



UC Berkeley's Bicycle Cooperative

Who we are: BicyCal is UC Berkeley's student-run, hands-on bicycle repair and maintenance facility. We are entirely volunteer-run and offer guidance and assistance with all matters bicycle.

Our mission: *To empower UCB students, faculty, and staff to successfully integrate the bicycle into their daily lives. To that end we seek to provide a safe and inclusive space where community members can learn to build, maintain, and repair their bicycles. We offer peer-to-peer bicycle repair and maintenance education in a radically positive environment.*

What we do: Our primary service is opening up our facility to the public several times per week for "open shop". During these hours, anyone can borrow tools and receive guidance for virtually any bicycle repair. Activities range from simply patching flats to overhauling hubs to assembling bicycles out of the box. BicyCal's volunteer mechanics guide customers through their repairs while making it a point to keep the wrenches in customers' hands; this ensures not only a learning experience for the customer, but also the empowerment that comes from understanding how a bike works and how one can fix it.



Figure 1: Bicycal members outside our work space, temporarily housed in a shipping container on the steps of MLK student union just off Upper Sproul. BicyCal will have a permanent storefront in redeveloped Lower Sproul when it is completed.

The DeCal: For the last few semesters we have also taught a 2-unit Physics 98/198 DeCal (student-run course) entitled “Bicycle Mechanics and Repair”. This gives us a wider platform for bicycle education and creates an ideal venue for recruiting new volunteers. Students learn by coming to open shop and leading simple repairs, while also assisting during more complex ones and answering customer questions. Volunteers of all ages and experience are welcome.

Retail Sales: In addition to our educational activities, we stock a limited but growing number of bicycle essentials for retail sale, including inner tubes, cables, housing, and brake pads. We also carry an assortment of donated/used parts for discount sale and use in repairs.

Our Space: Due to the Lower Sproul redevelopment, BicyCal is temporarily housed in a shipping container on the steps of MLK student union, just off Upper Sproul. With the help of grants from UC Berkeley’s [Green Initiative Fund](#) as well as [Clif Bar’s 2 Mile Challenge](#), our volunteers have outfitted our shop with all of the tools necessary for standard bicycle repair and maintenance.

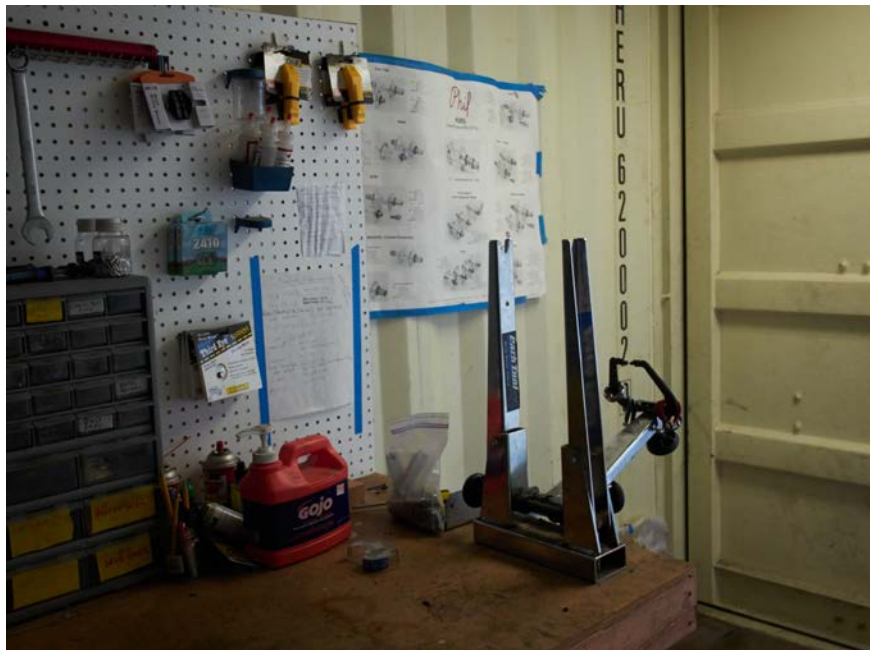


Figure 2: Inside the BicyCal shop

The Future of BicyCal: BicyCal will become a more visible and permanent fixture on campus in redeveloped Lower Sproul, which will house BicyCal in permanent storefront space just off the plaza. The ASUC also has plans for another bikeshare, with BicyCal mechanics potentially servicing those bicycles in the shop. Finally, we are currently working with Operational Excellence, student co-ops, and other campus entities to rehabilitate abandoned bicycles and get them back into circulation via our shop and the DeCal.

To learn more, please visit <http://beeceecal.wordpress.com/>