

THE TAILWIND TIMES

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Bicycle-Makers Ride High on Surging Oil Prices

By Ralph Jennings Tue May 13, 8:19 PM ET

TAIPEI (Reuters) - The row of gleaming bicycles being assembled on the factory floor of **Giant Manufacturing**, one of the world's biggest bicycle-makers, will soon hit streets from Seattle to Sydney, Amsterdam and even Beijing.

Rising petrol prices, **growing awareness of environmental issues and the popularity of cycling as a recreation sport** has fueled a **surge in demand for bicycles around the world.**

Giant, the Taipei-based maker of international bicycle brands such as Boulder, Yukon and Iguana, is reaping the profits. The company, which produced 5.5 million bikes in 2007, is expected to pull in \$1 billion in sales this year, up 10 percent, it says.

Giant's story is typical of the global **\$61 billion bicycle industry**, which is enjoying unprecedented growth as cycling becomes a major recreation sport and lifestyle option in many Western countries.

"There is a general renaissance and interest in bikes," said Jack Oortwijn, editor-in-chief of the monthly magazine Bike Europe. "Parts suppliers are struggling to keep up."

China leads the world in the number of bikes produced per year with about 73 million units of a total 100 million annually, according to the Earth Policy Institute, an environmental information network based in the United States.

The rest comes largely from Taiwan, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and the European Union. Taiwan makes about 6 million bikes per year and they sell for an average domestic wholesale price of \$222 per unit, according to a local manufacturing association.

Bicycle sales have over the past five years increased by 14.6 percent among European Union nations, which buy 70 percent of the world's bikes, according to Bike Europe. **In the United States, sales have increased by almost 9 percent** in the same time period.

CYCLING TAKES OFF

With petrol prices at record highs of \$126 per barrel and some analysts predicting it could hit the \$200 mark, it's no surprise that bicycles are becoming a popular form of transport, especially among a growing breed of fitness fanatics.

"Driving cars is expensive nowadays. Oil prices are going to remain at a high level," said Fabian Kuster, a spokesman for the European Cyclists' Association in Brussels.

For short-distance commutes, he added, "a bike is faster in the city and takes up less space."

Paris, Barcelona and other cities in Europe have introduced bicycle loan programs that allow commuters to pick up bicycles at official stands outside train stations. All that is needed is a swipe of a credit card to guarantee the bike will be returned.

Users return the bikes to the stands and with another swipe of their credit card get their deposit back minus a small users fee. There are about 20,000 such bicycles at around 1,450 stands across Paris alone.

"With bikes you don't need any gas, so there's a new awareness of cycling," said Giant's president Lo, 60, who rides 80-km to-and-from work every day on the back of his bike.

Europeans increasingly pedal to work on bike-friendly streets planned by city governments that encourage cycling, while a growing pool of commuters in China use battery bikes and Americans ride mainly for sport or to work off calories.

"I have been racing mountain bikes for a long time and would like to think that cyclists like myself increase bicycle sales," said Steve Tam, an avid cyclist in Redding, California, where riding bikes on the weekends is a favorite recreation sport.

Would-be riders in newly developed regions such as Taiwan still see bikes as a symbol of a poor past, while riders complain worldwide of inclement weather, unsafe traffic and rampant theft despite the best locks.

Still, cycling is cost effective and often relatively fast on Taipei's congested roads.

"I've got just a 10-minute ride, and you don't need to spend any money on gas," said Hu Li-wei, a 21-year-old Taipei university student who rides to lectures every day elbow-to-elbow with mopeds and buses.

Investing in the Bicycling Industry by Bob Beane

After reading the article above, it occurred to me that I might want to put some investment money where my heart is...in cycling. So, I did a little research...just a little...so see what options there might be for individual investors to do that. Here are a few things I found out:

