

Sacramento Wheelmen Club Newsletter



2023, Issue 4

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Event Calendar Report

CLUB PICNIC

October 14 - The annual Wheelmen picnic is scheduled for Saturday October 14, 2023, at Folsom's Lew Howard Park. More details are available in the Events area of the club website.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:30 PM, tune into the Club Meeting via ZOOM. The Zoom link follows - (paste the following link into your web browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83865385908?pwd=RzdjUkZT3JCLzU5VmJINVZlajlldz09>

Meeting ID: 838 6538 5908

Passcode: 452182

The Zoom call "opens" at 6 PM; the meeting begins at 6:30 PM.

Meeting Agenda

1. June 14 Minutes (Debbie Finley)
2. Membership Update (Caron McMillan)
3. Oregon Tour Report (Tim Koch)
4. RAGBRAI report (Mabel Wong)
5. Santa Cruz Zodiac Report (Tom Adams)
6. Italy Tour Update (Sandy Yarrow)
7. 2023 and 2024 Budget Updates (Bob Storelli)
 - a. 2023 budget status
 - b. Proposed 2024 charitable donation
8. Club picnic Update (Tom Adams, Sandy Yarrow, Tim Koch)
9. Annual Awards Banquet Update (Tom Adams, Dan Anglim)
10. Italy Tour promotional slide show (Tom Adams)

REPORT ON THE JUNE 14 MEETING - MIBM Awards, Trial Sentencing Highlight June Meeting

At the club's Zoom meeting on June 14, 2023, we were updated on the sentencing of Armando Moreno-Rodriguez, convicted of second-degree murder of Sacramento Wheelmen Mike Dodson. The DUI-involved murder occurred on the American River Bike Trail in June 2021. We also received a final May Is Bike Month (MIBM) report and gave away a final MIBM gift.

Thirty-five new members joined the club between the beginning of the year and June 14, bringing total club membership to 327. Caron McMillan reported that only about half the membership is reporting mileage, however, which indicates they are not riding with the club. She suggested reaching out to people who do not renew memberships and also to members who don't show up in our mileage data in order to find out why members don't renew and why some members are not riding with the club. In a related matter, non-members have been removed from our private groups.io email account.

On March 20, 2023, Moreno-Rodriguez was sentenced to 16 years to life in prison. He was in custody for two years prior to the sentencing and will be eligible for parole in one year because he is under 26 years of age. He was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, hit and run, and driving on a suspended license. Mike Dodson was on a Wheelmen Ride when Moreno-Rodriguez struck him head-on and then continued to drive down the bike trail. Prior to the incident, Moreno-Rodriguez had three prior misdemeanor convictions for DUI. His sentencing includes lifetime parole and he can never own a firearm. Sacramento Wheelmen will likely be asked to comment a year from now when Moreno-Rodriguez goes before the parole board.

Past President Ron Davies is delivering Wheelmen apparel purchased on the Wheelmen web site. This clearance sale is only available to club members and you have to log in to get to that page in the web site. The Apparel link in the header was added to clear old inventory left over from retail racks when our apparel was available that way. There is not much left for males in our clearance sale inventory available through our web site, but our clearance sale inventory of women's apparel offers a variety of kit items. New custom Wheelmen apparel is purchased by members on line directly from the manufacturer in annual or bi-annual purchase opportunities arranged by the club.

Ride Leader Lesli Pletcher reported that 37 Wheelmen participated in the Guerneville Zodiac this year. The traditional hotel in Guerneville, now under new management, discounted the room rate. Rooms were not fully equipped with amenities. It rained off and on during the Zodiac, but that didn't stop club members from riding.

The Sacramento Wheelmen rode a combined total of 40,301 miles in May with Ken Bell contributing 1,566 miles by himself. Art Oliver was recognized for the longest ride on a given day: 140 miles and more than 6,000 feet of climbing. A coffee gift card also went to Dave Grattendick for the greatest improvement in May miles. The last MIBM coffee card recipient was selected from the members who participated this year. New member Anette Orella won.

President Tom Adams listed potential club constitutional amendments: redefine honorary memberships, drop the Sierra Century Director as a club officer, add Membership Director as a club officer, and redefine family memberships. Something to think about and possibly act on in the future.

Social Media Report

Please continue to RSVP for rides that are posted on Meetup. Rides that have a high number of RSVPs are well-attended by members and future members.

Travel Report

RAGBRAI L (50th) – ONE L OF A RIDE!

By Bob Storelli and Mabel Wong

You can say that again! What an experience to join thousands of people on various modes of transportation: road, gravel, mountain, tandem, recumbent, unicycle, e-bike, roller blades, high-wheel and one-of-a kind bikes to be a part of the historic Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI). RAGBRAI was started in 1973 as a six-day ride across the state by two Des Moines Register columnists who invited a few friends to join them but over a hundred people rode across the state. Every year more and more people showed up, eventually attracting participants from every state and many other countries.



Fourteen Wheelmen braved the crowds, heat, humidity and severe thunderstorm: seven veterans and seven first-timers. Debbie Finley, Linda Lasswell, Art Oliver, Carrie Sundahl, Chris Drews, Loretta Weismann, Doug Schierer, Dee Anne Holloway, Wendy Tomko, Vicki Francis, Joni Bauer, and Doug Beisner were the Sacramento Wheelmen participants. Most of the Wheelmen were signed up with a charter service called Iowa Valley Bicycle Club and two other Wheelmen went with Team Moore-On. We were

fortunate enough to get signed up with Pork Belly Ventures for their weeklong and shuttle services. Finally in June, we were notified we had the tent and baggage service. As Rod Farley would say, we were "bougie" since we signed up for the same service during RAGBRAI 2021. We thought we were one and done then...but we got caught up in the excitement with a group of Wheelmen that wanted to experience RAGBRAI, especially the historic 50th.

