

OH Bike Mini-Newsletter – September 2022

CONTENTS

Message from the President

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Board Meeting Minutes

Fifty Years: OHBTC Early History

OHBTC Road Captain Resigns

Pit Bill Incident in PG County

Message from the President



ohbike.org

This summer has been very hot. Sometimes it has been too hot for bicycle riding. When I was president years before, we established parameters for a ride to be a “NO GO.” The parameters were “below 40 degrees and above 90 degrees”. Anything outside this range was up to the individual ride leader and riders to decide whether to ride. We have had ride leaders and riders who would ride below 40 degrees. We termed them members of the “Polar Bear Club.” Steve P has been leading rides this summer above 90 degrees so we should have a special name for them? Any ideas?

Last month was our OHBTC’s 50th anniversary. Pete Ulrich (an old time member) wrote an article about how his wife Jeanne was instrumental in founding the club. It appears in this month’s newsletter.

I have been enjoying riding my new trike. Trikes are a great way to continue riding into “old age” or with medical conditions that limit riding a standard bicycle. Beside myself, I can think of Dan D and Pete U who are riding them.

We now have a new treasurer. Walt R has accepted taking over from Nancy A. Ron A has agreed to be our treasurer until Walt’s work load eases and he is able to assume the job.

The club still has openings on the executive board for a secretary and vice-president.

Reminder – there are bicycles in our storage locker that have been donated for any member that needs a bike.

See you on the road,
Rabbi Randy, President

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time	August 8, 2022
Attendance	Joan Oppel, Jim and Jane Hudnall, Randy and Jackie Schoch, Steve Palincsar, Leslie Tierstein, Jessica Hirschhorn, George Martin, Sherwood Byers, Walt Roscello, Diane Harris, Ellen Goodwin, Ron Altemus, Diana Donahue, Barbara Haney, John Arrington

President Schoch called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Approval of Minutes – Randy Schoch

President Schoch asked for Board approval of the minutes from the July 11, 2022 Board meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Ron Altemus

Ron Altemus is acting as interim treasurer until Walt Roscello comes on as treasurer. Ron shared the Treasurer’s Report . We weren’t seeing a breakdown of income and expenses prior to Ron coming on board. Income from March was around \$3000 in the form of credit card transactions on the website. Office miscellaneous contains Zoom and web storage expenses. The storage locker is paid through Sept. 2022. The year to date expenses are around \$6000. A big expense coming up will be for insurance of around \$2000. Walt Roscello was elected the treasurer upon a vote by show of hands and will take over as soon as he can.

Road Captain Report – Barbara Haney

Member-only ride next week on August 13th. Barbara Haney found ride leaders. Weather is predicted to be in the 80s and perfect. There is no AA category anymore. Maybe we’ll get new members down the road. 36 riders signed up. CC and B have the most riders. Everything is in place. We will use King James Baptist Church as a rest stop. Water jugs will be used at King James Church because there is no water there. It’s a historic church with no AC. The club gave them a \$50 donation.

Joan and Pat were riding on Saturday and went to Nanjemoy Store to give a donation to the proprietor, Debby Ruiz. She never cashed the check from last year. She didn’t feel right taking the money, and so we asked if the club could donate to a charity in her name. The Nanjemoy Volunteer Fire Auxiliary is going to get her donation for a children’s event.

Labor Day ride. We have permission to use the Indian Head pavilion on Labor Day. George Martin and Jackie Schoch are going to help us with the hotdogs. Wally is on injured reserve and will give us culinary advice.

50th anniversary of the club. Pete Ulrich short article about the beginnings of the club will be published in next month’s newsletter.

Travel Rides – Steve Palincsar and Sherwood Byers

Steve Palincsar: Covered Bridge Ride in Lancaster, PA is on August 21st. On the 20th Steve and Sherwood will lead rides from Strasburg Railroad.

Sherwood Byers: 49-mile version with three covered bridges will occur on the 20th. Steve has posted the ride and posted the dinner and will make arrangements for dinner. Sherwood will go up on Friday beforehand to check the roads. The ride is posted on the ride calendar.

For next year, Sherwood is planning to ride Empire State Trail in upstate New York. And he is looking for anyone who is interested in riding the Southern Tier of US.

Williamsburg trip will be the same as years before. The trip will start on Columbus Day and go down the Cap Trail. Stay at Fairfield Inn. The trip will involve some road and some trail riding. There may be a change in the route at the end. The ride is posted and there is room in the ride.

Advocacy Report – Walt Roscello

MDOT did respond to legislators’ letter regarding the Nice Bridge and are still defending the plan to demolish the old bridge. Jim Ports is director of MDOT. That is relevant because he came from the Maryland Toll Authority (MdTA), and he is disinclined to revisit their past decisions. The new bridge will probably open in early December. It is close to completion.

Jessica Hirschhorn asked to confirm that everything is in place for the Labor Day ride. The venue is reserved. Barbara will secure ride leaders. Steve P. has routes. Rest stops are all stores. Jackie and George Martin will do the hotdogs. So, everything appears to be in order.

