

## Minutes of the Michigan HPV Association annual meeting

By [Wally Kiehler](#), president  
February 12, 2005

Boeing Auditorium, Francois Xavier  
Bagnoud Building, University of Michigan,  
Ann Arbor

Attending: Robert Always, Todd Brandel,  
Paul Bruneau, David Collins, Mike  
Eliasohn, John Foltz, Bill Frey, Terry  
Gerweck, Delbert Giexedin, Louie Grapp,  
Wally Kiehler, Bob Moore, Mike Mowett,  
Robert Palmer, Paul Pancella, Don Smith,  
Rob Stewart, Ed and Marie Webber,  
Steve Webber, Rick Wianecki.

At 1 p.m., Greg McCabe, a senior in  
aerospace engineering, showed us the  
status of the U-M human powered  
helicopter project. Since last year, the  
team has given up on designing a  
lightweight transmission to take pedaling  
motion in a horizontal axis and transfer it  
to vertical rotation at two different  
speeds. Instead, they plan to use an  
electro-mechanical system, with the  
pedals powering a generator, which will  
feed electric power to the two electric  
motors that will turn the counter-rotating  
rotors.

President Wally Kiehler called the  
meeting to order at 1:25, Treasurer Bill  
Frey presented his report for the 2004  
calendar year.

As has recently been the case, the  
expenses of producing the Waterford  
rally were covered nicely by the income  
from registrations. We have realized  
savings from our move to the electronic  
newsletter, through reduced  
photocopying and postage costs. As a  
result, our balance increased by \$469 to  
\$2,285. Wianecki moved (Mowett  
seconded) acceptance of the treasurer's  
report. Motion passed.

Vice President Rick Wianecki reported on  
the Human Powered Race America race  
directors meeting. There will be a \$5 per  
day increase in insurance coverage, to a  
total of \$110 for the two days for the  
Michigan HPV Rally.

A new event has been added to the  
HPRA schedule at Morris, Illinois May 21.

### SPENDING

President Kiehler, in reaction to the good  
financial state of the association,  
suggested we could purchase some  
items, especially in regard to the smooth  
running of the annual races. Pancella  
moved (Wianecki second) to allocate  
\$350 for a pressure tape timing system,  
to be built by Warren Beauchamp. This  
system will be suitable for timing such  
events as the sprints or hill climb, when  
only one vehicle is in the timing trap at a  
time. Motion passed unanimously.

Wianecki/Bruneau moved to allocate up  
to \$60 for the purchase of walkie/talkies  
to enhance communications. Paul  
Bruneau offered to investigate the best  
system in this price range. Motion  
passed.

The topic of advertising the Michigan HPV  
Rally was discussed. Options include  
\$150 for a full page ad in Michigan  
Bicyclist (the League of Michigan  
Bicyclists magazine), or undetermined  
costs for ads in Bike Midwest or Michigan  
Sports & Fitness, free periodicals  
distributed in many bike shops. Eliasohn  
moved (Gerweck second) to authorize  
the board to spend up to \$150 on  
advertising as they see fit. Motion  
passed.

Pancella moved (Frey second) to pay  
extra to "highlight" our listing in the  
annual League of Michigan Bicyclists  
photo calendar of events. Cost is about  
\$40. Motion passed after some  
discussion.

When the MHPVA had a printed  
newsletter, we usually published a list of  
members and addresses or other contact  
information once a year. While this was  
seen as a nice service to our far-flung  
membership, there was hesitation to  
make this information public on the  
MHPVA Web site. Frey moved (Foltz  
second) to include a membership list and

the treasurer's report in the single hard-  
copy mailing we still do announcing the  
winter meeting. Motion passed  
unanimously.

Webmaster and board member  
Bruneau reported that the Web site  
seems to be functioning well. There is  
room for more content to be supplied  
by members.

Eliasohn reported he mails photocopies  
of the electronic newsletters to two  
members.

Some members expressed a desire for  
a more printer-friendly format, as some  
"pages" in the present newsletter layout  
do not actually fit on a standard page.  
Bruneau offered to try .pdf format.

