



Review #158

By Adam T. Sunderland

With a need for amazement and a means for transportation with ease, the SunRay SX, manufactured by Sun Bicycles, came into my life at the perfect time. Situations mandated only a week for me to put the standard one-hundred miles on the bike, not to mention a couple early morning hours to write this article. I was intimidated by the time limitations, yet the second I mounted myself onto this recumbent hybrid, with its comfy ride and eye-catching design, I knew that putting these miles on this bike in the specified time period would not be a challenge, but simply a joy. Essentially, I had a week filled with a little bit of school, finishing up a grueling, but wonderful summer at Claremont Graduate University, and countless job interviews peppered throughout the Inland Empire, not to mention the assignment to let loose on the paved trails on this dazzling two wheeled recumbent from SUN Bicycles.

To begin with, the eye-catching styling of the SunRay deserves some attention. As a first car, I drove not by choice, but by economic necessity a 67' VW beetle. What I jumped into besides every Saturday with arms covered to the elbows with grease was a culture with that involved the standard honk from any other VW driver I encountered on the road. There was a certain respect for the commitment and love of the vehicle. With the SunRay SX, I received somewhat of the same following,



THE ALLURE OF SIMPLICITY

but from a two very distinct crowds. One of which is the increasing crowd of Chopper motorcycle enthusiasts out there, who upon seeing me, would lose their attention on the road and scream something along the lines of, expletive deleted, "You Rock!" The other crowd I seemed to receive a lot of attention from were the older Hispanics driving in the lowered classic cars. From them, it was merely a standard head-nod—a sign of respect, as I have learned from my work in inner-city schools. The draw by these two groups comes not from an affinity for recumbent bicycles, but most likely as a result of its styling.

Being a recumbent hybrid—a cross between an upright bicycle and a recumbent bicycle—it comes across as looking very similar to an actual chopper motorcycle. Secondly, with its extended frame, laid-back riding position and a frame construction similar to that of your typical beach cruiser, the look of the bike is strangely reminiscent of the "low-rider bicycles" that serve as a pleasant distraction at some of the bicycling conventions we attend.

The frame, as well as the fork and handlebars, is constructed from high tensile welded steel, which though it does not do much for the weight of the bike—a high 39 lbs.—makes for a sturdy and dependable frame, which is backed up by a lifetime warranty. Though the bike is distrib-

uted by J & B importers, the parent company of Sun Bicycles, the frame and bike are designed by EasyRacers, Inc. For those in-tune to the recumbent bike racing world, that name should sound familiar, for EasyRacers, Inc. is the same company which designed the recumbent used by Fast Freddy Markham to set the one-hour distance world-wide record of 53.43 miles in July of 2006.

It is no wonder then that the remainder of this bike is so meticulously designed down to the saddle with over two inches of cushion and adjustable lumbar-support pad which carries the same bragging rights in terms of its cushion. In addition, the bike carries

Shimano components all around that deliver 21 speeds, as well as aluminum rims, with the rear being a very familiar 26 inches and the front being 20 inches. Being 6'3", this size fit me very nicely, yet for my girlfriend who comes in at an intimidating 5'2", the size of the bike was a stretch. For this situation, Sun Bicycles offers a smaller, yet identical recumbent with a 20/16 setup. Both retail at an affordable \$439.99, which has my mind envisioning the two of us cruising down the coast on a set of these.

For those of you out there putting two and two together in your head right now, you are probably wondering about the quality of the bike, not to mention how EasyRacers, the designer of the bike used to set the record earlier mentioned, can sell a different

recumbent for so little. Well the key to addressing this point of attention is to mention first of all, that the

SunRay SX is not a bike you are going to set a world speed record on. No common person could do it on this bike, nor could Fast Freddy Markham do it. The bike is made of steel—its heavy—that has been established. Furthermore, the 21 speeds available to you do not set you up for optimal speeds on any downward gradient or even flat ground. Instead, the gear ratio on this bike is designed for the causal rider to tackle any reasonable

