



the cyclists' vehicle

THE NEWSLETTER OF EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS

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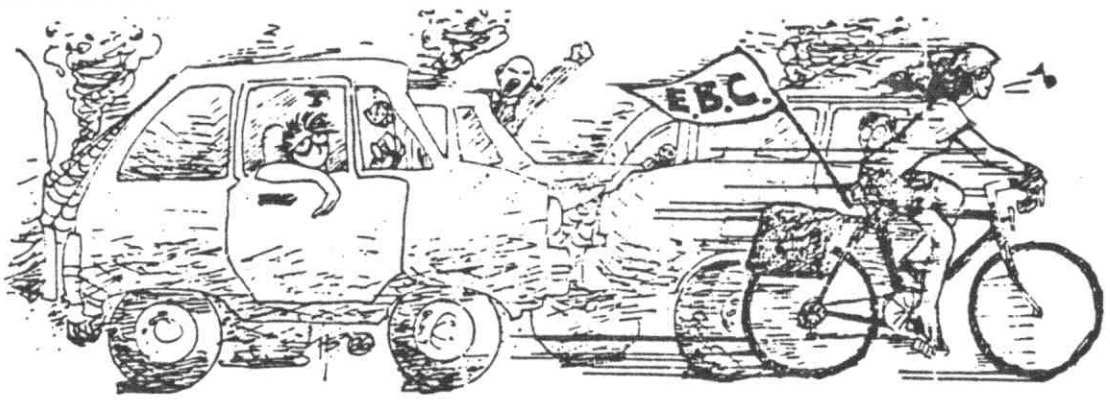
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FALL 1989 EDITION



THE EBC OFFICE

The offices of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters and the Campus Bicycle commuters are located at:

10701 - 85 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2K9

Ph: (403)433-BIKE or 433-2453

The office hours will vary from season to season. Right now we're open Monday - Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

BIKE WORKS

Volunteers are on hand every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday from noon-4 p.m. to show EBC members how to fix their bikes with our tools. Phone 433-BIKE during those times to confirm. And members are reminded to feel free to drop in during regular office hours to use the Bike Works shop on their own.

BICYCLE REGISTRATION

Help deter bicycle theft! For only \$5.00 you can register your bike with the EBC Bicycle Registry for five years. Write to us at our office address, call us at 433-BIKE or drop in. (Please read your U-lock insurance coverage. It may require you to register your bicycle in order to take effect)



ADVERTISING RATES

\$75 full page
\$50 half page
\$35 quarter page
\$20 business card

Classified:

members - free
others - \$5.00 first 30 words, \$0.10 each additional word.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The EBC newsletter appears four times yearly. The deadline for submissions to the Winter 89/90 newsletter is January 12, 1990.

If you would like to submit articles or help with the folding, etc. give us a shout.

Special thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Mary Allen, Mia Benjamin, Ron Cattaruzza, Andy Hengst, Christine Hogg, Michele Kelly, Ken Robinson, Stephen Talman, and all those who helped fold and staple, whoever they may be.

Unemployed Bicycle Enthusiasts!

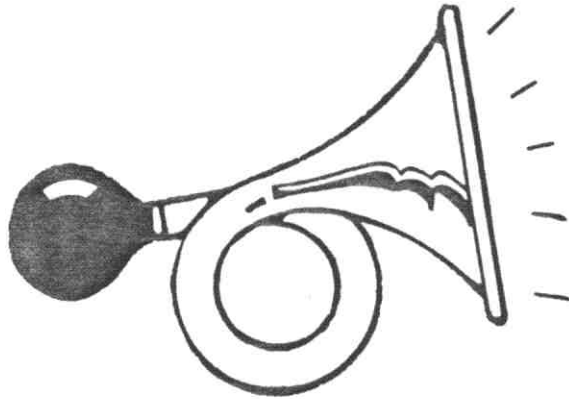
P.E.P. position available through the winter months to coordinate the EBC office and Lunar Cycle '90 events. Must have good organizational skills. Call 433-BIKE and/or drop off a resume.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 19, 1989
at 7:30 p.m.
at the EBC office

* NOTE * The articles appearing in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the EBC, but are opinions expressed by concerned cyclists.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 19, 1989, 7:30 p.m.
at EBC office - 10701 - 85 Avenue

Everyone Needed!!

We have come to a watershed in the EBC's history. Over the past two years, the EBC has grown tremendously with all the stresses and strains that go with such rapid development.

Do you know that there are now over 450 of us -- double the number of members two years ago! New people mean new ideas, new needs, new possibilities.

What directions should the EBC be going in? What has to be accomplished? What would we enjoy doing? What issues should be addressed? What programs and activities do you think we should be implementing?

The Board of Directors constantly faces decisions to be made on the basis of the mandate, and the needs and interests of the members. We don't want to guess what you think -- we want to know!

