



San Francisco Libre News



Reading's Twin Town in Nicaragua

RSFLA Cycle Ride - 6th June



San Francisco Libre

This rural municipality has a population of about 11,000 - and the main town (also known as the Port) has around 4,000 inhabitants. It is about the same distance from the capital, Managua, as Reading is from London. The climate is dry and hot for most of the year, but the road to

Managua is often impassable in the rainy season.

Since the late 1980s the Reading-San Francisco Libre Association has aimed to promote an understanding of life in SFL, supported community projects there, and helped the people of San Francisco Libre learn about life in the U.K.

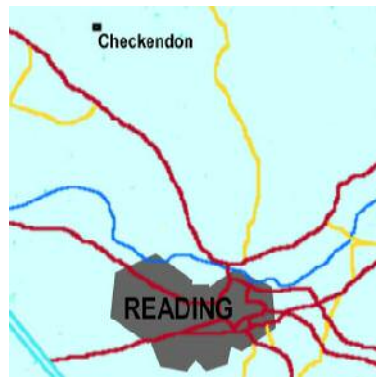
Cycle Ride – Sunday 6th June Starting at 10am at the Rivermead Centre.

Enjoy a day out-and-about on your bike and help raise funds for our new 'Bicycle Project' (see overleaf) The RSFLA will be leading a bicycling exploration of the picturesque lanes and villages of South Oxfordshire on Sunday 6th June.

Riders of all abilities are welcome, and will be offered the choice of an energetic 30 mile tour, or a more leisurely 15 mile summer ride. Leaving from the Rivermead Centre, we will head to the scenic village of Checkendon for a refreshing lunch, before returning to Reading.

We invite participants to make a donation (e.g. £5) to take part, and encourage those who are able to seek sponsorship, to request a Sponsorship Form from us.

Please ensure your bicycles are in good working order, as the Association cannot afford to be held liable. Also note that the 30 mile route is intended for more experienced cyclists.



SFL Bicycle Project

The distances between the outlying communities in the municipality of San Francisco Libre, and the school in the town of SFL, means that many children must catch the bus into school, or walk long distances (perhaps 10 km). As buses in the area are very infrequent, children often find themselves unable to return home after lessons. Some end up staying with relatives, or other families.



The mayor of San Francisco Libre thinks that bicycles could be an answer to this problem. In a pilot scheme, the mayor's office lent out a few cycles to children, giving them the opportunity to buy them on hire purchase. The initial trial proved very popular, and some students from outlying villages have started to cycle to and from school every day (see photo). More students wish to benefit from this scheme and the Mayor of San Francisco Libre asked whether Reading could assist with this project.

The RSFLA has already donated \$1,000 for the purchase of a further 20 bicycles, 17 of which have been allocated to children.

Safety Checklist

To ensure a safe and enjoyable time is had by everyone, please make sure that your bike is in good condition, and that any necessary repairs have been carried out. Also, check the following:

- Is there enough air in the tyres?
- Are the tyres in good condition otherwise?
- Do the chains and front and back derailleurs need lubricating?
- Are the brakes in good condition?
- Do the brake cables need tightening?
- Do the gears work?
- Do the seat and the handlebars need adjusting?
- Bring a bottle of water and wear a cycle helmet.



If you are unable to take part in the RSFLA Cycle Ride, but would like to make a donation towards the 'Bicycle Project', please fill in, detach, and post this form to the RSFLA Treasurer (cheques payable to 'Reading San Francisco Libre Trust'):

John Bullus, 1 Maple Close, Winnersh RG41 5PE; Tel: 0118 977 5252

Name, address and postcode:	Amount:
Use Gift Aid and you can make your donation worth more. For every pound you give us we get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue. Just tick the box to treat this donation as Gift Aid. <input type="checkbox"/>	

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Reading San Francisco Libre Association - RSFL Trust, Registered Charity No.1006736

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