

[Comments \(0\)](#) | [Recommend \(1\)](#)

Injured bicyclist gets a wheelchair ramp

Fellow Rocky River Road Club members built it for him.

Posted: Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009

[COLUMNISTS »](#)

[Joe Marusak](#)



Columnist/reporter Joe Marusak writes about the people of Lake Norman and also covers retail, restaurant and development news.

[E-mail Joe](#)

(704) 351-2037



Wes Medeiros kicked the game-winning field goal Jan. 4 at the Youth All-American Bowl.
GAYLE SHOMER – gshomer@charlotteobserver.com

[To purchase this photo](#) | [Browse our store](#)

More Information

- [Bicycle safety tips for motorists](#)

U.S. champion cyclist David Zabriskie offers these and other tips on his Web site, <http://yieldtolife.org>:

Treat cyclists as you would any slow-moving vehicle.

Show patience: Wait until it's safe to pass, and don't tailgate. Give cyclists the right of way when the situation calls for it, and allow time for cyclists to proceed through intersections.

Watch for cyclists when turning right. A bicyclist may be to your right and planning to go straight at the same intersection.

Also look for cyclists when turning left. Cyclists crossing straight through the same intersection in the opposite direction may be going faster than you realize.

Show respect. "Cyclists have a rightful spot on the road," Zabriskie says. "Cyclists also positively impact the environment with each revolution of their wheels by opting to ride rather than drive. Do not resent cyclists. Replace frustration with a smile every time you see a cyclist."

- [joe0111.ART0.01112009._InfoBox](#)

Young kicker shines nationally

Wes Medeiros, the local eighth-grader I wrote about Dec. 21 who kicks NFL-length field goals, kicked the game-winning 25-yard field goal at the first Football University Youth All-American Bowl Jan. 4 in San Antonio, Texas.

The bowl honors the nation's top seventh- and eighth-grade players. Wes lives in Mooresville and attends St. Mark Catholic School in Huntersville.

The New York Times profiled Wes last Sunday, and ESPN2 featured him on its "First Take" program Thursday.

Wes had 10 points in last week's bowl game, including a point-after and two other field goals, of 30 and 32 yards. His East team won 16-14.

Ten Lake Norman area bicyclists gave up their regular long-distance practice rides Jan. 3, even though their annual Polar Bear Ride was a week away.

They had something more important at hand: building a 50-foot-long wheelchair ramp in Bill Wiseman's Concord garage.

Wiseman belongs to their Davidson-based cycling organization, the Rocky River Road Club. He was seriously injured in late November when a motorist turning left struck his oncoming bicycle in the Rowan County town of Cleveland.

The motorist said he never saw the bike, club member Rick McCall of Huntersville told me.

"I tend to believe him," McCall said, since Wiseman was riding alone and bicyclists are

more visible in packs.

Wiseman's left leg was broken both above and below his knee. He broke several fingers and suffered extensive damage to his hip and pelvis. "He's lucky to be alive," McCall said.

Wiseman was released last week from a Carolinas Medical Center rehabilitation center. Club members worked for seven hours Jan. 3 to make sure he'd have a ramp leading from his garage into his home. Members Chuck Huffstetler and Patrick Ahern led the design and building.

It will take Wiseman three months to walk again, club members said.

"Bill's a good guy," said McCall, who helped design the ramp. "It was for a good cause."

Iredell County resident Anna Rice contacted me about the ramp building effort so the community might learn of the deed.

"This is another example of the goodness of humanity," Rice wrote in an e-mail. "And we are sorely in need of those stories to remind us all is not lost in a world filled with news of the failing economy, warring factions in the Gaza Strip and the endless struggles in Iraq."

Several years ago, Rice said, the club helped her husband, Tom Soos, when he was hit by an SUV while riding his bicycle on Davidson-Concord Road in Davidson.

Club members built a ramp for him, too, Rice said. Soos, also a Rocky River Road Club member, suffered a broken hip and broken shoulder and needed a wheelchair for six months, she said.

While bicycling has become more popular here, Rice said, some motorists still aren't particularly friendly to their two-wheel cousins. She just hopes they stay more aware.

I do, too. Bicycles have rights to the road in all 50 states, and I've yet to see one with an exhaust pipe.

Joe Marusak: jmarusak@charlotteobserver.com; 704-351-2037.



[Subscribe to The Charlotte Observer & Earn Miles.](#)

POWERED BY  Pluck

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit

Comments:  0 Showing:

More comments on this story:

[Disclaimer](#)

The Charlotte Observer is pleased to be able to offer its users the opportunity to make comments and hold conversations online. However, the interactive nature of the internet makes it impracticable for our staff to monitor each and every posting.

Since charlotteobserver.com does not control user submitted statements, we cannot promise that readers will not occasionally find offensive or inaccurate comments posted on our website. In addition, we remind anyone interested in making an online comment that responsibility for statements posted lies with the person submitting the comment, not The Charlotte Observer.

If you find a comment offensive, clicking on the exclamation icon will flag the comment for review by the administrators, we are counting on the good judgment of all our readers to help us.