

**THE BICYCLE INDUSTRY  
SPRING PARTY** 

**April 10th, 3pm – 9pm**

**Barossa Grill**  
(Downtown Santa Cruz, at Cathcart & Cedar)

*Celebrate the wonders of bicycling in Santa Cruz with all members of the bicycling community. Plus local bike product auction and raffle, great food, drink, and music.*

**\$15 door fee – food included**

*Proceeds to benefit bicycle advocacy in Santa Cruz and 25% for the coastal rail trail.*

For more information call Piet at (831) 423-9569  
or email: [piet@ecoact.org](mailto:piet@ecoact.org)

SPONSORS: Barossa Grill, Seabright Brewery, Gigi's Cafe & Bakery, and the Good Times.

# PEOPLE POWER!

Become a **People Power** member and make Santa Cruz a better place to ride and walk. We offer a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, use of the HUB library, and opportunities to get involved in local activism.

- \$100 **Velorutionary** (includes free T-shirt)
- \$ 50 **Hub Spoke**
- \$ 35 **Family or Household**
- \$ 25 **Individual**
- \$ 15 **Students/Under-employed**

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Make checks payable to **People Power** and mail to:  
**224 Walnut Ave., Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**from our mailbox**

Micah -

Thank you for People Power's advocacy on my behalf. I admire your militancy for us city riders.

Thank you for the two-way lane on Beach Street. I ride it twice a week.

I also support your work on the Broadway/Brommer connection. It is important. Soquel Avenue — Thanks! Go for it!

Let's get the railroad tracks.

- Bill Patterson

**The California Primary Election is on March 2.  
BIKE TO THE POLLS AND VOTE!**

People Power/SCCCC  
224 Walnut Ave., Suite C  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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*People Power! UPDATE is published by People Power Our goal is to educate people and politicians about the advantage of a transportation system less dependent on the automobile. A special thanks to all our volunteers.*

# PEOPLE POWER! UPDATE

SANTA CRUZ CYCLING NEWS

ISSUE 42

WINTER/SPRING 2004

**★★ SPECIAL THE RAIL TRAIL/TROLLEY EDITION ★★**

The plan for building a bike path from Davenport through Santa Cruz, to Watsonville, as well as up to Felton, along the railroad corridors is alive and kicking and ready to go forward.

**What it needs is your assistance.** On March 4th a critical public hearing will be held. Please help us gather support in advance of this meeting. In this issue

of **UPDATE**, we are including a two-sided insert. On one side is a flyer, on the other side is a petition. Help spread the word and increase support by copying and distributing the flyer, copying and collecting signatures on the petition, and by attending the hearing.

More information concerning the project can be found inside.

## About the Rail Trail and Trolley

This is an amazing opportunity. The 31-mile rail line goes right through all the inhabited areas of the county—from Western Santa Cruz to downtown, over the San Lorenzo River and the Harbor to Capitola Mall and Village, Aptos and Watsonville as well as up to Felton. Rail lines are designed to be flat (trains can't handle steep grades), and are crossed by very few streets. The Rail Trail will offer the same peaceful, convenient route for short trips to the store as well as ecotours to Monterey. There is enough room to put the trail next to the rail line without ripping up the tracks. The line will continue to run freight, as well as, potentially, passenger rail.

About two years ago, a path along the rail corridor was first proposed by members of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), the agency in charge of transportation in Santa Cruz County. Since that time, our efforts have focused on buying the railroad corridor from Union Pacific, as UP is not particularly friendly to rail trails on their property. People Power has since joined forces with rail advocates such as Capitola Councilman, Dennis Norton, to acquire the corridor. The RTC initially set aside \$10 million in earmarked state transportation monies to acquire the corridor. Since that time, Congressman Sam Farr got \$1.5 million more in federal funds. The price of the railway line, set by Union Pacific, is around \$22 million.

