

# THE LOUISVILLE BICYCLE CLUB

Founded in 1897

[www.louisvillebicycleclub.org](http://www.louisvillebicycleclub.org)

November/December 2007

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Happy Thanksgiving and Merry  
(choose one or more)  
Christmas, Chanukah and  
Kwanzaa!

*The Louisville Cyclist is a bi-monthly  
newsletter of the Louisville Bicycle Club.*

*Please submit articles and photos to:  
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1906 Lower Hunters Trace  
Louisville, KY 40216,  
[editor@louisvillebicycleclub.org](mailto:editor@louisvillebicycleclub.org),  
502-447-7814.*

**Deadline for the January/  
February 2008 issue is Dec. 1.**  
*"Tempus Fugit"*

*Please let us know what you think this  
newsletter needs. After all, it's your  
newsletter!*

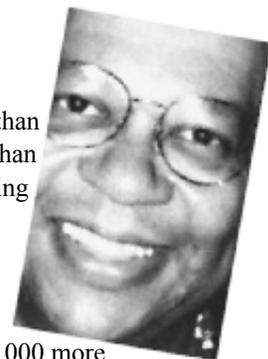


## A Letter to Santa Claus *by Earl Jones, LBC President*

Dear Santa,

It's been a long time since I've written you a letter, for sure more than 50 years. Between then and now I've been more on the receiving than the sending end. But with 20- and 30-something sons, even receiving was a long time ago.

So you know it must be for a really important reason that I'm writing this letter. Not teeth or a BB or bigger gun, even though I probably could use both. Not one more bike, 25 pounds off or \$25,000 more.



I need miles, 600 to be exact. That's how many I need for my 25,000-mile jersey!

I know you're not a member of the Louisville Bicycle Club and therefore don't visit the excellent statistics website that Carl and Sandy Davis maintain. If you did you'd see that I'm about 600 miles shy of 25,000. Thirty-two club members have received this jersey. Probably two more will qualify this year.

What do they have—aside from the technicality of having actually ridden the miles—that I don't?

Santa, you also don't read the letters that I write to club members that usually appear in this space. If you did you'd already have had an earful of my mileage-deprived rantings. In January I set the goal of two rides a week (see January 2007 Newsletter) to get a total of 1,450 this year. I didn't make it.

Shouldn't dreamed-of miles count for something? And isn't time spent on hard seats in municipal offices of as much importance as time spent on the saddle?

Santa, there are some real mileage hogs in this club. These people accumulate miles they don't even need. Just miles for the sake of miles. Mindless miles.

For example, two club members will receive the 25,000-mile jersey. They will have several hundred miles to spare. What a win-win if they donated the extra miles to me.

Do you think these thoughts are too childish? Well, I'm in good company with the other letter writers. And I've probably been as good as most of them.

You never disappointed me when I was a kid, Santa. I know you won't start now. I can already see myself at the annual awards banquet as Chad Green, VP Touring, calls the names ...

P.S.: Please make sure that the jersey is an XL.

## EMAIL NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

### YOUR CLUB OFFICERS (Executive Committee)

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The Louisville Bicycle Club is affiliated with the **League of American Bicyclists (LAB)** and the **United States Cycling Federation (USCF)**.

The LBC 2006 budget for newsletter costs is \$5,000, which represents nearly 25% of our total program costs. In an attempt to reduce this cost so monies can be used by other programs, the Executive Committee has introduced email newsletter delivery. This optional service began with the newsletter for May/June 2006. The newsletter is sent in PDF format to those who have signed up for this service. Each delivery saves the club \$1.25 in printing and mailing costs per issue per membership. Those who choose email delivery will typically receive their newsletter 4-7 days before those who receive their newsletters via regular mail.

Club membership applications and membership reminder postcards will be modified to include this option. If, after trying email delivery, you find you prefer the paper copy, you can revert back to regular mail delivery.

More than 200 LBC members have already signed up to receive the e-newsletter.

To sign up for this option please go to  
<http://www.louisvillebicycleclub.org/forms/enevletter.htm>.

