

---

# HELENA BICYCLE CLUB

---

## Next Meeting:

.....  
 Tuesday January 26, 2016  
 7PM at Montana Wild Center  
 2668 Broadwater Ave.

## 2015 in Review:

.....  
 Monthly Club Programs  
 New Cycling Laws for MT  
 One Helena Hundred  
 Double Divide Ride  
 Weekly Rides  
 Safety & Education Initiatives  
 Balanced Budget

## Plans for 2016:

.....  
 Continue Safety & Education  
 Re-Brand One Helena  
 Hundred Ride  
 Explore alternatives to the  
 Double Divide Ride  
 Facilitate more family rides  
 Continued planning and  
 signage for safety on Birdseye  
 Road.

## 2015 Year in Review

HBC presented our two signature rides in 2015, and both the One Helena Hundred and the Double Divide Rides were profitable. In addition to our major rides, we also led more than 40 Tuesday or Thursday evening rides over the summer and excursions to York and Boulder. Thanks to all who were involved as volunteers, ride leaders, and ride directors. We could not do what we do without your help.

Numerous club members gave presentations at our monthly meetings, including a digest of new cycling laws in Montana, Bike Comfort and Fitness, and Bike Technology. We also had great reports on biking adventures along canal towpaths in Ohio and Pennsylvania, cycling from Prague to Dresden, and a Tandem Tour along the Mississippi on a paddle steamer. Club members also socialized to watch a stage of the 2015 Tour de France at our July club meeting.

Building on momentum from 2014, HBC continued its work toward improving cycling safety. Members of the HBC Board have been present at several meetings with residents of the Birdseye Rd. area in an attempt to increase safety for all users of the road. HBC has made a financial donation toward a permanent digital sign which will be at the new Birdseye Fire Station, and which will be used to display event and safety information.

Club membership dipped to 195 members for 2015, down from 231 members in 2014. This is largely attributed to lower numbers of riders on the One Helena Hundred and Double Divide Rides; a pattern which seemed to affect nearly all large organized rides across Montana this year. HBC was fortunate in that we budgeted wisely for our rides in 2015, such that we were still able to make a donation to the Helena YMCA. Additionally, funds we pay to the Lincoln School District to rent the school for the Double Divide Ride help

to support the School Library and numerous clubs for the school district. HBC will end the year with a balanced budget, and will actually have a small surplus.

There are some changes planned for our major rides in 2016. For some time, the HBC Board has been thinking of “re-branding” the One Helena Hundred. The ride has been established for years, but the name refers to Helena (where the ride does not take place); and the name does not mention the beautiful scenery which awaits the riders. Therefore, the Board is looking at re-naming the ride as the Missouri River Scenic Century for 2016. (Let a board member know if you have an idea for a new name) Whatever the name will be, the ride will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2016.

The HBC Board has also decided that we will not offer the Double Divide Ride in 2016. The ride made money this year, and for that we owe many thanks to ride director Don Harris, who crunched numbers on the ride budget to maximize our efficiencies in planning. The chief issue with the DDR has been getting enough volunteers to cover the multiple routes over two days. This year we had 38 riders and we needed 18 volunteers to support them. Feedback from the DDR riders showed that they were all pleased with the food, HBC volunteers and the organization, but several riders did mention the high levels of automobile and truck traffic they encountered on MT 141 and US 200. Taking a break from the DDR in 2016 will allow us to explore other ride options (including more family-oriented and self-supported rides) as well as redouble our efforts on bicycle safety and education. We will revisit the prospect of the DDR for 2017.

Lastly, HBC memberships expire at the end of 2015, so it is now time to renew your membership for 2016. A membership form is enclosed for 2016, and remember that you can now make an additional tax-deductible donation to HBC on the same form. Happy cycling, and we hope to see you in January!



**Helena Bicycle Club**  
**PO Box 4682, Helena, MT 59604**

**2016 HBC Board**

Rob Purny, President  
Bill Schneider, Vice President  
Rick Dendinger, Treasurer  
Rick Bush, Secretary  
Don Harris, Outreach & Education  
Wayne Chamberlin  
Julie McKenna