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Beret's Bike Shack promotes pedal power

Sentinel Staff Report

Don't know how to change that tire? Want some help fixing those brakes? Need to adjust your gears? Whatever problem you have with your pedal-powered wheels, the Bike Shack can help.

The self-help bicycle maintenance project run by the Watsonville Brown Berets wants to get you and your bike back on the road. The Bike Shack has moved to a booth at the weekly Watsonville farmers market near the downtown plaza, operating from 4-7 p.m. Fridays.

Whether you need to borrow some tools or get some technical assistance, this is the place.

The year-old project got a little push from the Bike Church, a 10-year-old self-help bike clinic in Santa Cruz. The Santa Cruz program lent tools, donated supplies and brought some expertise to the Watsonville project in the form of mechanic Tim Ward.

In Watsonville, the volunteer mechanics also are fixing up used bikes for children and farmworkers.

Considering the cost of gas, riding a bike is practical, and knowing how to fix one, a valuable skill, said Carlie Dominguez, a volunteer bike mechanic and UC Santa Cruz graduate who's studying for her teaching credential at San Jose State.

The Bike Shack services are free, but donations are accepted.