

BROWN BAG, BOOK SIGNING

# Bike Battles:

## A History of Sharing the American Road



Portlander Walter Earl Devine is back home from two year bicycle tour of the nation, June 16, 1960, Oregon Historical Society, bb013145

Americans have been riding bikes for more than a century now. So why are most American cities still so ill-prepared to handle cyclists?

James Longhurst, a historian and avid cyclist who is conducting a book tour by bicycle, tackles that question by tracing the contentious debates between American bike riders, motorists, and pedestrians over the shared road.

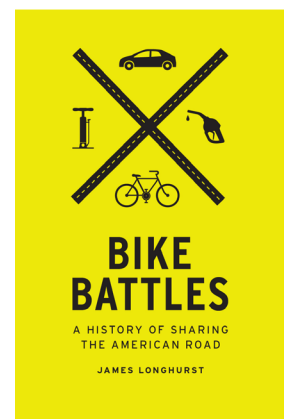
Wednesday, June 23, 2015

Noon – 1pm

Oregon Historical Society Pavilion  
1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205  
Free Admission

*Bike Battles* explores the different ways that Americans have thought about the bicycle through popular songs, merit badge pamphlets, advertising, films, newspapers and sitcoms — and how those ideas shaped the actions of government and the courts when they intervened in bike policy through lawsuits, traffic control, road building, taxation, rationing, import tariffs, safety education and bike lanes from the 1870s to the 1970s.

James Longhurst is associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and author of *Citizen Environmentalists*. This event is presented in partnership with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance.



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