RIDE LEADER REPORT
2015 WRAP UP

The number of rides decreased a bit in October as would be expected with the cooler temperatures and shorter days, but 236 riders still participated in 22 October rides. Top Wheelmen ride leaders in October were Torie Loven with 4 rides and 38 riders; Dave Sheffield, 3 rides/28 riders; Carl Zvanut, 2 rides/36 riders and Rich Ferrara, 2 rides/34 riders.

The LWA ride-year runs from December 1st to November 30th and the preliminary top ride leader this year is Richard Baldock with 62 rides and 260 riders. This is particularly impressive considering that Richard has been out of commission for 2+ months! Based on rides reported as of November 26th, second place ride leader is Torie Loven with 38 rides/314 riders, 3rd place Donalee Frary with 33 rides/208 riders, 4th place Jean Black with 28 rides/246 riders and tied for 5th place are Jack Helfrich with 21 rides/322 riders and Art Hunsberger with 21 rides/175 riders.

In this season of Thanksgiving we are especially grateful for the dedication of these top ride leaders. Dave Drummer’s rides and post-ride activities remain most popular with 24 participants per ride. We welcome two rookie ride leaders this month: Brian Phillips and Tom Donnelly.

Remember to check http://www.meetup.com/lehigh-wheelmen-association/ to find your perfect winter ride. To all our ride leaders: please e-mail your unreported rides to lwarideleader@ptd.net. The official year-end ride leader report will follow in next month’s Quick Release.

Dick McCreight

WORLD BICYCLE RELIEF

Are you looking for the perfect gift to give in honor of one of your cycling friends? A contribution of $147 will buy a bike for a student, farmer or medical provider in Africa. Between now and December 31st, your gift will be matched resulting in two bikes for $147! Since October 2014 the Lehigh Wheelman and LWA members have donated 19 bicycles through World Bicycle Relief. To donate, visit: https://www.worldbicyclerelief.org/donate.

For more information on the power of bicycles, take a look at this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXQOFRhFYyg.

We are tracking the number of bikes donated by LWA and its members so drop an e-mail to dickmcc@ptd.net and let us know of your donation. Thanks for changing lives this holiday season through your love of bikes.

Dick McCreight
FYI:
PA VEHICLE CODE SECTIONS APPLICABLE TO CYCLISTS

Thanks to Jack Helfrich who researched and synthesized the sections of the PA Vehicle Code as it relates to the operation of bicycles (or pedalcycles) on public roads in the state.

PA VEHICLE CODE RELATED TO BICYCLES

75Pa.C.S.A.
3301. Driving on right side of roadway
Effective April 2, 2012
(a) General rule. -- Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway except as follows:
(2) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the roadway, provided the driver yields the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portions of the roadway within such distance as to constitute a hazard.
(6) In accordance with section 3303(a)(3) (relating to overtaking vehicle on the left).
(c) Pedalcycles
(1) Upon all roadways, any pedalcycle operating in accordance with Chapter 35, proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway.
(2) This subsection does not apply to:
(i) A pedalcycle using any portion of an available roadway due to unsafe surface conditions.
(ii) A pedalcycle using a roadway that has a width of not more than one lane of traffic in each direction.

3303. Overtaking vehicle on the left
Effective April 2, 2012
(a) General rule. -- The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to the limitations, exceptions and special rules stated in this chapter.

(3) The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a pedalcycle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of the pedalcycle within not less than four feet at a careful and prudent reduced speed.

3305. Riding on roadways and pedalcycle paths
Effective April 2, 2012
(a) General rule. -- Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), every person operating a pedalcycle upon a highway shall obey the applicable rules of the road as contained in this title.
(b) Operation on shoulder. -- A pedalcycle may be operated on the shoulder of a highway and shall be operated in the same direction as required of vehicles operated on the roadway. All turns shall be made in accordance with section 3331 (relating to required position and method of turning.)
(c) Slower than prevailing speeds. -- A pedalcycle operated at slower than prevailing speed shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of section 3331 (relating to driving on right side of roadway) unless it is unsafe to do so.
(d) One-way roadways. -- Any person operating a pedalcycle upon a roadway, which carries traffic in one direction only and has two or more marked traffic lanes, may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of the roadways as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
(e) Limitation on riding abreast. -- Persons riding pedalcycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of pedalcycles.

LWA HOLIDAY PARTY 2015
DECEMBER 6, 2015
GREEN POND COUNTRY CLUB

This year’s LWA Holiday Party will be on December 6, 2015, at the Green Pond Country Club, 3604 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem, PA, with a 5:30 cash bar and 6:30 seated dinner, awards, officer elections, followed by fun and dancing.

