

OH Bike Mini-Newsletter – March 2023

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Message from the President



ohbike.org

Well, winter is about over. Time to get that bike out, dust it off, pump up the tires, lube the chain, check the brakes, etc... We are looking for a great year of cycling ahead. Our bike club is making plans for a busy season of biking, enjoying each other's company, good food, and adult beverages.

At our February board meeting, we spent a lot of time discussing the **annual meeting** to be held next month. It will feature a panel discussion about the different approaches to bicycle touring to include 1) Guided Tours, 2) Self-Guided Tours, and 3) Self-Supported Tours. So come and learn about bicycle touring. With prior and well thought-out planning, each of the touring types can be successful and fun.

Also, a VERY important part of our annual meeting is the election of officers for the next year. You can nominate someone to be an officer of the club and you can nominate yourself. We need new officers with new ideas for the life of OHB&TC. So come to the meeting to ensure that our club will keep moving forward. And of course, enjoy the food, fellowship, and beverages that will be there.

On a personal note, Jackie and I went for a ride on that 80* day a few Thursdays ago. Who would believe we could have such a warm day during the winter? We did the 24-mile Ripley/Pisgah/Smallwood Park ride on our new Utah trikes. Please consider riding with any of our ride leaders on the OHB&T Club calendar.

Hope to see you soon,
Rabbi Randy, President

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club January Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time	January 16, 2023 7:00 PM
Attendance	Joan Oppel, Jim and Jane Hudnall, Randy and Jackie Schoch, Diane Harris, Walt Roscello, Jessica Hirschhorn, Ellen Goodwin, Leslie Tierstein, Walt Chalmers
Absent	Board members: None

President Schoch called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Approval of Minutes – Randy Schoch

President Schoch asked for approval of the minutes from the December 2022 board meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Walt Roscello

Month of January total income was \$310, expenses were \$420.79. The beginning balance in the club’s bank account was \$5774.54, and the ending balance was \$5663.75. The club intends to make a \$150 donation to the Virginia Biking Federation.

Membership Report – Jim Hudnall

Jim reported that the club has 409 active members. There were 4 new members in December and 98 new members in 2022.

Regarding Wild Apricot, the hosting company for the background functionality of the club website, Jim advised that because the Rural Legacy will be an event this year, we will need to pay increased monthly fees. Wild Apricot bases its fees on the number of “contacts” in the club database, and having an event with members and nonmembers will cause an increase in the current number, which is under 500. The new category - over 500 - will cost \$190 per month (or \$2280 per year). A motion was made for this new category at a cost of \$190 per month and the motion was approved.

Advocacy Report – Walt Roscello

Walt reported that the Maryland legislative session started last week. Bike Maryland is relaunching the once per year visit day to meet with legislators in Annapolis for bike advocacy. The meeting is on February 8th. Walt cannot go that week, but Diane Harris registered for the event. Diane let the board know that she has joined the Capitol Trails Coalition, a collaboration of public and private organizations, agencies, and volunteers working to advance completion of an interconnected network of multi-use trails for metropolitan Washington, DC. .

Annual Meeting– Joan Oppel

The annual meeting is required by the club constitution and includes election of officers. The date will be March 25th, Saturday, at 5pm. Jane Hudnall obtained permission for the club to use the Grace Lutheran Church facility for the meeting. As the club has done in prior years, the board decided to host an in person pot luck dinner prior to the meeting. Jackie Schoch volunteered to coordinate the pot luck. Also pre-pandemic, the meeting has included some type of presentation. Diane Harris suggested having a panel of members discussing and explaining the advantages of different types of bike tours they have taken, such as fully supported, self-supported, camping, hoteling, etc. She mentioned that we could have someone bring in a loaded touring bike.

Election of officers: Joan Oppel volunteered to be the Nominating Committee and to seek nominations from the membership.

Rural Legacy Ride

Jessica and Joan are doing preliminary work for the June 10th event. Many volunteers will be needed to make the event a success.

Miscellaneous

The board discussed a loose dog on Mount Calvert Road that has chased cyclists on at least 3 different occasions, including very recently. Mount Calvert is used as part of the Rural Legacy. The dog has been reported to the Prince George's County Animal Control. The board approved writing a letter to Prince George's Executive regarding the loose dog and the dangers it presents to cyclists – if the animal control personnel do not have success in getting the dog restrained.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2023, 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Goodwin and Joan Oppel

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club February Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time	February 20, 2023 7 PM
Attendance	Randy Schoch, Diane Harris, Joan Oppel, Jessica Hirschhorn, Walt Roscello, Leslie Tierstein. Club members: Jackie Schoch, Jane Hudnall, Jim Hudnall, Ron Altemus, Sherwood Byers, Wally Huie
Absent	Board members: Ellen Goodwin

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Schoch at 7 PM.

