



PACELINE

**Alta Alpina
Cycling Club**

**Volume 8 Issue 3
April 2010**

Alta Alpina Spring Membership Party



Monday, April 12, 2010 CVIC Hall, Minden, 6PM



Party Time!

If you enjoy cycling — road and mountain — you'll want to join in the Alta Alpina cycling fun.

The annual Alta Alpina Cycling Club Spring membership party is the official kick-off for the cycling season in the Tahoe, Carson City, and Carson Valley areas. The party is being held at the CVIC Hall in Minden. The fun starts at 6 p.m. with plenty of food, friendly people, and an opportunity to trade cycling stories. Club presentations start at 7 p.m.

Party Time! is one of the many benefits of club membership. Not a member? That's an easy fix. You can join at the party, but you can avoid the line and join or renew your membership online at www.AлтаAlpina.org.

If you have any extra water bottles, we need them!

Pizza and lots of goodies.

2010 road race and weekend ride schedules.



Sign up two weeks in advance to lead a weekend ride between March and October 2010. You'll get a chance to win a prize each time you're a leader.



Bring your bike related stuff for sale, or give away to other AACC members. You will have the opportunity to sell, buy, give away, or pick up bike related items."



The annual Alta Alpina Spring Membership Party is the official kick-off of the cycling season in the Tahoe-Carson-Gardnerville area. New this year is the Bike Swap: Bring any bike-related items to give away or sell. Bike stuff left behind at the end of the night will go to the junior team or ROP.

Membership Sign-ups: You can join or renew your membership at the party, but to avoid spending time in line, you can renew your membership now: print, sign, and initial the form that was emailed to you (or go online for a new one), and mail it in or bring it to the party. Know any friends or neighbors just getting into cycling? Bring them along and we'll sign them up at the door! Please try to carpool (or ride your bike) to the CVIC Hall.

Doors open at 6:00 pm with plenty of food and great people to meet. Presentations start at 7:00. See you there!

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2010 Membership Card

Your membership card (the label on the first copy of your newsletter after renewing) is good for discounts at local merchants.

This will be your only paper copy of the newsletter if you have chosen to "save a tree" and read the newsletter online



AACC Weekend Road Rides

Ellen Sherrill, Ride Coordinator

At the Spring Party we will be signing up weekend ride leaders for the whole summer. Please come prepared by choosing your favorite ride and bringing your calendar so you can lock-in the perfect weekend. Ride leaders will be entered into a raffle to win prizes.

Use the Ride Board

The club uses our website's Ride Board to fill in the gaps in the ride schedule. So what Kind of Rides do YOU Want to Do? It's easy to get the club to do your kind of rides at your pace, your distance, and on your schedule. Just visit the Rides page of our website at www.AltaAlpina.org, fill in the form to post a ride, and hit the "Submit" button. The ride will be posted to the online Ride Board, and all club members who are subscribed to the Ride Board will receive an email listing your ride details. What rides do YOU have coming up? Post them now!

Scheduled Rides

Saturday, April 10, 2010 — Wild Sierra Route
Wheels roll at 9:00 am. Meet at Bottom of Kingsbury, Carson Valley Side. Lets give the Club's Wild Sierra Century route a try. We'll go right up Kingsbury and back down, then off through Markleeville to do both sides of Monitor, or the optional West Monitor/East Ebbetts route and back to the start. The cool thing about the route is that we start together and you can choose to do any distance because it is an out and back. Food and water is available in Woodfords and Markleeville, water available at the bottom of the east side of Monitor if we do that route. If Sunday looks better than Saturday for weather, we'll change the date as time draws near. 108 miles/12,000 feet or less depending on what you want to do.

Saturday, May 1, 2010 — Kingsbury-Luther Loop
Wheels roll at 10:00 am. Meet at Bottom of Kingsbury, Carson Valley Side. If you're up for 55 miles and about 4500 feet of climbing, join us for this classic Tahoe area ride. The pace will be moderate, with regular regroupings. If you have questions, or if there's interest in other options (a Tahoe group meeting up with this ride, or an out-n-back to Blue Lakes Road).

