipped the loop at the end. But I think everyone had a good time. Gary

Thanks for hosting this ride Gary. Peter

VALLEY SPOKESMEN UPCOMING EVENTS

Feather Pedals Conditioning Rides Again: January 9th begins the Feather Pedals 8th season. Come out for our conditioning rides designed to ready women for the Cinderella Classic. These rides increase in mileage gradually each week. Skills classes before the rides give newer members confidence to master situations they may encounter. This year is Cinderella's 40th and will roll on Saturday April 9th. Be a part of this fun group and hit your 2016 fitness goal! Click on Feather Pedals in the VS website for more details.

Valley Spokesmen 2016 Mid-Winter Party: February 6th is the date for the 2016 Valley Spokesmen mid-winter party. This year it will be held at the beautiful home of Gary & Kathy Koos in Pleasanton. A catered meal, entertainment, awards, and music will be provided. You bring your fun self. If you're new to the Valley Spokesmen or a long-time member, this is the chance to meet new friends and strengthen existing

friendships. This is for 2016 members only. 6pm social hour, 7pm dinner. The cost is \$20 per person, limited to the first 100 people who sign up. To sign up, go to the Valley Spokesmen website and click on the Events section at the top. It will lead you to information and the registration page.

UPCOMING CYCLING EVENTS

January

1 Annual Ride up Mt. Diablo, Danville, CA

16 Stagecoach Century, Ocotillo, CA

http://www.shadowtour.com/Century_Rides/Stagecoach.htm

23 Tour de Palm Springs, Palm Springs, CA

<http://www.tourdepalmsprings.com/>

February

14 The Velo Love Ride, Gridley, CA

<http://www.chicovelo.org/velo-love-ride-february.html>

20 Pedaling Paths to Independence, Linden, CA

<http://www.communitycenterfortheblind.org/pedaling-paths/>

20 Camino Real Double Century, Irvine, CA

<http://planetultra.com/portfolio/camino-real-double-century-poker-run/>

27 Cycle for Survival, SF and Palo Alto, CA

<https://www.cycleforsurvival.org/events/sanfrancisco>

VALLEY SPOKESMEN AFFILIATIONS

Adventure Cycling – www.adventurecycling.org

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council – www.ridgetrail.org

Bike East Bay – www.bikeeastbay.org (formerly EBBC)

Bicycle Trail Council of the East Bay - www.btceb.org

C.B.C. - California Bicycle Coalition - www.calbike.org

California State Parks Foundation - www.parks.ca.gov

East Bay Regional Parks - www.ebparks.org

Greenbelt Alliance – www.greenbelt.org

L.A.B. - League of American Bicyclists - www.bikeleague.org

National Parks Conservation Association - www.npca.org

Nature Conservancy – www.nature.org/legacy

Planning and Conservation League - www.pcl.org

Rails to Trails – www.railstotrails.org

Yosemite Conservancy

VALLEY SPOKESMAN MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 2, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Marcus Van Raalte

Introductions were made by those present.

Minutes from the 2014 December meeting as well as the 2015 September meeting were approved as printed in the club newsletter.

In the absence of Treasurer Dan Carhart, Clay Dunning reported on our Profit/Loss from January through December 2015. Our savings account is status quo as of the last report. The checking account looks particularly large due to the number of Cinderella 2016 registrations that have been received. Members are welcome to receive a copy of this report upon request. The treasurers report was accepted as presented.

Member's Forum

- At the request of Al Kalin, Steve Whelan reported the need of 10 V.S. members to attend a meeting in Walnut Creek with Mt. Diablo State Park officials and

staff representing certain elected officials., The discussion will concern safety improvements to reduce the number of head on collisions between cyclists descending the mountain and cars who are in the wrong lane. Those who agreed to attend include: Peter and Sharon Culshaw; Mark Dedon; Dick Skow, Peter Rathmann, Kevin and Teresa Thieben, Dianne Thompson, and Steve Whelan

- Jim Paulos questioned when and how the membership approved the new officer configuration. Members voted on this issue when ballots were sent out requesting the approval of the new by-laws, which passed unanimously. A description also appeared in the November club newsletter.
- Dick Skow inquired about the status of "Ride with GPS." Ken Hernandez has established a club account.

The process for the elections of 2016 Officers and Directors began with ballots brought to the meeting being collected and added to the 183 ballots received in the mail. Nominations were closed. The ballot counters adjourned to another room to process the ballots.

