

BICYCLE RECYCLE PROJECT NEWS



Number 1

Spring 2004

Upcoming Events

April 24

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Crash course in bicycle mechanics—volunteer training in preparation for Loaves & Fishes Bicycle Day.

May 12

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Open House at Seven Hills School. Come visit the bike shop and hear Steve Davis talk about the Bicycle Recycle Program

May 22

6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Bicycle Day at Loaves and Fishes. Leave from Seven Hills School by bus at 6:00 a.m. return by 4:00 p.m.

June 20

Tour of Nevada City Bike Race. Bicycle Recycle Project will have a booth at the race. More details later on the time and location.

What is the Bicycle Recycle Project?

In January 1999, school counselor Steve Davis created the Bicycle Recycle Project at Seven Hills Middle School in Nevada City. The project is an outgrowth of Davis' elective class in which students learn all about bikes and how to fix them. By the time kids finish this class, they know about derailleurs and chains, front and rear hubs, how to fix a flat, and how to use screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, and other bicycle tools safely. Almost 800 Seven Hills students have enrolled in this program that teaches them the practical skills of repairing bikes.

Equipped with their new skills, students in the Bicycle Recycle Project take used and sometimes completely disabled bikes and rebuild them. The newly refurbished bikes are then offered to needy families and to the homeless; more than 200 student-repaired bikes have been donated since the program began. And these students don't just donate bikes. They donate their labor on a special day each year: Bicycle Day at Loaves & Fishes, this year scheduled for May 22nd.

Loaves & Fishes is a private sector charitable organization dedicated to feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless in Sacramento. On Bicycle Day, Seven Hills students host a free raffle of bikes they have rehabilitated, and provide on-site bicycle maintenance and repair service to the guests at Loaves & Fishes. By the end of the day, students have done real work with real tools, and have improved the lives of some folk who truly depend on bicycles for transportation. The benefits flow both ways; students learn about the struggles of the homeless, and through their participation, have an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

The Bicycle Recycle Project is a service-learning experience that connects classroom activities with services to people who really need it. If you would like to learn more about the Bicycle Recycle Project and how you can participate and support this program, contact Steve Davis at 530 470-1641.

Perspectives on the Bicycle Recycle Project

From a bike recipient at Loaves & Fishes...

To: First, the Students of Nevada City School
To: Second, the Faculty of Nevada City School
To: Third, the Young Man who Presented Me a Bike

What you people, not students, not children, but very real and thoughtful people did was, in my opinion, "Living out the Golden Rule."

The bike is great, but not near the feeling you guys put back in me. I cannot thank you enough; therefore, I will try harder to be like you. All of you.

I never win things, but the bike I did win, Lucky 13 on the list (a Real Cool One) was a wake up call from Jesus, to me, from you. It will now be passed on even more. Thank you God for these real people.

Jimmy McCox

From a Student...

"I just think it's really cool to pull a bike that someone has thrown away, that's really, really nasty and fix it up and give it to someone who needs it."

Justin Lott

From a Parent...

"Bicycle Day at Loaves & Fishes was a real eye-opener. I watched my son, the boy who comes to me when things need fixing, repairing bikes with confidence and competence. And I met homeless folk who were normal, capable people, but with bad luck and no safety net. It was a learning experience for us all."

Ted Beedy

From the California School Board Association...

The California School Board Association awarded Steve Davis and the Bicycle Recycle Project the CSBA "Golden Bell Award" because of

"the Bicycle Recycle Project's innovative way of helping students enhance their environmental awareness, social skills, technical skills, community awareness, along with critical thinking, problem solving, and mechanical skills."



Thank You to....

The Bicycle Recycle Project has benefited from generous support from so many giving individuals, businesses, and organizations since its beginnings almost five years ago. Scores of folk from Grass Valley, Nevada City, Auburn, and Sacramento have donated the bikes that are the raw material for the Bicycle Recycle Project, and the administration at Seven Hills Middle School and the Nevada City School District has been unwavering in their support for this program.

Businesses that have provided invaluable assistance for the Bicycle Recycle Project include the following: **Tour of Nevada City Bicycle Shop, Mountain Recreation, Finish Line Technologies, and Trico Sports.**

Generous financial supporters include the following: **Jones & Stokes** of Sacramento, the **Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club**, and **Peter Collier.**

And of course, volunteers are the backbone of the Bicycle Recycle Project. Those who volunteered at the 2003 Loaves & Fishes Bicycle Day or in the classroom are: Dan Adams, Paul and Kristin Aguillar, Ted Beedy, Tim Blagg, Mimi and Larry Boles, Patty Bostard, Brad Boswell, Steve Buck, Ann Davis, Don Draggasett, Ken Ebi, Nick and Debby Faes, Laura Gerhart, Nancy Gillespie, Jill Haley, Sam Haley, John Halverson, Linda Hartman, Frances Hemond, Holly Hermanson, Sierra Hill, Dave Hughes, Jason Ivey, Randy Koerber, Ron Kosin, Joe Li-mov, Ernie McDaniel, Max McDaniel, Jim McQuiston, Banner Moffat, Rodger Murray, Frank Pedrick, Susan Sanders, Mark Sheffield, Ray Shields, Allison Smith, Alan Stahler, Duane Strawser, Ron Talbott, Richard Thomas, and Lark Zachary.

If you helped out but don't see your name here, please let me know. I want to thank you in person and in print in the next news- letter.



Steve Davis



Steve Davis at work with students in the Bike Shop.

Help Out in the Bike Shop!

Steve could use you in his bike class to help out, and he says you don't need to be a bike mechanic to be useful to him.

Volunteers Needed for "Friends of the Bike Shop"

Volunteers of all kinds are most welcome to keep the **Friends of the Bike Shop** thriving and expanding. Help is needed on Bicycle Day at Loaves & Fishes, but also for fundraising events, grant-writing, publicity work, membership/data base manager, and historian, to name just a few. If you think you might want to pitch in, even for just a few hours, please call Ted Beedy at 530 274-7232.

Air Compressor Needed

The bike shop needs a powerful air compressor. If you have one to donate, please contact Steve Davis at 530 470-1641.

If you have suggestions or ideas for the next issue of Bicycle Recycle Project News, please contact newsletter editor Susan Sanders at 530 477-7415, ssanders@gv.net.

BIKE RECYCLE PROJECT

We need your volunteer and financial support. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out this form. Financial donations are also most welcome, as the program relies on donations and grants to purchase tools and parts for repairing the bikes. Please make checks payable to Seven Hills Parent Teacher Club. Mail checks and forms to: Steve Davis, Bicycle Recycle Project, Seven Hills Middle School, 700 Hoover Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959. For more information, call 530 470-1641.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to help with: _____

**Bicycle Recycle Project
Seven Hills Middle School
700 Hoover Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959**

