

ATC

Community Wheel

THE FIRST STEP...

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2005

Through the *Community Wheel*, the Alternative Transportation Club has set out to create a publication that offers something to the campus and Arcata communities and **brings us a little closer together.**

Though the club encourages the use of alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle, we will not use this medium to push a personal agenda. Instead we would like to bring you, the reader, **informative and useful information to nourish your daily lifestyle.** Each article is written by members of the ATC from research and personal experience.

Happy reading,
Kevin Wright
ATC President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AT Inspiration 2

Campus service 2
picks up a bike

HSU's big secret: the CLC 3

Touring Africa 3

Wet Weather 3
Cycling

Commendable 4
People

Dorms Demystified 4

The JackPass: solution to on-campus parking woes

Once you buy a parking pass at HSU, you really have no incentive to use alternative transportation (AT) as long as you plan on getting to school early enough to find a spot. What if your parking pass also gave you lot's of options that would enable you to choose not to drive to school? That's essentially what they did at University of Washington in 1989. Since then, they have grown by 18% while total single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips have actually dropped. It's called Upass, and it provides free public transportation, carpooling incentives and free emergency rides home. You can check it out at http://www.washington.edu/upass/getting_upass/



Traffic entering the main student lot

[what_is_upass.html](#).

Could something like that work here? I hope so. As it stands now, if you live in an outer zone of the RTS bus service (Trinidad or Fortuna), it costs about \$176 per semester to ride the bus to school, even with the current discounts offered. That's more than 2 1/2

times the cost of a parking permit. So if you want Dick Cheney to see how virtuous you are, ride the bus. But seriously, can we do a little better with incentives to use AT? The answer is yes.

We could create the Humboldt equivalent of the Upass here at HSU. Why not offer a "JackPass" that provides free RTS ridership, free parking if you carpool, and reduced daily parking fees for those days you need to drive alone? Do this at a reasonable price and you'd actually have economic incentive to use AT most days and the flexibility to choose what works best for you on a given day. It will obviously be challenging to make this self sustaining, but as we run out of land for surface lots and parking fees go up to pay for parking structures, we'll be glad we did it! The time for a pilot program is now! -Chris Rall

Campus Commute

Dr. Rick Botzler has been a fixture in the HSU wildlife department since 1970. He is known for his contributions to the study of wildlife diseases and environmental ethics as well as bicycle commuting from McKinleyville. An extremely fit guy, you wouldn't guess that he is 62. I interviewed him in his office in the wildlife building.

You live in McKinleyville. Why not just drive to school? Well, I really enjoy cycling, and when I don't do it I really miss it. Part of it, I think, is that there is a physical health benefit, but it gives me 35, maybe 40 minutes, depending on the weather, that is truly my own...

Interview pg.2



Rick Botzler, Wildlife dept.

Inspiration: Sara Dykman



Sara and "Abbey" before the Sustainable Campus Summit

"There is nothing like flying past fifty polluting cars waiting at a stop light, and knowing you are a solution to a giant problem."

Sara Dykman

"You see things differently when you walk than when you ride than when you drive."

—Rick Botzler

Name of rider: Sara Dykman

Name of AT?: My bike is named Abbey, after Edward Abbey. He only wrote the best book of all times ([The Monkey Wrench Gang](#)) I kind of feel like we have the same goals; stop the destruction of the environment, only he blows up bridges and I ride my bike. Anyway, read the book.

How much time do you estimate you spend on your bike? Lets see I probably average one and a half hours to

about four hours per day of riding. I try and get 150 miles a week. Every day I bike to commute (job, work, groceries). Other days I bike to clear my head, challenge myself, or just escape.

How do drivers generally treat you as a cyclist? There are some drivers out there that are very considerate, but most of them feel they need to pass me and be a jerk at the same time. I love to race cars and prove that I own just as much of the road as any f*#%ing car. There is nothing like flying

past fifty polluting cars waiting at a stop light, and knowing you are a solution to a giant problem.

