



# The Spoken Wheel

San Luis Obispo County • Number 13 • Summer 2007

[www.slobikelane.org](http://www.slobikelane.org)

Making our community better for bicycles

## SLO City Gets a Bike Signal: Bicycle Coalition Campaign Makes a Difference

## Bill Roalman Bike Boulevard in SLO Now Open



### Coalition Triumphs

We are happy to announce that in June 2007 we parked our 2,000th bike at the bike valet at SLO Farmers Market. Every trip taken by bike is one less car downtown. This is a free service to anyone in need of storing a bike while at the Farmers' Market. Won't you stop and give us a try? We are on the corner of Morro and Higuera every Thursday night from 6pm till 9pm, just next to the new Apple Store.

For more information on the bike valet, see page 4  
May we rack your ride?



At the south end of the Bill Roalman Bicycle Boulevard is a new bike signal just installed at the intersection of Santa Barbara and Upham streets. The arrival of this new device is a great victory for our community. Two years ago the Bicycle Coalition led a campaign to improve the safety of this intersection by leading a letter writing campaign to the city council. Your voice was heard and we now have reason to celebrate. The signal will now provide a safer connection between the bike boulevard and the Railroad Safety Trail, making it better not only for bicyclists, but also pedestrians and motorists. SLO is now among only three cities in California to have its own bike signal, joining Davis and Palo Alto. Thanks to all of you who wrote to the city council. We'd also like to thank the city council and city staff for their part in making the signal possible.

### How do I use the new signal?

When approaching the intersection, place your bicycle over the bike symbol on the sidewalk pavement. When the bike signal turns green, all motor traffic has a red light and you are allowed to cross the intersection.

The Bill Roalman Bike Blvd on Morro Street has been open since February, paving the way for easier bike travel between the Railroad Safety Trail and downtown SLO. This is historic as SLO now has the first bike blvd in California south of the Bay Area. We are now only the third city in California to have them, joining Palo Alto and Berkeley. What is a bike blvd, you ask? It's a neighborhood street where bicycles are given priority over cars. To make this all possible, the City has flipped a few stop signs for easier travel down the blvd, painted big bicycle symbols on the asphalt, and added new signs designating the bike blvd. So, don't be afraid to ride in the middle of the lane. It's there for you! In fact, ride it as often as you can, as it helps us urge the City to build a whole network of these around town.



# Out of the Saddle



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This year has been our busiest one yet. First of all, our efforts with the SLO city budget are making progress. Because of the many people who participated in our "Bike the Budget" campaign the new budget now includes funding to complete a portion of the Railroad Safety Trail from Foothill Blvd across Hwy 101. The budget also includes \$220,000 of general fund money to complete a segment of the Bob Jones Trail from Prado Road to Los Osos Valley Road. Last but not least, \$15,000 per year has been allocated for bicycle education.

This spring we saw progress in two great projects. One was the debut of the Bill Roalman Bicycle Boulevard. SLO is now only the third city in California to have a bike boulevard and the only city in the state to build one in at least 10 years. Some people like it so much they have been known to go out of their way on their daily commute just to ride it.

The other great project was the installation of a bike signal at the corner of Santa Barbara and Upham streets. The signal is a great example of the effectiveness of our work. In 2004 the Bicycle Coalition joined with other bicycle advocacy organizations throughout the state and pressured Sacramento to reauthorize the use of bike signals in California. The effort to remove the sunset clause was successful and led the way for us to work for getting a signal installed here in SLO. The Bicycle Coalition then led a letter writing campaign and presented the idea to the SLO City Council based on the model of a successful signal in Portland, Oregon. The City heard your concerns and now we have a much safer way for bicyclists to get across Santa Barbara Street.

Keep riding,

--Adam Fukushima

## Bike Coalition Advocates for Better Sweeping on County Roads

Over the last few months the Bicycle Coalition has been working with the county and the SLO Council of Governments on improving the sweeping of bike lanes and shoulders.

Currently, there is no schedule for sweeping county roads. It is entirely request based. Therefore, if you have a road under county jurisdiction that needs sweeping, you can post a request at:

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/contactus.htm>.

Try to be as specific as possible about where the sweeping is needed.

You can also make a follow up call to David Flynn at the county at 781-4463.

Meanwhile, we've succeeded in getting a couple of roads swept. This includes Orcutt Road,

Ontario Road, Los Osos Valley Road, St. Mary Avenue, Pomeroy Road, El Camino Real, and Main Street (Cambria) among others.

