

Commuter News & Notes



A Newsletter for Members of the MVTMA

Summer-Fall 2008/Volume 7, Number 2

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The Merrimack Valley TMA's annual Bike Week saw nearly 100 bikers brave rainy conditions and humid temperatures.

During the week of May 12th, TMA staff met morning cyclists at each company as they participated in separate Bike to Work days. Each rider received a Bike to Work t-shirt sponsored by Eisai Research Institute. Participating bicyclists rode a combined 2,292 miles and saved 115 gallons of gas!

"With gas prices at an all time high, biking to work makes more sense than ever!" said MVTMA executive director Andrea Leary.

Staybridge Suites once again was kind enough to offer their facility and sponsored food for the Bike to Work Celebration on a rainy June 5 with about 50 attending bikers. Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski welcomed participants, remarking on the town's commitment to the TMA and noted his appreciation for their participation in the annual Bike to Work week events.

Trisha Morris from Verizon, acting again as this year's BtW co-chair, did a spectacular job, sending emails to half the valley for prize contributions, securing more prizes that we've ever had at the Bike to Work Celebration. The Bike to Work raffle included prizes and gift cards from major sponsor Buchikas Bike and Ski Shop, as well as prizes donated by the Athlete's Corner, Goodales, NH Bike Walk Alliance, MassBIke, Arbonne International and many others. Kathy Rogers from Philips was also a huge help in securing press for the event.

Meanwhile as a follow-up, Leary says she is working on conducting a survey to see if annual Bike to Work participation encourages TMA member employees to continue biking to work.



Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski congratulates this year's Bike to Work participants at the Bike to Work Celebration at Staybridge Suites.

SUMMER COMMUTER CHALLENGE PUSHES FOOT POWER OVER USE OF GAS PEDALS

The Merrimack Valley TMA and MassCommuter are kicking off a new challenge for Massachusetts commuters this summer. Fire Up Your Foot Power encourages commuters to take advantage of the good weather and commute actively by using their own energy to get to work in the form of walking, running, biking or rollerblading.

Registration began May 19 for this summer promotion, which runs until Aug. 30. To register, visit MerrimackValleyTMA.com or Masscommute.com and sign up for Fire Up Your Foot Power. Employees at companies located across Eastern Massachusetts, including Boston, Cambridge, Andover, Danvers, Lexington, Lawrence and Framingham, will be asked to log their weekly commute into a database that will show them their dollar savings on gas, as well as their CO2 emissions.

Participants may use their foot power in combination with the train, bus, ferry or carpooling. Participating employees in this Summer 2008 Commuter Challenge will be eligible for cash prizes through a weekly raffle. At the end, a GPS device will be awarded for the most points earned while using Foot Power.



And the Winner Is...

Bike to Work 2008 Prize Winners

BtW Prize List

Pedro's BIO Cleaner
 Blackburn Bike Safety Light
 Jogonalite Reflective Leg Bands
 Third Eye Bike Helmut Mirror
 Fudrucker's \$10 Gift Certificate
 Fudrucker's \$10 Gift Certificate
 Fudrucker's \$10 Gift Certificate
 Acadamy Lanes 3 free strings for 2
 Acadamy Lanes 3 free strings for 2
 Acadamy Lanes 3 free strings for 2
 One Month Membership Cedardale Health & Fitness
 Giro Adult Bike Helm
 NHBWA Membership
 NHBWA Membership
 NHBWA Membership
 Body Geometry Bike Gloves
 Kryptonite Bike Lock
 Goodale's \$25 Gift Certificate
 Arbonne Gift Certificate, sunscreen, consultation
 MassBike Membership
 Buchikas Patch and Lever Kit
 Kryptonite Bike Lock
 Cannondale Trail Tool
 Neutron Wedge Bike Bag
 Holiday InnTewksbury – Victoria's (dinner for 2)
 2 Showcase/Multiplex Cinema Movie Passes
 Buchikas Gift Certificate
 Planet Bike Gel Seat
 Sigma Bike Computer
 Chateau Restaurant Gift Certificate
 Free Registration/No Fundraising Commitment to
 Emmaus – Cycle for Shelter Charity Ride

