

Tailwind



“ George Washington rode here ”

Dec 07/Jan 08



ABC Christmas Party

This is the time of the year when the club really lives up to the motto “We Ride To Eat”. Be sure you get to Bob and Ruth's for the annual ABC Christmas Party this Sunday, December 2nd, at 4 PM. We all bring a dish to share, and try to find a bike-related gift for around \$10 so you can participate in the gift lottery. This has to be one of the best ways around to start off the Christmas festivities, and a chance to talk with your friends from last summer.

Call Ruth at 410 849-2137 to coordinate dishes. Maps were distributed via email last week.

New Membership Year: 1 March through 30 April

At the November meeting, it was agreed to change the membership year. Instead of individual membership years beginning when a person signs up and terminating one year later, all members will renew on 1 March of each year. The prices will stay the same, except that for anyone signing up after 1 November the charges will be one half the full-year charge.

In order to avoid shorting anyone who is currently a member, all memberships active as of 1 November of this year will be extended to 1 March, 2009. So your current membership is good for another one year and 5 months, even if you expected to need to renew it sometime next summer.

This change should help eliminate the problem of remembering when you need to renew, as notices can be carried in the Tailwind and emailed to the entire membership when as the due date approaches.

November Meeting Results

The club dues year was modified to run from 1 March to 28 February. If you're currently a member your membership will run until 28 February, 2009 (see the article above). Election results were Jim Claffey as new President, but no one was willing to accept any other position – so the club has no Vice President, Treasurer, Ride Master, Web Master, or Newsletter Editor.

Members should consider whether they are really interested in having a bicycle club. If no members are willing to help out next year could easily be the last year for this club. Nothing is urgent at this time, but participation next summer, and next fall's elections will decide the issue.

Winter Riding

For the hardy, there's still plenty of good riding out there. But you need to be careful. Watch out for leaves – they're slippery when wet, and they can hide a pothole or some ice. Other things to watch are shady areas, bridges, and corners. Shady areas can hide ice, and corners become doubly dangerous if there are any wet leaves or ice. And those signs that say that 'Bridge freezes before the rest of the road' aren't kidding. Many of us have found that out the hard way! If you have to brake, brake with the rear wheel only – if your front wheel locks up, you'll lose your ability to steer, and that's usually spells a fall.

For more good information on winter riding, see www.icebike.com .

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Washington, D.C. Passes Bike Parking Bill

Thinking of riding in D.C.? The following is reprinted from the *American Bicyclist Update*, a newsletter from the League of American Bicyclists. The ABC is has a club membership, and you can check out their site at www.bikeleague.org

On November 6, the Bicycle Commuter and Parking Expansion Act of 2007 was unanimously passed by the D.C. Council. This bill faced significant challenges before passing. But thanks to the widespread support of local cyclists, and negotiations between the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and the DC Council, the final text of the bill received the approval of all Council members. The bill as passed increases the parking requirement in commercial garages from 5 percent to 10 percent of car parking, mandates one bike parking space for every three units in new residential developments (up from one for every four units), makes it easier for tenants to request bike parking in their buildings, and requires a detailed study of bike parking and bike access to D.C. government office buildings.

Lights at Night

If you continue to ride this winter, remember that darkness comes early. The following is also from www.bikeleague.org And don't push your luck – flats can really delay your return!

1 Visibility

- By law, you must have a front white light and red rear reflector in most states
- Motorists are familiar with white meaning front and red meaning rear
- Front lights can illuminate your path or simply make you visible at night

2 Wattage

- Inexpensive lights seldom light your path; at about 3 watts, they make you visible
- Lighting systems are available that put out 45 watts with a halogen bulb
- Most full-time commuters use at least a 10 watt system with a rechargeable battery

3 Power sources

- From AA batteries to nickel-metal-hydrate rechargeables, the options are endless
- Self-contained, rechargeable batteries have the best life and brightest light
- Simple AA powered lights have lower initial cost but frequent battery replacement

