

# OH Bike Mini-Newsletter – August 2022

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## Message from the President



[ohbike.org](http://ohbike.org)

We are now into the summer riding season with a full schedule of weekly rides. Get on your bike and ride!

This August is the 50-year anniversary of our OHB&TC. Jackie and I have been members for all 50 years. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article by Pete Ulrich with some memories of his late wife Jeanne's efforts in bringing the club into existence. Jeanne's name is engraved on the OHBC bench near the White Plains rest stop. As we ride by, I greet and thank Jeanne for her work for our club.

On a personal note, I ordered and received my E-trike from Utah Trikes. My "maiden voyage" was on the Friday morning trail ride July 15. It worked out great. E-bikes of all varieties are the future for all of us who are senior riders and want to continue to exercise and enjoy the great out of doors.

We lost Jack Snead (at 92), who was one of our oldest members and riders. An *In Memoriam* tribute is in this newsletter. I plan to be present at his funeral.

Our next big ride is scheduled for Aug. 13. It will be an all-class ride beginning in the Pisgah Park. Road Captain Barb H. is lining up ride leaders.

See you on the road,  
Rabbi Randy, President

# Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Date/Time</b>	July 11, 2022
<b>Attendance</b>	Joan Oppel, Jim and Jane Hudnall, Nancy Avitabile, Randy and Jackie Schoch, Steve Palincsar, Leslie Tierstein, Jessica Hirschhorn, George Martin, Sherwood Byers, Walt Roscello, Diane Harris, Wally Huie, Ellen Goodwin

President Schoch called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

## **Approval of Minutes – Randy Schoch**

President Schoch asked for Board approval of the minutes from the May 9, 2022 Board meeting. The minutes were approved.

## **Treasurer’s Report – Nancy Avitabile**

Nancy reviewed the income and expense report for 2Q 2022. The club earned income in the form of memberships and merchandise sales. Expenses related to snacks and signs purchased for the Rural Legacy Ride as well as fees paid for renting the Indian Head Pavilion for the Labor Day ride in 2023. The income and expense report showed that the club’s finances were improved by about \$625 for the quarter.

## **Membership Report – Jim Hudnall**

The club grew with several new members joining immediately before the Watermelon ride. The Club has 484 active members. Jim noted that once the club hits 500 members, the expenses related to Wild Apricot will increase.

## **Advocacy Report - Walt Roscello**

Walt is following the progress of a proposed southern Maryland cycling advocacy group and has suggested that we take part when it is formed. Walt also noted that he has a contact from the East Coast Greenway who would like to visit the club to see what opportunities there may be to work together.

## **COVID Guidelines Discussion**

The board resumed the discussion from the last meeting about whether to revisit the two documents that are required to be reviewed and consented to before coming on a ride—

- *Guidelines During the Coronavirus Pandemic*
- *Informed Consent for COVID-19*, with 10 bullet points.

Diane began the discussion by asking the board to consider what the impetus was for the current COVID Guidelines, and to consider the CDC guidelines for outdoor activities.

Jessica mentioned that there were two requirements that seemed to be the most controversial that should be considered. Those are the requirement that only members can sign up for rides, and that all riders must be fully vaccinated. Ellen mentioned that the requirement to notify the ride leader if symptoms developed within 14 days following a ride seemed worthy of discussion.

The Board discussed at some length whether it makes sense to allow non-members to come on one trial ride without joining the club. Some members noted that many people may not know if the club is right for them unless they come on a ride. Other board members asked how will we get new members if we don’t allow non-members to try out a ride. It was noted that the insurance coverage covers the board for one ride for a non-member, but not after that.

Joan asked Jim Hudnall if the system could generate a note to a non-member who came on a ride advising them that they had to join the club to come on future rides. Jim indicated that this was possible with some programming.