(See "Minutes" continued on [Page 2](#))



*BILL FREY showed his Tour Easy Fold Rush that he bought last year. The rear swing arm has an elastomer to provide limited suspension. Removing a pin enables the swing arm, with wheel attached, to be folded under for compact storage and transportation. Bill's bike also has the optional Pantour suspension front hub.*



*DON SMITH of Sterling Heights talked about the latest changes he's made to his Optima Baron, which bring the weight down to only 18 pounds, 8-1/4 ounces. The front wheel has only 10 spokes and is intended for racing wheelchairs. The carbon fiber Renn back wheel is a solid disk, with no dish.*

**A NEW CHALLENGE FOR FRANK GEYER**

MHPVA member Frank Geyer of Brighton had two Challenge recumbents at the winter meeting, along with the news that he is now the Challenge distributor for North America. Challenge recumbents are made in the Netherlands.

*For those of you who don't know Frank's speed, he's from Germany, is an engineer working for an automotive parts supplier in the Detroit area, and one of the fastest HPV racers in the Midwest and beyond. I asked him to write something about his becoming the Challenge distributor, so here it is. (No, he didn't quit his day job.) -Mike E.*

My first contact with Challenge was at Northbrook, Illinois, in 2001. I raced an M5 Shock Proof at the time and was new in the U.S. scene. With my first time ever doing a standing start kilometer, I almost broke the track record and got the attention of bentrideronline editor Bryan Ball.

He gave me a Challenge Jester (which I bought from him a year later) to race for him and Challenge. So I sold the Shockproof and raced the Jester from then on.

In 2002 Paul from Challenge invited me to come to Cyclevision (in Europe) and prepared a bike for me. I got my piece of humble pie there; it's a lot more competitive than over here.

The same year I won the world's in the male stock class on the same old Jester, which was another world title for Challenge.

So when we heard that Paul was looking for a U.S. distributor in 2004, we (my wife Anja and I) thought that this could be interesting for us and said yes when he asked me if I would be interested.

Luck had it that he just had finished his new line of bikes, including the SL superlight series, so we got into the business right on time.

The SL series are selling well. The Seiran SL (high racer) and the Mistral SL are the top selling bikes.

We are supplying bikes to dealers and sell to customers direct, if desired. As our goal is to establish a solid dealership network in the U.S., we prefer selling through dealerships, as the customer gets better service than by buying direct. If someone buys direct, the bike comes partially assembled in a box, whereas a dealer sells the bike ready to ride.

Eventually we will stock the best selling models, but we need at least one full season to figure out which models to pick. Currently we deliver to dealers and customers in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico.

This season we will attend several bike events with our show bikes, the first being the annual recumbent rally with RBR in Pennsylvania in May. Also, we will be at the various Michigan recumbent rallies and at the Bryant Tucker 100 HPV race in Northbrook, Ill., and maybe some others, too.

If anyone has more questions please feel free to ask at [info@eurdis.com](mailto:info@eurdis.com). The Challenge Web site is [www.challengebikes.com](http://www.challengebikes.com)

("Minutes" continued from [Page 1](#))

**HPV RALLY**

After some discussion, members decided to keep the same schedule of events and the same fee structure as last year for the June 11-12 rally at Waterford. We also decided to keep the same prize procedures and total budget, except to raise the urban transportation contest prize budget to \$40. Thus the total prize allocations for this year are: \$300, general prizes, about 20 items; \$25 for best homebuilt (Atomic Zombie's Bicycle Builder's Bonanza); \$40 for urban transportation contest = \$365 total.

Prize coordinator Kiehler was urged to work with the race director to avoid awarding too many prizes to the same individuals.

**OFFICERS**

The incumbent slate of officers and at-large board members was nominated and re-elected: President, Wally Kiehler, Grosse Pointe Woods; vice president, Rick Wianecki, Okemos (representative to HPRA); treasurer, Bill Frey, Grosse Pointe Farms; secretary, Paul Pancella, Kalamazoo; at large, Mike Eliasohn, St. Joseph, and Paul Bruneau, Portage. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**SHOW AND TELL**

Wally Kiehler showed the used Lightning F-40 he "stole" for \$2,500.

Bill Frey showed his still-shiny Tour East Fold Rush.

Don Smith showed his highly modified Baron low-racer, with a claimed weight of under 19 pounds.

Paul Bruneau showed the carbon fiber Velokraft low-racer, which has made him a force to be feared [*a little -PB*] in his local bike club.

