

# Cascades Cycling Club Newsletter



Serving Jackson's Cycling Community for over 30 Years - All Riders - All Abilities

In this issue: The New Club Jerseys Have Arrived! - Meet our Ultra-Cyclist! - Feature Article: Cars and Bicycles-Can They Share the Road? - Pedal & Whine Bike Tour August 6

## Meet Mark Cole - Graphic Artist Extraordinaire!



Thank you Mark Cole for the terrific new club logo, and the fabulous new club jersey design! The new jerseys have arrived, and you can pick up your order at On Two Wheels in Jackson. If you are interested in another sale of club jerseys/apparel this summer, just let me know at: [michlwoiz@icloud.com](mailto:michlwoiz@icloud.com)

## Meet our Club's Ultra-Cyclist!

On Saturday, June 18, new club member Dieter Dauberman rode an incredible 322 miles in his 10th National 24 hour Challenge held in Middleville, Michigan! Dieter placed 62nd out of 272 riders and has already begun training for next year. If you would like to reach out to Dieter to congratulate him, or to learn more about this event, feel free to email him at the address below: [dieter\\_dauberman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dieter_dauberman@sbcglobal.net)

Dieter Dauberman - Ultra-Cyclist



# Cars and Bicycles: Can They Share the Road?

by Mike Woizeschke

**Editor's Note:** This article was written in May for publication in the July issue of the Jackson Magazine, just 3 weeks before the senseless tragedy in Kalamazoo in which 5 bicyclists were killed and 4 were hospitalized. The best and most sensitive article I have read about this was titled "Five Bicycles in Kalamazoo", published in the Wall Street Journal. Copy and past the following link into your browser to read the article: <http://on.wsj.com/2615Xhg>

Through your membership in the Cascades Cycling Club, you are helping support the League of Michigan Bicyclists and the League of American Bicyclists. These organizations advocate for bicycle safety through promoting education for bicyclists and motorists, and through educating our legislators about the importance of laws designed to protect cyclists. Unfortunately, our state lags behind the rest of the United States in protecting cyclists: Michigan is one of only 11 states without a law specifically requiring motorists to pass bicyclists safely.

You can help change this by continuing your membership in the Cascades Cycling Club, and by contacting your legislators and insisting they pass legislation requiring motorists to pass bicyclists with a wide margin for safety. You can also help by participating in the Club's fundraising ride on August 6, the Pedal and Whine Bike Tour. This is a great way to have fun while helping your club raise funds to support organizations like the League of Michigan Bicyclists and the League of American Bicyclists.

As warmer weather returns to Jackson each year, so do bicyclists return to the streets and roads of Jackson County. Kids on their brightly painted little bikes, wobbling along the sidewalks, and grown-ups on their bigger bikes, briskly pedaling along city streets and country lanes, all enjoying some time outdoors doing something they enjoy.

But as motorists, what are we to do when we see bicyclists on the road? Should we pass the cyclist as quickly as possible, even when faced with oncoming traffic? Is that the best way to deal with the situation? Or should we slow down, wait until we can see that it is safe to pass, and then give the cyclist a wide 'safety zone' when passing?

I spend a lot of time cycling on the roadways. In the warmer months I ride the country roads because I enjoy bicycling, and it is a great way to keep fit. I also commute to and from work as often as the weather and my schedule permits. My commute is a combination of country roads and city streets, and over the years I have been passed by thousands of drivers. Most of the drivers who pass me are extremely courteous, waiting until it is safe for them to give me a wide berth when they pass, often giving me a full lane of clearance. I love those drivers!

Then there are the other drivers. I do not know if they are distracted (could they be texting?) and do not see me, or if they do see me and do not think I belong on the road. These are the drivers who neither slow down nor move over when they pass, which creates a dangerous situation for the cyclist.

Unfortunately, there are those who believe that cyclists should not be riding their bicycles on the road. Some of these people are even in law enforcement. Last summer a Ford Motor Co. engineer named Tim Panagis was riding with a group of bicyclists after work in Livingston County. They were riding

with traffic and just inside the white line on the right side of the road. As reported in March on [MLive.com](http://MLive.com), "The four cyclists were riding two abreast when a (Michigan State Police) trooper used his PA system to instruct them to ride single file." The cyclists complied, and Panagis looked back to see the trooper following closely in his patrol car. Panagis then waved the officer by. To Panagis, it was a sign he'd used hundreds of times to signal to drivers the riders felt safe with the vehicle passing. However, the MSP trooper did not see this as a courtesy. Immediately, the dash-cam video shows, the trooper pulled the cyclists over. The trooper stated the riders must ride on the right edge of the road, not inside of the white line, and ticketed Panagis for impeding traffic. The citation included a \$200 fine. You can read the entire article at [www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2016/03/cyclist\\_wins\\_traffic\\_obstructi.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2016/03/cyclist_wins_traffic_obstructi.html).

