

Pedal Co-Op

Monthly Newsletter



*The Pedal Co-op Monthly Newsletter
November 2008
Edition #2*

Think Before You Print...Save Paper!

Yards Brewing Company...Coming Soon!

In 2007, the Yard's Brewing Company split with the Yards name and recipes going one way, and the Philadelphia Brewing Company taking over the old facilities. Since then, the Yards Brewing Company has been temporarily brewing their beers in the Lion's Brewery in Wilkes-Barre, PA...until now!

The new brewery, located on 901 N. Delaware Ave. in Philadelphia, PA, is now up and running, producing kegs and cases of their wonderful beers. The brewery also plans to open a brew-pub/tasting room in the brewery that is expected to open during the first quarter of 2009. When asked about what type of atmosphere the brewpub portion of the brewery might provide, Operations Manager Steve Mashington replies, "a simple, warm, and inviting atmosphere" with an English beer garden feel. "We are shooting to have a place where you can get a sandwich, a beer, and enjoy conversation in." In addition, Steve remarks that we can continue to expect more

consistent product, including some old recipes brought back, a few tweaks to some current beers, some new recipes and lots of more beer!

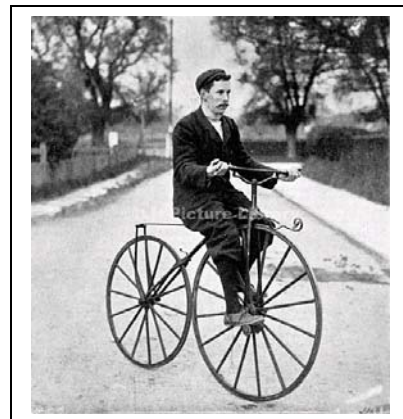
The Yards Brewing Company has been using the Pedal Co-op for hauling their recycling since the beginning of September 2008. Yards found out about the Pedal Co-op and the services we provide through "word of mouth" and email. When asked why Yards chose to use the Pedal Co-op, Steve replies "We were already paying to have our recycling removed. This was cost effective and environmentally friendly." As for remarks on the experience Yards has had with the Pedal Co-op, "We have had nothing but good experiences with Pedal Co-op to date...We are extremely pleased with the service and attention we have received."

Bike History: Evolution of Bicycles (1 of 3)

The first built human powered land vehicle was unfortunately not a two-wheeled bicycle. In 1418 Giovanni Fontana built a four wheel vehicle that used an endless rope connected to the gears on the wheels. Several false tales claim that Comte de Sicrac should be credited with building the "celerifer", a hobby horse with two wheels, however, this is just a hoax created by the French in 1891.



Karl Drais invented the "Dandy Horse" in response to the starvation and slaughtering of horses due to the crop failure the year before which oddly enough was caused by the eruption of Tambora. The Draisine, Dandy Horse, had a steer-able front wheel and therefore is the first appearance of the two-wheel vehicle principal. This concept minimizes rolling resistance. The fad of the Dandy Horse dwindled since riding them on the sidewalks was forbidden worldwide, people could not balance them on the rutted carriageway.



Pedal Co-Op 

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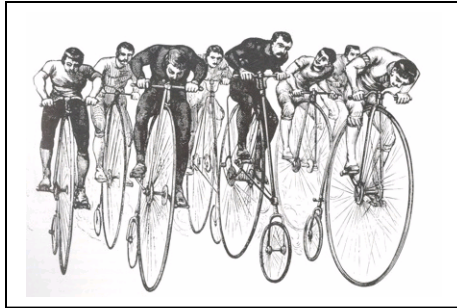
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Finally, in 1863 a new idea unfolded nicknamed the Bone Shaker. The name Bone Shaker come from the stiff materials, straight angles, steel wheels that actually make the riders bone shake when riding over the cobblestone roads. Improvements came from a front wheel with peddles, i.e. a direct drive, fixed gear, one speed. Like the Dandy Horse, the Bone Shaker was merely a fad in indoor riding academics and large cities.



Not so ordinary bicycles, actually called Ordinary, better known as "high wheelers" arrived in 1870. The high wheeler is much more comfortable to ride than the infamous bone cruncher. The high wheeler was the first all metal machine. The drive system was still the same as the Bone Crusher, attached directly to the front wheel with no freewheeling mechanism. Solid rubber tires and long spokes on the front wheel provided a much smoother ride. These bicycles enjoyed a great popularity among young men of means (they cost an average worker six month's pay), with the hey-day being the decade of the 1880's. Because the rider sat so high above the center of gravity, if the front wheel was stopped by a stone or rut in the road, or the sudden emergence of a dog, the entire apparatus rotated forward on its front axle, and the rider, with his legs trapped under the handlebars, was dropped unceremoniously on his head, term "taking a header" came into being. This machine was the first one to be called a bicycle ("two wheel").

