

Peninsula readers' letters: August 15

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From Daily News Group readers

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Careful on Alma

Dear Editor: In "Sharing roads" (Letters, Aug. 11) the writer describes observing motorists "swerve out of the right lane, barely avoiding collision with the cars to their left."

Whether this occurred on El Camino Real, Alma Street or any multi-lane arterial is secondary to the risky, even reckless, driver behavior observed by the writer unless it was truly justified, for example to avoid hitting a child jumping out in front of traffic.

When the cause is a cyclist biking with the traffic, the swerving behavior indicates that the driver does not know how to safely pass a cyclist or some other reason such as "distracted driving" causing the motorist to fail to see the cyclist in time to slow down and safely pass in the left lane if not enough room exists within the right lane.

Alma Street can be challenging for cyclists and motorists alike -- each need be extra cautious of the other. Sharrows ("share the lane" signage) exist for a mere two blocks north of the Homer Avenue tunnel in downtown Palo Alto, while bike lanes exist north of Lytton Avenue. Unfortunately, neither exist south of the Homer tunnel all the way to the Mountain View border, where bike lanes begin.

Please, all road users, exercise caution on Alma Street as well as on all other roads.

Irvin Dawid,
Palo Alto