

OH Bike Mini-Newsletter – May 2023

CONTENTS

Message from the President

Half-a-Road Captain's Report

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Board Meeting Minutes

Advocacy Opportunities

Message from the President



SPRING HAS SPRUNG – Our ride leaders are anxiously filling up the ride schedule in hope of a great riding season though there is the “April showers bring May flowers” that we have to contend with. Our “All Class Ride” scheduled for April 15 had to be delayed until the 23rd because of the rain predictions. I stopped by Proteus Bike Shop in College Park the afternoon of the 15th to see their planned E-Bike Extravaganza, but Laura (the manager/owner) cancelled it for the same dire weather prediction. While I was there, I saw a large group/club of women from DC that weren't going to let a little rain stop their weekly ride.

Laura and I were discussing the problems with converting a regular bike to an e-bike. We both agreed this wasn't a good idea for safety's sake. The extra weight and speed of an e-bike conversion on a bike with rim brakes would make it hard to stop and should not be considered.

Jackie and I are enjoying both our e-bikes (standard and trike) and are planning for many miles of riding this year. Come enjoy our regular Friday IHRT Ride and join us for lunch. See you on the trail/road.

Reminder - We now have four donated bikes in our storage locker available as “loaners” for our members that may get visitors who might like to ride while in this area. A member recently had visitors from Hungary who used our “loaners”.

Rabbi Randy, President

Half-a-Road Captain's Report

By Steve Palinscar

We're trying something different this year: at the annual meeting, Dan Donahue and I were elected as co-Road Captains. We're still feeling our way (in the dark, hoping soon we'll come upon the light switch) and figuring out just exactly what that means.



While we grope in the dark the ride schedule continues and we're doing our best to get the Start the Season Right all-class ride launched in April, having had to reschedule because of a dire weather forecast featuring thunder, lightning and rain which didn't actually materialize. The current forecast for the rain date features more rain.

According to the Washington Post, "Washington is experiencing its warmest year on record to this point on the calendar. Temperatures above to well above normal have been relentless, giving way only to occasional and brief bouts of chillier air. The year is running more than 5 degrees above average to date. Only 24 days through Sunday, April 16 have been below average for temperatures. That means 77 percent of days have been above average since Jan. 1." (<https://wapo.st/3mSb0ns>)

We've been taking advantage of the warm weather. So far this year, from January 1 through April 16 we have had 67 rides: 23 in January, 18 in February, 12 in March, and 14 so far in April. Over 50 have been CC and CC/C rides; the rest have been all-class rides like the Friday Indian Head Rail Trail rides and the Wednesday Tour d'Accokeek.

The CC class is alive and well; that's the good news. The bad news is we haven't had any AA, A or B rides so far this year. The AA class coordinator post is open, and it looks as though we no longer have a functioning AA class. I know we have members who are A and B riders, I've seen them on CC rides and I've seen them out on the road riding with District Cycling Collective and GII, and we have A and B class coordinators.

I know the pandemic hit us hard: not just Oxon Hill, but also many other cycling clubs. When the ride schedules shut down many riders changed their habits and made new arrangements, sometimes riding with other groups that didn't stop riding, sometimes riding alone, sometimes creating informal riding groups. Sadly, some have even given up riding entirely.

I also know that switching our ride schedule to the Wild Apricot event management software introduced a steep learning curve for people wanting to post a ride. Wild Apricot is a complex and powerful system capable of managing large, complex events with many participants. At first it almost seems as complex as the manuals (keyboards) and stops of a cathedral organ, bewildering when all you think you want is one one-octave keyboard. But using the ride templates we've pre-configured, it's not nearly as daunting as it might initially seem.

If not knowing how to post a ride using Wild Apricot is what's holding you back from leading a ride, contact me or contact your ride class coordinator. Send us the details and we can post the ride for you. If you've got a little time we can show you how to do it and get you the admin access you'll need to post rides.

