

# Post Ride Follow Up 2007

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Pasadena: 117

The first Pasadena Ride of Silence was a huge success!

117 cyclists of all ability levels joined us for a 3 lap, 9 mile Silent tour of the Rose Bowl to honor those cyclists who have been killed or injured by motorists. The 2 x 2 riding formation stretched over 150 meters and the black and red armbands were all that was needed to inform the public that this was indeed a "Memorial Ride" in honor of 21 cyclists whose names were spoken aloud prior to the ride start. It was an introspective and emotional ride. Thank you for the opportunity to create this piece of the "big picture". I plan to do it again in 2008. FYI: The press release got the attention of local TV station KCAL 9 and the event coverage aired on the 10 o'clock news. Cheers, Rick Babington

CO

DE

FA

Miami

we had 300 riders again this year tv and newspaper coverage, do we have date for 08?

Thanks

John Voss

Naples: 6

In Naples, Florida we had 6 cyclists participate in the Ride of Silence on May 16, 2007. (Low turn-out because of rain.) Maureen Bonness

Sunrise: 45

The Sunrise, FL - Markham Park ROS went very well. I was a little disappointed as only about 45 riders participated. I was not able to promote it as well this year and hopefully that was the reason for the lesser turnout. Robin Katzenstein, who lost her daughter, Lauren, in 2003 while riding with her father in the MS-150 gave me a check for \$50.00 . Please send me an address to mail her donation.

<http://www.celebratelauren.com/aboutLauren.php>

*Celia Conti*, Newsletter Editor, South Broward Wheelers, Inc., Davie, FL 33320

GA

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IA

Ames: 60

It is our first one. I thought we had a good turn out. I talked to people who came from Boone, Ia, Ankeny, Ia, and Jordan, Ia.

Here are a few pictures I was able to take from our ride. If I get more from others, I'll send them. We had the Ames Tribune take photos out on the route. They may be in tonight's paper. A reporter from the Des Moines Register interviewed me a bit and took photos out on the route. TV8 news was there and interviewed Steve and I. It aired last night on the 10 o'clock news. We missed it as we were still downtown. We felt there were about 60 riders. The weather was sunny and windy, but OK in town. We met at a spot near railroad crossings. It worked out perfect. A train had just gone by and I started the speech about the ride etc. We had good traffic conditions. I had one vehicle in the lead and one following. When TV8 interviewed us, there was no trains. (We get tons of them everyday.) This morning we were interviewed by the LITE 104 radio station about the ride and about cycling safety talks with the driver's ed students. Hope that all of this will get other cyclists to do the same across the state. I don't think I told you. One of our Tall Dog Bike Club members in Waynesboro, VA (Joan Leake) got a ROS going there this year. She emailed awhile back and wanted to know what we were doing here. All the help I had from emails like yours was shared with her. She said they made it on the local news and newspaper as well. I hope she sends me a copy. She comes back to Iowa for RAGBRAI almost every year. We have club members that have joined us from all over the US that come back whenever they can. I hope we can get more DOGS to get a ride in their area. At our club dinner last year (the last evening of RAGBRAI) I asked if anyone had heard of it and tried to inform a bit there. Some had never heard of it. But year after year the word is spreading. You will like the photo in our local paper of the ride. I think it made a statement to the community. Where could I send a copy of the newspaper article for you? Take care! Julie Engeman

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ID  
KA  
KY  
LA  
MA

Boston: 38

Boston Ride of Silence: A "Moving" Tribute

More thanks go to the 38 people who came out to the Ride of Silence from Somerville to Boston, in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways, on the rain date of May 22. We apologize again for the confusion regarding the date change. In all, this was a very powerful event.

"It was even more moving than I expected it be," said David Watson, Executive Director of MassBike, who led the ride, "and I think other people shared that feeling." – MassBike

North Hampton: 0

We had to cancel due to heavy rain just prior to departure time & severe weather (tornado, high winds, heavy thundershowers) advisories. I went to the meeting place to make the decision@ the last moment, & only 2 others showed up... Disappointing, but necessary.  
Marvin J. Ward

MD  
ME  
MI

### **Adrian, 8 Riders**

Not a large turn out for this year's ride, just 8 riders, but all were seasoned vets. Lousy weather probably kept our numbers down (again). But, we will persevere as it's a great cause. The local paper did a wonderful job of coverage, netting us a front page picture (slow news day?! Local support is good, we just need to get more people involved in the movement. Next year I will approach the high schools as they now require students to complete volunteer hours. Since the ROS is about increasing community awareness, it certainly should count. The battle will be trying to get a teenager to wear a helmet ; )  
Jim Dickson  
Adrian MI 49221

### **Ann Arbor, 40 Riders**

Mark, in Ann Arbor, we had 35 plus riders. Also, in Ann Arbor the ride was preceded by a talk from Bud Preston, the spouse of a cancer victim, since May 16th was also Live Strong Day. As the riders returned, they were met by a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace."  
I'm sure you will also hear from Ann Hunt, the ride leader.  
Lynda Collins

Ann Arbor Ride of Silence, Wednesday, May 16, 2007.

This is the second year that AABTS has organized a memorial ride in Ann Arbor to honor fellow bicyclists who have been injured or killed in roadway crashes.

About 40 bicyclists gathered in Wheeler Park at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. After donning red or black armbands and listening to remarks, they rode 6.5 miles together in silence, joining the worldwide Ride of Silence (RoS).

Some participants had come early to listen to presentations for Live**Strong** Day, sponsored by the Lance Armstrong Foundation to recognize people affected by cancer and emphasize cancer survival. Bud Preston gave an emotional talk on his experience of losing his wife Betty to lung cancer and of riding with Lance Armstrong on the first 10 miles of his initial Tour of Hope in 2005. Marc and Christine Applebaum from the Lance Armstrong Foundation, and Kathryn Pelz-Davis of the Wellness Community, also spoke.

After the Live**Strong** presentation we transitioned to the RoS. Ann Hunt remembered Charlotte Marcotte, whose death in July 2005 we still mourn. Charlotte's name has been listed on the Ride of Silence Memorial website: <http://www.rideofsilence.org/main.php> (click on In Memoriam, scroll down to Marcotte). We also mentioned AABTS members Steve Lepper and Bob Krzewinski, both of whom were injured while bicycling. Steve was run off the road by a car-jacker in 2005, and Bob was injured by a hit-and-run driver only a few blocks from his own home in November, 2006. We were all heartened to hear that Bob has been able to return to his work as a pilot.