The article explains that upon appeal, a judge dismissed the ticket, saying Panagis "complied with the law, cyclists are permitted to ride two abreast and the roadway does not include the shoulder."

This timely court decision is important to share now that the summer cycling season is here. It reminds us as motorists that bicyclists have a right, by Michigan law, to ride inside the white line on the roadways in our state. It also reminds us that bicyclists have a right to ride two abreast.

As for cyclists, they are required to ride as close as practical to the right hand curb or edge of the road. Michigan law does recognize five exceptions or situations, including when a cyclist is preparing to turn left, when passing another bicycle or vehicle, and when the right hand edge of the roadway is unsafe due to debris, parked cars or obstacles, or when surface hazards such as potholes prevent a cyclist from riding safely. In addition, when riding on a one-way street such as Washington Ave. in downtown Jackson, a cyclist may also ride as close to the left curb as practicable.

So what should a motorist do when they are approaching a bicyclist? The safest course of action is to respect the cyclist's right to ride on the roadway. Slow down a bit and wait until you can give the cyclist a 3-to-5-foot 'safety zone' when passing. Just like you, the cyclist wants to arrive at their destination safely. With all of us sharing the road...

**In Michigan, bicyclists are permitted to ride inside the white line on the road and also have a right to ride two abreast.**



## Pedal & Whine Bike Tour 2016



**When:** Saturday, August 6, 2016

**Where:** Sandhill Crane Vineyards

**What:** Fourth Annual Pedal & Whine Bike Tour

**Why Ride?:** This well-supported, hugely popular ride keeps getting bigger and better every year. Ride lightly travelled roads in scenic eastern Jackson county, then enjoy a delicious, locally sourced gourmet lunch provided by the talented staff at Sandhill Crane Vineyards. Our riders come from as far away as Grand Rapids, Mt. Pleasant and Toledo to enjoy this ride. This ride is in our own backyard, so why not sign up today and find out for yourself how much fun this ride is!

**How:** Visit [cascadescyclingclub.org](http://cascadescyclingclub.org) to register today!

## Mick Webster Memorial Ride Wrap-Up

Many of our club members participated in the 8th annual edition of this Relay for Life benefit ride. Below is an update provided by Oliver Cook of P&T Fitness. *Mike*

With a high of 84 degrees and sunny, the weather turned out to be just right for the 8th Annual Mick Webster Memorial Family Bike Ride and Tour. Weather and a great turnout of riders made event a pleasant success. Over 117 official riders signed up and participated in the fundraising ride which started and finished at P&T Fitness in Downtown Jackson on Saturday, June 25th.

Local residents made up the largest number of riders. However, a surprising number of riders were from out of town this year, with over 41% being outside of the Jackson area. Riders even drove from as far away as Massachusetts, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio to enjoy the event. Even more riders came from Michigan cities such as Sterling Heights, Royal Oak, and Kalamazoo.

A special thank you to all of the riders and the volunteers who helped support this event and make it a wonderful success. Together, everyone was able to raise \$1725 in honor of Mick's memory. All proceeds from the fundraising ride will go to support the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Event.

# More Club News.....

## All Club Rides are on The Calendar

Rides are now posted for July on the Cascades Cycling Club's Google ride calendar. In addition, all rides this year will only be published on our Google calendar. You can find the club's Ride Calendar by clicking on the 'Calendar' tab on the Cascades Cycling Club's website at [www.cascadescyclingclub.org](http://www.cascadescyclingclub.org)

We also have a mobile website, which means you can access the club's Google ride calendar from your smartphone or tablet device. You can also access the current and past newsletters and all the other great content on our main website from your mobile device as well.

## Road & Trail Report

The first of 5 loops at the (DTE Foundation) Waterloo Trail is now open, and it is great fun for riders of all abilities, even for newbie MTB riders like me! Check it out at this website:

[waterlootrail.org/the-trail/  
see-the-trail/](http://waterlootrail.org/the-trail/see-the-trail/)

## Pedal & Whine Bike Tour

The Cascades Cycling Club's very own Pedal & Whine Bike Tour will be held on Saturday, August 6 at Sandhill Crane Vineyards. This ride just keeps getting bigger and better each year, with nearly 250 riders last year. Register now for the ride that is rapidly becoming a summer classic. See page 4 for details, then sign up today for this great ride!

## Cascades Cycling Club Officers

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## Volunteers Needed for Pedal & Whine Bike Tour

We need a few more volunteers for this year's Pedal & Whine Bike Tour. Just as we did last year, we will be staffing both morning and afternoon shifts for our volunteers. This means if you volunteer in the morning you can ride in the afternoon, and vice versa. And best of all, all volunteers will receive the same delicious lunch as our riders - at no cost! Send me an email if you would like to join the group of volunteers that make this ride possible.

*Mike*