



Russell Gates/The Arizona Republic

Rob Callan (left) of Gilbert, and Ahwatukee Foothills residents Bob Starkton (center) and Terry Wayne ride along Pecos Road. Their newly formed Ahwatukee chapter of the Arizona Bicycle Club does 20- to 35-mile early Sunday morning rides in the area that are open to anyone and organizes other trips.

## Club pedals bike treks

### Foothills riders form group for two-wheeled fun

By Sarah Parkin  
Special for The Republic

Pecos Road in Ahwatukee Foothills is a busy place on Sundays, not with a crush of cars but with bicyclists out on early-morning rides.

The recently formed Ahwatukee Chapter of the Arizona Bicycle Club bikes 20 to 35 miles beginning at 7 a.m. every Sunday during the summer, moving up the usual 8 a.m. start time to accommodate the weather.

Terry Wayne, ride leader, began riding 10 years ago, with the goal of riding 50 miles on his 50th birthday. He succeeded, and now at 59, he plans to ride 60 miles on his birthday in October.

The rest of the year he leads other enthusiasts, arranging weekday rides and mountain bike rides whenever people want to go. The riders determine the distance.

"I'm always looking for riders," Wayne said. "As ride leader, I keep track of all the riders that show up. We have a map. We don't leave any stragglers."

The abilities and skill levels of riders vary. Wayne stays behind as the "sweep" or last person to make certain everyone completes the ride safely. "I'm game for doing a bike ride wherever people want to

#### FYI

**WHAT:** Arizona Bicycle Club, Ahwatukee Chapter.

**WHEN:** Every Sunday at 7 a.m.

**WHERE:** Southwestern corner of Chandler Boulevard and 40th Street, near the Taco Bell in Ahwatukee Foothills.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 645 in the Phoenix area, 20 in the newly formed Ahwatukee Foothills group.

**WHAT THEY DO:** Bicycle ride 20-35 miles.

**CONTACT:** Terry Wayne, (480) 706-8282.

go," he said.

Anyone showing up near the Taco Bell at 40th Street and Chandler Boulevard can go along.

Although the rides are organized through the Arizona Bicycle Club group, membership is not required—all riders are welcome. There is no charge for riding along. The rides last about 1½ hours and loop through the Ahwatukee Foothills area.

Bob Starkton and Rob Callan have been riding together for about a year and a half and regu-

larly ride Sunday mornings in Ahwatukee Foothills.

Callan, who lives in Gilbert, likes to ride in Ahwatukee "because it's not as flat as Gilbert." He says he likes the scenery and the hills. Starkton says they are looking for all the hills they can find.

Another regular rider and club member, Steve Bennett, said that "on Pecos Road you have very little traffic and you often see more bikers and Rollerbladers than cars.

Bennett also rides 10-12 miles every morning before going to work in sales at the Western Window and Door Company.

Members receive a monthly newsletter with information about area rides and a discount on rides that do have a fee. According to the club's newsletter, The ABC Chain Letter, "The purpose of the Arizona Bicycle Club shall be to provide for the support, education and promotion of safe bicycling in the State of Arizona."

The club has been integral to the development of the Phoenix Sonoran Bikeway, to be dedicated later this year, which will run from South Mountain to the new Sonoran Desert Preserve near Carefree Highway.

Helmets are required for the club rides.