

# Chainwheel Chatter

B.I.K.E.S. Club of Snohomish County  
April 2024



# Prez Sez

## Some Things Never Change

Often when we hear the phrase “some things never change”, it’s used when referring to negative things or bad news. Your Prez sez that it is more applicable to those timeless truths and qualities which are worth preserving throughout millennia (not that I’ve lived through millennia, but it sounds impressive).

This is from a *Bicycling* magazine published 25 years ago.

### HOW TO MAKE YOUR NEXT RIDE MEAN MORE

1. Take a friend you haven’t seen for a year or more.
2. Get better at one specific skill.
3. Pack a picnic for your kids, wife, squeeze — someone.
4. Ride until you forget the news.
5. Take a camera and find one amazing thing to shoot. Then post the photo on the BIKES Club Facebook page.

(Okay, so maybe the second part of #5 wasn’t actually in the magazine, but it could have been.)

That is good advice from 25 years ago. Good advice is always good advice. Because some things never change.

Now get out and ride your bike.

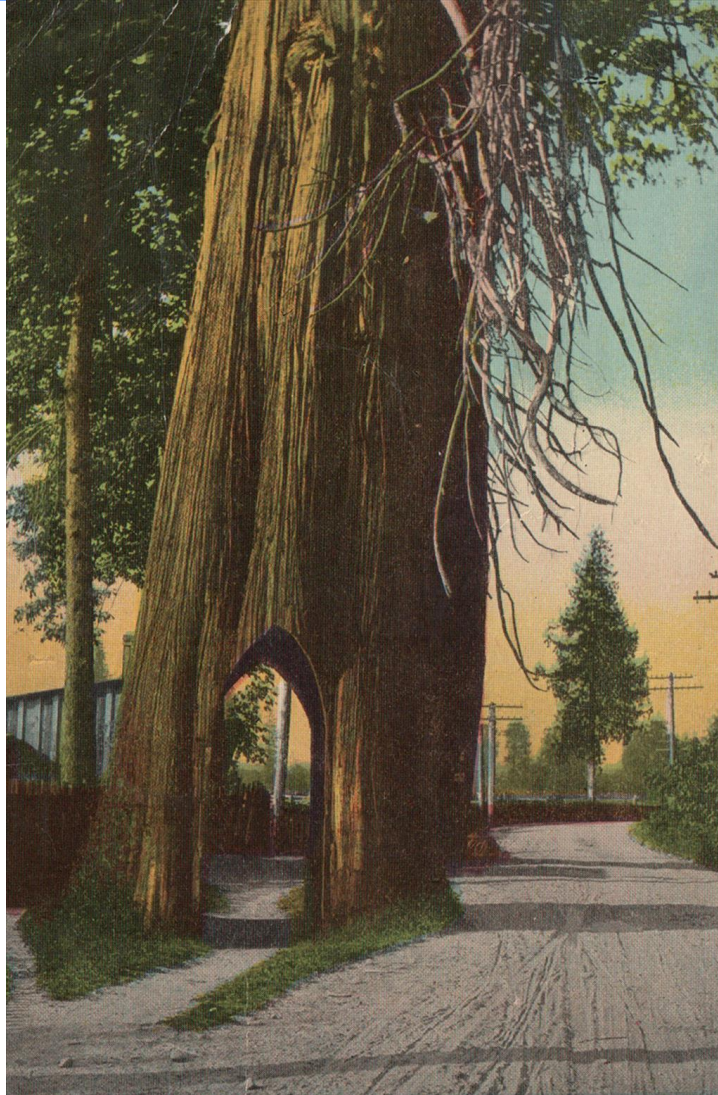
Keep on pedalin’,

Prez Drew

[president@bikesclub.org](mailto:president@bikesclub.org).



# Vice Prez Sez



## The Snohomish Bicycle Tree

When we moved here in 1989, you could still see what remained of the famous “bicycle tree” near the corner of Marsh Road and Highway 9 near Harvey Field. It was just a stump by then, but you could clearly see the archway that had been cut out to allow cyclists to ride through it. Never thought much about it then, but what an interesting history that tree had, and it was quite the destination for cyclists in its day, a few years before autos took over.

SNOHOMISH — In the 1890s, a bicycle craze so intense swept the nation that some religious organizations blamed the newfangled fad for declining church attendance.

Washington wasn’t immune to the two-wheeled fever, according to [historylink.org](http://historylink.org), a nonprofit Washington historical website.

About a mile south of the town of Snohomish, on what was then the edge of Abel Johnson's property along a dirt wagon road popular with bicyclers, sat a massive, centuries-old western red cedar tree.