Thanks go to Sgt. Brad Hill and Officers Doug Martelle and Rebecca Singer of the Ann Arbor Police Dept for special assistance in traffic control for the ride. Officers Martell and Singer did a terrific job; the ride would not have been as safe without them. Dorothy Stock and Pete Hines led the ride, Don and Gwen Evich stationed themselves at turns to be sure everyone could follow the route, Kathleen Donahoe drove SAG (and had one taker!) and Ann Hunt brought up the rear. We were welcomed back to Wheeler Park by bagpiper Herm Steinman playing Amazing Grace. Thanks to every one of these great folks.

Next year we plan to expand the Ann Arbor RoS to a more visible route through the downtown. This will involve more preplanning. Stay tuned

Ann Hunt

### **Boyne City, 25 Riders, 50 Attending**

Mark,

Well, in spite of some not so good weather we did have a ride last night. There were about 50 people at the rally before the ride and about 25 on the ride. See the news release attachment. Our photographer has some pictures but I have not seen them yet.

### ***A COOL RIDE***

The North Country Bicycle Club sponsored a "RIDE of SILENCE" as did hundreds of bike clubs across the country and 23 locations across Michigan to commemorate their fellow riders who have been injured or killed in an accident on the road. All of these rides began simultaneously at 7:00 PM on May 16th. In Boyne City a sizable group of cycling supporters gathered in spite of the inclement weather at 6:30 for a brief memorial and reminder of the rules of the road as expressed by our Ride Leader Donna Moll. While we each remembered our own fallen friends, she introduced our community's latest victims, Bill Aten and Brandon Inglehart who were assisted by their families to meet with the group. Bill and Branden were the recent victims on a tragic accident that left them seriously injured. We were happy to see that they are recovering.

The hearty cyclists began the long slow COOL "RIDE of SILENCE" which followed the shore of Lake Charlevoix in spite of the temps in the low 40's, a stiff breeze blowing off the lake and a constant cold rain. We were joined by the bicycle mounted police patrol from Boyne City and the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Patrol. This was a good reminder that we all have our rights and responsibilities while enjoying the

privilege of using the road system, both cyclists and motorist. Each participant was given a booklet, "What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know" published by the MDOT and The League of Michigan Bicyclists. You may pick up a copy at either North Country Cycle Sports or Bike Fix Cycling Center.

Michael Sheean

### **Battle Creek, 60 Riders**

Last year we hosted 4 riders for the entire route of our Ride of Silence. This year, our 2nd, we had nearly 60 riders from the Battle Creek area join us. Members of the Battle Creek Bicycle Club, Team Active Racing, customers from Getaway Sports and Team Active, and other local cycling enthusiasts joined to make this event a success. We were escorted by Officers Bruce Penning and Craig Dingman of the Battle Creek Police Dept. who used their motorcycles to safely guide us through our entire route. The even stopped traffic at intersections so we could safely pass.

The weather was perfect: 60 degrees and a bit breezy, with completely clear skies overhead.

The only thing missing was local media, who ironically, are really promoting May as national Bike to Work month. I did a full interview last week that never made it into print. I'm pushing for a follow up article to at least help explain to local motorists why they were stopped to let 60 bicyclists ride past!

Thank you to the national ROS organization, and especially to you, Mark, for helping to make this ride such a success.

Peace,  
Brian Clissold  
R.O.S. Battle Creek Coordinator  
[clissold@tds.net](mailto:clissold@tds.net)

### **Detroit, 51 Riders**

We had a great ride in Detroit. About 51 riders. Fox 2 news covered our event. Detroit police cars escorted us for a non stop ride through Detroit. They did a great job. We had a sag vehicle and paramedic at the back of the line. Attached is a photo from the ride. Also, included in the picture are the 3 Detroit officers.

Marc Broadnax

### **E. Lansing, 25 Riders**

Hello all,  
Despite the colder temps and threatening skies we had a great turnout last night at the 1st

ever MSU/ EL/ Lansing Ride of Silence. Approx. 25 bicyclists started the ride including 6 police bike patrol officers (3 from Lansing, 3 from MSU) who graciously escorted us thru the MSU campus, E. Lansing on down to the Capitol. The police officers covered our rear and the front blocking intersections for us to be able to continue through most of them without stopping or getting split up. Unfortunately the local media didn't turnout at all, but we had a very good reception from bystanders and motorists throughout the ride; no one yelled anything negative or did anything else that was negative during the ride. I'd like to think that wasn't totally due to the police escorts, but....

Photos from our ride can be viewed here:

[http://www.bikes.msu.edu/events\\_news/ros-5-16-07/index.html](http://www.bikes.msu.edu/events_news/ros-5-16-07/index.html)

Thanks to Thomas Harpstead for loaning me his camera for the ride and for pulling that awesome Bikes-at-Work trailer <http://www.bikesatwork.com/> with the LMB banners.  
<<http://www.lmb.org/>>

On the return ride home I had the chance to get to know some of the riders and discovered a mother-son duo who were riding to honor the memory of the mother's brother who was killed by a motorist while riding his bike a year and a half ago. She's the person in the photos with the photo on her back/ front. A number of others on the ride had also been hit and injured personally and everyone knew of others hit and injured and or killed so everyone was wearing red or black armbands (except for me as I was too preoccupied getting things together, closing our shop, etc. and forgot). If anyone knows her name I'd appreciate you letting me know.

Ride on (safely),  
Tim Potter  
Coordinator

### **Grand Rapids, 113 Riders, 125 attending.**

Under sunny skies (for a change) but a chilled and windy eve, 113 cyclists lined up for Grand Rapids 3rd R of S. Many family and friends of Joey Lorentz, the 13 year old from Wyoming who was killed a few weeks ago were in attendance, all wearing matching T's with a big picture of Joey. Back at Riverside Park, Joey's aunt hugged me in tears and thanked us for giving them the opportunity to remember him. They were our honorary Ride Leaders. His parents who did not ride, were in attendance, very grateful and told me they hoped to be in better shape next year, physically & emotionally to ride with us. We were incident free this year, and the Ride as a whole went very well, with most motorists slowing down or pulling off to the side until we passed. We look again to next year, Wed. May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Now for all the thanks that are needed, to those who helped make last night's Ride a success.

To the Rapid Wheelmen Bike Club volunteers; Judy DeYoung, Mike & Tanya Burden,

Ron David, Nick Shaffer, Ben Hagar, Jim Steenwyk, Vic Manske, Jeff Festian, Tom Herold and Karen Dunnam. A special thanks to Mike for again arranging to have flag sticks, printing the orange funeral flags we attached to the flag sticks, that were mounted to bikes, for returning all the sticks, and some great thoughts on how to improve next year's Ride.