Board members agreed that the club will have paid rides next year both for the Rural Legacy and Indian Head 100.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2022, 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Goodwin

Fifty Years: OHBTC Early History

by Peter Ulrich

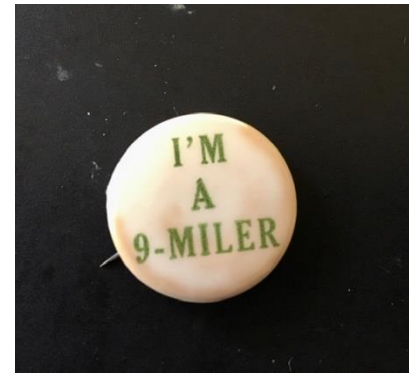
On the evening of August 18, 1971, Martha Bower, Dorothy Hodges, Edie Hovey, and Jeanne Ulrich met at the home of Virginia Gardner on Cedar Ridge Drive in Oxon Hill. They were concerned that there were no safe places for their children to ride their bikes in the River Ridge Section of Oxon Hill. At that meeting, they scheduled a community meeting at the Oxon Hill Library for October 1. There was a good response to that meeting, and they decided to call themselves the “Oxon Hill Bicycle Path Committee.” On December 1, the first meeting of that committee was held in the library at the John Hanson Middle School. At this meeting, a community bike ride was scheduled for the day after Christmas. This was, arguably, the first ride of what was to become OHBTC. It was a 9-mile ride that started at Oxon Hill Plaza, proceeded down Oxon Hill Road, and returned via Livingston Road. This December 16 ride became an annual event for many years.

Here is a photo of two of the 1971 participants: Jeanne Ulrich is riding her “mixte” bike while daughter Diana is enjoying the ride (and avoiding her dad, the photographer). (These were the days before we all became aware of bike safety imperatives like bike helmets!) Jeanne’s cycling life journey would take her eventually into triathlons and, 19 years later, to the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii where she won the 50-54 age-group first place medal in 1990.



All participants of the December 26, 1971 ride received a small pin with the inscription “I’m a 9-Miler”.

On February 16, 1972, several Oxon Hill residents attended a lengthy hearing in Annapolis where a bill entitled the “Bicycle Trail and Footpath Bill” was presented and debated, with community input from Dorothy Hodges, Wayne Whitney, Virginia Gardner, and Bud Averitt. The bill passed the Maryland General Assembly in April.



During this time, Dorothy Hodges was writing bicycling and trail advocacy articles for the local “Ridge Runner” newsletter. The May 20, 1972, edition contains one of her articles that begins as follows:

*Everyone interested in bicycling and bicycle safety and the promotion of area trails is invited to attend the meeting at Oxon Hill Library on TUESDAY, MAY 30 at 7:30 p.m. The **purpose is to form a permanent club** to further bicycling and bicycle paths. Membership applications will be available at the meeting....*

And, the rest, as they say, is history. The years immediately following the formation of the club saw members like Dorothy, Bud, Jeanne, and others testifying at local, county and state hearings on bike safety, road widenings and trail designations. Jeanne was especially active (and successful) in agitating for the bike trail that was created to run from Oxon Hill Farm to the Blue Plains/Naval Research Lab (NRL) area. (She was a beneficiary of this one, using it daily to commute to work at NRL until her retirement in 1993). She was also a leader in pushing successfully for the creation of the Henson Creek Trail that goes from Oxon Hill Road through the Tucker Road Rec Center and on to Brinkley Road.



At the White Plains end of the Indian Head Rail Trail, there is now a OHBTC bench memorializing her many contributions to the bicycling community.

It reads “Jeanne Ulrich – Trailblazer.”

Trailblazer, indeed!

OHBTC Road Captain Resigns

by Barb Haney

Dear fellow OHBTC club members:

I’d like to let you know that I will be stepping down as Road Captain at the end of this summer season. Being Road Captain of OHBTC has been an honor and a privilege, and I am fortunate to have had your trust and the opportunity to serve the club.

This club is full of generous, energetic volunteers. Road Captain is one of the most rewarding ways to help out—it’s a wonderful opportunity to get to know so many riders, especially those outside of your usual riding group. You get to encourage new ride leaders, to watch nervous first timers develop into regulars, and to give out the coveted red leaders’ jerseys to those who’ve earned them!

I'm sure there is someone who is ready to step up and become the involved and dynamic Road Captain that OHBTC deserves and needs to grow the club, and who can bring new energy and fresh ideas to the position. If you or anyone you know might be ready for an important and fun volunteer opportunity, don't hesitate to contact a Board member with your proposal.

Again, many thanks for allowing me to have served as Road Captain.

Pit Bill Incident in PG County

Submitted by Cynthia Nuzzi

I'm a member and have done some of your rides, but not recently. I live in Upper Marlboro, and frequently do solo rides from my house.

I just wanted to let you know that last week I was chased by a loose and very viscous pit bull on Mt. Calvert Rd. The pit bull appeared to come out of an apartment Complex with addresses of 15470-78. I outrode it, because I saw it in time coming on the right and I knew that there was a big downhill where I could outpace it.

When I drove over to get the address the next day, the pit bull was loose again. I then called Prince Georges (PG) Animal Control with the address of 15470-78, and they said that they would go check it out. I called back the next day, and they told me that they went by there and didn't see the dog. PG Animal Control said that without an exact address there was nothing that they could do. I argued (without success) that they could do something as the address I had given was limited and so they could knock on doors. They countered that they could not.

So I will not ride in Mt. Calvert Road. I would advise that all bike clubs avoid Mt. Calvert Road as well.

I rode this morning again and when I was on Croom Road, I noticed markings on Croom Road that showed "20" and "10" onto Mt. Calvert Road. This looks like it might be more of running club, but I am very concerned for unsuspecting runners or cyclists. Does the Oxon Hill Bike Club know of any way to get the word out about this potentially dangerous dog? I don't know if you can, but my concern is now heightened.

Thank-you,
Cynthia Nuzzi
Ph # - 571-398-9276
Email: gindygue@hotmail.com