In the long term, the Bicycle Coalition is working to get bike lane and shoulder sweeping done on a more scheduled basis, especially on the more heavily traveled roads like Hwy 1, Hwy 227, Los Osos Valley Road, and Orcutt. This will take getting resources allocated into the county budget or finding grant funding.

## The Spoken Wheel

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Barry Lewis

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### MEETINGS

Second Thursday of the month

Noon-1:30 P.M.

1413 Monterey Street

San Luis Obispo, CA

Agenda will be posted on our website one week prior to each meeting.

All board meetings are open to members.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### ELECTION

November 11, 2007

Newsletter made possible by a grant from



# The Art of Cycling in San Luis Obispo County

This year is shaping up well for bicycling education in San Luis Obispo County. With gas prices rising daily, coupled with the awareness of what carbon emissions are doing to our precious resources, more and more individuals are seeking better ways of getting around. Fortunately, the San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition offers many opportunities for individuals to learn about safety and confidence in riding a bike with our skills clinics. Students learn the rules of the road, proper signaling, emergency maneuvers, and correct lane positioning among other useful tips.

Listed below is a recap of education activities in the county. Our thanks to our instructors who donate their time and energy to help bicyclists ride comfortably, visibly and safely.

Date	Event	Audience
1/07	Art of Cycling	5 completed the course
3/24	Street Skills	11 completed the course
5/2	Community Outreach	29 attendees
5/2	Kids 1	7 attendees
5/2 - 5/18	Basic Bicycling Safety Classroom Presentation at Hawthorne Elementary School	300 students
5/8 - 6/7	Kids 2	8 students
5/8	Commuter Class	5 attendees
5/14	Community Outreach -Caltrans	8 attendees
5/19	Safety Demos at community garage sales	8 attendees
6/12, 6/19, 6/22	Art of Cycling / Road 1	9 attendees

## Hone Your Bike Skills with the Art of Cycling Clinic

Learn how riding can help you save money, integrate fitness into your daily commute...and get out more often. Among the skills you'll learn are: to ride safely and confidently in auto traffic, carry stuff, avoid mishaps, and more. You'll learn clever ways to replace your car trips with bicycle trips and have fun while doing it.

Classes are free of charge and open to all residents of San Luis Obispo County 16 years of age and older. Each workshop consists of three sessions: two Tuesday nights and a Saturday morning.

1st Tues. evening: 6PM-9PM

2nd Tues. evening: 6PM-9PM

Sat. morning: 8:30AM-12PM

Workshops are repeated every other

month. Bicycles are only needed for the Saturday morning session. Please register in advance. To register, or for more info, contact Jessica Berry.

	1st Tue	2nd Tue	Sat
Sept	11	18	22
Nov	12	19	23

Email: [classes@slobikelane.org](mailto:classes@slobikelane.org)

Phone: (805) 781-1385

You can also self-enroll by visiting <http://www.slobikelane.org/bikeed>

Classes are sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club, the SLO County Bicycle Coalition, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District, and are taught by local instructors certified by the League of American Bicyclists.



### Lending Library

The Bicycle Coalition is proud to announce a new lending library of materials on bike education for kids. These are fun books and DVDs to help make learning bike safety a blast. Materials are available at our office. For more info, call us at (805) 547-2055.

## Bike Valet Program Puts SLO Town in the Fast Lane

San Luis Obispo is at the cutting edge of a healthy lifestyle trend that is sweeping California: free bike parking at community events. Cities from Santa Monica to San Francisco are promoting cleaner air and better fitness by providing convenient, secure parking that encourages residents to choose bikes over cars. As a recent Los Angeles Times article said, "In California bicycle circles, this kind of service is the coming thing."

The SLO Bike Valet premiered in February 2006 at the Amgen Tour of California, which finished in downtown San Luis Obispo. That day, the all-volunteer valet crew from the SLO County Bicycle Coalition and Team SLO Nexus parked over 200 bicycles. Since then, the program has offered free bicycle parking every week on Morro Street at downtown SLO Farmers' Market. Generous donations from businesses and individuals, grants from the City of San Luis Obispo and New Belgium Brewery, and the tremendous efforts of volunteers have allowed the program to grow to meet the ever-increasing demand.