To his Honor Mayor Heartwell, for attending, so he could thank everyone for helping to make the streets of GR safer for his constituents, and delivering the prayer before our start. To Jane Magniant, the Mayor's sec., (her 3rd year riding) for arranging the Mayor's schedule so he could attend, and arranging to have GR's portable PA system available so his Honor and I could address the everyone.

To Lt. Pat Dean, for again providing a patrol car to safely lead us on our Ride, for loaning us the PA system and to Officer Howard for leading the way this year.

To Alger Schwinn for again providing flag sticks to attach our R of S funeral flags to, and the SAG support. To Jim DeGracia at Jade Cycles for donating the R of S banner, that will serve us for many years too come.

To the members of the Grand Rapids & District Pipe Band for solemnly supporting us with Amazing Grace as we circled John Ball Park, and welcoming us back at Riverside with America the Beautiful.

To Shelley Irwin at WGVU radio, for having an interview with me on WGVU a few days before the Ride. To Ted Roelofs and his great article about the Ride in the GR Press on Tues and Sue Shroeder for her editorial a week later. To WXMI FOX News, for the outstanding TV coverage on the Ride, and tying it in with National Bike week and month. <http://fox17.trb.com/news/?track=nav>

To Chris Phelan in Dallas, the Ride's founder, and the rest of the Ride of Silence board who made this a success globally. **274 Locations, all 50 States, in 15 countries, on 6 continents.**

And to the greater GR area riders who came out to remember family and friends, who hope to make the road safer for cyclists, not only in GR, but worldwide.

I'll close as always, paraphrasing Mike Burden after 2005's Ride [Hopefully there will be a day when Rides of Silence are no longer needed].

Mark Hagar  
Grand Rapids Organizer, MI Director, National Board Member

### **Grattan, 101 Riders**

101 Racers at the Grattan Wed. Night Race Series rode 1 Silent slow lap to support the Ride of Silence, at the start of the night's races.

### **Grayling, 7 Riders**

Mark, in spite of the 42° weather and a steady rain I am proud to say we had seven committed riders who gave of themselves to make our first Ride of Silence a success. They managed to cover 15 miles and were all very excited when they returned. They are now talking of starting a cycling club here in Grayling. I am looking forward to next year's Ride already. Will send pictures as soon as they are available. Thanks again for your commitment.

Margaret Creps  
Ride Organizer

### **Haslett, 12 Rider**

Mark, The Mid-MI Haslett Middle School starting site had 12 riders this year. The ride was very orderly and everyone complied with the request that the ride be done in silence. 12 riders in single file on the county primary roads made the motorized vehicle drivers take notice and slow down appropriately. Didn't get the press and local cable access coverage as last year (my fault---- too busy with the other things in life) and misplaced the signage made from the masters you so graciously put on-line last year. Look forward to seeing the postings of others. Thanks for your leadership once again Mark.

Lenny Provencher

### **Holland, 45 Riders**

Sunny skies and cool weather made for a successful 1<sup>st</sup> Ride Of Silence for Holland. 45 riders from children to grandparents, on \$50 to \$2500 bikes, all rode together and remember that over 20 cyclists in MI and 800 nationwide are killed riding their bicycles annually. The crowd listened closely as Jan Meeuwesen of Holland, seriously injured last fall by a motorist while commuting to work, thanked the crowd on behalf of injured and killed cyclists. "I am one of the lucky ones; I can be with you today," Jan shared as her voice cracked with appreciation. It was Jan's second day out of her wheel chair.

The cyclists, many with signs on their backs asking motorists to "Share the Road" solemnly passed beside and through 5 of Holland's beautiful parks, finishing past downtown merchants and restaurant crowds on 8th St. The Macatawa Cycling Club of Holland sponsored and organized the ride on behalf of The Ride of Silence organization. Organizers were very pleased with the turnout, the support of the community, and expects it will be an annual event. Please look forward to an even bigger event May 2008.

Rick Kraai



### **Houghton, 60 Riders**

Mark, We had 60 riders and decided to make a statement with Orange Share the Road T-shirts. It was cold but the sun was out. We were hoping for 100 riders. Everyone was happy to be there and law enforcement was very supportive. All in all a good event that can and should grow for next year.

Terry Smythe

### **Jackson, 2 Riders**

I had plenty of people call me about the R of S and I emailed all our club members that I have email for, and last night only one person showed up for the ride. Sad to say this was disappointing after all the work that goes into making a ride happen. I hope all other rides had a better turnout.

Dave Spencer  
Cascades Cycling Club - Jackson, MI

### **Kalamazoo, 93 Riders**

The 2007 Kalamazoo Ride of Silence was a big success last night with a total of 93 participating riders, after a few announcements about the ride and how we would be riding, as well as mentioning that this day was also Livestrong Day, and letting people know about the LMB. Pastor Shan Martin again lead us in prayer. I asked that 3 friends that had been involved in serious accidents Kay Barker, Amy Mack, & Kate Mann lead the ride for us. At the start of our ride Gloria Culp from the Kalamazoo Bag Pipers played as we began our ride.

We had a very diverse group of riders most of which were road bikes, 2 recumbents, 2 tandems, about 8 mountain bikes, and one Burley with our youngest rider in tow. I was one of the tandems with my 10 year old son who brought up the rear along with our sag vehicle which had to chase one stray rider who went straight when he should have turned as the group became fragmented.

Our route took us thru downtown Kalamazoo which presented a few problems in becoming fragmented with several traffic lights, communications were maintained between the front of the ride and the back so that we could bring the group back together as we left downtown. We did this again on our way out Oakland Drive and back in for the last 2 miles of the ride, seeing 91 cyclists together with lights flashing is an awesome sight.

I would say that all of the motorists that we encountered last night were all very courteous and gave us plenty of space thru out our 11 mile ride. The only disappointment that I had was the lack of any media coverage at the event last night. We did have coverage the morning of the event from WWMT showing last years ride and a great

article in Saturday May 12th's Kalamazoo Gazette, I was told that the Kalamazoo Gazette did make mention of the Ride of Silence in Tuesday May 15th's paper but it made reference to the Grand Rapids ride and not Kalamazoo...go figure.

Looking forward to next years Ride of Silence and hoping that this years ride will help make the roads safer for all.

Mark Rose  
Kalamazoo's Ride of Silence

### **Lennon, 5 Riders**

We had 5 riders show up. We were able to get our ride in. It was very windy, chilly but dry. The rain moved out and we rode. It was real easy to keep the speed at 10-11 on the way out but coming back the wind blew you faster than that. We were small in number however our goal to make people aware was achieved.

