

Sacramento Wheelmen Club Newsletter



2022, Issue 2

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Membership Report

The club is growing with 26 new (and renewed!) members so far this year! Please join me in welcoming the following Wheelies - we can't wait to draft off, lol, and ride with you!

Catherine Cabonaro	Rachel Dagg	Karen Eickmann
Jeannie Ennis	Ricardo Gonzalez	Michele Hinkle
Suzanne Ito	Ed Keller	Suzanne Leonoudakis
Aron Livingston	Gia Manduca	Jerry Manduca
Larry Merlo	Ray Noorani	Bryan Olson
Suzanne Rogers	Jason Rose	Tim Smith
Ron Strautman	Sandy Strautman	Cecille Taylor
Ralph Thomas	Wendy Tomko	Jeff Watson
Paulus Weemaes	Don Welch	

Event Calendar Report

The next Club Business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM. Here is the Zoom link:

Topic: Sacramento Wheelmen Club Meeting

Time: June 15, 2022 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89013978428?pwd=ZXZsVFZlOQjc3dC9hNHVxaTBrVnk1UT09>

Meeting ID: 890 1397 8428

Passcode: 051607

Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes for April club meeting (Debbie)
2. Guerneville report (Debra)
3. Locker update (Tom)
4. Web site update (Tom)
5. European Tour update (Sandy)
6. May is Bike Month (Debbie)

Club Business Report

WHEELMEN JOIN VOICE OF THE PARKWAY COALITION

At the April 13 club Zoom meeting, the Sacramento Wheelmen voted to throw the club's full weight behind an American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF) effort to rid the parkway of illegal campers.

In joining the Voice of the Parkway Coalition, the club endorsed a recent letter sent to Sacramento County and Sacramento City officials demanding that illegal homeless campers be removed from the parkway.

Pressure has been mounting on state and local politicians. On April 6, the Sacramento City Council voted to place the "Emergency Shelter and Enforcement Act of 2022" on the November ballot. The ordinance would outlaw homeless encampments once the city creates enough shelter spaces or Safe Ground camping sites. On April 8, a few state legislators introduced a bill proposal that would make it easier for local governments to clear out homeless encampments within "special parklands" like the American River Parkway. A 2018 federal appeals court ruling prohibits enforcement of anti-camping laws if enough shelter space is not

available. At this time, that ruling applies to the American River Parkway. The proposed bill is intended to exempt the parkway from meeting that shelter requirement. The bill was scheduled for a public hearing on April 26.

There are an estimated 160,000 homeless in California, of which an estimated 2,000 live along the American River Parkway.

After watching *Parkway in Peril*, a 13-minute video produced by the ARPF, the club voted unanimously to join the coalition. After the meeting, President Tom Adams informed the ARPF.

In other meeting business, the club voted to move out of our storage locker and heard about progress on a new club web site.

The club's storage locker costs \$2,200 per year. Tim Koch believes he can store everything he needs for the annual Oregon Tour and the annual club picnic in a storage shed on his property, and he has offered to do so. Should additional storage space be required, we have the option of renting a smaller locker than the one we currently rent and that would also result in cutting club annual expenses.

A great deal of space in our locker is currently being taken up by garbage cans and large coolers which haven't been in use since the last time the club put on the Sierra Century. It was argued that selling or giving away old Sierra Century supplies now will save the club money in the long run, compared to paying for storage, even if the club decides to start up the Sierra Century at some future date which would require repurchasing supplies.

Ron Davies and Tom Adams reported on their assessment of what features on our current web site should be retained and what elements should be dropped as we move toward a new web site format for the club. The idea is to retain all the important elements essential to promoting the club and informing club members, and dropping non-essential or outdated elements. The web site needs to be kept up to date, so we should not try to do more with it than we can support with updated information, they argued. A web site transfer checklist has been created, along with a list of items which will not be transferred. Anyone interested in a copy of that document should contact Tom Adams at tcadams54@yahoo.com.

