

# CHAIN REACTION

SEPTEMBER 2014

ORANGE COUNTY WHEELMEN MONTHLY NEWS



## Dedicated Bikeways Needed

Paul D'Aquanni  
OCW President

"It's more than past the time when we must finally recognize that bicycles do not belong in the same traffic lanes as cars, any more than pedestrians do".

Of course, this is not coming from me! This was the introduction to a Letter to the Editor in the OC Register, dated July 28, 2014. This kind of thinking is not what the cycling community believes, as we are all about "sharing the road." We do not believe that infrastructure such as dedicated bikeways is the solution, although in some situations it might help. We preach and teach to obey the rules of the road, be seen, and to ride predictably.

It was also stated in the LTE that we should do as they do in Europe, and invest in dedicated bike lanes. It is obvious to me that with this kind of thinking, the person who wrote this article has never cycled in Europe, and has not done his homework on why cycling is safer in Europe. In Europe, the culture and the law, is that the lesser vehicle or vulnerable user, has the right of way. Pedestrian first, cyclist second, motorcyclist third, etc. Europeans are brought up

with this mentality, so it is their culture and they respect it.

Unfortunately for us in America, this is not the culture, so we have to get the word out and demonstrate that we can get along with cars on the roadways. This comes about through education, not only for the cyclists, but as well as for the drivers of motor vehicles.

We at OCW have come a long way and continue to practice what we preach, as we offer and encourage the League of American Bicyclists TS101 (Traffic Skills) course for free to all members. This is a course that takes place over a day and a half, in which cyclists can improve their skills and their knowledge of how to be safe and have fun on the road. If you have not taken this yet, please sign up soon as we have a class coming up in September (16th and 20th). So come out and earn that OCW Elite Orange Wrist Band which designates you have successfully completed this course.

I also encourage all cyclists to respond to the LTE and to make your voices heard as to what cyclists really believe will help keep us safer on the road. Our membership is from all over Orange County and beyond, so let's give the Register and its readership a good feel for what is really happening out there and how we feel.

Please contact me if you are unable to access this article from the archives and I will gladly send it to you.



## OCW's Public Relations Update

Stacy Kline  
[ici@ocwheelmen.org](mailto:ici@ocwheelmen.org)



## Amtrak Century September 6, 2014

### 40th Anniversary of this Class Ride

"Got to do with where choo-choo go." This Alex Karras quote from Mel Brooks' iconoclastic movie, Blazing Saddles, sums up why OCW's Amtrak Century is such a popular ride and sells over 1200 spots annually...it's the train, oh, and the support, and the weather, and the coastline, but mainly it's the train! After a gorgeous, exceptionally well-supported 100-mile bike ride, riders are treated to a private Amtrak car to travel back to Irvine in style. Everyone who rides is allowed to take a bag and a cooler. With everyone on the train sharing their amazing goodies and enjoying a delightful non-stop train ride back to Irvine, what's not to love? Mike Lee, OCW Events Coordinator, still needs volunteers, so sign up if you aren't riding, you'll still have a wonderful adventure!

## Change Lanes to Pass a Bicyclist

*A Better Message for Motorists & the Three Feet for Safety Act*

Preparing for California's new

[Three Feet for Safety Act](#) became even more meaningful for Greg and myself after our dear friend, Matthew O'Neill was struck and killed by a negligent driver on the Santa Cruz Randonneurs 1200K/750 mile [California Central Coast Randonnée](#). This was an utterly avoidable collision, on a beautiful, open stretch of Foxen Canyon Road north of Solvang. Our best defense as cyclists is education. Educating motorists how to overtake a cyclist safely, by changing lanes completely when safe to do so, can save lives in the future. OC Wheelmen printed 3000 "Change lanes to pass a bicyclist" bumper stickers, designed by "I Am Traffic's" Keri Caffrey in collaboration with Greg Kline, that will be given out on the Amtrak ride, and statewide. In the words of Matthew's father, Mike O'Neill, "He's not the first, hopefully he'll be the last." Please put this unambiguous sticker on your car, and come to Matthew's Celebration of Life or memorial ride. Visit the FB page for more info.

### **Remember Matthew O'Neill: Change Lanes to Pass a Cyclist**

Matthew's FaceBook page:  
[www.facebook.com/remember-matthewoneill](http://www.facebook.com/remember-matthewoneill)

### **"Best of the Web" Cycling Articles**

*"Expect a New Reality"*  
by Mighk Wilson

In keeping with OCW's "Safe & Legal Cycling" focus, ["Expect a New Reality"](#), by Mighk Wilson is your reading for the month of September. In an era of perceived dangers, Mighk Wilson, Florida Bicycle Association President, writes about the reality that cycling

is a "safe, easy, and (most of the time) fun" activity, regardless of the well-intentioned non-cyclists continually asking, "Still Riding Your Bike?"