Prize Winner/Company

David Jones - Putnam
 David Phillips - Philips
 Stan Graziano - Philips
 Chrissy Harakal - Putnam
 Michael Millnamow - Polycom
 Wilson Sawyer - Enterasys
 Doreen Martin - Eisai
 Mario Ilagan - Philips
 Glenn Crabtree - Vicor
 Scott Wuthrich - Philips
 Jerry Witt - Philips
 Rudy Mutter - Vicor
 Mathew Schnaderbeck - Eisai
 Jonathan Yuen - Smith & Nephew
 Rick Martin - Philips
 James Jandreau - Hewlett Packard
 Tom Doane - Eisai
 Simon Kozin - Philips
 David Texiera - Rreef/Spacelabs
 Baoduy Tran - Smith & Nephew
 Michael Linskey - Hewlett Packard
 Ziggy Ivanouskas - Vicor
 David Houston - Philips
 Mike Puleo - Philips
 Name not available
 Bob Banta - Philips
 John Silva - Philips
 Mike Puleo - Philips
 Mike Evans - Vicor
 Michael Tourville - Philips
 Jim Michener - Philips

BtW 2008 Grand Prize:
Staybridge Suites
Weekend Getaway
Winner
Kelvin Okumuru - Philips

Monthly GRH Raffle Winners

To thank our member employees for using an alternative commute mode, each month the TMA draws a name from the GRH database for a \$10 gift card to Dunkin Donuts. Congratulations to the winners listed below!

March 2008

Heidi Babb
Putnam Investments

April 2008

Dorin Iorga
Enterasys

May 2008

Laura Holly
Philips Medical Systems

June 2008

Karen Fabello
Straumann

TMA Summer/Fall Calendar of Events

<p>August 6 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM</p> <p>Employee Transportation Advisor Meeting</p> <p>Philips Medical Systems 3000 Minuteman Road Building 2 – Room 321 Andover , MA</p>	<p>September 9 12:00 AM – 1:30 PM</p> <p>Cycling Committee Meeting</p> <p>Eisai Research Institute 100 Federal Street Andover , MA</p>	<p>September 18 9:30 AM—11:30 AM</p> <p>TMA Board of Directors Annual Meeting</p> <p>Location TBD</p>	<p>September 29—October 10</p> <p>Fall TMA Alternative Commute Onsite Promotions</p> <p>Locations and Times TBD Please Refer to the TMA's online calendar at www.MerrimackValleyTMA.com after September 1st.</p>
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Bike to Work 2008 Photo Gallery



Pictured Left:
Amy Wallace
New Boston Fund/Woodward &
Curran



Pictured Right:
Doreen Martin & Terri Petzold
Eisai Research Institute



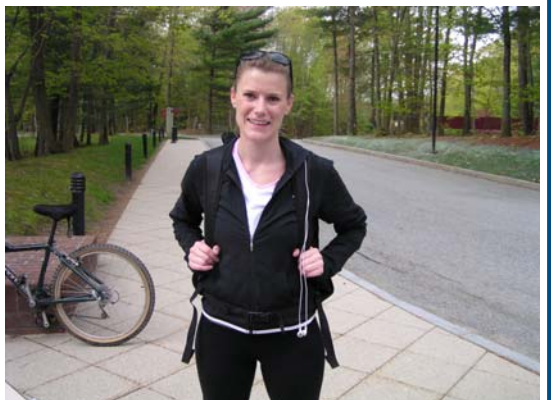
Pictured Left:
Jim Michener
Philips Medical Systems



Pictured Right:
Joel Parker
Enterasys



Pictured Left:
Kevin Webb
Rreef/Enel



Pictured Right:
Melissa Curry
Putnam Investments

Merrimack Valley TMA
c/o Northeast Transit Planning & Management Corp.
28 Brook Road
Marblehead, MA 01945



As Gas Prices Soar, Nearly 70 Commuters Sign Up For Alternative Commute Modes in Past Year

A recent AP-Yahoo News survey of 1,759 adults shows that Nine in 10 are expecting skyrocketing gas prices to squeeze them financially over the next six months.

The poll, which was released June 30, shows that four in 10 people in families earning \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually, and one in six earning more than that, expect serious financial hardships from rising gas costs, as do one in three college graduates.

As a result, Americans are changing their habits. In the Merrimack Valley, more of our members are signing up for the TMA's Worksite Incentive Program.

Since last July, 69 people signed up to carpool, bike or telecommute. Jeff Green and Derek Marcotte began carpooling in April from New Hampshire to Philips Medical Systems.

The two carpool two to four days a week, says Green, adding that coordinating their schedules takes a little more time but is worth it.

"It sure beats driving by yourself," says Green. "We drive by the pumps and groan."

Still, the two are surprised that probably 95 percent of the cars in their parking lot still have one person in them, says Green. "Everyone is willing to complain, but they don't do anything about it. I'm surprised more people aren't doing it."

TMA staff are expecting more people will get on board when the TMA soon sunsets our Worksite Incentive Program (WIP) to launch a whole new program – one with a greener look, plus rewards for those who use alternative commute modes just one day a week.

Look for our new incentive program to appear soon!

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