Rick Wianecki showed a carbon nose fairing with clear blown windscreens top which has recently come out of his workshop. He is currently checking it for fit on various platforms, to determine if a mold will be produced to make more.

John Foltz showed a less expensive front fairing solution made from 3 mm corrugated plastic. He achieves compound curves by stitching strips together with tie-wraps.

After announcements from Wolverbent organizer Bob Krzewinski, the meeting ended at about 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Pancella, Secretary

(next page)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Human Powered Race America races (for more information: [www.recumbents.com/hpra/](http://www.recumbents.com/hpra/))

April 23-24 Indianapolis.

May 21 Morris, Ill.

[June 11-12 Michigan HPV Rally, Waterford, MI](#)

July 9 Northbrook, Ill.

July 10 Kenosha, Wis.

[Wolverbents Michigan recumbent gatherings](#)

Michigan Recumbent Rally East - May 14, 2005

Michigan Recumbent Rally Central - June 25, 2005

Michigan Recumbent Rally - West, Hastings - Sept. 10, 2005

Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour/Wine and Recline Ride, Paw

Paw - Sept. 11, 2005

Fall Recumbent Rendezvous, Stony Creek Metropark - Sept.

17, 2005

The Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists

([www.wolverbents.org](http://www.wolverbents.org)) will again be sponsoring the Michigan Recumbent Rally East and Central this year and all MHPVA members are invited to attend.

The Michigan Recumbent Rally East will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 9am-3pm. The event will be held at the Willow Metropark pool shelter parking lot, located off exit 11 of I-275, just south of Detroit Metro airport. The event is free although there is a \$4 park admission fee. And while recumbents are the main theme, all cyclists (and non-cyclists!) are welcome to attend.

Events at the Rally East will consist of recumbent displays, bike dealers, test-rides, information table and a "buying your first recumbent workshop" at 11am and 1pm. Recumbent owners are urged to bring their bike(s) for display. In case of rain the event will still be held as the pool shelter has a very large covered area for all events. Recumbent owners with a bike to sell can display them at the event but no sales are allowed inside the park due to regulations.

In late June, the Michigan Recumbent Rally Central will be held on Saturday, June 25 from 10am until 3pm. The event will also include recumbent test-rides, displays, group ride at 12 noon or pick your own individual start time (all cyclists welcome/maps provided/no sag or support service). There will also be a "Buying your first recumbent" talk given at 11am. Held at Holt, Michigan, just south of Lansing. Specifically, the event will be held at the Holt Pro Cyclery Shop parking lot, 1830 North Cedar Street, on the corner of Cedar Street and Charlar Place, three blocks south of Holt Road. From the intersection of I-96 and US 127, take US 127 south two miles to the Holt Road exit. Go west on Holt Road 1.7 miles to Cedar Street (the second traffic light). Turn left (south) on Cedar Street and the Rally will be on your right.

For more information about either event, visit [www.wolverbents.org](http://www.wolverbents.org), e-mail [wolverbob@cs.com](mailto:wolverbob@cs.com) or call (734) 487-9058.

## WASCO WILD WEST 75

*If you have lots of time to spare, and can afford \$2+ per gallon, and it doesn't bother you to burn all that gasoline to drive several thousand miles to and from Oregon to ride your recumbent, here's an event you may be interested in. -Editor*

Hello: I'd like to invite you to the Wasco Wild West 75, a recumbent bicycle road race outside The Dalles, Oregon. This year's race is the second annual, and will be held on Saturday, May 7.

The Wasco Wild West 75 is, we believe, the only organized road race for recumbents on the West Coast. You can read firsthand reports and see photos from last year's event at this link: [www.ohpv.org/wasco2004/index.htm](http://www.ohpv.org/wasco2004/index.htm). For 2005, we're going full-steam. We're contacting dozens of recumbent manufacturers, plus more than 30 riders' groups — even a couple large European HPV organizations. Who knows? This year's Wasco Wild West 75 could be a transoceanic experience! And unlike most bike races of any sort, there will be a generous purse. Last year, the winner took home \$250, plus the race's trademark first-place Stetson hat.

Please RSVP by April 15. We encourage any recumbent enthusiast to come to the race, whether to compete or just socialize. But we'd like to know how much space and how many people to prepare for. Registration costs \$75; the money goes back directly to the prize purse.

