

Helena Bicycle Club

Minutes of Meeting

Via Zoom

January 25, 2022

**Members Present:**

Rick Bush, Dan and Ellen Dodds, Ellen Bush, Gretchen Krumm, Julie McKenna, Cliff Sheets, John McEwen, Ron Jendro, Dave and Jan Campana, Dee Dee Cress, Robert Ray, Crowell Herrick, Mary Ann Wellbank

1. **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting of 10/26/2021 were approved. Dave Campana moved; Dee Dee Cress seconded.

1. **Old Business**
2. **Looking Back at Last Year’s Rides**

Dan reported that there was a good turnout for the annual rides: York, 4th of July, Coeur D’ Alene. We started out with good weekly rides, but riders tapered off by end of the summer. He is interested in peoples’ opinions. Gretchen suspected the taper off at the end of the season was due to smoky air.

Dan also asked if people were tired of the same rides over and over. No one expressed that was a problem, although some people missed the Colorado Gulch and Rimini rides that had been held in the past.

1. **Planning for 2022 Rides**

*LOCAL RIDES*

The following local rides were discussed for 2022:

* Morning Rides: The club used to have some morning rides. People liked both the Saturday morning rides and the Thursday morning rides for different reasons. Retirees like the rides on Thursday mornings, and the whole group enjoys Saturday rides. Both rides often involve group lunches. On hot days, early morning Saturday rides are also nice. One suggestion was to do morning rides twice per month, alternating between Thursdays and Saturdays. Another suggestion was to do one morning ride weekly, alternating between Thursdays and Saturdays. We need leaders to plan and lead those rides. Rick Bush volunteered to work on Thursday morning rides.
* Tuesday Evening Rides: Members want to continue the Thursday evening rides. Dan Dodds is willing to lead these rides when he is in town.
* Other rides:

John McEwen suggested a ride on Arrowroot Road from the Capitol, up Sanders, Lime Kiln, come down Martinez Gulch. This can be a challenging route. He also suggested another ride (for gravel bikes) that takes 5-6 hours, up Head Lane, through Scratch Gravels, Echo Drive, Mullen Pass, Priest Pass. The route involves both dirt roads and pavement. It is a good workout!

Another suggestion that is more of a gravel ride is a route through Grizzly and Orofino. Maybe add some gravel bike rides. Dan asked John McEwen and Julie McKenna to get together to suggest a gravel ride or two, pick a date, and put it on the calendar.

Dee Dee Cress suggested a ride out to Marysville or the Great Divide, out to Austin Road. Dave has done this ride from the store on Lincoln Road.

It was agreed that every ride needs a leader and a planned route, which should be sent out in advance of each ride. It was also agreed to add the Rimini and Colorado Gulch rides to the schedule.

*OUT OF TOWN RIDES*

Club members discussed some of the previous rides the club had done out of town. These rides included the Coeur d’Alene

Dan asked if we wanted to do another weekend ride, such as the Fort Benton ride or the Coeur d’Alene Trail.

Julie suggested riding to Phillipsburg from Drummond and Deer Lodge. This ride is about 65 miles per day. It is not a difficult ride. She rated it “medium” to “low” difficulty. not hard. You do have to carry an overnight bag. It is hard to get hotel rooms in Phillipsburg. Very medium to low medium ride, except for Anaconda to George Town Lake. Not a hard ride, pretty flat. Jan said there are B&Bs and Dave added there are small hotels also. Quite a few the third weekend in July- Jan checked during meeting. 15-17th of July, for example. Ellen and Julie volunteered to check out a possible Phillipsburg ride. Ellen will see which weekends work. Julie will scope out what route would be. Even if not this summer, someone could map out a proposed route.

Mary Ann suggested Coeur d’Alene, but in late June or July. Rick said we could start in Harrison and go different direction, or ride from Wallace, or ride out of Spokane. Dave would scope these out again for third weekend in July.

Crowell mentioned there is a route from St Regis to Thompson Falls, to Thompson pass to Kellogg. Crowell will give the route to Dave.

Rick said Livingston to Paradise Valley might be nice. Riders could go to Chico Hot Sprints and ride back.

Club members ruled out a ride on the Bitterroot Trail from Missoula to Hamilton due to the noise and the number of intersections.

Going to the Sun Road was considered, however there is a lot of traffic and a limited time of day when bicyclists can ride. The route can be pretty dangerous also, especially downhill. It can be done, however before the road is open to cars. This will not be a scheduled club ride but may be a “show and go” ride at some point during the year.

Regarding the York Burger Boogie and the Boulder Ice Cream Rid, the club agreed to keep both rides on the schedule. Dan suggested scheduling the Burger Boogie for May 21, with a rain date of June 11. The Boulder ride will be held on the 4th of July, which is a Monday in 2022.

The Cascade to Wolf Creek route is always a good ride. This could be scheduled as a Saturday morning ride for club members, unless the Cascade group (Lion’s Club) is planning to hold its Cascade 66 event this year.

Ride planners should shoot Dan an email so he can send it information out to club members.

The club will continue to hold Tuesday night rides and possibly rotate twice a month between Thursday and Saturday mornings. Dan will lead the Tuesday night rides when he is in town. Rick is willing to work on Thursday morning rides.

*OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR 2022*

One idea is to hold a beginner workshop covering basic maintenance, fixing flats, talking about where to ride, and what to watch out for. A suggestion was made to see if Jim Barnes (Big Sky Cyclery) is interested in doing this and coordinating through him. Dan will check with Jim to see if Jim has a workshop like this already planned. If so, we may be able to promote the Helena Bicycle Club at this event.

Another idea is to promote the Club at the Bike Swap, if one will be held this year Dan will talk to Jim about that as well.

1. **Website Problem**

Dan reported on website problem. Lost a lot of links have been lost. He would like ideas on links to add to the website. Please send your ideas to Dan.

1. **New Business**

Julie mentioned that the Department of Commerce has a [Tourism Grant](https://commerce.mt.gov/News/news-articles/Commerce-Announces-Tourism-Grant-Program-Application-Cycle-Opens-August-1) for 501 (C) (3)s The Bike club could apply. This could help to keep memberships active and promote rides in Montana. Julie thought it is worth checking in to.. Dan will look into this and see if there are any possibilities. It is advertised on the Commerce website, under Tourism. Julie will send Dan the clip of newspaper article. Another suggestion was to use any grant money to improve the Club’s website.

Gretchen suggested that the Club could put together a booklet of rides to be available at bike shops. Or, maybe also use grant monies to recruit younger bike riders to participate. Jan said fewer young people are joining fraternal organizations. They have limited time to participate. Additionally, young people are riding mountain bikes rather than road bikes.

Ron announced that on June 18, there is a [Divide Scramble](https://www.ridethedividemontana.com/)  out of Butte. It is both a race and a ride. Riders can choose routes with distances of 33, 57 or 68 miles or a 4-mile walk exploring history. Go to Bike Walk Montana website. Julie suggested putting link on the Club’s website. Dan will add a link onto our website. HBC can also add its events onto Bike Walk Montana website.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22. At that meeting, we will make final decisions about a big out-of-town club ride and determine preliminary ride dates to put on the website.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.