

Bill Reyelt's wedding

CAMBRIDGE – MassBike Board member **Bill Reyelt** recently got married – and married in style. Bill and his lovely bride **Olivia** sped off into the sunset on a **bicycle-propelled couch**. The ride went off extremely smoothly, due to the professionalism and skill of the chauffeur Lucas Brunelle and the escort service that helped navigate through Cambridge city traffic.



“When my dearly beloved and I arrived,” Bill later mused, “the couch was waiting in front of the church, and the air was heavy with anticipation.”

The newlyweds emerged from their nuptials just before 7 p.m., to find their 7-wheeled chariot, a comfy, slightly overstuffed, full-sized sofa supported on a large wooden base suspended on either end by a bicycle attached somehow to the base. There was a white down comforter to snuggle up under, champagne, and a boom box with Frank Sinatra tunes. Festive lights, including blinking reflectors in the shape of a heart, and flowers adorned the sofa.

The registered vehicle (license plate and all) was towed by a chauffeur (decked out in a grey chauffeur uniform complete with cap, boutonniere and ankle cuff) on a 10-speed bike hitched to sofa via two 8-foot steel rods. The couple's bike-couch coach was accompanied by six MassBikers on bikes – as the procession rolled down Mass Ave., through Harvard Square, amid many cheers and applause from strangers out on a typical Saturday night.

One of the bicyclists commented that the bride reminded her of Princess Diana, waving to her fans from her carriage when she was married.

It went really well, even when we backed up traffic between Harvard and Central Squares for almost the whole way.

Cars were beeping in friendly congratulations, and it was just really cool going over the Mass Ave. bridge, seeing Boston all lit up as if to welcome the newlyweds.

The highlight of this event was the connection of the couple with so many strangers – the intimacy with people on the street. The strangers were able to offer their congratulations – while the wedding entourage provided these Saturday night revelers a spectacle that I'm sure must have made them glad they were out in Boston that night.

We had an absolute blast, we were smiling and laughing and woo-wooing the entire ride. Congratulations and a big salute to Bill and Olivia for doing it up right!

– Elaine Palmer

Sen. Birmingham's "Tour de Mass"

It's a little known fact that State Senate President **Tom Birmingham** has been biking to and from work at the State House as much as possible, when weather and scheduling permit, during the 10 years he has served in the Massachusetts Senate. This summer he embarked on a longer and more varied bike trip that took him across the Commonwealth.

On August 21–30, Senate President Tom Birmingham rode his bicycle across Massa-



On the "Tour de Mass" — Massachusetts State Senate President **Tom Birmingham** (center) is joined by MassBikers **Steve Winslow** and **Carl King** on Birmingham's statewide bicycle tour this summer.

chusetts from Great Barrington to Sandwich. A good time was had by all, and Senator Birmingham contracted with MassBike to provide logistical support. We developed cue sheets and maps, arrowed the route, secured mechanical support, and provided “sweep riding” services and peace of mind.

It should be noted that MassBike is non-partisan, and supports bicycling for the sake of bicycling. Heck, let's get all politicians out on bikes!

Many many thanks to all the MassBikers who helped make the Tour de Mass a success. A special grazie mille goes to Tom “cyclist extraordinaire” Revay, Andy “Mr. Bikemap” Rubel, Drew Spring of Arcadian Bike Shop, Jerry Slack and Anthony Laskaris from Cycle Loft for mechanical support, Larry “I can arrow that” Slotnick, and the MassBike sweep rider contingent – Greg Root, Steve Winslow, Carl King, John Allen, Owen McGonagle, Frank Porter, and Billy Ray Reyelt.

In addition, bicycling was much talked about and thought about during and after the ride. This included both on-road issues, such as the *Bicyclists Bill of Rights and Responsibilities* (H. 2101) and off-road issues such as rail-trails. In fact, soon after the end of the tour, Senator Birmingham announced that the State Senate fought for additional funding for rail-trails. The State Senate included \$2 million for bike-path construction in its FY01 Capital Supplemental Budget proposal in June of this year. The House did not include that money in their proposal. In conference committee, Sen. Birmingham reported that not only did the Senate prevail on the matter of the \$2 million, but also

included an earmark of \$500,000 for improvements to the Cape Cod Rail-Trail. The Senate passed the final deficiency, and it was signed into law by the Governor Swift.

► See Tom Birmingham's letter to MassBike on the next page.