Do you believe in leading by example? Biking is not always the most convenient or comfortable thing to do. Sometimes I would love to just hop in a car and take the easy way out, but I do feel that I need to lead by example. If I can bike in the rain, snow, and wind then anyone can bike on a clear day a couple miles to school.

Botzler Interview from pg. 1:

You live in McKinleyville. Why not just drive to school?

Well, I really enjoy cycling, and when I don't do it I really miss it. Part of it, I think, is that there is a physical health benefit, but it gives me 35, maybe 40 minutes, depending on the weather, that is truly my own... it just gives me that chance to make the transition from work and work related things and bring my thoughts together, maybe do a little problem solving, just bring closure to some ideas and in a sense just be ready when I am home to greet my home life and to enjoy that.

How long is your commute, then?

The commute the way that I take it is almost exactly seven miles.

I've heard that you walk sometimes. Is that true and how often

do you do that?

Typically once a week. I don't walk both ways. The walk is almost a little more than the round trip [bicycling] in terms of the time. So the time investment is similar, a little bit longer but not a whole lot longer than that. And I enjoy the exercise too. It's refreshing. You see things differently when you walk than when you ride than when you drive. I really enjoy sunrises a lot more and walking. Cycling, I'm always a little bit watching the road, a little bit more, but somehow the birdlife is a little bit more rich and varied as I'm cycling.

Do you drive sometimes?

I do if I've got a meeting somewhere. I prefer to not drive, but if I've got something in Eureka for example or if I've got a car repair that's basically got to get taken in, then I'll drive. So, I do drive if

needed, but I try not to do any more than I need to.

You're just very fit for your age. Do you attribute a lot of that to your commute?

Well, I'm not sure how fit I am on any scale, but I know that I enjoy the commuting. I enjoy hiking. I enjoy hiking the King Ranges and some of the backcountry, and I know that those things, you know, contribute to physical health and well-being. But it's probably just as important that they all contribute to just my emotional/psychological health and is part of what I want to do just to be a whole person. You know, the intellectual side, my family side, that physical exercise, my emotional, my spiritual growth, those are all parts and just accepting that is a nice thing with helping me be, I hope, a more whole person.

Interview by Chris Rall

Parking and Commuter Services...on a bike?

Lynn Johnson, parking supervisor, thinks it's a good time to swap some driving for bicycling on campus. She acknowledges traffic is a problem and as a member of a highly visible parking enforcement program doesn't want to add to it any more than she has to. Recently she visited the Cycle Learning Center on campus to get some advice about the bike selected for the program. She projects the bicycle will displace vans and trucks currently used to monitor parking on campus

except in cases where heavy loads need to be carried. Lynn points out that bikes are safety-oriented, quiet, and should help bridge the social gap between students and parking compliance officers (PCOs). In the last year verbal abuse toward PCOs has risen significantly and Lynn hopes bikes will help to put a friendlier face on her staff's responsibilities. She made it abundantly clear PCOs work to keep the campus running smoothly and they are often lenient; they don't take

pleasure looking for prospective ticket-giving opportunities. Lynn is wonderfully forward-thinking and kind and the Alternative Transportation Club is grateful to have her at HSU. Before you yell at another parking officer for giving you a ticket remember they are not faceless robots, they are often students and in Lynn's case community leaders making sure the campus functions at its best. —Kevin Wright

When Touring Africa...



“bike taxis (boda bodas) are becoming a popular city transportation option”

While traveling around Africa, many tourists choose to fly between locations or rent a car. For a more intimate experience, there are many types of alternatives in transportation including local minivans, buses, and bike taxis. Feeling really ambitious? Bike tours are totally possible and a wealth of information is available at www.ibike.org/bikeafrica/. In Kenya, amongst other places, bike taxis (boda bodas) are becoming a popular city transportation option that

is a growing source of employment for local residents. Because population centers in Africa are often spread far apart bus or train services are good options to get to those far-off places. My favorite option is to travel by horseback. Basotho ponies (a cross between European horses and Javanese ponies) and camels are both available and able to carry gear and people. As you can see the alternatives to the rent-a-car are fairly normal and a way of life for many people living on the African continent. By trying something different you might just wind up seeing a side of Africa you never expected. —Holly Young

“we can’t prevent the funny looks people give you through their car windows...”