Ride Report: Peter Rathman reported rides of note included: Kathy's Mt. Hamilton ride; the Progressive Dinner allowing the riders to enjoy two-thirds of the planned route due to weather but allowing plenty of time to socialize and enjoy the last two courses in the warmth inside; several rides over Corral Hollow and the Tracy area; the ride over Mt. Diablo and Morgan Territory; the memorial ride for Susan Hojacki "Ciclista Sue"; and the continued Monday /Wednesday rides.

Alberto Lanzas reported the club ride library is interfaced with Ken Hernandez.

Bonnie Powers mentioned two upcoming events of importance, the Livermore Holiday Parade at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 5th; and the Mid-Winter Party, Saturday, February 6, 2016 which is limited to 100 participants at a cost of \$20.00 per person.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Dick Skow with a slide show of his group's Ride Around the Bay starting in Walnut Creek. They rode to Petaluma, then Half Moon Bay, then on to San Jose and returning to Walnut Creek. Thanks Dick, it was an excellent show.

The results of the election for the 2016 officers/directors are:

President: Steve Whelan

Vice-President: Dianne Thompson

Secretary: Kathy Koos

Treasurer: Don Carpenter

Communications Director: Rebecca Wood

Cycling Director: Rob Delfosse

Events Director: Jim Duncan

Administrative Services Director: Bonnie Powers

The ballots count showed 14 write-ins for Communications Director. Rebecca Wood received a majority of the ballots and was elected to the position. Members were reminded they may volunteer with mini participation doing tasks they enjoy. As an example Mark Goroff has volunteered to be a ride chairperson.

Thank you was expressed to the outgoing officers for a job well done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m to the Executive Board meeting December 9, 2015 at 6640 Spruce Lane, Dublin, CA. Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Powers, Recording Secretary, Pro-tem.

VALLEY SPOKESMAN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING December 9, 2015

Present: Marcus Van Raalte, Clay Dunning, Mark Dedon, Bonnie Powers, Joe Cheng, Dan Carhart, Julie Hampton, Kathy Koos

Absent: Ken Hernandez, Jane Moorhead, Peter Rathmann
CALL TO ORDER by Marcus at 7:02

Bonnie introduced a guest visitor, Paul Mitchell, and pointed out that Paul is the reason we have a Cinderella.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE AND DECEMBER GENERAL MEETINGS--Clay brought up the topic of approval of the General Meeting minutes and mentioned that those minutes should be approved by the General Membership at the following General Meeting. There was a discussion on when to review and approve the General Meeting minutes. It was agreed that December's General Meeting minutes would be up for review and approval by the membership at the March quarterly meeting. Bonnie pointed out that minutes (both General and Executive) are always available for review on the website and in the newsletter. Jim disagreed with December General Meeting minutes and wanted to correct the record that Rebecca was not nominated from the floor. Jim noted that Rebecca was a write in candidate. Kathy asked about approval of the November Executive minutes. Bonnie made a motion to approve the November minutes, Marcus seconded the motion and all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT--Dan provided a Profit and Loss Statement by Class for the Board to review. Clay asked if it possible to capture the 2016 revenue and put it in a deferred revenue account. What ensued was a robust discussion on Accrual vs. Cash accounting system. Dan said that QuickBooks can generate multiple specific reports. Dan will meet with Don Carpenter (incoming Treasurer) to review accounting procedures and records. There was a discussion on proposing budgets for different events during the year. Julie noted that "past budgets" were loosely based upon expenses of the preceding year. Jim pointed out that due to Dan's work, our accounting records have been the best they have ever been. Bonnie agreed. Marcus inquired about balances of the various accounts. Dan provided an accounting of all balances.

OLD BUSINESS

Ride Report--Joe mentioned the need for Ride Host in December and January. A monthly reminder notice has been sent out. The Walnut Creek group is talking about doing a tour in Monterey during the spring. Once more information becomes available, the opportunity will be open to the club.

V.S. Website--no report

Master Plans--no report

Correspondence--Bonnie reported this is the time of year when organizations are seeking End-of-the-Year donations. Previously, the Board authorized \$1,500.00 in donations from the general fund. There was a discussion on what organizations were seeking donations. Dan confirmed we have expended \$814.00 in donations thus far this year. It

should be noted that these donations are separate from the donations made from Cinderella funds. Dan indicated that we have money to donate and suggested we donate to something that has a more direct benefit specifically to cyclists. Jim made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 each to Bike East Bay and the California Bicycle Coalition. Bonnie seconded the motion. Bonnie, Dan, Julie, Kathy, Mark D., and Marcus voted in favor. Clay voted against and Joe didn't vote. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers and Directors--completed during the December General Meeting.

