



Dear fellow rider-

The Verde Valley is a beautiful place. From the top of Mingus Mountain to the Red Rocks of Sedona, and so many places in between, it's a great place to be, a great place to live. When I came here with my wife in the mid-Nineties, one of my first thoughts was, **"What a great place to ride!"**

And for the most part, it *is* a great place to ride.... except.... well sometimes the streets don't seem that friendly to bikes. Occasionally, out on the trail, I'll get a less-than-friendly reception from a fellow trail user. Sometimes ADOT or the county puts in a new road without any decent shoulders, or I'll get a hard time from a motorist. Sometimes the Forest Service takes out one of my favorite trails. And the reasons for these things aren't always clear.

But one thing *is* clear. I learned as a kid, and later as a volunteer for the International Mountain Bike Association and the Forest Service, that when folks band together they can get things done!

So, two years ago, bicyclists banded together here in our beautiful Valley to make things better for everyone who rides (and even for some who don't!). So far, it's been working.



One of the reasons it works is because all kinds of cyclists have seen the power of our alliance, and the kinds of results we can achieve. Some of our members are brand-new bicyclists who stick to the pavement.... others are hardened mountain bikers who can wheelie-drop with ease - but one thing they've all seen is the power of our collective voices! And those who make policy are hearing and seeing it too!

If you want to see the Verde Valley become a better place for bicycling, I'm asking you to join the Verde Valley Cyclists today, or, if you're already a member, please renew at the Individual, Family, or Advocate level. I'll be straight with you - we need the funds - but more than that, we need your ***support.***

🚲 We're working for a place where kids can ride their bikes to school safely, without leaving a worried parent behind.

🚲 We're working for a place where mountain bikers are welcomed as a vital part of the trails community, whether they're first-timers or pros.

🚲 We're working for a place where anyone can get around by bicycle, and not feel threatened by traffic.

🚲 We're working for a place where public planners include alternatives to driving, particularly bicycling, in all public planning, especially in these times of rising gas prices and declining general health.

🚲 We're working for a place where you can get on your bike to ride and just happen to see a few of your friends riding by in the process! Or maybe even be able to go on organized rides with them if you'd like.

If this sounds like a pretty good place to you, then I'd like to ask again - won't you please join us? Take a look at the enclosed "Over a Year Of Accomplishments" - we achieved all of this on a shoestring budget with only a few volunteers. Imagine what we can do with your support! You can also join by visiting our website at www.vvcc.us and going to the "Join" page.

Sincerely,

Randy Victory, President

Verde Valley Cyclists

a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization

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