## **Learn How to Ride Safely and Confidently in Traffic**

*Every cyclist can benefit by learning to ride competently, confidently, and legally.*

[The Orange County Wheelmen's League Certified Instructors \(LCIs\) are offering the League of American Bicyclists two-day Traffic Skills 101 class](#), which teaches participants essential cycling skills:

- Bicycle Safety Checks
- Flat Repair
- Bike Handling
- Crash Avoidance Skills
- Riding legally in traffic

Recommended for adults and teens aged 15 and older, this fast-paced, 9-hour course teaches cyclists the principles of vehicular cycling.

### **Day 1 will be held on Tuesday, September 16, from 6 - 9pm**

Day 1 includes classroom lecture, and is held on a weekday evening prior to the "on the bike" training the following weekend.

No bike is required.

Location:

**REI - Tustin Marketplace  
2962 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA  
92782**

### **Day 2 will be held on Saturday, September 20 from 8am - 2:00pm**

Day 2 covers bike handling skills on a closed course, a written examination, and culminates with a

road portion allowing participants to practice their cycling skills in small groups under the watchful eyes of OCW's League of American Bicyclists-trained LCIs.

*Please bring your bike to this class and money for lunch.*

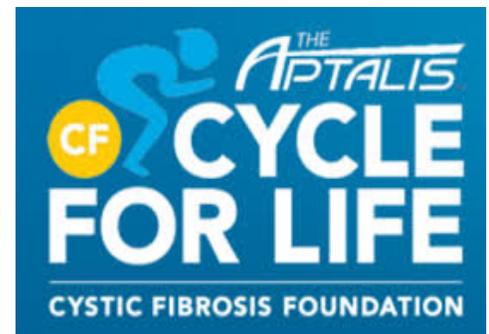
Location :

**Irvine Ranch Water District  
Parking Lot, Irvine CA.**

All participants will receive a League of American Bicyclists "Smart Cycling" handbook and a certificate upon successful completion of the written and skill-testing examinations.

This class, which usually costs \$35 to \$100 per person is offered at no charge if you are a member of Orange County Wheelmen. Membership is still a low \$29, so don't miss this fantastic opportunity to become more confident while riding! Be sure to log in to the OCW website, and use the discount code on the left side of this page before clicking the link to register for this class. [Class sizes are limited so be sure to register today.](#)

## **OCW is Leading the Way in Safe and Legal Cycling!**



**Orange County CF Cycle for Life  
October 5, 2014**

# OCW CLUB LINKS

**HOME PAGE:** [www.ocwheelmen.org](http://www.ocwheelmen.org)

**CALENDAR:** [www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/418357-calendar](http://www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/418357-calendar)

**OFFICERS:** [www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/419328-officers](http://www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/419328-officers)

**DIRECTORS:** [www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/419332-directors](http://www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/419332-directors)

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS:** [www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/424483-supporting-memberships](http://www.ocwheelmen.org/page/show/424483-supporting-memberships)



## News Items Worth Reading

Miguel Perea  
OCW Vice President

The OCW General Meeting will be held on September 4, 2014, in the Community Room at the Irvine Ranch Water District. If the doors are locked, you are probably at the wrong room. Wait until someone from OCW sees you and please do not bang on the doors. The featured speakers will be Robert and Jill Kahler, who will discuss Bike Fit and nutrition for cycling. More information available at: <http://www.ocwheelmen.org/event/show/99371070>

The City of Huntington Beach has issued a letter to parents and students in the HB School District to remind them of the rights and responsibilities of everyone who rides a bicycle to school. The letter includes a summary of all the items in the CA Motor Vehicle Code pertinent to bicycles, with links to several resources. The letter is most informative not just to students, but to every bicyclist. The link is available here: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/pd/divisions/uniform/traffic/BicycleSafety.cfm>

Finally, Special Thanks to Charles and Susan Berzon for holding the August Folding (Brain Storming) Party!

[Check the website for the next folding party](#)

## Get Out and RIDE!

**CHANGE LANES TO PASS**

**MAY USE FULL LANE**

**3 FT**

**MINIMUM**

**California State Law CVC 21760**

**Change Lanes to Pass a Bicyclist.**