Contact Information for new Officers and Directors--Julie requested updated and complete information from all Board members and Liaisons in order to complete the last page of the Newsletter.

Governance Transition Plan--Clay introduced a Governance Transition Plan that serves as an outline for the work completed this year and also serves as a guideline for things to be completed in the forthcoming year. The Plan was incorporated into the minutes and is available to members for review upon request. Briefly, Clay made the following recommendations: creation of a Director's Guide, Policy Log, and a Strategic Business Plan. Clay also mentioned and lobbied for a vote by acclamation in the event a candidate or candidates run unopposed in elections. Such a procedure would obviate the need for an election if the nomination were unopposed. Clay also mentioned that a Binder detailing the steps in organizing the Cinderella had been created by Steve, Emma, and other Board members and suggests that we create other like binders for all documents and events. Bonnie suggested that we have an opportunity to look his proposal over. Clay and Marcus assured the Board that this was a guideline to be considered in 2016, therefore no action was necessary at this time.

Cinderella--Jim reported that we will be running color ads in Cycle California. The first ad will run in January and the second one will run in February. To date, we have 1136 registered Cinderellas and 150 jerseys ordered. Jim noted that Cinderella 2017 has been reserved for April 8, 2017. Bonnie has not received a permit request from the Fair Grounds, but has filled out a permit for City of Pleasanton. Julie asked about advertising Cinderella via strategically placed posters at different locations and volunteered to put up the posters. Jim has been in touch with Linda Desai to see if she'd be interested in designing and creating the 2016 Cinderella posters. Those proposed posters would be commemorative posters.

Mid-Winter Party--Kathy updated the Board on the progress of the Mid-winter party. Kathy inquired about updating the website to include details concerning the event on the Home Page. Jim confirmed he had contacted Ken with that request.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bonnie mentioned that her mother will be bringing in her 98th birthday with a celebration at Bonnie's house on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Julie will be hosting a holiday ride and party on Saturday, December 12, 2015. If it is raining, the ride will be canceled but the party will still continue. Julie asked about Ride Coordinators in 2016 and confirmed that Coordinators responsible for posting rides on the Calendar will be Joe Cheng and Mark Goroff.

Bonnie mentioned the Holiday Lights Parade and subsequent

party was amazing. The parade had multiple Valley Spokesmen participants. Of special note were two little guys (Eileen's Grandchildren) that participated, one using a balance bike for the entire route. Hailey Powers, for a second year, was the perfect Cinderella. Clay inquired about a video of the event. No one knew if one was created.

Mitchell was very happy to see the executive meeting going so well and glad that it had continued over the years.

Marcus adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m. to the Executive Board meeting on January 13, 2016 at 6640 Spruce Lane, Dublin, California.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Koos, Recording Secretary

**Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Club Correspondence
December 2015**

Correspondence sent:

1. Check to Business Cards (B of A) for credit card bill (Dream Host; Office Depot; Voler; Cat Ears Wild Apricot; fees.
2. Check to Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLL for postal meter lease.
3. Check to Minuteman Press for Cinderella kick-off expenses and January newsletter.
4. Check to Cycle California! Magazine for Cinderella advertisement.
5. Check to Minuteman Press for printing of Newsbrief.
6. Check to Mark Dedon for hotel expense at BE-Pro Conference.
7. Check to Doug/Janet Ondricek for Livermore Holiday parade expenses.
8. Check to Dublin Security Storage for storage locker (13 months).
9. Check to City of Dublin for Cinderella permit.
10. Check to Contra Costa County for Cinderella permit.
11. Check to County of Alameda for Cinderella permit.
12. Check to Business Cards (B of A) for credit card bill (Sockguy; Herman Shum Memorial; Wild Apricot; Voler; GoDaddy.com fees.)
13. Letters of welcome to new/old members for 2015. Currently membership stands at 531 for new year.

