

French Barge Trip and Sanibel Path Needs Highlighted at Bike Club

The pleasures of cruising the canals of the upper Loire region were described at the Sanibel Bike Club's monthly potluck on Feb. 12. Barge owner-operators George and Susane Kovalick presented a video and personal description of a trip on their 6-passenger luxury barge.

The Kovalicks, who winter in Naples, explained that along with the comforts and fine dining on board their barge Meanderer, trips include visits to chateaux and wineries as well as optional biking, golf, tennis or even a hot air balloon ride.

In addition, club President Tom Batcheller discussed Sanibel shared use path safety, particularly at intersections. He explained that issue's relationship to maintaining the island's coveted Silver Status recognition as a bike friendly community, awarded from the League of American Bicyclists. The League was concerned by the excess of painted "stop" markings on the path instead of fewer, but enforceable, physical stop signs limited to critical locations.

Batcheller singled out club member Tom Sharbaugh for his meticulous work identifying needed changes and presenting the club's findings to the city, and he commended the City Council's responsiveness to the club's suggestions for improvements.

Sanibel Bicycle Club is a friendly organization for cyclists of all abilities. More information, and an application for membership, is at the club's website, SanibelBicycleClub.org.



George and Susan Kovalick with a painting of lunch on board their barge. Painting by club member and former passenger Diane Olsson.