Riders - 5, Temp - 52-57, Wind - Very Strong  
David Otto

### **Menominee, 8 Riders**

Well as for the ride here in Menominee, MI we had 8 people come out, it was cold and very windy. There were times that you would aggressively lean into the wind as it was coming off your right shoulder. I am sure it was because the weather was bad again that we had a small turnout. I did however have more interest in it this year than before. I will continue to do it because it is for a great cause

Adam Haeusler

### **Midland, 12 Riders**

We had 12 souls brave the cold NW winds to ride the route circumnavigating Midland. The local paper sent a photographer and his photos made the front page. Midland Daily News - The Ride, of Silence

<[http://www.ourmidland.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18353406&BRD=2289&PAG=461&dept\\_id=472542&rfti=6](http://www.ourmidland.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18353406&BRD=2289&PAG=461&dept_id=472542&rfti=6)> [http://www.ourmidland.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18353406&BRD=2289&PAG=461&dept\\_id=472542&rfti=6](http://www.ourmidland.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18353406&BRD=2289&PAG=461&dept_id=472542&rfti=6)

John Geminder

### **Saulte St Marie, 6 Riders**

Mark,  
The weather here in the Sault played havoc with our ride but the rain and 40 degree temps didn't deter the six of us who rode. One lady drove from Alpena to ride with her

son from Iron Mountain to ride in memory of another son who was killed by a motorist dialing his cell phone 5 years ago. She hadn't ridden a bike in over 30+ years but the local Trek dealer gave her a Lime to ride and she did it. Hopefully the weather will cooperate next year but the ride will go on.

Tony Talentino

### **Spring Lake, 35 Riders**

35 Riders joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Lake Ride of Silence,  
Mark Stoll

### **Westland, 40+ Riders**

Hi Mark,

Well, the weather was iffy all day and even all the way up to the ride. The clouds hung over us, the wind was blowing and there was a definite chill in the air. When we lined up for the start of the ride we had just over 40 riders to join us in our "ROS". Our route through Hines Park had blank black signs with black balloons attached to them placed every mile to give each rider a reminder of why we were there and also to give them a chance to send that special thought or prayer to a fallen bicyclist. I had such great help with my team (Team Tree Farm) and the MI Mountain Bike Patrol putting on this event. We had a raffle with "RoadID" gift certificates and we handed out free small first aid kits and whistles. All seem to enjoy the ride and what it stood for. I'm proud to say we were incident free!!! Thanks for giving me an opportunity to give back to the sport I love so much. I've enclosed some pics.

Thanks,  
Joe Foy

**MN**

**MO**

**MT**

**NB**

**NC**

Charlotte: 100

I just wanted to say thank you to the dozen or so Mojos and other cyclists who braved a little rain and the 7pm Wednesday start for the Ride of Silence last Wednesday. We had about 100 riders out for the ride to honor cyclists who have been killed while riding. The ride takes place at 7pm local time in over 240 cities and on all 6 continents! -- it is amazing to think that when we finished at 8pm another time zone was starting and that continued like a wave literally across the globe!

This year's ride took on a very local tribute to Rachel Giblin -- the beautiful 15 year old girl who was killed on the ms150 ride last September. So many of us who know the

Giblin's and for those of us on the ride last year -- she will always have a special place in our hearts. We also had Todd Weaver and Dylan Mitchell in our thoughts.

Rachel's Mom and Dad rode and many, many of their friends -- it was quite a moving and powerful statement of honor for Rachel and for bicycle safety awareness. Dennis Milligan fellow Mojo kindly had a news crew cover the event -- thanks Dennis! Thanks to Brendon Hamlin too who helped me put the ride together, Mike Stieglitz, Martin Zimmerman and Ilan Paltrow and of course Tom and Becky Giblin.

This ride is meant to be a silent testament to the people we have lost and I was so pleased that the 100 or so riders were completely silent for the 10 miles -- by the second lap I think everyone felt like we were part of something very poignant and powerful. Hard to describe but the silence was both deafening and peaceful!

I hope we never have to do another ride of silence other than to honor those who have already gone -- but the reality is riding a bike is at once exhilarating and dangerous -- projects like the Ride of Silence are important to helping make the roads safer and saner for us all.

If you ride a bike you have a duty to support events like this to honor your peers and in hopes of showing the community that we care. So save the date May 16, 2008 -- I will settle for no less than 300 caring, silent cyclists!

Ride safe this summer and please remember our fellow riders and friends -- especially Rachel Giblin.

Team mojouriding  
breathe....ride....live  
michael gibbons

ND

NH

NJ

NM

NV

Reno:

Pictures at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8073766@N03/sets/72157600226894760/>

NY

Massapequa Park, Long Island

I organized the Ride of Silence for the Massapequa Park Bike Club this year.

I am listed under N Bellmore in the location area of your site as that is where I live. Two other clubs here on Long Island asked to join us. Then we got Newspaper publicity which created people from all around the area inquiring about joining the ride.

I was so prepared with armbands in both red and black and a good route where we would have made a wonderful impact here on Long Island. We have a long way to go to make Long Island cyclist friendly.

Anyway, as predicted after a beautiful day, thunderstorms and high winds made its way in 15 minutes before the ride and lasted 3 hours. Only a handful of cyclists showed up and it was decided that it was dangerous to ride. I was asked if there was a rain date and they could not understand why not.

It took a lot of time a effort to prepare for this event. Had we been able to reschedule the ride for this evening, it would have been a huge success as the weather was perfect. Is there anyway you can think of having a rain date for the Ride of Silence. I understand that there is a reason to have it on the third Wednesday in May, however we also want to make an impact on the roads. Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.  
JoAnn Lettini

**OH**

**OK**

**OR**

Bend: 300

I just wanted to make you aware of a new hero of mine. Marilyn's baby sister lives in Bend Oregon. She is not a bike rider. But I keep all of MJ's family informed on what I do in regards to her death. When I sent them reminders of the ROS, about 2 weeks ago, she called a bike club to ask where the ride was and there wasn't any! She called every bike shop, bike club and school in Bend and they had never had that ride. In a week, she worked on that, and 300 riders showed up Wed nite. Amazing, just Amazing. Thought you would like to know. Her name is Diane McMillan

Well , my Brother-in-Law makes me sound much for efficient than I am.

Several weeks before the Ride of Silence I called Sunnyside Bicycle Shop in Bend asking about the Ride Of Silence. They had never heard of the Ride and were reluctant or too busy to move forward on putting a ride together. I kept calling after I sent them the Web Site. I told them that I would move on and contact another bicycle shop if they could not find the time to organize a ride. Finally, they gave me the phone number of the Bend Bicycle Co-op. In a short period of time this organization was capable of putting together a huge first event. I believe this speaks loudly for the support of "those fallen". The Bend Co-Op deserves the credit for organizing the first ever Ride of Silence in Bend. It was amazing. Riders just kept showing up before we set off. My husband and I estimate we had several hundred riders. We encompassed at least 4 to 5 blocks.

