

Turning Circles

Newsletter of the South Bay Wheelmen

<http://southbaywheelmen.org>

January 2012

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Gerry Agnew profile (contributed by Alysha Webb)

When Gerry Agnew takes on a case that involves a cyclist being struck and injured by a car he can really relate—with the cyclist. Agnew is an avid cyclist himself, and that is one reason his law firm, AgnewBrusavich, sponsors the South Bay Wheelmen. Ted Ernst also played a role—Ted fitted Agnew for a bike and of course talked his ear off about the wonders of the club.

Cycling is “a great diversion from the high stress life of a trial lawyer,” says Agnew. He trains four to five days as week, rising at 6am to get in a ride before work. That diligence paid off. This is only his second year riding on the track, and Agnew, 64, has already had some great results. At the State Masters Track Championships in San Diego in early July Agnew took first place in the 60+ 2K time trial, first in the 60+ team pursuit, and fourth in the 60+ team sprint. At Nationals Masters Track in Trexlertown, PA in late July, he took eighth in the 60-64 Pursuit, third in the 60+ team sprint, and third in the 60+ team pursuit.

Though he had done some road and mountain bike riding before getting hooked on the track, Agnew wasn't what one would call a “cyclist” before getting hooked on adrenaline-filled track racing. Then, he went backpacking in the Sierras with a friend whose law firm was involved in the '84 Olympics in Los Angeles. Says Agnew: “We got to talking about athletes and sports that were neglected and overlooked by mainstream sports media. He mentioned track cycling and the velodrome. Later I went out to look at the velodrome at the Home Depot Center and knew right then it was something I wanted to do.”

It's the law

When he isn't on his bike, Agnew is a partner in a law firm that handles serious injury cases. He has been doing that for 38 years, and sees a growing number of cases that (continued on page 3)



SBW sponsor Gerry Agnew

Message from the Prez (Tom Buescher)

Happy New Year.

As the new President of the club I'd like to thank the members for the trust and confidence you have shown in electing me to this position. I've been a club member for a number of years and a board member for the last three years. While I have confidence that my time on the board has prepared me for this role I know that in the future I'll need your input and board support to continue the strong tradition of the club and its reputation as one of the best racing clubs in the United States.

In December Andrew King was elected the new Race Director for the club. Andrew brings a strong commitment and organization to the racing component of the club and is busy assembling teams for the upcoming race season. John Dimond and Alysha Webb were re-elected as Secretary and Communications Director. Both have been instrumental in supporting the club and expanding our presence in the South Bay. Dave Lindstedt was appointed to complete the remaining term as Sponsorship Director. Together with the returning Board members we look to make your membership and racing experience unparalleled among cycling clubs.

We'd all like to thank Cary Alpert for his guidance of the club over the last four years. Through some tough economic times the membership and financial support have remained strong.

Best wishes for a healthy and successful 2012.

Historical SBW jerseys



(models – Teresa & Bruce Steele)



Gerry Agnew profile (continued from page 1)

involve a cyclist being injured because of carelessness on the part of a car driver. “I realized there was an epidemic out there on the road,” says Agnew. Sponsoring a cycling club does bring in some new business for Agnew—when one of us gets hit by a car we naturally turn to him. But Agnew also helps club members out by sharing his knowledge with us. At the December club meeting (held at his office), Agnew told club members what to do if they are hit by a car (see below). Expect more helpful info from him throughout the year.

Agnew says he also enjoys the people he has met through his involvement with cycling and the South Bay Wheelmen. He has become good friends with the new club president Tom Buescher, says Agnew, and trains with Steve Whitsett, the head of our new non-profit arm, and other South Bay Wheelmen.

Agnew figures he has many more good cycling years in him. And he plans to keep winning. When he is at Masters Track Nationals in ten years competing in the 74+ category, says Agnew, laughing, “There will be one other guy and we will cut a deal” on who gets to win.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A BICYCLE ACCIDENT

- Call 911 For Emergency Medical and Police Help (Ask for traffic collision report)
- Exchange Information – Always, Get Names & Contact Information From All Witnesses
- Preserve All Evidence, i.e., Bike, Parts, Gear, Helmet . . . , Take Photographs
- Do Not Agree To Anything With The Offending Driver - Nothing – Ever
- Do Not Give a Statement (recorded or otherwise) or allow an interview with the offending driver’s insurance company
- Notify Your Automobile Liability Insurance Company within 24 hours

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Looking Forward

SBW season kick-off picnic
Chevron Employee Park, El Segundo
Sunday February 26 2 - 5pm

Weekly club rides

- Saturday 9:00am at Catalina Coffee
126 N. Catalina, Redondo Beach CA 90277
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