- **Specialized Bicycle Components, Inc.**, is privately held. No public investment is possible.
- **Trek Bicycles**, manufacturer of my favorite bikes, also remains a privately-held company.
- **Cannondale**, previously a public company, was acquired by a private investment group after some financial difficulties (non-cycling portions of the business). That group has since sold Cannondale to **Dorel Industries** in February of 2008, which also owns **Schwinn, GT, Mongoose** and **SUGOi** (apparel) in the cycling industry. Dorel is a diversified company with products in home furnishings and juvenile furniture in addition to its growing line of recreational products. Dorel Industries is a public company headquartered in Montreal, Canada, whose stock is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange. 2007 revenues were \$1.8 billion. (www.dorel.com)
- **Giant Manufacturing**, the subject of the article above, has manufacturing facilities in Taiwan, China and Europe. It is the largest manufacturer of high-end bicycles in the world, and is a public company traded on the NASDAQ (symbol: GTMUF, www.giant-bicycles.com)
- **Gazelle** is the largest bicycle manufacturer in the Netherlands, and dominates the middle to high end bicycle market there. It has a history of innovation and sound engineering with a reputation for building comfortable and reliable bicycles. Gazelle has over 500 employees at its factory in Dieren, and produces 350,000+ bicycles each year. The company was founded 1892 by Willem Kölling and Rudolf Arentsen. After changing hands several times, Gazelle is now owned by Glide Buy Out Fund, a Dutch venture capital fund. Watch for a future public stock offering.
- **Bianchi**, considered the oldest bicycle manufacturer in the world, is now owned by the Swedish company Grimaldi Industri AB, which is a private, 100% family-owned business. No public investment is possible.
- **Titus Cycles**, whose founder used to live two blocks from your editor before success allowed him to move "up the hill", was recently acquired by **GAI Cycles** of Phoenix. No word on whether future investment opportunities might be available.
- **Shimano**, which manufactures bicycle components and fishing gear, is traded in the US on the NASDAQ under symbol SHMDF. Shimano recently acquired the **Pearl-iZumi** clothing line from Nautilus, Inc.
- **Campagnolo** – Despite Wikipedia saying that Campy is a public company, I could find no information regarding stock or possible investment.

So, opportunities for investing in the bicycling industry via purchases of stock are a bit limited, but I did find a few. Now, I'll have to save up some money by carpooling and riding to work, do my research and potentially make that difficult decision: **Invest** in some stock in one of the public companies above...or **spend** the money, instead, on a nice, new bike.

Purposes and Objectives of our 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: (2007 Officers) Jared Williams, Pres (623) 330-0220, Chuck Gerke, Secy (623) 974-9918, Betsy Turner, Treas (623) 979-8110, Gene Marchi, Ride Information (623) 546-8112.

Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club: Ron Waller, Pres (ronwaller@cox.net); Tom Adams VP & Mailing List (tla85258@yahoo.com), Mike Kirk, Treasurer (mkirk9942@FanBox.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 15th 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 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/West Valley: At our new web address of www.pmbcaz.org

Tucson : www.bikegaba.org

Prescott: www.prescottcycling.org (e-mail: pcc@prescottcycling.org)

Sunrise/Sunset (Phoenix, AZ)

June 1	5:19 a.m./7:34 p.m.
July 1	5:22 a.m./7:42 p.m.

JUNE 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)*

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.

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.

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@yahogroups.com For more info contact Kathy Mills at khendricks67@earthlink.net or 480-235-5052 for details. See <http://www.sportsfun.com/gaba/rideschedule.html> for 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 IN ARIZONA OR NEARBY LOCALS (most involve a rider registration fee or donation)

June 1 (Sun) Mt. Hopkins Hill Climb – GABA Tucson – Test your climbing abilities. Amado, AZ. For more information visit www.bikegaba.org or call 520-625-3640.

June 14 (Sat) PMBC Quarterly Membership Meeting/Breakfast

Join PMBC for their June Quarterly Membership Meeting/Breakfast which will be held on **Saturday, June 14th, 2008** at the **Home Town Buffet**, northwest corner of Warner and Evergreen in Chandler, from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Members have the option of riding to the breakfast with the [Saturday Cycling](#) group or meeting us at the restaurant for the meeting at 8:30 am. Breakfast is free for all PMBC members.

Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club

June 14 & 15: NEW OVERNIGHT RIDE: ESCAPE TO THE HIGH COUNTRY! Shorter & longer options: something for everyone! Longer ride: Clints Well-Flagstaff. Organizer: Suzanne Couvrette, update-editor@bikegaba.org, (520) 891-4661.

July 12 & 13 (Sat/Sun) White Mountain Tour – PMBC – See Page 6 of this newsletter.

July 19 (Sat) Taylor House Benefit Century Ride – Absolute Bikes (Flagstaff) - Participate in the 95 mile route, 65 mile route or the 45 mile route to benefit The Taylor House, a home away from home for friends and families of patients of the Flagstaff Medical Center. For more information and registration, visit www.absolutebikes.net.