Thanks for your cooperation.  
LBC Executive Committee

Also, beginning with  
March/April 2007:  
The electronic newsletter will contain  
**COLOR PICTURES!**

**Receive  
Your Newsletter  
by Email!**

## NEW MEMBERS

Armbrust, Michael	1102 Timber Oak	Louisville, KY	40223	(502) 245-6196
Baete, Harold	PO BOX 336	New Salisbury, IN	47161	(812) 697-0073
Bartsch, Richard & Patricia	180 Yearling Dr	Brooks, KY	40109	(502) 957-3465
Blakely, Troy	660 Ellis Cook Rd	Mt. Washington, KY	40047	(502) 376-5594
Campbell, Bryan	9605 Brooks Bend Rd	Louisville, KY	40258	(502) 851-7102
Clements, Michael	8403 Catalpa Springs Ct	Louisville, KY	40228	
Clements, Frank	10403 Cedar Glen Ct	Louisville, KY	40291	(502) 231-3594
Craven, Brad & Nancy	6520 Old Newcut Rd	Fairdale, KY	40118	(502) 363-3163
DePrez, Ron & Ann	11526 W Hwy 42	Goshen, KY	40026	(502) 228-4263
Draper, Bill	5326 Panda Lane	Memphis, TN	38120	(901) 634-0076
Edwards, Marcus	3304 Trinity Rd	Louisville, KY	40206	(502) 727-8001
Farman, Julie	225 Eastern Wood Ct	Louisville, KY	40243	(502) 515-3378
Feger, Chris	3904 Brookfield Ave	Louisville, KY	40207	(502) 893-5474
Ferreby, John	7900 Farm Spring Dr	Prospect, KY	40059	(502) 292-2483
Gassman, David	8813 Royal Oak Dr	Louisville, KY	40272	(502) 935-6714
Gault, Robin	10108 Summit Park Place #102	Louisville, KY	40241	(270) 307-2031
Gerwig, Dave	14307 Glensford Pl	Louisville, KY	40245	(502) 644-1427
Gootee, Edward	4326 Country View Dr	Floyds Knobs, IN	47119	(812) 923-7103
Hardwick, Thomas	9825 Woodwind Ct	Louisville, KY	40223	(405) 820-8291
Hayes, Sandra	1102 Timber Oak	Louisville, KY	40223	(502) 245-6196
Jenkins, Dawn	2229 Alta Ave	Louisville, KY	40205	(502) 758-2626
Kerns, Travis	7102 Hawkins Rill Dr Apt 2	Louisville, KY	40291	(502) 727-6708
Lovewell, Steve family	7105 Autumn Bent Way	Crestwood, KY	40014	(502) 243-3087
McGregor, Robert	10402 Croswell Trace	Louisville, KY	40223	(502) 243-2663
McIntosh, Jack family	4101 Boones Grove Way	Louisville, KY	40299	(502) 550-7625
Morgan, Clair	8407 Brownsboro Rd	Louisville, KY	40241	(502) 298-9033
Nall, Michael	7105 Meihaus Way	Louisville, KY	40272	
Newton, Michael	2229 Cherokee Pkwy	Louisville, KY	40204	(502) 419-0599
Niehoff, Sallie	2344 Carolina Ave	Louisville, KY	40205	(502) 458-7506
Northern, Mary	4514 Southern Pkwy	Louisville, KY	40214	(502) 368-1174
Osbourne, Beth Ann	1349 Conner Station Rd	Simpsonville, KY	40067	(502) 722-9038
Parker, Jennifer & Tobias	2517 Cottonwood Drive	Louisville, KY	40242	(502) 640-0976
Piepmeyer, Bill family	12105 Oaklawn Park Ct	Louisville, KY	40299	(502) 240-0554
Rademaker, John	575 Sunset Road	Louisville, KY	40206	(502) 896-9324
Ramirez, Santiago	1830 Deerwood Ave	Louisville, KY	40205	(502) 235-6659
Rexroad, Kerry	326 Persimmon Rdige Dr	Louisville, KY	40245	(502) 608-6016
Schnee, James	432 E Jefferson St	Louisville, KY	40202	
Travis, Tim	105 Cherokee Ave	Bloomfield, KY	40008	(502) 252-0038
Wood, Gena	4402 Rudy Lane	Louisville, KY	40207	(812) 989-4086



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## Moving Toward Bicycle-Friendly

by Ed Tonini, LBC VP Advocacy

The first time I had a chance to read my e-mail after being in a vacation-imposed communication state of limbo, I was disheartened to read about one of our members, a cyclist on a club ride, being struck on River Road by a hit-and-run driver. I thank God that the resulting injuries seem to be minor in nature. I sincerely hope that the driver of the Hummer is caught and made to fully account and take responsibility for his or her actions.



