

Sacramento Wheelmen Club Newsletter



2022, Issue 3

In this Newsletter Issue

- Event Calendar Report
- Club Business Report
- Ride Calendar Report
- Social Media Report
- Travel Report
- Miscellaneous

Event Calendar Report

The next Club Business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM. Here is the Zoom link:

Topic: Sacramento Wheelmen Zoom Meeting

Time: Aug 17, 2022 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84836556070?pwd=RnJ1WWIUQIZNOFIjL3hCSkZzRVErdz09>

Meeting ID: 848 3655 6070

Passcode: 584015

Join Zoom at 6 pm to chat virtually with your buddies; meeting starts promptly at 6:30. Be there!!

Meeting Agenda

1. June Meeting Minutes (Debbie Finley)
2. Membership Update (Bryan Stevinson)
3. Proposed 2023 Club Donation Amount (Tom Adams)
4. 2023 Club Banquet (Board member(s))
5. 2022 Club Picnic (Tim Koch/Sandy Yarrow)
6. Oregon Tour: 2022 and 2023 (Tim Koch)
7. European Tour Update (Sandy Yarrow)
8. Locker Clear-Out Update (Tom Adams)

The Annual Club Picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 22. Block out your calendar for a day of fun, food, and fitness! Details to follow as the date nears.

Ride Calendar Report

The ride calendar needs your support...reach out to Ride Director Mabel (sacwheelmenridedirector@gmail.com - SO EASY!) to get your ride on the calendar. The process is EASY and you can submit all the ride details via the club website.

In the meantime, please read this important article by Tom Adams:

WHEELMEN RIDE CALENDAR: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Tom Adams

As I was browsing through our club's web site the other day taking inventory on what to keep and what to toss as we progress to a revised web site design more attune to the device of choice these days, the smart phone, I dove into the 2010 Second Quarter edition of WheelNews, the "Sacramento Wheelmen's Ride Schedule & Newsletter."

We have archived WheelNews issues from 2010 through 2013, along with all four issues in 2020. Some gaps in there, obviously, and we hope to fill them down the road. As late as 2013, the WheelNews was still a printed publication distributed to members by mail and to the general public through bike shops.

Back then our WheelNews served as a newsletter covering upcoming and past events, and more importantly perhaps, it presented a full schedule of club rides for the next three months. The second quarter 2010 edition previewed our Sierra Century on June 5, provided full

photographic coverage of our club awards banquet in January, and listed new members, including Bob Storelli and Mabel Wong. For the second quarter of the 2010 edition, 55 ride leaders submitted rides to Ride Director Dan Anglim at least a month before the start of the quarter.

In 2010, Executive Board Business Meetings were held at Hoppy's Brewery, 6300 Folsom Blvd, six times throughout the year. General Meetings in the SMUD building at 6201 S St. occurred five times throughout the year.

By 2010, you registered for the Sierra Century online and submitted rides to the ride director online. But if you needed to know the start location and start time of a Wheelmen ride, you still consulted the schedule printed in the WheelNews. Those rides were rated as flat, rolling, moderate, hilly, mountainous, or severe. There were four ride categories as well: casual, flexible, training, and offroad.

The weekday Series calendar for the second quarter of 2010 looks similar to what we continue to offer in 2022. In 2010, there were two Tuesday breakfast rides, one out of William Pond Park, the other out of Miller Park; two Thursday breakfast rides, one from the bike trail at the Sunrise bridge, the other from the corner of Florin and Riverside. There was also a Monday Night Skills Ride, Wednesday Brunch Ride, Thursday Night Ride, and the Sac Hay Series. Then as now, a Series ride was typically a weekday ride on a reoccurring basis out of the same location.

Weekday Series rides in 2010 listed start times, start locations, and at least one ride leader. Route descriptions for these rides were very generalized. To get more information, you had to show up at the start or contact the ride leader by phone or email. The Monday Night Skills Ride was a training ride so speeds reached the 18 to 24 mph range in a pace line, but otherwise the rides were categorized as Flexible (ride at your own pace, designated stops). The rides out of William Pond and from the trail near the Sunrise Bridge were listed as rolling. All the other series rides were listed as flat.

When you compare the Series ride calendar from the second quarter of 2010 to what we currently offer, not that much has changed. Some of the Series rides from 2010 are no longer offered, but we have added a Thursday Coffee Ride out of Gold River and two Saturday Series rides, one out of Discovery Park (Mile Zero) and one out of Granite Bay Community Park. The Thursday Coffee Ride and Granite Bay Community Park Ride are most often either rolling, moderate, or hilly, as opposed to flat. The William Pond start is most often two groups, one of which is rarely flat (and I am still searching for a second ride leader for it).

The big change on the calendar when you compare 2010 to 2022 is the decline in the number of ride choices the club offers on weekends. These non-Series rides are led, for the most part, by a different group of club members. That was true then as it is now. Back in the second quarter of 2010, all of these weekend rides listed a start time and start location. Some came with a fairly detailed description of the route, but many did not provide that. In the second quarter of 2010, from April through June, we offered multiple rides on many Saturdays and Sundays, and we offered at least one ride every Saturday and Sunday. That's no longer true. For example, there was no club ride on Sunday, July 31, 2022.

So now, if you're still hanging in there reading this comparison, we come to why I think this comparison is important. Weekend rides are very important to the health of the club. Without them, you are hard pressed to attract and retain new members. Without new members, the club eventually dies (along with its members). When I look at the list of ride leaders from the second quarter of 2010, I see people who are no longer alive. I also see the names of club members who have moved or are no longer riding a bike. And I see the names of people I see every week. Some are still leading rides, but perhaps not as many.