This year's AGM is a crucial time for members to have input into the future of the EBC. We have some ideas and limited energy. However, we need more of both!

We need direction not only on what we should be doing (our mandate) but also on how we should be doing it (our methodology). Are we cooperative, confrontational, or complacent? Are we political or non-partisan? Is our scope limited to bicycle issues or more widely focussed on the environment?

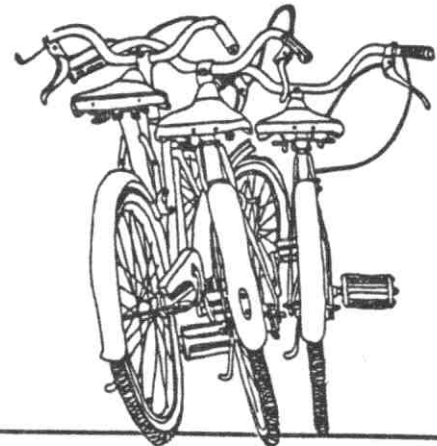
Come to the AGM and help shape the future of the EBC! All Board positions are open, there are spaces on all committees and the possibility of starting new ones in

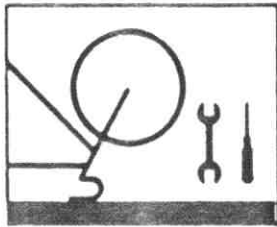
the areas of education, safety events, outreach...

So come on and cycle out to the EBC's 1989 Annual General Meeting -- share ideas, meet other members and relax afterwards with some refreshments.

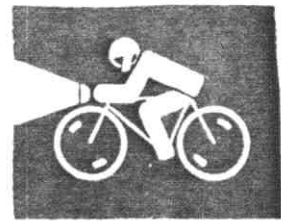
Current Board:

- President*Stephen Talman*
- Past President *Claire Ashton*
- 1st Vice President, Chairman, Management Committee*Mary Kate Allen*
- 2nd Vice President, Chairman, Bike Works Committee*Ron Cattaruzza*
- Publications Editor*Michele Kelly*
- Chairman, Advocacy Committee*Angela Bischoff*
- Chairman, Bicycle Registry Committee *George Brohman*
- Director*Tooker Gomberg*
- Director.....*Ken Robinson*
- Director, Membership List ... *Andy Hengst*





OUR NEW MANDATE



by *Stephen Talman, President*

A Special resolution was passed March 6, 1989 and was registered by the Province of Alberta on August 11, 1989. Section 2. of the Constitution of the EBC Society now reads:

- a) To increase the awareness of the public and public authorities of the reasonable requirements for the safe bicycling of the public
- b) To reduce pollution of the atmosphere by reducing the dependence on the internal combustion engine
- c) To assist the public in the registration, choosing and maintenance of bicycles
- d) To organise community events calculated to popularise the bicycle
- e) To encourage provisions of bicycle parking
- f) To educate the public in safe bicycle riding
- g) To educate the public in the promotion of health through bicycling
- h) Generally, to increase the quality of life by encouraging the daily use of the bicycle

The mandate of the EBC has changed recently from the admirable but rather vague "To encourage cycling as a form of transportation" to the much less vague one stated above. The reason for the change is of little consequence, what is of consequence is that we do our best to fulfill the new mandate. The beauty of the old mandate was that it encompassed everything while promising very little. The new mandate has a number of promises

each of which should be acted upon. I wish to present here what I perceive our successes and failures have been in fulfilling our new mandate.

The most notable successes have come in those areas in which EBC had pre-existing programs. We organised, for the second year, Lunar Cycle, which surely qualifies as a community event calculated to popularise the bicycle. Much of the success of this year's festival is due to its organiser, Mia Benjamin, to whom I am very grateful. The event was made possible by a number of

volunteers, too numerous to mention, but each with their very own, highly stylish, three coloured Lunar Cycle T-shirt, and hopefully fond memories. We are already planning for next year's L.C.

Our second big success has been the registration of bikes. We now have a computerised bike registry with over 5000 bikes registered. For this we are thankful to the Alberta Career Development program, who have funded much of the personnel

involved in this project, to the Wildrose Foundation whose grant allowed us to buy a computer, Chris Hogg for developing the registration software and to Marilyn Strashok for the considerable time she spent volunteering for the cause.

On the maintenance end of things, the Bicycle Works shop was generally swamped, but I hope for the most part functional. We gave some clinics on bike repair during Lunar Cycle that were well received. We are going to put a donations bucket for the bike works customers, no



obligations, but we'll get better tools if you donate. Kudos are owed to all the bike mechanics, Roars of applause are owed to Doug Barrett, Ron Cattaruzza and Ken Robinson who are responsible for virtually all of the improvements that allow the Bicycle Works to function as a shop, albeit a pretty chaotic one. We haven't been as strong in assisting the public in choosing bikes, although we have had very few requests for such information. We have, however, provided a large contingent of the student delegation from the world's cyclingest nation with some low cost, and hopefully functional, bicycles.

