



## Monthly Newsletter

January 2026



## VICTORY VELO RIDE LEADER AWARDS

We're excited to share that Victory Velo has partnered with SFCC to recognize our ride leaders in a very tangible way.

This year, **16 of our ride leaders have earned a free bike tune-up at Victory Velo** as a thank-you for the time and energy they put into planning routes, managing groups, and keeping rides safe and fun for everyone.

**To qualify for this award, ride leaders needed to:**

Each awardee will receive a Victory Velo gift certificate for a tune-up, and AI will also email them directly to let them know they've earned this benefit.

### **Awarded Ride Leaders:**

- 🏆 AI Cassel
- 🏆 Ron Davidson
- 🏆 Merrill Furlow
- 🏆 Teri Gevry
- 🏆 Keith Hallstrom
- 🏆 Jen Ivey
- 🏆 Mike Lopez
- 🏆 Aaron Masters
- 🏆 Carol Maynard
- 🏆 Kim Moyano
- 🏆 Larry Merlo
- 🏆 Tom Plette
- 🏆 Jackie Roskelley
- 🏆 Jan Waardenberg
- 🏆 Rusty Vanrozeboom
- 🏆 Bruce Wilson
- 🏆 Roger Cox

A huge thank-you to **AI Cassel** for pursuing and successfully implementing this ride leader benefits program with Victory Velo, and to all of our ride leaders who make it possible to keep such a full and varied ride calendar for the club. If you've been thinking about stepping up as a ride leader, this is a great time to get involved.

## Holiday Party Highlights

The Annual SFCC Holiday Party was once again a big hit! Lots of members attended and brought delicious treats to share. 🍷🍷

A HUGE thank you to **Christian and Heath**, the new owners of Victory Velo, for once again letting the club use their shop for our party. They went above and beyond with their graciousness and support of our club.

**Club Officers** were recognized for the effort and hard work they put into running the club. **Ride Leaders** were also recognized for their hard work and support in making

There was lots of camaraderie, socializing, and storytelling among the members who showed up. This event is always so much fun, and it's great to see everyone having a good time without our bike gear on. - Kim

## Year In Review

### YEAR IN REVIEW

We had a great turnout and a lot of repeat faces all year. Thanks to the members who show up and the ride leaders and event coordinators who keep it all running smoothly.

- Total rides posted: 312
- Enduro rides: 12
- Club events: 6
- Club camp: 1
- New members: 60
- Active ride leaders: 45

### LOOKING AHEAD - SAFETY FOCUS

We want rides to stay fun, predictable, and safe, and these are the habits that help make that happen.

- Keep building a **predictable** regroup rhythm so riders know exactly what to expect at every stop.
- Encourage **visibility** as standard kit (front light + rear light every ride, even daytime).
- Continue normalizing early **communication**: call out hazards early, give space, and speak up fast if something feels off.

## UPCOMING ENDURO RIDE

### MIKE LOPEZ ANNUAL BIRTHDAY ENDURO

Another month and another great enduro planned!

**SATURDAY JANUARY 9TH**

See the [CALENDAR](#) for all the details

January weather looks a lot like December, so we're bringing back the same safety tips. They're worth repeating.

Nothing beats a great ride when everyone feels confident and safe. By stepping up our awareness and looking out for one another, we can ensure that every SFCC ride is not only fun but also worry-free.

## **JANUARY SAFETY CORNER**

Winter riding can be great, but it comes with a few extra things to pay attention to. Please keep these in mind as we ride through January.

### **FOG AND VISIBILITY**

- Expect reduced visibility on morning and evening rides.
- Use a bright front light and a rear light. Flashing is fine in normal conditions. Use steady mode in heavy fog.
- Wear clear or lightly tinted lenses (yellow, amber, or rose) to better see the road, potholes, and debris.
- Give yourself a little more space between wheels so you have time to react if someone brakes or swerves.

### **WET ROADS**

- Assume painted lines, metal plates, manhole covers, bridge decks, leaves, and pine needles are slick when wet.
- Brake earlier and more gently than usual.
- Keep the bike more upright when braking. Avoid hard braking while you are leaned over in a corner.
- Be cautious with puddles. They can hide potholes, cracks, and debris.

### **COLD HANDS AND BIKE CONTROL**

- Numb fingers make it harder to shift and brake.
- Wear full-finger gloves. On colder mornings, consider a thin liner glove under your regular gloves or a warmer winter glove.
- Keeping your core warm helps your hands and feet stay warmer. Use layers on your torso (base layer, jersey, vest or jacket).

## GROUP RIDE SPACING

- Leave a little extra room between wheels, especially on descents and in corners.
- Call out hazards early and clearly so riders behind you have time to react.
- Hold smooth, predictable lines. Avoid sudden moves to dodge puddles or debris at the last second.
- When in doubt, slow it down. Getting everyone home safe matters more than speed.

Let's keep our winter rides safe, smooth, and enjoyable for everyone. In the meantime I'll be counting the days until Spring!!

