



# rideOn

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION

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summer 2013

## Pedalfest Returns July 20



Passion for Better Bicycling  
Brings Couple Together, page 4

40  
YEARS





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## LETTER FROM THE SADDLE:

On a recent Sunday, I rode to Point Isabel with Eulalie, my 17 lb terrier, in the front basket of my bike. I was enjoying the people, the dogs and this beautiful spot by the bay when I saw the Capitol Corridor commuter train go by on its way to rendezvous with BART at the Richmond station and then on to Sacramento. I was suddenly struck by the remarkable place I live in, the East Bay, and the remarkable life I am able to carve out within it. I can ride my bike 10 miles from my home in Downtown Oakland to Point Isabel, one of the most spacious and beautiful dog parks in the county, along comfortable bike lanes, across a bicycle bridge spanning Hwy 80, and along the gorgeous Bay Trail. I live in a place where amazing natural amenities like the Bay Trail, Lake Merritt, Jack London Square and so much more are located within easy access of great regional transit systems like BART and the Capitol Corridor.



I thought, "I am living in Biketopia." I talk and think a lot about the future, in particular the future of bicycling here in the East Bay. This issue of rideOn is about the future we hope to see. It's a future that, in many cases, is almost within our grasp: permanent full-time access for bicycles on BART starts today with the 5 month trial (see page 4); the future of bikeshare in the Bay Area is coming in just months and we are working to add the East Bay to the launch within the coming year; the future of protected, safe, all ages bikeways is coming to many of our East Bay cities as we discuss (see facing page), and much more.

We are able to envision and work and fight for this future because, for some of us, it is already here. We live in a kind of parallel universe where it is already easy, convenient and comfortable to use a bicycle for most of our trips. We have the skills to ride safely (you can get those skills too, at one of EBBC's free bicycle safety classes), we live in places with easy access to great bicycle infrastructure, we work near great regional transit. For others in the East Bay, the choice to use a bicycle for most trips isn't so easy.

On my ride back from Point Isabel, I am struck by this sense of parallel lives lying side by side. As I spin along the Bay Trail, I am moving at the same pace or a little faster than the traffic on Hwy 80. Perhaps there is a woman my age in her car, frustrated at traffic, traveling home from her second job in a car she can barely afford to buy gas for, worrying about whether she will make it home in time to pick up her kids from daycare. How do we make bicycling in the East Bay so easy and convenient that this woman can choose to ride for some of her trips?

Some of the answers lie in the work we discuss in this issue. Creating easy connections to transit, bringing the next generation of bikeways - bikeways that feel safe and comfortable to people of all ages and experience - to our streets, making sure we have a connected network of bicycle facilities to get all of us from one place to another. What would make it easier for you to make more trips by bicycle? What would make the East Bay a Biketopia for you? Let us know because this, above all, is what we are working for.

# Meet the Future: Protected Bike Lanes



**P**rotected bike lanes installed by New York City on 8th and 9th Avenues in 2007 have changed the conversation about bicycle facilities in North America. “New York wanted public space to do more than just move traffic,” said Noah Budnick, deputy director of Transportation Alternatives in New York. “Luckily, there was plenty of space to work with to build complete streets with protected bike lanes and pedestrian refuges that improve safety, health, local business and traffic flow. The lanes are very popular!”

A protected bike lane, or cycle track, is an on-street bikeway physically protected from traffic by a barrier, such as stanchions or parked cars. At intersections, cycle tracks function like bike lanes and often include bicycle traffic signals, so cars are alerted to the presence of

bicycle traffic. They are all-age, friendly bikeways that encourage many new bicycle commuters.

By the end of 2012, there were 100 cycle tracks installed across the US and 100 more are planned for 2013. Six additional cycle tracks are currently in the works for the East Bay.

Alameda is constructing an impressive new two-way cycle track on the entire stretch of Shoreline Drive, expected to finish in Spring 2014. Oakland is planning two cycle tracks: a two-way connection at upper Broadway between Keith Ave and Brookside Drive that will include a bicycle traffic signal to safely get you on and off of the cycle track and connect with new bike lanes on Broadway; and a two-way cycle track for the one-way stretch of E. 12th Street between 40th Avenue and High Street.

