



So What's The Deal on Stretching? By Diane Holland

Should we stretch before we ride? After? What's a good warm up for cycling? How do we improve our flexibility? As we get older our muscles, ligaments & tendons gradually get shorter & tighter. Also, the more we ride, the shorter certain muscles become because of our constant positioning on the bike. Simply put, shortened or restricted muscles limit range of motion & thus power, which in turn, reduces our performance capacity. So to stay flexible, healthy, & powerful...what do we need to do?

The new evidence suggests that stretching right before exercise does not prevent overuse or acute injuries. So specific stretches held for a long time right before working out is "old school". The 'new' theory about warm ups is that we should replace the old approach with a much more dynamic, focused routine, specifically tailored to our chosen sport. The moves we use need to warm up our muscles specifically for the movements that will be required of them in the activity to follow. So for us, cyclists, the perfect warm up would be riding at a lower intensity (approx. 60%) than what will follow on that particular ride, while concentrating on a good technique. In this way, specific neuromuscular patterning will be switched on & specific, functional range of movement will be developed.

Stretching can restore loss of flexibility but the evidence shows that a <u>long-term stretching</u> <u>program</u> is what leads to a sustained increase in range of motion. Stretching does make muscles stronger. The best time to stretch is throughout the day. First thing is the morning, is not recommended, because our bodies are tight & not warmed up. Stretching immediately (5 min.) after a workout can be beneficial but we are cautioned not to overstretch muscles that may be tired/weak. Stretching can improve our cycling performance if the stretches are sport specific.

The following are the muscle groups cyclists should include: quadriceps, hamstrings, hip flexors, calves, lower back, chest, shoulders (especially if you use aero bars) & neck muscles. One 15-30 second stretch per muscle group is sufficient for most people, some may require longer stretches &/or more reps. Go by what feels right to your body. Chase the pain but don't catch it. Stretching should NOT be painful. A well-rounded yoga or Pilate's class during the off-season would be great for learning a variety of stretches. Just remember, it's not necessary to overstretch any joint for cyclists, so listen to your body. There are 4 stretches that can be performed while on the bike, coasting, that feel great & will wake up your tired, tight muscles, especially on long rides. These include: hamstrings, calves, low back and neck.

To summarize: warm up all your working muscles & get your cardiovascular system ready for what is to come, by riding at an easier pace for at least 15 minutes. Increase your range of motion & maintain flexibility, by performing a thorough stretching routine, which includes the above-mentioned muscle groups on a regular basis.

Here's to becoming more flexible and powerful in 2005!

Diana Holland Elite Level ACE Personal Trainer



at TRI-STATE ATHLETIC CLUB MARCH 12, 2005 2:00 P.M.

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St. Meinrad Time Trials

March 19th - Flat Time Trial (~18 mi.)

April 16th - Hilly Time Trial (~18 mi. Includes 4 climbs)

May 21st - Flat Time Trial (~18 mi.)

Parking is across the street from the St. Meinrad Arch Abbey near the baseball fields. Start time is 7:00 am with one minute interval starts and there is no fee. I'll see if I can't get Aaron to provide us with some directions. Although the dates have not been finalized, additional TTs will be set for June thru August.

Subject: National Bike Summit

Dear Indiana Bicycle Coalition members,

Please plan to join Indiana bicyclists in Washington DC and at the National Bike Summit, March 16-18, 2005.

It is very important for Indiana to be represented - there are two Indiana members of Congress who are on the transportation committee: Julia Carson (D-7th District) and Mike Sodrel (R-9th District). In addition, the Indiana Bicycle Coalition will be informing all members of the Indiana congressional delegation about the importance of providing the transportation choice of bicycling for Indiana residents.

Currently there are two Indiana Representatives on the Congressional Bike Caucus: Julia Carson (D-7th District) and Mark Souder (R-3rd district). The Indiana Bicycle Coalition will be asking all Indiana's US Congressional delegation to join the Congressional Bike Caucus to show their support of bicycling.

If you can't attend, please consider making a donation to the Indiana Bicycle Coalition to be used towards sending Indiana Bicycle Coalition and the Indiana delegation to the National Bike Summit in Washington DC.

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The League of American Bicyclists is pleased to announce that U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta will deliver the keynote address to the National Bike Summit® in Washington, DC on Wednesday, March 16. "As a key author of the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 when he served in Congress, Secretary Mineta has long supported efforts to improve transportation infrastructure for bicyclists and we are delighted he will address the Summit," said Andy Clarke, Executive Director of the League.

Please visit http://www.bikeleague.org/events/summit05.html today to register and for the latest information, including the preliminary schedule. League staff are working with state coordinators to schedule meetings with Members of Congress on TEA-21 Reauthorization, Complete Streets, and other issues. To ensure we can schedule a meeting for you with your Member of Congress, please register as soon as possible. Save on lodging too. Heavily discounted hotel rooms are available through the League's hotel room blocks, which start to expire on February 16.

Bikes Belong Coalition (http://www.bikesbelong.org) is providing major support for the National Bike Summit®. Other sponsors include: America Bikes (http://www.americabikes.org), the National Bicycle Dealers Association (http://www.nbda.com), the International Mountain Bicycling Association (http://www.imba.com), Interbike (http://www.interbike.com), the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (http://www.bicyclinginfo.org), Adventure Cycling Association (http://www.adventurecycling.org), and Tailwinds Adventure Tours (http://www.tailwinds-tours.com).

Evansville Bicycle Club Jersey Order Survey

It is time to think about ordering club jerseys. This will give the club the necessary information to make a decision about ordering if there are enough members who want them and what sizes. We need to order a minimum of 50 jerseys (not including sleeveless) to place an order. I do not have a current price and these are only estimates. Please complete this form return it to the following address:

Darlene Wefel 704 Cypress Street Newburgh, IN 47630

Short Sleeved			
Jersey Size	Quantity	Cost	Total
SX	guantity		10.0.1
S			
M			
L		56.50	
XL	9	56.50	
XXL	9	56.50	
XXXL	9	65.50	
XXXXL		65.50	
		Subtotal	
Sleeveless			
Jersey			
Size	Quantity	Cost	Total
SX	9	56.50	
S	9	56.50	
M	9	56.50	
L		56.50	
XL		56.50	
XXL		56.50	
XXXL	\$		
XXXXL	\$		
		Subtotal	
			TOTAL

Name:_____

EBC Bikewriter

EBC Mailing Address: PO BOX 15517 EVANSVILLE, IN 47716

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Submit all articles to Faye Carter, the Editor, by calling 270 821-2143 or e-mail chiapet@charter.net

The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

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