Correspondence received:

1. Contracts from Contra Costa County; County of Alameda; City of Livermore; and City of Pleasanton; City of Dublin for Cinderella.
2. Multiple requests for membership renewals and donations..
3. Thank you letters from the following organizations for Cinderella donations: Child Abuse Prevention Council; Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence; STAND! For Families Free of Violence; techbridge; and Women's Daytime Drop-In Center.
4. Notices for upcoming meetings regarding bicycle issues from Pleasanton, Dublin, Walnut Creek and San Ramon.
5. Information on upcoming events and tours.
6. Newsletters and magazines from various clubs, organizations and businesses.

🚲 VALLEY SPOKESMEN CLUB GEAR 🚲

The following Valley Spokesmen clothing is available:
 short sleeve jersey - club cut - \$65.00
 short sleeve jersey - women's cut -\$65.00
 long sleeve jersey - (to be discontinued)\$70.00
 sleeveless wind shell vest -\$60.00
 long sleeve jacket - (to be discontinued).....\$69.99
 shorts - women / men -\$58.00
 bib shorts - (to be discontinued).....\$65.00

arm warmers\$30.00
 gloves - yellow, blue, black - (changing to blue & black only) -\$27.00
 socks - white, yellow, black - (changing to blue & black only) -\$7.00

Contact Jim Duncan for club gear:

hey-you@comcast.net or 925-209-1369

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Mileage Report as of 12-18-15 Newsletter mileage Query			
Name	Total of Miles	Rides Led	Total Rides
Agostino, Val	329	0	8
Allen, Cason	282	0	7
Allen, Joe	1750	3	46
Ammann, Alicia	279	0	6
Bachman, Janette	246	0	6
Ball, Karin	586	4	15
Barbier, Larry	1770	0	54
Barnett, Bob	2193	0	52
Bartlett, Christine	308	0	7
Bezdek, Larry	2552	0	59
Blain, Bob	484	0	13
Blanco, Gail	3685	45	81
Buckingham, Charles	627	0	18
Busch, Ray	217	0	5
Carey, Liz	235	0	5
Carhart, Dan	2643	40	73
Carpenter, Don	1873	0	51
Castaneda, Ana	225	0	3
Castleman, Ellen	368	0	8
Cheng, Joe	2610	9	60
Choy, Serena	1298	0	43
Chronister, Kelli	238	0	5
Cohen, Sahrye	231	0	6
Conger, Jim	595	6	19
Cosin, Wendy	2587	18	68
Crawford, Erin	343	0	7
Crawford, Marlowe	491	0	10
Crawford, Matt	383	0	8
Culshaw, Pete	3158	27	80
Culshaw, Sharon	846	0	28
Cushman, Francie	1501	6	43
Dahlgard, Jackie	599	0	9
Daly, Deb	1038	0	19
Dangerfield, Melba	386	0	10
de la Motte, Janelle	344	0	9
Dedon, Erica	629	1	15
Dedon, Mark	1762	2	44
Delfosse, Rob	2285	14	55
Deornelas, Vic	1916	1	37
DePasquale, Tammy	238	0	5
Derrick, Peter	222	0	6
Donovan, Deb	433	0	13
Duncan, Jim	2053	9	67
Dunning, Clay	1486	6	28
Dunning, Craig	1110	5	21
Duran, Veronica	464	0	17

Mileage Report as of 12-18-15 Newsletter mileage Query			
Name	Total of Miles	Rides Led	Total Rides
Duvoisin, Marc	539	0	12
Dworkin, Doug	314	0	8
Eacret, Wes	570	0	11
Earby, Karen	261	0	6
Eckels, Del	202	0	7
Enriquez, Gilbert	1963	0	49
Faires, Debbie	362	0	8
Ferriere, Karen	249	0	6
Flusche, Tony	618	0	18
Frantz, Pat	435	0	9
Fraser, Jack	298	0	7
Fraser, Maribel	284	0	6
Frasier, Debbie	921	0	23
Fredricks, Larry	504	0	13
Fujii, Bob	735	0	15
Fujii, Vivian	312	0	7
Fusco, Bob	1594	0	42
Gabe, Jan	737	0	22
Garcia, Dave	1672	0	48
Gelder, Jacki	269	0	7
Goldman, Ken	640	0	14
Gomez, Lynnette	448	0	11
Goroff, Marc	1244	0	26
Graves, Gretchen	268	0	6
Green, Jan	300	0	7
Grinols, Susan	290	0	8
Groves, Susan	585	0	15
Guarienti, Faye	388	0	8
Haar, Crista	237	0	5
Hagelin, Craig	984	0	32
Hambrech, Jeannie	287	0	6
Hampton, Julie	1347	9	32
Hansen, Renata	1338	0	27
Harral, Maria	372	0	10
Haupt, Chuck	1245	0	36
Heady, Bob	1313	45	60
Healy, Theresa	1141	0	22
Hermann, Mark	562	0	16
Hernandez, Ken	3049	6	75
Hernandez, Mary	2337	3	60
Hirt, Janice	217	0	6
Hsueh, Gary	228	3	8
Huang, Shiny	265	0	4
Huey, Jeanine	289	0	6
Jakubowski, Diane	499	0	11
Janer, Mark	241	0	6
Jensen, Cori	244	0	8
Johnson, Carinne	294	0	6
Kane, Kathy	647	2	16
Kiely, Mary Ann	348	0	8
Koos, Gary	1126	0	19
Koos, Kathy	2617	23	46
Kovisto, Mark	209	0	5
Kowalewski, Steve	772	6	23