The "Silence" of the ride is what makes the impact. My Vice-Principal at Bend Senior High who wore one of Marilyn's buttons during the ride was shocked at the impact the "Silence" had on the bystanders we passed. He noted that if we had been loud and noisy, no one would have paid much attention, but our "silence" drew their attention.

The person who deserves the most credit for this ride is yourself. Thanks for the opportunity to share this wonderful evening with the gentle breeze and blue sky with my deceased sister, Marilyn as she was there with me:) Diane McMillan

West Side, Washington County: 50

Tonight, at 7 PM, over 50 cyclists ventured out on the first Ride of Silence in Washington County, Oregon. Among those in attendance were 2 officers from the City of Beaverton police department, and 2 from Washington County Sheriff deputies and one county commissioner. Also in attendance were the widows of two of the cyclists, one of whom is the subject of a legislative bill that would create a state sponsored program to place memorial signs at those locations where cyclists are killed.

The Local Cable Access channel was the only media present at the start, but there was considerable coverage in the Oregonian, the largest newspaper publisher in the state.

This link – HYPERLINK

["http://www.oregonlive.com/oregonian/stories/index.ssf?/base/living/1179271503204550.xml&coll=7"](http://www.oregonlive.com/oregonian/stories/index.ssf?/base/living/1179271503204550.xml&coll=7)

<http://www.oregonlive.com/oregonian/stories/index.ssf?/base/living/1179271503204550.xml&coll=7> , has coverage of the ride in

the paper of the 15th. Comments included the surprise in how moving the event was, and the powerful effect the ghost bikes had on their mood and the seriousness of the situation.

Folks are already offering to help for next year, including the best help, word-of-mouth, to get more people involved, more aware of their regard for safety, and assertive in how they ride.

Is there any other information you'd like me to share with you? We have pictures of the bikes, and one of our members is going to produce a video for archiving.

I'll be coming to Austin next month to attend the League of American Bicyclists BikeEd 2007 Conference the week of the 11- 16th. I'm a certified League Cycling Instructor and believe education is probably the most vital ingredient to safe bicycling.

Perhaps some of you are considering attending. I'd like the opportunity to meet and thank you for your inspiration. It was an honor to coordinate your purpose and mission out here in the Great Northwest.

We humbly look forward to doing so again next year. Hal Ballard, Chair, WashCo BTC, Coordinator 2007 Westside Rode of Silence, "I ride my bicycle to ride my bicycle" ~Zen proverb

Hal Ballard, Chair, WashCo BTC, Coordinator 2007 Westside Rode of Silence, "I ride my bicycle to ride my bicycle" ~Zen proverb

Hal Ballard, Chair, WashCo BTC, Coordinator 2007 Westside Rode of Silence, "I ride my bicycle to ride my bicycle" ~Zen proverb

## PA

Williamsport: 55

Following a day-long down pour, the skies cleared and sun shone at 6 PM last night.

The roads were dry by 7 - and 55 riders showed up for the ROS. Not bad for a town with a population of 35,000. We made the front page of the local paper - a feature story and 2 photos

Check out the story and 16-shot photo gallery (see link above story) at

<http://www.sungazette.com/index.asp>

Thanks you for your efforts in keeping this wonderful event going. Count me in for next year! Barb Jarmoska, Williamsport, PA

## RI

## SC

## SD

## TN

## TX

Columbus:

I'm not sure I'll ride another Ride of Silence after we were all 'hit on' by the organizers before the ride started to cough up the \$160 to pay the two cops for their one hour of work

Kenneth Jessett

Dallas: 1500-2000

All in all I felt that the ride was back to important basics and the help of the DATES group with the tandems being stokerless was a better visual impact. The start of the ride went off smoothly, once we got Chris the bullhorn. The PA system had a glitch due to the

cordless mike being in sync with the police cars channel of communication, at least we believe that to be the case. (Next year? Corded microphone!)

The sad tune of Amazing grace played by bagpipe was enough to set the mood of the ride for everyone, getting letters from many cyclists saying it was mournful and soulful, it was what was needed to put them in the correct frame of mind for the ride.

No glitches on the actual ride except for a duck taking his time to cross the trail and a few cones that were easily kicked out of the way. We were in the very front with Judith as we rode, directly behind the police car. We had the tandems up next, with a "guard" of Ride Marshals headed up by Mike Keel (Thanks Mike!). The tandems were stoker-less, with helmets or Lilies lain across the saddle with black ribbon. I felt this signified much without speaking words.

Mike Keel and I talked about a way to let the observers know what the ride is about. We have a few ideas for the event next year.

We had a nice line up at the end, and the young fellow who drove down from Denton played a somber version of TAPS on his trumpet. Jim and I donated the fees to pay for both the Bagpiper and the trumpet player. It is my goal to find people who might volunteer their services for next year, although that is not always as easy as it sounds. The term "starving musician" is not unrealistic even today!

All went well, many versions on how many showed up...but it was over 500 for sure...heck, I was too busy running around to truly get a headcount...

I wish and hope that we have no reason to hold a Ride of Silence in the coming years...this is one job I would like to see go away. Best regards and my deepest respect to you all,

Gail Spann

“On May 4, 2003, Larry Schwartz was killed,” began the emcee dressed in a referee shirt to denote neutrality, at the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Ride Of Silence. “On May 21, 2003, the first Ride Of Silence took place.” That was the ride that set the mold that has since spread through out Texas, the U.S., and the world.

Immediately, silence fell over the bright smiles of friends meeting up or those who hadn't seen each other in some time, who came to honor those killed, and raise awareness of bikes' legal right to the road and motorists' legal obligation to share the road.

This year, as one of the email banners said, there would be, “100,000+ riders, 243 cities, 50 states, 13 countries, 6 continents, one day, and zero words spoken.” Other countries included Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Japan, China, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, South Africa, and Cyprus.

Gail Spann was the director of the Dallas ride, which also had the most riders. The state of Michigan had the most sites with 21. California was second with 20, with Texas third at 19 sites.

The Dallas ride attracted between 1500 and 2,000 riders at White Rock Lake under blue skies, very low humidity, and a slight northerly breeze. At 78 degrees, it was a beautiful night for such a solemn and meaningful ride.

The emcee asked us to look around and look at the faces around us before we started.