Aug. 30, 31 & Sept. 1: Blue Loop Tour – GABA Tucson - Hilly & scenic ride in central mountains of Arizona & New Mexico! Very little traffic! This ride is recommended for strong riders. www.bikegaba.org.

Aug. 30, 31 & Sept. 1: Trail of the Mountain Spirits – GABA Tucson. A scenic, but easier, 3-day ride with shorter distances each day, and plenty of time to enjoy! Cathy Crandall, catcran@cox.net

Sep 21 (Sun): Jerry Doss Memorial Skull Valley Loop Challenge – Prescott Cycling Club – Options for a full century, 75 mile or 54 mile loop, benefiting the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary and the Yavapai Trails Association. For more information and registration, visit www.prescottcycling.org.

Sep 27-Oct 5 (Sat to following Sun) – GABA Tucson – The Annual Great Arizona Bicycling Adventure – This year, the route is from Page to Nogales with day three (Flagstaff) off and options of a trip to the Grand Canyon or Sedona Shuttle. For all the details, visit www.bikegaba.org for one of the best trip brochures I've ever seen, or call 520-349-5932.

Oct. 18 & 19: Cave Creek Tour – GABA Tucson - Scenic and fairly easy ride from Roadforks, NM to Portal, AZ, and up the Cave Creek Canyon. 45-mile per day on east side of the Chiricahuas with overnight stay in cozy cabins at SW Research Center. Meals included. www.bikegaba.org.

League of American Bicyclists Annual Rally: The 2008 Maine Bike Rally, which will be held July 11-13, 2008 in Fryeburg, Maine. Click the following link to register online. http://www.bikemaine.org/store/mbr_register_select.htm. The League of American Bicyclists has chosen the Maine Bike Rally as the site of the National Bike Rally, and about 500 cyclists from throughout the country are expected to attend. This three-day event features more than 30 rides to choose from both off-road and on-road, some as short as five miles, others 100 miles long. They wind along country lanes, on forest trails and through scenic valleys in western Maine and the White Mountains area of New Hampshire. Historic Fryeburg, Maine will host the 2008 rally.

Camping, food (including big breakfasts, picnic lunches and all-you-can-eat dinner), all rides, entertainment, and a bike rally T-shirt are included in the affordable, weekend price. All the bike rides are designed to take in the splendor of the region hosting the Maine Bike Rally. In addition to rides, participants enjoy the Maine Bike Expo--with a myriad of cool bikes on display--an Ice Cream Social, an awards ceremony, and other activities. In addition to excellent on-road and off-road riding, participants can take part in other activities, including canoeing, hiking, swimming and visiting museums in the hosting region.

LAB hopes to see you there! Click the following link to register online.

http://www.bikemaine.org/store/mbr_register_select.htm

Upcoming PMBC Social Activies by Tina Miller

Due to popular demand, moving forward, the PMBC will be scheduling Quarterly Social Events outside of cycling. Come on out to our first event as we Eat, Drink & Play!

Saturday, June 21, 2008

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Dave & Busters

www.daveandbusters.com

2000 E Rio Salado Pkwy - Tempe Marketplace Tempe, AZ 85281
(480) 281-8456

To ensure there is ample space for everyone, you are strongly encouraged to RSVP to Tina Miller by contacting her at 480-949-6283 or via email at tmiller@scottsdalechamber.com.

Cost of event options:

- Eat & Play Combo – You can choose one of eleven entrees and get a \$10 game card for only \$15.99
- Eat only – You can choose from an open menu with burgers & sandwiches ranging from \$8-10.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Did You Know?