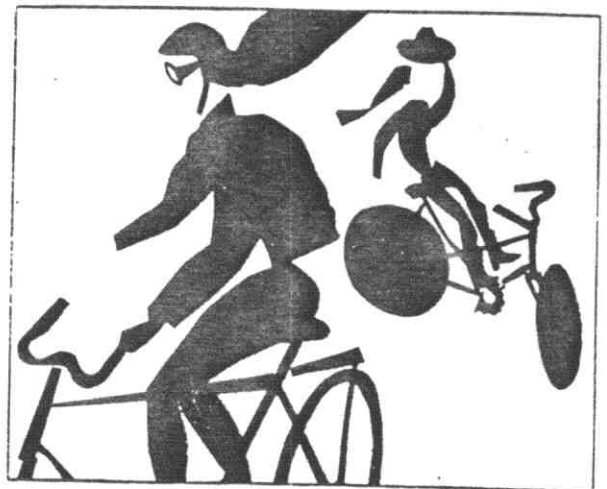
I feel we have had somewhat less success in increasing the awareness of the public and public authorities of the reasonable requirements for the safe bicycling of the public. EBC's continued existence cannot hurt in increasing awareness. Our Cyclotherapy cards seem to have some impact at City Hall. Our Planning a Cycleable city event at Lunar Cycle was well attended, but I'm not sure that we made too many believers out of the disbelievers, and I was upset at the extent to which the bike trails dominated the discussion. The City runs a cyclists education committee. The EBC member who sat on this committee is of the opinion that the Board lacks political clout and resolve. Nonetheless, it is the board's opinion that we should send a representative, if to do nothing more than maintain our image. We are currently sending representatives somewhat erratically. If you would be interested in representing the EBC on this committee we would be glad to hear from you.

We have also failed to make gains with regard to bicycle parking. There exists a petition to amend the building code to include bicycle parking. Tooker Gomborg made a real protest about the lack of parking at the new Grandin LRT station. A number of people have complained to us about the lack of provisions for cyclists on the LRT. Any volunteers for the Advocacy Committee?

I feel that one of the most effective ways to satisfy many of the other items in the mandate is to simply cycle, and cycle in such a manner as to ensure that you are seen. This may involve carrying your helmet into the office and leaving it on your desk, wearing more reflectors than are required by law, riding as aggressively as is possible within the bounds of safety while in traffic. The more people who see you the more people may wonder about bicycle commuting. A note about air pollution, I feel my lungs have done their little bit in removing particulate and gaseous debris from the atmosphere. I'm sure many of you share this feeling.

Since moving to Strathcona our membership has grown by about a factor of four. Both this increase in membership and the new mandate requires that we structure the EBC to a higher degree than many of us are used to. The development of a more stable framework should be easier with a bigger membership to draw from, however, we are also suffering from growing pains. I am appealing to all members to reiterate their interest in the EBC, whether by just dropping by when you're in the vicinity or by volunteering some of your time or expertise. There's a lot that can be done, both to improve the EBC and the cycleability of Edmonton.

The CITY CYCLIST



BIKE WORKS HOURS

by Ron Cattaruzza

Over the winter the Bicycle Works will continue to run Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.. The facilities will also be available Noon to 4 p.m. weekdays, but only for members who can work on their bikes without guidance from anyone else. If you use the facilities, make sure the area is as clean or cleaner than you found it when you leave. Also make sure you're ready to leave at the designated closing time, and please pay for any parts you take.

Because the Bicycle Works will see drastically less use over the winter, we are encouraging members to volunteer a little of their time on the Wednesdays and Saturdays when the Bicycle Works is running. There's a lot to do, like sorting and organizing parts and bikes, making tool boards, repairing bikes for sale, rental, and charitable donation and so on. But with 400 or so members to pool from we should definitely be able to get enough help to make it bigger and better for summer 1990. We'll be looking forward to seeing you at the Bicycle Works.



BIKE WORKS NEEDS TOOLS!

