

Chainwheel Chatter

B.I.K.E.S. Club of Snohomish County
December 2022





Prez Sez

HOW TO TELL IF YOU NEED A NEW BIKE

I know what you're all thinking. You're wondering if you need a new bike. Every year before Christmas it's the same ... you secretly hope your sweetie just says "Go out and pick yourself whatever you like and I'll pay for it." It's probably going to be the same again this year. Oh, well.

So now it's up to you to decide. Is this the year I get a new bike? Do I NEED a new bike? Here's a little decision tree to help you make that all important decision. Click the link to find out.

[Do I need a New Bike??](#)

Keep on pedalin',

Prez Drew

president@bikesclub.org

December 3rd

BIKES Holiday Party

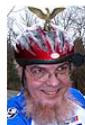
Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3rd, 6pm, for the club holiday party, in person! Pull out or hunt down a holiday sweater, UGLY or NOT!, for our holiday sweater parade. Rummage through your recipes for a great potluck dish, BIKES provides ham for all. New this year, in lieu of a gift exchange, you may opt to bring an unwrapped item for donation to Christmas House.

Find more details and sign up on the Calendar

Sign up please so the party planners know how much ham to buy!

Vice Prez Sez

Sheldon Brown's



Bicycle Technical Info

Appreciating Sheldon Brown!

Although I always had a bike with me all my life, it wasn't until I hit 50, when my knees sent a clear message that jogging was no longer for me that I stepped up to a Cannondale R200 and started racking up 50 – 100 miles a week in the season. This was around 2003, so the web was already a thing, and my need for bike knowledge took me to the website treasure trove of SheldonBrown.com.

Sheldon was a master wrench, philosopher and an early internet influencer possessing in-depth information and profound opinions on everything bicycle related. He worked at Harris Cyclery in New England. For any biking question you might have, SheldonBrown.com has information to get you started. Wanting to do as much of my own bike maintenance as possible, I often turned to his site to find out about tire sizes, wheel building, saddle fitting, fender mounting and on and on. His [saddle page](#) alone has 19 subtopics! Gearing, always a favorite topic for bike geeks, gets in depth treatment on Sheldon's [Gear Calculator page](#) is a classic that is referenced from many other sources.

Sheldon died in 2008 at just 64, just a few years after I found his site, but SheldonBrown.com lives on, maintained by a crew of volunteers so keep it up to date with new articles, blog entries and more. There is even a Sheldon Brown [Facebook page](#), which surely didn't exist in his lifetime.

The site does have one "problem" for me. Often when I go there to look something up I find a half hour has gone by reading his fascinating articles and I've forgotten whatever I originally searched for. If you haven't visited his site before, take a look and in addition to "cranking up" your biking knowledge you are sure to be entertained by his worldly philosophy.

Vice Prez Jim
vicepresident@bikesclub.org.

News You Can Use...

January BIKES Club Meeting.

The next BIKES Club meeting is set for 7 PM, January 12, 2022 at the Snohomish County PUD Building. 2030 California St. Everett, WA 98201

What if I really like online Zoom meetings?

Our intent is to get back to all in-person meetings. But, if you really want to stay online, at least for now, please let [Prez Drew](#) know.

BIKES Club has monthly club meetings for members on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September to May. No meetings in the summer or December.

ASK THE WRENCH

THE WRENCH'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE LIST OF GREAT CYCLING GIFTS

Many people have been clamoring at The Wrench for cycling gift ideas. After being worn down by the cacophony, The Wrench finally humbled himself by succumbing to the mass's requests to come up with a list of thoughtful gift

ideas, and not just some cheesy cheap things off of Amazon. (He's got a list of those things, too.)

Without further ado, here it is, the Cyclist's Gifting Dozen!

- Park Tool Pizza Cutter #PZT-2. Don't get PZT-1 as the -2 version is a significant upgrade.
- Smartwool Neck Gator. It comes in a multitude of colors and patterns. Besides looking stylish, they can act as a deterrent to vampires. (They don't like wool.)
- Any Spurcycle Bell. The Wrench believes all bikes should have a bell and this is the best one, bar none. Do your homework and get one which fits the handlebar diameter.
- A torque wrench which can handle 2 - 15 Nm, or somewhere in that range. This is especially critical for those with carbon anythings.
- How about some personalized labels for the bike, helmet, or anywhere else? Check out Velolnk.com.
- Anything Castelli. This Italian clothing brand just oozes style.
- Garmin Varia radar. There are three versions: Video/Light/Radar, Light/Radar, or Radar only. It's like having a set of eyes always looking behind you. If your cyclist has a nice GPS computer (Garmin, Wahoo) and doesn't have a radar unit, this could literally be a life saver.
- For the Euro-artsy types, check out cyclingsouvenirs.com. They ship to the USA, as The Wrench well knows.
- Go to the Sharing Wheels open house and bid/buy one of the craftsman- or craftswoman-made velo-art projects. They are guaranteed to be unique and cool.