“Statistics tell us,” he said, “some one riding with us today, will not be here tomorrow.” And again a silence even heavier, fell on everyone as if a yoke had been placed around their shoulders; the burden of those that have come before, but also those who may be

killed. It was a sudden awakening, a strong dose of reality that hit to the core of one of the reasons The Ride Of Silence is held: awareness.

After a brief speech that included a letter of support and encouragement from Governor Rick Perry (received just two hours before), a bag piper played Amazing Grace, and at exactly 7 PM, the front of the pack gathered in a parking lot on West Lawther, began to roll in silence.

Leading the mile and half long snake of cyclists were a local group of tandem bikes called DATES (Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts). But there was only one rider per these "bicycles built for two." While the front seat was occupied, the back seat was purposely left empty. In place of a second person to provide pedal power, either a helmet or a name from The Ride Of Silence web site Memoriam page was attached to the seat, driving home the point of one less cyclist joining the ride; one more cyclist killed by a motorist. It was like seeing the white crosses of dead soldiers on Memorial Day. It was a poignant scene.

Most of the participants wore sunglasses, hiding somber eyes of loss. At every ride every year, sniffles and the holding back of more emotion than a cyclist is used to feeling while on a machine that provides fun, enjoyment, life, and memories of freedom, can be heard among the riders. Occasionally, there was the wave of the hand between two cyclists. But usually there was a clasping of hands, a pat on the back, or at least just a tag of physical touch, proof that each other is there with them, that they are there experiencing this together, and possibly, that they are riding because someone else no longer can.

Two boats danced about the lake as the ride circled them. One has its white sail full of the north breeze. Cyclists would look over to the seemingly free spirit that had left its moorings of the shore. The boat gave them a reference point to the lake, and possibly where their friend or family member had gone.

As cyclists made their way along the path in front of Winfrey Point, they could look ahead to the connected string of silent cyclists that stretched around the next point, past the Arboretum. The only sound came from the click-click-click of wheel bearings moving at less than 12 MPH.

People and cars either slowed, or came to a complete halt. This was not normal for them to see, either. Most of the general public is not used to seeing thousands of high performance bicycles being ridden slowly, cautiously, tightly packed, and silently. The riders could tell most of the public they passed this day, knew something special was going on. They could tell something had happened to cause this convergence of like minds. Most of the public at the park that day stood in silence with the cyclists.

But even nicer, and more important, was motorists either slowed or stopped, too. For a brief moment, it appeared the two-wheeled vehicles the state of Texas deems a vehicle, were being given their rightful place on the road, albeit, with traffic cones and a police escort.

The event was free. There was no registration, and no t-shirt. But this is one ride from which a cyclist might actually wear the event shirt, given its significance. The event is produced and directed by volunteers who do not have a cash flow. Because of its incredible growth, the organization is now taking donations through its web site, so that they may keep the ride going and spreading, to cover costs that have also grown with the event. The fact they had close to 300 cities world wide without an event fee, run by volunteers without a budget, says a lot about the passion of the people involved.



As cyclists finished, they lined up next to each other facing cyclists on the other side of the parking lot forming a gauntlet. As the emcee entered as the last cyclist, Taps was played by a bugler. The emcee, wearing the buttons of Larry Schwartz and another lost rider, raised his thumb high in the air. Slowly he passed each rider looking into their faces. He was trying to give them hope and to say "It's going to be OK. It's going to be alright." As Taps continued, he rode through the bicycle gauntlet without stopping and continued, riding off alone, slowly.

Gail Spann closed the event by thanking everyone for coming out and applause filled the air. Smiles reappeared like the sun after a rain storm. Hugs, well wishes, and some tears were passed between a group that had just become a little closer.

The sun had arced the sky and was coming to rest beyond the west Texas horizon.

Somewhere, another Ride Of Silence was also finishing, and another was about to begin. Next year, May 21, 2008, at 7 PM, cyclists will gather again, to remember, to honor, and to appreciate each other, in silence.

Houston:

It looked like we had a few less than last year but a solid turnout nonetheless. Thanks to everyone who attended or helped spread the word.

After having done two of these, I'm struggling with a few things and expect this forum to have some answers I hadn't considered.

Family-- I have had to herd straggling young'uns and their parents at the tail of the line both times. This year, I was able to spot the youngsters and ask their folks if they could keep up. Some stayed behind with grandparents in the parking lot (!!) but others still held up the group behind them. Next year I will line them up at the tail, just in front of me but I am considering sending a "not necessarily a family ride" blurb to see if Coach Phelan adds it to his description of the ROS. I'll take every body I can get but this IS a solemn event- old enough to understand the meaning seems old enough to keep up, seemingly a sensible place to draw a dotted line.

Route-- A radically more visible route is an exercise in deep planning, long term. In the near term however, I'm inclined to jump onto San Jacinto before passing the museums. Any feedback on why we go down to Alabama before turning onto San Jac? Seems like we're getting missed by eyeballs back there in the neighborhood.

John Lewis

The Ride of Silence: More Than A Million Miles Around The Earth

Posted May 25 2007

by Polly Bohmfalk

On this past May 16, the Ride of Silence, a Lakewood-born memorial to cyclists killed and an honor to those injured by motorists all over the world, was a study in contrasts and continents. Marking the solemn event, more than 100,000 riders worldwide traveled over 1,200,000 miles to send a soundless message: motorists don't rule. Cyclists are out there, too, with a legal right to share the road.

**6:58p, Lakewood time**

A crowd of 1,700 riders, runners, skaters, and even dogs and their walkers lined up at White Rock Lake under the blue sky of a perfect 78-degree evening. Standing on the trail

of the original Ride of Silence (ROS), created by Dallas' Chris "Coach" Phelan in memory of his friend, Larry Schwartz, they waited.

### **6:58p, Palmer Station, Antarctica, (Chilean) time**

Past sundown on a crisp, starless 28 degree night, nine American research scientists also waited. They could hear ice tinkling in the harbor against the hull of the supply ship that had brought fresh fruits and vegetables from Chile.

### **In Lakewood**

ROS Executive Director Chris Phelan read a letter from the desk of Texas Governor Rick Perry. The emcee asked riders to look around at the faces of friends who had not seen each other in a long time.

"Statistics tell us," he said, "that someone riding with us today will not be here tomorrow."

### **In Antarctica**

Inside the gym of the water-bound outpost, 2 stationary exercise bikes were placed side by side. Their riders, tired after a day of diving in icy water and offloading the ship's cargo, warmed up anyway, quietly stretching and reflecting on the moment: not a race, but a remembering.

