



Liberty Bicycles Was Named National Bicycle Advocate of 2007 by the National Bicycle Dealers' Association

The owners of Liberty Bicycles, Mike & Claudia Nix are very committed to making sure there are safe places for their customers to enjoy riding their bikes on and off the roads. In keep with that endeavor, they take an active role locally and nationally. They have attended the National Bicycle Summit in Washington, DC for several years to lobby for the Highway Bills to ensure that some of the monies continue to be spent for safe cycling. This year they were recognized for their efforts by being awarded the Bicycle Advocacy of the year award by the Bicycle Retailer & Industry News Magazine. Below is a summary of their advocacy work and places where you can find more information on the organizations with whom they are working.

Local efforts

1. The city of Asheville received a grant from the NC DOT Bicycle Program to assist in the development of a comprehensive bicycle plan. The consultants have begun their work. Some of you were among the 110 individuals who showed up for the open house and 830 who participated in the on line survey. The consultants mentioned that this was the biggest public participation in any with which city they have work. Please continue to take part and give your comments. You may do so by going to their web site to review the bike plan proposal at www.fbrmpo.org. You can also give your input on the plan through mpo@ashevillenc.gov.
2. Buncombe County Solid Waste Department in conjunction with the Western NC Bicycle Dealer's Assoc received a grant from the NC Recreational Trails Program to develop more trails at the Alexander Mt. Bike Facility. Todd Brabham with Long Cane Trails has been working developing these trails. We are working with Todd & SORBA to turn this area into a beautiful new trail system with improvements to the old trail. We hope to have the trail open by October 1st but we need lots of volunteers to help with finish work on the trail. Go to our store web site www.libertybikes.com to find the work schedule.
3. The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club has adopted the Bike Lanes on Riverside Drive & Lyman Street & has kept them clean for a number of years. The clean up is done 4 times a year. This is a great service to the community & new riders. We need more help with this effort. Ellen Bailey has taken over the job of coordinating the work days from Claudia & scheduled clean up dates for the rest of the year, they are: Thurs, Sept 6 & Sat, Dec 8, 2007. BRBC buys your breakfast from Clingman Café and it is loads of fun. To get involved, you can contact Ellen at ebailey@mtnarea.net.
4. BRBC needs your membership, or at least for you to participate in their events. This organization is working to improve conditions for bicyclists locally by funding efforts to do so. They have a huge ride library with maps and cue sheets their site is: www.blueridgebicycleclub.org. This spring the club donated \$10,000.00 to the Asheville Parks and Greenway Commission from the Fletcher Flyer proceeds.
5. The Bike/Pedestrian Task Force held a FREE workshop on using your bicycle for Transportation in the spring and plan to continue the program. The Bike / Pedestrian Task Force is a citizen's advisory organization helping the city of Asheville stay tuned in to bicyclist's and pedestrian's needs. They have an incident reporting form and their minutes posted on the site. For more information about the organization please go to: www.abptaskforce.org Claudia is the facilitator of this organization. To learn more and get on the list for the next workshop contact Claudia at: claudianix@libertybikes.com.

6. Healthy Buncombe is a coalition of individuals and organizations who are interested in making policy changes in our community that will enable citizens to become healthier by eating well and being more physically active. They are the lead organization in the Safe Routes to Schools program in Asheville and Buncombe County and the walk to school day in early October. Their web site is: www.healthybuncombe.org.
7. Strive Not to Drive is a yearly event in the spring for information go to: www.gettingaroundnc.com. This event is sponsored by Healthy Buncombe, the Bike/Ped Task Force and many other organizations in the city and county who are concerned about our environment and our citizens.
8. Pisgah Area SORBA is part of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association which has recently merged with IMBA. They are working locally to preserve mountain biking trails by doing trail maintenance. They have started a new program with the Western North Carolina Bicycle Dealer's Association called "Biker Bucks". If you join SORBA you will receive (1) biker buck, each time you participate in an authorized SORBA work day you will receive (2) biker bucks. Each buck is worth \$5.00 redeemable at any WNCBDA member shop. What a great deal! Come join the fun and help preserve more bicycling trails for your fun and enjoyment.
9. Asheville Youth Cycling Group is a new non-profit group forming to help develop and run cycling programs for children. Lesli Meadows and Rich Mathews are the lead organizers of this group. If you have children who would be interested in programs or you just want to help in the efforts, you can contact Lesli at: coachlesli@ashevillevelosports.com.

Statewide Efforts

1. Claudia is a member of the NC DOT Bicycle Program which partially funded the development of bicycle plan for Asheville. They are working with other state agencies to develop better education for law enforcement regarding bicyclists and their needs. The Share the Road license plate raises funds for distribution of free helmets for children in local programs. Their engineers check over DOT designs for new roads to ensure that bicyclist's needs are being considered.
2. Claudia sits on the NC Trails Committee which determines which grants are approved for the Recreational Trails Grants & Adopt-a-Trail Grants. These grants are funded through federal transportation funds.

National Efforts

1. The National Bike Summit began as a consolidated effort by various national organizations to get the transportation bill (SAFE-TEA LU) passed and to insure it contained bills that would meet bicycle, pedestrian & transit needs. The summit continues in an effort to keep these needs high on lawmaker's minds. The transportation bill is up for reauthorization in 2009. The League of American Bicyclists, Bikes Belong Coalition, IMBA, Rails-to Trails, and The National Bicycle Dealer's Assoc. are a few of the organizations working together on the summit.
2. Mike is First Vice-President of the Executive Board of the National Bicycle Dealer's Assoc. This organization was one of the sponsors of the Bike Summit and also sponsors Thunderhead Alliance an umbrella organization for Bicycle Advocacy Groups. They are working on the Complete Streets Project to ensure that all streets are developed for all users' not just cars and trucks. Mike was recently voted onto the board of the League of American Bicyclists. This organization was founded in 1890 and advocates for bicyclists from Washington. It is the lead summit organization & has developed a bicycle education program for cyclists.