- **The Origins of Mountain Biking, Caught on Film** - Mountain biking's history is filled with colorful characters, such as Charlie Kelly, Joe Breeze, Gary Fisher and Tom Ritchey. If you ever have wanted to know what the sport's early days were like, well, now you have a chance to see that. Footage from the early 70s through about 1983 has been cobbled together into a quasi-documentary that is now available to the public for a mere \$28. The movie Klunkerz (the early name for mountain bikes), is available at www.klunkerz.com.
- **Domestic Road Racing is Alive and Well** – The April 14 issue of VeloNews was dedicated to a Domestic Road Preview and had on its cover **Tony Cruz, Ivan Dominguez, Rory Sutherland, Ben Jacques-Maynes and Andy Bajadali**, representing, respectively, teams **BMC, Toyota-United, Health Net, Bissell and Kelly Benefit Strategies-Medifast**. With four major tours this year: California, Georgia, Missouri and Utah, a new three-day stage race in Colorado (Aug 22-24) and a deep talent pool behind the five riders above, it is easy to see why some people are claiming that cycling in the USA is as strong as it has been since the late 1800's (the pre-automobile days).
- **Don't Leave Out the Ladies!!!** – The April 14 issue of VeloNews also included an article titled "Ten things to watch in women's cycling", which included the following: **Kristen Armstrong** has inked a deal with Swiss-based Cervelo-Lifeforce to race in Europe, and to pursue her goal of an Olympic Gold in the time trial; **Mara Abbott**, who had a breakout campaign in 2007 despite splitting her time between cycling, studies and a NCAA Division III swimming program at Whitman College, has signed with team High Road and will now be 100% dedicated to cycling. She will be racing in Europe, also with the goal of making the US team for Beijing. **USA Cycling** has established a permanent base in **Lucca, Italy**, and five women will spend the majority of their season racing there this year. **USA Cycling** will also be picking three women to compete in the **Beijing Olympics** from among the following riders: **Kristen Armstrong, Amber Neben, Mara Abbott, Alison Powers, Tina Pic, Christine Thornburn, and Kori Sheehafer**.
- **You're Not Alone Any More** – As a "roadie", have you always felt somehow different, misunderstood and isolated? Well, there is now a book that celebrates your lifestyle and all that you find sacred... "**Roadie, the Misunderstood World of the Bike Racer**" by veteran race announcer and roadie Jamie Smith celebrates "all the neurotic tendencies of our sport, from **shaved legs and garish jerseys to garages full of bikes worth more than our cars.**" The book is also a useful tool to explain the lifestyle to your confused friends, and includes ample illustrative cartoons from the pen of nationally syndicated cartoonist Jef Mallett. The book is available at book stores, bike shops, and on line at www.velogear.com.

White Mountain Tour

July 12th and 13th, 2008

Sponsored by Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club

This tour has been attracting participants from out of state, as well as in-state riders for more than 20 years and has become a favorite for many. Temperatures ranging from the low 60's to the mid 80's, great support for the riders and Saturday night's dinner social make this ride one you will want to do again and again!!

The White Mountain Tour is a **two-day fully supported tour** and includes sag support, emergency mechanical support, plenty of good snacks and luggage delivery to your hotel or campsite. Saturday night's dinner and a raffle ticket are also included in the entry fee.

The cost of the tour is **\$50.00** for PMBC/GABA/ABC club members; **\$55.00** for non-members. A **\$10.00 late fee** applies after June 27th.

Saturday's "dinner" (meal), which is included in the entry fee, will be served from **1:00-3:00 PM**. Non-riders and family members can purchase dinner for an additional fee (TBD). **This year the dinner has been moved to Ramsey Park in Eagar and will be served as the riders finish.**

For **Saturday night lodging** there will be **free camping** which includes showers and bathroom facilities at the Round Valley Middle School in Eagar. For those wanting the more comfortable confines of a motel room, make your reservations at one those [listed below](#), we will deliver luggage there by 2 PM.

Luggage Pickup will start at **8:00 AM** on Sunday for the return trip.

The Start & Route: This year we will again start and finish at Hon-Dah. **Registration on Saturday is 7:00am till 8:30. No mass start.** You will ride North on Highway 260 through Pinetop/Lakeside to Show Low. In Show Low turn East onto Highway 60 then to the sag stop at Midway Station convenience store in Vernon, about 34 scenic miles, (stop in and say high to the gang, maybe buy a cold soda or ice cream). If you are a casual rider, you may wish to get an early start to avoid missing the SAG stop, which will close at 11:30am. From there it's down to Springerville/Eagar for 63 miles for day one.

!!!Again This Year!!! For those hardy enough, we are planning an **Optional Loop of 40 miles**. Yes, that's right; you have the option of doing a **Full Century** or the traditional **Metric Century** on day one.

Day two, start 8:00 AM. The return SAG stop will be set up at 8:30am near the Sunrise Ski Resort. From there it's mostly down hill back the start for the day's total of about 38 miles.

WHEN

- Saturday & Sunday, July 12th & 13th, 2007.
- Registration from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM on Saturday.

WHERE

- Hon Dah Resort and Casino (parking and registration behind the hotel)
- Located at the intersection of AZ highways 73 and 260 south of Pinetop.