Minutes: Minutes from the January 16 Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Walt Roscello

Total income (from membership dues) year to date - \$650

Total expenses year to date: \$2803

Expenses include an annual Wild Apricot website fee of \$2114.

Result is a negative cash flow (at this time) of (\$2032).

The club still has a savings balance of \$52,000.

Walt reported that he opened a 12-month CD totaling \$18,000 at an interest rate of 4.25%, using funds from two expiring CDs and one checking account.

Proposed Donations and Paid Memberships: Walt reported that the club has traditionally paid for memberships in the following groups – Virginia Bike Federation, Bike Maryland, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, Adventure Cycling Association, Rails to Trails, and the League of American Bicyclists at a total annual cost of \$1115.

The club also has made past donations to advocacy groups and other nonprofit cycling organizations: Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, Bike Maryland, WABA, East Coast Greenway, Phoenix Bikes and Friends of the W&OD. The 2021 total donation amount was \$350, and the same amount is proposed for 2023.

The club also pays for an annual club membership in the RideWithGPS website, which provides a number of important functions for offering club rides and events and provides a benefit to all club members by offering free access to premium-paid features on the RWGPS website and its app. That cost to the club is \$250 annually.

A motion was approved by the board to pay all of the above memberships, donations and fees.

(The club has made donations to the Charles County Indian Head Rail Trail in the past for installation of commemorative benches. The IHRT administration does not want additional contributions, and it was suggested that the club could identify other ways to support the IHRT.)

Membership: Jim Hudnall : The club gained 3 new members during the past month and now has 412 Active members.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held March 25 at Grace Lutheran Church at 5:00 pm with a pot luck dinner organized by Jackie Schoch. Jackie has sent club members an email requesting pot luck contributions and will remind members periodically to contribute.

Jim will create a website sign-up page for the Annual Meeting and send out a link via the club email list.

Pot luck: Tables will be arranged so that servers will handle the food.

The meeting agenda will consist of:

- Voting for club officers
- Possible awards
- A panel discussion organized by Diane Harris on different types of bike touring.
- A raffle is possible (as in the past) for bike-related items, if any are available in the storage locker or in Janell's stash of clothing items.

Panel Discussion participants:

Walt and Joan: Self-supported tours

Randy and Jackie: Self-guided tours

Jessica: Fully supported tours

Advocacy Report: Diane Harris

Diane attended the MD Bike Symposium and listed the four important items to discuss with our legislators:

- Safe access to roads for ALL citizens. Vision Zero
- Equity in transportation
- Reduction in speed limits
- Allowing bicycles on sidewalks

Diane asked to be the OHBTC Rep for Capitol Trails Coalition. Her request was approved.

Ron Altemus is OHBTC Rep for Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling.

Social Media: Jessica is monitoring the club Facebook page. On rare occasions, she blocks ads. She also posts upcoming events and rides on the page.

Loose Dog on Mt Calvert Road: Joan Oppel

A follow-up call to Prince Georges Animal Control confirmed that they sent an officer out within a day or two of the report but did not find a loose dog. In the same phone call, the Animal Control employee reported that there was a call from a very close near-by address that same weekend to "surrender a rottweiler". Club members will continue to ride in the area to check for this dog. (The location is on all the Rural Legacy routes).

Rural Legacy Ride: Joan and Jessica are proceeding with preparations for the event.

Empire State Ride: Sherwood Byers

Sherwood confirmed the dates for this club tour as July 10-17. The route will be Dobbs Ferry to Albany. Further details will be announced as they are confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Hirschhorn and Joan Oppel

OHBTC Annual Meeting – March 25



Pot Luck - more on that will come from Jackie Schoch who will coordinate.

An annual meeting is required by the club constitution and includes election of officers.

Board officers are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, road captain, and four board members. Nominations should be sent to Joan Oppel, chair of the Nominating Committee, at oppeljs@gmail.com.

All nominations are confidential.

FREEZING SADDLES: If Looks Could CHILL!

