

Bike safety classes running flat

MacGregor "Goya" Eddy, For The Salinas Californian 11:36 a.m. PDT September 23, 2016



(Photo: Provided)

It's sad. The bike safety and skills classes offered free to the public have gone nearly unattended. Most of the BikeSAFE classes in the spring were cancelled because no one signed up for them. The fall class held Sept. 10 had only three people sign up. BikeSAFE classes for adults are provided by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County..

Completing the class is the first step toward becoming an American Bicycle League certified instructor. And we need more instructors.

Last chance: A BikeSAFE class is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Hartnell College in Salinas. The four-hour workshop is a prerequisite for the League Certified Instructor course. To register, go online to bit.ly/BikeSAFE (<http://bit.ly/BikeSAFE>), Information: contact Virginia Murillo at virginia@tamcmonterey.org or 831-775-0903..

As for children, TAMC has sponsored bicycle safety programs, known as bike rodeos, at elementary schools since 2012. These programs are taught by instructors certified by the League of American Bicyclists. Because there are too few of these instructors in our county, TAMC has paid thousands of dollars over the past three years to a Santa Cruz group, Ecology Action, to put on the bike rodeos. The committee would rather spend the money within our county.

At its Aug. 5, 2015 meeting, the committee resolved to explore local alternatives to Ecology Action to teach the bike rodeos. The motion was made by Tim Meehan of Monterey and passed unanimously.

"The bike rodeos reach more than just the children," said Meehan. "The safety tips reach the whole family.

By offering the BikeSAFE program, the committee hoped to build a core of qualified bicycle safety advocates who could, if they wished, then enroll in the instructors training workshop. Those instructors would then be available for local programs, such as the bike rodeos. "The response from the public has been unfortunate", said Eric Petersen, chairman of the TAMC committee. "It could have been a real benefit."

Only people who have completed the four- hour class can apply for the instructor training. The committee remains hopeful that they still can build a pool of local instructors.

To that end, a League Certified Instructor training will be offered Oct. 21-23 at Cal State University, Monterey Bay. The training costs \$300. Usually it only is available in metropolitan areas. TAMC has arranged financial support for applicants. Information: Call 831- 775-0903.



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Hage still sees Salinas as a tourist destination by rail

(<http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/local/2016/09/08/hage-still-see-salinas-tourist-destination-rail/90095514/>)

Board meets: The TAMC Board of Directors meets from 9 to noon Wed., Sept. 28. See the agenda online at www.tamcmonterey.org (<http://www.tamcmonterey.org>) .

Downtown dreams: How to attract more visitors to downtown Salinas in the focus of a meeting Wednesday. The Salinas Downtown Vibrancy Streetscape will be discussed at the CSUMB Salinas City Center. Information: call James Serrano at 758-7195 or email james@ci.salinas.ca.us

Walk to School: Any school in the nation that participates in Walk to School Day on Oct. 5 is eligible to win a \$500 award. There are schools where many students are already walking to school. You might want to sign up at fireupyourfeet.org (<http://fireupyourfeet.org>).

Follow MacGregor "Goya" Eddy on Twitter at @Goya1949. Contact her by email at wecouldcarless@gmail.com or mail to: We Could Car Less, in care of The Salinas Californian, 123 W. Alisal St., Salinas 93901.

Read or Share this story: <http://bit.ly/2dnHllj>

