



Cycling Without Age Ventura

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Cycling Without Age Rolls into Ventura and Ojai

Ventura County, CA – The Ventura chapter of the international *Cycling Without Age* nonprofit organization officially launched in August 2025 and will serve residents in the cities of Ventura and Ojai. *Cycling Without Age* is a worldwide movement that aims to provide joy and vitality to older adults through the magic of the bicycle. Started by Ole Kassow in Copenhagen in 2012, *Cycling Without Age* now has chapters in more than 40 countries, including the Ventura chapter started by co-founders Dan Ayers and Michael Mariani. Visit www.cwa-ventura.org

Ayers, a retired Hollywood cameraman, and Mariani, a semi-retired wholesale florist, were motivated to bring the innovative cycling program to Ventura and Ojai after watching an award-winning documentary about the success of Santa Barbara's chapter. The Ventura residents initially purchased two "tri-shaws" – three-wheeled e-bikes that resembles a rickshaw and can accommodate passengers with varying mobility needs. Ayers and Mariani attended another viewing of the documentary, hosted by the *Ventura Land Trust*, as a way of introducing themselves and the program to local residents. "Nearly 100 people watched the film and afterward many of them came up to offer help," said Mariani.

"We have been amazed by the community's enthusiastic support for *Cycling Without Age Ventura*," said Ayers. "Within the first few months, dozens of people trained to become volunteer bikes pilots and even more signed up to go for a free bike ride in town."

In November, Dottie Green, age 99, and her roommate, Eloise Johnson, age 88, celebrated Dottie's birthday by going for a ride along the bike path that winds along the Ventura County Government Center to Kimball Park. The two women, who usually spend their days visiting with friends at the Lemon Wood Mobile Home senior community where they live, enjoyed the fresh air while waving to passers-by. They were guided by Annette Reed and Michael Mariani, two volunteer "pilots" with *Cycling Without Age Ventura*.



Cycling Without Age Ventura volunteer "pilots" in the yellow vests, Annette Reed (left) and Michael Mariani (right), take riders Don Schlotfelt and Eloise Johnson (left) and Dottie Green and Sandra Schlotfelt (right) on tri-shaw bike rides through Kimball Park, Ventura. Photo credit: Kay Giles

Co-founders Ayers and Mariani take the tri-shaws to local senior living facilities and give residents rides. They are also collaborating with business and community leaders to spread the word, secure indoor spots to safely park the bikes around town and seek financial support/sponsorships to purchase and maintain more tri-shaws (each bike costs about \$13,000.)

"Our hope is that within the next two years, we will have eight tri-shaws and will be taking hundreds of people on 'joy rides' every year," said Ayers. Dottie Green and Eloise Johnson enthusiastically embrace that idea. When asked how she felt at the end of their ride, Eloise said "I felt just wonderful. Believe it or not, this was the first time I'd ever ridden on a bike." It seems that when Eloise was a child, bikes were only for boys. If *Cycling Without Age Ventura* has their way, biking is now for anyone – regardless of their age or mobility-- who wants to feel the joy and freedom of a free ride through their community.

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About Cycling Without Age Ventura

Cycling Without Age, Ventura is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2025 and based in Ventura, CA. *Cycling Without Age, Ventura* is a part of a worldwide movement that aims to provide joy and vitality to older adults and the mobility limited population through the magic of the bicycle. Volunteer “pilots” take passengers on free tri-shaw rides that help enhance the passenger’s quality of life by reducing isolation, stimulating the senses, and reconnecting people with their communities. To learn more, visit: cwa-ventura.org or follow *Cycling Without Age, Ventura* on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).