

WayPoints

LET'S TALK CYCLING (IN 27 LANGUAGES)

Frank, a good friend of Adventure Cycling in Denver, wrote to tell us that the European Union and the European Cyclists' Federation have released the second edition of the *European Cycling Lexicon*. It was officially launched at the international conference on cycling policy in Copenhagen.

"It's an amazing piece of work and a must-have tool for any international cyclist," Frank said. "The *Lexicon* is an illustrated, passport-sized booklet containing key terms for cycling, different types of bikes for different mobility needs, and good cycling infrastructure in 27 languages, including all 23 official European Union languages. The *Lexicon* is indispensable for anyone who wishes to cycle in any European country. It also raises awareness, both among citizens and at different levels of governance, about the many advantages of cycling and the need for good cycling infrastructure."

The publication is available as a free PDF download at www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/bikelexicon_en_web.pdf.



TOSRV "Old Timers" assemble for a special portrait on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse before starting the ride.

AMERICA'S BICYCLE TOURING CLASSIC

The Tour of the Scioto River Valley celebrates 50 years

The first Tour of the Scioto River Valley, or TOSRV, was a father-and-son ride in 1962. The "son" part of the duo was Greg Siple, Adventure Cycling's co-founder and long-time art director. Greg returned to Ohio this past May to ride TOSRV number 50, along with 2,900 other riders. The tour consists of two days of 105 miles each – from Columbus to Portsmouth on Saturday, and back to Columbus on Sunday. The event is organized by Columbus Outdoor Pursuits.

"It was really something for

me to ride the same roads that I cycled with my dad nearly a half century ago," Greg said. "It was also great to see that I can still ride back-to-back centuries after so many years."

TOSRV was one of the first mass-participation rides. It helped to spawn dozens of the big cycling events that are so common today, and more: "The success of TOSRV gave us the confidence to dream big, which helped lead to the creation of Adventure Cycling," Greg said.

Greg attributes most of TOSRV's success to Charlie Pace, a former Adventure

Cycling board member and the organization's first life member. Charlie served as TOSRV director for most of the years between 1967 and 2011. Now 80, he will be passing along the baton.

Greg noted that the riders of today look very sophisticated compared to the cyclists you would spot in the early years clad in blue jeans and tennis shoes. "The Scioto Valley, however, hasn't changed that much, and still has a rural character," he said.

"I hope TOSRV's second half century will be as grand as its first."

TEAM ALABAMBOO

Pedaling what they preach

Nicole Lavelle contacted Waypoints a few weeks ago to tell us about a cross-country tour she and three others are taking this summer. The group's aim is to make it aboard bikes made of bamboo grown in Alabama, from Greensboro to San Francisco. They also have the lofty goal of helping bamboo become to Alabama what the potato is to Idaho; what the orange is to Florida.

"The U.S. is the largest importer of bamboo in the world," the group's website says; yet we have no domestic, commercially available supply of our own. "Bamboo is a valuable and sustainable alternative for many products, including textiles, wood floors, furniture, and paper products. It is also one of the most efficient carbon-sequestering plants in the world.

"We are planning to build



a workshop in Greensboro that will be the future home for building Common Cycles. ... We've partnered with Marsha Folsom, wife of former Alabama governor Jim Folsom, to develop this ride as one part of a much larger bamboo initiative."

The Alabamboo project, Nicole added, is "an effort to

bring a sustainable agricultural economy to Alabama and a source for domestic bamboo to America. We will also be spreading the word about the powerful effects that design and communication can have on shaping a positive future."

Learn more at www.ridealabamboo.com.

WORDS FROM THE WISE

OutsideForever.com documents the adventures of Dave Snowberg and Michelle Dodd of Boulder, Colorado. The outings detailed at the site include a ride on the Great Divide Route in 2007; a four-month-long Southeast Asia bike tour in 2008; an Alaska sea-kayaking adventure that same year; and a 75-day hike in 2009 along the Hayduke Trail in Utah and Arizona.

Dave and Michelle exhibit an upbeat attitude and clarity of vision that makes reading their posts and viewing their photos a pleasure (Michelle is the writer, Dave the photographer). Okay, what we really like is their answer to a self-posed question about the Great Divide, "Is This Ride for You?"

"Yes," writes Michelle. "Please ride this. After experiencing two very different bike tours now, I appreciate the Divide even more than I did while riding it. You will be challenged, you will have a hard time, but you will also experience the glorious, heart-opening beauty of mountaintops and wide-open spaces that give your mind space to think. After a certain number of hours or days, the busyness of life back home fades and you are in the present. You can't help it. It is then that the depth of the color fills you, the sweetness of the pines hits you, the rush of the water passing by reminds you of what really matters.

"Some of the roads are so remote that you won't see vehicles for hours on end, sometimes for an entire day. This is the time you [will] enjoy the difference between this bike tour and others that have been mapped out on paved roads. You can hear the birds singing or squirrels arguing, see the deer watching you as you pass. You'll sleep soundly in your remote camping spots, often lulled by the sound of rivers or streams swirling endlessly past."

MARC OBRIEN

CANOEING WITH THE CREE

Doing what with whom, you ask?

Although it's true that *Canoeing with the Cree: A 2,250-mile voyage from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay* has little to do with bicycling, in my view it has everything to do with what bicycle touring is about: youthful exuberance and the spirit of adventure, nonmotorized travel, and self-discovery in the great outdoors.

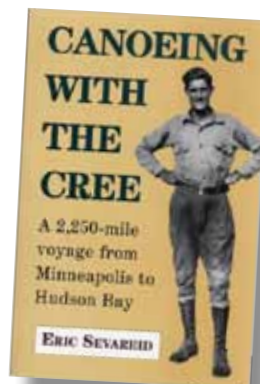
Or to partly paraphrase Lance Armstrong, "It's not about the canoe."

The relatively short volume was written in 1935 by a young Arnold Severeid, who would become better known as Eric Severeid, a renowned CBS newsman from 1939 to 1977. The tale concerns a four-month-long trip he and his friend, Walter Port, embarked

upon the summer after their graduation from high school. No motor, no radio, no good maps – never mind no satellite phone – but plenty of wind, heat, rapids, waves, storms, mosquitoes, mud, boiled carp, and snapping turtles.

And freedom. "I thought about our friends back in the city," Severeid writes, "studying and working inside. It was hard to keep from yelling from pure delight."

The trip was made feasible financially when the boys garnered sponsorship from the *Minneapolis Star*. The dispatches Severeid mailed in to the newspaper launched



his career as a journalist, which blossomed during World War II when he was one of the elite "Morrow's Boys" hired by the legendary Edward R. Morrow.

I happened across this as an audiobook when I was looking for something to listen to while riding the wind trainer last winter. So it's not inaccurate to say that it's one of the best "bicycling" books I've ever read.

Still in print, you can find *Canoeing with the Cree* at your favorite bookstore or at shop.mnhs.org.