

OH BIKE MINI-NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

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Message from the President



ohbike.org

Dear OHBTC Members:

It has been my pleasure to meet many of you in the last month on select rides and at our monthly board Zoom meeting. Your participation is greatly appreciated! Our next big event is the [September 6 Labor Day ride and picnic](#). Please volunteer to help for this event, before, during or after the ride. If you would like to start leading a ride contact us. Until then

I hope to see you down and on the road!
Donaro Gardner

News from the Trails (by Ron Altemus, Trail Ride Coordinator)

At the August Board meeting, the decision was made to retire the “D - casual” classification and replace it with “Trail – casual.” This renamed classification will focus, as its name implies, on rides on many of the existing trails in the Greater DC/MD/VA area. Open to all classes, these rides hopefully will be of particular interest to slower riders who don't want to ride on roads with vehicular traffic. Many of the rides will be an out and back routing, so riders can ride as far as they want and then turn around if desired and return to the start without fear of getting lost.

A long-time favorite club trail ride is the Friday morning trek on the Indian Head Rail Trail. We depart at 10 am from the Livingston Road parking lot, ride to White Plains for a break and then ride back to the start. The IHRT is one of the premier trails in the local area with its paved, wide surface and relatively flat gradient; it is always fun to ride.

Wildlife sightings on the IHRT are not uncommon. We have



espied bald eagles, deer, wild turkeys, muskrats, snapping and painted turtles, snakes, numerous types of birds, and perhaps even a coyote. In 2021, beaver have formed a pond just to the west of the Livingston Rd parking lot. He/she (or them) built up an earthen dam in front of two culverts that run underneath the trail, causing water to submerge the low lying area. Since mid-January, we have watched the pond grow in size as the beaver created a perpendicular wall on the west side of the pond to raise the water level. Parks personnel, in order to keep the culverts operational, added rip rap in front of the openings so that the beaver could not completely enclose them. The beavers have made no attempt to dismantle the rip rap but instead have filled the gaps between the rocks with mud and debris to further strengthen the walls of their pond. Changes happen on a weekly basis, so some of us always start our ride east to White Plains by first going west to check out the latest work on the beaver dam and pond.

Numerous benches are positioned along the length of the trail, sponsored or dedicated to organizations, friends, and family that have in some manner been associated with the trail. OHBTC has three benches, two of which are dedicated to Calvin Conyers and Jeanne Ulrich respectively. Jim and Jane Hudnall also have a bench in their honor, placed by Charles County Rec and Parks, in recognition of their work in promoting bicycling in the county and the state of Maryland.

Two other benches along the trail are of interest. One mentions “Italian Cyclist Elio Santi”.



A quick Internet search did not produce any results about Santi. If anyone has information about this cyclist, please share with the club.

The other bench of interest is new to the trail. It is in honor of Harold Von Braunhut.



[Von Braunhut](#) was an American mail-order marketer and inventor, most famous as the creator and seller of both the Amazing Sea-Monkeys and the X-Ray Specs. He died in Indian Head in 2003, hence the association with the IHRT.

There's always something interesting to see when casually riding a trail, plus great conversation since one isn't trying to move so fast that it's impossible to talk. Join us on Fridays on the IHRT and look for additional trail rides on the OHBTC calendar.

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time	August 9, 2021, 5 PM
Attendees	President Donaro Gardner, Vice-President Janell Saunders, Treasurer Ron Altemus, Secretary Jane Hudnall, Road Captain Barbara Haney. Board members: Leslie Tierstein, George Martin, Joan Oppel Club members: Michael Saizan, Randy Schoch, Jackie Schoch, Sherwood Byers, Jessica Hirschhorn, Linda Bankerd, Jim Hudnall, Nancy Avitabile, Harry Kidd

Thank you to Mike Saizan for starting the Zoom meeting.

President Donaro Gardner welcomed everyone and began the discussion with plans for the Labor Day Ride and Picnic.

