

Fatter tires faster than skinny and pumped

By Blair Anthony Robertson, Sacramento Bee

If you're one of the 50,000 spectators expected to turn out for the Amgen Tour of California's Sacramento stage on Sunday, you'll notice that pro road racing amounts to very lean athletes riding bikes with very skinny tires.

But those tires are not as skinny as they used to be.

It turns out that fatter is faster.

While that may seem counterintuitive, a tire that's slightly wider than the industry standard of 23 millimeters experiences less rolling resistance. Tests have proved it and pros, who make their living by being efficient and going fast, have inspired a trend in recent years that's just now trickling down to amateur cycling enthusiasts.

Brothel lobbyist put friendly face on often-reviled industry

By John M. Glionna, Los Angeles Times

For half a century, George Flint has toiled on behalf of legal brothels in Nevada

Nevada lawmakers declare 'George Flint Day' to celebrate the work of the brothel lobbyist

Most lawmakers in this state capital simply call him "Georgie," a soft-spoken old opinion-swayer with a cane who revels in his political incorrectness.

For half a century, George Flint held court in the hallways of the Legislature here, most lately in the first-floor coffee shop, at the round table nearest the elevators, so he didn't have to walk too far on his gimpy left leg and two replaced hips.

Flint is Carson City's oldest working political advocate, toiling on behalf of the world's oldest profession – the lone brothel lobbyist in the only state to sanction legal prostitution.

Even at 81, he had intended to keep working, but a heart attack hit him last month. So now he's calling it quits to a career of using a folksy, lean-over-the-fence style to advocate the legal pleasures of the flesh.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- South Lake Tahoe is looking for participants for the Sept. 19 50th anniversary parade. The theme is Past, Present and Future. Applications are due Sept. 1.

- Commons Beach in Tahoe City received 80 cubic yards of sand

last week.

- Thomas Cook Airlines won't be flying nonstop between London and Reno. The airline cited staffing at Customs in Reno being the reason.
 - The Community College League of California honored Lake Tahoe Community College Trustee Fritz Wenck. He was the only trustee to be recognized for four decades of service.
 - Here are the roadwork schedules from Caltrans for this week for El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra.
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Then and now: Short life for South Shore tracks



The narrow-gauge track in South Lake Tahoe didn't last long. Photo/Rick Brower collection

TTC&P – the Tahoe, Trout Creek & Pacific Railroad – was a narrow-gauge endeavor in South Lake Tahoe, existing only from 1970 to 1971.



The tracks lasted one year.
Photo/Rick Brower
collection

Its short-lived route traversed the Trout Creek meadow from the corner next to where now stands U.S. Bank and then went toward the South Tahoe Public Utility District treatment plant.



The tracks would not be allowed today
for environmental reasons. Photo/Rick
Brower collection

The Baldwin Locomotive Works steam engine came from a Hawaiian sugar cane plantation.



Workers install the track
for TTC&P in 1970.
Photo/Lake Tahoe Historical
Society

The rails were mounted either on regular railroad ties or on stock lumber as seen above. Here is a link to the fascinating pictorial history as posted by then-owner Bob Keller.

– *Bill Kingman*

Animals in drought-stricken West dying for water

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post

For the giant kangaroo rat, death by nature is normally swift and dramatic: a hopeless dash for safety followed by a blood-curdling squeak as their bellies are torn open by eagles, foxes, bobcats and owls.

They're not supposed to die the way they are today – emaciated and starved, their once abundant population dwindling to near nothing on California's sprawling Carrizo Plain, about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles, where the drought is turning

hundreds of thousands of acres of grassland into desert.

Without grass, long-legged kangaroo rats cannot eat. And as they go, so go a variety of threatened animals that depend on the keystone species to live. "That whole ecosystem changes without the giant kangaroo rat," said Justin Brashares, an associate professor of wildlife ecology and conservation at UC Berkeley.

Endangered kangaroo rats are just one falling tile in the drought's domino effect on wildlife in the lower Western states. Large fish kills are happening in several states as waters heated by higher temperatures drain and lose oxygen. In Northern California, salmon eggs have virtually disappeared as water levels fall. Thousands of migrating birds are crowding into wetlands shrunk by drought, risking the spread of disease that can cause huge die-offs.

As the baking Western landscape becomes hotter and drier, land animals are being forced to seek water and food far outside their normal range. Herbivores such as deer and rabbits searching for a meal in urban gardens in Reno are sometimes pursued by hawks, bobcats and mountain lions. In Arizona, rattlesnakes have come to Flagstaff, joining bears and other animals in search of food that no longer exists in their habitat.

