



# Petaluma Wheelmen Cycling Club

## Wilson Hill

Seems so still all of a sudden

Turning off uphill

But not really:

What a racket all by yourself

Breathing, cranks, chain, wheels,

But now, at the top!

Don't even look

Hear the quiet, that rare nothing!

(Well, the buzz of an insect, the chirp of a bird)

Almost empty church in the warm air

Finally, eyes open

What is it about the weathered fence boards

That frame the brown-green hills?

(You did the right thing

Coming here.)



????? Can you guess what year this is and who's on the tandem?

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Michael Troy, PWCC President

Why are cycling clubs expanding their membership in nearly every city across the United States? Maybe it is because once we start riding, it is hard to stop. Maybe it is because we like to meet others who share our passion. Maybe it because we are new to cycling (or returning) and find that the camaraderie and inspiration of club riding keeps us spinning.

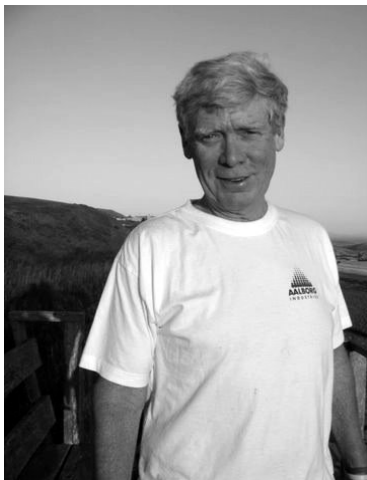
The Petaluma Wheelmen Cycling Club is fulfilling these needs and many more. I would like to encourage everyone who is out there riding, whether you are a beginning rider or an experienced century rider, to ride with the Petaluma Wheelmen.

2008 highlights:

- We are developing a ride classification system to make it easier for riders of all levels to select rides that will be fun and at the pace and distance that works for you. Check our website ([www.petalumawheelmen.org](http://www.petalumawheelmen.org)) in February for details.
- Our introductory rides on the first Sunday of every month have been popular for people new to cycling. We will continue and possibly expand these rides.
- While we have a regular group of riders that go out in the mornings nearly every day of the week, we want to encourage new or intermittent riders (especially those who want to ride at a slower or faster pace) to lead rides. There are a lot of riders who love to go on rides but may want a shorter route and/or a faster or slower pace. Come down to the Applebox on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday to join a ride, check out our website and sign up for our email list to get notices of rides.
- For the stronger riders, we will be doing the PWCC Petaluma-to-Truckee ride again this year. Over three days (May 16-18) we will ride 220 miles and climb 12,000 feet. Check our website ([www.petalumawheelmen.org](http://www.petalumawheelmen.org)) for more information and join the club if you are not a member.
- A new order of Wheelmen jerseys and Wheelmen helmet mirrors is arriving sometime in February/March. Check the website for pricing and purchasing information.

I look forward to seeing you on the road in 2008!

## MEMBER PROFILE



Joe Conway

Joe Conway grew up in the Bay Area and attended The California Maritime Academy as a young man before he went to sea for 38 years. He spent the last 22 of them as chief engineer on the SS Kauai. He says, "For thirty years I sailed to Hawaii some 400 times. I loved it and made many good friends all over the world, and I gathered some exciting sea stories along the way." More recently, his

work took him to China for several months, where he actually braved riding a bicycle on occasion. Club members enjoyed his email updates, sharing his impressions and experiences.

His recent retirement has given him the time to move his navigation skills from the sea to the country roads of Sonoma County and beyond. Joe rides often with both the Petaluma Wheelmen and the Santa Rosa Cycling Club, managing to keep his cycling companions in stitches most of the time. His cycling adventures have included the club's Tahoe to Truckee Ride in 2007, the Holstein Hundred, and two trips to the Tour de Tucson. This past November, accompanied by Dave Trumbo, he completed the 109 mile tour in 6 hours and 4 minutes, improving upon his 2006 record.

When he's not cycling and keeping up with various friends and family, Joe continues to enjoy exploring the world, this time by air instead of by sea. This past summer he traveled to Italy in a group trip organized by fellow Wheelman Alex Maestoso.

### Mark Your Calendar!

Check the website, [www.petalumawheelmen.org](http://www.petalumawheelmen.org) for updates and further details on events. Join the email list (list-serve) at the website and receive announcements on any new rides, changes to scheduled rides and information on rides noted here.

**REGULAR RIDES:** Tues/Thurs/Sun leaving from the Applebox at 9 am (winter hours). Additional introductory ride on the first Sun. of the month.

**SATURDAY RIDES:** Club members post a Saturday ride, often out of the Petaluma area. Check the email list for each week's posting or post your own ride.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** First Wed. of alternating months, 7 pm, include a speaker. Feb. 6, 2008 meeting to be held at Sonoma Bicycle Company. Speaker TBA. April 2, 2008 meeting: location and speaker TBA.

## WINTER MUSINGS

by Karin Burger

It's January, when it's hard to drag yourself out into a 40-degree morning, but these cold winter rides are a great alternative to huddling up inside. Like this one from last January, which dawned gray and damp:

Cabin fever shoved a few hardy souls outside with me. From Washoe House, three of us headed west on Roblar in the fog and drizzle. Reward: turnovers at the Union Hotel.

Tami, Michael and I barely recognized the top of Burnside: no view of Mt. St. Helena, just gray soup. After a careful descent, Tami spun up Jonive Road ahead of us like a horse to the barn. On Occidental Road, the sky opened up and gave us a good drenching. We squished into the Union Hotel bakery, giggling like maniacs, our chamois soaked through like wet diapers, rain streaming down behind us.

Greeted with hot, freshly baked turnovers and good strong coffee, we sat down to one of Michael's orchestrated conversations, i.e. "What does happiness mean to you?" No surprising answers, but in the end we agreed that insane little moments, just like this, are the ingredients that add up to happiness.

Pedaling home, I zoned out with the wind in my ears, enjoying a mental slideshow of countless snapshots of pure, uncomplicated bliss, all on the bike:

- Riding past a whole field of idle hawks on a sparkling February day;
- Spinning behind the gang alongside a shimmering Tomales Bay toward Point Reyes;
- Steaming up to Healdsburg "in the zone" with JJ;
- Making it up Joy Road on the tandem with Richard, feeling like such a kick-ass duo;
- Introducing my Truckee riding buddies to Barker Pass.
- That first ride with Michael Troy over Marshall Wall to Tomales, when he talked me into joining the Wheelmen, whoever they were.

### PWCC welcomes new members!

Ian Sutherland, Kevin McLin, Jeff Judy, Trevor Fuhrman, Lynn Mumaw

### Thanks to our local bike shops

PWCC appreciates the support of our local bike shops in the form of donations, PR, Wheelmen discounts, etc. Show your support for these shops by spending your bicycling allowance at **Bici** on Kentucky Street and **Sonoma Bicycling Company** on Petaluma Blvd.