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# Tips & Tails



TimkenSkiClub.com

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Social Events,  
Road Rally Results

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



Newsletter articles to be printed for publication should be submitted to the editor no later than the Friday which follows the 3rd Tuesday of the month meeting.

# View From The Top

June 2011

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Hello Members,

The rain clouds have finally parted, and I hope you all got a chance to enjoy the great weather for the past holiday weekend. Our trips for 2012 are set, and we are just waiting on some quotes so we can publish prices to the membership. But here is a hint of what is to come – so SAVE these DATES:

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Valley with Goodyear SC

Jan 15-22<sup>nd</sup> – Steamboat, CO.

Jan 27-29 – Bristol/HV

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – HoliMont – with Goodyear SC

Feb 8-10 – Holiday/HoliMont

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Seven Springs with Goodyear SC

Feb 26-March 3 – Killington, VT – Low cost trip with a travel twist J

March 18 – 25 – Big Sky, MO with CMSC

The 3 one day trips planned are with Goodyear this coming season. Both clubs have had great success in filling a bus on past shared trips. We all looked at this as a win for both clubs, since neither can seem to fill a bus for these. The last thing we want to do is cancel a ski trip because of not enough people being signed up. The only down side for this, is you can't wait to sign up! The seats will be split equally between the two clubs, and a cut off date for releasing unsold seats to which club needs them. Please feel free to express any concerns you might have with this venture.

We plan to keep the newsletter going all summer long to keep you informed of the activities the club is offering, and the results of the events held. After all – we have our version of the Energizer Bunny as our social chair this year, and she plans on keeping you hopping all summer.

Please feel free to contact any member of the leadership team for concerns, ideas, or willing efforts to step up and help.

Take care

gail

To All My Sponsors,

First I would like to take the time to thank each one of you for sponsoring me on my ride for the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail. Due to your generosity I was able to raise close to \$1200 for the future construction of the trail. I received a very nice bike shirt for doing the ride and I would like each of you to sign it, as you donated to this cause. You should also be getting a thank you letter from the Ohio & Erie Canal way Coalition that you can use for tax purposes. If you don't receive one and need it, let me know.

Secondly, I thought I would give you a little recap of my ride. I only took a few pictures but I think pictures will be posted on Facebook. I will let you know. I know some of you have ridden the trail. Others, I know don't have a clue as to what we have right here in our back yard. I am attempting to write to the latter group so all can appreciate. I am also attaching a file which can be opened in Google Earth. One can see the track of my ride.

Day 1: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

About half of us arrived at the local bike shop in Massillon quite early to load our bikes into a truck & get on the bus to Cleveland. On the way to Cleveland, we started getting something none of us wanted, RAIN. Fortunately, the storm didn't last long.

We arrived at Settler's Landing which was the northern terminus of the O&E canal (pre 1879). We met up with the one day riders for a group picture and speech after speech and introductions Yada Yada, let's get riding before the rain decides to come back! There were 42 people riding that day. The most prominent, other than me, was former Ohio governor Bob Taft. He is quite a nice guy.

After a ride on Canal Street, we crossed the Cuyahoga River. The trail can not follow the path of the canal here due to the steel mills in the area. After a short ride down the road we hopped on the Steelyards Common Trail. The trail is about a mile long and runs by the steel mills of Cleveland, many of which are currently shut down. This is the first time I saw these mills from the "west side" at this speed. The view is quite different than the view from Interstate 77. I could only think what the place would look like with everything running again. On the road again and after a short distance, we arrived at the current northern terminus of the Towpath Trail, Harvard Avenue.

About 10 or so miles into the trip, an elderly guy had a near head on collision with another biker. This is the guy that said, "Biking is like life, if you stop pedaling, you fall down." Well, they both got up & rode on. Fortunately neither got maimed.

Further down the trail, I saw a couple stopped in front of me. I slowed down to hear them say, "They are hissing at us." I realized they were talking about the geese. There was a group of young ones on the right side of the trail. I told the couple to stay left and hiss back at the other, larger geese.

A quick note for my canal buddies, work is progressing nicely on the Tinker's Creek aqueduct. One of the nice things about this area is that about 30 miles of trail is in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Canal Era structures are being preserved rather than being dozed in the price of progress.

Onward, things are going well, I am about 20 miles in and my speed is up. Then, the trees start slowing down and I am not going up hill. Yeap it had to happen. I looked down at the back tire and it was flat. I tried to pump it up but realized I was wasting my time. I am getting pretty good at tube changes. (Darn recap tires). About 20 minutes later, I was on my way again.