The next step in the process is to pick a new phone-friendly format among Wild Apricot templates and start the process of setting up a new web site by transferring and updating what we want to retain.

Membership Coordinator Bryan Stevinson reported that 11 new members had joined the club in the last 30 days, 11 were due for renewal, and 10 were overdue. Members receive an email prior to expiration of their membership, after their membership has expired, and when they are three-months past due. The preferred way to join the club or renew membership is by credit card through the club's website. At the time of the meeting, we had 324 active members.

Ride Calendar Report

The ride calendar is shy on Sunday rides...reach out to Ride Director Mabel to get your ride on the calendar. The process is EASY and you can submit all the ride details via the club website.

Social Media Report

The Sac Wheelmen Facebook Group is a private account all members are encouraged to join. A private account is only available to account members. No one else in the Facebook world sees what is posted there. What is posted there automatically goes into the “news” feed of Facebook members of the group. As such it’s a nice way for members of the club to share videos and photos.

“But we can already share photos using our club email account,” you say. True. However, Facebook is designed to share photos and videos. They can be captioned. You can comment on them. And they don’t get buried in a long list of emails and eventually lost forever. You are not reliant on the “news” feed. You can go directly to the club account:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SacWheelmen>. If you are interested in seeing Guerneville Zodiac photos, they have been gathered and posted on the club’s Facebook Group account.

How do you become a member? First off, you need to establish a Facebook account. That means you have to provide a name and email account information. Once you’ve done that, you can go to the Sac Wheelmen Group Account and join. (Ignore the “Sacramento Wheelmen” Group account. It drifts at sea without an administrator which is why we created a new one.) If there are any issues, let Tom Adams know. He is the account administrator. His email is tcadams54@yahoo.com.

At present there are 100 club members of the Sac Wheelmen Facebook Group. Tim Wong, Joe Scarpa, and Wendy Tomko recently joined the group. Who’s next?

Travel Report

ZODIACS – Domestic Cycling Trips

2022 Guerneville Zodiac

By Steve Forsberg

If you missed this year's Guerneville Zodiac, you missed great rides and a lot of fun. Forty-three club members and guests enjoyed a festive three days of riding and camaraderie in the spectacular redwoods along the Russian River. Once again, the club used the Fern Grove Cottages in Guerneville as our home base. We sold out the Fern Grove with overflow participants finding other accommodations nearby.



One of the many nice things about riding the Guerneville Zodiac is that the Wheelmen have about 20 routes out of Guerneville in our club library, all in Ride with GPS format. As a result, participants have many choices as to which routes and what level of difficulty they prefer. All of these routes are beautiful, ranging from rides in the redwoods, along the Sonoma Coast, through scenic vineyards and up on the high ridges with magnificent views of the Pacific. Each morning the riders split up into three or four smaller groups, each group riding a route of their choice, ranging from 30 to 80 miles, depending on the group.





On Wednesday afternoon, most of the riders converged on the Birds Café in Bodega Bay for lunch, a club favorite and an annual stop for many of us. Clam chowder and fish tacos to die for!!!



No zodiac would be complete without après ride evenings, AKA, Happy Hours ☺. Each was well attended. In addition, on Wednesday evening, a fajita dinner with all the fixins, prepared by a local restaurant, was served, followed by carrot spice cake and ice cream bars in honor of Gary White's 60th and Harold's upcoming birthdays. We can say for sure that no one went hungry on this zodiac.



While the 2022 Guerneville Zodiac is in the books, it's not too soon to mark your calendars for next year; first week of May for the 2023 Guerneville Zodiac.

Upcoming Zodiacs

The next planned Zodiac is not until January of 2023. Do **YOU** have an idea for a Zodiac? It's fun to plan a Zodiac trip - as leader you get to pick a place **YOU** want to go, when **YOU** want to go... Is there a location where you've always dreamed of riding? Plan a zodiac! And you don't have to recreate the wheel – the club has a library of Zodiacs from which to choose. It's easy and fun, let's partner up and plan one!

