



**Springbike Bicycle Club**  
 PO Box 9823  
 Springfield, MO 65801



# THE TUBE

November 2005

**Next Springbike Meeting**  
**November 14 7:00**  
**Churchhills on Republic Road**

## Upcoming Events

Nov. 12 Frisco-Highland Trail Ride  
 Dec. Christmas Party  
 Dec. Christmas Light Ride

## 2005 Club Officers & Committees

### President

Tim Weston 840-5687  
 Westonbuilder@sbcglobal.net

### Vice President

Kevin Umlauf 883-1113/753-2969  
 kevin@sunshinebike.com

### Secretary

Merrill Drummond 881-1718/ 576-3865  
 merrillcdrummond@mchsi.com

### Treasurer

Bill Compere 863-1617  
 billcomp@sbcglobal.net

### Program Director

James Allen 833-1980

### Special Event Route Organizer

Jim Freeman 724-2701

### Membership

Randy Lacey 846-7352  
 myelement@swbell.net

### Advocacy Committee

Bruce Adib-Yazdi 881-8510  
 badib-yazdi@swbell.net

### Tube Editor

Cynthia Petty 863-9132  
 cynchp@peoplepc.com

### WebMaster

Dave Christiano

**Bike Sales Top Car Sales** - For the first time since the 1970s, bicycle sales have exceeded car sales in the United States. And bicycle sales in the U.S. are near an all-time high. According to a YahooNews story, more bicycles than cars have been sold in the United States over the past 12 months, with rising gas prices prompting commuters to opt for two wheels instead of four. Not since the oil crisis of 1973 have bicycles sold in

such big numbers, according to Tim Blumenthal, executive director of Bikes Belong, an industry association. See ...[http://www.mobikefed.org/2005\\_10\\_01\\_cyclingtipsarchive.html](http://www.mobikefed.org/2005_10_01_cyclingtipsarchive.html) -

As the weather has turned many people are getting out on the trails to enjoy the tree colors and get a bit of exercise. The Springfield Police Department has ask that we remind trail users not to leave valuables in your car when parked in a local park or trail parking area.

The bad guys have figured out that these areas are good pickings. Please do not leave wallets, credit cards, or other valuable items in your car. Also please spread this word to other trail users, keep an eye out for strange behavior around the parking areas.

A vehicle break in can lead to several other crimes with your stolen property such as forgery of checks, and fraudulent use of credit cards. Help us prevent this activity, leave valuables at home, and lock up you car.

## Springbike BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Springbike Bicycle Club cannot be held responsible for any accident that may occur during, or as a result of, our activities. Participants ride at their own risk. For the safety of Participants, Springbike Bicycle Club requires that approved helmets be worn on all club-sponsored rides.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_New Membership \_\_\_\_\_Renewal

1 year membership.....\$20 per household

2 year membership.....\$38 per household

Mail to: Springbike Bicycle Club  
 PO Box 9823  
 Springfield, MO 65801

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel ephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**A&B Cycle Inc**  
**3620 S National**  
**864-0550**

**Cycles Unlimited**  
**1254 E Republic Rd**  
**887-3560**

**Downhill Bikes**  
**1116 West Hwy 76**  
**Branson, MO**  
**417-335-4455**

**Queen City Cycles**  
**325 S Patton**  
**831-0800**

**Springfield Bicycle Company**  
**3201 S Campbell**  
**883-8100**

**Sunshine Bike Shop**  
**1926 E Sunshine**  
**883-1113**

**Willard Bike Shop**  
**106 E Jackson**  
**Willard, MO**  
**742-4465**

Hello,

Well it's starting to get dark early but the weather has been perfect for riding. The weeknight rides are over till next spring but we will be still be having special monthly rides along with other special events. We've just completed the Fall Century with about 33 hardy riders showing up on the coldest day of the season (35 degrees...brrr!). Thanks to Kelly Kauble, Rebecca Baker, Cynthia Petty, Kevin Umlauf, and Mary Weston for helping out with lunch, rest stops, and sag support. We also had our full moon ride with only about 10 riders. It was an absolutely perfect night... warm, without a cloud in the sky and very little traffic. If you've never done a night ride, plan on doing one, it's a totally different experience.

