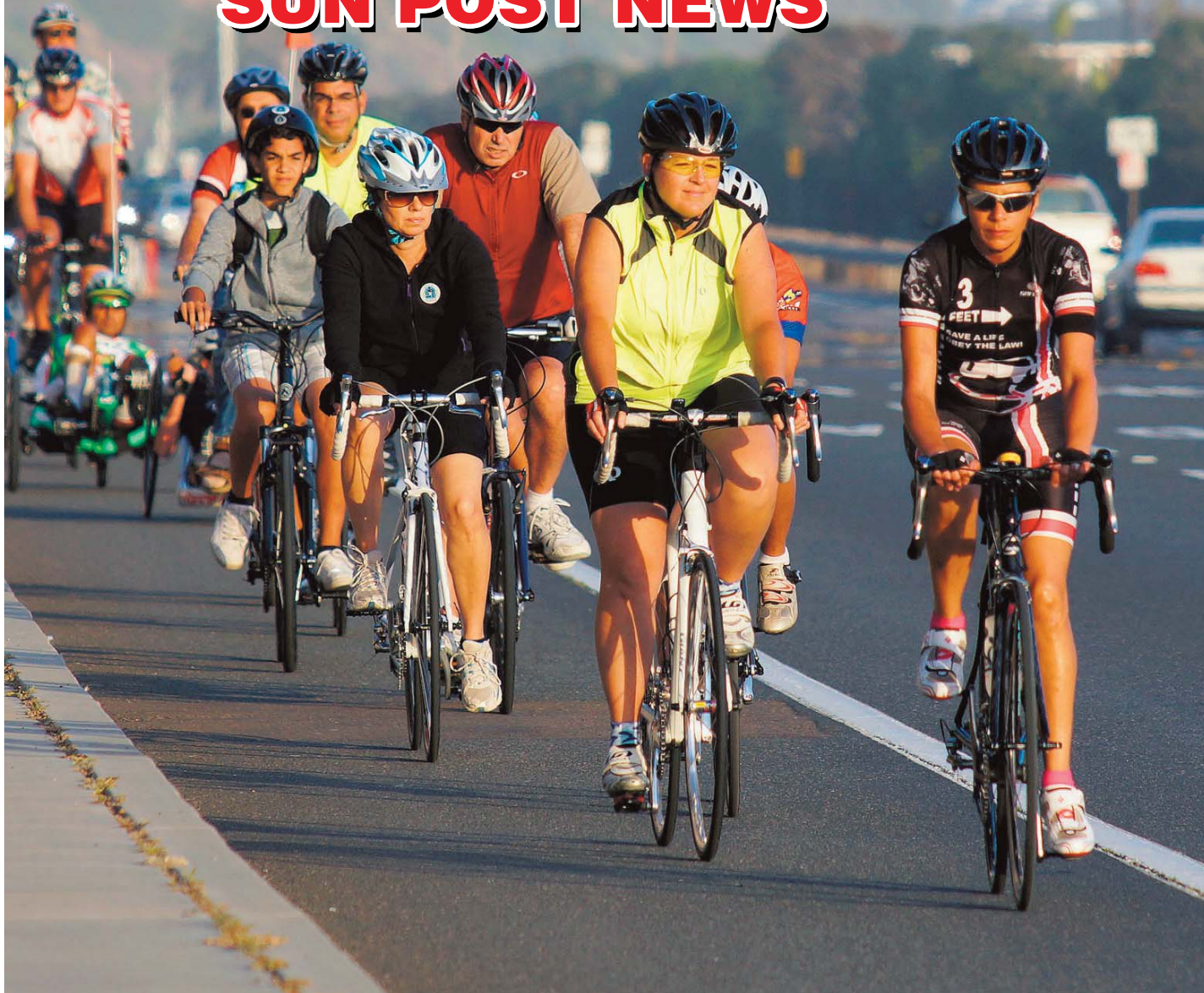


SAN CLEMENTE

SUN POST NEWS



FRED SWEGLER, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Sally Guon, right, a San Clemente fitness trainer, leads the pack in Wednesday's first San Clemente Ride of Silence in memory of bicyclists killed in accidents with motorists.