The \$11 million balance is waiting in state coffers and

To learn more about the Rail Trail and how it fits into transportation politics in Santa Cruz County:  
[www.santacruzrail.org](http://www.santacruzrail.org) or [sensibletransportation.org](http://sensibletransportation.org)  
or call **People Power at 425-0665**



*When it comes to political lobbying, People Power has one basic operating principle...*

was raised in 1990 through Prop. 116. That money has been earmarked exclusively for running passenger rail service in Santa Cruz County.

Enter the trolley, a proposal by Dennis Norton to contract a private recreational

*(continued on next page)*

## About the Rail Trail and Trolley (continued from page 1)

rail operator (such as Roaring Camp in Felton), to run a tourist trolley between Capitola and Aptos at no cost to the county. **The trolley is necessary to purchase the corridor.** which is why People Power is such a strong advocate for a tourist trolley.

The trolley proposal is economically risk free. At the instigation of People Power, two railway operators, Roaring Camp and Sierra Railroad (which operates passenger and freight service in five northern California counties), have publicly stated their willingness to “guarantee to provide service, without fare-box subsidies, to comply with the funding requirements of Prop. 116,” and are willing to stake their assets and reputation on a long-term contract. No Prop. 116 funds have ever had to be repaid, and there is no chance our county will be the first to do so, despite concerns raised by Supervisors Beautz and Pirie.

Opposition to the trolley and rail trail has been organized by people who live alongside the tracks. Some of them don't like trains and currently put up with 3 rather noisy freight trains each week. Though the current trolley proposal will be considerably quieter and run infrequently, acquiring the corridor allows for a public discussion on how it could be used at a later date for passenger train service. However, we believe that long-term concerns of 30 or 40 people about commuter rail should not get in the way of a the trail. These folks knowingly bought property along active rail lines. Moreover, rail use of the line by it's current owner, Union Pacific, could increase exponentially at any time.

The rail trail is immensely popular in this county. There are some individuals, however, who claim to be friends of the rail trail but not friends of the trolley. That's an oxymoron. Supporting the rail trail, at this moment anyway, means supporting the trolley. Don't let your elected officials state otherwise. Support for the trail is there. We need to mobilize it.

Once we get the corridor, Friends of the Rail Trail is ready to do our part towards building the trail while making sure that the county does theirs. Engineering firm, Mesiti-Miller, and architect, Dan Silvernail, are prepared to volunteer to help us make this a reality. And many, many bicyclists would be happy to do some shoveling.

Democracy in Santa Cruz County is like a bicycle waiting to be pedaled: If we get on it, it will move. The rail trail starts here and with us. That's what People Power is all about— Democracy in Motion. **See you on March 4th!**

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- **Please copy the petitions in this issue of UPDATE, and fill up one or more of them before then.** People Power volunteers have collected over 1,000 signatures on petitions for the trolley and the rail line. (Special thanks go to Stephen, Tamsin, Charles, Joni, and Troy.) Our goal is to deliver 2,000 signatures by February 23rd.
- **Spread the word about the March 4th public hearing** by copying the flyer on the front page of this newsletter and posting it in several places and handing it out to friends. **If every People Power member shows up at the meeting, we will get the rail line, and the chance to begin building the rail trail.**
- **Attend the hearing on Thursday, March 4th at 7 P.M.** on the 5th floor of the County Building. This purpose of this hearing is for members of the public to express their positions concerning the Rail Trail and Trolley. The trolley/trail is the only agenda item.
- **Write to the SCCRTC (info@scrtc.org or 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, 95060)** and express your support. This is especially important if you can't make it to the meeting on March 4th. It's also worth doing even if you attend the meeting. Send a copy of your letter to People Power.
- **Write letters to the editors** of the local daily and weekly newspapers.
- **If you have time to get more than 20 signatures and put up more than a few flyers,** contact Micah at the People Power office (831-425-0665) so we can coordinate efforts. **We especially need Spanish-speaking members to talk to folks in Watsonville.**
- **Consider a donation to support this cause.** We are spending a lot of money right now on this effort.
- **SocialLizE,** strategize, and meet other People Power members, at the Seabright Brewery (Seabright and Murray) at 5 P.M. on March 4th, before the hearing. We will leave from the Brewery and ride to the meeting together around 6 P.M.) ■

