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Cycle of Life

Posted on March 12, 2015 (<http://vicfarmmeats.com/cycle-life/>) by Adam Parks

(<http://vicfarmmeats.com/author/adamparks/>)

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As a rule, I don't like cyclists. There... I said it. Big, sweeping generalization that probably throws some good, law-abiding people under the proverbial bus. Nonetheless, I really hate cyclists. Now, if a bike is your preferred or only method of transportation and you follow some basic rules, I'm not talking about you. If you like to cruise your Beach Cruiser on the bike path or pedal your Schwinn to work using the proper lane and hand signals, more power to you. You ride a bike. I'm talking about a completely different animal.

I'm talking about cyclists. You know the ones I mean. They are usually astride a \$10,000 graphite-framed bike that is lighter than a can of beer. Their \$500 spandex onesie has more advertisements than a NASCAR driver. How do you know if someone is a cyclist??? Don't worry... they'll tell you.

It's probably more noticeable out here in Small Town USA. In the big city, transportation moves so slow that bicycles make sense. What doesn't make sense is these entitled fools mucking up a perfectly fine drive on a narrow, two

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lane back road in the country. While it is a beautiful place to drive, and we are blessed to have our “office” out in the fresh air and sunshine, when we country folk are driving these roads it is generally for work-related purposes. We are trying to get someone or something from point A to point B. Get out of the way!

The rare single cyclist is bad enough. This is usually the newbie that decides he’s going to try out his new steed in “the middle of nowhere so I won’t bother my fellow cyclists”. Usually stopped (as there is nowhere to pull over) going uphill on a blind curve, you can actually feel this one questioning his life’s choices as you lay on the horn to move him into to the ditch and out of the way.

The real menace is the Peloton (hey, you thought I don’t do research???). These are the groups of cyclists that seem to be a combination of a mosh pit and a book club on wheels. Often in matching onesies, they are the most obnoxious and entitled group short of the Kardashians. They feel free to take up the whole lane and have no regard for anything or anyone around them. They take it as a personal affront to their space if they have to move over as they are pedaling fast enough to go 30 MPH on flat ground but are actually losing ground to the hill. And chit chatting like the cast of The View to boot!

So, as usual, I have some suggestions for these Tour de Speedbump contestants. First, anyone not in single file and/or on the right side of the solid white line is fair game. And, on that note, all of them should be required to have license plates and carry insurance (that’s Laura’s demand). That way I would be more apt to call Jonny Law and report them rather than resorting my only other option- running them off the road.

Also, let’s get some kickstands on these expensive scooters. Sure, it will double the weight and cost them precious seconds on their time trial runs. But, at least the rest of us won’t have to trip over them as we walk past the local, hipster juice bar where they are usually splayed like corpses on the sidewalk. I asked a cyclist once why they laid the bike on the ground instead of propped against the wall. The answer was simple... she knew it was going to

6762 Sebastopol Avenue #100
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Farmer’s Markets

Thursday:

Daly City Farmers Market @
Serramonte
(<http://cafarmersmkt.com/markets/categcity>)

Macy's Parking Lot **8:30 - 1pm**

Thursday:

Portola Valley

765 Portola Road **2pm - 5pm**

Friday:

Sonoma Depot Market
(<http://www.svcfm.org/>)

Depot Parking Lot **9am - 12:30pm**

Saturday:

Redwood Empire Farmers
Market
(<http://www.redwoodempirefarmersmark>

Santa Rosa Vets Hall **8:30am -**

1pm

Saturday:

Saratoga Farmers Market
(<http://cafarmersmkt.com/markets/categ>

West Valley College **9am - 1pm**

Sunday:

Moraga Certified Farmers
Market
(<http://cafarmersmkt.com/markets/categ>

Moraga Way at Moraga Center

9am - 1pm

fall so it was better to lay it on the ground gently so the paint wouldn't get scratched. I really couldn't make that up.

There was actually one time when I was driving a truck and 5th-wheel RV, got myself into a spot where I should not have been, and was surrounded by cyclists. I was taking the family to Santa Cruz for a little vacation. I had borrowed the RV, so I was a little nervous as it had been a while since I had towed anything that heavy. Anywhooo, I packed everyone up, punched the address for the KOA we were setting up at in the GPS and headed south on 101.

As we got into San Rafael, the GPS Lady suggested I take the Richmond Bridge. Now, I may not know exactly where to go once I got into Santa Cruz, but I know I'm going through San Francisco and south on 280. Everyone knows that. Here is where I made my first mistake. Rather than just let GPS Lady re-route me, I switched from fastest route to most direct. And across the Golden Gate we went.