Several advancements occurred during the Golden Era of bicycles. In 1872 Friedrich Fischer was the first to mass-produce steel ball bearing. Browett and Harrison patented the first caliper brake in 1876 Henry Lawson patents the first rear freewheel and the chain-driven safety bicycle called the "Bicyclette". Another English man named Thomas Humber adapted the block chain for use with his bicycles.

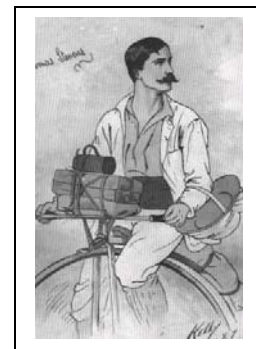
While men were being men (being silly fools in risking their necks on the high wheels), ladies, often confined to their long skirts and tight corsets, could take a spin around the park on an adult tri-cycle. Many mechanical innovations now associated with the automobile were originally invented for tricycles: rack and pinion steering, the differential, and band brakes to name a few.



In 1880 the Good Roads Society organized by bicyclists lobbied for good roads, unfortunately paving the way for motor vehicles. Thomas Stevens struck out across the United States on a bicycle with just a pair of socks, spare shirt, and slicker that doubled as a tent and bedroll.



This Mr. Stevens should have been a member of the Pedal Cooperative. He left San Francisco on April 22, 1884 and 3700 miles later reach Boston on August 4, 1884 to complete the first transcontinental bicycle ride. He was even crazier than the average Pedal Cooperative member and only took a short break in Boston before circumnavigating the globe and returning to San Francisco on December 24, 1886. Please email or call us if you want to here more about this Mr. Stevens man. I think Woody would love to talk about him.



Member Bio of the Month: Nick Fruean

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Nick Fruean has been a member of the Pedal Co-op since September 2008. He is an avid biker and regularly performs three Pedal Co-op recycling and composting runs per week. These runs include pickups for Avenue A Razorfish, Stick-and-Move, Metropolitan Bakery, a "bread run" for Michael Dolich, and several other compost pickups for residents throughout the city. In addition to his weekly runs, Nick performs maintenance on our bikes and trailers, researches new ideas for bike and trailer development, and helps with organizational planning with focus on making hauling-by-bicycle an efficient and accessible alternative for both members and clients.

The story of how Nick became involved with the Pedal Co-op takes place over several months. Nick and Woody met in the fall of 2006. During this meeting Woody had mentioned something to Nick about building a trailer to start this idea called the Pedal Co-op. The two built the first trailer together upon which Nick expressed interest to Woody that if he needed help in the future, to let him know. A year later, several Pedal Co-op runs opened up and Nick hopped aboard.

Nick was drawn to the Pedal Co-op for several reasons. "I really liked the idea of hauling-by-bike...I was already using a trailer for myself since I don't have a car...I found myself hauling more and more things so I figured, why not?" Nick also mentioned that he used to be a bike messenger. When asked about what

he likes most about working with the Pedal Co-op, Nick spoke of the utilitarian aspect of hauling-by-bicycle. He said it is great to see what your body is actually physically capable of. In addition, he enjoys the solitary aspect of biking, the stress relief it brings, and the personal satisfaction he feels when he is doing his job. Nick also has an appreciation for being part of a worker-run organization. He mentions that it is great to have a job where not only your opinion matters, but everyone's opinion matters. As well, Nick enjoys being part of an organization with such an "organic idea."

In addition to working with the Pedal Co-op, Nick has several activities and hobbies that he takes part in during his time off of the bike. These include drawing, science fiction, and working on bikes in his workshop space. Nick mentioned that he often helps his biking friends in need by building bikes, fixing mechanical problems, or providing regular maintenance for a very reasonable price.

Nick continues to work with the Pedal Co-op in hopes that in the future, more people have access to and are motivated to bike not only for personal transportation, but for utility purposes as well.

Message from the Director:

The new compost device is now in full swing operation with already two batches of organic waste already steaming away. Hopefully in another three weeks the first batch will be turned into beautiful enriched soil that will be used in the garden at University City High School since they are graciously letting us use some of their space for our compost device.

