

# CCCCC NEWSLETTER

## CHERRY CAPITAL CYCLING CLUB



### Summer's on a Roll!

Club members are reporting cycle adventures from all over the map. Inside, we'll offer some scenes from good times on the road!

## RAT drawing cyclists from across the nation

With some 600 cyclists pre-registered for the Ride Around Torch (RAT), volunteers with the Cherry Capital Cycling Club are busy preparing for the region's biggest bike tour on Sunday, July 15. Typically, the tour draws more than 900 cyclists of every ability by the day of the event.

Rolling through the scenic heart of Antrim County, the Ride Around Torch features routes that include 26, 40, 63 and 100 miles. Most riders opt for the 63-mile route, which circles Torch Lake, starting and ending in Elk Rapids.

"There's a tremendous amount of support for the tour," says first-time Tour Director **Paula Anderson**. "We have an incredible



wagons to assist cyclists in need, and a bbq picnic at the tour's end in Elk Rapids. Additionally, mechanics from McLain Cycle are on hand to offer assistance at the start of the tour.

team of 60 volunteers and the club board has been very supportive in helping me through my first year of organizing the event."

That kind of support is essential for a tour that offers three food stops, roving sag

New this year is a chance for riders to camp at Elk Rapids High School the night before the RAT to get a leg up on the tour's early start. Century riders doing the 100-mile route must start by 8 a.m.; those riding the 63-mile route must start by 9 a.m.

### WIDE-RANGING

Anderson notes that cyclists are coming from all over the country to ride the RAT.

"We have cyclists coming from 18 states so far and also from several communities in Canada," she says. "Riders are signed up from coast-to-coast, including states as far away as California, Texas, Washington,

Continued on next page

## **President's Letter** We want to hear from our members

With summer finally here, the cycling activity is tremendous! Your Club's ride leaders posted over 120 rides in June, so there is no shortage of rides. These include short, in-town Cruiser rides, mountain bike rides at several area trails, medium length social rides to many small communities in the Traverse area, or long rides to Alden or Ellsworth for muffins or pie! We also have two Club social rides scheduled for the summer, on Saturday, June 30 at Veterans Memorial Park in Elk Rapids and August 18 at Cherry Bend Park in Elmwood Township.

Please remember this is your Cycling Club. Tell us what you like, and what you'd like to see improved. We are trying a few new things this year, and we will expand on them next year. Please discuss your ideas with a Board member, or send us an email. You will also have a chance to provide input via a survey at the end of



the season.

The Club has been reaching out to several area organizations interested in improving local cycling infrastructure. The organizations include the City of Traverse City, TART, Antrim County, and an ad hoc group in Leelanau County interested in adding road shoulders on the way to Leelanau State Park. Bicycling as an activity and recreational sport is a big part of life in northern Michigan, and our local communities are adding the infrastructure to make our activity safer and

more enjoyable. Let's hear your ideas!

**Ride safe! Bill Danly**

## It's time to... **RAT!**

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Massachusetts and Maryland."

She adds that the beauty of northern Lower Michigan and Torch Lake are a strong drawing card for the tour. Statistically, about one-third of riders are drawn from Leelanau, Antrim, Benzie and Grand Traverse counties, along with southeastern Michigan. The balance of riders come from all over the map, including many vacationers.

More than 5,000 cyclists have participated in the tour over the past 32 years. Veterans of the tour are contacted by the club early in the year via an e-blast. The RAT is also advertised in the League of Michigan Bicyclists' magazine.

### **A BIG JOB**

Volunteer directors organize both the RAT and the cycle club's Leelanau Harvest Tour in the fall. It's a demanding job, and although Anderson is a veteran cyclist who typically rides between 1,000-2,000 miles per year, her day job is that of a nurse practitioner, specializing in the field of psychiatric nursing. She's ridden the RAT five or six times in the past, including the hilly 100-mile route, but organizing a rolling party for up to 1,000 riders is a completely different challenge.

"This is our club's signature event and



**The Ride Around Torch brings out cyclists of every ability in a day of fun around Torch Lake in Antrim County. Photo by Joane Mitchell.**

we're lucky to have so many volunteers pitching in," she says. "Most bring a lot of experience from past tours, so it's a really fun, well-organized event."

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club uses funds raised by the RAT and the Leelanau Harvest Tour on Saturday, September 15 to support cycling throughout northern Lower Michigan, including bike trails, safety initiatives and the programs of other organizations, such as Norte and Recycle a Bicycle in Traverse City.