REGISTRATION FEES

- **PMBC/GABA/ABC club members - \$50.00**
- **Non-Members - \$55.00**
- **After June 27th, 2007. Late Fee - \$10.00**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PHOENIX METRO BICYCLE CLUB – MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO:

- PHOENIX METRO BICYCLE CLUB
PO BOX 26788
TEMPE, AZ 85285-6788

FRIDAY NIGHT LODGING

in [Pinetop-Lakeside](#)

- Bear's Paw Motel - 928-368-5231
- Best Western - 928-367-6667
- Blue Ridge Motel - 928-367-0758
- Bonanza Motel - 928-367-4440
- Comfort Inn - 928-368-6600
- Cozy Pines Cabins - 928-367-4558
- Double B Lodge - 928-367-2747
- Forest House Motel - 928-368-6628
- Hilltop House Motel - 928-367-4451
- Mountain Hacienda - 928-367-4146
- Murphy's Cabins - 928-367-5555
- Pinetop Lodge - 928-367-3510
- Super 8 - 928-367-3161
- Timber Lodge Motel - 928-367-4463
- Woodland Inn & Suites - 928-367-3636
- Hon-Dah Resort – 1-800-929-8744

FRIDAY NIGHT LODGING

in [Show Low](#) (about 10 miles from start)

- Apache Pines Motel - 928-532-4328
- Best Western - 928-537-5773
- Day's Inn - 928-537-4356
- Downtown 9 Motel - 928-537-4334
- Holiday Inn - 928-537-5115
- KC Travel Lodge - 928-537-4433
- Kiva Motel - 928-537-4542
- Motel 6 - 928-537-7694
- Snowy River Motel - 928-537-2926

SATURDAY NIGHT LODGING:

in [Springerville](#) / Eagar

- Free camping in the town of Eagar, includes restroom and shower facilities at Round Valley Middle School. Sleep in the gym, or pitch your tent on the nicest lawn in town.
- Reeds Lodge - 928-333-4323
www.k5reeds.com/
- El Jo Motor Inn - 928-333-4314
- Super 8 Motel - 928-333-2655
- Corral Motel - 928-333-2264
- Paisley Corner B&B - 928-333-4665
- Rode Inn - 928-333-4365
- Whiting Bros Motor Inn - 928-333-5870
- Best Western - 928-333-2540
- 26 Bed & Breakfast - 928-333-2102
- Spanish Trails B&B - 928-333-4034
- White Mountain Escape Bed and Breakfast - 928-333-2000
www.whitemountainscape.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For more information contact [Jay Stewart](#) or afternoons and evenings at 480-250-1613.

Remaining Race Dates for Major Events in 2008 (Live/Web Broadcast Dates and Tentative Versus TV Date/Time):

- **Giro d' Italia** – Saturday, May 10 thru Sunday, June 1 (Versus: Weekly coverage at 4 pm or 3 pm ET, each Sunday from May 11 thru June 1)
- **Criterium du Dauphine Libere** – June 8
- **Tour de Suisse** – June 14-22
- Inaugural **Tour of Pennsylvania** Espoirs (under 25) TdF-style race – Versus: 3 pm ET, Sunday, June 29
- **Tour de France** – Saturday, July 5 thru Sunday, July 27 (Versus: TV schedule not yet posted)
- **Vuelta a Espana** – Saturday, August 30 thru Sunday, September 21 (Versus: 5 pm ET, Sunday, September 21)
- **Paris-Tours** – Sunday, October 12 (Versus: 4 pm ET, Sunday, October 12)
- **Giro di Lombardia** – Saturday, October 18 (Versus: 4 pm ET, Sunday, October 19)

The full UCI racing schedule for 2008 is available at www.cyclingnews.com.

Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists – Recent Advocacy Issue

The City of Phoenix has a pending plan to build a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the Arizona Canal between 15th and 19th Avenues, and is looking for comment. Your primary advocacy group, the CAzB, has been mobilized in support of this plan, and asks for additional help from Phoenix residents in writing similar letters supporting this bridge. Here is a copy of the letter written by CAzB member Radar Matt:

May 14, 2008
Joseph Perez
City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department
200 W. Washington Street, 6th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

