

# OH Bike Mini-Newsletter – May 2024

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### Message from the President



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Spring is finally here. Our “Start the Season Right All Class Ride” scheduled for Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the high winds. We tried again (and succeeded!) the following Saturday.



But Steve’s ride the next day, Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>, went as scheduled despite the still strong winds. Steve’s ride, which included myself, Steve and four others, was especially meaningful to me as a rabbi. The ride was in St. Mary’s County and included the county seat of Leonardtown and the wharf area on the river. You

see, there was a book written by Leon Uris (my dad’s favorite author) in 1958 and later made into a movie called “Exodus” which starred the actor Paul Newman and others. The story was about a Jewish financier who bought an old sea-going vessel and used it to transport country-less Jews after the Holocaust from Europe after WW2 to the Holy Land. Well, that ship was docked for some time there at the wharf in Leonardtown until it was purchased, refitted, and renamed the “Exodus.” The rest is a true story. A very good book and movie.

So, get those bikes out, dust them off, a little oil, love, etc. and like my old football coach used to say, “move a muscle.”

See yens on the trail and/or road.

Rabbi Randy, President

### Ride Report – North Carolina Coastal Ride 2024

*by Jessica Hirschhorn*

On the recommendation of Ron Altemus, three of us registered for the 3-day [North Carolina Coastal Ride](#), which took place at the end of April. I traveled with Kathy King and Barbara Heffernan.

The ride offered multiple mileage routes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The routes were flat and went through beautiful coastal North Carolina, with little traffic and lots of churches.

1300 cyclists rode, but with multiple routes and flexible start times, the roads were never crowded.

The ride rotates among four North Carolina cities. This year that site was the historic, charming city of Washington. We arrived on Thursday after a 6-hour drive and settled into our beautiful AirBnB in Bath, the first and oldest settled city in NC, about 15 miles from Washington.

Many cyclists camped. There were multiple camping spots, including a large city open grassy park area, complete with electricity for charging electronics, a breakfast food truck, and a large shower semi.

The rest stops were very well organized and with plentiful food. The PB & J sandwiches were the simple manna that cyclists love. There were many local volunteers who were enthusiastic and very helpful.

On Saturday night was the big group dinner: catered fried chicken, hush puppies, cole slaw and banana pudding. We ran into Ron, Ellen Goodwin and a few other Oxon Hill friends at the dinner and on the road. Washington had some good restaurants, and we enjoyed some other dinners.

PROS: Friendly crowd, very well organized, good rest stops. PERFECT weather.

CONS: Long drive for the same scenery as the Eastern shore of MD. Flat, flat, flat for 3 days. Bring extra chamois lube. We all expected more water views.

Here are a few photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/96852862@N07/albums>

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## Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Annual Meeting Minutes - Draft

<b>Date/Time</b>	March 23, 2024 6:00 pm
<b>Attendance</b>	Board members: Randy Schoch, Joan Oppel, Walt Roscello, Jessica Hirschhorn, Ellen Goodwin, Diane Harris, Dan Donahue, Steve Palincsar, Jim Hudnall, Leslie Tierstein

The Annual Meeting of the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club was held on March 23, 2024 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. President Randy Schoch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

All board members were present, joined by 40 club members and a great variety of delicious main and side dishes and a plethora of dessert items.

### **Election of Officers**

Joan read the slate of nominations, and Randy called for a combined vote on all nominees. The vote was unanimous. The club officers for 2024 are:

President – Randy Schoch

Vice President – Patricia Sanders

Secretary – Joan Oppel

Board Members-at-Large – Catherine Ade, Ellen Goodwin, Diane Harris, Jessica Hirschhorn

Treasurer – Walt Roscello

Road Captain – Steve Palincsar

### **Treasurer's Report – Walt Roscello**

Walt provided a summary of the club's 2023 income and expenses and presented the 2024 budget.