Emeryville just received funding to build a raised, two-way, cycle track on Christie Ave, between Shellmound Street and Powell Street, which will help connect the Bay Trail with the new pathway to the East Span of the Bay Bridge. Concord has proposed several urban, downtown cycle track designs on Clayton Road, Pacheco Street and Grant Street, providing much-needed bicycle connectivity between Todos Santos Park and the Concord BART Station.

Berkeley is moving ahead with a one-way

cycle track on Hearst Avenue above Arch Street, as part of a complete street project that includes lane reductions, a new sidewalk, bike boxes and green bike lanes between Shattuck Ave and Euclid Ave.

EBBC is advocating for one more important cycle track: on Telegraph Ave in Oakland's Koreatown Northgate (KONO) District.

## What you can do:

- Check out existing cycle tracks in Alameda on Fernside, in Richmond on Canal Street, in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park or at San Jose State University.
- Take a look at the cycle track concepts we propose for lower Telegraph Avenue at [ebbc.org/telegraph](http://ebbc.org/telegraph) and volunteer to help get those plans approved, built, and enjoyed by riders of all ages. Find out how at: [ebbc.org/cycletrack](http://ebbc.org/cycletrack)
- Let us know which street in your city is a good candidate for a protected bikeway at [ebbc.org/cycletrack](http://ebbc.org/cycletrack)

## Bikeshare Coming Soon to San Francisco and Peninsula: Is the East Bay Next?

This summer, a pilot regional bikeshare system is coming to the Bay Area. Starting in August, San Francisco will have 500 bicycles in approximately 50 pods near the waterfront, Market Street and Caltrain stations. Another 500 bicycles will be installed at Caltrain stations in Palo Alto, Mountain View, Redwood City and San Jose.

There has been a huge buzz about New York City's new 10,000-bicycle system, CitiBike. With Chicago bikeshare coming soon, it seems like bikeshare is sweeping the nation. The question on our minds, and the minds of East Bay Mayors and leaders, is: When is bikesharing coming to the East Bay?

As you enjoy full-time access for bicycles

on BART this month, we also want you to have the option to leave your bike in secure parking at your home station and pick up a shared bicycle at your destination. To make this vision a reality, we need to bring bikeshare to the East Bay. We are working with city, county and regional staff to fast track a business plan for East Bay bikeshare so that we have a clear map of locations and a budget for a pilot program. At the same time, we are working to identify funding to support the capital costs.

For a regional system to work, we also need to move quickly to increase the number of bikeshare pods in San Francisco and San Jose. One thousand bicycles will not provide

the density and distribution to make bikeshare a viable transportation system. EBBC is working closely with our partners at the San Francisco and Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalitions, as well as BART and Amtrak Capital Corridor, to make our vision of a robust regional bikeshare system a reality.

We need your help to bring bikeshare to the East Bay. Let your Metropolitan Transportation Commissioner, Bay Area Air Management Quality District Board member, Mayor or Councilmember know that you would use bikeshare for your everyday trips and ask them to provide funding for the pilot project.

# Meet Liam and Anat, a Couple Brought Together by a Passion for Better Bicycling



The bike community in the East Bay is vast. If you have any doubt about this, just roll out to PedalFest or Bike Party to see the tens of thousands of riders that shape this movement. We all have our own reasons for riding, but we're all united by our desire to make the East Bay a better place to bike. For Anat and Liam, two of our most dedicated volunteers, it was that commitment to better bicycling that

brought them together as a couple.

"Bikes are wonderful," Anat told us, "and I really believe that they can shape a city into a great place to live." For Anat, it was her commitment to sustainability that got her involved with bicycling. "I work in solar," Anat said, "So the environment is a very

important cause for me." Anat was drawn to bikes because of their positive impact on the environment, and was happy to find that the bicycling community was made up of like-minded people.

For Liam, joining the bike movement was a response to personal tragedy. "My cousin was killed when he was knocked down on his bike in Arkansas," Liam told us. "He was an advocate of bikes and had the ingrained philosophy that if a person were hurt by something, then they should fight at least as hard as they were hurt in order to make things better." Liam decided to channel his deep-seated hurt into something positive, and volunteered his time and energy to the cause for better bicycling.

Liam and Anat met while volunteering to pour beers at a fundraiser for EBBC at the Trumer Pils brewery. "I'm so glad I answered the call to volunteer," Anat said, "or we never would have met!"