*Photo courtesy Joe Ward*

I was attending a family reunion in Southern Indiana the day I returned from vacation. At its conclusion, I needed to go to an LBC Executive Committee meeting and I chose to cross the river via the Clark (2nd Street) Bridge. I was again disheartened when I saw that the on-road sharrow marking closest to the spot Chip Cronen was hit and killed, had been disfigured with multiple tire marks. These marks could only have been done purposely, caused by a driver repeatedly “peeling out” while on the sharrow marking. To me this wanton act seemed to be making a statement that there are drivers out there that still are hell bent on making certain that we do not accomplish our bicycle-friendly objectives.

This morning, I read an e-mail note on the LBC “List-Serv” that I believe does an especially good job of summarizing my feelings. It was written by a fellow named Reece Bookout. I have never met the gentleman, but I feel strongly enough about what he said to repeat it here:

“I am sorry to hear that you were hit, but elated to know that it was not a serious or fatal injury. I frequently drive a large truck doing deliveries throughout Louisville, and every day I see other drivers who simply are not paying attention. It is ironic, but I have faced a similar problem both in my truck and on my bike, people simply do not

“pay attention! When drivers turn abruptly in front of my truck without wasting time for turn signals or make an erratic maneuver while talking on the cell phone or applying makeup, I find myself yelling to the windshield, “Don't you realize I could have killed you if I hadn't been looking?” Of course on the bike the opposite applies, “Don't you realize you could have killed me?!!!!” As a professional driver I love to see bikers out on the streets (they make me jealous) and I try to slow down, give room and avoid accelerating too quickly after passing to reduce the cloud of diesel smoke I fog the rider with.

All this is to say that people do not always pay attention and I agree with you that safety is not as much about our legal rights as it is being proactive to make sure others know where we are at all times. As a father of teenagers, I also am trying to come to grips with the simple fact that not everyone with a driver's license is a good driver...a subject for another rant. Defensive driving whether in a truck, car, or preferably a bicycle often requires us to swallow our pride and do the safest thing even when we have the legitimate right of way.

Glad you lived to ride another day!”

I would like to plead with the bicycle riding members and non-members to heed his words. We will only convert drivers, like the one in the Hummer on River Road and the demented individual that felt it necessary to desecrate the sharrow on the bridge, by going that extra mile to push defensive driving and opt for the safest option.

We'll continue to do our part with our elected officials and police contacts. Let's have the cycling public do their part to continue toward our bicycle-friendly objectives.



