DRINK THE CYCLE

PEDAL OUT TO CHICAGO'S TOP BIKE MESSENGER BARS



Break out the black racing gloves and two-way radios when hitting up these local bike messenger favorites ready with cheap beer and drink specials.

Handlebar

The Mecca of bike messengerdom, Handlebar dishes out free fries and \$1.75 PBRs on Messenger Mondays, and bike winter snow rides depart from the bar regularly once the snow falls. They also deliver a surprisingly good vegan menu, an excellent backyard patio, and blackened catfish tacos that can't be beat. 2311 W. North Ave., West Bucktown (773) 384-9546

Cal's Liquors

This tiny, **Bukowski-approved drinking cave** — which might be the loudest bar in the city when local punk bands play — is an ideal beer-and-a-shot stop before climbing back on the bike. Or belly up to the bar and shout drink orders at the bartender until your memory is as dark as your surroundings.

400 S. Wells St., South Loop (312) 939-9700

Skylark

As seen in The Break Up, this chill Pilsen hang offers a good selection of beers, plenty of room to spread out a newspaper and an eclectic menu with Belgian beef stew, cheese pierogies, collard greens and pecan pie. And, as their web site attests, no "sleaze balls" will be in attendance.

2149 S. Halsted St., Pilsen (312) 948-5275

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