Mileage Report as of 12-18-15 Newsletter mileage Query			
Name	Total of Miles	Rides Led	Total Rides
Kriebel, Olivia	281	0	5
Kwong, James	230	0	4
Kwong, Linda	282	0	5
Kyong, Peter	1627	0	51
Lagodzinski, Andrew	390	0	8
Landini, Bonnie	231	0	4
Landini, Peter	231	0	4
Lanzas, Alberto	2428	20	50
Lark, Mary	302	0	7
Lecklikner, Jan	216	0	4
Leddon, Dave	1767	0	45
Lee, Karen Klimkosky	240	0	7
Licata, Barbara	343	0	8
Lifter, Jill	391	0	9
Lisy, Norm	915	0	22
Louis, Ken	387	0	12
Low, Ellen	233	0	6
Lowe, Diana	266	0	9
Lund, Shauneen	286	0	8
Madelo, Adele	1178	0	28
Maggio, Lauren	422	0	11
Makkink, Marjon	340	0	8
Martin, Don	291	0	5
Martin, Robin	213	0	5
Mason, Harris	223	0	5
Mayfield, Milinda	431	0	9
Meidberg, Larry	452	0	16
Mertz, Jacqueline	1155	0	27
Meyers, Leslie	389	0	9
Miller, Kristen	453	0	10
Moore, Janet	414	0	10
Moorhead, Jane	2095	58	95
Morson, Kathy	476	0	12
Moyer, Greg	201	0	7
Murdock, Kristina	279	0	7
Murphy, Julie	414	0	7
Naastrom, John	314	0	7
Nadeau, Alaine	910	0	30
Neal, Carolyn	200	0	4
Neal, Dave	300	0	6
Newbury, Kim	244	0	4
Norek, Al	921	0	31
Nowell, Keith	337	2	9
Nowell, Linda	433	2	10
O'Boyle, Maureen	293	0	7
Ogura, Patricia	217	0	5
Olenberger, Emma	286	0	7
Ondricek, Doug	1218	23	37
Ondricek, Janet	282	8	10
Page, Janie	388	5	25
Parrish, Charles	1237	0	35
Pearsons, Ruth Ann	356	0	9
Pellerin, Mary	246	0	6
Pereira, David	1517	8	41

Due to changes or cancellation of a ride, go to the VS website ride calendar to confirm the accuracy of a ride listing.