Continues next page

- **Distinctive Styling**
- **'Flat Foot' Riding Style Appeal**
- **Widely Available**
- **Has "standard bike" Feel/Recumbent Comfort**
- **Very Affordable**
- **Easily Adjusts To A Variety of Rider Sizes**
- **Great Bike For Knockin' Around Town**

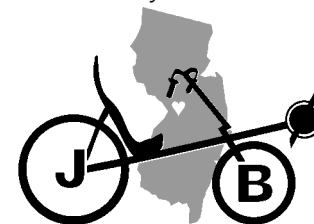
Cycle Genius Recumbents



Visit www.cyclegenius.com or Call (866) 901-BIKE
To Find Your Nearest Cycle Genius Dealer

The Largest Source of Recumbents in the Tri-State Area since 1999

is conveniently located in the Heart of New Jersey!



Economy Bicycle Shop

1637 R Hamilton
New Jer
31 George Dye Road
Hamilton Square
New Jersey 08690 (732) 74
609-586-0150

JERSEY "BENTS" LLC

www.jerseybents.com • Ph/Fax 609-259-1404
Bacchetta • RANS • Vision • Quetzal • Haluzak
All Bacchetta and RANS Models in Stock.

Jays Pedal Power

www.jayspedalpower.com

Featuring Cool Recumbents From
BikeE - Burley - Easy Racers -
GreenSpeed - Haluzak - Hot
Mover - Lightning - RANS also
Tandems by Ibis - KHS - Santana.
And Road Bikes Too!

512 E. Girard Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19125

Call Toll Free 888-777-JAYS

KNEESAVERS™ PEDAL EXTENDERS

RELIEVE PAIN!

If you are experiencing knee, hip, ankle or foot pain while cycling, you may be suffering from the condition known as "Q Factor Syndrome." This arises from riding with your feet too close together, which compromises optimal cycling biomechanics. Kneesavers are available in differing widths (20, 25 or 30 mm) and will work on any road, mountain or recumbent bicycle.

They come with a money-back guarantee that your cycling pain will be relieved.

BikeIce@aol.com www.bikescor.com
(800) 548-4447 SCOR Productions



Continues from page 11

incline with relative ease—a feat most recumbents are not designed for. Therein lies the reality of this bike...it is a simple bike designed for the casual rider or commuter.

Working on that point, the allure of this bike lies in its simplicity. The bike is designed with sim-

imum linear pull brakes, a foot-forward crank position, and Kenda Kwest tires that offer a smooth tread that increases speed and comfort on paved surfaces.

The bike, put simply then, is designed for the casual rider to tackle the road with ease, comfort,



licity in mind. Essentially, the designers at EasyRacers Inc., took a beach cruiser, modified it into somewhat of a recumbent hybrid, and added all of the little accessories that make this bike an ease to ride for any rider. The aforementioned gear ratio and saddle are pleasantly complemented by alu-

and confidence.

Moving then to my experience on the road with it, I can say that a ride on this bike is just as fun as the frame design is awe-inspiring. The bike performed quite nicely as I pedaled through the streets of Upland, California, on my first evening with the bike, enabling me

to tackle all level and inclined riding conditions with efficiency, yet comfort, which is where the danger of this bike comes most into view.

After one acquires the initial balance and familiarity necessary to ride this recumbent hybrid—an assignment which my experience showed me takes even the most novice of riders a whopping five minutes, the comfort and relaxed riding style of the bike takes over the rider.

Tackling streets or any ride where one must be cognizant of cars, people, or other bikes - which is just about everywhere in southern California - the only danger involved with the bike seems to be the prospect of becoming so comfortable and content that one's attention is not on the road.

I quickly learned of this imminent threat when I realized how easy it is to ride this bike and talk on the cell phone at the same time.

