

## **“Parlez-Vous Bike?”**

What Cyclists Say and What They Mean

by **Scott Martin**

“This trail is a blast!” (*I hope you have good medical insurance*)

“I think I might have a flat tire.” (*Slow down, will ya?*)

“I definitely have a flat tire.” (*Help me change it*)

“I don't have a low enough gear.” (*I've gained 5 pounds*)

“I've decided to buy a lighter bike.” (*I've gained 10 pounds*)

“I'm taking up clog dancing.” (*I've gained 25 pounds*)

“I'm carbo loading.” (*Pass the ice cream*)

“I'm tapering.” (*I haven't ridden in 2 months*)

“The rebound was off, so I modified the damping. But then the elastomers were too dense, so I changed the oil and got rid of the stiction.” (*I have a new suspension fork and you don't!*)

“If you're a good bike handler, you don't need to wear a helmet.” (*I'm so stupid a brain injury wouldn't affect me*)

“Nobody needs a dual-suspension mountain bike.” (*I can't afford a dual-suspension mountain bike*)

“Dual suspension is the only way to go.” (*I just dropped 3 months' salary on a dual-suspension mountain bike*)

“She's a hammer.” (*She's faster than me*)

“He's a geek.” (*I'm faster than him*)

“I bonked.” (*All I took for a 4-hour ride was a half-empty bottle of month-old OJ and a moldy Twinkie*)

“If you don't crash, you're not going fast enough, dude!” (*I crash a lot*)

“I don't own a car.” (*I'm a better person than you*)

“Why doesn't somebody do something about all these potholes?” (*Why doesn't somebody else do something about all these potholes?*)

“I do all my own bike maintenance.” (*When I squeeze the front brake lever, the bike shifts gears*)

“Thanks for waiting.” (*Wipe that smug grin off your ugly face*)

"Hey, did you guys hear about those new 1.8 gram carbon-fiber quick-release skewers with titanium springs?" (*I am a very lonely person*)

"This section of trail looks doable." (*You first, sucker*)

"I want to ride my bike to work, but..." (*I don't want to ride my bike to work*)

"He's such a wheelsucker." (*I can't drop him*)

"She's always half-wheeling me." (*I can't keep up with her*)

"The town-line sprint is 100 yards beyond the next bend." (*The town-line sprint is 200 yards beyond the next bend*)

"Been riding much?" (*How fit are you ?*)

"Not much. You?" (*My anaerobic threshold is 250 and my resting pulse is 14*)

"Nah, I've been really busy." (*My body fat is 2%*)

"Well, let's take it easy today." (*Ready, set go!*)

"Hold on, there's something wrong with my bike." (*Let's stop so I can rest*)

"My tires suck!" (*This climb is killing me!*)

"Can you clear that drop-off?" (*I can, but I bet you can't*)

"It's getting dark." (*I wanna go home*)

"This bike is a piece of junk!" (*I can't ride worth anything*)

"I think I broke my arm." (*There's a little bruise on my arm and I don't want to ride anymore*)

"I'd jump that but I don't want to tweak my new rims." (*I'm too chicken to try*)

"This hill is easy." (*This trail's pretty tough but I'm gonna try and lose you on it*)

"That trail is boring." (*I know I can't make it*)

"Last one down is buying." (*I'll make you feel like a loser and get a free beer too!*)

"My bike was acting funny." (*Otherwise I would have whooped your butt!*)

"He's pretty good." (*I know I'm better than him*)

"He sucks!" (*He's better than me*)

"That thing's a piece of junk." (*I wish I had one...*)