### **Lakewood**

Cyclists straightened their black and red armbands while a bagpipe played Amazing Grace. At 7:00p, the ride started to roll on White Rock Lake Trail. A long, long string of riders were led by a group of tandem bikes, 'bicycles built for 2,' carrying one rider alone. Their empty rear seats contained only a bicycle helmet or a Memorial page torn from the ROS website. No one would speak a word until 12 miles had passed under their wheels.

### **Antarctica**

At 7:00p, Antarctica Chilean time, riders pulled on the black and red armbands crocheted by research biologist and ROS leader Maggie Amsler. She read the ROS poem taped to the handlebars of the Lifecycle and Spin Bikes. At the final line, "May God be your partner on your final ride," she and husband Chuck Amsler, the first Palmer team, saddled up and started moving, their friends waiting in the wings.

### **Riders around the world**

Riders also began moving through city streets, in parks, along rivers, in deserts, on beaches in Canada; in the Caribbean. In South Africa, France, Japan, Mexico, Indonesia, China, Peru. Surprised onlookers watched thousands of high-speed performance bicycles and their cyclists, riding slowly, cautiously, emotionally. These were athletes well-accustomed to riding a fast machine with breeze-in-your-hair enjoyment, excitement and freedom.

In the US, although Michigan hosted the largest number of ROS sites with 21, California was second with 20 and Texas had 19, nobody was thinking much about competitive cycling as they spun along; they were only a congregation of human beings, as vulnerable on the Ride as on the road.

### **Dallas**

Two sailboats danced about the lake as the ride circled them, white sails full of the north breeze. Chris Phelan remembers, "All you could hear was the click-click-click of wheel bearings moving at less than 12 MPH. People and cars either slowed or came to a complete halt, as if they understood we were riding because someone else no longer can."

With a grin in his voice, he adds, "It appeared that these two-wheeled contraptions Texas deems to be vehicles were given their rightful place on the road, albeit with traffic cones and a police escort."

Governor Rick Perry's official letter had marked the Ride's starting point with uplift and encouragement, saying, in part, "As riders around the globe participate in this Ride of Silence, I am pleased to recognize your efforts. ...Safety is a responsibility shared by all users of our roadways, (and) you are reinforcing the importance of this (in) recognizing with reverence those cyclists who unfortunately lost their lives. We join you in honoring their memories.

"Your participation and determination are impacting people in communities and countries the world over.

"Anita joins me in sending best wishes for the future, (and) we urge all users of roadways across Texas to do so safely."

### **Antarctica**

Maggie and Chuck handed off to the riders waiting for their turn on the team, who handed off to the next. Maggie recalls, "Rather than seeing boredom and impatience, I saw intent reflection from peaceful, silent folks."

### **Lakewood**

The cyclists ended their ride by forming a gauntlet facing those also lined up across the road.

A bugler played Taps, and the final rider passed through the gauntlet and disappeared in the night.

Dallas ROS Director Gail Spann thanked everyone for coming out; applause filled the air, and smiles reappeared like sun after storm.

As the Antarctic ROS came to an end, a Palmer Station cyclist said, "We went nowhere, yet we were part of an event that circled the globe... even down here near the bottom."

The Ride of Silence is produced and directed by volunteers with no cash flow. Because of its incredible growth, the organization is now taking donations through its web site to keep the ride going and spreading, to cover costs that have also grown with the event. 100,000 cyclists world wide without a fee, directed by volunteers with no budget says everything about the passion of the people involved.

To you who can help with contributions can contact the organization via [the contact page on their web site](#). Larry Schwartz, and thousands of his fellow crash victims would surely say, "Thanks."

And next year, May 21, 2008, at 7:00p....

### **UT**

### **VA**

Harrisonburg: 32

Harrisonburg, VA conducted its first Ride of Silence this May 16th, 2007. The local newspaper report is attached as a word doc. We had 32 riders, great coverage and pics included in the article. A success. Many red arm bands one as recent as a month ago. Many fallen comrades to mourn from many locations.

The article you requested is displayed below.

### **Area Cyclists Observe Ride Of Silence**

**Author(s):** DAVID REYNOLDS, Daily News-Record **Date:** May 17, 2007 **Section:** Valley Virginia

HARRISONBURG - For the rare occasions when horns blare and engines rev, cyclist Ben Wyse says he has a special trick that calms even the most aggressive drivers. He turns around on his bike, points to their license plate and mouths out each letter. Invariably, the drivers give him space.

But the more serious danger that he and other cyclists encounter is also the more common one, said Wyse, 33. It's drivers who watch out for other cars, but forget they also share the road with cyclists and pedestrians.

On Wednesday night, about 30 area cyclists toured Harrisonburg to commemorate the hundreds of riders killed each year in the United States in collisions with automobiles. The tour was Harrisonburg's first observance of the **Ride of Silence**, a nationwide effort to draw attention to bike safety and remember those hurt or killed, said Marshall Hammond, an area cyclist who organized the **ride**.

"The goal is to [tell motorists] that bicyclists have a right to the road and to ask all users of the road to share it with bicyclists," he said.

#### **The Ride Of Silence**

During the tour, riders paid silent homage to cyclists who have died. They wore black armbands and riders who have suffered a serious wreck wore red ones.

In 2005, 21 cyclists died in Virginia wrecks and 784 were killed nationally, Hammond told the group as they prepared to leave Harrisonburg High School and start the tour. Other riders were holding similar tours in Winchester, Staunton, and across the country, Hammond said.

The cyclists moved slowly, coasting along Garbers Church Road, up Erickson Avenue to Va. 42 and toward Eastern Mennonite University.

At times, traffic backed up behind the procession.

#### **Always At Risk**

While gearing up for the **ride**, cyclists shared stories of wrecks and near-misses in Harrisonburg and on roads around the country.

Harrisonburg has much to offer riders, they said, a national forest nearby and improving bike paths, but the risks are ever present.

"You can't ever go to sleep or forget where you are, when you're riding a bike," Hammond said.

Hilda Taylor has shared roads with drivers from Hawaii to Alaska. At times, a bike has been her only transportation.

Still, she's avoided serious wrecks.

"I learned quickly," she said. "Well, it took me two hits." Neither was serious, she said. Now, she lets cars turn in front of her even if she has the right of way.

But every new community has its quirks. When she arrived in Harrisonburg earlier this year for a teaching job at James Madison University, she had to learn to share the road with horse-drawn buggies, she says.

On April 2, Mike Wilson, 28, learned the dangers of city riding the hard way - by sailing across the hood of a turning car.

He was in a bike lane at JMU when he was hit, he said. The driver apologized, but said she wasn't at fault.

Wilson and other riders said that's part **of** the problem - drivers often don't remember to watch out for cyclists as well as other cars.

Wyse said he hopes Wednesday night's **Ride of Silence** will remind them.

