

Pedal Safely

by

The Black Tie Bicyclist

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Trick your Wheels or Cycle Costume.

Think of the scariest bike thing you can !

For my wife it would be me heading out the door in what she calls my Bike Geek Costume as most people refer to it, cycling clothes.



or

Scarier still is having a bike accident that was preventable. There is no Trick to being Safe, in fact it's a Treat.

Sooner or later, and at this time of year it's sooner, someone is going to ask you what you are going to come as to a costume party. If you're really lucky you might have a bicycle event and you get to dress up your bicycle too !

There is one thing to remember when you attend to decorating your bicycle and yourself. Safety! It doesn't matter if you plan on going as Miss Gultch with Toto in your basket across Kansas, or a UFO zooming across Roswell New Mexico, you have to make sure you're safe. Make sure nothing can get caught in the spokes, nothing that could impede your vision or movement, You must be able to steer, brake, and remain upright.

Start with yourself, park your bicycle and still be able to walk into a bank on Halloween. You know the signs they put up in banks on that day. No face coverings permitted inside the bank. Keep your head free to turn right and left up and down so you can see where you are going as you pedal. If you are going to be out at night no dark sunglasses.

Some ideas you could use include going as American's most recent Great Cyclist Lance Armstrong, or American's First Great Cyclist, Major Taylor, a cowboy or an Indian, a bike messenger, winged victory, or Superman. Just remember to be a superman you have to have a short cape. a cape could get caught in the spokes. Lady Godiva, don't have to worry about anything getting caught except yourself with a vice charge. You could go as Thomas Stevens, Annie Londonderry. The Metal Cowboy or Napoleon Dynamite. (The first three are real people to admire, see websites below). Of course to be Joe Kurmaskie you have to be part crazy and have a triple seat bicycle with a tag-along-bike and a trailer.

Now your bike could be a normal bicycle. Or you could have it could be decorated up with lights and ribbons (make sure they don't interfere with the brakes, chain or gears, if

wrapped around the spokes) flags and bunting. Or you could turn it into a fiery steed, a dragon, a spaceship (aluminum foil works pretty good) or a rabbit. Just make sure you are able to turn the handle bars as normal, Always confirm nothing interferes with the chain, cranks pedals, wheels, brakes, etc. Many municipal laws require nothing to stick out more than 3 feet from the frame of the bike so keep that in mind. Make sure whatever you attach to your bike is really attached and won't come off while pedaling. You don't want your dragon's tail to end up in the spokes of the bike behind you. Might be wise to have extra duct tape along should you need an emergency fix.

If you'll be out at night not only is it important to have lots of lights on to be seen but you must have even brighter than normal headlights so you can avoid all the little ghosts, goblins and things that will go bump in the night.

Drinking and Pedaling don't mix any more than Drinking and Driving, and you can be arrested just the same. Stay sober and have real fun that you can remember.

And as at treat send me a photo of you and your bike one or both dressed up. I might even send you a treat, no tricks!

Help your friends have a safe Halloween or costume party by passing this on to them.

To make sure you don't become a ghost:

- Nothing blocking your vision or hearing
- Nothing making you unstable on the bike
- Nothing interfering with your steering
- Nothing interfering with your pedaling
- Nothing interfering with your braking
- Nothing falls off your bike
- Nothing that makes you too hard to see or be seen, especially at night.

And remember one thing,
if you wear a black tuxedo with a black bow tie, on a Novara Safari Adventure Touring Cycle – you could be mistaken for me. Now that's Really Scary, just ask my wife!!!

Pedal Safely!

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<http://www.majortaylorassociation.org/who.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Stevens_\(cyclist\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Stevens_(cyclist))

<http://www.annielondonderry.com/>

<http://www.metalcowboy.com/>