By Jessica Hirschhorn

FREEZING SADDLES (www.freezingsaddles.org) is an annual competition sponsored by **Bike Arlington**. It runs from New Year's Day to the first day of spring. You earn points for your team by riding your bike outside. No Peloton, NO Zwift, no spin classes! This is my fifth year as a Freezing Saddles contestant, and my third year as a team captain. As of 2/22, I have ridden 1374 miles so far in 2023.

FREEZING SADDLES was started over 10 years ago to encourage cyclists in the DMV to ride all year round, for recreation, commuting, or errands. It has morphed into a sacred annual ritual for about 200 local cyclists.

Freezing Saddles consists of 18 teams of 10 cyclists each. The registration algorithm for choosing who is on what team is based on average weekly mileage. The teams are balanced between "I ride 150 miles a week no matter WHAT!" and "You can ride your bike in the **cold?**"

The SCORING SYSTEM is heavily biased to favor the first 10 miles of the day. After 10 miles, you only earn one point per mile for your team. If you ride TWO MILES every day for a WEEK, you earn MORE POINTS for your team than if you rode 100 miles ONCE a week!

PRIZES are given out at the final Happy Hour. There are prizes for the winning team, the winning individual, and MANY other “pointless” prize categories. Here are a few of the parallel games that are sponsored:

- Daily Scavenger Hunt photo
- Public Art finder
- Socks
- Bicycle bingo
- Most coffee rides
- Most Arlington loops
- Most taco rides
- Most flat tires!

All rides must be recorded on Strava, to make it honest and accurate.

REGISTRATION opens around Thanksgiving for the following season. It is a great way to make new friends, cycle to new destinations, and learn how to CONQUER the cold!

As Nadine Beck says, “The only good thing about winter is Freezing Saddles”.



2023 Bike Maryland Symposium

By Diane Harris

The 2023 Maryland Bike Symposium took place in Annapolis on February 8. This annual event gives cyclists and cycling advocates an opportunity to discuss issues important to them, with each other as well as with their Maryland Legislative representatives. In addition, presentations are given which cover state-wide initiatives, safe biking initiatives, trail networks, Bike Maryland updates, and “legislative asks”. The legislative asks are bills and budget recommendations for safe biking and walking that we are encouraged to discuss with our State representatives in

order to get the support needed to have them passed by the State House and Senate, then hopefully signed into law by the governor. Because of pandemic related restrictions, this symposium had not been held in person for several years.

Reading about, learning of, and participating in activities that go into making cycling safer for all of us can seem tedious if not downright boring. It doesn't produce the excitement or satisfaction of a thoroughly enjoyable bike ride on a clear sunny day. But consider this: a tremendous amount of work goes into making even small changes to improve cycling safety. From identifying problems, researching cause and effect, finding out which agency or department or jurisdiction or funding source or legal ramifications or contact person, etc., is probably more than any one person can manage. That's where our Local/State/National bike advocacy organizations come into play. They are the ones who are looking out for our best interests. I see them as our eyes in the sky and boots on the ground. I believe we all have an obligation to support at least one advocacy organization, whether local or national, whether financially, through volunteering, sharing information, whatever works for you.

Brief descriptions of those bills and recommendations from the symposium follows (source, Bike Maryland):

HB70/SB16 Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023: Assures MDOT SHA (Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration) adherence to safety standards for all road users – motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, etc. – in alignment with Vision Zero and SHA's own Context-Sensitive Design Guide.

HB09/SB19 Equity in Transportation Sector: Requires that equity be considered in transportation planning, reporting and goal development. Department of Transportation to conduct transit equity analyses.

HB94 Reduction of Speed Limits by Local Authorities: Authorizes local authorities statewide to decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than 15 mph and establishes certain restrictions on speed monitoring systems.

HB519 Bikes on Sidewalks: Authorizes a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited by local ordinance; and requires a rider to yield to pedestrians and others.

FY24 budget recommendations included:

- Elevating the stature of certain positions within MDOT and SHA
- Increasing funding (with yearly increases) for a specific Bikeways program
- Exploring establishment of a single agency handling bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure with responsibility for coordination of all federal and state grant programs and engagement with local government,
- Placing at least one bike/pedestrian planner in each SHA District Office
- DNR (Department of Natural Resources) – Create, staff and budget an Office of Trails to plan, develop, and implement a MD Trail Network focused on recreation and active transportation in coordination with local jurisdictions and MDOT

More information can be found at <https://www.bikemaryland.org>