"Anything that raises awareness on the roads **of** bicycles as a mode **of** transportation is a good thing," he said.

Whatever the result, riders say they'll continue cycling for exercise and fun, despite the risks.

Like Taylor says: "You can have a heart attack sitting on your couch."

Contact David Reynolds at 574-6278 or reynolds@dnronline.com

**VT**  
**WA**

**WI**  
**WO**  
**WV**

Waynesboro: 15

Our Ride of Silence went well despite getting the word out late and the rainy day. We had 15 who braved the weather and a very nice article in the news paper and the attached feature on local TV. The public response has been very positive so we feel good about a base for building on for next year. Thanks to both of you for everything that you did to help is get started.

Joan

Joan Leake

<http://www.whsv.com/home/headlines/7546397.html>

## **COUNTRIES**

### **Antarctica**

Thanks so much for your kind words. I shared your message with the other Palmer riders. I know each of them felt like they had done something of significance and meaning that night in the gym. I remain truly grateful of their sincere response. I can imagine the overwhelming joy and utter satisfaction you must experience at the completion of ROS worldwide. Pedal on, safe and happy, Margaret Amsler [mamsler@uab.edu]

**Bolivia**, Santa Cruz:

MUÑOZ VILLEGAS, GINA <gmunozv@repsolypf.com>

wrote:

Subject: Regards from Santa Cruz Bolivia for THE RIDE OF SILENCE around the world.

Date: Wed, 16 May 2007 17:58:47 -0400

From: MUÑOZ VILLEGAS, GINA <gmunozv@repsolypf.com>

Unfortunately I enter your site just today... but I am preparing for the ride of silence. I love this part of your web site: "No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little." -Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

I would have liked to register our group before (Los Pedaleros del Urubó of Santa Cruz Bolivia- I sent the registration today.

We have two hours more before the Ride of Silence begins... no matter if I am the only person in the streets... here in Bolivia unfortunately there is no "bike culture".

Best regards,

Gina

### Canada

The Tour du Silence organized by le Club cycliste Le Suroît in Vaudreuil-Doiron in Québec, Canada, was not held yesterday night as announced.

We had rain all day, with winds of 70 km/h (40 miles/hour). At 6pm the temperature was 4C (39F) and snow was announced !

The president of the Club cancelled the event . Here his message :

Guy Maguire, webmaster

Le Club cycliste Le Suroît

De : belie [<mailto:benoit.elie@enter-net.com>]

Envoyé : 16 mai 2007 18:09

À : benoit.elie@enter-net.com

Objet : Annulation du Tour du silence

Bonjour les amis cyclistes,

Pour ceux qui doutait de la tenue de l'évènement, nous tenons à vous aviser que le Tour du silence qui était prévu à Coteau du Lac est annulé.

Comme je disais à notre ami Serges, les efforts et la volonté y étaient, mais pas la température.

L'important est de garder en pensée la mort inutile de confrères et consœurs qui partageaient une même passion.

Mais encore plus important et de garder en tête qu'il faut toujours être sécuritaire lorsque nous sommes sur la route.

Bonne semaine, bonne route et soyez prudent!

Au plaisir

Votre président.

### Mexico

San Luis Potosi:

**Saint Kitts** (also/viously known as **Saint Christopher Island**, Caribbean)

The Nevis Cycle & Triathlon Club held our first 'Ride Of Silence' last night, a total of 30 riders attending, many of them youngsters. We would like to thank you for allowing us to be a part of such an important movement, and are very happy to be considered as part of the cycling family.

It went very well, with the local news in attendance, and i believe we made a good statement, you can be assured of our continued involvement.

Yours in Sport  
Winston Crooke - President  
St Kitts & Nevis Cycling Federation

**Australia,**

**Bicycle Institute of South Australia**  
**Media release, 20th May, 2007**  
**Adelaide Ride of Silence**  
**Saturday 19th May, 2007**  
**Victoria Square, Adelaide to Wigley Reserve, Glenelg**  
**Adelaide's First Ride of Silence a Great Success**

Adelaide has seen 4 cyclists killed this year - just about our State average and it's only May! The Adelaide Ride of Silence, conducted on the morning of Saturday 19th May, was part of a coordinated national program & sought to remind the community of the cycling presence on our roads and the responsibility we all have, especially when we're behind the wheel, to ensure cyclists remain safe.

Although organized at short notice & reaching only a small fraction of the cycling community, The Adelaide Ride of Silence still attracted around 150 keen & committed folk from all cycling 'disciplines' and across the age range. In fact the first person to turn up was a colleague of mine who was run over (literally) by a 4WD about 6 weeks ago! It reminded me of the impact that road crash injuries can have on peoples lives and why it is important for cyclists to remind the community of their vulnerability and the need for special consideration from motorists!

The ride went off without a hitch - around 12km from Adelaide's Victoria Square, down Anzac Highway to Glenelg. All present rode as a group and with consideration for others. The support of the 3 SAPOL officer's present was exemplary and we were very thankful for their presence on Anzac Highway where we encountered a number of parked cars & quite busy traffic. SAPOL were able to ensure a more or less continuous 'Green Light' ride all the way! The Adelaide Ride of Silence got considerable State and even National ABC radio exposure in the morning and the day before, with television coverage in the evening on 7 and 2. The ABC TV in particular was excellent - very balanced and factual.

All those who came indicated that, with better planning, the ride could be huge in 2008! The desire to do it again was palpable! BISA plans a debriefing with participants and several of the cycling organizations represented with a view to making the event 10 times bigger in 2008! Feedback: If you would like to contribute comments or suggestions for a 2008 Adelaide Ride of Silence, please send them to me at [chair@bisa.asn.au](mailto:chair@bisa.asn.au) Many thanks to Wheels of Justice for supporting Ride of Silence in Oz!  
Sam Powrie, Chair, BISA.

What the ABC Had to Say... `About 100 cyclists are riding from Adelaide city to Glenelg, in the south-western suburbs, in the first Ride of Silence in South Australia. The ride is based on an American event intended to bring attention to road deaths involving cyclists. There have been four such deaths in South Australia so far this year. Sam Powrie from the South Australian

Bicycle Institute says many of the cyclists have experience with accidents involving cars. "The Ride of Silence is really just a quiet gentle reminder that those injuries are still with us, those deaths are still with us," he said. "We all have an ongoing responsibility to ensure that they don't continue."

Ride of Silence Australia: <http://www.woj.com.au/category/ride-of-silence>

Bicycle Institute of SA: [www.bisa.asn.au](http://www.bisa.asn.au)

**Japan, Cyprus, the Caribbean, New Zealand, Aruba, Indonesia, and**