"It truly was because of an event with the EBBC that I met her," Liam agreed. "We were both putting wristbands on people who were of age for drinking, but the sticky part of the wristband didn't work, so we were forced to work together." Looking towards the future, they are eager to continue their work with the bike movement. "I think what keeps me coming back is a combination of the fact I really support what the EBBC stands for, and that I always have so much fun and meet such nice people when I volunteer."

## All-Hours Access on BART, Brought to You by Your Bicycle Coalition

Since July 1st, EBBC members have been enjoying the freedom to plan their daily commutes according to their own schedules.

For EBBC member Doria Robinson of Richmond, good bicycle access on BART is all about her kids. "The end of the BART black-out takes away a lot of my stress and worry about getting stuck at work away from my kids, allowing me to make it to meetings in the City when I need to and keep my kids in the day care center they enjoy in Richmond," said Robinson, the mother of two and the Executive Director of Urban Tilth. "Because I bike and BART so often, I felt it was important to attend the BART board meeting in May to speak up about the ban - it was the first time I really spoke out about my love of cycling and for my need for transit systems to accommodate cyclists."

The new all-hours bicycle access on BART is a 5-month trial. In November, the BART Board will vote on whether to make permanent. Courteous behavior by bicyclists on BART will help the Board make the right decision. Please read our suggestions for harmonious riding and help us spread the word about how you

and your family and friends can help the East Bay Bicycle Coalition achieve the very first goal we set at our founding in 1972: bicycle access on BART!

Please send a thank you email to your BART Board Director—find their contact information at [ebbc.org/thankyou](http://ebbc.org/thankyou)

### How to be a Model BART Bicycle Commuter

- **Be Courteous:** The extended trial period for bicycles does not promise room on cars. Although BART has rolled out improved cars with additional space for bicycles, please use common sense and courtesy when boarding BART. If there is no room, move to the next car or wait for the next train.
- **No Bicycles in the First Car:** As before, bicycles are not allowed on the 1st car at any time.
- **During Commute Hours, No Bicycles in the first 3 cars:** While bicycles are allowed at all times, only folding bicycles may ride in the first 3 cars during rush hour.
- **Respect All Riders:** Whether they are lugging suitcases, wheeling baby strollers or juggling shopping bags, everyone is entitled to room on BART. Please be aware of the space around you and respect others' right to a comfortable BART ride.



# News Briefs

## Richmond Bikeways Campaign Needs Your Help

This August, we are partnering with Rich City Rides to host a Richmond Bikeways Campaign kickoff meeting to identify the best bicycle routes in Richmond and strategize how to transform them into better bikeways. Richmond has a city-approved Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, a supportive City Council and a great cycling community—let's make it happen!

More and more people are enjoying two-wheeled trips in Richmond for everything from daily commutes to outings with family and friends. The rapidly increasing use of bicycles as a primary method of transportation makes it imperative that Richmond install better bikeways public safety and ease of use.

May was definitely Bike Month in Richmond, with several events to encourage cycling. Richmond saw a 19% increase in bicycle counts on Bike to Work Day. The 3rd Annual Richmond Ride of Silence was part of a national event to honor bicyclists killed or injured by motorists. Richmond hosted the 3rd annual Major Taylor Bike Fiesta, a local event that offered safety checks and repairs to scores of bicycles.

The City of Richmond is supportive of bikeways for its community and now we need you. Come out this August and share your ideas, creativity and enthusiasm for bicycling in Richmond. Details coming soon.... [ebbc.org/richmond](http://ebbc.org/richmond)

## Diablo Community Overrun by Cyclists

Diablo is experiencing first-hand the growth in bicycling in the East Bay and, in particular, the increasing popularity of bicycle racing. When bicyclists ride to and from the South Gate of Mt. Diablo, many choose to ride through the community of Diablo along Alameda Diablo Road. This residential short cut avoids a dangerous mile-long stretch of Diablo Road with no shoulders and high-speed SUV traffic coming from the neighborhoods towards Blackhawk. It also avoids a small hill on Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard (South Gate Road).

However, residents of Diablo are frustrated with bicyclists who race thru the neighborhood, don't stop at stop signs and don't yield to pedestrians walking on the shoulders of the sidewalk-free streets. They are also frustrated at the few passers-thru who are disrespectful when asked to slow down. Because of this, they are weighing options to limit traffic into Diablo to 'local' trips only.