4 Helmet vs. bar mount

- Helmet mounted lights allow your to get the attention of motorists by looking at them
- Bar mounted lights make you look more like a vehicle but only point forward
- The ideal situation is one helmet light and one bar-mounted light for safety

5 Rear lights

- A red rear blinking light is much more conspicuous than a passive reflector
- Make sure that your light is visible to motorists and not pointing up or down
- Clear obstructions from the back of the bike that would block the light

Annapolis Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 224
Annapolis, MD 21404

<http://www.annapolisbicycleclub.org/>

The Annapolis Bicycle Club is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to the interests of recreational cycling enthusiasts. Our interests are recreation, exercise, safety and camaraderie. We don't pollute or block traffic and we encourage cyclists to adhere to traffic laws.

The Annapolis Bicycle Club is affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists.

Members and prospective members are encouraged to call any of our officers to answer any questions and obtain information about Club activities.

President – Jim Claffey
[president](mailto:jim@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at
annapolisbicycleclub.org
410-956-5219

VP –
[vicepresident](mailto:vp@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at
annapolisbicycleclub.org

Secretary – Treasurer
[secretary](mailto:secretary@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at
annapolisbicycleclub.org

Newsletter/Webmaster
[vicepresident](mailto:vicepresident@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at
annapolisbicycleclub.org

Saturday Rides

Please **check** with a buddy to verify the ride in the winter months

March – May; September – December 9:00 AM

June – August – 8:00 AM

January & February – 10:00 AM

Davidsonville Rides – Multiple rides; speeds from 13 – 20+ mph.
35+ mile rides

Meet at the Davidsonville Park ‘n Ride, Routes 424 & 50 for rides to Deale, Galesville and around South Anne Arundel County.

Winter Rides

With winter weather, rides may go, and may not. So remember, changeable weather may cancel a ride. Call and check with your buddies to be sure you'll have company. Don't give up because of a small possibility of cold, but don't be foolish either – wet or snowy roads can be slippery and dangerous. And frostbite is no fun! Be careful, and be sure to keep hydrated!

Annapolis Bicycle Club Activities

- Tuesday morning - Meet at Charlie's at 10 AM, call for directions - 410-841-6269. *Call first to verify the ride.*
- **Occasional Membership meetings** with programs on bicycle topics. To be announced in the newsletter and on the web site.
- **Special event rides** and other bicycle related social activities
- **Group participation** in regional bicycling events

Membership Application and Renewal Form

In consideration of accepting application for membership and being permitted to participate in any way in the activities of the Annapolis Bicycle Club, ("ABC"), I/WE, for myself/ourselves, my/our personal representatives, assigns, heirs and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree and represent that I/we understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I/we am/are qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such activities. I/we further acknowledge that certain of the activities will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the activities and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I/we further agree and warrant that if at any time I/we believe conditions to be unsafe, I/we will immediately discontinue further participation in the activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that (a) bicycling activities involve risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my/our own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the activity, the condition in which the activity takes place, or the negligence of the "RELEASEES" named below, (c) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me/us or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I/we fully accept and assume all such

risks and all responsibility for losses, costs and damages I/we incur as a result on my participation in the activities of ABC.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE ABC, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, and employees, other participants, and sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which activities take place, (each considered one of the RELEASEES herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the RELEASEES or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations; and I/we further agree that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I/we, or anyone on my/our behalf, makes a claim against any of the RELEASEES, I/we will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such claim. I/we have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I/we have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one and circle fee)

FAMILY = Annual Fee: \$18 email newsletter, \$28 US mail newsletter

SINGLE – Annual Fee: \$10 email newsletter, \$20 US mail newsletter

NAMES AND SIGNATURES OF APPLICANTS OVER AGE 18:

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____ City, State _____ ZIP _____

email Address _____ Phone _____

Annapolis Bicycle Club

P. O. Box 224

Annapolis, MD 21404