Registration fees for the RAT are \$40 for individuals and \$90 for families. For more information and to register, see the CCCC website at <http://cherrycapitalcycling-club.org>

### **States Participating in the 2018 RAT**

ALABAMA: Mobile  
CALIFORNIA: Alpine  
COLORADO: Denver, Lone Tree  
FLORIDA: Palm Harbor, Tequesta  
GEORGIA: Savannah  
ILLINOIS: Chicago, Mt. Prospect, Cary, Geneva, Wheaton  
INDIANA: Kokomo, Indianapolis, New Carlisle, Granger  
KENTUCKY: Lexington  
MARYLAND: Silver Spring, Columbia  
MASSACHUSETTS: Newton, Cambridge  
MINNESOTA: Northfield  
MO: Kirkwood, Chesterfield, Raymor  
NEW JERSEY: Morristown  
OHIO: Huron, Oxford, Delaware Winston, Worthington, Mason, Arcanum, Toledo, Euclid, South Euclid  
TEXAS: Houston  
VIRGINIA: Centreville  
WASHINGTON: Tacoma  
WISCONSIN: DePere, Green Bay, Wales,

Ontario CANADA: Goulias River, Echo Bay, Windsor



Paula and Bryce Dreeszen led a fun mountain bike ride in June called “Thru the Woods to LA.” It started at the Dreeszen’s house in Interlochen, traveling on paved streets, the Lost Lake Pathway single track, the Shore-to-Shore horse trail, and various 2-tracks through the Pere Marquette forest to the Red Door Coffee House in Lake Ann. - photo by Paula Dreeszen.

## New Members!

Give a shout-out to these newcomers at this season’s club events:

Name	Date Joined
Barbara Kan, TC	5/17
Tammy Leishman, Kingsley	5/7
Christine Smith, TC	5/19
Kevin Morgan, TC	5/21
John Williams, TC	5/22
Dave King, TC	5/22
Barbara Van Dam, Arcadia	5/27
Julie Tebo, Beulah	5/28
Jerry Zeits, TC	5/29
Steve Lang, TC	5/30
Barbara Stamiris, TC	6/1
Renee Archambo, TC	6/6
Jody Andrus, TC	6/12
Matthew Jones, TC	6/21
Randall Kopf, TC	6/21
Pat Kopf, TC	6/21



**Please pass it on:** Got friends who like to ride, but aren’t in the club? Feel free to share this online newsletter with them to show what they’re missing! Just copy the link and paste it into your email to them.

## Easy does it with Cruiser Rides

If you’re new to cycling, unsure of riding in small groups, or don’t have the time or endurance for long, fast-paced rides, please come out and enjoy the Club’s Cruiser rides. These rides are slower-paced shorter versions of regularly scheduled Club rides, tailored for beginner to intermediate road riders. At present, we are offering Cruiser Rides at 3 different time of the week; Mondays & Fridays starting at 9 a.m., and Thursday evenings starting at 6 p.m.

Check the Club’s “Ride Calendar” on our website for the starting location of each ride, distance, and other ride features. The Cruiser Rides are colored lavender on the calendar. The average speed is between 10 and 14 mph, and they are “no drop” rides. The designated ride leaders will keep track of all riders. The Ride Calendar can be found at [www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org](http://www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org). Non-Club members are welcome to attend, and please invite a friend!



The League of Michigan Bicyclists is looking for images highlighting the beauty, adventure, diversity, and inspirational nature of Michigan bicycling, with gift certificate prizes ranging from \$25 to \$250. Check out the rules at [LMB.org/photocontest](http://LMB.org/photocontest) and start clickin’ those pics.

# Safety reminders for summer cycling

Now that we are in the peak riding season, our roadways and streets are also used by a multitude of users. Automobiles, trucks, farm machinery, pedestrians, bicyclists, and construction equipment all have a right to use the roads and streets. Obviously in order to make it safe for everyone there must be a respect among users and acceptance that we all must follow the same rules.

Bicyclists fare best when they act and are treated like motorists. That means bicyclists must obey all traffic laws. Motorists must recognize that bicycles are legal vehicles and must treat them like any other vehicle on the road.

## Some common mistakes motorists make:

- Failure to pass a bicyclist safely. Bicyclists need at least 3 feet of distance from vehicles in order to be safe.
- Turning right into the path of a bicyclist who is going straight.
- Failure to yield when making a left turn in front of a bicyclist.
- Opening door into bicyclist's path. Always check before opening doors.
- Parking in bike lanes.



## Safety Corner

By Skip Miller

## Some common mistakes bicyclists make:

- Failure to obey stop signs and traffic lights.
- Riding on the wrong side of the road. Always ride with traffic.
- Failure to signal.
- No headlight or rear reflector.

A little courtesy among bicyclists and motorists will go a long way toward safely sharing the roadways. Motorists when passing a bicyclist should make sure to allow for three feet of distance from the rider. If oncoming traffic will not allow it, then slow down and wait a couple of seconds until it does. For their part, bicyclists need to remember not to block traffic needlessly. If there is a bike lane or paved shoulder that is safe to ride on, then bicyclists should take advantage in order to allow motorists to safely pass.