Pinenut Mountain Bike Poker Run

Nate Littrell, Poker Run Dealer



On Sunday, May 2nd, Nate Littrell will be hosting the 7th Annual Mountain Bike Poker Run. With a barbecue and water play for the kids, the poker run is a great start to summer fun. The course is an easy one, designed to allow nearly anyone to complete the ride (the youngest rider to complete the course one year was four). The start and finish of the ride is at Nate's house in Ruhenstroth. "I have a huge backyard, so I feel obligated to throw parties" says Nate. After the ride, stay for the barbecue. Chips, soda, beer, and snacks will be provided, but it is BYOM (Bring Your Own Meat).

Poker Run Details

The ride is approximately a 10 mile loop.
\$5 Ante (seven card stud, high/low split)
Special Extra 8th card (high hand only, separate pot & additional \$5 ante)
This card will be significantly farther out than the other seven. For those of you that want a big ride, go for the 8th card. There is also a cooler of beverages waiting for you at the 8th card.

Directions:

The Littrell home is in the Ruhenstroth area at 1914 Colt. Phone: 707-265-9936
Start by heading south on 395 past the Gardnerville 7-11 LEFT on PALOMINO. LEFT on PINTO. RIGHT on COLT Drive straight and you will go up the driveway.





Pinenut Cracker Mountain Bike and Short Track Races

Robert Braun, PNC Race Director

This year's Pinenut Cracker will be another one for the record books! Let's start with the important stuff:

Date: Saturday, May 22nd

Time: Registration starts at 8:00 am
Racing starts at 11:00 am

Registration: Douglas County Fairgrounds Pavilion

Race Start / Finish: "The Tree" on Pinenut Road #2

Cost: \$30.00

Known as "The Epic" and the first of four races in the Nevada State Championship Mountain Bike Race series, the PNC has all the interesting terrain: rock sections, soft sand, steep climbs, and fast descents, all of which require technical bike handling skills, all while going race pace. Pro/Experts will make 3 laps, Sport class will race 2 laps, and Beginners and Juniors will do 1 lap. Each lap is about 10 miles, with a one-mile truck trail to start the lap and to complete the lap.

The New Stuff for 2010!

Short Track Race: The best way to describe a short track race, think of a 20 minute criterium while riding a mountain bike on dirt!

Date: Saturday, May 22nd

Time: Registration throughout the day
Racing starts at 4:30 pm

Location: Douglas County Fairgrounds Pavilion

Cost: \$10 if you are racing the PNC, and \$15 if you only want the Short Track Race

The mountain bike criterium is the new event for this year's Pinenut Cracker. It is sure to be an interesting event to race, and to watch. The course is flat with one short climb, looping around the fairgrounds pavilion, and each lap will be about 1 mile. The number of participants will determine groups, with Pro/Export racing LAST. How many laps can you do in 20 minutes?

Volunteers: We always need individuals to help with registration, starting at 8 am on race day. Volunteering on the race-course is the most interesting, just be sure to bring a cell phone for communications. Cheer on all the racers at one or both events!

Contact me at robertingville@yahoo.com for questions or to volunteer.

Alta Alpina Challenge: Wild Sierra Century, Kid Carson, and 8 Pass

Michael Bayer, Wild Sierra Director

Last Year's Wild Sierra was a big success with participants, most of whom said they will be back this year with friends. Read the feedback page at:

<http://www.AltaAlpina.org/Challenge/feedback.html>

Volunteer Opportunities

For club members, the Wild Sierra is an opportunity to meet and collaborate with other club members as we all pull together to volunteer for the big day. Volunteers for last year's test ride made new friends and had a great time. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of something really big.

Now to June 5	June 5- June 10	June 11	June 12
Registration Processing Ride Promotion Press Relations Equipment Volunteer Coordination	Kid Carson Training Ride Weed Whacking Goody Bag Stuffing Cookie Baking Jersey Sorting Equipment Sorting Sign Making	Shopping Logistics Rider Check-in Parking Signage Crew	Rider Check-in Jersey Sales Rest Stops SAG Course Marshals Signage Crew HAM Radio Operators

Here are some of the jobs that we need help with:

Please call (877)845-2453 or send email to volunteers@altaalpina.org and sign up for one or more of these jobs. Family and friends are welcome to join us. Most jobs allow you to participate in the ride as well! If you volunteer 8 or more hours, you can take advantage of the volunteer discounts.

