

Moldaw-JCC Bicycle Club Upgrade by Jon Claerbout

Recent years brought two big changes to our biking community:

1. Nearby (0.8 mile) is a beautiful new (Nov 2021) **pedestrian bridge over highway 101** putting bay-area nature almost within reach for walkers, easily so for bikers.
2. Battery-assisted bicycles have become widely available. About 40% of the showroom at nearby Mike's Bikes holds E-bikes. They add complexity and cost. They **eliminate concern with hills**. Among a **diversity of bikers, e-bikes equalize their strengths**.

A walker has a one-mile radius. Our biking club (mostly E-bikes) has a ten-mile radius. Landscape size scales with area of a circle, i.e. proportional to radius squared. So the **bikers have world area 100 times larger than the walkers**. May I show you [photos of our bikers' world?](#)

Most Moldaw residents and its management haven't biked for decades. They don't realize that bikes and trikes are legal and safe. Bikes are commonly used on sidewalks so can be as safe as pedestrians.



Recently I took a photo of a **92-year-old woman who rode her Trike** to the Palo Alto farmers' market. Her dog is in the rear basket. This motorless trike cost her about \$300. She has required no maintenance beyond keeping air in the tires.

Good quality E-Bikes run about \$3500. They have a range of about 60 miles and a top speed of 20mph. We commonly ride about 15mph. Battery assisted recumbent e-Trikes are coming available. The nearest showroom (near San Jose) allows anyone a brief (20 minutes) test ride. Wobbly elders (such as me) are contemplating such a trike, but I need something more like a half-day test run. **Our**

community needs a selection of bikes and trikes for test rides. Some of us bikers are happy to show and sometimes share our bikes. We **lack trikes** of any kind. A likely solution is **a monthly one-hour show-and-tell event at the JCC track**.

Our club has 4 Moldaw members and 3 JCC members. Typically, 4 are active each week and all 7 throughout the month. To grow, we should have a bicycle cage for secure parking, work table, tools, lighting, and electricity for charging batteries and running a tire pump.

Liability insurance: A Moldaw renters' policy covers me for \$100,000. My umbrella is \$1,000,000.

Capital Expense

I nominate a location for the biking club. It would be a **chain-linked lockable space** in the JCC-Moldaw parking level with lighting and electricity access. For example, the unused area behind recently installed automotive electric charging stations in the JCC area.

Initial Communal Trikes

We would solicit funding among our membership. I'm generous.

Club members might supply an initial cycle or two. **We now possess no trikes.** What trikes should we consider?

Think of trikes in three ranges: Prices are (cheap, mid-priced, expensive). Those prices map into typical cruising speeds (5 mph, 10 mph, and 15 mph) corresponding to prices of roughly (\$500, \$7,000, and \$13,000).

The mid range is fully satisfactory for trips to the bay and for much surrounding nature. It is also satisfactory for people to evaluate their need for a top-end e-Trike.

I'm quoting mid-range as trikes without battery or springs. You will need battery and want springs for joining our weekly group "big ride". That ride is 2+ hours often including graveled paths.

You can test ride several brands of trikes at LaidBack cycles in Campbell (near San Jose). The trouble is, **they consider a test ride to be under half an hour.** They do not rent for whole-day rides. If you are serious, you'd want to try in our neighborhood for a half a day or more.

I recommend our club pitch together for two shared trikes, one at the low level and one at the mid level. **We'd need to raise about \$8000** plus something for locks and tools.

Someday I'll purchase for myself a trike at the high end, but I'm not there yet because my \$3600 e-Bike is at the high level and is adequately sprung. Were I to replace my e-Bike today, I'd spend \$4400 for belt drive and continuous automatic transmission (Enviolo) in my same Dutch brand, Gazelle. Try it at Mike's! For a comparable high-end e-Trike, I'll need to fork over maybe \$4400 + \$10k.

To introduce you to pricing, and for simplicity, I'll choose the "Ice" brand. Here's a [price list for Ice trikes](#). Ice trikes also fold up and are said to fit in many hatch-back automobiles.

[I can get us one of these for about \\$400. \(3:07\)](#) Inspirational!