**Drink 1/2 a beer & ride to the meeting where a good time will be had by all!**



## Luxurious Highway 17 Buses Arrive

See them at <http://photos.yahoo.com/metroridersunion/>

Metro has received new Highway 17 buses. The vehicles feature reclining seats, fold-down tables, reading lights, and of course, bike racks. Like other new Metro buses, the Highway 17 fleet was designed for conversion to clean-burning natural gas as soon as a high-capacity fueling station can be built.

### Amtrak Bus and Highway 17 Express to Merge

Santa Cruz Metro, the Santa Clara VTA, the Caltrans Rail Program, and the Amtrak Capitol Corridor expect to integrate transit service on Highway 17. If all goes according to plan, the Highway 17 Express will be extended to Downtown Santa Cruz (Metro Center) in April, replacing the Amtrak bus. Weekend service will be added.

Integration will reverse years of daytime service cuts. It appears, however, that the partners are unwilling to preserve the 10:05 P.M. and 11:05 P.M. trips from Santa Cruz to San Jose, or to restore the 11:55 P.M. trip from San Jose to Santa Cruz.

If night service matters to you, send your comments to [info@metroridersunion.org](mailto:info@metroridersunion.org). I will assemble the comments and present them to Metro and Caltrans. ■

*Paul Marcelin-Sampson, Founder  
The Metro Riders Union/La Union de Los Pasajeros*

## Charlie is Organizing a Rail Bike Race

Charlie Zimmerman is a new People Power member and Rail Trail Advocate. He'd like to see people out using the tracks for human-powered transportation right now, with or without a rail trail.



He's organizing a rail bike race as a way to showcase railbikes. The race will take place around June 1st and will be a time trial. It will be a heck of a lot of fun, and help create a lot of railbikes that will be great transportation afterwards. There will be prizes.

To help organize the race or to find out the entry requirements (the most important one is that your railbike has to be able to instantly come off the tracks) contact Charlie at (831) 459-7522 or [charlie.z@usa.net](mailto:charlie.z@usa.net). ■

### A BIG THANK YOU TO...

...Mesiti-Miller Engineering for donating the nice office desk cubicle and a great printer.  
...The Bicycle Trip for donating a wonderful copier.

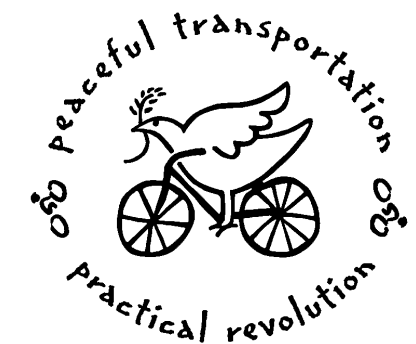
### Jewish Coalition for the Environment Purim Fundraiser

The Jewish Coalition for the Environment is selling Purim Baskets for a fundraiser. Purim is a festive Jewish holiday and it is traditional to deliver baskets of goodies to friends, neighbors and the poor. This year, Purim falls on Sunday, March 7th.

The Jewish Coalition for the Environment is looking for cyclists who want to help deliver baskets by bicycle—of course!! PedX will supply bike trailers.

If you want a little exercise or are interested in seeing the interaction between an old religion and a young environmental movement, give People Power member (and Jewish environmentalist) **Rob Thorne** a call at (831) 421-0470.

## People Power! T-shirt



*“peaceful transportation, practical revolution”*  
sums up People Power's 12-year tradition.

Our shirts are made from 100% tough, preshrunk, organic cotton and cost \$15. Add \$3 for home delivery by PedX in the Santa Cruz area. Sizes: S-M-L-XL.

**Call People Power, at 425-0665 to order yours.**