Equipment Needed

We're still need to track down the following. Please let us know if you can loan or donate any of the following:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Electric Chest Freezer | Camp Chairs |
| Ice Chests | Tire Pumps |
| 5 Gallon Water Coolers | Cow Bells |
| 10 Gallon Water Coolers | Orange Safety Vests |
| Propane Space Heater | Ham Radios |
| Camp Stoves | Large Vehicles |
| Camp Cooking Equipment | Cargo Trailers |
| Bagel Slicers | Flashlights |
| 10x10 Pop up Tents (with side walls if possible) | Paper Grocery Bags |
| Tarp/Shade Structures | Old Blankets |
| Folding Tables | Old Newspapers |
| Camp Table Cloths | Old Sweatshirts/Sweatpants |



Presidential Posting

Mel Maalouf, President

April, oh April. Days of 70 degrees mixed with days of bitter cold make it tough to get in consistent riding. So after posting junior training rides on Sundays at 1:30, I've been delighted that a few adults are coming. The last ride was up to Virginia City and one junior, Brandon, rode his first big climb. He is brand new to riding and cranked out the truck route with ease until he got a flat. Brandon is impressive—he just rides his 6'2" 250 lb frame up the Comstock. With that kind of grit, he will be scary fast once he gets more miles in.

As I write this, we are preparing for one of the toughest races: Copperopolis where the Junior Team will be well represented.

April is a busy month for the club. I look forward to officially kicking off the season at the party on the 12th and I hope many of you will show up for the fun. There will be club clothing for sale there and I hope you will buy some of it so we can look like we all belong to the same club when we ride. It just looks nice when we all have the same jersey and are in a group together. Some of us will be at the Sea Otter Classic and hope we can meet up for a dinner/BBQ in campground E. I expect to have the club canopy there overlooking the corkscrew. Many in the club go to the Chico Wildflower in April (25th) and I trust that anyone going will post a ride to carpool there to save money, gas and those green house gases.

The club races start in late April too. For any of you who are curious, you should show up and race or just watch. Watching club racing is better than watching the Tour de France or Paris-Roubaix, since you recognize all the players. The drama, the anguish, the competition at any level is great to take part in. Actually racing is even better and there is no better way to get fit than race. If you ride organized rides, it builds skills so that you can draft faster people in those last few



**Junior Trevor Ellsworth
at Copperopolis**

miles to breeze to the finish. Also, it increases your fitness that allows for riding in the aerobic zone, which is much more efficient than going anaerobic and back to recovering on the longer rides. Still unsure about racing? My suggestion is this: Ride the first race or few races, if you like it, you have a whole season ahead of fun, if you don't like it, then there is little lost. I have yet to meet many people who have tried it and didn't like the challenge. Often, people start racing in August for the first time after they feel "ready" and end up wishing they had started earlier since the races end in August.

May is going to be great. It's Bike-to-Work month and the club will be holding a mileage contest. On May 2nd we have Nate Littrell's MTB Poker Run. On May 8th Allen Biaggi has graciously agreed to promote the Kingsbury Hill Climb Time Trial (and Kingsbury-Luther Loop). The 22nd of May is the Pinenut Cracker Mountain Bike Race, and the 30th of May is The Spring Century (formerly the Gardnerville 70/100).

After all that riding in May, we produce the best rider-supported ride ever: The Alta Alpina Challenge-Riding The Wild Sierra, on June 12th. Mark that date in your calendars as we'll need everyone to come out and help. In the meantime, please promote our event among your friends and acquaintances across the western states.

AACC@yahoo.com and our Facebook page (just search for Alta Alpina Cycling Club) are two new ways for club members to communicate with one another. Continue to post rides on the Alta Alpina rideboard, but use these new services to share news and ideas with your fellow club members.

Keep 'em rolling, and keep posting rides to connect with friends and those who want to make more friends.

The 2010 AACC Commuter Mileage Challenge

Peter Costa, CMC Coordinator

2010 will be the third year for the Commuter Mileage Challenge. Last year we held a club challenge for the entire month of May and also participated as a group in the Tahoe Bike Coalition Bike to Work Week Challenge (TBCB2WC). Alta Alpina placed first in the total "Play" miles category... only seems fitting. This year, we'll encourage all members to sign up for the Alta Alpina "team" in the Tahoe Bike Coalition Bike to Work Week Challenge from **May 24th to June 4th**. We'll announce sign-up details as soon as they are available.



