

Notes from TCBC Board Meeting and Program Meeting
Date of Meetings: December 8, 2011, 6PM
Location: Round Table Pizza, top of Leslie Road, Richland, WA

Present: Carl Berkowitz (Pres.), Joe Axtell (1st Vice Pres.), Topher Mobley (Treasurer/Secretary), Ed Nordquist (2nd Vice Pres.) , John Ittner (webmaster)

Treasury Report: by **Topher**. We have ~\$4,505.37 in our checking account and cash box

Membership Report: by **Topher**.

- 53 members total: 3 new, 11 Renewed
- 23 expired members still on mailing list (members that expired within last 6 months)
- 8 members moved to Expired list (members over 6 months expired)

We've received 15 membership renewals in last month.

Future Meetings:

Carl has spoken with George Kyriazis and Jane Sereda regarding a presentation on bicycle touring for the January meeting (tentatively scheduled for January 26th).

(Following the board meeting, Jerry Lewis agreed to lead a discussion about bike touring for our February meeting, date to be determined.)

Cycling Trips for 2012:

Ed volunteered (?) to be the club Ride Leader. This was greatly appreciated given the amount of time he's already donated to the club!

It was agreed that in the following year we want to have more pre-announced 'led' rather than having almost exclusively 'leaderless' rides that start at 'Some Bagels' in Richland (where the group decides on the spot where to go). John suggested, and it was agreed upon in e-mail chatter among the officers after the meeting, that whenever we schedule a Saturday ride that we replace the generic 'Some Bagel' event with the planned ride.

Two rides will be posted on the club calendar for next year:

Carl will lead a 'beginner's ride' on March 3rd. The description (for posting on the club webpage/calendar follows:

'A casual ride to the Laser Interferometer Gravity Observatory (LIGO). About 35 miles (round trip) of relatively flat riding. Meet 10AM at Some Bagels, Richland. Bring water and snack

(there's none enroot). We'll have a turn-around group at the ~10 mile mark for those who have time for only a ~20 mile round trip ride.

John will lead another 'beginner's ride' described as 'Parks Loop leaving from Some Bagels. RT is about 26 miles. **Note:** We'll need a date and starting time for this ride.

Other officers and club members are encouraged to lead rides, even if it's their daily standard fitness ride. We'd like to get one ride per month in each of the communities (West Richland, Richland, Pasco, Kennewick).

Ride Leader Training:

John and **Joe** suggested we encourage all ride leaders to work through the 9 hour, \$35 web-based course, 'Traffic Skills 101'. <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/education/courses.php> .

[Suggestion from Carl: once we get our club rides back on a regular basis, I'd suggest we notify all leaders and suggest they work through this web-based program. Perhaps we could do it as a group in blocks of a few hours, making it a social event, too??]

Joe has started preparing a manual for ride leaders. Other officers volunteered to review this material. [Suggestion from Carl: can we post a PDF version for easy download on our webpage? Not only would it help ride leaders, but it could be great publicity for the club].

John: to post a link on the club website to the TS-101 online course.

New Business and follow up assignments:

Joe led a discussion of potential activities the club could pursue in 2012. His list follows:

1. Bike Rodeo
2. Parent/Child Rides {with Bike Trailers}
3. Ride Leader Training/Familiarization
4. Expand Group Ride Activities
 - Groups rides in each community
 - Novice Rides
 - Intermediate Rides
5. Effective Riding Classes (Traffic Skills 101 Road portion)
6. Presentation - Intro to Touring
7. Physical Therapy presentation
8. Personal Trainer presentation
9. Legal Presentation / Cycling Laws in Washington
10. Vendor/Bike Shop Events
 - a. Tandem bikes
 - b. Touring bikes
 - c. Maintenance
11. Bike Swap
12. Specialty services

13. Shop event for clubs
14. Bike trail expansion
15. Bike recycling
16. Bike commuting seminar
17. Bike rack installation - matching funds to help select merchants or locations to install racks

Assignment for Carl: to work with Jane and George in preparing for January meeting.

Assignment for All: to contact Ed regarding rides they would lead starting this spring.

In post-meeting e-mail chatter...

John, Topher, Joe and Carl agreed that we'll split the 4 copies of Adventure Cycling we receive to 1) REI in Kennewick, 2) Greenies in Richland, 3) Kennewick Cycles . The 4th copy will be passed around to members during meetings. Joe will bring issues to club meetings, and Topher and Carl will distribute to the bike shops.

John has been in touch with Mike Robinson/Chinooks and Jeff Peterson/3 Rivers Bicycle Coalition regarding TCBC club members having access to 'Pipeline'. Mike can send a monthly email of the previous month's postings; otherwise, anyone wanting instant news of the Pipeline Group on Facebook would have to be a Facebook member and request that Mike Robinson include them in the Group, which is a closed group.

Notes from the General Membership Meeting Following the Board Meeting:

Lots of round-table discussion about rides in the past, staying warm during winter rides (or just doing indoor training). Joe regaled members with great stories about encounters on a bicycle with river otters and squirrels.

Carl asked members for input he could present at the January 18, 2012 Richland Parks and Recreation Department meeting to review their '2006 – 2012 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan'. Club members brought up the following concerns:

1. East-west travel through Richland is very difficult. The recent modifications to Lee Blvd. have made this a difficult street for cyclists, with the bicycle lane being adjacent to a parking lane. It's known from experience that people in parked automobiles frequently do not see cyclists when they pull out from their parking spot or open their doors. There are too many decision points with side traffic and parked cars. As a result, club members are now trying to avoid Lee Blvd.
2. Cycling to and from the Federal Building is another challenging area for bike commuters. There is no easy or safe access during times of high traffic. Similar comments were offered for access to the Richland Library.
3. There was concern about riding on the chip seal along H'way 240. This pavement was felt to be satisfactory during warm weather but it was noted that chip seal breaks up in cold weather and then litters the shoulder on which cyclists ride.

4. There was wide spread concern about safety on the shelter belt bike paths (adjacent to the Bypass H'way), the issue here being the many large bumps in the roads that are often hard to see in the shadows of this bike trail.

Assignment for John: to add a location on the club webpage where cyclists can note areas of concern (such as those noted above). Once posted, we'll notify other clubs of this information. It was suggested that although we may start this list on our webpage, it may be better located on the webpage for the Bicycle Coalition, and we simply have a link to this home location.