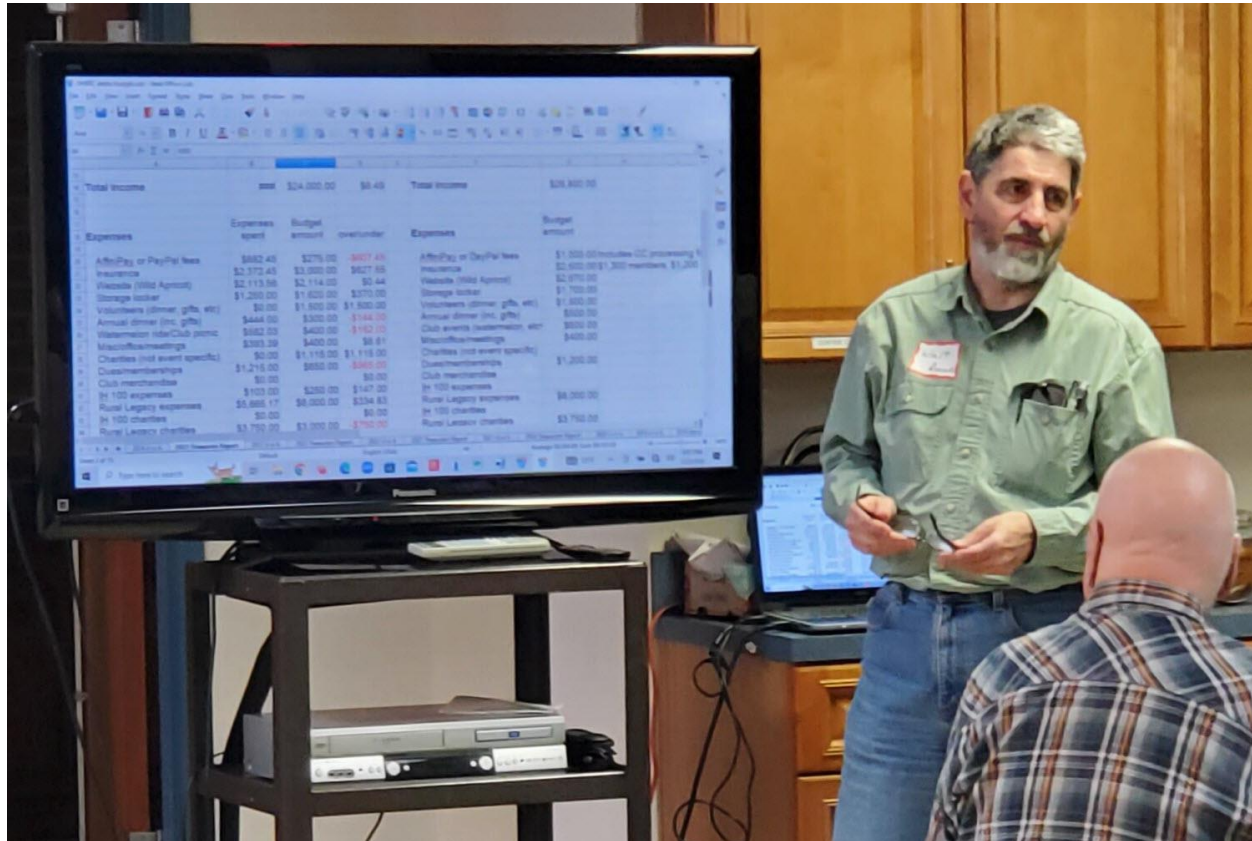
Dues and Rural Legacy registrations provided 95% of club income. The largest expenses are annual insurance, annual cost of the website, storage locker fees, and expenses for the Rural Legacy.

2023

Total Income = \$24,006  
 Total Expenses = \$18,771  
 Net Income = \$5,235

Status of club accounts 2023

Truist checking = \$12,785.00  
 PayPal reserves = \$0.00  
 Truist money market = \$27,143.00  
 Truist CDs = \$18,184.00  
 Total club monies = \$58,112.00



**Meeting Presentation – Sherwood Byers/Bike Touring**

Randy offered a brief history of the club, explaining that the club was started by employees at the Naval Research Lab as a “ride to work” club. That dates the club’s beginnings to 60 years ago. He then introduced Sherwood, who gave a presentation about the unsupported tours he has been leading for the club for several years. The destinations have expanded to include Cap to Cap (new Virginia state capital Richmond to historic state capital Williamsburg), York Pennsylvania from Hunt Valley Maryland, and a section of the Empire State Trail in New York. Sherwood gave a colorful presentation with lots of pictures and fun stories.

