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RAISING FUNDS TO BRIGHTEN NIGHT CYCLISTS
Bike Newport Night 2013

(Newport, RI) Back by popular demand - Bike Newport will host the second annual Bike Newport Night on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 from 6-9pm at SpeakEasy, 250 Thames Street in Newport.

This year, all funds raised at Bike Newport Night will support a dedicated effort to provide safety equipment to Newport's night cycling workers. The "Night Bright" initiative teams Bike Newport volunteers with local organizations and employers to reach and teach bicycle commuters how to be safe and visible at night. The effort includes purchasing and distributing bicycle lights and bells, reflective tape, safety vests, helmets and road rules - stressing how to ride visibly, lawfully and predictably.

"Lighting up our night cyclists is a major priority. So many of our workers depend on bicycles for transportation. We want to support them in their commute and help them to be safe with equipment and information," explained Bike Newport's director, Bari George, "The answer is 'See and be seen.' And with the help of our bike shops, employers and volunteers, we can make big improvements."

Bike Newport Night will raise the money to distribute and install night safety gear free of charge to low-income bicycle-dependent workers. Additionally, area bike shops will showcase night equipment at the event and in their shops to encourage all cyclists to use appropriate gear for their night rides and support the "Night Bright" fund. Ten Speed Spokes, Newport Bicycle and Pedal Power are lending their support to secure the needed equipment and to encourage all cyclists to be well-lit and reflective for night cycling.

Chris Tompsett, a bicycle commuter and one of Bike Newport's cycling instructors, has advice for night riders, "Lights and reflectors are a necessary first step, but with the right gear, you can light up like a Christmas tree when a car approaches." Bike Newport plans to model the art of "lighting up" at Bike Newport Night and on the road. In fact, high fashion reflection, discovered at the 2013 National Bike Summit, will be on hand for those of discerning taste!

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Dozens of area businesses are supporting Bike Newport Night with raffle and silent auction items to help raise the needed funds for the night safety equipment inventory. The Grand Prize will be a Cannondale Quick 6, sized to fit the winner, donated by Newport Bicycle. Shop owner, Christina Erwin explains their enthusiasm for the Night Bright initiative, "As drivers and fellow cyclists, we are always concerned when we see people riding at night without lights or reflective clothing because we worry about their safety. This is a great way to help keep everyone safer and improve how we all share the road."

The ongoing Night Bright distribution plan depends on committed community partners and local employers. St. Joseph's Church is one of the partners standing by to get the program started. Father Ray Malm knows firsthand the importance of bike safety equipment: "As a bicyclist, I give this initiative my full support. The importance of having and using the proper safety equipment cannot be over stated. A few years ago I had a biking accident, if I did not have on a helmet I would not be writing this today. The helmet saved my life. I am happy to partner with Bike Newport as a cyclist and pastor of Saint Joseph's Parish, Newport."

Bike Newport Night will be a festive midwinter bicycle celebration with fabulous food provided by SpeakEasy and musical entertainment by the lively tunesmiths and song-stylists of Common Fence Point's "Anthony Road". Admission is \$10.

For more information about how to be involved, please contact Bike Newport: (401) 619-4900, info@bikenewportri.org

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