

# Tailwind Express

Annapolis Bicycle Club - November, 2009



## Biking in Annapolis – *Safer and Better!*



**Sharrows:** The 'sharrow' shown in the illustration is to warn both drivers and riders that the lane is to be shared by cars and bicycles. The first ones should soon show up on Rowe Boulevard between College Creek and Calvert street. We expect to see them on other city streets in the near future – Bay Ridge, Tyler, Chesapeake, and Admiral Drive are likely candidates. When drivers see them, they should expect to see you there – but still watch out for cars and trucks! And, give a thought of thanks to the city for their help.

**Campaign:** The transportation department and city police will soon begin a campaign to remind cyclists to use lights after dark; wear bright colors; ride with traffic, not against it; and to stay off sidewalks. Motorists will be reminded to watch for cyclists and share the roads. Police will be educated about laws that protect cyclists.

**Rally:** Last Thursday evening there was a bike safety rally at Market Square.. There were workers from various bike stores as well as members of the Annapolis Bicycle Racing Team assisting, and several ABC members picked up some free bike lights, along with some other free other goodies.

**Award:** Does all this really mean something? Apparently so – the League of American Bicyclists has recently awarded Annapolis an Honorable Mention as a Bicycle Friendly Community. So let the city know we appreciate their efforts, and look forward to more improvements in the near future!

## Out of Town? You can still Ride!

Just being away from Annapolis doesn't mean you can't ride. There are a lot of options. You can rent a bike – check out [www.rentabike.com](http://www.rentabike.com). They can connect you with a bike store in over 150 cities in the U.S and Canada and allow you to rent for the time you're there. In Europe, consider the bike sharing programs active in a lot of cities. You can get info on these at [www.bike-sharing.blogspot.com](http://www.bike-sharing.blogspot.com)



Or consider a compact such as a 'Bike Friday'. You can, of course get a bike box and fly your own bike, but that's getting expensive these days. Rental or even purchase of a bike (and sold after the trip as used or donated to a charity) at the destination are options that several of our members have employed, so check it out before you go.

And if you're just in D.C., the 'Bikestation Washington D.C.' is now open for business at Union Station.



**Seagull Ride Report** – Saturday morning found ABC riders at the starting line for the 2009 Seagull Century – and it was raining. But not much, and ABC riders are a hardy lot, so as the rain eased off, the group was away at a couple of minutes after 8 AM. Our optimism was justified, as the rain held off for most of the ride. One or two who started early or late reported getting caught in short periods of rain, but for most, it was only an occasional drop or two. It was warm until late in the afternoon, so the ride was quite pleasant except for the Eastern Shore winds, which were definitely with us.

One nice touch was a beer garden and fast food joint set up in the center of the campus after the ride – most of us availed ourselves of that!

### **Safety Tips of the Month**

***Be Ride Ready*** – tires need air, brakes must work, chains should run smoothly, and quick release levers must be closed. Carry repair and emergency supplies. *Wear a helmet!*

***Be Conspicuous*** - ride where drivers can see you, use lights at night, and wear bright clothing.

*Thanks to the League of American Bicyclists*



### **Road Work**

MD 450 (Defense Highway) will be resurfaced between MD 424 (Davidsonville Road) and Huntswood Drive beginning in early September.

MD 450 will also be resurfaced between Ridges Gateway and Crownsville Road beginning in late October.

Both projects may include day and night work, with single lane and/or shoulder closures. Be alert for closures, and look out for changes in road conditions due to patching, grinding, and milling. You may encounter grooved pavement. SHA hopes to have both projects completed by early November.

### **Ride Round George's Old Stamping Grounds**

On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will run an easy ride on the Mount Vernon Trail. The ride will run from Roosevelt Island to Old Town Alexandria, about 8 miles one way, for 16 miles total at an easy 10 to 12 mph pace. You'll get a chance for photos and a stop in Alexandria for a snack. The trip will highlight sights such as the Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, and historic Old Town Alexandria, while learning about the CBF's *Cyclists for the Bay* Program, and some of the water quality issues we're facing.



Space is limited, so contact Jess Barton at [jbarton@cbf.org](mailto:jbarton@cbf.org) for more information and to reserve a space.