

cycle



Founded in 1878

FOUR SPORTIVE BIKES TESTED ■ GREAT WEEKEND RIDES ■ URBAN ROUTE PLANNING ■ DEATH VALLEY TOURING ■ CYCLING SONGS



GREAT BRITISH RIDES

TOP ROUTES FOR ANY SUMMER WEEKEND

THE A TO Z OF COMMUTING

HOW TO PLAN EASIER URBAN JOURNEYS

Miles Better

ROAD AND AUDAX BIKES FOR BIG DAYS OUT

PLUS: TOURING IN DEATH VALLEY CAFÉ REFUELLING TIPS CYCLING SONGS



FROM THE EDITOR

DAN JOYCE

Perhaps by now the floods are back and the local paper is preparing to publish a picture of someone's koi carp escaping down the street. Or perhaps, as it was in May, Britain's summer is warming the flowers in fields and hedgerows. If so, it's time for the road bike.

You don't have to race when you get on a road bike. It's enough to spin the pedals, to glide along a grey ribbon of road, to soak up the vitamin D that's radiating out of the deep blue sky, to absorb the scenery. The pleasure in cycling like this – like club riding! – is the reason for the rise in sportive rides, the cycling activity of the moment in the road world.

Road bikes are reflecting the increased demand for recreation rather than perspiration with lower gearing and an emphasis on comfort rather than competition. It's getting hard to say where road bikes end and audax bikes begin.

But then the nomenclature isn't important. What matters is that the sun is shining, it's the weekend, and there's a ride waiting. Enjoy it.



Contents

Features

22 Great days out

On road, off-road or family centred: CTC's guide to ten of the best summer weekend rides in Britain

28 The valley of death

Touring through the 40-degree furnace of America's Death Valley

35 Down your way: the Antrim Coast

Northern Ireland's scenic glens

39 Route masters

The A to Z of urban route planning using cycling maps and online tools

43 Sounds of cycling

What's top of the cycling pops? Ten choices for your iPod

58 Miles better

Four sportive bikes on test: steel, aluminium, carbon and titanium.

Regulars

04 CTC shop

06 News

14 Events news

16 Your letters

32 Holiday guide

46 Health

48 Cycling answers

52 Gear reviews

68 What's on

69 Prize draw

70 CTC small ads

78 CTC member benefits

80 CTC contacts

82 Travellers' tales

83 CTC Cycling Holidays

58



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Contact CTC Membership Department. Details on p80

SAVE UP TO £8 + FREE P&P
see page 26

THE CTC GUIDE TO FAMILY CYCLING



CTC's new book is aimed at two groups of people: keen cyclists who have, or are about to have, families; and families who have, or are about to buy, bicycles. The only book of its type, it's available now for just £9.99 – post free. Inside its 196 full-colour pages you'll find everything you need to know about cycling with children, from birth until they're bigger than you. Written by Cycle's editor, Dan Joyce, it includes: What to look for when you buy a bike for yourself or your child • Buyer's guide to child-seats, trailers, trailer-cycles and tandems • How to teach your child to ride • Skills for riding on road and off • The best places to cycle.

To order your copy, turn to page 40. Buy one for yourself and a second for a friend and you'll save £2 – two copies cost £17.98. Three books are £25.97 and four £31.96, saving £8.

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CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX
Tel: 0870 873 0060 Fax: 0870 873 0064
Email: cycling@ctc.org.uk
Website: www.ctc.org.uk

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President: Jon Snow

CTC Council Chair: David Robinson
Director: Kevin Mayne
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Editor: Dan Joyce
email: editor@ctc.org.uk
Designers: Will Slater, Gemma Hancock & Gary Milne
Advertising: Robert Forsky tel: 0207 306 0300 x127
email: ctc@mongoosemedia.com
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Cover photo & above: CTC staff in the new CTC kit on sportive bikes in Surrey lanes, by Chris Juden