

PHONE 206.725.9408 EMAIL info@bikeworks.org WEB bikeworks.org
SHOP HOURS Tues – Fri noon – 6pm / Sat: 11am – 6pm / Sun: 11am – 5pm

BIKEWORKS 3709 South Ferdinand Street / Seattle, WA 98118



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FALL
2010
ISSUE #16

Building sustainable communities by educating youth and promoting bicycling

RIDE IT LIKE YOU EARNED IT!

Where the Rubber Hits the Road

STERLING: A Bike Works Champion

Sterling had given up Bike Works years ago for the world of yo-yos. Now 17 and a national yo-yo champion, he was beginning to commute to school across town and wanted a road bike. After completing our Earn-a-Bike program, youth can come to the weekly free drop-in, where they can continue to earn bikes and parts until they turn 18. So Sterling returned. He was convinced to take the Advanced Mechanics class and began to come around on the weekends for bike polo. He ended up in the Polo Camp in July and, to our joy, decided to sign up for the Advanced Bicycle Tour down the Oregon Coast—450 miles of some of the hardest, most epic landscape in the West—from Astoria, Oregon, to Crescent City, California.

On day one of the trip, anticipation and nervousness abounded. No one knew what to expect, let alone Sterling, who had begun road riding only months before, plays video games three hours daily, and uses homework for his “break time.” When he was 11, he had trained through a long, cold, rainy winter for the first Seattle to Portland ride with Bike Works. But when the STP arrived, he decided that it was too much. Never having completed that ride added to his anxiety.

Little did we know how strong he was. We faced scorching sun, howling winds, jagged cliffs, and muscle fatigue as we climbed mountain passes to staggering ocean views and flew down the coast. Somewhere along the way, Sterling became another person. He ate up every moment, and by the end he admitted, shocking even himself, that he didn’t miss his video games at all.

“This trip is the best thing I’ve done in so many ways,” he said. “I pushed myself harder than I ever had, I made new friends, and I got a much-needed break from my parents, normal life, and technology.” Sterling, we are humbled, thankful, and immensely proud—welcome back to Bike Works! In 2009, 61 youth participated in our summer camps—riding over hundreds of miles—and learned how much they are capable of.

SIBLINGS: A Bike Works Classic

A 12-year-old hears about Bike Works and decides to sign up for the Earn-a-Bike class. He falls in love with the place. After completing the class, he continues to come back every week to work on bikes and every weekend for bike rides. Dragged along by parents to pick up her brother, a 6-year-old stares longingly into the classroom at the sea of faces, bikes, and tools. She drools over the bikes that her brother has earned—maybe her brother even earns her a bike. Every week she sees her brother laughing, talking, and wrenching with the other Bike Works youth, and she wishes so badly to join them. It’s a classic Bike Works story! Once, a younger brother hand-wrote us a letter requesting to participate a year early, in an effort to prove to us how mature he was! In 2009, 42 percent of our youth had been with us for multiple years, and the list of sibling pairs goes on and on.

Take Teo and Gabriel. Teo took our Earn-a-Bike class six years ago at the age of 9. His little brother, Gabriel, looked on in anticipation for four years, until he was old enough to start. Teo and the other older youth mentored Gabriel as they all developed as mechanics and riders. Now both boys drop in regularly to take part in rides and repair, as well as joining our summer bike-touring trips. Seeing the positive difference Bike Works made for their kids, Teo and Gabriel’s parents became volunteers. Their mom even took our Adult Basic Class to better understand her sons’ experiences. We see her and her sons riding around the neighborhood on a regular basis, often popping in just to say hi.

Part of Bike Works’ mission is to build sustainable communities, and we know that means giving families an opportunity to be healthy and connected. It is incredible to witness these siblings (and their families) find support and community here. We owe thanks to the older youth who take the “littles” under their wings, so that we can all fly together.



Sterling at Sunset Bay State Park, after a hard day of riding. He declared that one of the trips’ climbs was “possibly the hardest thing I’ve ever done.”



Teo and Gabriel work on a bike together during Community Service Drop-In Hours.

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Program Highlights

EARN A BIKE:

Kids, Bikes, & Sweat Equity

Girls as greasy bike mechanics? Absolutely! Over the years, we had typically seen only one or two girls in a room of 14 students. So we created a space dedicated solely to them—an All-Girl Earn-a-Bike class. Taught by women in the know, 14 girls get greasy, wrench, and laugh while learning the ropes of a profession dominated by men. Like our open-enrollment classes, elementary school students learn alongside high school students, having the rare opportunity to build cross-generational relationships. Nine-year-olds look up to 17-year-olds, and 17-year-olds get to act as delighted as they feel. We hope to continue to inspire young women to know that they can do whatever they want in this world, particularly in the land of bicycles. Last year, 74 youth participated in our Earn-a-Bike classes, and 76 youth came to our drop-in hours; together they logged over 1,758 hours of community service and helped Bike Works repair and donate 168 bikes to families in need.