Thursday Evening Road Racing

Di Bolton, Thursday Night Race Director

Welcome to the 2010 race season. It is amazing how fast this winter season went by - and our first race will be April 22nd. I am gearing up and looking forward to the upcoming season! Hope to see all the regular faces (missed you all) and a lot of new ones at the races (looking forward to meeting you)! Family members please come out to cheer your racers on. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed to help at the finishes, especially the Crits and TT's; things can get kind of hectic. Thanks in advance to my helpers!

Race Fees and Punch Cards

AACC members will race for \$8, non members \$10. Punch cards will be offered again. We'll hold 17 races this season, not counting the two Reno Wheelmen Club Challenges in Reno. The punch cards will be \$56 for 8 races: this is a savings of \$1 per race. Purchasing the full 16 races in advance will be \$112: you'll save \$1 per race and get the last race for free. Punch cards for non-AACC members are \$10 per race: \$80 for 8 races, \$160 for the 16 race series, with the last race free. So encourage all racers to join the club and save!

You can join or renew your membership online, or at the Alta Alpina Spring Membership Party, or I will have forms at the races too. If you are bringing a check for membership or for the punch cards for the races, make it out to AACC.

Start Times:

Road races and time trials: all races start at 6:15 pm.
Criteriums and Circuit races: C's and D's start at 6:15 pm. A's and B's start right after the C's and D's are finished.

Road Race Rules

No ear buds are to be worn at any race. Violators will be disqualified. This is for the safety of every rider.

Every rider must wear a helmet (DUH!).

Aero bars are only allowed in the time trials, but not road races or crits. You will be asked to remove them: no exceptions.

Ride single file when possible and ride to the right of or hug the white line. NEVER cross a double yellow and PLEASE respect the cars. Do not make them mad and give them an excuse to hate us. For the safety of every rider and for better community relations, any racer caught ignoring these rules will be disqualified.

In crits, please DO NOT warm up on the course when races are in progress. You may warm up on the outer roads. RATIONALE: When you're in a group, you need to be able to look around and know that everybody racing is in your category. Also, you are one person out of many that may inadvertently affect the race if you are warming up during other category races. It also makes it easier to keep track of the laps, time, and race leaders.

Ride thru the finish. DO NOT sit up or get in the way of the ones behind you.

There will be NO mentoring during actual races this can be done off the course and special days will be set aside for training.

Please DO NOT cool down by following the other groups that are racing.

There will be no coaching during the races. This can be done before or after the race.

Points

1st place = 20 points	2nd = 17 points
3rd = 14 points	4th = 12 points
5th = 10 points	6th = 9 points
7th = 8 points	etc.

All participants in Club Challenges receive 10 points regardless of placement.

Carrying Points

Same rules will apply as last year for category placement. If you race up a category you will carry full points, race down carry half points. Once you move you are in that category for the remainder of the season: the decision to move up or down will need to be made by the end of the East Valley Crit on the 6th of May. This will give you the chance to race the three disciplines (TT, Crit and RR) you should have a feel for where you belong by then. If a racer is obviously in the wrong category we will ask you to move. The most important part of this race series is to HAVE FUN!

DONATIONS NEEDED

We would like to have primes (or "preems") at the crit races and possibly at the road races. If you have any new clothing, socks, bottles, fresh energy foods or juices, gift certificates, or know anybody that does or can think of anything else that would be fun to give out, bring them to the Spring Kick Off Party April 20th at CVIC in Minden. Thank you!



AACC Thursday Night Race Series

Diane Bolton, Thursday Night Race Director

See our website at www.AлтаAlpina.org for directions to race venues. Schedule is subject to change, so check the website before each race. Races start promptly at 6:15 pm. Be there ready to race!

