

WINCHESTER WHEELMEN MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, Number 3

"The cyclist's voice in the Shenandoah Valley"

P.O. Box 1695, Winchester, VA 22604

www.winchesterwheelmen.org

March Meeting

There will be a March club meeting on Wednesday the 9th. The meeting will be at Blue Ridge Bicycles at 2228G Papermill Rd, Winchester, VA 22601. We will have a wide range of subjects to cover, most importantly will be the results of the survey sent out by the club on 25 February 2022. We will have a pizza meal at the shop. We will order pizza in advance, so please RSVP to k.tenney@verizon.net, if you plan to attend. Pizza is \$7/person to ensure we have all of the expenses paid for (the club has had to cover some of these in the past). The meeting date is Wednesday, 09 Mar 2022, with the social part of the meeting at 6:00 PM and the business portion about 6:30 PM. Please bring a chair to sit on, as the shop has no extra seating. BYOB, if desired. Bring a side to share, if you'd like. Covid-19 mask and social distancing protocols are encouraged.

February Meeting

The WW club meeting was held on 15 Feb 2022 at Blue Ridge Bicycles. What follows is a condensation of the minutes. Reminder that these are notes from the meeting, as held that date. Some items referenced may have already occurred, etc. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

1. The first order of business was the Treasurer's Report presented by Robert.

Current balance:

Savings- \$1,503.34

Checking- \$1,098.28

Total: \$3,316.62

Cash- \$100.00

PayPal- \$615.00

PayPal has been an issue in terms of getting money out of the PayPal account, but it is finally on its way.

Robert went over the budget. For a typical year the expenses are the following:

Club insurance	\$1,150	Primo Potty	\$700
Officer insurance	\$575	White Post electrical fund	\$120
Ride With GPS	\$250	Whitehall church donation	\$100
PO Box	\$160	Website TBD but about	\$600

The big expense is the insurance which also covers ride leaders. There was a concern raised about the increasing expense of insurance and other costs. Currently we are ok. A sponsor would really help offset the costs. The club members were asked to think of a sponsor which could offset our expenses. Continental was brought up and Andrea volunteered as she knows someone at Continental. Most of everything is paid except for the ride with GPS, White Post donation, the Primo Potty and the donation to White Hall. Currently our membership dues cover the our expenses.

2. Active membership enrollment is 115 members for 2022 so far. This is far ahead of typical renewal/new member rate. FYI, 2021 was 70 at the same date, and 78 in 2020 (pre-Covid-19 effects). E-registration has been a major factor in membership. Reminders to members who are behind in their enrollment will go out this weekend. (This did not happen in February -Ed.)

3. Warren County Ride is on April 9th. The Warren County Rotary Club presented on their Ride with Rotary Bike Ride. The registration is open at Rotary Club of Warren County website or Eventbrite. Through March, the registration is \$40; after March it is \$50. The ride beneficiaries are two organizations in Warren County. One is called Reaching Out and supports meals for people in need and also does some mentoring in the schools. The other is called Cars Changing Lives. They assist people in need. The Rotary Club is hoping for 175 people and there are rides of many different lengths.

4. Membership Survey - The Wheelmen are going to have a membership survey. This survey will be better able to help give better service to the members. It will be going out to the club soon. Please discuss with your friends and fill out the survey. This is to enhance your experience in the Wheelmen. Please make note of it upon receipt. It will be open for 5-7 days. Email from Survey Monkey. Do not delete it.
(This survey went out 25 Feb 2022. Please look for it and respond ASAP to have your voice be heard. -Ed)

5. Call for donations to the Shenandoah Rail Trail - Shenandoah Rail Trail is asking for donations for the help with the development of a Rail Trail from Broadway to Front Royal.
More information is on their website <https://shenandoahalliance.org/support-investment-in-a-shenandoah-rail-trail>

6. Discussion on Wild Apricot as a web service for Winchester Wheelmen. A discussion was held on what to do with our website. Currently Justin Larson is maintaining our website. The executive committee has been researching Wild Apricot, which is what several other bike clubs are using. The idea is to enhance services for old members and to attract new members.