The Dalles is located about 80 miles east of Portland, Oregon. The Comfort Inn of The Dalles is a conveniently located hotel, and is the official host site of the Wasco Wild West 75. You can call the hotel at 541-298-2800. It's located at Exit 87 on Interstate 84, just a few miles from the event site.

So plan to come to the Wasco Wild West 75 road race and show. We offer hospitality, manufacturers (among them will be Bacchetta, RANS, Windwrap and TerraCycle) and fellow recumbent racers. If you have additional questions, contact race organizer Clay Smith at [clayrace16@yahoo.com](mailto:clayrace16@yahoo.com).

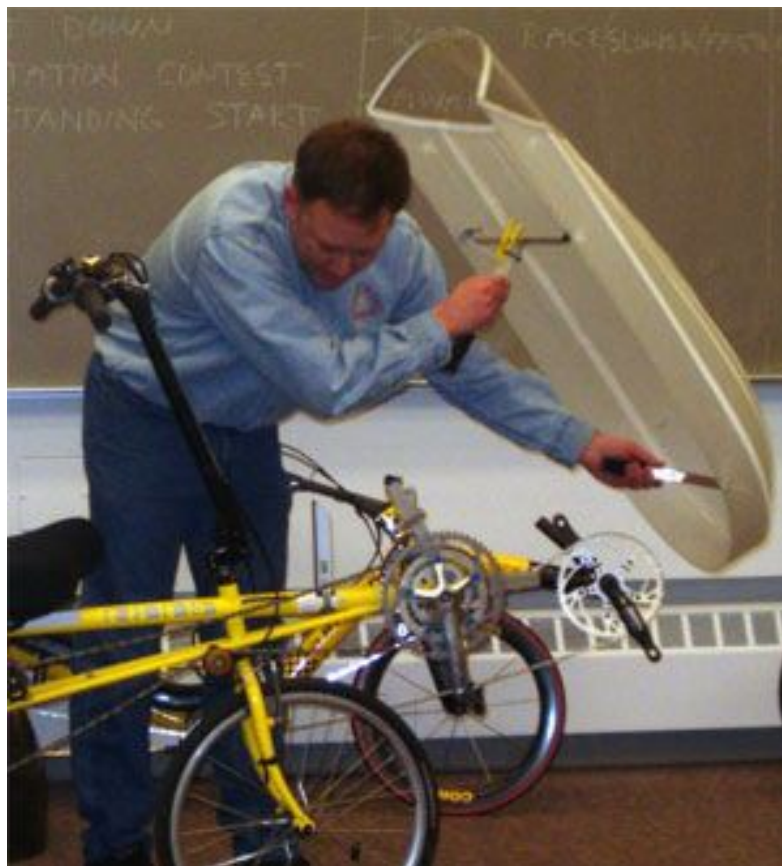
Thanks! See you at the Wasco Wild West 75!

Dan Richardson, Wasco Wild West 75, The Dalles, Oregon

P.S: Are you a RANS bike rider? RANS is offering generous contingency award money. Someone who wins first place while riding a RANS recumbent will receive \$300 -- in addition to the first place prize money! A second-place RANS rider will win an additional \$150 and third place on a RANS will take home an additional \$75. Thanks to RANS for offering such a hefty contingency!



*RICK WIANECKI of Okemos shows the nose cone for his latest project, a velomobile (pedal car), an enclosed three-wheeler that will lean when cornering.*



*JOHN FOLTZ of Haslett explained how he made this fairing from corrugated plastic. It mounts to his Rans V-Rex.*



*WALLY KIEHLER shows his latest "toy," a Lightning F-40, purchased used. Under the fairing, it's the same basic bike as Bob Krzewinski's P-38, in foreground.*

## Newsletter Submissions

Submissions for the MHPVA newsletter can be e-mailed to editor Mike Eliasohn at [editor@mhpva.org](mailto:editor@mhpva.org). If what you have is on paper, mail it to him at 1016 Morrison Ave., Apt. 2; St. Joseph MI 49085-1429.

If you have regular photos, mail those to Mike. If you have digital photos, e-mail those to our Webmaster, Paul Bruneau, at [webmaster@mhpva.org](mailto:webmaster@mhpva.org), but let Mike know what you sent to Paul.

Mike will mail a paper copy of the electronic newsletter to members who don't have e-mail. So if you are in that category, and somehow read this anyway, write him or call him at (269) 982-4058.