A vote was taken by a show of hands of those Board members who supported allowing non-members to come on one ride without joining the club. The majority approved this change. It was agreed that we should try this policy for three months and see how it goes. The Board also agreed that the policy would extend only to club rides, and not to multi-class rides where the club incurs expenses. The board discussed that it is the responsibility of the ride leader to let the non-member rider know that after the first ride, they must join the club to come on further rides.

The board agreed that there would be no changes to the *Guidelines* or *Informed Consent* documents at this time.

### **Road Captain Report – Joan Oppel**

**Friendship Farm Ride.** Although Barbara Haney did not attend the meeting, Joan noted that the Friendship Farm multi-class ride is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>. Joan has contacted the farm to inquire about using the parking lot and porta potties and noted that they have requested a certificate of insurance, which costs \$15 to acquire. The certificate extends the liability protection to the holder of the certificate. We need Barbara to get ride leaders for the Friendship Farm Ride. Jessica will advertise on social media.

**Watermelon Ride.** Joan noted that we ended up with 82 registrations for the Watermelon Ride. We had 68 actual riders which was a terrific turnout. Joan remarked that the watermelon was exceptional, and specifically thanked Jackie Schoch for her efforts to cut and serve the watermelon.

Joan noted that the only thing we need to do in the future is to be sure to contact the firehouse early in the planning. It turned out that there was an event at the firehouse in the afternoon on the same day as the ride. That was good because the bathrooms were available; however, the firehouse was adamant that we needed to remove all or most cars by 2:00pm. Ellen noted that she was in the parking lot at 1:50 and there were only a small handful of riders still packing their cars at that time, so we were in fact almost entirely out of the parking lot by 2:00pm.

Sherwood spoke of one rider who complained that she was dropped from the A-B group at the watermelon ride.

**Cycling Seniors.** George Martin mentioned that Prince Georges county has a cycling seniors group. You have to be 60 years old to participate. They will give instructions on safety, and they give away bikes and helmets. George Martin will check on this and advertise the club and hope to get more members.

**Labor Day Picnic.** Randy asked about the Labor Day picnic which is planned for a members-only ride. We can use the Indian Head pavilion. The board discussed what could be served. Wally indicated that he could help with hotdogs. Jackie Schoch indicated that she could help as well.

### **OHBTC 50th Anniversary**

August is the 50th anniversary of the club. Board members discussed that the Labor Day ride would be the time to recognize the anniversary in some way. Randy mentioned that Pete Ulrich has agreed to write an article about the early days of the club. It was noted that we did a 45 year anniversary, and we should review what we did at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

**Next Meeting:** August 8, 2022, 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Goodwin

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## Advocacy – Status of the Nice Bridge

*Submitted by Walt Roscello*

### **Hoyer, Cardin, Van Hollen Urge MDOT to Halt Demolition of Nice Bridge, Study Recreational Reuse Options**

We recently learned of new support for preserving the Nice Bridge as a bicycle and pedestrian pathway. Southern Maryland's three federal representatives, Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and Representative Steny Hoyer, announced that they have sent a letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation urging them to delay demolition of the bridge until a feasibility study on rehabilitation and conversion can be performed.

Interest from our federal representatives is valuable because they may also be able to facilitate federal funding for studies and potential conversion costs, removing potential cost objections at the state level. You can read the whole press release and letter here: <https://hoyer.house.gov/content/hoyer-cardin-van-hollen-urge-mdot-halt-demolition-nice-bridge-study-recreational-reuse>

A non-motorized crossing at the Nice Bridge is a literally once in a lifetime opportunity, as bridge lifetimes are around 80 years. A crossing here can be a key link in establishing touring routes east of US Rt. 1, such as a potential eastern route to Yorktown and the start of the cross-country Bicycle Route 76, and an alternate route for the Maine-to-Florida East Coast Greenway. A pedestrian and bicycle pathway that rises over 140 feet above the river would also be its own tourist attraction. Advocates on both sides of the river continue to reach out and develop interest in preservation at all levels of government.