EBBC questions the legality of this option and is working with the community and the City of Danville to add bike lanes to the narrow section of Diablo Road. To address the issue of speeding bicyclists within the Diablo community, EBBC is encouraging cyclists to slow down and be respectful of the residents. Go to our action page at [ebbc.org/diablo](http://ebbc.org/diablo) to find out how you can help.

## Carquinez Scenic Drive Reconstruction Begins

We are happy to report that the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has begun reconstructing the much-neglected 1.7-mile stretch of the Carquinez Scenic Drive Bay Trail. EBBC provided support for a Federal TIGER Grant to fund this important project. This Bay Trail segment provides a key link between Martinez and Crockett and is expected to complete construction in Fall 2014. The project includes stabilization of embankments and cut slopes with retaining walls, new drainage systems and conversion of the old roadway to an official multi-use Class I bicycle/pedestrian trail. During the nearly two-year construction project, the site will remain closed to all public access, for safety reasons. Work will continue in dry seasons and the project should be completed and the trail reopened in 2014. [ebbc.org/carquinez](http://ebbc.org/carquinez)



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# Calendar of Events

To see a full list of events visit [www.ebbc.org/calendar](http://www.ebbc.org/calendar)

## Temescal Street Fair

**July 7, 12:00 noon - 6:00pm**  
Telegraph Ave, 42nd St to 51st St

EBBC is hosting a demonstration popup pocket park at 'Kasper's Korner' - the corner of Shattuck & Telegraph - where we will also provide free bike valet. The park will include kids painting the street, temporary trees, benches, food trucks - the types of amenities that can improve under-used asphalt for people.

## Waterfront Flicks

**July 11, 7:30 - 10:30pm: Hitchcock**

**July 25, 7:30 - 10:30pm: Brave**

**August 8, 7:30 - 10:30pm: Skyfall**

**August 22, 7:30 - 10:30pm: The Goonies**

Ride down to Jack London Square for a Waterfront Flick! Movies begin at sundown but the fun begins earlier with trivia, prizes, New Belgium beer and fresh popcorn. Valet bike parking provided by EBBC.

## Advocacy Bike Tour of Pittsburg/Bay Point

**July 13, 11:00am-2:00pm**

Meet at Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station

Join us for an all-ages friendly bike advocacy tour of Pittsburg/Bay Point to check out some new bike projects as well as some upcoming planned projects. Meet at 11:00am at the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station.

## Family Cycling Workshop - Pleasanton

**July 13, 10:00am - 12:30pm**

4477 Black Avenue, Amador Valley Community Park

The family that rides together thrives together! Safe road bicycling takes a lot more than balance, a helmet and a good attitude. Join the East Bay Bicycle Coalition's League Certified safety instructors for a day of fun games, safety drills, skill building, and a neighborhood ride.

## Geared 4 Kids: Family Bike Ride

**July 14, 10:30am - 1:00pm**

Location TBD

Get GEARED UP! Helmets, Bikes, Bells! Routes are 4-5 miles long, mostly flat, and stay off heavily trafficked streets as much as we can manage. Feel free to bring along snacks to share at our mid-route stop, and, of course, we'll have tunes to accompany the ride! Visit [geared4kids.org](http://geared4kids.org) for more information on the event and the location.

## Pedalfest

**July 20, 11:00am - 7:00pm**

Jack London Square, Oakland

The EBBC is proud to present the 3rd annual Pedalfest, the East Bay's premier bicycling event, in collaboration with Jack London Square, Bay Area Bikes and New Belgium Brewing Co. Join thousands of other bicycle lovers for contests, classes, games, and demonstrations at this fantastic outdoor festival. Visit [pedalfestjacklondon.com](http://pedalfestjacklondon.com) for more information.

## Bike About Town Family Ride - Albany

**July 26 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm**

**August 23 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm**

1554 Solano Ave, Albany

Join Albany Strollers & Rollers and the City of Albany's Department of Recreation with sponsor Wheels of Justice to explore Albany by bicycle. All levels of riders are encouraged to join. Come a few minutes early to pump up your tires. The ride wraps up at Peralta Park with light refreshments, a raffle, and general carousing.

## Richmond Peace Ride

**July 27, 4:00pm**

Meet up at Nicholl Park

Rich City RIDES presents the 1st Annual Richmond Peace RIDE.