4/22	Foothill Time Trial (no points, category determination)	6/3	Kingsbury Time Trial	7/15	Eagle Ridge Criterium
4/29	Diamond Valley Road Race	6/10	Club Challenge:	7/22	Diamond Valley Road Race
5/6	East Valley Criterium	6/17	Eagle Ridge Criterium	7/29	Blue Lakes Time Trial
5/13	East Valley Time Trial	6/24	Diamond Valley Double Back Road Race	8/5	East Valley Criterium
5/18	Tuesday Club Challenge: Reno Air Center Criterium	7/1	Montera Criterium, Minden	8/12	Club Challenge: Pinenut Road Race
5/27	East Valley Criterium	7/6	Pinenut Road Race	8/19	Foothill Time Trial
			Tuesday Club Challenge: Fernley Circuit Race	8/26	Diamond Valley RR (short course, season finale)

Board Meeting Minutes—April 5, 2010

Acting Secretary: Jennie Hamiter; Other Board Members: Michael Bayer, Robert Braun, Pete Costa, Curtis Fong, Mel Maalouf, Tim Rowe. Other attendees: Chris Zombro-Rhiner, Christopher Rowe

1. Monthly Status Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report:** \$43529 in bank account as of March 24. PayPal account has \$7043 from both the 2009 and 2010 Alta Alpina Challenge registration. Debit card is registered with PayPal, Pete is still going through process to get PayPal payments transferred to our account.
- **Memberships:** 39 new memberships for 2010 so far. Renewal reminders have been sent to the whole database.
- **Weekend Rides:** Ellen is out of town. Mel reminded the group that we all should be posting rides and carpools to organized rides.
- **Newsletter:** Jennie reported that we will try to get newsletter out before Spring Party. Need articles for May by the end of April. It was noted that Bon Vivant is no longer in business, so is no longer a local merchant - they will be removed from the list in the newsletter.
- **Website:** Twain reported that on the "Routes" pages, all the photos disappeared because of a server error. He's about 1/3 through re-instating the pictures.
- **Weekly Road Races:** Race Fees are \$8 for members, \$10 non-members. The website has been updated with the 2010 schedule. First race: Thursday, 22 April.
- **MTB Race Series:** No director has stepped up, though Mel has had inquiries from interested racers. At the Party Mel will solicit for MTB race director.
- **Junior Team:** Mel reported that attendance has been spotty, but he's got a couple plucky kids. Once Prom and track season ends, interest should pick up.
- **Gardnerville 100 (now "The Spring Century", see below):** Sunday, May 30, Memorial Day weekend. Chris reported that food planning should be easier this year. We are looking for at least 2 SAG drivers. Di noted that the SAG drivers need to carry waivers for club memberships, club pamphlets, and flyers for the Wild Sierra. One solution discussed for SAG is leaving coolers in a pre-determined location. Tentative times for SAG support for the top of Monitor is 9-11 am. Maybe leave a cooler at the top of Luther. Slower folks start at 7 am, faster start at 8 am.
- **Pinenut Cracker:** Robert reported that he has found an official. He passed out maps of the course to the group. Food? Mel will ask juniors'



parents to barbeque or arrange for other substantial eats. Food at the fairgrounds will be important, since some people will be racing twice in the same day - the classic MTB race as well as short track.