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## Cycle North Carolina Coastal 2022

*by Gil Dutchover*

It all started when Ron Altemus (OHBTC Treasurer) put out an e-mail about the Cycle North Carolina 2022. There are three parts of the overall Cycle North Carolina rides:

- Coastal Ride on April 22-24, 2022 in Edenton, NC
- Mountain Ride on August 5-7, 2022 in Marshall, NC
- Mountains to Coast Ride on October 1-8, 2022 that covers Lake Junaluska to Holden Beach, NC.

I looked into it and signed up for the three-day April Coastal ride. This year it was in Edenton NC, but location changes every year.

About 1,200 cyclists attended the Coastal Ride 2022 event. If you like flat, scenic rides it should be on your to-do list. Edenton and other neighboring towns offer hotels, Bed and Breakfast Inns, and vacation homes. The event also offers indoor camping, outdoor camping, RV camping, and shower trailers which are within walking distance to all outdoor campsites. For each of the three days, a cyclist can pick which route (Ride with GPS and/or cue sheets) they would take, ranging from 10 to 100 miles. The routes are fully supported with SAG (Support and Gear) vans patrolling the routes in case you break down or need assistance. Rest stops are set up approximately 10 to 20 miles apart to offer refreshments, snacks and a chance to rest. Routes are signed and marked for easy navigation from start to finish. And the weather was decent for all three days (low 80 degrees Fahrenheit).

### Day 1, April 22, Friday - Scuppernong (YELLOW ROUTE, 38 miles)

The rides all start at Edenton waterfront Colonial Park and head into beautiful farmland. Cyclists get a grand view of the Albemarle Sound as they cross the 4-mile Soundside Bridge just before the Waterside Resort rest stop. From Waterside the route takes a picturesque loop through some beautiful farmland before returning to the Waterside Resort rest stop and then back to Edenton.



*Edenton, NC waterfront, Colonial Park*



*Biking across the 4-mile Soundside Bridge*

### Day 2, April 23, Saturday - Hertford/Sycamore (YELLOW ROUTE, 58 miles)

The route takes you through rich farmlands for first rest stop at family-owned and operated Jim's Deli and Market. Next came the quaint historic town of Hertford on the Perquimans River. I stepped across the street to Woodard's Pharmacy in Hertford and got a \$1 ice cream cone, then explored the Hertford courthouse and rode through beautiful farms toward the remarkable Sycamore Arabian Farm on Albemarle Sound. A tunnel of sycamore trees with horse corrals flanks both sides before the route gets to Al and Choe's beautiful home for a stop. From here you pass by many other farms and then back to Edenton.



*Cyclists at Sycamore Arabian Farm on Albemarle Sound*





*Horses at Sycamore Arabian Farm on Albemarle Sound*

### Day 3, April 24, Friday - Scuppernong (YELLOW ROUTE, 43 miles)

The route takes you across the 1.5-mile bridge over the Chowan River to explore Bertie County. The first rest stop is at the Black Rock Deli. Next, you pass through the small communities of Merry Hill and Avoca, exploring beautiful farms and pine groves heading to the pristine private waterfront community of Scotch Hall Preserve. After relaxing and enjoying scenic views of the Chowan River, you head back across the bridge to Edenton.

For more information on the remaining 2022 Cycle North Carolina rides and Coastal 2023 see: <https://ncsports.org/cycle-north-carolina/>

Any questions? Feel free to contact me.

Gil Dutchover, OHBTC Member  
<mailto:seadked2002@yahoo.com>

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### In Memoriam - Jack Snead – 1930 - 2022

We celebrate the life of long time OHBTC member Jack Snead who died on July 12<sup>th</sup> at age 92. Jack enjoyed bicycling and continued to lead rides into his 80's. He was a friendly, supportive ride leader who had a warm sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye. One of his favorite rides was the Tour de Accokeek with a stop afterwards for a sandwich and ice cream at B and J's. He was a role model on how to age well. The club's sympathy is extended to his wife Glo and to his family and friends.





*1 OHBTC members help Jack celebrate his 80th birthday at B and J's, September 2, 2009*