Plans for Labor Day Club Ride and Picnic:

Location: Indian Head village Green

Routes : <https://ridewithgps.com/events/154448-2021-labor-day>

Ride leaders:

26-mile C	Randy Schoch	9:30 am
26-mile CC	Janell Saunders	9:30 am
37-mile B	Donaro Gardner	9:00 am

37-mile CC	Ellen Goodwin	9:00 am	(Mike Saizan if needed)
50-mile A,B	Walt Roscello	8:30 am	
63-mile A	Sherwood Byers	8:00 am	
63-mile AA	Blake Altman	8:00 am	
Trail Ride	Ron Altemus	9:30 am	

Food – Picnic at noon

- hot dogs – Jackie Schoch and maybe Wally Huie
- tomato sandwiches – Pat Colvin
- potato chips – Ron Altemus
- ice water, lemonade and iced tea – George Martin/Ron Altemus
- Cookies – Jessica Hirschhorn

Set up, serving food, and clean up – all of us

Treasurer’s Report: Ron Altemus reported \$3700 collected so far this year in dues and jersey sales. Expenses - \$5300 for the storage facility, the Watermelon Ride and compensation to businesses who allow the club to use their restroom facilities.

Minutes from June Meeting – Accepted as presented.

Membership Report – Jim Hudnall reported a total of 394 club members. Fourteen new members joined in July and 11 have been on rides. 17 members are up for renewal in August.

Coming Events

- **Lapp Ice Cream Ride** – August 14, Sherwood Byers and Jessica Hirschhorn will lead rides in the covered bridge area of Lancaster on the day before the Covered Bridge Ride.
- **GAP Tour**, August 23 -31 – Sherwood Byers will lead a tour from Cumberland to Pittsburgh, a one-day layover, and a return to Cumberland. Nine members have signed up.
- **Labor Day Club Ride and Picnic** - September 6, Indian Head Village Green.
- **Richmond-Williamsburg Tour**, October 9 –11 -. Sherwood Byers will lead a trip from Richmond to Williamsburg, a ride in the Williamsburg area and then a return to Richmond.

Ride Coordinators

Ron Altemus will coordinate the Trail Rides, formerly Class D.

Dealing with the increased concern about Covid-19 – The board strongly recommends that members follow the CDC Guidelines, get vaccinated, and wear masks when indoors or in large groups. Sherwood suggested that riders keep 2 to 3 bike lengths apart except for AA rides.

Next Meeting via Zoom, September 13, 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hudnall, Secretary

A Shout Out to New (and Current) Members (by Janell Saunders)



As a reminder, here are the **Rider Responsibilities** as posted on the Oxon Hill Bike club website:

1. Arrive early to check-in and be ready to leave on time.
2. Some starting points do not have restrooms. Plan accordingly.
3. Make sure your bicycle is in proper working order before you arrive.
4. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, pump, water bottle and snack.
5. Carry identification and emergency money.
6. Bring a cue sheet and/or have the route downloaded to your GPS device.
7. Wear a helmet!
8. Practice safety and obey all traffic laws.
9. Do not "bike off" more than you can do. Go on rides within your ability, interest and experience level. If in doubt, phone the ride leader or check the club website for guidelines: <https://ohbike1.wildapricot.org/classifications>
10. Riders should maintain the pace as advertised. Riders may ride faster or slower than this pace if they know the route and advise the leader accordingly. In this case the leader will not be responsible for the cyclists' safe return or completion of the ride.
11. Riders should advise the ride leader if they will not complete the ride or if they deviate from the designated route.
12. Riders should warn nearby cyclists of road debris or, when in the rear, warn of motorists approaching from behind.
13. As simple courtesy riders should help others with mechanical problems. Riders will try to help but there is no obligation to wait for cyclists with major breakdowns.
14. Riders should use common sense and courtesy.

Ride Leaders: As we get new members and riders who may not have as much experience, please take a moment to poll the group and follow these steps from our **Ride Leader Responsibilities:**

- Welcome the riders and brief them on details of ride stops, pace, and potential problems.
- Make sure the riders wear helmets.
- Ask new riders about their bike's status and if they have tubes, repair kit, and so on.
- "Lead from the rear" or appoint someone to "ride sweep!"
- After finishing the ride, make sure that all riders are accounted for.