Deadline for signup was Sunday, November 29. If you have any questions, email Cathy Odom at c8codom@ptd.net/

Since October 2014 the Lehigh Wheelman and LWA members have donated 19 bicycles through World Bicycle Relief. To donate, visit: https://www.worldbicyclerelief.org/donate.
For more information, see story, p.1.

Cathy Odom
The QRQ of November was to provide a caption for either of the following cycling related photos (provided respectively by Carl Z. and Dave S.):

Neither photo either tickled the fancy or sparked the synapses of LWA club members. The QRQ response hit a new low (or a new high, depending on your point of view). The QRQ of the Month for November received no responses from the QR readership, even though two photo opportunities were provided. Considering that the readership of the QR probably numbers a few fingers and toes, this non-response is not surprising. In any case, the future of the QRQ is again in jeopardy. Without previous contributions from regular QR respondees, Myrna Minkoff, Ignatius J. Riley, and Burma Jones, this feature would have been mothballed many moons ago. Considering that none of those regular contributors bothered to respond in November does suggest that the photos provided for captions were rather lame, or at least not of the significant substance found in past newsletters. In any case, the QRQ will live on for at least one more issue, the December 2015 QRQ, the last QRQ of the current year, which may be, perhaps coincidentally and appropriately, the last QRQ of all.

The final QRQ of 2015, and perhaps of all time, is to provide a caption for the following cycling related photo:

Please submit your captions by December 20, 2015 to grmm3@ptd.net.

GMack QR Editor

LWA CLASSIFIEDS

ARTICLES FOR SALE

2013 Specialized Ruby Elite Compact 48
Like new. Around 150 total miles. All original, stock components. 610-217-0402 or email addictivesports@hotmail.com.

WANTED

FOR RENT

2 HARD-SIDED BICYCLE TRAVEL CASES, Club owned, for rent to members for up to 4 weeks. $25 for 1 or 2 weeks, $50 for 3 or 4 weeks. Plus security deposit required for any rental. Contact Dick McCreight dickmcc@ptd.net

Ads must be private buy/sell/wanted/etc. having to do with bicycling and/or other sports. Ads must be submitted by the 20th of the month to appear in the following month’s newsletter. Send ads to gbmack@ptd.net
LWA MEMBERSHIP REPORT
DECEMBER 2015

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
• Becky Quinn
• Eric Hall
• Kevin Kempf

Membership Data:
• Individual 196
• Family 78
• Units 274
• Minimum # 352

Renewing/Joining LWA:
As most of you are already aware, our website and membership database was hacked ~9/28 and have been locked and frozen since then, thereby complicating the renewal process. A transition with a required software upgrade to a new website and member database was already underway and we hope that it will be launched prior to our annual Holiday Party, scheduled for 12/6. Although we do not currently have a specific launch date, there is a good chance it will be very soon.

We have been working diligently to extract the key data from the existing LWA member database to create an Excel spreadsheet that will be uploaded/imported into the new clean/empty LWA member database by the developer. To simplify the process and minimize costs, most EXPIRED membership records will be excluded from the new database. Anyone excluded from the initial import/upload would be required to register as a NEW LWA member in order to "renew".

To insure that YOUR database record is included in the new LWA member database when the upgraded website is launched, we strongly urge you to renew NOW.

Because of the current website situation we recommend two renewal methods (preference in the order listed).

• (snail mail) Mail your renewal check ($15 Individual, $25 Family) payable to LWA, P.O. Box 140 Trexlertown, PA 18087.
• (PayPal) Make a direct payment to LWA via either your PayPal account, or via PayPal on a "pass through" basis (LWA email address for PayPal payment ~ lwa.member@gmail.com) ~ LWA is classified as "Goods & Services".

As soon as you either mail your check (proverbial "check is in the mail") or initiate a payment via PayPal, please alert me immediately via email re: your action (name, payment amount, purpose of payment, etc.).

Richard Baldock
rv314159@rcn.com
LWA Membership Administrator

Rob Smith
rbsmith@ptd.net
LWA Membership Administrator

STRAIGHT STUFF 9:
THE FOLDABLE HELMET

And now for something completely different in the helmet realm.

A Spanish team has designed and now markets a foldable bike helmet aimed at the urban cyclist who wants a compact foldable helmet easily stowed in a large purse or backpack or briefcase when not worn. The question that comes to mind, of course, is whether a cyclist, urban or otherwise, would want to stow his or her head in a helmet designed to collapse.