Wild Apricot caters to non-profit organizations to improve website and website integration. Michael Konopa discussed the advantages of Wild Apricot. He states that Wild Apricot takes what we are doing manually and can manage this stuff automatically. The advantage is we can still use WordPress as the back end but the interface will be all on one single location and automating it. Mike offered to teach anyone how to input into it. The cost of the site will be about 600 a year.

Primary objective is to continue to grow the club and fold in social media elements that so many people make use of. Automated mapping services, in-browser pay service, etc. Kevin Williams has indicated he can help maintain the site.

Bob Morris asked with the advent of the new website to encourage people to use this site to post impromptu rides. Wolfgang made a motion to have the officers further investigate and if found to be useful to purchase it. Mike seconded that motion and all members present voted in favor of the motion

7. Andrea gave an update on the CCAP bike ride. Planning for the bike ride is in full swing. The date is set for Aug 27. Both food trucks will be coming back. Possibility of having the family ride go through the MSV trails. VDOT gave its approval. Using Bike Reg for registration. It is not ready yet but CCAP has set up an account.

8. Women's Group update from Cindy Quinnelly. She is doing a Wednesday spin group and yoga. The instructor gave a presentation on herbal use for enhancing power. There are activities coming up for bike maintenance on February 17. Zita has added hiking for both women and men and that helps keep participation going. Cindy is beginning to plan ride routes for the upcoming season. She is hoping to get people together to plan routes and hopes to get a weekend ride going. Laura Bergman who is a sports training and massage therapist and she will come to give a presentation.

9. Wheelmen is looking at a new jersey. DJ volunteered to work with Andrea on this project. DJ will be looking into specialized and one other place. No black and white. Bob Morris suggested that we pay a little bit more with the idea of the surplus going to support the new website. This is an opportunity to get a sponsor to put on the jersey. In addition, Ken got information on a new T-shirt Order for 2022. He contacted Lindsay from ICON Screen Printing. She is the new GM. Nate retired and sold business. This is still a local business. Cost will still be \$15/shirt as before. 3 color screen print. Array of colors still available. 12pc minimum order.

10. Thanks to Josh Lewis for being president during Covid-19 years. Thanks to Justin Larsen for being webmaster for many years and working to get the e-pay straightened out after a lot of trouble from PayPal.

11. Robert brought up a couple of benefit bike events in addition to the Rotary event and the CCAP ride. - Peddle for Pooches sponsored by and for Briggs. They suggested a virtual ride beginning May 8 through the 14th. Staff ride is May 9.

12. Robert discussed a benefit ride for someone with Parkinson's Disease. In April she is doing a 300-mile ride from Petersburg to Winchester to raise awareness for Parkinson's. She will be at the March meeting to discuss this fund-raiser

New Business:

13. Robert and others reported on some organized vacation rides during Summer.

- Ed is looking in to doing a bike trip to the Finger lakes. It needs to be done early and paid for early. Hoping to do in July and August.
- The idea is to put out two or three 3-day weekend trips. One is WV Scenic Highway 150. It is beautiful. Another idea is to do another Orkney Springs ride and visit. Another possibility is to do Damascus and New River, and Mt. Rogers. Keep looking for more details.

14. It was brought up that only Wheelmen members can see Wheelmen rides on Ride With GPS. Ken and Mike need to get together to see how to rectify this because this would be a good tool to drive membership.

15. Chuck spoke about a VA General Assembly bill that failed. It was supposed to say that if a cyclist doesn't stop fully, the rider can receive a \$500 fine and have your bike impounded for 6 months. The bill that passed last year of riding two abreast is looking like it will be repealed.

