

Sacramento Wheelmen Club Newsletter



2023, Issue 1

Editor's Note

Wheelies,

This edition of the WheelNews is more than a newsletter, it is practically a book! A lot has happened since the last issue – 300% of average rain, a new website, our annual Wheelmen Banquet, and more! There was an abundance of noteworthy material slated for this issue, too much really, so another one is already in development. Please shoot me any article ideas – guest writers always welcome!

-Debra Lebish Deb.Lebish@gmail.com

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Event Calendar Report

Mark your calendar with the following important events:

APRIL

April 15 - The American River Parkway Foundation invited our club members to participate in their Spring Cleanup event taking place on Saturday, April 15th from 9 am to noon. All you need to do is to register and then show up!! Visit our website for more information (<https://sacwheelmen.wildapricot.org/event-5179076>) or reach out to Debbie Finley dfinley@dcn.org.

April 19 - The next Club Business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM. Details and agenda to follow.

MAY

May is Bike Month! Debbie Finley is again leading the Club's Bike Month effort. She says that now is the time to register and sign up.

1. Register now by creating a profile or logging into your profile from last year.

You can register here:

<https://www.lovetoride.net/sacregion?ic=33e8e706&locale=en-US>

2. Then you need to sign up for our club/group: the "Sacramento Wheelmen". Again, Sacramento Wheelmen is our Club/Group name. Do NOT select team!

Use the following link to quickly access our Club/Group profile:

https://www.lovetoride.net/sacramentotma/groups/4291?group_invite=true&ic=33e8e706&locale=en-US

OCTOBER

October 14 - The annual Wheelmen picnic is scheduled for Saturday October 14, 2023, at Folsom's Lew Howard Park. More details are available in the Events area of the club website.

Club Business Report

OUR CLUB'S NONPROFIT STATUS ALLOWS POLITICAL ACTION

When a U.S. nonprofit organization is founded, its originators need to decide what kind of nonprofit organization it's going to be, a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4). Both types offer the same tax advantages, but otherwise they are different in significant ways. The Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Club is a 501(c)(4).

According to BryteBridge, which provides consulting and administrative services to nonprofit organizations, "A 501(c)(3) is considered a 'charitable' tax-exempt organization. Nonprofits in this classification are very limited to the kinds of political activity or advocacy work they can undertake. Donations to organizations in this category are tax-deductible and typically include churches, medical or scientific research groups, mental and physical health support groups, education programs, and more."

In contrast, a 501(c)(4) is generally referred to as a "social welfare group."

"As a social welfare organization, 501(c)(4)s can be politically involved and partisan in their outreach and communications. For example, these organizations may endorse political candidates, lobby for legislative changes, and advocate for legal measures," according to information available on the BryteBridge web site.

Because we are a 501(c)(4), the Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Club was not in violation of its nonprofit status when in 2022 the membership voted to join the Voice of the Parkway Coalition created by the American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF)..

The purpose of the Coalition is to rid the American River Parkway of illegal campers, which is almost entirely a homeless problem.

In early 2022, the Coalition sent a letter to the County of Sacramento and City of Sacramento outlining specific political actions which should be taken. The Coalition takes partial credit for what has occurred since then.

In August, 2022, Sacramento County Supervisors approved two ordinances, one banning camping in the Parkway and the other banning illegal camping "near critical infrastructure."

The ARPF reports that the 2022-23 state budget includes \$25 million "to help get illegal campers off the Parkway and into shelters with wrap-around services."

The Coalition also takes partial credit for the 2022 media coverage highlighting the homeless crises affecting the Parkway.

By extension, the Sacramento Wheelmen can take partial credit for these results also because we joined the Coalition in early 2022, something we would not have been able to do as an organization if we were a 501(c)(3).

Another difference between 501(c)(4)s and 501(c)(3)s involves the confidentiality of individuals who choose to make charitable donations. A 501(c)(3) needs to disclose donor information to the IRS for charitable gifts worth \$5,000 or more, according to BryteBridge. In contrast, “501(c)(4) nonprofits are exempt from disclosing any information about donations and their donors.”