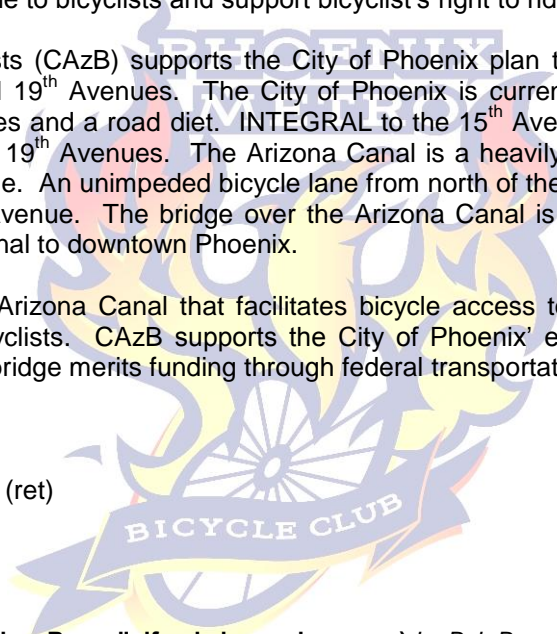
Dear Mr. Perez,

The Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists is an education and advocacy organization serving Arizona's bicyclists. We support the installation of new bicycle facilities such as pedestrian bridges, bicycle lanes, paths, routes, and shared lane markings. We support policies that encourage the growth of bicycling; we support design according to national standards. We promote bicycle education for bicyclists, parents, children, motorists, police, and commercial drivers. We support laws that are favorable to bicyclists and support bicyclist's right to ride in the roadway.

The Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists (CAzB) supports the City of Phoenix plan to build a pedestrian bridge over the Arizona Canal between 15th and 19th Avenues. The City of Phoenix is currently designing a striping plan on 15th Avenue that includes bicycle lanes and a road diet. INTEGRAL to the 15th Avenue striping plan is a bridge over the Arizona Canal between 15th and 19th Avenues. The Arizona Canal is a heavily used east-west route that traverses Scottsdale, Phoenix, and Glendale. An unimpeded bicycle lane from north of the Arizona Canal to downtown Phoenix does not exist west of Central Avenue. The bridge over the Arizona Canal is the keystone of the plan to connect bicyclists north of the Arizona Canal to downtown Phoenix.

An improved crossing over the Arizona Canal that facilitates bicycle access to downtown Phoenix will serve both recreational and commuting bicyclists. CAzB supports the City of Phoenix' efforts to construct a bridge over the Arizona Canal and believes this bridge merits funding through federal transportation enhancement funds.

Sincerely,
RS Matt RRT, LCI
Registered Respiratory Therapist (ret)
League Cycling Instructor,
League of American Bicyclists
Board of Directors, CAzB



Giro d' Italia Comments ("Payback's a B___", if only in my dreams...) by Bob Beane

With only a week remaining in the Giro, the new team **Astana** is well on its way to confirming the questionable logic and arrogance of ASO's decision to exclude them from the 2008 Tour de France. As I write this column on the day after Memorial Day, the leader of the Giro d' Italia is none other than last year's Tour de France winner, **Alberto Contador**. With only a week's notice (hardly enough time to properly prepare for a Grand Tour), the "new" non-doping Astana "brought game" to the Giro and currently has the first, 13th (**Andreas Kloden**) and 20th (**Levi Leipheimer**) placed riders.

With the possibility in mind that Contador could emerge the victor, with Kloden and Leipheimer crashing the top ten, and then that they could go on to perform similarly well in the **Vuelta a Espana**, I drifted off to sleep last night and had a **strange dream about a telephone call in January of 2009**:

ASO: Johan, we have decided to invite Astana to the Tour de France for 2009. Welcome back!

Johan Bruyneel: Well, you know, after the events of last year, the sponsor, team management and the riders have decided that we don't need to ride in France this year. We will do the **Tour of California**, and then we have arranged a full calendar in the US, Italy, Spain and Germany for the year. We will again ride the **Giro** and the **Vuelta**. We saw last year that the crowds have greatly increased for those events, and the prizes will now be nearly doubled. Five other top teams are committed to this schedule, as well. And, **Versus** has informed us that they will air the Giro and Vuelta, live, and will take a hiatus from broadcasting the Tour de France this year as they consider their future relationship with ASO. So, we wish you the best in your race and we will consider your invitation for 2010...if we have an opening in our schedule.

Extra Special Thanks, again, go out to Pat's Cyclery of Mesa and DNA Cycles of Mesa/Scottsdale for their support of the 2008 Mining Country Challenge. Please remember to support the shops who support your rides!!!

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: Chandler Blvd and 48th 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 59TH 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/West Valley/Prescott clubs 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.

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"**.

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