

# Invention of the Safety Sport Mirror by Dave Chaney

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## INVENTORS



### Mirror, mirror on the hat

For those who want to know who's gaining on them, David Chaney (left) and David Wendl have come up with a mirror that can be attached to glasses, helmets, hats or cap brims.

Chaney, a 60-year-old Chardon, Ohio, advertising man, got the idea five years ago when a truck hit his bicycle from the rear. "I spent 17 days in the hospital and walked on crutches for six months with six screws holding my hip together," says Chaney, who cycles some 5,000 miles a year as therapy for a heart condition.

He and Wendl, 30, a manufacturer of rubber and plastic molds in nearby Newbury, spent two years designing the \$4.95 mirror. They were granted a patent a few weeks ago. "We're no Ho ratio Alger story," says Chaney. "The tooling cost a lot of money. Our biggest client is Schwinn bikes. They've ordered thousands."

Chaney has two grown sons and has been married for 33 years to a high school phys ed teacher. Wendl, a non-cyclist, is also married and has five children.

Chaney notes that the mirror also could be used by skiers, runners and jockeys. "And one teacher wrote," he recalls, "saying it would be great for catching kids throwing spitballs." □

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Chaney at age 15 and today with his cherished custom Mondia

## A BIKE WITH A STORY

Member looks to sell his last bike

Adventure Cycling member Dave R. Chaney, formerly of Ohio and now of Peachtree City, Georgia, has been a cyclist for more than 75 of his 85 years. Chaney began spinning his wheels at age 8, then a couple of years later landed a job as a drug-store delivery boy in Kansas City, Missouri. The combination of buses, trucks, cars, and street cars on the narrow streets in those days created utter chaos.

"It was every man for himself," Chaney said. "In the seven years of this I had two bicycles stolen and six accidents."

Chaney cycled only occasionally during his years in the Air Force and while raising a family. In 1960, his past caught up with him — 32 years of smoking, that is, along with a leaky heart valve and angina resulting from a childhood bout of scarlet fever. After suffering severe chest pains,

he was handed the unsettling news that a cardiogram could kill him.

Chaney quit smoking cold-turkey and started riding a stationary bike for exercise. That led to his and wife Annabelle's purchase of their first 10-speeds, which in turn led to century rides and participation in TOSRVs. In 1982 he underwent heart-bypass surgery. Doctors told him he wouldn't have made it that far if he hadn't been riding.

"In 1985, before Annabelle and I decided to go to Europe, I wanted a new bicycle, one that would really fit me," Chaney said. "After all, if I can design machines for automation, I should be able to design a bike."

That he did, but mounting health problems have finally forced Chaney to end his long cycling career, so he has decided to part with his prized Mondia bicycle.

"When and if it goes," he said, "I will no doubt cry a little."

(See the classified-ads section to learn more.)