Why would anyone choose to form a 501(c)(3) instead of a 501(c)(4) given the restrictions on activities and donation reporting requirements of a 501(c)(3)? Although a 501(c)(4) is also exempt from taxes, charitable donations are not considered tax deductible.

Ride Calendar Report

Every Wheelie should have the pleasure of leading a ride. Not only does the ride leader select the route, destination, and start time, but the leader also earns the respect and gratitude from the other club members! If you’ve never been a Ride Leader it may seem daunting but Tom Adams is at your service to smooth the way! Tom is offering personalized tutoring for new Ride Leaders, such as how to select a ride from the Wheelmen RWGPS library or design your own route. Take advantage of this limited opportunity to learn from the best!
tcadams54@yahoo.com.

Travel Report

ZODIACS – Domestic Cycling Trips

Upcoming 2023 Zodiacs

Santa Cruz – The Santa Cruz Zodiac is postponed a week to March 27 – 30.

Winters – April 11 – 13. Harold Alves and Mary Moore have teamed up again to spearhead the new Zodiac to Winters. Ride your bike to Winters, stay the night, cycle around, stay another night, and then ride home. Stay in the new and highly-praised Hotel Winters, located in the downtown area close to many tasting rooms and fabulous restaurants. Winters is the new Napa – don’t miss this Zodiac!

Guerneville – The Guerneville Zodiac is happening from May 2nd through the 5^h this year. As usual, the club is staying at the most charming accommodations in the area - Fern Grove Cottages. Reach out to Ride Leader Lesli Pletcher, leslipletcher@gmail.com, for more information about this Zodiac.

Go to the club website for more club trips: <https://sacwheelmen.wildapricot.org/Tours-Zodiacs/>

TOURS – International Cycling

The European cycling trip is scheduled for September 18 – October 1 (optional 3rd week available ending October 8) in Italy. If you have previously been there, then you know that Italy is a treat any time of the year but especially in fall. Many of the tourists are gone and children are back in school which means roads are quieter and Italians are more welcoming. The last of the summer vegetables are still plentiful and the grapes are ready for stomping – get there!

This incredible trip, led by Sandy Yarrow, is organized by Roberto of the famed Hotel Alexander. Some of the itinerary destinations include Bologna, San Marino, Gabicce Mare, Senigalla, Gubbio, Assisi, Lake Bolsena, Campagnano, and of course Rome. You can count on superior accommodations, food and beverages, bikes and bike guides so all you have to do is sign up and go and have fun! Check the club website for detailed itinerary information and reach out to Sandy if interested: skybike2@gmail.com

Banquet Report

2023 AWARDS BANQUET BACK TO NORMAL

The room reserved at the Dante Club was filled to capacity with 72 reservations on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, ending a 3-year gap between in-person award banquets.

Pete Rabbon photographed Wheelmen in mileage groups, Michael and Ann-Marie Goble checked people in, Debra Lebish handed out raffle tickets, and Debbie Finley passed out mileage shirts. The bar opened up at 6 pm and a year's worth of photographs projected large ran continuously. It was noisy. Which is a good thing.

Dinner was buffet style, which we adapted to gracefully. Raffle prizes were awarded before and after dinner. Raffle prizes were exceptionally generous and included multiple \$100 and \$50 REI gift certificates, cycling supplies such as Rock 'n' Roll gold lube and sunscreen, wool apparel, arm warmers, epic adventure cycling books, lights, and more!

Ride Director Mabel Wong put together a ride leader ceremony conducted by Dan Anglim. It started with recognition of the top 10 ride leaders from December 1, 2021 to Nov. 31, 2022. The big winner, once again, was Dale Johnson who accumulated 78,419 miles led when you add up all the miles of the Wheelmen who showed up for his rides. Ride leaders who led 10 or more rides were recognized, as were those who led 5 to 9, and 1 to 4. Zodiac ride leaders, the Oregon Tour ride leader (Tim Koch), and the European Tour ride leader (Sandy Yarrow) were accorded separate recognition. Besides being recognized and photographed, the club handed out gift cards, personalized pens, and club ride leader cycling wallets in recognition and appreciation.