"You think about it. In our urban environments, we have artificial water. We're not relying on creeks," said David Catalano, a supervisory biologist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife.



A Tahoe coyote. Photo/LTN file

Letter: A successful Mom's Morning Out

To the community,

The Barton Health public relations department enjoyed hosting the fourth annual Mom's Morning Out on May 2. Thank you to all the women who attended and to our business vendors and Zen room specialists for making the event a success.

The Studio Lake Tahoe and Jazzercise kicked off the event with free morning exercise classes. Attendees then signed up for a complimentary pampering session. A special thank you to the pampering businesses who spent the morning in the Zen room providing complimentary services to the women who attended: Bliss Skincare and Salon, Naccarato Chiropractic, One World Healing Massage, Supported by Angels, Tahoe Health Touch, Tahoe Massage Company, and Transformations Hypnotherapy.

Other businesses that attended with informative and inspiration booths for women were: Arbonne International, BeautiControl, Cloud Nine Childbirth Services, CONNECT Community Education, doTERRA Essential Oils, Patricia Ferraro, Elevate Wellness Center, Elevated Fitness, Jamba Juice, Lake Tahoe Yoga, Mountain Meadow Chiropractic, South Lake Tahoe CDC, South Lake Tahoe Library, Tahoe Best Friends, Tot to Tot Clothing, Barton Women's Health, Barton Community Health Center, Barton Family Birthing Center, Barton Nutrition, and Barton Rehabilitation.

A special kudos to our partners, Lake Tahoe Community College, *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, and Barton Women's Health, for sponsoring the event. Thank you also to the auxiliary members for volunteering their time and service to help the event run smoothly. We appreciate the local participation and look forward to seeing you at Mom's Morning Out in 2016.

Sue McLaughlin and Leanne Wagoner, Barton Health public relations

South Shore tennis club to kick off season

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club kicks off its season May 23 at noon with the second annual Viva La Tennis mixer.

The doubles tennis event is for current, new and perspective players of all levels. The kickoff party is free for 2015 club members, \$10 for others. It includes a barbecue and lots of tennis.

Membership is \$80 per year. Anyone paying membership dues that

day will have the event fee waived.

Participants are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert, as well as beverage of choice that does not come in a glass container.

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation, the nonprofit formed last year to operate the six courts at Zephyr Cove Park, is sponsoring the event. For those who cannot make the event, membership information is available online.

For more information, email zctennisclub@gmail.com.

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club is on Warrior Way off Highway 50 in Zephyr Cove.

Talk to focus on high blood pressure

High blood pressure is the topic of Barton Health's June 4 lecture.

Steve Brooks with Barton Family Practice will talk about preventing high blood pressure and understanding the scope of the problem, causes of high blood pressure, and treatment options.

The free talk is from 6-7pm in the board room at Lake Tahoe Community College.

Enthusiasm surrounds pro cycling in Tahoe

By Susan Wood

With cowbells clanking and a Kentucky-Derbyish announcer yelling in the background, history was made Saturday in South Lake Tahoe with the Women's Amgen Tour of California wrapping up its second day.

Leah Kirchmann of Canada, riding for Optum Pro Cycling, won the stage of the largest and first tour in the United States – inspiring hundreds of little girls and cycling enthusiasts in her path. Coming in second was U.S. rider Lauren Komanski, who also holds the distinction of being the yellow jersey winner for overall best time after two days. Trixi Worrack of Germany placed third.

They race in Sacramento on Sunday.

Front and center of the commotion at the finish line on May 9 was Joanna Lilly, a recreational rider who brought her two daughters, Alice, 7, and Zella, 5, to watch the spectacle.

"I encourage them to do every sport we have to offer. They ride. They ski. They play soccer," Lilly told *Lake Tahoe News*. The enthusiasm was marked by spectators banging on the barricades.

It was a day of encouragement all around. It was also a day to propel women's cycling a step closer to being on an even playing field with the men and a day to place Lake Tahoe on the proverbial publicity map.



South Lake Tahoe resident Tina Hughes, from left, Amanda Siegel of Sacramento and Stephen Katana – fiancé of Stage 1 winner Katie Hall – on Apache Drive in Meyers on May 9. Photo/Trish McGraw

The South Shore loop was marked by a blink-and-you-miss-it blur of 70 riders who whizzed by for two laps between Heavenly Mountain Resort's California Base Lodge, down Pioneer Trail to Meyers and back.

About a dozen people had gathered on Highway 50 in the heart of Meyers with many others up Apache Road to see the riders snake through town.

