

WayPoints

American Idle

In an unprecedented move, the Adventure Cycling Tours Department has signed an agreement to partner with the nationally syndicated True Vanity TeleVision. Together, Adventure Cycling and TVTV will create an as-yet unnamed reality television series chronicling 20 young, single, attractive – and unemployed – riders and their escapades as they pedal from coast to coast on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail. The cyclists, 10 males and 10 females, will be chosen on the basis of their fitness level, their willingness to interact candidly with the camera crew, and their knack for looking hot in spandex shorts. They'll be required to share their experiences daily, with each participant revealing his or her feelings about the ride, thoughts on the group environment, and inside info on "favorite" cycling companion(s).

"Who wouldn't love seeing a scantily clad bicycle drama?" asked tours director Rod Kramer. "We think this is a great opportunity to get exposure for Adventure Cycling Tours. And in the current economic climate, it feels good to give 20 unemployed young people something to do." The casting call will be held at the Phred's Bar & Grill in Delroy, Montana throughout the month of April. Cyclists between the ages of 18 and 29 are encouraged to apply. Visit www.adventurecycling.org/unemployedcyclists for more information.



Fred and Ethyl Hertz used Adventure Cycling maps to help find their way through their remodeling.

IT'S A WRAP

Adventure Cycling maps double as vapor barrier

Imagine his surprise when, one day early last fall, Adventure Cycling art director Greg Siple was bicycling home from work and he spotted this house-remodeling project under way. "These people, Fred and Ethyl Hertz, live just two blocks from me," Greg said, "but I'd never met them until that day in September. They were outside working, so of course I stopped to ask them why the entire outside of their house was covered in Adventure Cycling maps.

"It was like serendipity," Fred Hertz told me. "We finished tearing off the old siding last week, literally the day before we went to the recycling center and happened to see all these maps filling the number-two plastics bin. That evening, I look over at Ethyl and say 'Are you thinkin' what I'm thinkin'?' And she says, 'I don't know, Fred, what are you thinkin'?' So I say, 'I'm thinkin' about that Tyvek I was gonna buy to cover the outside of the house – you know, vapor bar-

rier, waterproof, high-density polyethylene? Then I'm thinkin' about all these plastic, obviously waterproof bicycle maps that we saw at the recycler's.' And, well, the rest is history." "As I was leaving," Greg said, "Fred walked up to me, well out of Ethyl's hearing range, and said, 'You know what? I like how this looks so much that I'm thinkin' of leaving off the vinyl siding. That's gonna take some convincing on Ethyl, though.'"

AARON TEASDALE

GREG SIPLE

AARON TEASDALE

BICYCLE CHAINS

Here's one way to thief-proof a tour

Last summer, Link Sanderson of Mooseprint, Maine rode the Northern Tier Route – chained to his bicycle.

"I was already planning to ride the route, when I came up with this idea," Sanderson said. "I had proposed to my girlfriend, Penelope, earlier that spring, but she was hedging. She said she wasn't sure if I had enough 'stick-to-itiveness' to commit to a lifelong relationship. Then it hit me like a bolt of lightning: I said, 'What if I pedaled cross-country chained to my bicycle? Would that prove my perseverance to you?'"

"At first, she didn't answer. She just looked at me like I was an idiot. Then she said, 'Well, maybe.'"

So, Sanderson said, based on this tidbit of potentially good news, he decided to go for it.

"The actual bicycling wasn't that hard," he said. "In fact, sometimes I even forgot 'Alice'



and I were chained together. What was harder were things like squeezing into some of those tiny convenience store bathrooms. And the day I had to go to the doctor in Muscatine, Iowa to have a boil on my bottom lanced – well, that was downright embarrassing.

"But I came to really enjoy being chained to my bicycle; so much so that even after I returned home, I stayed that way for a couple of weeks – until, that is, Penelope said she was ready to get hitched, but only if I separated myself from my bicycle. How's that for irony?"

COME ON, LET'S GO

Adventure Cycling's newest route: easy to dance to

Routes and Mapping Department director Carla Majernik has announced Adventure Cycling's newest mapping project: The Roots of Rock Bicycle Route.

"It's pretty cool," Carla said, "because in some places we'll get to use certain stretches of our existing routes. The only drawback – if you can call it that – is that it's going to be an extremely long route. It has to be in order to pay tribute to as many rock pioneers as possible."

Carla explained that the route will begin in downtown Memphis at the Sun Records Studio, widely considered the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. "From there, we'll map a back-streets route to Graceland, Elvis

Presley's mansion in Memphis. Next, we'll go to Nashville, home to a lot of the early, pre-rock rhythm and blues performers like Etta James and Little Hank and the Rhythm Kings."

There's not room to describe the proposed route in full, but suffice it to say it will hit the high notes, including the following towns: Macon, Georgia (hometown of Little Richard); McComb, Mississippi (Bo Diddley); Kingsland, Arkansas (Johnny Cash); Ferriday, Louisiana (Jerry Lee Lewis); St. Louis (Chuck Berry); Vernon, Texas (Roy Orbison); Hawthorne, California (The Beach Boys); Portland, Oregon (The Kingsmen, who made "Louie Louie" the garage-band stan-

dard); Clear Lake, Iowa (home of the Surf Ballroom, where Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper, and Richie Valens played their last concert); Detroit (Jackie Wilson, Motown Records); Newark, New Jersey (The Four Seasons); New York City (Carole King et. al.); and Barnwell, South Carolina (James Brown).

"We're working on a proposal to partner with the Cleveland-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," Carla said. "If that happens, we're pretty much a shoo-in to achieve our next goal, which is recruiting Dion DiMucci to lead the first year-long group tour on the route." For more information, visit www.adventurecycling.org/doowop.

Catching Up

"I took this shot in Berea, Kentucky in 2004," wrote Twila Topograph of Bossburg, Nevada in a recent email. "It's in a part of the state notorious among us TransAm riders for its bicycle-chasing dogs. This fellow told me he's the county dogcatcher, but that's all I know – I didn't get a chance to talk to him for very long."

Well, your Waypoints editor couldn't let this mystery go uninvestigated, so through the Madison County Courthouse in nearby Richmond, Kentucky he obtained the cell-phone number for dogcatcher Theodore "Spot" Awning, and called him for an interview. Here's what he had to say:

"For years, I'd been frustrated by the stray dogs they hired me to corral. They constantly outsmarted me; I probably caught one of every 10 I tried for. So, I got the idea of using the bicycle as a lure, because of all the complaints we've received over the years from traveling cyclists who'd been chased by dogs here.

"The movement of my bicycle attracts the dog, and the meaty bone I drag behind prevents him from running off after I stop. I simply detached the rope and drag the bone – with



the dog attached by its mouth – over to my truck, which is always parked nearby. Then I whip the bone into a cage through the back door, and the dog almost always jumps in. It's great!"