“Ride leaders are essential to our club. The club would not exist or be much fun without them. Think about leading a ride or more than one this year” was how the presentation ended.

Following this, President Tom Adams conducted the awards presentation. He started out by noting that this is the first in-person banquet since Past President Ron Davies presented awards three years ago. Although the pandemic isn't over, we have returned to our normal routines and meeting in person is a lot more engaging and fun than the Zoom meetings which we put in place as a substitute, he said.

What is normal? Adams defined normal as coming together at a start time and start location, signing a roster, and riding together.

Highlights for 2022 included clearing out the club's storage locker and moving essential supplies to a storage shed on Tim Koch's property. This task is now saving the club \$2,200 per year in storage fees. The club also debuted a new web site, transforming the existing site. We retained important functions, trimmed out the dead wood, and updated content across the web site, which has resulted in a more functional, cell phone friendly, and appealing site. Vice President Debra Lebish was also recognized for her work in promoting club rides through Meet Up. And you can't give credit for attracting new members without also mentioning the Zodiacs, the Oregon Tour, and the European Tour. That happened.

As of Jan. 22, club membership stood at 324 active members: 115 women and 209 men. Club membership is “strong and holding,” according to Adams. He also said the goal of club officers is to pass along a club in good health, which means a healthy membership base.

Community contributions for 2022 include charitable giving of \$2,000 to cycling organizations recommended by the club's donation committee (Clifford Marr, Glenn Moore, and Linda Zeiszler). We also were an important support crew for the California International Marathon, which recognized us with a \$400 check. We did the bike exchange at the Great American Triathlon and added our club to those organizations and individuals supporting the Voice of the Parkway Coalition, which aims to clear the American River Parkway of illegal campers.



Linda Lasswell was recognized as the top female rider from Dec. 1, 2021 to Nov. 31, 2022. She accumulated 7,581 club miles. Top male Clifford Marr rode 8,502 club miles. The top tandem team was Bob Storelli and Mabel Wong. They recorded 4,173 club miles.



Caron McMillan is the 2022 Volunteer of the Year. She was recognized for doing the Wild Apricot technical work required for the web site transformation. In the process, she improved on the site map she was given to work from.



Ron Davies is the 2022 Sacramento Wheelmen of the Year in recognition for his contributions to the club over a number of years. He originated the web site transformation and helped with its vision, he cleared up issues with membership renewals during his tenure as club president, and he was at the helm of the club when the pandemic hit.

Final recognitions went out to Pete Rabbon for his photographic support during the banquet, Sandy Yarrow for designing the 2022 mileage shirts, Bob Evans for getting the mileage shirt order prepared for Ethan Wade, Debbie Finley for bagging the mileage shirts, and Dan Anglim for being our liaison with the Dante Club, which involved negotiating a contract and taking care of all our logistical needs for the banquet. A big shout-out goes to President Tom Adams for a memorable Master of Ceremony performance, and also to Barb Phillips for the beautiful table decorations.



Left to right, 2022 Top 10 ride leaders – Miles Led: Debra Lebish, 6,156; Nick Hourigan, 8,381; Sandra Yarrow, 12,697; Tim Koch, 19,330; Stephen Forsberg, 26,236; Tom Adams, 38,978; and Dale Johnson, 78,419. Not pictured: Gerald Rohlfs, 12,178; David Storm, 15,205; and Dennis King, 17,466.



