

Profiles of Bike-powered Families

Over the course of a year, *Boneshaker* interviewed families across the country to find out what it's like to raise kids by bike. The stories that came back were nothing short of incredible—and in a way, no different from any other family.

In Massachusetts, Vanessa Allen (suburbanbikemama.blogspot.com) rides her two kids to the farmer's market with a cargo tricycle she loves.

Sara Armstrong (fullhandsx3.blogspot.com) holds down the fort in Connecticut, with eight-year-old twins about to take the handlebars for themselves.

Meanwhile, in upstate New York, Larry Clarkberg (bikeforth.org) gets through the winter with some seriously innovative tinkering and invention.

In Oregon, Katie Proctor (civilizedconveyance.blogspot.com) looks back on the first year of her son's bike-powered life, growing up in a custom Yuba Mundo cargo bike.

And in Montana, David Pulsipher (kidsbikesdads.blogspot.com) and Co. put the family-friendly in human-powered transport, with a little help from a two-year-old on the harmonica.

Rain, sleet, snow, or heat, these families are out there pedaling mile after mile, and finding the rewards far outweigh the difficulties. Here's your inspiration for bringing up the next generation of the *Boneshaker* Army—by bike, what else?

Bike-Powered Families at a Glance

Links

LetsGoRideABike.com
Totcycle.com
CarFreeFamily.blogspot.com
TotallySmittenMama.blogspot.com
CarFreeCambridge.com
APathLessPedaled.com
Bikelthaca.org
BikePortland.org
CleverCycles.com
E-BikeKit.com
EBikes.ca

Gear

Bikes: Xtra townie, Xtracycle Radish, 1968 Rudge Roadster, Surly Big Dummy Xtracycle with Stokemonkey motor
Kids' Bikes: Jamis, Trek Mountain Cub
Helmets: Yakkay, Bern
Kids' Helmets: Bern, Nutcase, Giro
Cargo bikes: Sorte Jernhest, Yuba Mundo, Bakfiets
Trailers: Bob, Burley
Pumps: Topeak
Tires: Schwalbe Winter Marathon,
Racks: Nitto
Panniers: Ortlieb
Miscellaneous: Clarijs bags, Zero Per Gallon patch, ski goggles for winter riding

Wisdom

“Choose a low-volume, residential road over a busy road every day of the week. It will allow you to ride two/three abreast and change your positioning to talk to your child and make silly faces at each other.” -David Pulsipher

“I wish someone had told me that you can't expect to build something or buy something that's going to take your kid through his teenage years. You need to focus on the resale value and

plan on selling it. That's what I'm seeing a lot of bloggers discover right now, and it can be heartbreaking, when you've put all this work and energy and love into a bike, and then you outgrow it." -Katie Proctor

"Get a cargo trike. I wish I had been able to get one when my first born was an infant, instead of when she was five." -Vanessa Allen

"I just wish someone had told me that family biking was an option when we had twins. We knew of trailers, but other than that we had no idea how to ride twins around except if both of us had bikes with kid seats. We knew NONE of the growing options out there for one parent riding two or more kids. I always say—the only regret I have about our cargo bikes is that we didn't buy them years earlier." -Sara Armstrong

"Make sure your wife is on board with this." -Larry Clarkberg

Suburban Bike Mama
Vanessa Allen
Newton, Massachusetts