Mileage Report as of 12-18-15 Newsletter mileage Query			
Name	Total of Miles	Rides Led	Total Rides
Pham, Chris	491	1	14
Pickard, Lisa	281	0	7
Piekarski, Sharon	446	0	10
Po, Ismael	1847	0	48
Polley, Ed	391	0	10
Powers, Dick	1203	0	26
Powers, Hailey	202	0	3
Putnam, Ned	1062	0	28
Rafanelli, Pam	613	0	12
Rasmussen, Ron	944	0	27
Rathmann, Peter	6380	19	169
Reilly, T.J.	1999	0	60
Roberts, Mary	203	0	4
Roberts, Susan	344	0	10
Roe, Joan	285	0	7
Roe, Larry	203	0	6
Rossiter, Jaynette	1011	0	34
Rossiter, Jennifer	230	0	6
Rudy, Kevin	260	0	7
Sandoval, Veronica	296	0	8
Satoutah, Brahim	1943	6	37
Seda, Marta	443	0	10
Selby, Joe	265	0	7
Serriere, Vianney	1625	0	39
Settle, Andy	2494	0	62
Shannon, Geoff	3383	28	90
Shigemoto, Lisa	306	0	9
Shum, Bart	1503	0	29
Simpson, Christy	2471	5	76
Skow, Dick	2964	26	78
Slagle, Pete	212	0	6
Smith, Jerry	486	0	12
Smith, Kimberly	244	0	4
Smith, Maren	386	0	10
Sovulewski, Larry	321	0	22
Spiegel, Joan	672	0	17
Steinbeck, Sandra	245	0	4
Stevens, Jan	1141	0	33
Stewart, Mike	2469	0	65
Strain, Kathy	1618	4	35
Strain, Robert	1915	6	42
Streit, Ron	263	0	5
Stucky, Jane	690	0	14
Sukovich, Drew	311	0	6
Talbot, Chris	557	0	17
Thieben, Kevin	1750	4	35
Thieben, Teresa	309	0	6
Thomas, Walt	513	0	14
Thompson, Dianne	1720	3	43
Tracy, Steve	422	0	7
Trublood, Lori	226	0	6
Uher, Julie	524	0	17
Uher, Will	1216	0	27
Van De Vreugde, Jim	995	0	22

Mileage Report as of 12-18-15 Newsletter mileage Query			
Name	Total of Miles	Rides Led	Total Rides
van Raalte, Laurie	698	1	15
van Raalte, Marcus	2095	0	40
Vanderlip, Rob	225	0	4
Vergino, Eileen	667	0	12
Vergino, Michael	200	0	4
Ward, Dick	1158	5	36
Weiner, David	274	0	10
Weiny, Ira	470	0	10
Weiny, Lorrie	623	0	13
Whelan, Steve	2860	0	60
Williams, Siobhan	485	0	10
Wong, Liane	366	0	8
Wong, Marlene	218	0	8
Wood, Rebecca	654	4	17
Woods, Colleen	363	0	9
Woodward, Linda	260	0	6
Yantis, Marcheale	924	3	24
York, Linda	207	0	3
Zak, Kelly	330	0	7
Zucker, Pam	367	0	9

These totals represent miles ridden by club members who have covered more than 200 miles on club rides during 2015.

Total miles ridden by club members so far this year is 208,402!!!
DON'T FORGET – Ride Hosts of club rides earn points toward FREE club clothing. The more rides you lead, the more clothing you receive.

Ride Hosts – Please turn in your sign-in sheets as quickly as possible. Final mileage for 2015 will be posted in the February newsletter. Currently there are 41 sign-up sheets missing as of October 6, 2015. All others prior to that date have been zeroed out.

VALLEY SPOKESMEN
Bicycle Touring Club
Post Office Box 2630
Dublin, California 94568

2016 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Steve Whelan 925-964-7209
Vice-President: Dianne Thompson
Treasurer: Don Carpenter
Secretary: Kathy Koos

Admin Services Director: Bonnie Powers 925-828-5299
Cycling Director: Rob Delfosse
Events Director: Jim Duncan 925-209-1369
Communications Director: Rebecca Wood 925-577-3842
Past President: Marcus vanRaalte 925-437-3253

Non Elected Positions:

Bike East Bay Rep.: Adele Madelo 510-773-0693
Webmasters: Ken Hernandez 510-329-9481
Steve Whelan 925-831-8258

Community Liaisons:

Alamo	Ralph Speck	925-837-2932
Castro Valley	Open	
Concord:	Jean Watts	925-676-6164
Danville	Al Kallin	
Dublin	Francie Cushman	925-719-2256
Hayward	James Paulos	510-886-7470
Lafayette	Open	
Livermore:	Open	
Oakland	Open	
Pleasanton:	Kathleen Koos	925-963-8506
Pleasant Hill:	Open	
San Ramon:	Peter Rathmann	925-828-1973
Walnut Creek:	Peter Culshaw	925-932-0790

VALLEY SPOKESMEN

<http://www.valleyspokesmen.org>

2016 current club members may subscribe to the VS mailing list by following the directions at:

<http://www.valleyspokesmen.org/Sys/vs-list>

We appreciate receiving articles and photos to be printed in the newsletter. We will give articles of a timely nature priority.

You are encouraged to reprint with credit any articles in this newsletter.