*Photo courtesy Joe Ward*



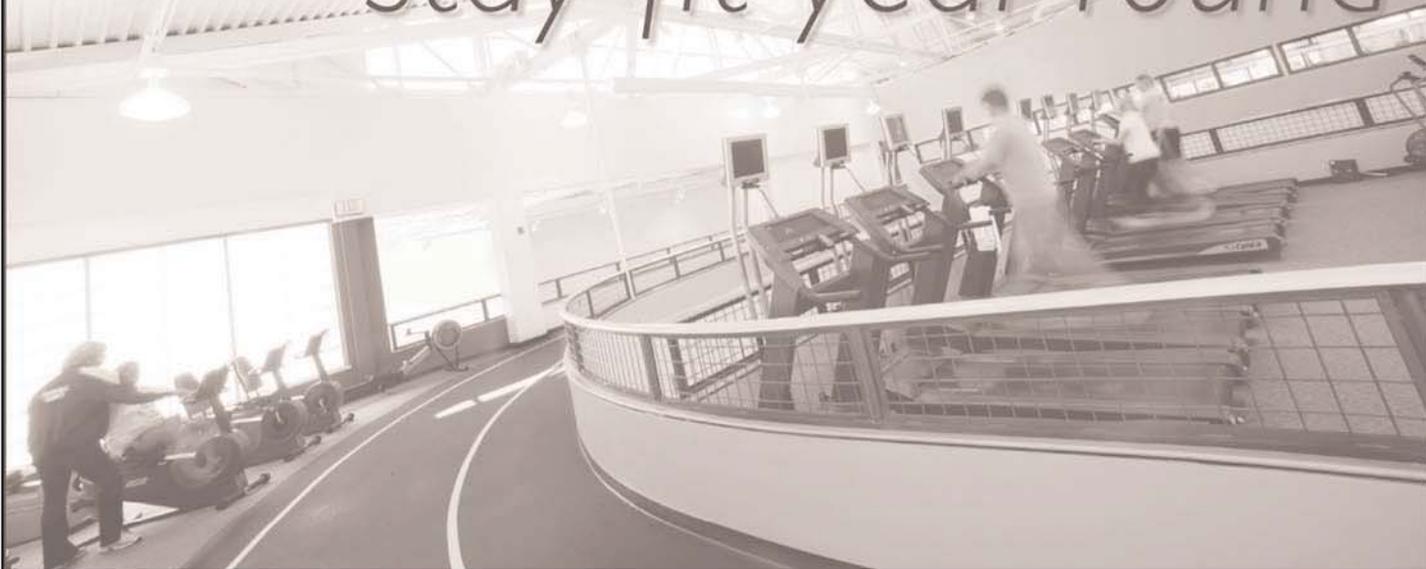
*(Photo courtesy Joe Ward)*

It is not just for or from club officers. This is YOUR newsletter!  
If you have a cycling story that would inspire others to come out for more rides, ride to work or just ride more, this space is for you!  
The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2007, which will be firmer due to the Christmas Holiday. But your article could appear in a later issue if it is too late or space is not available.

Cycling pictures are welcome too!

PaCkMaN, editor

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- ~ The Oasis Spa: massage, facials, pedicures and manicures
- ~ Certified personal training and sports conditioning
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Do you have something you want to share with your fellow club members?

Send us an article and photos for the newsletter! We can accept hand-written manuscripts, hardcopy print-outs or articles on disk (Word documents preferred), or e-mail.

Send them to David Ryan (Packman), VP Communications (see cover for addresses) or hand them to any club officer.

The Louisville Bicycle Club reserves the right to edit all submitted articles.

See cover for deadlines.

The newsletter is sent third class. The post office will not forward to your new address. Please notify Barbara Tretter, club secretary, of any address changes.

You can't tar everyone with the actions of a few. There are vandals who paint swastikas on synagogue walls. There are small cliques that gather to burn crosses in parks or worse on front lawns. Although these are the actions today of a marginal few, the threat is clear and individuals can be dangerous.

It was therefore disturbing within days of the Chips Cronen memorial and dedication of the Clark Bridge to a bicycle-friendlier Louisville, to learn of the defacement of the shared-lane "sharrow" markings just placed there. The dark skid marks created by someone's stopping on the signs and then spinning out signify hate and segregation against us as cyclists, that we do not belong on the roadway with them, that we are second-class. And they also carry a deadly threat mirroring the skid marks where Chips Cronen died only feet away.

While Mr. Cronen's death was unintentional, cyclists are the targets of "road rage" every day, some fatally. There have been incidents reported by club members on that very bridge in the months since the memorial. On September 20, two cyclists were hit from the rear on the bridge by a driver without a license, requiring EMS to respond. Serious incidents have also occurred recently elsewhere throughout the county, including a cyclist who was hit-and-run on River Road.

The rubber marks defacing the sharrowes were clearly made by motorcycles. I believe these were weekend warriors and not serious motorcyclists. People who ride motorcycles a lot know that motorcyclists share much of our same vulnerability to larger vehicles and inattentive drivers as well as the need themselves to be particularly careful for their own sakes. A motorcyclist was accidentally killed a few weeks ago on the Clark Bridge when she apparently lost control and rear-ended a truck.

In my cycling travels, I have never had a problem with motorcyclists. They have always had a friendly wave for me and I for them, whether they were on a single vehicle or it was a long line of black-jacketed club riders. I once walked lycra-clad into a biker bar, Panama Red's near Daytona, and told my cycling stories to several patrons over sandwiches. Despite the actions of a few, they are and should be with us in many of our educational and share-the-road endeavors.

There cannot be many with bad attitudes since not all the sharrowes have been defaced to date. I choose to highlight these marks and the vandals who did them in order to further marginalize them so that others will see them for the haters they are, more kindred with the swastika painters and cross burners than with the careful and courteous driving and motorcycling public. *(pictures inside)*

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