So much has changed. We no longer put on the Sierra Century. The Napa cycling club has also dropped out of the event business. The Konacti Challenge is ending its run, too. These days, Series ride leaders use the club email account to send out route GPS files. The cue sheet, once the required handout for weekend club rides, is now merely an option. Since the pandemic hit, we have been meeting five or six times a year via Zoom technology, combining business with general presentations. We may never go back to an in-person meeting format. Most importantly, we no longer print out a combination newsletter and schedule. They are separate and available only online. The newsletter comes out prior to every club meeting. It is available to club members and the world at large through our web site, as is the club ride calendar.

Does the future look bright for the Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Club? Well, time will tell. (Boy, that's a tired phrase!)

We're doing okay on the Ride Series front. I'm the over-achiever in that category because I provide a route description and a GPS file for every Thursday Coffee Ride a month in advance. The club has never expected that of Series ride leaders and does not expect it now.

The club does expect non-Series, weekend ride leaders to submit rides to Ride Director Mabel Wong well in advance. Along with a ride description (which does not have to be detailed), we expect these ride leaders to also submit a GPS file of the route. The bike computer is here to stay and like cellphones has become another appendage. Participants who want cue sheets can be told to print out their own through the RideWithGPS website we use to create GPS files. As a weekend ride leader, do you need to be proficient with RideWithGPS route creation? No. Our club route library offers many courses from which to choose. Besides giving current members the computer file they have become dependent on, submitting route GPS files in advance enables us to better promote club rides on MeetUp, a web site designed to match recreational athletes with their preferred form of recreation.

To survive and reinvigorate our club, we need to continue to offer rides on the weekend, ideally every weekend, every Saturday, every Sunday, weather permitting, along with GPS routes. Our Zodiacs, the Oregon Tour and the European Tour have brought in new members, however the weekend rides hold a special place because from these rides the future ride leaders and club board members emerge over time. That's certainly my story, anyway.

If you are a long-standing club member who has rarely or never volunteered to lead a weekend ride, I would appreciate it if you stepped forward now. How about 3 times a year? The club needs you. Comparing what we offered on weekends in 2010 to what we offer today indicates how far we have slipped, but we can rebuild.

Travel Report

ZODIACS – Domestic Cycling Trips

The Oregon tour started 8/7/2022 and people are cycling through out the state of Oregon under the guidance of ride leader Tim Koch. To the delight of many this year's tour is all hotels, no camping required. Regardless, participants are getting in some good miles and hills!!

TOURS – International Cycling

This year's European trip will take place in Northern Italy, mostly in the Italian Alps. Folks have been putting in some serious butt time to get ready! The food in Northern Italy tends to have an Austrian flair...who can resist spaetzle and speck? Look for a full report in the next newsletter edition.

Miscellaneous

AUGUST 3 CLUB STORAGE GIVE-A-WAY

On Wednesday, August 3, the Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Club opened up its storage locker from 10 am to noon in our first attempt to clean it out before the next payment is due at the end of the month.



Earlier this year, the club made the decision to empty the locker after Tim Koch offered to store picnic, Zodiac, and Oregon Tour supplies on his property. That has happened. Tim, Robert Samms, and Tom Adams did that in one move last month, mainly thanks to Samms' large pick-up. What was left: supplies for the Sierra Century accumulated over a number of years.

The goal is to get out from under the cost of a storage locker: \$2,200 per year. That's

a major budget expense each year. Now that the supplies we want to keep have been removed from the storage facility, we're looking at paying \$2,200 a year for stuff we don't use at present and have no current plans to use. Can we get it cleared out before the end of the month? Hopefully.

With what we need out of the way, we invited club members to show up and take what they wanted. There was not a big turnout, but there was a substantial result. Debbie Finley, Steve Barre, and his wife, Anne showed up to help Tom Adams. No shouting. No tug of wars. Just a

few very helpful people. Pat Tracey was a big help and he loaded up his pick-up with enough supplies to put on a first-class rest stop.



Karen Lehman contacted the American River Parkway Foundation whose representative did some cherry-picking, too. Sandy Yarrow showed up and came away with a better garbage can. Debbie Finley called in her husband, Bruce, to haul away all the stuff she set aside.

The big news: While we were moving stuff around and doing a more thorough inventory, Bruce put us in contact with the owner of Velo Promo. He works closely with the Northern California Nevada Cycling Association and he is eager to take away what amounts to a significant amount of event-specific signage along with canopies, vests, flags, and barricades. The Santa Rosa Cycling Club is also “interested,” but much more cautious. They already took all of the supplies left in the storage locker used for the Napa Century. That left them with stuff they had to get rid of. The nice thing about this development is that our supplies are going to be repurposed in a way that promotes cycling. That’s cool.

This is the email I sent to Velo Promo: “I have received a list of supplies you would like the Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Club to donate to you. I have also been in contact with the Santa Rosa Cycling Club but since you are interested in a significantly greater quantity of event supplies than they are, your organization is the one we would prefer to donate to. We want to clear out that storage locker, and we would like to do it by the end of August.”

We started the day with 15 canopies. We’re down to eight. We started the day with about the same number of large tables. We’re down to five. That’s progress. We’re having trouble moving the large ice chests and all the tubs. If you know of anyone or any organization that would just love a used ice chest or a solid plastic tub (gardeners, awake!), let Tom Adams know. The hinges on the on the ice chests are broken. So what! They are free. They work.