The original Closca designed helmet was named, somewhat appropriately, the Turtle, and was released in 2013. The new, "more elegant" edition, recently released, is called the Fuga. "Fuga" (Spanish) translates, somewhat appropriately for a handy collapsible helmet, as "escape" (English). Unfortunately "fuga" (Spanish) also translates to "leak" (English), with a not-so-appropriate connotation for a device meant to protect the head.

According to the Closca website, the Fuga holds safety compliance certificates for the USA, the EU, and Asia; however, little specific information is provided about safety claims or certification. Most of the focus is, of course, about style and convenience—"Closca Fuga represents the balance between functionality and product beauty, transforming a safety element into a fashion accessory."

A recent NY Times feature Take Two, included two brief but apt descriptions of the Closca Fuga—-----"It looks like the helmets from the Devo tour" and "It looks kind of like a flying saucer-----like it could land in Central Park in The Day the Earth Stood Still." Hopefully, the rider and helmet never make a landing.

If the idea of a foldable helmet fits your cycling style and budget---the Fuga sells for about $130---you can find more information on the company website:

For a more in-depth look at the Closca helmet, you can read a review on the UK website, the Discerning Cyclist:
http://discerningcyclist.com/2014/04/closca-folding-bike-helmet-review/

GMack QR Editor

Editor's Note: Thanks to Sally Wright for providing information and inspiration for this article. Her contribution does not, however, represent an endorsement.
AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PREZ
LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

LWA Members,

From my perspective, 2015 has been a wonderful cycling year with lots of great memories. Nancy (my lovely tandem stoker) and I view the LWA as an extended family. We truly enjoy and appreciate all of our cycling friends and look forward to their unique personalities and interests. In fact, our friendships extend well beyond cycling and often involve picnics and other sports....downhill skiing, cross country skiing, hiking, scuba diving, etc. Thanks to everyone for your active membership and genuine friendship.

In 2015, the LWA had many successful events. For example:

- Paul Smith planned a “get away weekend” in Easton, Md, that attracted 20+ LWA members. In fact, five cycled from Bethlehem to Easton (+250 miles and a ferry ride across the Delaware Bay). What a great start to the cycling year.
- During the summer we had rides scheduled for most days and often had multiple rides posted several days during the week. In fact, one Monday in June, we had 9 different events posted on Meetup. Many thanks to all LWA Ride Leaders. You rock!
- Monday Night Grill & Chills were enjoyed by all...need I say more? Many thanks Debbie & friends!
- This year’s Donut Derby was very successful as evidenced by 300 participants (including many repeat riders) and lots of smiles. Jack Heilfrich was the event director and started our 1st LWA Munchkin Mile Fun Race for kids under 11 yrs. old—five laps around the Velo track and everyone gets a medal. What a hoot! A special thanks to Jack for his leadership, creativity, and energy.
- The Gap Gallop was another success with 150+ riders. The event was exceptionally well organized with well stocked rest stops (homemade goodies), well-marked roads, and a beautiful course. Thanks to Paul and Carl for their leadership and management skills. Managing an event with 150 riders spread out over a 105 mile course is a challenge.

In 2015, the LWA experienced 4 serious cycling accidents (that I know of). Some were caused by poor road conditions due to an exceptionally harsh winter. Multiple other factors contributed to the other accidents. I’m pleased to report that all injured cyclists have recovered and are expect to be on their bikes in early 2016. I’m exceptionally pleased that many LWA members reached out to lend a helping hand to these cyclists in times of need. Members provided food, cut grass, provided transportation, provided emotional support, etc. This warms my heart.

As we look forward to next Sunday’s Holiday Party and closing out the 2015 LWA cycling year, I’d like to acknowledge the many volunteers that make the LWA a vibrant cycling club. There’s not enough time or space to acknowledge all of our volunteers that cover a very wide range of activities from the Quick Release publication (GMack), to the Website design team (Paul, Dave & Richard) to the Gap Gallop Bakers, etc., etc., etc. Thanks to all of you for your contributions and friendships.

I’d also like to extend a special thanks to Paul Smith who is stepping down from the LWA VP Touring position after 3 years of dedicated service. During his tenure, Paul has contributed countless hours to the LWA. His latest contribution was working with the RidewithGPS team to get a club wide RidewithGPS premium membership. Thanks Paul!

Looking forward to 2016, I’d like to extend a challenge to all club members. Let’s encourage each other to ride more carefully and hopefully avoid accidents like those we saw in 2015. In addition, I’d like to ask your help in growing the LWA membership. We have ~ 350 official LWA members, but over 700 MeetUp members. LWA membership ($15/yr. individual & $25/yr. family) offers many benefits including accident insurance, LWA RidewithGPS premium membership, Grill & Chill’s, an annual picnic, a holiday party, etc. If you see a new rider in your group, make friends and encourage them to join the LWA.