Adult & Volunteer Programs

Last year, when Jennifer's friend gave her an old bike, she took it as a sign. She wanted to start cycling, but riding in traffic intimidated her. She decided to seek out other cyclists and learn more about bikes, which led her to Bike Works. Our youth programs reminded her of the freedom biking gave her as a child—"My bike made my world so much bigger"—and Jennifer started volunteering. She was anxious about coming to our weekly Volunteer Repair Parties; what if she didn't know enough? Finally, she took the chance and came. Jennifer says that learning bike repair at Bike Works has been different from other learning environments because everyone is so open to helping her build skills. Next, Jennifer took the Adult Basic Class to fill some gaps in her knowledge, taking advantage of our work trade option for a reduced enrollment fee. Now on Thursdays, it is Jennifer who is the helpful, friendly mentor. When she was ready to build her confidence around riding in traffic, Jennifer knew where to come. She donated the free bike to Bike Works and bought a beautiful black mixte that fits her. "I love this bike," she shared. "When I'm on it, I feel like a rocket!" Now when she hits the road, Jennifer feels a mixture of fear and excitement. "But not JUST fear," she jokes. She even rides across town to Bike Works! Through our Adult & Volunteer programs, Bike Works builds community while providing the opportunity for adults to support our youth programs and learn bicycle repair in a safe and nonjudgmental environment.

“ I learned a lot about bikes, biking, and myself. Now I know that I can do anything that I put my mind to. —Clarissa, age 12 ”

Recycle & Reuse Program

Give your old bikes a second life at Bike Works! Each year, 15 million bikes end up in US landfills—we see this as an opportunity. Through our bicycle collection and redistribution program, we provide a means for unwanted bikes to be donated, refurbished by youth and volunteers, and turned into affordable, carbon-free transportation. The remaining, unusable bikes are stripped for parts and recycled through partnerships with local businesses like CleanScapes, Alchemy Goods, and Resource Revival. Last year, we processed 1,736 used bicycles, saving 40 tons of waste and providing transportation to thousands of people! Bikes are distributed through our shop, raising funds to support our programs and as donations to nonprofits that provide bicycles to people in need here and abroad.

SUMMER CAMPS: Bike Works Polo Camp

Modern Hardcourt Bike Polo began in Seattle in 1999. Ten years later, competitive polo teams exist all over North America and Europe. This summer, we offered our first ever Bike Polo Camp—what a blast! The youth arrived with a wide range of skills; some had never touched a mallet, others had played for over four years! Members from Seattle's local team, 206 Bike Polo, volunteered as guest instructors. Each day, they ran new drills and taught rad skills. By the time camp came to a close, the players had become stronger cyclists—and not just in the realm of polo. Their bike-handling skills, balance, hand/eye coordination, and comfort level soared. This fall, Bike Works will hold a five-week polo club for youth, complete with teams, tournaments, and repeat guest instructors from the Hardcourt Bike Polo World Championships! Last year, Bike Works offered six summer camps, including three riding camps and three bicycle tours.

Community Bike Shop

Anna brought her old, rickety bike into the community bike shop expecting the bike to need a full tune up. Shop staff took the time to give the bike some needed adjustments on the spot, making her bike "road ready" in about ten minutes, for about ten dollars. They also explained the adjustments that they were making, helping Anna feel empowered to make them on her own in the future. Our shop sells refurbished used bikes and provides friendly repair service to the community, while raising money to support our programs. Last year in our bike shop, we served 6,374 customers, sold 819 refurbished bikes, sent 337 bicycles to villages abroad, and recycled many tons of scrap metal!

A Huge THANK YOU to our 2009 Donors

Foundations & Corporate Grants

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Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation • City of Seattle, Parks & Rec
City of Seattle, Public Utilities • Clif Bar Family Foundation
Finish Line Youth Foundation • Harrington Schiff Foundation
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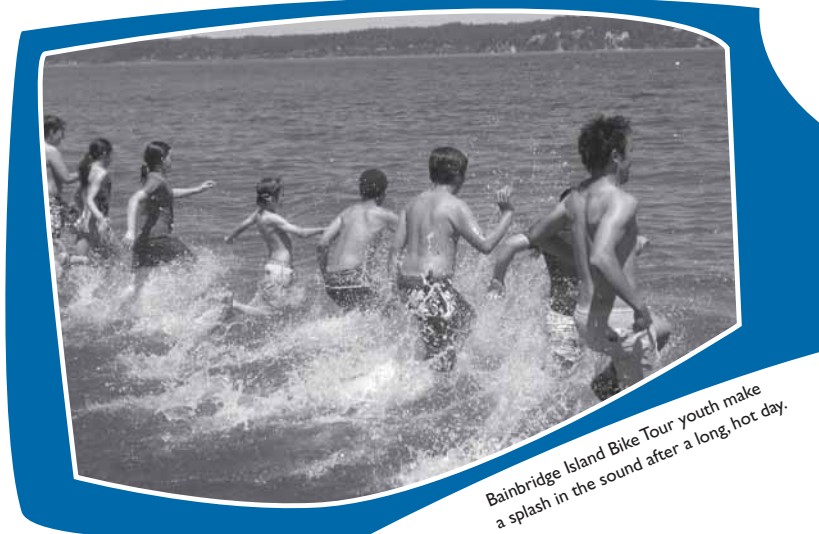
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Kevin Henderson
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Bill Hood
Mark & Rachel Hopkins
James & Alice Hopper
In Honor of Teo Hopper
Diane Horn
Lisa Hornfeck
Alison Howard
Pat Howe