## Oakland Art & Soul

**August 3 & 4**

Frank Ogawa Plaza

14th St & Broadway in Downtown Oakland

EBBC is providing free bike valet at the 13th Annual Oakland Art + Soul. This year's festival features four stages of live music with R&B, Rock, Blues, Jazz and Indie sounds, along with diverse food offerings and myriad family activities including kid-friendly carnival rides.

## Urban Cycling 101 Classroom Workshop - Pleasanton

**August 10, 1:00 - 4:30pm**

4477 Black Avenue, Amador Valley Community Park

This 3.5 hour interactive classroom course teaches the basics of safe cycling, riding in traffic, equipment, crash avoidance, and rights and responsibilities. For adults and teens, no bicycle needed. Visit [ebbc.org](http://ebbc.org) for more information

## Urban Cycling 101 Road Class - Pleasanton

**August 24, 10:00am - 4:00pm**

4477 Black Avenue, Amador Valley Community Park

Join us for on-road, on-your-bike practice sessions, working in small groups with our certified instructors to improve your handling skills and emergency maneuvers. This half-day class is a great way to improve your ability to confidently and safely share the road with other traffic. A functional bicycle and helmet are required. Each attendee will receive a free set of Planet Bike lights for participating! (Please note: Attending one of our classroom workshops is a prerequisite to taking this road class. Visit [ebbc.org/safety](http://ebbc.org/safety) for more information

## Climate Ride NYC to DC

**September 21 - 25**

EBBC is not only a beneficiary of the California Climate Ride, but for the first time we are a beneficiary of the New York City to Washington, DC Climate Ride. Support our team at [ebbc.org/climateride](http://ebbc.org/climateride).

## Pedalfest Returns to Jack London Square on July 20

To celebrate our thriving bicycling scene the East Bay Bicycle Coalition is teaming up with Jack London Square, Bay Area Bikes and New Belgium Brewing Co. to bring you the 3rd Annual Pedalfest, a free bicycle festival. Riders from all over the Bay will converge on Oakland's waterfront for a terrific day of pedal-powered music, food, rides and more.

At last year's Pedalfest 20,000 bike-lovers descended on Jack London Square for a full day of biking fun. The 13 entertainers on five stages were all huge hits, from the pedal-powered soundstage to the daredevils on the Whiskeydrome and BMX stunt jumps. Festival-goers enjoyed folding bike races, bicycle trial demos, bike safety programs, bike pedal rides, bicycle rodeo, bike parade, food vendors, live music, and a New Belgium beer garden.

Pedalfest is a chance to see an amazing array of unique bicycles. There will be one-of-kind handbuilt bikes on display from local builders like Soulcraft, an exhibit of historic bicycles from the US Cycling Hall of Fame in Davis, CA, rideable art bikes from Cyclecide, vendors displaying cargo bikes, folding bikes and more. In past years festival-goers have come with their own creative and unique bicycles, adding to the fun and giving everyone a chance to show off their ride. See you at Pedalfest on July 20!



# Bicycle Safety Programs Mid-Year Report

This year is shaping up to be a record-setting one for our bicycle safety programs. In 2012 we taught a then-record 111 classes with over 2,600 attendees. Halfway through 2013 we have already hosted 86 classes with over 2,700 participants. Here are a couple other amazing stats on the year to date:

Our largest ever adult class was a lunchtime workshop held in April at the Caltrans offices in Downtown Oakland for 104 employees.

This April, our largest family workshop ever saw 72 parents and kids riding together in Fremont.



From January through June we facilitated a record 27 kids' bike rodeos with 1,829 attendees.

Our Concord program served 232 adults, families, and kids with free bicycle safety education in Spanish and English.