Kyle Anton of Meyers brought his two young daughters on a walk to perch themselves on a rock near Steve's Transmission.

"It's important for them to see women athletes to give them encouragement and to show them they can do whatever they want to do," he said.

When asked if Dylan, 6, had ever seen a professional, competitive race like this, she blurted out: "On TV."



A day earlier snow covered the slopes at Heavenly Mountain Resort.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

Dickson Brown of Stateline, who makes a point of catching the Tour de France on television, was not going to miss the up-close-and-personal view of a large-scale cycling event in his backyard.

"To have something like this, people should come out to support it. A lot of people thought: 'Oh, this is only the girls,' but women's sports need to be supported as much as men's sports because they don't get the money or the limelight the men do. They're dedicated and give up a lot of their time," he preached.

Brown was so eager to see the race he parked along the route early, an hour before the ride started at 10:30am and waited for friends. They were headed up Apache to get a view of the women climbing.

"You can get a good idea of who's riding well and who's not riding well," he said based on the riders' ascent.

Graeme Holdsworth wanted to get a clear view of how his friend, rider Jo Hogan, was doing by preparing to also ride his bike up Apache.

“It’s a good route. It’s picturesque, but since it’s snow country, the road surface is in not that good of shape,” said the Australian. He rode the route earlier this week.

When asked if he could keep up with his professional rider friend, he declared a resounding: “No.”

Across the highway, John Hoefer felt right at home with his lone lawn chair – living the nostalgia of days gone by trying to keep up with his boys.

“My sons were all bike racers,” he said.



Teams line up for the second stage that had riders race a loop on the South Shore. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Over at Ski Run Boulevard leading up to the end of the first lap, Wendy Mains of Roseville expected a larger crowd. She showed up at Pioneer Trail and Ski Run with her Sacramento-area friends.

“I had no idea this was going on (before we got to Tahoe).

This is great. We walked everywhere expecting to see more people," she said.

Her friend, Dana Eagen of Loomis, agreed, wondering if it's just a late-bloomer thing for Americans to appreciate a sport that is so big overseas.

"This is typical of Americans trying to learn a European sport. It's like trying to teach football to a Spaniard," he said. "This sport is all about Europe."

That trend is something the Women's Cycling Association would like to do something about.

"History is being made, and we're making a powerful statement – that women belong in big time stage racing. When you look at this, it's a huge step in the right direction. There's still work to be done, but we're encouraged Amgen stepped up to the plate and expanded the women's race," Jill Gass, a coach from Revolution Coaching, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

She was especially enthusiastic about a slim margin between the leaders.

"I thought the finish would be more spread out. The women's race should be super exciting (by the end of Sunday)," she said.



The peloton at Portal Drive and Highway 89. Photo/Kim Wyatt

Gass was joined by Inga Thompson, a three-time Olympic women's cyclist, Tour de France winner and 10-time U.S. national

champion. Thompson expected more advancement from the sport in the last few decades, but she's happy with any progress. She retired from racing in 1993.

"Women's racing has gone downhill through the years, so it's big to see Amgen bring back the three-day race. We're rebuilding from 30 years ago. I applaud it," Thompson told

Riders a bit younger were at least encouraged to see people.

"This is one of the best supported races I've ever been in," Alison Tetrick of Petaluma said, while resting after the race with her winning teammates. Optum had just won the stage for Day 2.

"The crowd was large and boisterous," she said.

Perhaps support is relative.

"I feel like not many people knew about it," Sacramento rider Amanda Seigle said after the race. Her friend and fellow rider, Tina Hughes, shared how a few of her South Lake Tahoe friends and neighbors didn't know the race was going on.

The duo would like to see the women's race staged in conjunction with the men to ensure a larger turnout.

"But this was a nice boost to women's racing," said Seigle, who rides for Jakroo Racing.

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Nev. bill to repeal winery

restrictions gains support

By Associated Press

Established wineries and ones that want to expand to Nevada have reached an agreement on repealing the state's partial winery ban.

Witnesses who testified on opposite sides of AB4 earlier in the session lined up in support of the bill Wednesday in a Senate Commerce and Labor Committee hearing.

The bill would repeal a state law prohibiting wineries in Clark and Washoe counties from importing wine from other states or serving alcoholic beverages on their premises.

A winery in Pahrump initially opposed the bill, saying that changing the law too quickly could harm the state's four existing wineries just as they're gaining strength.

The amended bill aims to ensure a significant portion of wine sold at newcomer wineries is made from fruit grown in Nevada.