President’s Message

We are very pleased to announce that Member Emeritus status was bestowed to Bill Derby. Congratulations Bill!!

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to Bill and to our entire membership. Enjoy the group member pictures from 2016.

Bill and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary on January 3rd. As some of our LWA friends may know, we were each married before. When Bill was looking for a second wife, he wanted someone that enjoyed the things that he liked. He took all prospects out for a bike ride. Fortunately, I passed the test. In fact when I retired and Bill was still working, I told him "Now, I am going to be a good rider and ride you into the ground". With Bill now 75 years old, I still can’t beat him up a hill!!

Jane Derby
Member Emeritus - Bill Derby

Paul Smith

One of the things that stands out in my memory is Bill’s offbeat sense of humor evidenced by the comments he makes. Here are two specific examples:

Bill and Jane went on one of the week long tours that Karen and I ran with Scamp ‘n’ Rascal. The last night of the tour, we stayed at the Glasbern Inn near Fogelsville. The rooms there are really nice - including remote controlled gas fireplace, walk in shower, individually remote controlled air conditioning, king size Sleep Number bed, etc. Bill came out of their room holding both the remote for the gas fireplace and the remote for the air conditioning and said "Look, I can turn on both the air conditioning and fireplace at the same time while I'm in the sleep number bed."

Another time I was leading a ride from Goodman on a day that was, to say the least, brisk. Bill and Jane pulsed in, Bill gets out and says "Well it’s cold, but at least it’s windy!"

That kind of weird analogy was typical. Another example was about a hill, "It’s long, but at least it’s steep!"

We all know and love Jane, and we all know she is a bit, (shall we say,) obsessive compulsive and a neat freak. At the time, Jane was the club treasure, and in typical Jane fashion, was a real stickler with the books. We were commenting about how great it was to have a treasurer who was so on top of things. I remember Bill adding to the conversation, saying well, "The qualities you want in a club treasure are not necessarily the ones you want in a wife." We all knew what he meant and that it was said with the deep and special love Bill feels for Jane.

Huckleberry is their property near White Haven where Bill and Jane host weekend camping several times each summer with a gang of friends. Karen and I felt honored to be invited to join the gang. We usually ended up sitting around a blazing campfire in the evening frequently playing a game called "The Name Game". Naturally the consumption of "adult beverages" was included. Bill and Jane’s tent was a always pitched a distance away, up a slight hill, actually more like a gentle grade. Bill had a consumed, let’s say a few, adult beverages. He got up to walk to his tent, walked about a third of the way, then sort of did a U-turn and headed back to the fire pit. It looked for all the world like he had been pulled back by some invisible force. And, it happened more than once!! The spot where he did the U-turn forever became known as the "High Gravity Zone". They even had a sign made up that said "WARNING...HIGH GRAVITY ZONE" which was placed at the appropriate spot in the field.

As far as riding is concerned, before we had cycling computers, GPS maps, etc, rides often had no cue sheets and the group relied on the ride leader to know where to go.

As you all know, Bill likes to be out front. That’s fine except he frequently would go in a direction other than the one the route leader had planned, and sometimes didn’t know the area. If you followed Bill, you risked losing the group at best and potentially getting lost at worst. This happened often enough that a rule of sorts developed. It was a very simple rule: Never Follow Bill!"

However, one sure thing you could follow Bill to was the coke machine at a rest stop.

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Many of us who are younger than Bill have been amazed at his ability to climb like the energizer bunny. One day Neil Dicker said “I hope we can ride like Bill when we are his age”. I responded “Neil, we can’t ride like him NOW”.

As well as Bill can ride, his Achilles heal is the heat, he just melts. So one very hot day I nicknamed him Mr. Butterworth. I was hoping to find him a jersey with melting butter or Running on Coke.

Terry Terfinko
Bill and Jane Derby
Side by side
December Rider Leader Report

We’re off to a great start in our new ride year with 19 rides reported for a mild December and 97 riders participating. Your top three ride leaders are Richard Baldock with 6 rides and 11 riders; Jim Fullerton 4 rides/41 riders and Dick McCreight 2 rides/14 riders. Check https://www.meetup.com/Lehigh-Wheelmen-Association/events/ to find your perfect winter ride. If the weather is bad check out Lenni’s indoor CompuTrainer rides (posted on Meetup). Ride Leaders: after your rides remember to send you rides (date and number of riders including yourself) to lwarideleader@ptd.net so we can get them recorded right away.

Be safe! Dick McCreight

Editor’s Correction: Rob Smith contributed last month’s tribute to ride leader Donalee Frary. Thank You Rob.

Jack,

Just a short note of thanks for organizing our LWA holiday gift effort. Your leadership and the generosity of the LWA membership has made a difference to a families who needs our help.

I picked up the LWA mail today and we received a thank you note from a resident at 6th Street Shelter. The touching point is that this is a handmade card, with a newborn’s footprint on the cover.

Dave Sheffield, President

Thank you so much for all the gifts. I loved them all and my son too. And it’s so cute.

Andi's 6th Christmas
Item for FREE!
“58 cm Lemond Buenos Aires bike free to a good home. Reynolds 853 steel frame, carbon fork, Shimano 105 triple, a bit of wear and rust. Contact Dick McCreight dickmcc@ptd.net.”
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