Just before Akron, we passed by the water treatment plant. It is letting us know of its presence about a mile or so away. My significant other is going to correct me here. She is going to call a spade a spade. It is a sewage plant! If one sees a sewage plant, there is a bike trail somewhere nearby. Along the 101 miles of this trail, there are 4 sewage plants. A section of this part of the canal now houses the sewer trunk line. (Continued)

Shortly after noon, I began the ride to the Akron summit. Akron is Greek for “high place”. It was the highest point on the O&E canal. It took 19 canal locks within 2 miles to overcome the Akron summit from Cleveland. The nice thing about getting to the summit, it was lunch time.

After fine dining of pizza, salad, sandwiches etc. it was time to get back on the trail. I was near the front of the pack, even after the tire change, and I wanted to stay there. I am finishing up my drink and I overheard somebody talking about a flat tire. It was none other than Governor Taft. I turned and said that he wasn’t the only one with bad luck. He inquired about how my tire went flat. Well now how am I supposed to know there Gov.? At first I was going to make a statement about politicians, but decided not to. I just told him the air inside the tire went to the outside of the tire rapidly. He didn’t change his own tire. The support guy gave him a hand. Why didn’t I think of that?

On the trail again, I began my trek across the summit “level”. From my canal experience, I know that is about 9 miles and then I start going downhill. There is a short break in the trail where there is construction for the trail. I went through part of the construction zone. Remember the rain---talk about a muddy mess! On to Summit Lake where we “ride on water”. There was no place to put a towpath in the canal days due to swamp. A floating towpath was created. When the trail was re-constructed in this area, the trail was once again made to be floating. Quite nice but quite costly I’m sure.

Near Barberton we were on the road again for about 2 miles. However, trail construction is to start soon. When the 2 sections mentioned above are completed, the trail will be finished in Summit County! “We have come a long way baby!”

Oh no, the second “big hill” is coming up. Fortunately it is not nearly as bad as the first one. The ride is smooth here and things are going well. The rain has held off and there are times I actually saw my shadow.

I started into Stark County and the trail gets wet. I mean really wet...as in under water wet in several spots. I was riding in water well over my ankles on the bike. Note to self, be sure to down shift before riding in water that deep. Other people said they saw fish using the trail. I didn’t see any fish, I just went head to head with a pair of muskrats! Guess it really is a multi-purpose trail!

In Stark County the trail is very rough at times due to the washouts and flooding. I must give credit to the park department people; they have done a lot of work lately to keep the trail open.

I arrived back at the bike shop in Massillon after 66+ miles of riding. We get a nice sandwich & drinks after the ride. After that, perhaps I can mow the grass when I get home. Nope, not a chance...rain by the bucket full. Day 2 should be interesting.

Day 2: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The day begins the same except now we are riding the bus to New Philadelphia, southern terminus of the trail, instead of Cleveland. So far the day is dry but cold. We all noticed how high the river was. Once we are unloaded and more pictures taken, we were on our way. We have an escort from the Tuscarawas County Sheriff dept. part of the way since we did quite a bit of road riding. He lets us know there is a power line down and our route must be changed. It was nice to have the Sherriff in front of me instead of behind me!

At the intersection of routes 800 & 416 there used to be a roadside rest area. My mom’s daily bicycle ride would take her to that rest area from our house near East Sparta. Today, she saw part of her ride through my eyes. This ride is for her. I could only imagine how much more of the canal and towpath would have been visible in 1974 when she last passed this section.

The group stopped at Dover Dam on the Tuscarawas River for a short break and some pictures. I had to relate, to some, of my fond memories of Camp Tuscazoar which is just across the river. The trail will eventually follow a RR bed which passes by the camp. I have ridden the path but it is very rough. *(Continued)*

We are on the road until the town of Zoar. Break & MORE pictures. A gentleman asked to follow me since I knew the trail so well. I told him he could follow me but it is pretty easy in this area. The river is a few feet to the right and swelling with water. The canal is on the left and full of water. As long as he doesn't make any turns, he should be good!

Near Bolivar, we cross Interstate 77 on the multi-million dollar bridge. After crossing the bridge we are in Fort Laurens which was a revolutionary fort. After the fort we have some more road riding until we are once again on the trail. Sections are rough due to the storms & washout, but, so far no rain.

We are back in Stark County again and the trail is very rough in spots. At one point, we had to walk the bike for about 40 feet due to a slide. Oh what is that ahead? Yes, it is more water on the trail. Remember that note to self yesterday about downshifting before water, I am glad you remembered it! After some big puddles, we were back on smooth surface for a while. We are getting some light rain but it isn't hard enough for my rain jacket.