## MERLO'S RIDE REELS

### From Fog to Festivity — SFCC Holiday Recap 🎬 🎪

[Watch on YouTube ▶ \]](#)

Winter weather has had other plans lately. With multiple days of fog and rain, Larry's ride videos have been a bit derailed.

Instead, we're sharing a recap video from our holiday party at **Victory Velo**. It highlights our **Ride Leader winners** and recognizes our ride leaders for all they do throughout the year.



## . EZ RIDERS

This ride is still happening....but paused due to wet roads and COLD temps. We hope to resume rides in February.

Tired of rides that leave you wiped out? The **EZ Riders** are here for you! We're a fun new subgroup that loves the beauty of the Sierra Foothills—without all the grind. Our rides feature gentler hills, shorter climbs, and a pace that allows you to truly enjoy the view. Perfect for recovery days, busy weeks, or getting back in the saddle after time away. Come roll with us—easy miles, good company, and plenty of smiles guaranteed!

The rides are generally on Saturdays, but I can do Fridays or Sundays if people want. I also need ride leaders.

Thanks!  
Jennifer Fink

## 2025 CLUB EVENTS

**RIDING AND TRAINING IN THE "OFF" SEASON FOR BETTER HEALTH,  
FITNESS, AND LONGEVITY**

**Tuesday January 13th**

## MIKE'S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY ENDURO

**Saturday January 10th**

**Comes with cake and coffee!**

**All the details are on the calendar**

## ANNUAL COOKIE RIDE 🍪

**And Bake Off 🏆**

**Saturday February 28th**

## ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP PETALUMA

**June 18-21**

## MOUNT SHASTA CAMP

**September 2026!**

# HORNING A 14-YEAR-OLD TRADITION

## NEW YEAR'S DAY POKER RIDE



We'll definitely miss starting the year with this well-attended, always-fun tradition.

Huge thanks to **Jan** for organizing the January 1st Poker Ride every year since day one. That's a big reason it's become such a favorite.

Even though the weather canceled us this time, we're looking forward to the year ahead and bringing it back for **year 15 in 2027**.

## CLUB POLICY - GUESTS

### Club Policy on Guests Joining Rides

We love seeing new faces at our rides and events, and we encourage you to invite guests to join us. It's a great way to grow our club and share the joy of cycling with others. To help ensure everyone understands our policy, here's a quick reminder about how guests can participate:

This policy allows us to give potential new members a chance to see what our club is all about while maintaining the benefits and support that come with membership.

If you have a guest who's interested in joining, feel free to share information about our membership process or direct them to the club's [website](#). We're always excited to welcome new members into our community!

**Thank you for helping us grow our club and for making it such a welcoming club for cyclists of all levels.**

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Did you know we have an [SFCC Facebook](#) page? This is where **we post photos from rides and events**, share updates, and keep members informed about upcoming activities. It's a great way to stay connected, celebrate our rides, and engage with fellow members!

On our **Facebook** page, you can:

- See and share photos from club rides and events
- Stay updated on upcoming rides and special events
- Connect with other members and share your cycling experiences
- Get important club announcements and reminders

## CLUB MERCH





that are free to all SFCC members. These are custom-made with the SFCC logo on them and are approximately 5" x 3.25"



The socks are \$10/pair. If you intend to buy some, please bring exact change.

[deb2don.dh@gmail.com](mailto:deb2don.dh@gmail.com)

Contact Deb if you're interested in ordering clothing.

Let's spread good vibes, not germs! 🎉



Let's spread good vibes, not germs! 🎉

We all want to keep the group healthy and riding strong. If you're feeling off — coughing, sneezing, or running any symptoms — please take some time to rest and recover at home. 🤧

Even if you're starting to feel better but still not quite back to 100%, it's best to sit this one out so we don't pass anything around.

you can share a future ride instead! 🦺 Your health and the health of everyone else matters most. And remember, your health is our priority!

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## NEW MEMBERS

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Jim Dietler

Lily Fernandez-Thiede

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## BOARD MEMBERS

President | **Bob Peterson** | [president@sfcyclists.org](mailto:president@sfcyclists.org)

Vice President | **Kim Moyano** | [vp@sfcyclists.org](mailto:vp@sfcyclists.org)

Secretary | **Steve Peck** | [secretary@sfcyclists.org](mailto:secretary@sfcyclists.org)

Ride Director | **Pamela Connor** | [rides@sfcyclists.org](mailto:rides@sfcyclists.org)

Treasurer | **Doug Parks** | [treasurer@sfcyclists.org](mailto:treasurer@sfcyclists.org)

Membership Director | **Monica Pappas** | [membership@sfcyclists.org](mailto:membership@sfcyclists.org)

Webmaster | **Larry Merlo** | [webmaster@sfcyclists.org](mailto:webmaster@sfcyclists.org)

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Merchandise Chair | **Deb Hallford** | [merchandise@sfcyclists.org](mailto:merchandise@sfcyclists.org)

SFCC Consultant | **Larry Matz**

Bicycle Advocacy & Safety Team Chair | **Dana Hofheinz** |

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