



NEWS RELEASE

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East Tennessee Celebrates Bike Month in May

May is National Bike Month, and the Knoxville Regional Bicycle Program has a variety of events scheduled throughout to celebrate here in East Tennessee.

Bike Month kicks off on Sunday, May 1 with the Blessing of the Bikes at Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900 Kingston Pike, from 3-5 p.m. All are welcome to this non-denominational blessing of the bicyclists and their bicycles.

Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20. Stop by Market Square between 7:30-8:30 a.m. as you bike to work to grab a biscuit from Pete's and coffee donated by Trio Café. Prizes will be awarded at 8 a.m. to the best dressed bike commuters. If you want some company along your route to work, bike to work convoys will head to Market Square from the east, west, north and south leaving from designated locations.

The first I Bike KNX Festival will be held Sunday, May 22 from 2-5 p.m. in Tyson Park. Fun for all ages and all bicyclists, this event will include a Bicycle Bingo scavenger hunt, kids bike parade, pedal-powered smoothies, track stand contest, gear swap area, booths from area bike shops and bike clubs, and much more.

There are many bikes rides throughout the month, including beginner rides each Saturday, led by Mast General Store and leaving from Market Square at 9 a.m.

For those who have been thinking about biking to work or school, Bike Commuting 101 classes will be held at Mast General Store on May 9 at 6 p.m. and at

Cycology Bicycles in Maryville, on May 11 at 7 p.m. Also, bike shops in Knox and Blount counties will be holding basic bike repair classes throughout the month.

A complete listing of Bike Month rides, classes and events is available online at www.knoxtrans.org/bikemonth/index.htm.

Bike Month is the kick off for the Smart Trips 2011 Commuter Challenge, which runs May through July and encourages commuters to try alternatives to driving alone. More information on the commuter challenge, go to www.knoxsplat.com.

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