And I'm not talking about the blue-tooth setup, I am talking about actually holding the cell phone with one hand while steering with the other. Which I will now say is not a feat I would recommend trying, for when doing just this while riding on the street, the cell phone, bike, and I went for a short airborne flight after colliding with a car. Luckily, neither, I, the bike, or the car were hurt as a result of this little mishap, and when the irate driver jumped out of his car and

requested an explanation as to why I was riding a bike and talking on the cell phone at the same time, I replied with all that I could think of in my dumfounded state—

Performance XPR Stiletto

MSRP	\$439.00
Frame	Tig-Welded CroMoly
Fork	Sun CroMoly
Headset	Steel
Rims (f/r)	Single Wall Alloy
Hubs	36h Alloy
Spokes	14g Stainless Steel
Tires (f/r)	Kenda Kwest, (f)20x1.75 (47-406), (r)26 x1.50 (40-559) 40-60 psi
Deraileurs (f/r)	(f)Shimano Top Swing (r)Shimano 9sp
Shifters	SRAM MRX Plus
Chain	KMC Z9000
Cranks	Forged Aluminum 170mm
Crankset	48/38/28
Bottom Bracket	F2001SW
Bottom Bracket Height	13"
Cassette	SRAM 14-28, 7-speed
Pedals	VP-199 Alloy Platform
Seat Const.	Shaped bottom cushion, adjustable lumbar/backrest
Seat Height	30" min.
Handlebar	High-Riser CroMoly
Stem	Adjustable Quill Type
Brake Levers	Alloy
Brakes (f/r)	(f) Alloy Linear (r) Alloy Linear
Color	Metallic Red Powder Coat
Wheel Base	54"
Weight	42.02 lbs.
Weight Limit	275 lbs.

Contact:
Sun Bicycles
www.sunbicycles.com

A Convertible Bent

26x 20 Long Wheel Base (shown)
26x 26 (with optional 26: fork, or
26 x 20 Short Wheel Base

- Load side chain requires no guide for reduced friction
- Cushioned, Suspended seat has adjustable lumbar support
- This triangulated frame is of aircraft steel and represents thirty years of experience designing and building quality recumbent bicycles



- Relaxed, ergonomic Under Seat Steering
- Directly forward cranks = comfort & power
- Velocity Thraxian Wheels with sealed bearing hubs are standard
- 275-lb. Capacity

For Additional Information:
www.turnerrecumbents.com
Email - turnerbents@aol.com
Telephone (520) 290-5646

"Because I can on this bike and if you were able to realize that I was talking on the phone, why didn't you stop before making that right turn in front of me?"

As I tackled even more difficult road conditions throughout the remainder of the week, my experience on the SunRay hybrid was an utter joy. Rarely did I experience much difficulty or fatigue on 20+ mile trips, nor did I find any significant drawbacks with the construction of the bike. The only two arenas which really deserve attention in regards to negative aspects of this bike were its performance on sketchy streets or bike trails and its

performance on downward slopes. Riding through the streets of Rialto, California, where one would need the fingers on both hands to count the number of potholes for every quarter-mile covered, I was not feeling good when I hit one. I would usually clear a couple of inches off the saddle and no matter how hard I tightened the handlebars, they would move an inch or two with any significant jolt.

Moving on, the gear ratio does not allow for as much leverage as I would prefer on a downward gradient, yet keep in mind that this statement is coming from someone who cannot go for more than three



months driving a car without accumulating some sort of ridiculous speeding ticket. All in all, the joyful an efficient ride that this simple hybrid recumbent offers far outweighs any negative aspects of the bike.

I will close by saying that the simplicity and joy the bike offers makes it an attractive ride for most enthusiasts. Throughout my time with the bike, I encountered many opportunities to allow friends to hop on for a ride. Most of these ended with me relieved that they were not lying injured in the street

somewhere - not as a result of any prediction that a person would experience much trouble riding this recumbent hybrid, but because people would round a corner on it and then disappear for much longer than I had anticipated. Simply put, the simplicity and joy that the bike offers makes it an addictive ride, with most who become familiar with it wanting to spend more time than available on it. And who could blame them, it is a wonderfully rider-friendly bike for riders of all abilities.

www.Draftmaster.com (800) 659-5569



A NEW
DIVISION
OF ATOC

Receiver hitch
singles
tandems
trikes
recumbents



www.Atoc.com



(800) ATOC-021 www.TopperRacks.com

TOPPER RACKS



One-person loading!

Roof top
singles
tandems
recumbents

Pivoting & non-pivoting
styles