Here's how it works: About 30 minutes before an event, three volunteers roll trailers full of gear to the event site and erect a tent, a table with free maps and brochures, and many rows of bicycle racks. Then they fence off the area to keep pedestrians out of the parking area, and to create an entryway under the tent where bicycles will then arrive and depart. Throughout the event, volunteers take bicycles from clients, and provide them with a claim ticket to ensure they receive the correct bike upon their return. The system is then reversed when they come back—the claim tickets are matched to the bicycles, and the happy cyclists are on their way. In addition to parking bikes, the volunteers often answer questions about bike routes, bicycle advocacy, bicycle education, where to find a bike shop, as well as many non-bike-related questions.

In the past year and a half, demand for the service has soared. About 35 bicycles per night was the average in the program's first several months. When the days got shorter and the nights colder, the numbers dipped slightly, but as soon as Daylight Savings Time returned, the bikes started rolling in like never before, from 50 bikes per night to 80 to an all-time high of 105 during Bike Fest in May. The program reached a milestone on June 14 when volunteers parked the valet's 2,000th bike.

With the valet firmly established at Farmers' Market, the Coalition has started expanding the SLO Bike Valet service to other community events. The most recent addition is Concerts in the Plaza, which takes place every Friday evening at the SLO Mission. As the demand for bike parking continues to grow, so does the need for volunteers. You don't need any special knowledge about bikes to help make the program a success; if you like bikes, you're

qualified. Volunteering for a two-hour shift is a great way to help make your community a better place. Plus, it's also a whole lot of fun.

To learn more about the program, sign up for a volunteer shift, or find out how to have SLO Bike Valet at your event, visit [www.slobikevalet.org](http://www.slobikevalet.org) or contact Bike Valet Coordinator Brian Kurotsuchi at [coordinator@slobikevalet.org](mailto:coordinator@slobikevalet.org) or 805-472-4064.



To volunteer at the bike valet contact  
Brian Kurotsuchi at:

[coordinator@slobikevalet.org](mailto:coordinator@slobikevalet.org)

or call (805) 781-1385

For info on the Bike Valet visit:

[www.slobikevalet.org](http://www.slobikevalet.org)

## Bike Valet To Offer Services at Concerts in Plaza

San Luis Obispo Downtown Association and the City of San Luis Obispo will bring bicycle parking services to all Concerts in the Plaza every Friday night from 5:30pm to 7pm through the 31st of August. Concerts in the Plaza participants will find the bike parking area along Chorro St. across from Costume Capers.

# DC Summit: Coalition Heads to Washington



This spring a delegation from the San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition traveled to Washington DC and participated in the National Bike Summit.

About 430 delegates participated in the Summit, consisting of individuals representing bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations, government, health organizations, and the bicycle industry.

During the Summit, San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition board member Greg McPheeters and executive director Adam Fukushima met personally with Representative Lois Capps of the 23rd Congressional District representing much of San Luis Obispo County.

McPheeters and Fukushima spoke to Capps about the need to complete our local bike trails like the Railroad Safety Trail as well as to urge her support for several new pieces of legislation. Highlights included the Bicycle Commuter Act (to provide a tax incentive for bicycle commuting) and Complete Streets policies, which lead to roads which are safe, convenient, and comfortable for all—pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, transit users, and people with disabilities.

Lastly, the delegation thanked Capps for her support in the past for livable communities, including federal funding she secured for the Bob Jones City-to-Sea Bikeway.

Executive director Adam Fukushima was pleased to attend the summit. “High obesity levels as well as climate change and dependence on oil are big issues in Washington right now. We are excited to promote a form of transportation that helps provide a solution to all three. With over 60% of trips in the country consisting of 2 miles in length or less, bicycling provides an easy solution to our transportation problems. Ms. Capps understands these needs, and we are glad she is so receptive” says Fukushima.

The Summit also featured talks by representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Jim Oberstar (D-MN), who are sponsoring the Bicycle Commuter Act. During the address Oberstar noted, “We’re going to convert America from the hydrocarbon economy to the carbohydrate economy.”

## Meet the Board

### GREG MCPHEETERS

Residence: I grew up in the Bay Area but moved to SLO in June of ‘06.

#### Occupation:

I’m currently Senior Design Engineer for Commercial Projects for REC Solar, a Solar Electric Systems Integrator based in San Luis Obispo. I’ve been doing solar electricity since 2001.

#### Background:

I served as Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition from 2001 - 2003. After that I took on a role on the SVBC board and continue my involvement with them as their President. When I moved to SLO I couldn’t wait to get involved.