Coming up on November 12 we'll be having our Frisco-Highland Trail ride starting at 10:00 and taking off from the Willard High School. This is a ride where you can ride as far as you want to with some going all the way to Bolivar for lunch before returning. The trail is similar to the Katy trail meaning that it's best ridden with a wider tire. Also keep in mind that the Christmas Lights Ride and the Christmas Party will both be coming up in December, with the dates and places to be determined.

This is the perfect time to announce that we have a new website coordinator, Dave Christiano. If you haven't looked at the website in a while, just check it out and see what a great job that Dave has already done. We will be using the website to keep you informed of any new or additional information concerning events (i.e. the Christmas Party), rides (i.e. the Christmas Light ride), or anything else that might be important to bicycling. There is also an area to sign up for a Springbike group e-mail in which you will be able to inform or be informed of anything bicycling related. There are several postings each week concerning groups meeting for weekend rides.

Finally, if you are interested in being on the Springbike board (or know of someone who should be) please let me know so that they might be nominated and voted on. The current board is all willing to stay on for another year, but if you have an overwhelming desire to serve some would certainly be glad to take a break. The nominations will all be accepted at the November meeting, so either be there or let me know of your desires in advance.

Once again...bicycling is a year round activity! Don't hang up the bike! Join other Springbike members on a mountain bike ride...ride the special monthly rides...or just go out on the "warmer" days. As a famous man once said...Just Do It.

See Ya On the Road,

Tim Weston

## Trail Recycles Railroad Cars For Bridges

By  
Terry Whaley

Ozark Greenways Inc, in southwest Missouri recently completed construction of the second longest rail-trail in Missouri. The Frisco Highline Trail was dedicated on September 24 with the "*Mayors Meet in the Middle*" an event involving Mayors, and 350 citizens from the six communities the trail passes by. In addition to some great pastoral rural scenery of southwest Missouri this 35-mile long trail comes with 13 different railroad trestles ranging in length from 15 to 317-feet. Over 2,000 feet of bridge surface in all.

One of the challenges with retrofitting the bridges to trail was that arsons successfully damaged one, and destroyed two of the original trestles so badly that no support structure or piers were left to work with. The normal routine for an Ozark Greenways retrofit included decking over the existing railroad ties and adding handrails. However, the burned bridges were going to require something different and the assumption was it would be very expensive.

Ozark Greenway board members, trail supporters and members of the organizations technical committee made several trips to the bridge locations looking, thinking and scratching their heads on what would be the best approach to replacing these bridges. We were hoping that with time an inspiration would hit us and the problem would be solved. On another front the group was involved in a capital campaign to raise the needed funds to develop the entire trail, so there was plenty of time for "thinking".

**The Solution** came very routinely one day when Tom Netzer a board member of Ozark Greenways was reading a professional trade magazine, and noticed an add from a salvage company called Diversified Railcar located in Camden Arkansas. The company was advertising used flat bed rail cars for the use of road bridges. Game on! Out to the field we went for some measuring, re-measuring, thinking and more head scratching. After several calls to the salvage company, request for some photos, and several questions we were soon to learn that there existed in inventory three flatbeds that would fit our needs nicely. Arrangements were made for delivery of the flatbeds to a local holding site, followed by logistic plans to move each car to its specific site and add handrails in the field.

The cost of using the salvaged railroad cars was comparative to the re-decking treatment other bridges received. The cost of a re-decked wooded bridge 50-foot in length complete with handrails was \$10,065, while the 50-foot railroad car bridge was \$11,900 including the cost of the car, delivery, crane rental for setting it in place, and steel handrails which were built in sections then delivered to the site and welded in place. Plans are underway to paint the flatbed car bridges and some cost will be incurred with that as well. However, it is anticipated the maintenance of the three-flatbed bridges will be much less than the wood decks. Ozark Greenways is proud to have these bridges on their trail. In addition to achieving a bit of unique railroad theme and some great conservation items along the trail the recycling and reuse of these cars fits well into the overall philosophy of the organization.

Springbike is a local cycling club whose purpose is to promote enjoyable safe cycling for the members and the community.

**Support your local bike shops!**