A little give and take will make for a great day for all.

## cycle shorts

**NEWS FLASH:** The League of Michigan Bicyclists reports that the 3-foot passing bill foot passing bills and drivers education improvement bill were signed into law on June 29 as Public Acts 277, 279, and 280. Safe passing has immediate effect, meaning it is now the law of the land! The drivers' ed requirement for cycle safety goes into effect next spring.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Some 65 riders are already registered for this fall's Leelanau Harvest Tour. Of note, registration fees increase on July 15th! Register before then and individuals save \$5 and families save \$10.

**YUM-YUM:** Chimoski's Bakery in Suttons Bay is slated to re-open at their new location north of town on July 12 (next to the Edward Jones office, at 720 N. St. Joseph, aka M22). Always a popular spot for your favorite baked goody, whether it's the Muffin Ride or any other ride!

**WANTED:** A photographer to cover this month's Ride Around Torch. Contact Tour Director **Paula Anderson** if you'd like to volunteer your photo skills: RATdirector@cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org

**OLDIES BUT GOODIES:** Club member **Barbara Kan** has a new hobby: restoring vintage bicycles, "mainly because there's not so much daily tinkering left to do on my stable of modern bikes," she says.



**SUCH A DEAL...** A recent Honor Ride drew 46 cyclists, after which they convened at Jerry and Mikke Kilts' home for refreshments. The result: lots of bikes lying in their yard. Club President Bill Danly posed for a "watch your bike" shot which Paula Dreeszen enhanced with some goofy signs.

Barbara is interested in forming a vintage bike club that would look into renovating older model bikes, along with finding parts for their repair.

"I am thinking it would be fun to get together with other like-minded aficionados to go for easy rides, meet at vintage eateries and maybe take field trips to ride with other clubs, such as the one in Grand Rapids and maybe even in England."

Interested? Email Barbara at kandutu@gmail.

com

**SPEAKING OF** vintage bikes, the spring Tweed Ride through Traverse City took another hiatus in 2018 after failing to materialize in 2017. Organizer **Jordan Owen** reports on the ride's facebook page that the event, which mirrors similar rides in London and around the world, isn't gone for good. A post on the page notes that "Tweed Ride TC is sleeping. Not gone, just sleeping."



Not all accidents happen on the bike as Carol Danyl can attest. She broke her wrist falling on a curb at the Sunrise bike tour in Alpena. Photo by Patricia Bearup.



Club Social Director Carrie Baic took time to smell the flowers during the Sunrise Tour out of Alpena.

Oui, oui! At right, Jeannette Wildman, Frances Alfs, Bob Downes, Nancy Briggs and Barb Huegli made the scene at the Montreal Bike Festival, doing a night ride with 15,000 cyclists and a 30-mile day ride around the city with 25,000.



Cyndi Holiday, Tami Stagman and Kelly Guswiler took on the backroads of the Beaver Island Bike Festival, which drew about 100 riders this year. Downes photo.

*Club members touring far & wide!*



Bill and Dea Danyl with George and Pat Bearup take a break to appreciate the view at the top of Mt Maria during the Sunrise Bicycle Tour. Photo by Patricia Bearup.



# Fondo Finish

The Club's first ever women's racing team (the "Queen Annes") took second place at the Bike Benzie Gran Fondo 65 mile road race on June 2.

Mary Peterson, Julie Tebo and Merry VanderLinden rode a team time of 3:55. The men's "Team Balatons" did nearly as well, earning third position on the Podium. The Balatons were Jeremiah Edson, Tom Haug, Mike Stivani and Bradley Terrill. They finished with a team time of 3:16.

The other men's squad, the "Morellos", took seventh. The Morellos featured Tom Croff, David King and Edward Sihler. They posted a team time of 4:20. The Bike Benzie Gran Fondo was the Club's first foray into this season's road racing schedule. These results show the great number of Club members who possess competitive abilities and advanced cycling skills.

Think you have the stuff to join the team? Come to the try-outs in July and time-trial up Grandview hill to earn a spot on the Club's Cherry Roubaix race team. Club racers are fast but friendly! They all participate in many Club rides throughout the year. Congratulate our racers when you ride with them!



**Cherry Capital riders lookin' good at the Bike Benzie Gran Fondo. From left to right are Jeremiah Edson, Bradley Terrill, Merry Vanderlinden, Mary Peterson, Mike Stivani and Tom Haug.**



**It was Rocky Mountain high for Chris and Vita Morse on their third Bicycle Tour of Colorado, with some epic climbs and downhill runs.**



**Gussie and Curt Peterson were part of a five-person team who spent 16 days riding from TC to Portland, Maine in June.**