Even simpler, if you see a CC ride in the schedule and you'd like to lead an A or B version, the way we used to do so often before the pandemic, contact the CC ride leader, your class coordinator, or me. It won't take me but a minute to set up an A or B version of a ride already on the schedule with you as the ride leader.

Oxon Hill Bike and Trail Club Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time	April 10, 2023 7:00 PM
Attendance	Randy Schoch, Joan Oppel, Ellen Goodwin, Diane Harris, Walt Roscello, Jessica Hirschhorn, Steve Palincsar, Jim Hudnall, Leslie Tierstein, Jane Hudnall, Jackie Schoch, Sherwood Byers
Absent	Board members: None

President Schoch called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting were approved.

The minutes of the OHBTC Annual Meeting on March 25 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Walt Roscello

Walt shared an updated income and expense report with the board. He reported that we have gained over \$6000 from Rural Legacy registration and have recorded about \$500 in expenses. He noted that very few expenses attributed to the event have been spent to date so expect that ratio to change. He also noted that he mailed the approved donation to Grace Lutheran Church, but the amount is not reflected in today's treasurer's report.

Wild Apricot: Wild Apricot has announced that it is retiring the tier of website support that Oxon Hill utilizes. Walt is alerting the Board that the price for the new tier to meet our needs will be \$2500, payable next winter.

Membership Report – Jim Hudnall

Jim reported that 5 new members joined in the previous month.

Proposed new waiver of liability – Joan Opper

Prior to the meeting, Joan distributed a revised Release and Waiver of Liability to all board members. Currently, registration for a ride requires checking four boxes, one is the 'regular' liability waiver the club has used for years. The other three check boxes are related to COVID. She proposed consolidating most of the current COVID requirements with the "regular" waiver to create a single document to acknowledge for registration. She also proposed eliminating the checkbox that states "I am fully vaccinated." The board voted to approve the new waiver as distributed and to eliminate the fully vaccinated statement. To read the new waiver, click here: <https://ohbike1.wildapricot.org/Release-and-Waiver-of-Liability>

All Class Rides Update – Steve Palincsar

Start the Season Right-April 15: Steve (as the new road co-captain) reported that the registration page was live, with all the routes and information updated on the RideWithGPS linked page. Members present at this meeting volunteered to lead different classes.

Advocacy Report – Diane Harris

Diane attended the meeting of the Capital Trails Coalition, where it was announced that Maryland has received federal funds for upgrading trails and will now evaluate which trails to address using these funds.

Class 2 E-bike discussion

A member asked the board to consider whether the club should take a proactive role in addressing the subject of electric bikes propelled by throttle without riders pedaling, scooters, and unicycles on our local trails. Those are self-propelled, rather than requiring rider input and tend to move at greater speeds than most bikes and exceed the speed limits on local trails. The board discussed the issue, particularly the near impossibility of enforcement and decided to take no action.

Rural Legacy Ride - June 10 – Joan and Jessica

As of April 10, 119 riders are registered, along with 19 volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Next Meeting: May 8, 2023, 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Hirschhorn and Joan Oppel

Advocacy Opportunities

Two projects affecting bicycling infrastructure are currently underway in Maryland that are open for public comment. In-person or virtual meetings have already taken place, but the projects are still accepting comments.

You have until May 10 to tell the MdTA your recommendations on bicycle usage – days of the week, hours, and seasons – on the new Nice/Middleton Bridge. Comments can be submitted either in writing or online at [Community - New Nice Middleton Bridge Project | MDTA \(maryland.gov\)](#)

The MDOT State Highway Administration is accepting input on for MD 223 and Floral Park roundabout, intersection improvements in Prince George's county. Information can be found here: <https://www.roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/pressreleasedetails.aspx?newsId=4562&PageId=818>

Walt Roscello, the club's advocacy chairperson, has already responded to these requests for comments. Walt can be reached at: wroscello@gmail.com