Thanks for a wonderful 2015. Nancy and I look forward to another great year of cycling with you in 2016.

Dave Sheffield LWA President

BIKE VIRGINIA 2016:
AN EARLY INVITATION

Over the past several years, many LWA members have traveled to Virginia for 3 - 6 days of great cycling. This coming year should be no different. Join your LWA cycling friends on the 2016 Bike VA tour for lots of cycling fun and beautiful Virginia scenery. We currently have 8 members signed up for this “away touring event” and expect to have a strong LWA showing this coming year.

The 2016 Bike Va. Tour runs from 24-29 June and is in the Harrisonburg & Woodstock areas which are roughly a four hr. drive from the Lehigh Valley. Check out the following link: http://bikevirginia.org/2016-tour/

If you’re looking for a fun, yet challenging cycling adventure, mark your calendar now. The Bike VA team hosts you for 6 days of exploration, relaxation, and camaraderie. Every day the Bike VA staff will offer 2-3 different route options, varying from 20 miles up to 100 miles! Their primary route will target between 45-65 miles each day. Choose a route based on your preferences for distance, terrain, and points of interest. The shorter routes are typically rolling terrain with modest climbs. The 100 mile routes typically involve significant climbing & breathtaking scenery. In addition, the tour includes entertainment and historical trips after your day of cycling.

LWA members in the past have either camped at a designated camp ground or stayed in local hotels. And .of course, we get together throughout the week to share our experiences during special LWA post-ride “happy hours.”
BIKE VIRGINIA 2016, continued from p. 5,

Three Tour Options:
Register by 31 Dec. 2016 (price increases after this date)
· 3 Day Weekend (Fri/Sat/Sun) $249.00
· 3 Day Weekday (Mon/Tues/Weds) $299.00
· 6 Day Tour (Fri-Weds.) $499.00
If you are interested in joining your LWA cycling friends, reach out to Nancy Sheffield (nancy@sheffieldfamily.info). She has more information about accommodations and can help you save $50 on registration by using the team registration option.

Dave Sheffield LWA President

BIKING IN SYRACUSE IN THE WINTER?????

I was up in Syracuse for a convention and was amazed at how bike friendly the city was. Granted, I was near the university, but the bike lanes and space for bicycles still impressed me.

The roads not only had bike lanes, but bike lanes with curbs on both sides and clearly marked directional arrows:

I also liked the use of space to park bikes during the day.

And the nearby maintenance station.

I was even more impressed when a student told met that "we ride all winter." And they do have winter! I’ll be thinking of Syracuse as I try to drag myself out for a quick ride on a cold winter day in the "balmy" Lehigh Valley.

Carl Zvanut
LWA Discount Sponsors

Receive a 10% Discount with your LWA membership card!
(unless otherwise noted)

**Action Wheels**
530 W. Broad St. #1
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-866-1113
www.action-wheels.com

**BikeLine Allentown**
1728 Tilghman St.
Allentown, PA 18104
610-437-6100
www.bikeline.com

**BikeLine Bethlehem**
2112 Schoenersville Rd.
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-691-0943
www.bikeline.com

**Bikesport**
325 West Main Street
Trappe, PA 19426
610-489-7300
www.bikesportbikes.com

**Curt’s Cyclery**
Route #248
Nazareth, PA
610-759-5134
http://curtscyclery.com/
info@curtscyclery.com

**Cutters Bike Shop**
418 E. 3rd St.
Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-419-4207
www.cuttersbikeshop.com

**Fitness Central Bike Shop**
4337 Route 309
Schnecksville, PA 18078
610-769-7300
www.fitnesscentralinc.com

**Keswick Cycle Co.**
408 N. Easton Road
Glenside, PA 19038
215-885-7433
www.keswickcycle.com

**Saucon Valley Bikes**
824 Main St.
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-1500
www.sauconvalleybikes.com

**Sleeping Dog Professional Cycles**
330 W. Weis St.
Topton, PA 19562
610-682-1000
www.sleepingdogprocycles.com

**South Mountain Cycles & Coffee Bar**
337 Chestnut Street
Emmaus, PA 18049
610-967-4490
email: smcbikes@ptd.net

**Spokes Bike Shop**
16590 Route 61
Hamburg, PA 19526
610-562-8900
www.spokesbikeshop.com

**The Velo Shop**
6465 Village Lane, Suite 8,
Macungie, PA 18062
267-374-3915
www.theveloshop.net
info@theveloshop.net

**Village Bicycle Shop**
7 South Village Circle
Reinholds, PA 17569
610-742-4786
email: gs391@verizon.net

**Support Your Local Bike Shop**