TOURS – International Cycling

The official 2022 Wheelmen European cycling trip is scheduled for September 4-25 where we will cycle in the lovely Italian Alps and the Dolomites, as well as around Lake Como. Plenty of terrain diversity and a possible George Clooney sighting make this a do-not-miss trip! This trip is currently wait-list only; please check with Sandy Yarrow for openings.

Miscellaneous

MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH – 2022 RESULTS!

By Debbie Finley

Ever since 1956, cyclists have pledged every month of May to ride their bikes, set personal goals, and log their miles. Why? Because it's a time to celebrate everything about bicycling. The one mission of May is Bike Month is to get more people riding their bikes. And that means not only riding for fun and exercise, but to shop, go to work, to improve your health, to protect our environment and reduce your carbon footprint, decrease pollution and traffic, see the world at a slower pace, and so much more.

This was the 16th annual May is Bike Month in the Sacramento Region. It was hosted by Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA). Over 3,100 riders in the Sacramento Region rode more than 550,000 miles and saved nearly 60,000 lbs CO2 from entering the atmosphere.

The Sacramento Wheelmen, as a club, have enthusiastically participated for many years and this year we had 81 riders register to be in our group. (Our first goal was to get 20% of our 324 members to sign up and we easily passed the 64.8 number of members needed.) Our aim was simple...to just get out and ride as much and often as we could, and if we could ride with our buddies then that was a bonus. Well drumroll, we cycled 37,029 miles as a group this May. (Goal 2 to top last year's mileage of 22,059 miles was easily achieved. And we were also successful in meeting goal 4 of logging in at least 60% of our all-time high mileage-59,669 miles-in 2016.)

We had one goal that we almost (but not quite) met: Goal 3 was to have 100% of registered riders log miles in May. We had 77 out of 81 log in miles. Close but no bananas!

Our two main friendly local rivals were the Sacramento Bike Hikers and the Sierra Foothills Cycling Club (SFCC). We all had similar number of registered riders. While we surpassed the Bike Hikers, the SFCC eclipsed us by a mere 1,000 miles. Way to go SFCC!! (Note: numbers may change slightly as the MIBM staff is auditing rider mileage and results are not posted yet.)

Lastly, I know you are all anxious to get a rundown of our individual members and their amazing achievements:

- We had 9 members log miles commuting to work: Rod F, Dennis K, Caron M, Tom G, Bryan O, Leyne M, Karen H, Sarah F, and one member, Linda L, who actually commuted 329 miles to work in May.
- We had 5 members top 800 miles: Joni B, Mabel, Linda A, Gary W, and Leyne M.
- We had 4 top 900 miles: Paul G, Caron M, Carrie S, and Cliff M.
- And amazingly, we had 5 riders top 1000 miles: Ken B, Linda L, Bob S, Art O and Zia T. Incredible numbers!

So who was our actual Wheelmen animal? Off the starting block it was a battle between Ken B, Linda L, and AO. (Don't know what AO was thinking, but he neglected to pack his bike when he went to Indianapolis and watched Marcus Ericsson go in circles for 500 miles.) Then out of nowhere and riding so strong, Bob S solidly overtook AO, and Zia T came in right afterwards.

Final results:

1. Ken Bell 1,442 miles
2. Linda Lasswell 1,235 miles
3. Bob Storelli 1,090 miles
4. Art Oliver 1,051 miles
5. Zia Tabaie 1,015 miles.

Ken Bell has won the coffee gift card for fiercest animal for 2022 MIBM.

Zia Tabaie has won the gift card for the largest percentage increase in miles as compared to April.

And WINNER #3 (drawn randomly from all who logged any miles in May) will be announced at our next Wheelmen meeting on June 15th.

Thanks to all who participated in this nationwide movement to get out and ride your bikes!