Credit is given to Civil War veteran David Lewis Paramore, then working as a druggist in Snohomish and also serving as president of the local bicycle club, for leading an effort to make the tree a "destination" along a new cinder-lined bike path built next to the road.

For \$15, a local logger named Miligan was hired to cut a pathway through the trunk and so was born the famous Snohomish Bicycle Tree just yards east of today's intersection of Highway 9 and Marsh Road on Airport Way.

Links to original story in the Herald: [In the 1890s, a cedar tree beckoned Snohomish cyclists | HeraldNet.com](#)

Article on History Link: [Bicycle Tree at Snohomish \(1890-1927\) - HistoryLink.org](#)

Tailwinds

Vice Prez Cindy  
[vicepresident@bikesclub.org](mailto:vicepresident@bikesclub.org).



# McClinchy Camano Classic Century

## McClinchy Volunteers Needed

by Kristin Kinnamon

A handful of club members have already been working half a year to plan and promote the McClinchy Camano Classic Century. Now, additional volunteers are needed to make our event a success.

There will be a Volunteer Orientation / Event Overview during the April 11 club meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Everett PUD.

See the [Volunteer Spreadsheet](#) for open shifts - signup now or at the meeting. Still needed:

Advance help: Signup for a [Paint Ride](#). And keep promoting the event with fellow bike riders.

Morning needs: parking assistants, merchandise sales / registration, Stanwood food stop, bike parking setup and SAG drivers.

Afternoon needs: bike parking monitors, SAG drivers.

What does a SAG do? You may drive a route, or park at a key location. Bring your own bike pump and pick up our bin of flat repair supplies - that will make you a hero! (no mechanical skills required). We also have magnetic "ride support" signs, reflective vests, and a flashing light for your car. And we will reimburse your mileage.

All volunteers earn a commemorative McClinchy cap or neck gaiter (your choice). You can also get your free tacos at SAAL anytime during the event - and/or join us there after 5 p.m. for our celebration dinner.

Volunteers can ride McClinchy for free (as time permits before or after your shift). [Register for the McClinchy volunteer ride](#) as you would a normal club ride.

### McClinchy Camano Classic Century

Be part of our club's annual event ride and biggest party on April 28. Almost 30 members have already registered for the paid ride (at a \$10 member discount). Dozens more members are volunteering and can ride for free before or after your shift (make sure to register for the Volunteer Ride). Volunteers are still needed on the day of the event and to help mark the routes.

### History

McClinchy has changed many times over the years. It was named after an early club member Stuart McClinchy who died too young.

The first McClinchy Mile was hosted by B.I.K.E.S. Club of Snohomish County on Oct. 3 1982 out of Monroe, WA. We started the ride in Arlington for several

years after that, and had an Oso Strong edition to Darrington the year after the landslide.

Camano Island and the Stanwood Camano Kiwanis became part of McClinchy in 2019. Prior to that, the Kiwanis had hosted the Camano Climb Bike Ride for more than 25 years.

### **Benefits**

McClinchy profits help keep B.I.K.E.S. membership dues low and pay for fun stuff like rider miles awards and ride leader vests.

Every year, some of the funds raised during McClinchy go back into local communities. A few of the charities we've supported regularly over the years include Sharing Wheels Community Bike Shop, Christmas House in Everett and Stanwood Camano Food Bank. Last year we donated over \$5,000 of grant money to these organizations thanks to McClinchy riders.

The Kiwanis use their event proceeds for a high school scholarship program.

### **Expenses**

Insurance is the biggest event expense. As an organized ride renting various public venues and using public roads, we are required to carry insurance. Last year it cost about \$12 per rider.

Food. We like to make sure there is plenty of filling, healthy food at all 4 of our rest stops. We also pay for the gourmet tacos at SAAL Brewing. Excess food is donated to the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank.

Equipment & Storage. It takes dozens of signs, rest stop supplies, registration materials, bike tubes, cans of paint, water jugs and more to host a big bike event. We have bought all those over the last 40 years - and need to add or replace equipment over time. During the rest of the year, we pay to store all the stuff in Everett.



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# News You can Use....

## Advocacy and Infrastructure News

by Rick Proctor

### Smart Growth America

There really are national level non-profit organizations dedicated to helping communities like ours be a great place to live and ride bikes. Here's another one – [Smart Growth America](#), with their [Complete Streets Policy Action Guide](#). Do you agree that streets and roads should be designed for all users – not just motor vehicles? Do you agree that bicycles should be considered a valid user of the streets and roads we pay our taxes for? Do you want to do something to improve our situation? Explore the links above and find your way to action.

