

BBBC History: “The Divas”

by Jill Augustine

In the beginning our club was divided into 3 groups, the A, B, and Cs. The Cs were for those who though eager to ride were the slow riders. Our pace was topped at 10 mph and we rode inside BB on the bike paths, or on sidewalks when outside our community. The Saturday rides were weekly events where we built not only our speed and expertise but made lots of friends. Joan Catania became one of my dear friends. Unfortunately after about a year Joan was diagnosed with breast cancer. When chemo treatments slowed her down she reluctantly decided to abandon biking altogether. However, isolation from friends during illness isn't a good option so I decided to ride with her on Wednesdays at a slower pace and invited any of the C riders who cared to join us. Not long afterwards Joan retired her “2 wheeler for a 3 wheeler” and continued riding as long as she could. Joan died in Oct. 25 2005. Our Wednesday continued to grow and our group became the Ds for DIVAS. Many of our current biking members first started in our Diva group. Just to name a few: Monika Barthel, Sue Bowers, Anita Corbin, Judy Hunter, and Yvette Weir.

Other news bits: We can credit Dan Corbin for starting the rush for women's road bikes. One year for Christmas he gave Anita a road bike and whallah!, we got rid of our hybrid bikes and could greatly extend our distance and speed. Riding with the boys followed. “It is all about the bike!” Well, maybe not all but it sure helps.