

Fathers' Day 2010, 7:30 am.

A small group of dedicated cyclists gathered at NorCal Bike Sport in Santa Rosa. Coffee in hand, we did a quick briefing on what we were there to do.



Up to this moment, Cyclists in Sonoma County, had twice per year, participated on Trash Dump identification rides on Sonoma County's back roads. On these rides, the riders would carry GPS units and search the road sides for large trash dump sites. Furniture, Tires, appliances, cars, major litter dumps, all took up residence on the sides of the roads throughout the year. One in the Fall and once in the Spring of the past 5 years, these riders would identify these sites and log them into their GPS unit to send along to the County clean up services to come and remove afterwards.



This year, with the County budget cuts, the cyclists faced a dilemma, we could identify the sites (which we did) but then who would we give these coordinates to for removal? The answer was sadly no one. Undeterred, the cyclists decided to put out the call to their greater community of riders and ask for help in the form of Trucks or trailers to go out and pick these sites up.

The initial response to help was large with a lot of trucks offered and helping hands volunteering. But the only date that worked for the ride leaders, turned out to be June 20th, Father's Day. So the overall turnout was small but high powered nonetheless!

On the Santa Rosa-based group we had 3 trucks and 6 helpers: Brian Mischke and his adorable son Ike, Virginia Luke (who drove all the way out from Napa to help us!) Dean Wallace (taking this Fathers Day morning away from his

understanding family to help out!), Jonathan Lee, and Mark Wisecup (Neither of them Fathers yet * at least to their current knowledge ☺).

We opted to cover roads closer to Santa Rosa at first and headed out Olivet and Trenton. The first site we suspected to be a high-value target did not disappoint. As we approach Mark starts yelling “jackpot baby”! We roll up to the discarded shell of a VW bug and a few tires/litter. Out we scramble and throw the lot into Mark’s Truck.



WE continue to canvass the western county, Vine Hill, Harrison Grade, Morelli lane, Monte Rio, and Wohler Rd to Westside. Oddly we found very little trash sites throughout this corridor. But once onto Lytton Springs rd, Mark again find s a jackpot of sweet trash ☺. Along with aggressive ants swarming our lower legs and biting everyone, and a wild boar carcass (with very cool tusks I might add) we gathered up the mess and off we went.



On Chalk Hill I knew of a swath of road where I always see big things dumped over the edge. Sure enough, Washer, TVs, Mattresses, more tires galore. We semi-rappelled down to hook a line around the washer and pull it out of the gully with Mark’s Truck. More ants, lots of whooping and hollering, and we were done with three full truck loads.



The County did provide us with a large dump bin at the airport which is where we headed next. We dumped our respective truck loads, grabbed some goodies that Whole Foods provided (thank you Ario and Whole Foods!) and soaked in the day that was still just shy of half over. Afterwards the Petaluma gang came along and filled the rest of the bin with their removal loads!



Great day of outreach: 3 Large Truck Loads of trash that would still be out on our roads, Half a Large Dump bin filled, 80+ miles covered.



But best of all. The fact that little Ike Mischke had seen what outreach looks like, personified by his Father working tirelessly alongside his other smiling friends and cyclists!

That to me is of a worth greater than simply removing trash.

We will continue on in the Fall of this year, We'd love your support and/or trucks and strong hands and backs!! Stay tuned and thank you for reading. For more info follow us here <http://abcrides.blogspot.com/>

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"when passing riders, it is impolite to count out loud"

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