As we cruised down 280, GPS Lady woke up and told me to take Sand Hill Rd. Now, here is how technology makes us really stupid sometimes. Like anyone who has been around NorCal for a while (in my case 40+ years) I know that to get to Santa Cruz you take 280 to 17 and go over the hill. Pretty hard to screw that up, right? However, GPS Lady said to take Sand Hill Road. Hey, maybe she knows a short cut! Right turn, Clyde...

It wasn't until we were firmly on our way up a ONE lane road (path???) that I knew I was really and truly screwed. There was no backing up, as the "road" had tighter turns than a prima ballerina. Going forward was the only option, and it was clearly fraught with peril. Never mind having to stop on the blind corner of a 40% grade to check and see if the truck AND borrowed RV were going to make it between the sheer up cliff on the right and the tree that somehow was growing out of the sheer down cliff on the left. What really told me I was in trouble was the cyclists.

Whether it was the highly tuned athletes flying downhill at us like the last few lines of Space Invaders, or the ones who were passing us going UPHILL, I knew that- in this case- I was the one out of place. You know, as a dad, it's usually

The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post from the page 'Victorian Farmstead Meat Company'. The post header shows the company name and a 'Like' count of 1,241. The main content of the post is a text-based announcement: 'When Meatheads request Porchetta via the special orders page, we hop to it! Seriously, how tasty does that look??'. Below the text are four small square images showing a person preparing meat, a whole roasted pork (porchetta), and two plates of food. The post has one 'Like' and a 'Share' button. Below the post is another Facebook post from the same page, dated 19 hours ago, which is a text-based post: 'If this blog post offends you, then yes, I'm talking about you! Cycle of Life http://t.co/Jul4AnnHHN'. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a logo for 'VICTORIAN FARMSTEAD MEAT COMPANY SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA' and the text 'Facebook social plugin'.

Adam's Contact Info

Adam Parks, Owner

Victorian Farmstead Meat Company

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1220 Gravenstein Hwy N

Sebastopol, CA 95472

when you are at your most frustrated that your kids won't stop bickering or your wife wants to discuss feelings. This situation was so tense that the cab of the truck was silent. I'm talking about you coulda heard a mouse peeing on a cotton ball quiet. Everyone was pretty clear that this was not your run of the mill pickle dad had gotten us into.

It took us an hour and fifteen minutes to go about 3 miles. The same guy passed us, and was passed by us, four different times. His language and gestures got more colorful with each passing. Normally, I would have returned fire, but in this case it seemed wiser to just offer an apologetic nod and wave. When we finally reached the summit, and yes summit is the correct word, we made a left on the aptly named "Skyline Boulevard" and got into the left lane of a beautiful, four lane highway. At 35 miles an hour it felt like the Autobahn.

A few lessons can be taken from all of this. Know where you are. I was where I wasn't supposed to be on that bike path. If you are a cyclist out for a tour of the country, be respectful of those who are trying to get from point A to point B. And technology is only as smart as the guy pushing the buttons. Common sense, or the lack of it, will still generally determine how your day turns out. Women have been after men to ask for directions since the invention of the wheel. Now, thanks to GPS, we don't have to ask. GPS Lady tells where to go. And just like everything else in life, the women are usually right...

10 thoughts on "Cycle of Life"



Valeri Johnson says:

1. March 13, 2015 at 9:44 am

(<http://vicfarmmeats.com/cycle-life/#comment-452>)

Cyclists have been a topic on a local web site lately. They are supposed to obey all of the same rules that cars are subject to follow. That includes holding up traffic and keeping the speed limit. The law is that you can't hold up 5 or more people, however, as a driver I move over for only 1. Why cause more stress in our stress filled lives (or end up dying when they try to pass me on a blind curve). In my area, the county spent a great deal of money expanding the side of the

road bike lanes, but I'm finding that since the 3 foot rule, they don't use these areas to allow traffic to pass. What a waste. If I went on my roof with roller skates and a blower to clear my leaves I would be at least a fool and my injuries would be my fault. However, I can don spandex, ride on a light weight frame with two wheels with small brakes, and get in the way of commuters on steep roads with blind corners and be the victim. I think licenses and insurance is an awesome idea.

[Reply \(/cycle-life/?replytocom=452#respond\)](#)



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I do disagree on one point. Turn off your damn GPS and use the one between your ears - everyone!! You already knew how to get to Santa Cruz - why have anything or anyone buzzing in your ears that you don't need. Those things are turning us into morons!

Write on!!

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Reading your post and replies I can hear that you think the road is yours and don't like to share. Just know I'm a working father and husband just trying to enjoy my favorite sport. I don't need you to try and kill me, that would be murder plain and simple. I don't expect to change your bad attitude but I will certainly avoid your companies products.

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