- **Carson Valley Classic:** Garth was not present, but Mel reported that the possibility of putting on the Minden Crit is not dead yet.
 - **Kingsbury Time Trial:** Allen Biaggi has volunteered to be the race director for the Kingsbury Time Trial, on Saturday, May 8.
 - **Bike Advocacy:** Tim reported on his trip to Bike Summit in DC: 725 participants—the most ever. Tim had breakfast with Senators Reid and Ensign and met with other legislators. A big push for Safe Routes to School (for high schools, too!) and for the transportation bill. All Nevada congressmen were receptive to serving cyclists needs. Tim showed Bicycle Nevada's new jersey design, which will have reflective panels. 2010 Nevada Bike Conference will probably be two 1-day conferences 1 day in Vegas/1 day in Reno. Curtis reported Lake Tahoe Bike Coalition got grant for 25 bike racks for Tahoe Bike Friendly businesses, and painting bike lanes. These businesses would probably be open to having our club pamphlets. Trying to negotiate to get Amgen Tour to start or finish a stage in Tahoe in 2011.
 - **Bike to Work Month:** Pete would like to organize the club BTW challenge again. Briefly discussed prizes, such as raffle tickets to Fall Dinner raffle.
 - **Adopt-a-Hiway:** Still looking for Champion - Inge Costa may be interested.
 - **Clothing:** Expected to be in today. Will be available at the Spring Party.
2. **Spring Party:** 12 April. Robert needs someone to pick up pizzas (Tim), and someone to pick up CVIC keys around 4 pm and open the hall for us (Di). Need another projector. Pete can bring screens. At the meeting, Ellen needs to announce occasionally that she's taking sign-ups for ride leaders. Thanks to Suzy for doing the flyer again. Flyers need to get to local bike shops. This led to discussion of club tri-fold pamphlets for bike shops: agreed to print 500 for local bike shops, bike-friendly businesses, gyms, and to hand out at all our events.
 3. **Budgets:** From last month, still needed to approve Thursday evening race budget. Race insurance will be pro-rated for each event. Insurance Di gets includes Twilight Series, PNC, KoK, Cyclocross, but hasn't covered CVC. Race fees still \$8 and \$10. Budget passed.
 4. **Twain's Ideas:** Twain suggested we rename the Gardnerville 100. The group agreed to rename it our Spring Century. He also presented his idea for a new club ride series, which he has volunteered to run. It would be a series of existing club century rides to qualify as something like "King of the Mountain" and get a special jersey. The only requirements would be to be a club member and to ride all these rides. This series needs a name. The board was in favor of supporting this series. Twain will present his ideas at the Spring Party.
 5. **Water Bottles:** Pete presented an idea to have club/Wild Sierra water bottles, for the following uses: Wild Sierra volunteers and riders, also to be given away at a big club "Water Bottle Ride". 200 bottles = \$650, 24 oz one color. Curtis said he'd look into getting bottles for our club at his rate.
 6. **Alta Alpina Challenge/The Wild Sierra:** Michael reported that 66 riders have signed up so far, with more tonight from the mailbox. Marketing: posters have been mailed to people all over California and Nevada for posting at bike shops. Michael is trying to get into bike club meetings to promote the ride. Twain and Pete have been online talking it up on bike forums, etc, and will start blog posting when the individual passes open, etc. Mel's idea: blog the Top 10 Reasons to do the Alta Alpina Challenge. Discussed that we need to belong to local Chambers of Commerce. Michael requested that the funds for the Ride Director's reimbursement be used instead for a server to be owned by the club for the club membership and Wild Sierra database. Purchase of a server and software up to \$1500 was approved as an additional expense..
 7. **Next Meeting:** Monday, May 3, 2010, 6 pm, tentatively scheduled for TRPA on Market St. in Stateline. June 7 meeting will also be at TRPA.





Alta Alpina Cycling Club

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 www.AлтаAlpina.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Spring Party Monday April 12
- First Thursday Race .Thursday, April 22
- Pinenut MTB Poker Run Sunday, May 2
- King of the King Saturday, May 8
- Pinenut Cracker ..Saturday, May 22
- The Spring Century Sunday, May 30
- Thursday Night Races ..every Thu @6:15

MOVED? GOT NEW CONTACT INFO?
 Have you moved? Has your e-mail address changed?
 Don't miss out on the latest AACC happenings!
 Update your info at www.AлтаAlpina.org; click on "Membership"

Alta Alpina Cycling Club Board Members

Mel Maalouf	President	president@AltaAlpina.org	775-782-9652
Curtis Fong	Vice President	tgft@bikethewest.com	775-588-9658
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Newsletter Editor:
 Jennie Hamiter
 Newsletter Publisher:
 Michael Bayer

The club is about and for you! All AACC members are welcomed to participate in our **Board Meetings** held the **first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.** The location alternates between the Carson Valley and South Lake Tahoe.. Join us on **May 3** at the **TRPA** in the **Stateline.**



Bike Spokesman - Mr. Rowe Goes to Washington

Tim Rowe, Bike Advocacy

2010 National Bike Summit - Building on 10 years of Progress

Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board members Rich Staley and Tim Rowe recently attended the League of American Bicyclist's Bike Summit in Washington, DC, and provided this report.

Tuesday Evening:

First event was the Welcome and Opening Reception for the 725 attendees. The highlight of the night was the Bikes Belong Coalition, introducing their inspirational 'People for Bikes' Program. The goal is uniting a million voices to improve the future of biking: together we can make bicycling better. You can help by pledging support for bikes at

<http://peopleforbikes.org>.