Bainbridge Island Bike Tour youth make a splash in the sound after a long, hot day.

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Rick Hubbert
Sarah Hubbauer
In Honor of Christopher Hughes
Kyle Hughes
David Hunter
Robert Hunter & Alyn Jackson
Jack Hunter* & Jessica Ludders
In Honor of Samuel Hunter
Frederick & Joan Hutto
Kelly Igoe
Mae Ikawa & Raymond Fox
Paul Ikeda
Edwin Inkley
David Isla
Jessie Israel
Terri Iverson
Jackson-Spieker Family
Lola Jacobsen
Brad Jacobson
Larry Jacobson
Ruth & Louis Jacobson
Lawrence Jacobson & Heather Trim
Linda James
Dave Janis
Wendy Janis Malkin & Matt Malkin
Dale Jarvis & Diana Lee
Linnea Jarvits
Eric Jensen
Marc & Teresa Jensen
Omar Jepperson
Judith Jesiolowski & David Thompson
Kent Jewell
Laurie & Christopher Johnson
Ronald Jurgens
Douglas Kaminski
Ron Kaplan
Todd & Tiffany Karam
Sonnika Karlsson
Gregory Katz
Phil Katzen & Joan Kleinberg
Sarah Kavage* & Rob Zverina
Anne Kearney
Lexi Keeler & Jenny Jackson
Mike Kelley
Julie Kelly
Reiley & Deborah Kidd
Saul Kinderis
Marina King & Tom Carpenter
Nicole King
Angela, Jacob & Allison Kirkman
Gonya Klein
Rachel Klein*
Rachel Klevit & Jerry Sale
Peter Kolb & Cheri Parker
Ruth Korkowski
David Kositsky & Maya Riser-Kositsky
Scott* & Vasantha Kostojohn
Japhet Koteen
Dan Kraushaar
Leah Kroon
Roy Kuraisa
Elizabeth Labadie & David Frum
Ellen Lackermann & Neal Stephenson
Brian Landau
Kristina Lang
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Robin Lee
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Serena Lehman
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Theo Mace & Lorna Stone
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If your name is missing from this list or incorrect, we sincerely apologize, and please let us know.

*Current or former Board Members

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Volunteer!

Help out in our office

Build bikes at weekly Volunteer Repair Parties

Volunteer at our events

Make a contribution!

Give a gift at BIKEWORKS.ORG

Donate stock

Donate an item for our Auction

Secure a corporate matching gift

DONATE BIKES AND BIKE PARTS!

Road Bikes Mountain Bikes Kids Bikes

2009 Annual Report to our Community

Educating Youth!

- **256 youth served** in our Earn-a-Bike classes, drop-in hours, camps, and community partnerships
- **1,758 hours of community service** logged by youth
- **53% of youth earned bikes**, and 90% earned parts and accessories
- **43% of youth were youth of color**
- **47% of youth received scholarships** to cover class fees

Promoting Bicycling!

- **284 families served** at our annual Kid's Bike Swap, where 327 bikes found a new home
- **103 free activities offered**, including neighborhood rides, mountain biking, BMX trick riding, track racing, safety rodeos, and community events
- **6,105 miles ridden** by youth on Bike Works rides
- **3,699 hours of community service** logged by adult volunteers

Recycling Bicycles!

- **6,374 customers served** in our community bike shop
- **1,736 bikes donated** to Bike Works
- **97% (1,691 bikes) returned to the community** (2% recycled), including:
 - 168 bikes donated to nonprofits
 - 819 bikes sold through our shop
 - 367 bikes distributed to youth in our programs and Kids Bike Swap event
 - 337 bikes sent to villages abroad

“It's not only about the bikes, but it's about helping the community and being a hard worker and helping people with no bikes.”

—Samaya, age 9

Financial Report Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/2009

REVENUE

Earned Income from Shop & Programs	215,268	49%
Foundations	43,511	10%
Corporate Sponsorship & Matching	9,669	2%
Individual Contributions	77,354	18%
Special Events / Auction	91,858	21%

Total Revenue **\$437,660** **100%**

EXPENSES

Programming	295,490	70%
Administration	81,150	19%
Fundraising & Special Events	44,924	11%

Total Expenses **\$421,564** **100%**



Geared up to ride through the woods with Bike Works.