#### Cycling History:

I’ve been a bicycle commuter since I was in elementary school. I spent most of my weekends in middle and high school



mountain biking in Stevens Canyon and the Santa Cruz mountains. I’ve run summer camp mountain biking programs in the Sierras and spent four years wrenching and selling bikes at Calmar Cycles in Santa Clara. I also spent a summer working for Phil Wood & Co. in downtown San Jose. I’ve always viewed bikes as an obvious solution to many of our congestion, environmental, and health epidemics and have sought out ways to get more involved in bringing them into the mainstream.

#### What do you ride?

Depends on how I’m feeling when I wake up in the morning . . . but my daily ride is my Gunnar.

#### Vision for the Coalition:

I’ve always wanted to see bicycles taken seriously in transportation infrastructure, and SLOCBC is the organization that is making this happen in San Luis Obispo County. There is such a strong cycling culture in this County and the Coalition is directing that energy into positive improvements for cyclists across the County.

#### Coalition support:

The more people that support the coalition by joining and volunteering, the more the coalition can accomplish. Thanks for sharing our vision and supporting our work!!

—Greg McPheeters

# Membership Matters...

## BECOME A MEMBER!

To become a SLO County Bicycle Coalition member, fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter, or visit our web site at [www.slobikelane.org](http://www.slobikelane.org) join online.

## MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL

The board of directors meets on the second Thursday of every month at noon. Our meetings are open to the public and we encourage members not only to attend, but to participate.

## BUSINESS MEMBERS

We salute our current business members. We offer a business dues structure (see back page) that will help recognize those of you who help us the most. We also offer advertising opportunities to our business members. Please call Adam Fukushima at 547-2055 for more details.

## CURRENT BUSINESS MEMBERS

### PLATINUM

Clever Ducks  
SLO Bicycle Club

### GOLD

Art's Cyclery  
Cygnet  
Mid-State Bank  
Voler Team Apparel

### SILVER

Cambria Bicycle Outfitters  
Central Coast Emergency Physicians  
RRM Design Group  
Wally's Bicycle Works  
Wells Fargo Bank

## BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESS

Body Centered Therapy  
Central Coast Outdoors

Crosstown Productions  
Embassy Suites  
GLA Agricultural Electronics  
Hempshak  
Hostel Obispo  
Ira's Bike Shop  
Jim Aaron--Realtor on a Bike  
John Donovan State Farm Insurance  
Los Osos Fitness  
Madonna Inn  
Morin Bros. Automotive  
Neal-Truesdale Insurance  
New Times  
Pacific Energy Co.  
Peak Racks  
Petit Soleil  
Quality Inn Suites  
Sue's Sandos  
Turn-Key Real Estate Management  
Services  
Utopia Bakery

## Member Benefits

The following businesses will reward your commitment to a more bicycle-friendly San Luis Obispo County. To receive a discount, simply show your copy of the Spoken Wheel newsletter with your mailing label on it or member dues receipt letter prior to having the sale written up.

### 10% Off Accessories and Parts

#### Art's Cyclery

2140 Santa Barbara Street, SLO  
796 Foothill Boulevard, SLO  
2179 10th Street, Los Osos

#### Cambria Bicycle Outfitter

1422 Monterey Street, SLO  
2164 Center Street, Cambria

#### Foothill Cyclery

896 Foothill Boulevard, SLO

#### Wally's Bicycle Works

306 Higuera Street, SLO

### 10% Off Merchandise

#### Hempshak

1115 Broad Street, SLO

### 10% Off Tours

#### Central Coast Outdoors

[www.centralcoastoutdoors.com](http://www.centralcoastoutdoors.com)

## Dear Chamois...

Dear Chamois,

I was riding on a quiet part of North Chorro St. in SLO last week—in the motor travel lane because otherwise I would have been in the door zone—and these guys in a truck started tailing me, honking and shouting things you probably can't print. Was I doing something wrong?

Dee Straught, San Luis Obispo

Dear Dee,

Every bicyclist eventually crosses paths with a driver who doesn't know the rules of the road (or the rules of human decency). You were right to take the lane in that situation. Hopefully you also resisted the temptation to respond with anything but a smile. If it helps, think of the outrageous cost of refueling that truck as their karmic payback.

Ride on,

Chamois

**Got a question for Chamois? Drop her an email at:  
[chamois@slobikelane.org](mailto:chamois@slobikelane.org)**

# Coalition Briefs

## JOIN OUR COMMITTEES

Joining a committee is a great way to get involved in bicycle advocacy. For a list of committees, visit [www.slobikelane.org](http://www.slobikelane.org) and click on 'get involved.' We could use your input, especially with fundraising. Please join us!