16. Next meeting March 9th at Blue Ridge Bicycles.

Winchester Wheelmen March 2022 Ride Schedule

Weekday/Weeknight Rides & Events

Note: Approved helmets are required for all rides. If you are not a club member, you must sign a waiver prior to the ride. Non-members may only ride one ride as a guest. Membership is a requirement following that guest ride per club LAB insurance requirements. For all scheduled rides with a designated ride leader, please contact the leader for details (confirmation that the ride is a 'go', weather concerns, other).

For all rides, the Winchester Wheelmen Google Group delivers the official latest information. The direct link to that web page is: <http://groups.google.com/group/wheelmen>. You can read all the postings without joining the Google Group. All times listed for ride starts are departure times unless otherwise stated. Plan on arriving with enough time to be ready for the departure time. Also, if you plan to diverge from the planned route and not stay with the group, you must notify the ride leader prior to doing so. Historically there have been many rides where the ride leader has spent time backtracking or otherwise spent time and effort verifying the safety of a rider who has chosen to leave the route. Please communicate.

New detail to keep in mind for 2022. Winchester Wheelmen allows the use of battery, pedal-assist e-bikes on group rides in Class 1 and Class 3. Class 2 bikes with a twist throttle are NOT covered by club insurance and NOT allowed on rides without exception.

Tuesdays - Road Ride - Boyce Elementary School - Boyce, VA. Ride will start 6:00 PM. Be ready to push off then. This is an 18-mile hilly ride and is not recommended for beginners. Front and back light will be needed. First ride is 15 March 2022. Ride leader is Ken Tenney. He may be reached at k_tenney AT verizon.net or 540 664 8435. Will flip to Shop n' Save plaza for April, 2022.

Thursdays - Retired/Day-off Ride of the week. This ride is an easy to moderate pace ride starting at various locations. Ride length is between 20 to 30 miles, with an average speed of 12-15 MPH. The rides usually have a lunch break stop or lunch after.

- **March 3rd:** Rock Harbor Golf Course, 10:00 AM for 25 miles; lunch at the club after the ride for anyone interested.
- **March 10th:** Boyce Firehall, 10:00 AM for 30 miles, park in the gravel parking area at the corner of Rt. 340 and Millwood Road.

- **March 17th:** Royalicious Bakery on Jubal Early Drive; 10:00 AM for a 25-30 mile ride; lunch at the bakery for anyone interested.
- **March 24th:** Italian Delight on Warrior Drive; 10:00 AM for 28 miles, lunch at the Italian Delight for anyone interested.
- **March 31st:** Cooley School in Berryville; 10:00 AM for 29-mile CW route.

Note: We are back on scheduled Retired Rides starting this month. These rides are open to anyone having the chance to ride mid-week. The pace is casual with multiple stops to let everyone catch up. There are no ride leaders, just advisors.

CW = clockwise route

CCW = counterclockwise route

Thursdays - Road Ride - White Post, VA. 17-mile ride starts at White Post Restorations. Departure time is **6:00 PM**. As this is a 100% darkness ride, you must have bike lights, front and back. This is a leaderless ride. Please check the WW Google Group to see that anyone is planning to ride.

Saturdays - Shop Ride - Winchester, VA. Impromptu only. Look to WW Google Group for details.

Saturdays - Morning Mountain Bike at Andy Guest/Shenandoah River State Park - Bentonville, VA. We will be riding each Saturday morning at 11:00 AM at the lower parking lot on the left (not at the zip line area) for a 2 to 3-hour ride. Each week's ride is adjusted to accommodate all riders who come out for the ride. Robert Golightly is leading and may be reached at 540-535-9986 or rgolightly22601@gmail.com.

Winchester Wheelmen March 2022 Ride Schedule

Future Weekend Rides or Events

- Saturday, April 9th, 2022 - Ride with Rotary - Rockland Park, Front Royal, VA. Benefit bike ride. <https://www.warrencountyrotary.org/ride-with-rotary>
- Visit <https://www.cyclingva.com/> for more riding options.

Winchester Wheelmen, Inc – PO Box 1695 – Winchester, VA 22604