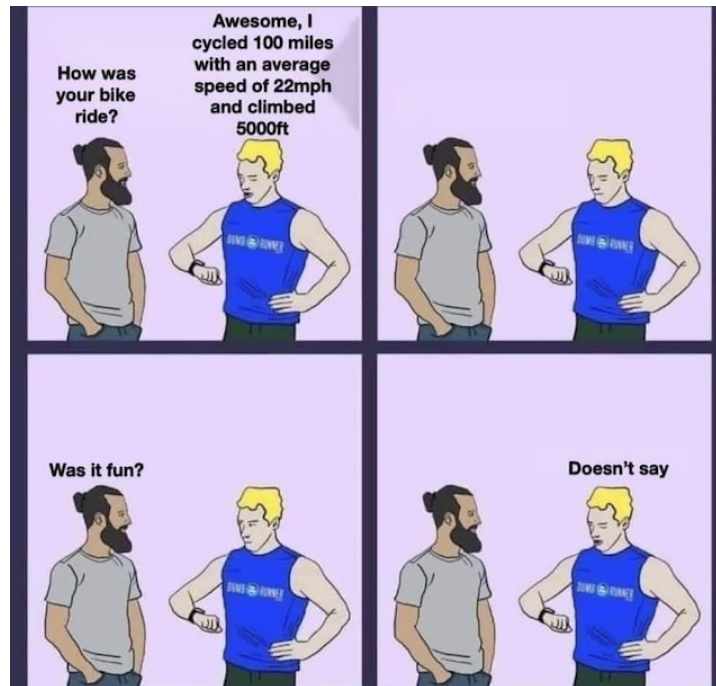




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# Ask The Wrench

Don't be this guy...



It's time for Spring cleaning ...



# **BIKES Club Meeting.**

## **April Meeting**

The next BIKES Club meeting is set for **6:30 PM**, on April 11, 2024 at the Snohomish County PUD Building. 2030 California St. Everett, WA 98201

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

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# Coming Up...

## April Club rides

There will be a variety of BIKES Club rides scheduled through April 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,

Spring is here, and let's hope for some good riding weather. Please continue to list rides as far in advance as practical, which can be tough with the changeable weather.

A couple reminders; don't forget to carry the club insurance forms with you (it's a good idea to look at them before an emergency to see what's needed), and don't forget to mark yourself as Ride Leader when you're filling out your template. If you've forgotten how to do this let me know.

The incident form can be found here:

<https://bikesclub.org/resources/Documents/Ride%20Leader%20forms/LAB%20Incident%20Report.pdf>

Thanks for leading.

Dan Scott,

Ride Leader Coordinator

[leadaride@bikesclub.org](mailto:leadaride@bikesclub.org)

## New Membership options

[Membership Benefits>>>](#)

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

## Rider Miles

### Top riders for March

Linari	Steve	978
Warren	Wayne	498
Proctor	Rick	479
Tweedy	Christine	448
Sorensen	Lee	351

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



## Club meeting minutes

For answers to these issues of great importance, see the minutes of our March club meeting:

- Find out how we can help the Park Ranger maintain the Centennial & Whitehorse Trails
- See how you can sign up to **Volunteer for the McClinchy Bike Ride**
- **Ride Leaders** - get updated on the progress of your new RL vest

[Meeting Minutes >>>](#)



Sharing Wheels

# Sharing Wheels News

Nonprofit partnerships make biking better

By Kristin Kinnamon

## Sharing Wheels Volunteer Opportunities

Sharing Wheels has many mechanical and non-mechanical outreach events that need volunteers this spring and summer. Play Bike Trivia with Everett Farmers Market shoppers. Keep bikes and plants safe at Sorticulture. Check people in at mobile bike repair events around the county.

See the Sharing Wheels volunteer calendar to learn more and signup.

## Outgrown those kid bikes?

Sharing Wheels needs gently used kid bikes for spring. Bikes from toddler size to 24-inches that have had a good life (no rust) but might need some new parts (tires, seat, grips) are wanted. Volunteers refurbish the bikes to go to low income families through our nonprofit partners. Volunteer work parties to fix the bikes start May 7.

To donate a bike, just bring it by the shop Wednesday through Sunday afternoons at 2531 Broadway Ave., Everett (parking and entrance at the back). If you are unsure a bike is good enough, please email a photo first to [sharingwheels@gmail.com](mailto:sharingwheels@gmail.com)

## Event Calendar for March

See all the events at [Sharing Wheels Event 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](https://bikesclub.org)

Comments or suggestions? Send an email to:

[Newsletter Editor](#)

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