## COUNTY BIKE MAP

SLO Regional Rideshare has published a handsome new county bike map. To get your copy, call (805) 781-4362

## BIKE HAPPENING

The first Thursday of every month at 9:30pm hundreds of people converge with their bikes at Mission Plaza in SLO. The Bike Happening is a "Courteous Mass" ride where riders obey all traffic laws and stop at all traffic control devices. Don't forget to bring your bicycle lights as local law enforcement have been ticketing riders without them. Some months have over 500 riders. Many wear costumes and ride exotic bicycles. For more info, visit: [www.bikehappening.org](http://www.bikehappening.org)

## DONATE YOUR CAR

Sick of paying high gas prices? Is your car strangling you like an albatross? Then what better way to make our community more bike friendly than by getting rid of your car? The Bicycle Coalition has launched a new vehicle donation program. The donation of your vehicle is tax deductible in accordance with California law and helps us further our bicycle friendly programs. For details call (805) 541-3875 or email: [adamf@slobikelane.org](mailto:adamf@slobikelane.org)

## COALITION AMBASSADORS NEEDED

We'd like to have eyes and ears on the scene in every corner of the county, but we need your help. Become an ambassador of the Coalition and be a conduit for bicycling and walking issues in your community. Jim DeCecco of Pismo Beach and Anne Kelly of Atascadero are our newest ambassadors. Will you represent your community?

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to help with our newsletter? Stuff envelopes? Lend assistance with our events? Help out with a campaign? Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Please contact our office manager, Jeanne Mutziger at [jeanne@slobikelane.org](mailto:jeanne@slobikelane.org)

## TAKE YOUR BIKE ON THE BUS

San Luis Obispo County was one of the first in the nation to have a fleet of buses with 2 sets of 3 position bike mounts. Said differently, many of our RTA busses can carry up to 6 bicycles at a time. This innovation is allowing bicyclists countywide to have more confidence that there will be a place for a bike on the bus. It also gives transit users more creativity with their commute. Is your bus stop a little far to reach by foot? Now you can bike to the bus stop and have more mobility options once you reach your destination. For more information about bus schedules countywide, visit:

[www.rideshare.org](http://www.rideshare.org)



## Local Contacts

Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers

Contact: Greg Bettencourt, 995-1675.

San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club

Contact: Frank Mullin, 556-0789.

Team SLO Nexus

Tyler Wertenbruch

[tylerw@slonexus.org](mailto:tylerw@slonexus.org)

SLO City Bicycle Advisory Committee

Meets 3rd Thursday January, March, May, July, September & November. at City Hall, 7:00 P.M. Contact: Peggy Mandeville, 781-7590.

SLO County Bicycle Advisory Committee

Meets quarterly, 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. Contact: Red Davis, 772-0874.

Morro Bay Citizens Bike Committee

Meets monthly 1st Wednesday, Morro Bay Community Center, 5 P.M.-6 P.M. For information, phone 772-0874.

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

Recommends local transportation projects and funding to SLOCOG. Open to the public. Pizza served. Phone: SLOCOG staff, 781-4219.

California Bicycle Coalition

[www.CalBike.org](http://www.CalBike.org)

(916) 446-7558

SAFETY CONCERNS

County roads: 781-5252

City of SLO streets/roads: 781-7190

Caltrans roads and highways: Aileen Loe, 549-3103

## Make your community better for bicycles.

### Join the SLO County Bicycle Coalition

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Business (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please write your checks payable to: SLOCBC and send to P.O. Box 14860, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-4860. All donations are (501(c)(3) tax-deductible as allowed by law.

What for you is the single most important bicycling issue in SLO County?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership dues

Grass roots \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor \$500 and over \_\_\_\_\_

Bike Friendly Business \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

Business **Silver** \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Business **Gold** \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Business **Platinum** \$5,000+ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New member  Address change

Renewing member

#### Yes, I'd like to volunteer ...

Bike Valet  Help with newsletter

Events  Coalition Ambassador

Education  Other skills: \_\_\_\_\_

## Our mission & values



#### MISSION...

to transform San Luis Obispo County into a safer and more livable community by promoting cycling and walking for everyday transportation and recreation

#### VALUES...

- equal mobility for all
- economic vitality
- a healthy population & environment

Photo: Riders on Morro Street en route to Bike Fest at Mission Plaza.



San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition  
PO Box 14860  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED