

Join us
at the banquet!
BCBC Spring Banquet
Sat., March 23, 6-9pm
Ozgood's, Robesonia
Registration form
on the back page
for more info!
See you there!

Cycling Times

A publication of
Berks County Bicycle Club

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MEMBER OF
LAB, SRGA NHA,
RAILS-TO-TRAILS
CONSERVANCY



Banquet, new season: Let's do it!

Hello, fellow BCBC members and riders! Happy St Patrick's Day! One of the Biggest Drinking Holidays of the Year! Please be safe in whatever way you celebrate.

Hope everyone is riding as much as possible between the snowflakes. Winter is almost over, thank goodness.

We have a whole new season approaching soon: Jane has worked up a schedule for the Ramble Rides, starting in March—see page 2—the Tuesday Night Rides begin in April (on the schedule!), and Matt's Adventure Rides will be coming later in the spring.

On another matter, jersey requests are still needed so I can place an order



The President's Spin
by Randy Gonzalez

soon, so let me know.

Also, the Spring Banquet/Awards Dinner is fast approaching: March 23 at Ozgood's in Robesonia. Please make every effort to attend. It's a great time for the club. We would love to see you there. (The registration form is on the back page: due no later than March 19.)

We're working on updating the bylaws, by the way. These are important for managing the club. Your input is welcome! See page 6 for details.

Not much else for now, more in April. Please all members and riders continue to enjoy your riding no matter what your route/bike preference.

Be safe on your rides, and stay aware of your surroundings, as it's still getting dark early. Until my next "Spin," Godspeed ...

In Memoriam: Eugene Roger Deisher

Eugene Roger Deisher, 81, passed away on February 7, 2024, at Saucon Valley Manor in Hellertown. One of the founding members of the Berks County Bicycle Club, Eugene mapped out century routes that the club still rides today and was an avid participant.

Per the obituary published by Heintzelman Funeral home, survivors include his wife Olyvia Jo, sons Brent A. Deisher and Carl Deisher, daughters Lisa



Deisher and Amanda Wright, stepdaughters Erin (Ulrich) Chatenka and Kelly (Ulrich) Adams and her husband Curtis, and step-grandchildren Bradley Chatenka and Alaina Adams. He was predeceased by a brother, Robert Deisher, and sister, Faye Meeks.

His career in heavy industry and information technology spanned almost 50 years.

The members of the Berks County Bicycle Club extend their heartfelt condolences to Eugene's family.

The complete obituary can be seen here. www.heintzelmancares.com/obituary/eugene-deisher.

BCBC CLUB OFFICERS 2023-2024

For privacy reasons, the BCBC officer list no longer contains phone numbers. Please contact them via email, and if you know any phone numbers, please do not share these on the Facebook page.

President & Ride Coordinator

Randy Gonzalez, day2day-life19@gmail.com

Vice President

Linda Gross, lindagross222@gmail.com

Secretary

Jane Brown, joeorjane@verizon.net

Treasurer

Alan Fineman, afin6266@ptd.net

Membership

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Walt Hug, rebelhug@yahoo.com

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Gary Rollman, garyroll@ptd.net

Webmaster

Scott Franzen, jsfranzen@comcast.net

Racing Division President

Gary Rollman, garyroll@ptd.net

Shoo-Fly Classic Coordinator

Scott Franzen, jsfranzen@comcast.net

BCBC BIKE SHOP DISCOUNTS

The following bike shops offer BCBC members discounts on merchandise. Members are required to show their current membership ID card in order to qualify for bike shop discounts.

The shops will give 10% off regularly priced accessories and 5% off regularly priced bikes (unless stated otherwise).

BICYCLE BARN

839 Reading Blvd. (Rt.625), East Earl, 717-445-8508

JB'S BIKE SHOP

(formerly JB Mountain Bikes)
214 W. Lancaster Ave, Shillington, 610-777-5253

SHIRK'S BIKE SHOP

1649 Ligalaw Rd., East Earl, 717-445-5731

SKYLINE BICYCLES & SKATEBOARDS

2573 Perkiomen Ave. Mt. Penn, 610-378-9778

SPOKES BIKE SHOP

Rt. 61, Hamburg 610-562-8900

VILLAGE BIKE SHOP

7 S. Village Circle, Reinholds 610-742-4786

WOLVERTON'S BIKE SHOP

2904 Kutztown Rd., Hyde Park, 610-929-8205

Send in ride sheets!

- Gary R. needs to finalize the numbers for 2023. Ride hosts, please send in any ride sheets now.

Need tubes/tires?

- Gary still has one tire and five tubes from last year's purchase. He's waiting to see whether there is still interest before ordering any for 2024. Let him know. Contact info: above.

Randy taking orders for jerseys

The club is changing its approach to purchasing cycling jerseys, so that one person does not wind up with a box of jerseys in the car, taking them to every ride in case somebody wants one.

Randy G. will be taking orders for

the old-style cycling jerseys, red and white; he would like to send off the order by mid-March.

The online shop will re-open in the spring, with current logo/design on club merchandise, not jerseys.

SR Greenways is seeking volunteers

Schuylkill River Greenways relies on help from volunteers like you! SRG is always looking for individuals to help with trail maintenance & trail ambassadors, special events, environmental

education, water quality monitoring and more. For further questions, please call Schuylkill River Greenways at 484-945-0200 or email info@schuylkillriver.org.

Print version of newsletter to be discontinued

To reduce expenditures, the BCBC board has opted to discontinue the printed version of *Cycling Times* at the end of 2024.

A digital copy will still be distributed via email and available on the Web. A ride schedule will be distributed via mail.

New Member:

Aaron Johnson

Invite a friend

BCBC has plenty of room to grow. Wear your colors, invite other cyclists to join a group ride.

Mark your calendar for 2024 Ramble Rides

Rambler: "A person who walks for pleasure, especially in the countryside." Ramble Rides are like that, a time to relax and enjoy the day at a leisurely pace.

Note difficulty level/miles, in parentheses. GPS files and cue sheets are available at www.berksbicycle.com/cues.

Host for these rides will be Jane B.

New to riding with BCBC?

We want all the riders to be safe and prepared. See the top of page 4 for information about what to bring and what to expect.

See you at the ride!

Date	Ride	Start
Sat., March 23	<u>CWW02 (3-65)</u> Scenic Lebanon County	10:00 AM
Sat., April 6	<u>NT 16 (4-70)</u> Eastern Berks ¾ Century	9:00 AM
Sat., April 13	<u>BR20 (3-55)</u> PA Dutch Tour Club ride	10:00 AM
Sun., April 21	<u>OL46 (4-60)</u> Ramble to Macungie	9:00 AM
Sat., May 4	<u>RM02 (3-60)</u> Lititz-Brownstown Ramble	9:00 AM
Sun., May 12	<u>SP03 (3-56)</u> Ramble to Pequea Creek	9:00 AM
Sun., June 2	<u>DB05b (3-52)</u> Phoenixville Tour	8:00 AM
Sat., June 22	<u>AD 03 (4-81)</u>	8:00

Date	Ride	Start
Sun., July 7	Matt's Heatwave Details to follow	8:00 AM
Sat., July 20	<u>CW39 (3-71)</u> Mt Gretna Ramble	8:00 AM
Sat., Aug. 3	<u>FL21 (4-78)</u> Heisler's Dairy Ride	8:00 AM
Sat., Aug. 24	<u>AD13 ((2-62)</u> 100K Lancaster Ramble	8:00 AM
Sat., Sept. 7	TBD	
Sun., Sept. 22	<u>CW08 (4-68)</u> Mt Gretna Lunch Ride	9:00 AM
Sat., Oct. 5	<u>CG01 (3-50)</u> Chapel Gate Ramble	9:00 AM
Sun., Oct. 13	<u>FL26 (4-54)</u> Adventure to Wanamakers	9:00 AM



SEASONED SPOKES



These are group rides of roughly 20 miles that usually take a little less than 2 hours to complete. Any pre-post ride options for an additional 10-20 miles are announced each Monday by email.

Please see top of page 4 for important information about riding with BCBC groups.

More information: David Cruzan, 610-376-5048; pjcruzan@comcast.net

Date and Time		Starting Location	Miles	Rating	Host
7-Mar	10 a.m.	Ephrata Community Pool, Cocalico St, Ephrata	21.1	2	David C
14-Mar	10 a.m.	Farming Ridge Park, Farming Ridge Blvd and Ritters Rd	20.1	3	David C
21-Mar	10 a.m.	North Reading Plaza, Leesport Ave & Allentown Pike, Temple	21	3	David C
28-Mar	10 a.m.	Heidelberg Run West Recreation Area, Arthur Dr, South Heidelberg Township	21.4	2	David C
4-Apr	10 a.m.	Wm Delong Park, Bowers	20.5	2	David C
11-Apr	10 a.m.	Cocalico High School, 4th St, Denver	19.9	2	David C
18-Apr	9 a.m.	Maidencreek Community Park, Park Rd, Blandon	20.1	2	David C
25-Apr	9 a.m.	Robeson Community Park, Railroad Ave and Birch Alley, Robeson	20.3	2	David C

BERKS COUNTY BICYCLE CLUB RIDES

First Number: Terrain Rating Terrain rating 1-5 rates the total hilliness of the ride.

1 = FLAT—easiest

2= GENTLY ROLLING HILLS—moderate terrain with easiest of hills (Almost anyone can handle).

3= SOME HILLS—Moderate hills with some steeper grades (Moderately Challenging—but within the ability of most riders).

4= HILLY—The number and difficulty of hills is quite substantial (Very Challenging).

5= EXTREMELY HILLY—Extreme Challenge- steep and long hills most of the ride.

Requires a very high fitness level).

Second Number: Total Mileage for ride

Please note the Club policy on protective headgear: ALL Riders must wear Snell/ANSI rated helmets. Ride Host/ Hostess will NOT give cue sheets to riders without helmets and that rider will not be considered an official participant of the Club ride.

Please have your bike in proper working order BEFORE the start of ride. Arrive 10-15 minutes before start time so that all rides leave on time. Bring a spare tube or patch kit, and at least one water bottle.

If weather conditions are questionable, the ride host may notify club members by posting a message on **Facebook** prior to the ride or make a decision at the starting location based on road conditions and the weather forecast.

SPECIAL RIDE DETAILS

Special rides during the months will be highlighted in color. If you are hosting a special ride, please contact Newsletter Editor Poncho (aka Félix) Peña or Ride Coordinator Randy Gonzales before the 15th of each month.

Did you have a great experience on a

Date	Time	Ride Name/Description	Rating	Mileage	Location	Host
Sat Mar 2	11:00 AM	GG02 Thursday Night Ride	3	26	Gouglersville - UCC Church Vermont Rd, Gouglersville - exit Rt 222 South at Gouglersville, turn left	TBD
Sun Mar 3	11:00 AM	NT40 Cheesy Loop	3	41	North Reading Plaza (Walmart) Rt. 222 in Temple (Behind McDonalds)	Randy G.
Sat Mar 9	11:00 AM	FL10 Some Fleetwood Hills	4	35	Fleetwood Middle School Richmond St. in Fleetwood	Alan F.
Sun Mar 10	11:00 AM	CW01 Dierwechter Loop CW04 Big Spring Loop	2 2	30 21	Conrad Weiser East Elementary School on Lincoln Rd. in Wernersville	Matt F.
Sat Mar 16	11:00 AM	WIS02 Womelsdorf Loop	2	28	Wilson Southern Middle School	Randy G.
Sun Mar 17	11:00 AM	OL07 Pine Forge - Boyertown Loop	3	29	Oley High School Parking Lot	Deb M.
Sat Mar 23	10:00 AM	Ramble Scenic Lebanon County CWW02	3	65	Conrad Weiser West Elementary School Womelsdorf	Jane B.
Sat Mar 23	11:00 AM	WY20 Ephrata Main Street Express WY08 Wooltown Loop	3 2	44 24	Wyomissing H.S. off Clayton Ave. in Wyomissing	Randy G.
Sun Mar 24	11:00 AM	DB21 Limerick - Gilbertsville Ride	3	52	Daniel Boone Middle School on Weavertown Rd. in Amityville	Walt H.
Sat Mar 30	11:00 AM	MCP08 Kutztown - New Smithville - Mertztown MCP04 Weavers - Echo Hill Ride	3 2	44 24	Maidencreek Community Park on Park Rd. in Blandon	TBD
Sun Mar 31	11:00 AM	SL04b Oley Valley Ride	3	33	Exeter School District Office	Brad S.
Sat Apr 6	9:00 AM	Ramble Eastern Berks 3/4 Century NT16	4	70	North Reading Plaza (Walmart) Rt. 222 in Temple (Behind McDonalds)	Jane B.
Sat Apr 6	10:00 AM	WI20 Charming Forge - Wintersville Loop WI03 Showers Road Loop	3 2	44 22	Wilson High School Parking Lot - Upper	Bill R.
Sun Apr 7	10:00 AM	SV08 Blue Marsh Lake Loop	3	37	Schuylkill Valley Elementary School, Ashley Drive in Leesport	Randy G.
Tue Apr 9	6:00 PM	Tuesday Night Ride 3 Groups; A, B, C OL17	2	21	Oley High School Parking Lot	TBD

Berks County Bicycle Club Rides (continued from page 4)

Date	Time	Ride Name/Description	Rating	Mileage	Location	Host
Sat Apr 13	10:00 AM	BR20 PA Dutch Tour - Ramble	3	55	Brecknock Elementary School Rt. 568	Jane B.
Sat Apr 13	10:00 AM	BR21 New Holland Loop	3 2	55 33	Brecknock Elementary School Rt. 568	Kent S.
Sun Apr 14	10:00 AM	NT14 Backwards Penn Valley Ride	2	42	North Reading Plaza (Walmart) Rt. 222 in Temple (Behind	Randy G.
Tue Apr 16	6:00 PM	Tuesday Night Ride 3 Groups; A, B, C	2	22	Oley High School Parking Lot	TBD
Sat Apr 20	10:00 AM	CW32 Myerstown Ride	2	38	Conrad Weiser East Elementary School on Lincoln Rd. in	Matt F.
Sun Apr 21	9:00 AM	Ramble to Macungie OL46	4	60	Oley High School Parking Lot	Jane B.
Sun Apr 21	10:00 AM	OL05 Oley Valley Ride	2	25	Oley High School Parking Lot	TBD
Tue Apr 23	6:00 PM	Tuesday Night Ride 3 Groups; A, B, C	2	23	Oley High School Parking Lot	TBD
Sat Apr 27	10:00 AM	FL16 New Smithsville Loop	3	39	Fleetwood Middle School Richmond St. in Fleetwood	Alan F.
Sun Apr 28	10:00 AM	DB28 Oley Loop	3	37	Daniel Boone Middle School on Weavertown Rd. in Ami-	Walt H.
Tue Apr 30	6:00 PM	Tuesday Night Ride 3 Groups; A, B, C	?	?	Oley High School Parking Lot	TBD
Sat May 4	9:00 AM	Ramble Lititz - Brownstown RM02	3	60	Reamstown Park	Jane B.
Sat May 4	9:00 AM	WY04 Ryland Loop	3	32	Wyomissing H.S. off Clayton Ave. in Wyomissing	TBD
Sun May 5	9:00 AM	MCP06 Backwards Penn Valley Ride	2	29	Maidencreek Community Park on Park Rd. in Blandon	Randy G.

Upcoming Cycling Events



March 16-17: The Fall 2023 Philly Bike Expo was postponed. It will be at the PA Convention Center, Cherry St & N. Broad St. phillybikeexpo.com/.

April 19-21: Face of America, ride with veterans and their supporters, 108 miles, one-way, from the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., to Gettysburg. The ride includes able-bodied and disabled veterans, men and women. World T.E.A.M. Fully supported. Virtual options available.

wtsevent.org/faceofamerica/



Sat. April 20: New Holland Bicycle Race & Ride #1, New Holland. Options for 30 or 50+ miles in scenic Lancaster County, including 2,000-4,500 ft of climbing. www.newhollandbicyclerace.com/

April 21: Fleche Buffoon, New Hope Solebury Upper Elementary School, New Hope. Ride 62 or 76 challenging miles through Bucks County, Pa., and Hunterdon County, N.J. All paved roads, with 10 steep climbs. No road markings or SAG; cue sheets, RideWithGPS App and GPS files will be provided to riders. Kermesse Sport. www.flechebuffoon.com/

April 27: Bikes & Beers Hershey, at Troegs Brewing. Ride 15, 30 or 45 miles. Registration includes two free beers and a souvenir pint glass. bikesandbeers.com/events/

(See page 7 for more events)

**2024 Shoo-Fly Classic
Saturday, Sept. 28**

Berks County Bicycle Club Meeting Minutes February 12, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Randy Gonzalez, Linda Gross, Kathleen Casner, Scott Franzen, Alan Fineman, Félix Peña, Jane Brown.

Updates

President Randy reports "nothing new", the BCBC clothing store will be open again in spring for new merchandise orders. He is slowly getting orders for jerseys. He will send checks for old jerseys to Alan; new orders will be direct order.

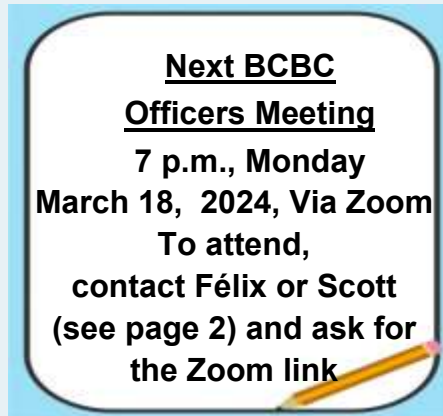
Vice President Linda discussed an email received regarding the death of a member from early days of BCBC.

Treasurer Alan reported insurance is due in a few days and that there was a 20% increase in costs from last year based on 200 club members.

Membership leader Kat reminded us that membership dues are due March 31. She will not do any major updates until that time.

Kat also reported on signups for BCBC dinner and she will be sending an email to members that includes dinner choices.

Newsletter coordinator Poncho (Félix) reports that the news-



letters are working out fine. Poncho reminded us that the printed version of the newsletter will be discontinued after 2024; it will be digital-only. The ride schedule will be printed and distributed to bike shops.

Webmaster Scott reports the website is in good shape. Shoofly Coordinator Scott discussed a contract for 2024 has been signed and returned, nothing further has been done.

Discussion and Planning Items:

The bylaws review is in progress. Poncho submitted a document for review with some suggestion to update current bylaws. This process

continues to move forward. Officers are to forward suggested revisions to Poncho or Alan by February 26, 2024. They will review revision suggestion to present at the next officers meeting on March 18, 2024 and to present to members soon after that.

Spring Banquet: Reservations have been made for the Spring Banquet at Ozgood's in Robeson, March 23 deposit has been paid, and dinner choices have been made. Kat will send out email to all with more details. (Reservation form is on the back page of this newsletter).

Ride Schedule for 2024: Rides are scheduled and posted in newsletter and website. Tuesday night rides will start in April; Thursday night rides will start in May.

Officer Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month. Next meeting, Monday, March 18 via Zoom. Members who wish to attend, contact Félix, Felix-AlfonsoPena@yahoo.com, or Scott, jsfranzen@comcast.net, see page 2, and ask for the Zoom link.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brown, secretary*

BCBC needs your input to update bylaws

The BCBC officers have begun discussion on updating the club bylaws in 2024. Alan F. and Félix P. are on the committee to provide recommendations to the board.

Why? The bylaws lack precision in some places. What constitutes a quorum? How do we replace board members when their term has not expired? On what years are elections held? Etc.

If this interests you, please review the bylaws, especially if you have experience in such matters. They are available in the August 2023 newsletter, pp. 9-10. Go to www.berksbicycle.com/newsletter to access the issue. It's under the archived issues.

Send your comments to Alan or [Félix](mailto:Felix). See page 2 for their contact

info.

Note: Our current bylaws, specifically Article XIII, dictate that any changes must be approved by the membership at a general meeting, and at least 10% of the membership must be present in order to vote on it. Also the notice of the changes must be published beforehand in the newsletter.

What are some of the changes being proposed for the bylaws?

1. Give standing committee chairpeople a vote on board decisions affecting their committee if they are not board members.

2. Change the status of most current standing committee chairpeople to official board officers.

3. Eliminate the Racing Division and change the Advocacy and Trail

Liaison position to Media Liaison (The last is Walt H.'s idea. He is the current A&T Liaison.)

4. Change from Robert's Rules of Order to Modern Rules of Order, 5th edition. This is a widely used and preferred set of rules among non-profit groups.

5. Rewording needed in a number of places, for clarity's sake.

6. Specify that online meetings will be considered official and proper.

7. Will voting by email or phone be allowed? In what circumstances?

8. Other matters, as required.

Member input is welcome: Send suggestions to Félix P. or Alan F., the two members of the Bylaws Subcommittee: FelixAlfonsoPena@yahoo.com or afin6266@ptd.net.



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Upcoming cycling events (from p. 5)

April 28: Lu Lacka Wyco Hundo, Pittston. Choose from 40, 62, 75 or 100 miles on hilly, mixed surfaces.
www.bikereg.com/llwhv12

May 19: PA Hope Ride Against Cancer. Family-friendly choices include a flat, paved river trail, 7.5, 16 or 22 miles. 30, 62, and 100 mile choices also available. Registration fee + fundraising commitment required. www.pahoperide.org/

June 30: Biking for Brittany, a great event for a



wonderful cause! Enjoy a ride through the beautiful Lancaster County countryside. Options include a metric century and a metric half century. Fantastic rest stops, and three timed Strava segments for those who want to be competitive. www.bikereg.com/biking-for-brittany.

BCBC Awards Dinner/ Spring Banquet Reservation Form

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 6-9 p.m.

Ozgoods's Grill & Bar, 319 E. Penn Ave., Robesonia

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

\$25.00 per person

Number of guests: _____ X \$25.00 = Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to BCBC

Reservations Due No Later Than March 19

[You can add your annual dues-\$20- and send one check]

Mail to : Kathleen Casner, 240 Spies Church Rd. Lot#11,
Reading PA, 19606

2024 Berks County Bicycle Club Membership Form

Names of people in household* (see "Dues," below) who will be riding on BCBC rides:

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency contact, relationship, phone: _____

Please Check one: ☐ New Applicant, or ☐ Renewing Member

May we publish your name, address, and telephone number in a club directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please indicate your interests by checking as many items as may apply: () Ride Host/Hostess;

☐ Updating Ride sheets; ☐ Road Rides; ☐ Trail Riding; ☐ Social Events (Helping with picnic and/or annual banquet); ☐ Helping with our Shoo-Fly Classic Bike Ride

How did you find out about BCBC? ☐ Friends or family; ☐ Newspaper; ☐ Online

☐ Other: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If applicant is under 18, parent or legal guardian must also sign.)

*Dues: \$20 per household, per year. Renewing memberships are due and payable by MARCH 31 of each year. Dues benefits include monthly newsletter, *Cycling Times*, sent via newsletter, and a membership card for discounts at bike shops listed in newsletter. Website: www.berksbicycle.com

Make all checks payable to: The Berks County Bicycle Club, Inc.

Mailing address: Kathleen Casner, 240 Spies Church Rd., Lot 118, Reading, PA 19606