The Alliance for Biking & Walking had their 2010 Advocacy Awards Reception at Harriet's Restaurant a short walk/ride away. This was a great evening of networking with advocacy leaders and professionals from across North America and a celebration of achievements. Getting around Washington, even late at night, was very easy using the Metro.

Wednesday:

Opening session with Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), who was very enthusiastic and one of the three main bicycle advocates in Congress. The Administrator of Federal Transit Administration, Peter Rogoff, spoke next followed by Governor Jack Markell (D-DE) and then the upbeat mayor of North Little Rock, AR, a new Bicycle Friendly Community.

Highlight of the session was the announcement by Google Maps that they just launched Directions for Bicycling*. Check it out at

<http://maps.google.com/biking>.

Next included three breakout sessions that included panel talks on: Jump Starting your State and Local Advocacy Efforts, Promoting Livable Communities, Strengthening Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets, Healthier Transportation Systems, and more. Next was the town Hall Meeting on Active Transportation followed by the State Delegation Coordination forum.

Thursday:

Started with a Capitol Hill Rally with Congressman James Oberstar (D-MN). Tim and Rich attended the weekly breakfast meeting with Nevada Senators Reid and Ensign in the LBJ room of the Senate side of the Capitol followed by a quick tour. The Nevada team of two then attended meetings all day with the Nevada delegation arranged by the Nevada State Coordinator, Tim. They first met with Bryan George, Legislative Director for Rep. Shelley Berkley (1st District, NV). Next they met with Karen Agostisi Stone, Legislative Director for Congresswoman Dina Titus (3rd District, NV) followed by Scott Riplinger, Transportation Legislative Assistant for Congressman Dean Heller (2nd District, NV). Highlight of the day was meeting with Senator John Ensign (R, NV) in his private office with his bike and John Lawrence, his Legislative Assistant present. Tim and Rich presented him with a Bicycle Nevada jersey and socks. Next we met with Bob Herbert, a Senior Assistant with Senator and Majority Leader Harry Reid (D, NV).

Speaking points during the day were supporting the Safe Routes to School Reauthorization Act (S. 1156), the Safe Routes to High School Act (H.R. 4021), the extension and passage of new Transportation Bill, the Complete Streets Act of 2009 (S. 584/H.R. 1443), Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act (H.R. 3734) and Land and Water Reauthorization and Funding Act (S. 2747). We stressed that bicycling and walking are part of the solution and the investment in that infrastructure really works. We also asked each member to join the Congressional Bike Caucus as only Shelley Berkley from Nevada does now. All of the meetings were warm and well received.

The day ended with a Congressional Reception in the Senate Dirksen Office Building in the evening, celebrating the successful conclusion of the summit. Highlight of the reception was the rousing table top speech by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, where he introduced a new policy statement on bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Check out the policy statement at

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/policy_accom.htm.



Friday:

The Congressional Bike Ride on Capitol Hill was lightly attended this year with the cool gray rainy conditions after beautiful conditions all during of the week.

The 2010 National Bike Summit was a great positive and encouraging experience and worth attending. It is good for Nevada to send a contingent and should again.

Editor's Note:

Google Maps' bicycling directions are working, and while pretty quirky, they can help keep you off the busiest streets. The good news is that Google is seeking feedback on this, so take them up on it - map your bike routes, let Google know how to improve them, then follow those directions and use your bike as transportation.

The screenshot shows the Google Maps interface. At the top left is the Google Maps logo. To its right is a search bar containing the text "1631 Bently Pkwy. So., Minden, Nevada, 89423". Below the search bar is the text "Find businesses, addresses and places of interest." Below this is a navigation bar with "Get Directions" and "My Maps" links. The main area contains two input fields: "A" with "Markleeville, ca" and "B" with "1631 Bently Pkwy S, Minden, NV 89410". Below these fields are links for "Add Destination" and "Show options", a "Bicycling" mode selector, and a "Get Directions" button. At the bottom left, there is a section "Also available:" with a bicycle icon and a "Bicycling" link. On the right side, a partial view of a map is visible, showing a person icon and navigation controls.