Happy Holidays

—RBW

Road Bike Wrench (Prez Drew)

WSDOT Active Transportation Plan is a Winner!

Did you know the state of Washington has received multiple awards for the WSDOT Active Transportation Plan? You can read about it on the WSDOT

Blog page: <https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2022/11/state-active-transportation-plan.html>

Active transportation describes human scaled and often person-powered ways of getting around, such as walking, bicycling, or rolling a wheelchair. The Active Transportation Plan provides a foundation for policies, procedures, investments, and improvements to the Washington state active transportation system.

For more information:

- Overview of our Active Transportation Plan with a list of the plan highlights: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/statewide-plans/active-transportation-plan>.
- Active Transportation Plan 2020 and Beyond: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/ATP-2020-and-Beyond.pdf>.

It's good to know WSDOT has a design philosophy for our active transportation network that will improve bicycling in Washington State. This grand plan will also need our counties and cities onboard, plus it will take time and funding to bring the dreams to reality – the subject matter of future stories.

Stay well and have a great ride!

Rick Proctor

More Wish List for 2022

The holiday season is here. The kid in me has always known the holiday season starts with Halloween and goes through New Year's Day.

[Read More>>>](#)



Coming Up...

December Club rides

There will be a variety of BIKES Club rides scheduled through December on the [Calendar](#). Some rides may be posted the day before the scheduled activity. Rides can be cancelled or changed when weather conditions are forecast to be sufficiently foul as determined by the Ride Leaders and which forecasts they think may be accurate. Keep up with ride changes by subscribing to [Ride Updates](#).

[Rides Calendar >>>](#)



Ride Leader Corner

Ride leaders,

Winter is upon us, but it can still be a good time to ride. Often the weather can be iffy, but pick a day that looks possible, and embrace the cold and damp. It's healthy for us. Make your rides shorter, remind riders about slippery surfaces and the dangers of wet leaves and painted road markings. Maybe you can work in a coffee/ hot drink stop. And think about starting later in the morning so that roads can improve if it's a bit frosty.

But don't hesitate to cancel if there's any possibility of black ice - or any ice. Stay safe.

Thanks for listing rides

Dan Scott,

Ride Leader Coordinator

leadaride@bikesclub.org

New Membership options

[Membership Benefits>>>](#)

COVID-19 persists

[Temporary Precautions for BIKES Club Ride During the COVID-19 Crisis.](#)

Max Group Sizes

Ride groups may now have 12 riders or less as determined by the Ride Leader. The number includes the Ride Leader. The ride posting and registration page should indicate the maximum number of riders for the ride.

[Online Reg - Step by Step>>>](#)

[Online Registration Process for Ride Leaders >>>](#)



Rider Miles

Top riders for November

Linari	Steve	3857
Proctor	Rick	2902
Tweedy	Christine	2468
Kawamoto	Debbie	1690
Scott	Dan	1684

[How many Club miles do you have?](#)



Club meeting minutes

Catch up here to read the most recent meeting minutes. Log on to the club website to access all meeting minutes.

[Meeting Minutes >>>](#)



Sharing Wheels

Sharing Wheels News

Nonprofit partnerships make biking better

By Kristin Kinnamon, Sharing Wheels board president

Sharing Wheels Holiday Open House

Join the festivities at the Sharing Wheels shop between 4 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 at 2531 Broadway Ave., Everett. The holiday open house is a chance to see how the shop has changed in the past 12 months, and how the spirit of giving impacts our community year-round. Enjoy Wheel Bike Art, hot holiday drinks and snacks, and an overview of 2022 programs.

[Please RSVP](#) so we know you're coming.

Wheel Wreath Making Workshop on Dec 4

Make a festive wreath from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at Sharing Wheels. All materials provided - wheels, garland, glue and other goodies. Family-friendly. Fee \$10-\$30. [Register online.](#)

Photo: BIKES Club members Tom and Bill Weber, Cheryl Walchli and Kristin Kinnamon enjoyed last year's wreath workshop.



See all the events at [Sharing Wheels Calendar](#)

[Sharing Wheels Website >>>](#)

Other Links

League of American Bicyclists

Click on the link below to read the League blog and catch up on League efforts around the country. BIKES is a member of the League of American Bicyclists and it is through the League that we purchase our club insurance.

[League of American Bicyclists>>>](#)

Adventure Cycling

Whether you like your adventures in the saddle or from the armchair, Adventure Cycling will inspire. You might also find reviews of new bikes and equipment and tips on how to enjoy or improve what you already have.

[Adventure Cycling >>>](#)



bikesclub.org

Comments or suggestions? Send an email to:

[Newsletter Editor](#)