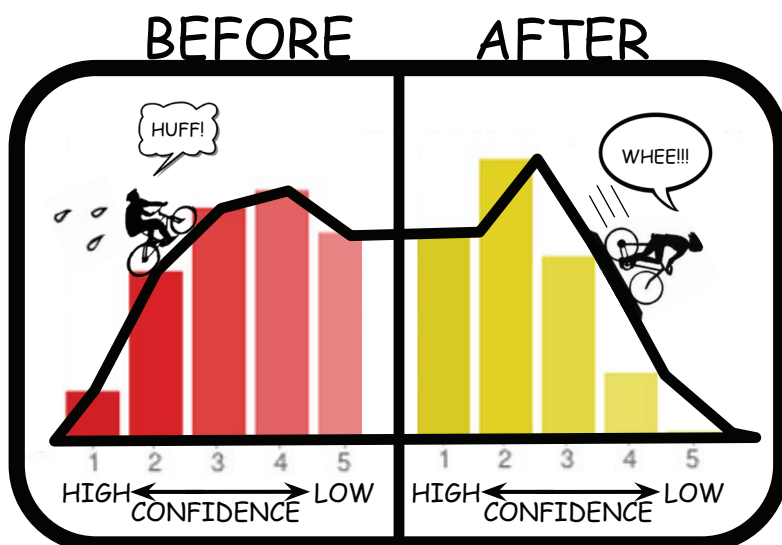
Before taking a class most registrants reported a low confidence level riding in

traffic. After the class the same attendees ranked themselves as having high confidence (a key factor in determining whether or not a person will use their bicycle for transportation).

We are not resting on our laurels, however. We have some great things in store for the rest of 2013 and beyond, including:

- New partnerships to bring classes to more areas around both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Great incentives for participation, like free reflective safety vests, bicycle lights, and more.
- Classes on the topics that interest YOU the most, and in formats that are easier to fit into your busy schedule.
- More ways to suggest a class to your friends and to connect with educational opportunities through our website.

You can sign up for a class now at [www.ebbc.org/safety](http://www.ebbc.org/safety). Stay tuned throughout the summer and fall as we continue to roll out additional classes and new features. If you are interested in setting up a class at your location or assisting at one as a volunteer please contact EBBC's Education Coordinator Robert Prinz at [robert@ebbc.org](mailto:robert@ebbc.org).



We received some great feedback from happy bicycle safety class participants in 2013. Here are a few of our favorite testimonials:

"You know the type, aging, maybe a grey goatee, riding an expensive carbon bike up to 10,000 miles a year, who the #\$\$^ are you to tell me anything about bike safety? Well that was me, and mostly still is, except that I honestly got a lot out of an EBBC class and look forward to far safer riding in the future!"

**Brian Aldrich**—President, Grizzly Peak Cyclists

"This class dramatically exceeded my expectations! My nine-year-old daughter loved it, and we both have felt much more comfortable riding our bikes farther. My daughter, who was scared of riding in traffic before, is much more comfortable riding with me. I couldn't believe the class was free."

**Family Cycling Workshop attendee**

"I just bought my first bike since childhood and I was initially so overwhelmed by riding in traffic. The class was really great and I feel a lot more comfortable trying to ride my bike around. I signed up for the road class, and I just joined EBBC as a member."

**Urban Cycling 101 attendee**

"This class was jam-packed with great tips and information. I was skeptical that I would learn anything new in this course, but definitely left having learned new things, and was reminded of strategies to improve safety for all road users."

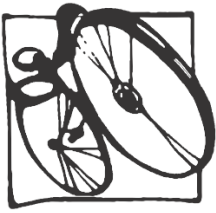
**Lunchtime Workshop attendee**

"I'm 33 years old, and have been saying for years that I wanted to learn how to ride a bike. I even bought a bike last year and never used it. Now, I've been to the coffee shop and to the market nearby by bike! What a wonderful program!"

**Adult Learn-to-Ride class attendee**







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## JOIN THE EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION!

Become a member and help us build hundreds of miles of new bikeways in the East Bay

Join or renew your membership today to be a part of the movement for better bicycling. You can sign up using the form below, or online at [www.ebbc.org/donate](http://www.ebbc.org/donate)



- EBBC Membership Means Summer Bicycle Fun!**
- All of the events, free classes, and innovative new bikeways that you read about in this newsletter have been made possible by the community of EBBC members. Help us continue this important work by joining or renewing your membership today!
  - When you sign up as an EBBC member:
  - You'll have this award-winning newsletter delivered to your doorstep four times per year
  - You'll receive discounts of up to 20% at over 60 local bike shops and other businesses across the East Bay
  - When you join the community of EBBC members, you'll receive invitations to parties, rides, and other fun events
  - You'll receive great thank-you gifts when you sign up online at [www.ebbc.org/join](http://www.ebbc.org/join)
  - Most importantly, you'll transform the East Bay into a great place to ride a bike for generations to come.