With our expanding membership, we have needed to expand Bike Works and we need tools. We have arranged to buy (at almost cost) some bike specific tools with the help of River Valley Cycle. However, we also need basic tools to help Bike Works run more efficiently (instead of having four people fight over one 13mm wrench!) We could use your donations. If you haven't got the tools, you might consider donating money so that we can buy the tools we need. Here is a list of what we need:

Tool Description	Quantity Needed
1/2 lb. Ball Peen Hammer	4
1-1/2 lb. Ball Peen Hammer	2
Crescent Wrench 12"	4
Crescent Wrench 6"	3
Arc Joint Pliers	3
Heavy Duty Diagonal Wirecutter	3
Hex Key Set (6mm - 2mm) long	6
or (preferable) folding	6
Standard Blade Screwdrivers:	
Large	3
Medium	1
Small	1
Phillips Screwdriver, Medium	5
1/4" dia. Taper Punch	3
Combination Wrenches:	
17mm	4
16	6
15	3
14	5
13	2
12	4
11	5
10	4
9	3
8	5
7	5

With your help we can make bike works an even more effective and efficient way for you to fix your bike yourself. *Thank You!*

THE VOLUNTEER'S REWARD

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for Volunteers

Furnished with big recliners
Satin couches and footstools
Where there's no Committee Chairman
No group leaders or car pools

No knitting booties or raising money
No bingo, bazaar or bake sale
there will be nothing to staple
Not one thing to fold or mail

Telephone lists will be outlawed
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once, volunteered on earth

Author unknown

FRINGE '89

As some of you may know, we had a successful booth at the Fringe this year. With more time to prepare we'll do even better next year. It was a great opportunity to let people know about us and to hand out cycling maps and surveys and to learn the concerns of cyclists in the city.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out and to the Catholic Social Services who let us keep our display in their tent at night.

Mia Benjamin



We can use lots of help to prepare for next spring. Help with BikeWorks if you want to tinker, or strip and rebuild old bikes. Or join the board. We need office help occasionally too.

Bicycle Education and Safety

The number of bicycle accidents - and rider fatalities - has been steadily increasing in Edmonton. While we lobby to have better bicycle paths and parking facilities in order to make Edmonton a more "cycleable" city, we have yet to put a great deal of energy into the areas of bicycle safety and education.

The EBC often gets calls from irate motorists and pedestrians complaining about cyclists' lack of knowledge and respect for other users of travel avenues. Similarly we get calls from cyclists who are angry with motorists, pedestrians, police and other cyclists who show neither concern nor courtesy to their needs!

In a community the size of Edmonton, we have to learn to share space and demonstrate caution. How can this be best done so that everyone is happy and safe?

We are hoping to call a meeting in January '90 of all those people interested in the area of safety and education. We will call all those who, on their membership forms, indicated they are concerned about this topic. If you are interested in discussing possible courses of action, give us a call and we'll put you on our "call list" for January.

Advocacy Committee Meeting

One of Edmonton's original bicycle advocates, Tooker Gomberg, while having made a strong first attempt, was not elected to City council in the recent civic election. But we congratulate Tooker in his success of securing over 8000 votes, and in helping make the environment an issue in this election.

For those of us who recognize that bicycles are the transport of the future, we've got some work to do to educate our present elected officials. Won't you join us over the winter months to advocate for cyclists and our planet? The next Advocacy Committee meeting will take place, Sunday Nov. 5, 7:30 pm at the EBC office.

*Angela Bischoff
Advocacy Committee Chairman*

Check Your Label

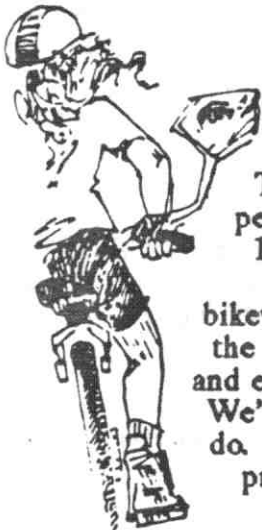
Your mailing label shows a date and a month at the top right. Your membership expires on the last day of that month. (If this date is different from the one on your membership card and you are concerned about it, call our office.)

CLASSIFIED

EBC Membership - a great Christmas/Hanukkah / Yule gift for year-long use and enjoyment!

We also carry a good selection of parts, pamphlets, used children's bicycles, T-shirts, pins, posters and post cards for special "stocking stuffers".

Miyata Street Bike Ladies' 12 speed 17 1/2 fully-equipped excellent shape. 478-9343 after 5PM



LOOKING BACK

The EBC has been pedalling cycling since 1980. We were key players in having bikeways established on the High Level Bridge and elsewhere in the city. We've got lots more to do. Will you join us in promoting a more cyclable city?

I want to join EBC!

Enclosed is: \$15 - regular membership;
\$10 - low income/student
\$20 - family (2 cards)

Name

Address

Phone: res: work:

I would like to see

I'll help

YOU'RE WAY AHEAD ON YOUR BIKE!

Cycling in the city can save you money: Money spent on car repairs, gasoline, parking, or bus passes. It helps you keep fit and trim. Everyone's ahead when people ride their bikes - there's less air pollution and noise. And cycling is great fun. Why not join the bicycle revolution?

The EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS: THE COMMUTER'S CHOICE!

10701-85 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2K9 433-BIKE (433-2453)