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Cyclists ride, remember others killed on road

By FRED SWEGLES
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

It started 10 years ago when a bicyclist in Dallas was killed by a school bus. On Wednesday, San Clemente became the second city in Orange County and one of more than 300 cities in the United States to host a Ride of Silence, an international movement in memory of cyclists killed in accidents with motorists.

A little more than a dozen riders slowly, silently pedaled an 8.8-mile course from San Clemente to Dana Point and back at the same time cyclists in Irvine were likewise riding in silence.

"Irvine has been running a very successful Ride of Silence for the past six years or so," said Pete van Nuys, executive director of the Orange County Bicycle Coalition. "They usually get about 150 to 200 participants."

Van Nuys said the number of Orange County cyclists who die in crashes with motorists varies from year to year but runs nearly one a month on average.

Sally Guon, a San Clemente fitness trainer, and her husband, Mike, organized Wednesday's San Clemente ride in memory of three friends who were killed on bicycles, including Larry Schwartz, whose death in Texas inspired the Ride of Silence movement.

"Ten years ago to this day, a friend of ours was killed by a school bus whose outside mirror hit our friend," Guon said. Schwartz was a nationally ranked endurance cyclist, and word of his death led 1,000 cyclists to gather in Dallas 17 days later for a slow, somber ride in his memory. The movement spread.

"Now it is in seven continents, 24 countries, all 50 states, 324 cities," Guon said.

Guon said she hopes the ride will help raise awareness that motorists need to look for bicyclists on the road.

The ride also is to raise awareness among cyclists "so that we are aware of the motorists," Guon said. Cyclists need to be alert to their surroundings and obey rules of the road, she said. "It goes both ways."

Van Nuys, a San Clemente resident and certified instructor with the League of American Bicyclists, offers periodic "Traffic Skills 101" classes to teach bicyclists how to ride and maneuver legally and safely. For more information, call 949-492-5737.



PHOTOS BY FRED SWEGLES, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Pete van Nuys, right, executive director of the Orange County Bicycle Coalition, leads the way Wednesday in a Ride of Silence in memory of bicycle riders killed in crashes with motorists. It was San Clemente's first Ride of Silence, a movement that is in its 10th year nationally.



Sally Guon of San Clemente wears her "Share the road" jersey while pedaling in a bicycle lane Wednesday during a Ride of Silence past Dana Point Harbor.



Kathy Webb of San Clemente emerges from Doheny State Beach into Capistrano Beach park in Dana Point during Wednesday's first San Clemente Ride of Silence in memory of cyclists killed by motor vehicles.



Fermin Camarena of San Juan Capistrano and Beth Sanden of San Clemente ride El Camino Real in Wednesday's Ride of Silence. They both use handcycles in distance events as members of the Challenged Athletes Foundation.



PAUL BERSEBACH, REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines load up on food during a 2008 barbecue at the Ole Hanson Beach Club in San Clemente. The city "adopted" the battalion in 1996.

\$4,000 sought for Marine barbecue

The San Clemente Chamber of Commerce says it is \$4,000 short of the funds it needs to put on a planned June 8 welcome-home barbecue at Camp Pendleton for the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines.

The chamber issued an appeal this week saying the event is in jeopardy and inviting any donors to call the chamber at 949-

492-1131.

Lynn Wood, chamber chief executive, said the group needs to make commitments for the event by Friday.

The barbecue is to be held at Camp Pendleton's San Onofre Beach in honor of San Clemente's "adopted" Marine Corps unit that returned this spring from Afghanistan.

The Chamber of Commerce, city of San Clemente and Left Coast Brewing Co. are partners in the barbecue and invite other sponsors to join.

The chamber is accepting gifts to distribute to the Marines and their children, including toys, gift cards, movie tickets and calling cards. Call the chamber to arrange for pickup or drop-off.

The chamber said it also would like to arrange for use of a bounce house, petting zoo and other items for the barbecue.



FRED SWEGLES
REGISTER WRITER