



## FROM THE TCBA MAIL BAG

### MSU Bike Project Wrapped up 2004 on High Note

Thanks to the generous grant from the DALMAC fund in July the MSU Bike Project was able to distribute over 100 restored & reliable green bikes to faculty/ staff and students on campus in 2004 up from 25 in 2003, the Project's 1st year of operation. With the funding & lots of help from our new partner, the MSU Cycling Club, the Project purchased a 2nd complete set of Park tools (the Cycling Club had already purchased a set earlier in the spring w/ their own funds and built their own work bench area) and lots of much needed parts, locks, etc. Photos of the finished workshop can be viewed at the web site: [www.msu.edu/~bikes/images/shop/page\\_01.htm](http://www.msu.edu/~bikes/images/shop/page_01.htm).

Two double work stands were also purchased earlier in the spring from Denny's Schwinn during their close-out sale, so each work bench is configured for working on 2 bikes simultaneously.

#### 125+ Bikes Loaned Out

The decision to expand our operations to include students in 2004 combined with several public bike repair clinics in the spring along with generous media coverage caused a near tidal wave of requests such that much of the spring and into late summer a waiting list roughly 20 deep kept our volunteers hopping. Of the 100+ new customers this year roughly 90% are international students/ researchers/ faculty, folks who obviously know that cycling is a great way to get around! Starting in mid-August we also began opening our workshop every Tuesday evening for public bike repair clinics which were hugely popular and will continue throughout the year. The Project and Club volunteered our services to a couple on-campus events. Our bike riders led runners through the race courses for the MSU Safe Place 5K and the MSU Museum Dino Dash; thanks to the support of the TCBA/ LMB we also provided bike valet parking services to the Dino Dash with good success.

#### Cycling Club Partnership Yields Great Synergy

Partnering with the MSU Cycling Club last winter has proven to be the ideal marriage of our goals and needs on campus; they've provided much needed manpower (members are required to do volunteer work w/ the Project in order to get sponsor deals & in order to use the workshop for their own cycles), energy and vision for cycling on campus. Our joint workshop has also given the Cycling Club their first real home/shop in the 120-year history of the Club on campus (we recently discovered the 1st Cycling Club was founded in 1884!).

#### Winter Projects Wonderland

The Project has a number of critical winter projects underway. We're piloting a new relationship with the residence halls such that graduating students will be encouraged to donate their bikes to the Project at designated areas/rooms before they leave town to help avoid the impound process which ends up costing MSU lots of staff

time and money and results in us getting much fewer usable bikes. December grads at McDonnell Hall will be the pilot test group for this new endeavor. An average of 1400 bikes are impounded annually requiring significant manpower and resources to process/store not to mention the very bad PR resulting from upset students who discover their bikes missing; a recent meeting with the MSU Police and Surplus Dept. heads has happily produced mutual enthusiasm to help funnel as many bikes to the Project as possible to reduce the load on their staff. The combined effect of these new channels of getting unwanted bikes back into service on campus should make quite a huge impact on our operations in 2005. Planning for the storage/handling/repairs of these bikes is one of our biggest challenges facing the Project & Cycling Club. During move-out week in late May the Project will be responsible to move the donated bikes every night which presents its own challenges.

Several smaller yet important projects are underway as well. A new storage system to allow for many more bikes in our limited space (in the Demonstration Hall basement) will be constructed. Permanent signage for our workshop is being applied for. A new, large, brightly-colored and easily identifiable sticker for our green bikes is being designed to give our bikes a more professional consistent look and to help PR. Our web site is being totally redesigned (& may already be launched) by a very talented volunteer; our web address should also be new & improved by now to: [www.bikeproject.msu.edu](http://www.bikeproject.msu.edu). A nice 60's era Schwinn tandem is being professionally restored in green & white to be given to the incoming president of MSU as a PR stunt. The history of cycling on campus, starting with the founding of the Cycling Club in 1884, is going to be further researched and documented on our web site and hopefully on a large story-board in our workshop as well. Instructional workshops are also being planned.

#### Will You Consider?

If you're interested in promoting cycling on the MSU campus (or work at MSU) consider: 1. getting one of our green bikes for your on-campus errands so you can leave your nice commuter bike in your office or for those days you had to drive in; 2. volunteering your time now and then to help restore/ repair green bikes or to conduct an instructional workshop; 3. donating your old bikes/parts/tools to the Project where they'll be put back in service for a great cause; or 4. just stop on by any Tuesday evening (5:30- 7:30 ish) to check out our workshop; again, volunteers get free access to our workshop for working on their own bikes! Drop us an email if you'd like more information: [bikes@msu.edu](mailto:bikes@msu.edu).

Tim Potter

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MSU Cycling Club Advisor ('04~)