A few of us were riding together & we were crossing a road. The trail goes down a slight hill. A woman was just ahead of me and went off the trail. She proceeded to do a head over wheels coming down on some nice rocks. Needless to say, yours truly had to use some of that Boy Scout first aid stuff. Fortunately, one of the support people just pulled up and he had a first aid kit. I got the bleeding stopped but she was feeling light headed. Even though she was only a few miles to the finish line, we all thought it would be better if she took a car back. She will be sore a few days, but I think her arm is going to make it.

The rest of the ride was uneventfully. We did have a short on road stretch in Massillon. As the finish line draws closer, the clouds are getting darker. After 33 miles, I was taking my packs off of my bike in front of my truck when the clouds opened up! Yes, rain by the buckets again! NE Ohio weather at it's finest!

What a ride! Of course you ask, will I do it again? I will probably do it at least 2 more times this year, just in smaller chunks!

Thanks again so much,

Dwight Kline



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TimkenSkiClub.com

# Schedule

We bike every Monday at 6:00 PM until Labor Day. Also, some rides will be set up on the weekends. Information about where & when & other details such as liquid replenishment & dinner stop after the ride are primarily communicated with email. If you would like to be on this special email list, send a note to [albranci@sbcglobal.net](mailto:albranci@sbcglobal.net) and [dwight.kline@timken.com](mailto:dwight.kline@timken.com). Al plans the Monday & some weekend rides. Dwight plans other special summer rides as well as spring & fall hiking & biking.

**Monday Night Bike Rides  
W/ Al Brancifort**



**Saturday, June 18th – Free Admission  
The Eagles Tribute Band, Hotel California – 9 pm**

**Gervasi Winery in North Canton - Tuesday, June 21**

**Canoeing/Biking &  
Camping at Mohican  
June 24th, 25th & 26th, 2011**



**Lockbottom Blues & Jazz Club at Lock 4 – Wednesday, July 13th**

**CMSC Golf Outing  
July 23rd, 2011**



**Put-In-Bay  
Camping/Mad Dog/Boating  
August 12th, 13th & 14th, 2011**



**The Granite Grille at The Quarry in East Canton  
- Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **Highlights of TSC Spring Road Rally & Picnic**

On Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, about 40 members gathered at Jim & Zee Kovach's Home for our Spring Party! Beautiful weather, beautiful cars, fast motorcycles & fun people showed up to enjoy the event. The day began at 2:00 p.m. with 22 eager Road Rally participants meeting at the K-Mart on Rte. 62 to receive their Instructions & Survival Kit. Good times were had by all and 20 of the 22 racers actually finished the course. Congratulations go out to 1<sup>st</sup> place winners Jason & Jen Stephen. They were our only motorcycle team and they were awarded a bottle wine and gift certificates to Gervasi Winery in North Canton. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place awards went to Dan Givens & Vicki Huntsman who won a gas gift card.

3<sup>rd</sup> place was a tie between Team Dillon/Beebe & Team Marks/Capestrain. The tie breaker placed the drivers of each vehicle Lisa Dillon & Rich Marks, in head to head competition to name the 15 items in their survival kits. Rich was no competition for Lisa. Apparently his teammates never shared the contents of the bag with him. Third place prizes included a bucket and various car supplies.

The food was plentiful as always and everyone had a great time. Thanks to Jim, Zee for lending us your home and helping to make this a success!

## **Upcoming TSC Summer Events – Watch your email for more details**



### **Camping & Canoeing**

June 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> - Timken Ski Club Camping, Canoeing, Biking at Mohican -

**Camping, Canoeing, Biking and/or Zip Line at Mohican! - Smith's Campground & Cabins** in Loudonville, OH 44842. Check out the websites: <http://www.3smiths.com/> and <http://www.mohicancanoe.com/river-trips.html>

**Concerts: Lock 3 in Akron - Saturday, June 18th** – Free Admission

The Eagles Tribute Band, Hotel California – 9 pm

### **Summer Wine & Dine**

Gervasi Winery in North Canton - Tuesday, June 21

Lockbottom Blues & Jazz Club at Lock 4 – Wednesday, July 13th

The Granite Grille at The Quarry in East Canton - Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Other Summer Events:**

Monday night Bike Rides

CMSC Golf Outing – July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Put-In-Bay – Camping/Mad Dog/Boating – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Cedar Point – Date to be determined

Ohio & Erie Canal Cruise on St. Helena III – Date to be determined

Please watch the website calendar and your email for more details and updates on these events!

For more information on upcoming social events or If you would be interested in running an event please contact Diane Marzec at [DLMarzec@gmail.com](mailto:DLMarzec@gmail.com) or (330) 497-4261.