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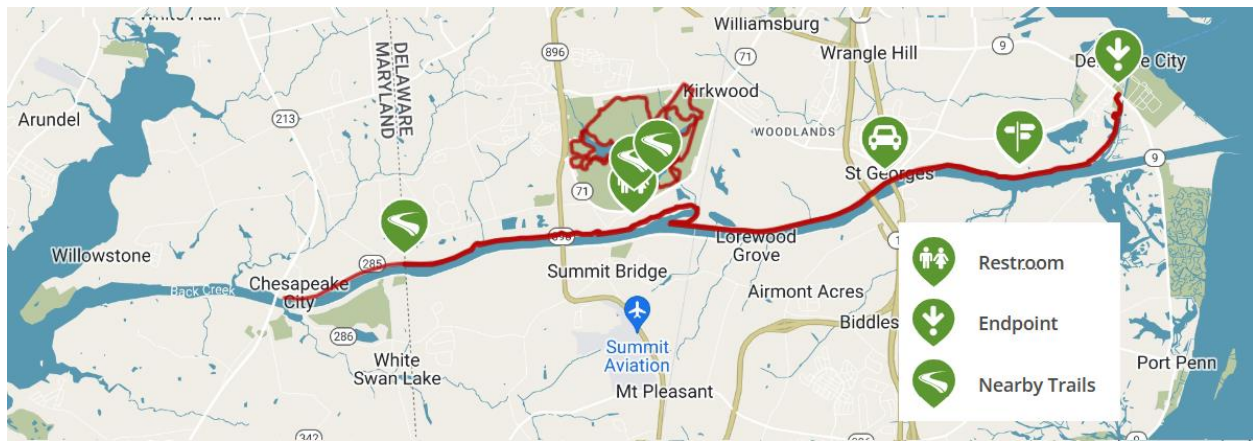
**Biking the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail**

*By Rick Hagen and Lisa Petersen*

Which scenic trail is 14 miles long, nicely paved, wide, mostly flat, and has only one road crossing?

The Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal runs from Chesapeake Bay at Chesapeake City MD to the Delaware River at Delaware City DE. Along the north side of the canal is a paved 14-mile bike trail in two

pieces that connect at the state line – Maryland’s piece is the 1.8-mile Ben Cardin Trail and Delaware’s the 12.4-mile Michael N. Castle C&D Canal trail.



The trail is wide, beautifully paved, and has several parking access points with restrooms and picnic tables. The trail is pretty flat, as might be expected for a trail following a canal, but it does deviate away from the canal in certain places providing slight climbs and some hairpin turns, notably near the mid-point where it loops north to go around a marina. For the most part, however, the trail is right along the water, providing scenic views of the canal and the six bridges that cross it. Although the canal is actively used by mariners, we haven’t been lucky enough to see any ships pass through it on our two visits.





There doesn't seem to be trail parking at the western end in Chesapeake City. Street parking is limited and would not endear you to the locals. Our recommendation is to park at the South Lums Trailhead near the center of the trail and ride in both directions from there. Alternatively, there is a trail parking lot in Delaware City at the eastern end of the trail. On our recent trip to ride the canal we stayed in a hotel in Middletown DE and rode a 39-mile loop north to the canal, along it, then back to Middletown. Crossing the canal on the Highway 896 Summit Bridge was quite scary (narrow, debris-filled shoulder, with more high-speed traffic than we like) so we won't do this again. The Reedy Point/Route 9 Bridge on the east end was much better.

Although the C&D Trail is only a 1.5 hour drive from the Capitol Beltway, Middletown DE provides a good base if you wish to make a longer trip and do other rides in the area. On our recent trip we did a nice ride out of Galena MD on the drive up, spent the night in Middletown, rode the C&D Trail on day 2, spent another night in Middletown, and did a ride out of Cecilton MD on our way home on day 3.

For more info on riding the C&D Trail check this webpage: [Michael N. Castle C&D Canal Trail | Delaware Trails | TrailLink](#)