HOTEL ALEXANDER REVIEW – *The Search for the Perfect Cycling Trip is Over*

By Debra Lebish

Q: Do you want to cycle abroad, ideally in Italy?

A: Who doesn't!!!

Q: Do you want a hotel where EVERY ROOM has an ocean view balcony?

A: Yes, please!

Q: How about high-end bikes and professional cycling guides?

A: I thought you'd never ask!

Look no further than the legendary Hotel Alexander in Gabicce Mare, Italy! There can be many reasons why you can't join the official 2022 Wheelmen cycling trip to northern Italy (Gabbice Mare is in central Italy on the Adriatic coast)...maybe you already have something planned during that time, perhaps the trip is already full, or you can't commit to 3 weeks. Whatever the reason, with Hotel Alexander you get all the benefits of a Wheelmen-approved cycling holiday and you travel on your schedule. You have no doubt heard the hotel's rave reviews from other Wheelmen, and probably from other cyclists that you know. Now here's the rest of the story...

The HOTEL



The Hotel Alexander is a medium-sized family run hotel with around 80 rooms. Each room has a sizeable balcony with a view of the ocean; the room is well appointed and has a mini-bar. The staff is very helpful and friendly and can assist as a concierge does – train schedules, shopping, taxis, winery visits, and the



like. They truly want to help. Did I mention that the beach is RIGHT THERE, mere meters away?

The hotel's food is FRESH and high quality. Think sun-kissed tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, greens and tons of other fruits and vegetables. Ripe and juicy peaches, pears, and nectarines in season. Seafood at its best, such as barbequed tuna, seemingly just plucked from the ocean. Plenty of pasta and protein to please any cyclist. OH, and the wine is *benissimo!*



The Hotel Alexander has so many wonderful attributes, it's easy to gush with praise. Both the facility and the service make the Hotel Alexander the perfect destination for a vacation, either on its own or combined with other European travels. Its location near Bologna makes it easy to get to by train, plane or automobile.

The CYCLING



You want climbing? It's there, plenty of it!



How about coastal views and fresh ocean air? Yes, it's yours!



Prefer tamer terrain? You bet!



And castles on hills and vineyards for miles? No problem!

The cycling around Gabicce Mare has something to please every rider. Long rides, short rides, hills, rollers, flats – it's all there. The professional, personable and experienced cycling guides know all the roads and routes to make each day's ride better than the last and they know the best places to grab an espresso, snack or lunch when that time rolls around. Stops at wine and cheese tastings are frequently on the schedule, as are unique towns and culture.

The Hotel Alexander offers high-end road bike rentals and most riders are more than satisfied with their hired "steed" and thus there is no need to travel with your own bike. This means no bike disassembly or packing, moving it around the airport and otherwise transporting, re-packing, or re-assembly. Save those Airline fees (often \$400 or more!) and protect your fancy bike from travel damage by renting directly from the hotel. And enjoy the flexibility of not traveling with your bike – you're freed up to move about Europe and the airport without that big and clumsy bike box!

WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?

I highly recommend Hotel Alexander because it checks all the boxes – location, nice rooms, wonderful fresh food, great riding and roads, beautiful scenery, excellent service and guides, bikes, beach, friendly staff. But don't just take my word for it - the hotel was awarded the 2021 Certificate of Excellence by Trip Advisor. Also, many Wheelmen are repeat hotel guests.

Roberto and his team make it easy to book a trip because they know what Wheelmen want! No need to make a bazillion calls and send and follow up on multiple emails trying to orchestrate your trip requirements in another language...finding and renting a high-end bike, a car or other transportation, a cycling and tourist guide, dinner reservations, wine and cheese tasting appointments, etc. Honestly, Hotel Alexander is a fantastic place and as a bonus and it is a great value. Outfitters that provide a similar experience charge up to \$10,000/week.

Contact Roberto or Camilla today to schedule your vacation, you'll be glad you did. Ask for special Wheelmen pricing.

Hotel Alexander

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https://www.alexanderhotel.it/en/home_3.html