Wet Weather Cycling

Cyclists: Don’t stash your bikes in the garage because of the approaching rain; get on and ride. This winter discover the joy of biking in the rain while staying safe and dry. Though we can’t prevent the funny looks people give you through their car windows during a rain storm, you might find some useful advice regarding every other part of a wet ride. Unless you like going to work or school with soggy underwear and the classic biker mud stripe up the back of your khakis you need rain-

gear. Make sure your rain jacket is breathable and that you brought an extra pair of socks. Modern rain-gear can cover you comfortably from head to toe. Fenders are a cheap solution to keeping muck from the road on the road.

More important than comfort is safety. When riding in the rain it is important to be alert. Be visible. There are many affordable front and rear lights on the market. The idea is to be seen. Even with a light **pretend you are invisible**. Wet condi-

tions can severely limit a driver’s ability to see anything except what is directly in front of the car. Watch out for deep puddles. Though they can be fun to ride through, they can also hide submerged potholes. Brake early. Wet brakes take longer to slow you down. Go easy on the turns, because losing your bike from under you can come at the least opportune time.

With these things in mind you should have a safe and enjoyable trip. Rainy days are known to keep us inside. Biking in the rain can be liberating, enlivening, relatively dry, and most importantly safe!

—Sara Dykman

We Have What!? On Campus

The Cycle Learning Center (CLC), a campus fixture for many years, is easy to find only when you follow signs set up during open hours on the quad. Here you can learn the secrets of your bike, meet local cyclists, talk shop, and find out when the next race is. The CLC is operated by a group of dedicated volunteers, most of whom are avid cyclists with lots of repair experi-

ence. Frankly, it’s usually full of a bunch of enthusiastic cyclists in between classes who weave stories and chide each other while unable to be out on the trail. The shop, a makeshift shed behind Nelson Hall East, has almost every tool imaginable for bike repair. Just have a flat? They can do that too. Best of all bike repair is free but donations are always welcome to maintain the

arsenal of bike parts given out almost daily. The CLC is open most weekdays around noon and full hours are posted by the door. When you want to really get to know your bike, the best way is to get your hands dirty; and what better place than the CLC. —Kevin Wright



CLC in action

Alternative Transportation Club

Meeting Time: Monday @ 5:00pm

Where?: by Center Activities below the HSU Bookstore

Contact: alttrans@humboldt.edu

Come be an active participant on this green campus



Everyone is welcome!
www.humboldt.edu/~alttrans

Our Purpose:

The Alternative Transportation Club is a group of people committed to **encouraging alternatives to the single occupant vehicle**. These alternatives include walking, bicycling, public transport, carpooling and skateboarding. Because of its disproportionate harm to the environment, we strive to reduce single occupant vehicle use through educational events, outreach, and encouraging institutions to adopt policies that further this goal.

As for **Car Free Day** next year, keep your eyes peeled for a **county wide** event that will tie communities together and make for a **bigger and more encompassing** celebration!

Commendable People:

The ATC would like to thank **Steve Sullivan** for installing bike racks behind the forestry building, **Judy Wyland** for her leadership role in getting RTS to provide direct bus service from the HSU campus to Fortuna, and **Maggie Gainer** for helping us to restructure our understanding of community and for being the inspiration behind this newsletter. We've also come to recognize **a number of staff and faculty** who ride their bikes, carpool, or take the bus in the morning. **Thank you all!**

If you know someone you would like noticed, let us know! alttrans@humboldt.edu

Dorms Demystified: survey by insider Phoebe Morgon

Question: "Would you rather use Rideshare* or take a Greyhound?"

Responses:

"I'd rather carpool because there's lots of weird freaks on Greyhound"-Jeff Steuben, Environmental Engineering Freshman



"Rideshare-Greyhound is expensive and it takes a lot longer" -Ariel Howard, Freshman



"Carpool, it's a lot faster...a lot" -John Hurd, Nursing Freshman



*for more info on rideshare log on to www.alternetrides.com or check out the bulletin board on the second floor of the "J"