Left to right: Tom Adams, Santa Cruz Zodiac; Sandra Yarrow, Santa Cruz Zodiac, Northern Italy 2022; Rod Farley, 2022 Ragbrai; Lesli Pletcher, Guerneville Zodiac; Steve Forsberg, Guerneville Zodiac; Tim Koch, 2022 Oregon Tour. Not pictured Harold Alves, Napa Zodiac; Mary Moore, Napa Zodiac; Bob Storelli, Northwest Tandem Rally; Mabel Wong, Northwest Tandem Rally.

Miscellaneous

THE SACRAMENTO WHEELIES SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY!

November Turkey Ride

On November 10, 2022, the Wheelmen turned out in force to provide turkeys for the needy. Sixteen (16) Wheelmen carried birds and rode their bikes from the Five Points Shopping Center in Carmichael to the Sacramento Food Bank; around 25 Bike-Hikers also enjoyed the fun of giving. According to legendary Ride Leader Harold Alves, “there were loads of turkeys”. Thank you to all that participated and/or donated money for this worthy cause!



Run to Feed the Hungry – 29th Annual

The Sacramento Wheelmen Bicycle Club was well represented as volunteers for the 29th Run to Feed the Hungry. This event takes place each year on Thanksgiving morning in Sacramento. The Wheelmen provided 15 volunteers who braved the cold early morning hours to support the event that raises over one million dollars each year for the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services.

The Run to Feed the Hungry began in 1994 with 796 participants. Gaylord Walker, a local advertising executive, is given credit for founding the event. He was a runner and Food Bank

supporter and walked into the Food Bank early in 1994 and suggested that a running event on Thanksgiving would net the Food Bank over \$50,000 after 5 years. At the time nobody thought a race on Thanksgiving would be popular, but Gaylord convinced everyone that having it on Thanksgiving was precisely why it would be successful. The race netted over \$50,000 in the third year!

In 1995 Rich Hanna entered the event for the first time and won the 10K. At the award ceremony, the general manager of the Food Bank, Leslie Elgood, asked Hanna if he would consider joining the race committee as she had no runners on the committee, only corporate sponsor folks. Hanna spent two years as a committee member and then became the race director in 1998. Under his leadership this has grown to be the largest Thanksgiving fun run event in the country. Hanna on many occasions has expressed his sincere praise and gratitude of the Sacramento Wheelmen for their support and assistance over the years. This year there were 29,241 registrants which is the 2nd highest total. The record was set in 2017 with 29,613 runners and walkers. Winners of the 10K event were Shadrack Biwott of Folsom for the Men's event and Lindsay Tollefson of Mammoth Lakes won the Womens division. 5K winners were Matt Strangio of Folsom and Lindsey Sickler of Flagstaff, AZ.

The year of 2023 will be the 30th running of this event. The goal of 30,000 registrants is within reach and the Sacramento Wheelmen will be there again to offer their support. Thank you to all the volunteers. They are Glenn and Mary Moore, Bud and Jeanne Leland, Bob Mandelson, Andy Hegenderfer, Nick Hourigan, Bruce Dixon, Steve Barre, Hal Baker, Mike Kersten, Linda Lasswell, Art Oliver, Karen Lehman, and Fred Turner.

California International Marathon

Over 20 Sacramento Wheelmen dedicated their rainy late morning and afternoon to support the 2022 international marathon. The Wheelmen were assigned to work the "Equipment Check Station" near the finish line.



President Tom Adams



Michael Goble, Patti Baumert, Fred Turner



Mileage ladies Mable Wong & Linda Lasswell

The race was short on volunteers so race management moved some volunteers to other stations that needed help such as the beer garden (for garbage duty, not beer quality assurance) and the “First Timers” Booth. As always, it was a pleasure to encourage and assist other athletes in the community.



Garbage Queen Lelani Alves



Garbage Queen Lelani & VIP Debra Lebish at First Timer's Booth

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

We have a new Membership Director! Caren McMillan is now managing membership, such as attracting new members, retaining old members, and welcoming all. Bryan Stevenson has been the Membership Director and his efforts and stewardship were much appreciated – Thank you Bryan!