We will never complain there are too many people on the bike trail. Unofficially, we heard every state was represented and riders from six countries rode a part of RAGBRAI L. Estimates put the number of daily riders at 40,000, but in Des Moines the numbers ranged up to 60,000 riders for the day.

Food and drinks galore! Pies, especially Amish pies, pancake breakfasts, and breakfast burritos. Pork chops that come with a glove or the big pork chops from Mr. Pork Chop? Try them both and decide for yourself which is better. Or the Pork loin sandwich sold by the Fire department, grilled cheese sandwiches and ribeye steak sandwiches and sweet corn dipped in butter. Real lemonade slushies or wine slushies, beer, smoothies, soda and water. Iowans were giving out free water, popsicles and ice pops on the very hot days. Too many foods and drinks to list. But you have to try Beekman's Homemade Ice Cream and ice cream floats churned by a tractor engine. Look for the authentic Beekman's, not the copycat ice cream also churned by a tractor engine.

Who said Iowa was flat?

Ok, now about the ride. We started with a ride on Day 0, to the RAGBRAI Expo in Sioux City and to traditionally dip our rear tire in the Missouri River. The route goes across Iowa, from west to east, to end the route with a ceremonious dip of our front tire in the Mississippi River in Davenport. This year's ride followed the original route from 1973 and started in Sioux City followed by overnight towns of Storm Lake, Carroll, Ames, Des Moines, Tama-Toledo, Coralville and ending in Davenport. The ride was advertised as 500 miles and 16,500 feet of elevation gain. We ended up with 560 miles and just under 18,000 feet. This includes Tuesday's optional 100-mile day that added 15 miles to the ride called the Karras Loop in honor of one of the ride's founders.





Thursday was Military Appreciation Day and we rode with matching US Navy jerseys that were a gift from our son-in-law, who is a retired veteran. Along the ride we met two Navy veterans that rode with us off and on throughout the day. They were part of Team Navy consisting of 50 riders with a support vehicle. They appreciated our jersey's, offered us sports drinks and snacks along the way and asked us to join Team Navy for next year's ride. A great group of people, but we politely declined stating that this was going to be our last RAGBRAI.

The last night of the ride in Coralville was something to remember. Severe thunderstorm/tornado sirens sounded and people came streaming into the city's Xtreme Arena to shelter in place. We eventually ventured outside to see our tent destroyed and others missing from the 70 mph winds and rain. We took our bike, electronics and a few clothes to the arena and spent the night sleeping in a chair to get a few hours sleep before the next day's final ride to Davenport. In the morning, we found some of our bags were wet, but decided to deal with them later and began our 71-mile ride. We reached Davenport and got in line to dip our front tire in the Mississippi River. RAGBRAI...always an adventure and **One L of a Ride!**



RAGBRAI – Friends, Food, and Farm Animals – *The Rest of the Story*

The weather at this year's RAGBRAI was some of the hottest on record, with heat indexes reaching 110 or more across Iowa. Compared with previous years, the route overall was harder, with challenging climbs and high mileage. The following photos give witness that the week-long event was a bonding one for friends and satisfying to the bellyand served as mobile petting zoo, too!



Chris & Carrie are excited!!



Wendy & pal are pumped!



Deanne & Loretta can't wait to start riding!



Linda really wanted to pet that alpaca but had to settle for goats and a little baby lamb!



Friends who tat together, stay together! Pink is very popular



Is that Art Olivier in that sombrero?

Deb dips her tire....

Chris enjoying the cool of the morning



Good friends having fun...



The 50th Anniversary RAGBRAI had the most participants on record – over 40,000 registered and an additional 10-20k unregistered

Volunteer Report

GREAT AMERICAN TRIATHLON – Wheelies Show Up to Support



Tom Gardner once again stepped up to lead a team of volunteers to set up the triathlon course for the Great American Triathlon (GAT), held on Saturday July 15 this year. The GAT (formerly known as Eppie’s Great Race) is a unique no-swim triathlon comprised of a run, cycle and paddle. The Wheelmen volunteer team established the transition station between the run and bike segments of the race. This year’s station was more complicated

to design because it was in an area of the trail where the levy being repaired but Tom and the team got ‘er done!

Thank you to the following Wheelmen for donating their time with special thanks to Tom Gardner for heading up the effort:



Andy Hegenderfer	Glen Moore
Barb Bravos	Jeanne Leland
Bill Marshalonis	Mary Moore
Bob Mandleson	Michael Goble
Bob Thompson	Pete Rabbon
Bud Leland	Ron Beals
Dale Claypool	Sheila Forseberg
Debbie Finley	Steve Forseberg
Debra Lebish	Super Dave Clifton
Don Claunch	Tom Adams
Fred Turner	Tom Gardner



California International Marathon (CIM) Volunteer Opportunity

Please join us on Sunday, December to volunteer for the 2023 California International Marathon (CIM). We are thrilled to be able to support the CIM, working the Gear Check station at the race finish, helping distribute bags to athletes once they complete the race. The CIM is looking for at least 20 volunteers from the Wheelmen.

Our volunteer assignment/time slot is:

Finish Line Gear Check

Team Name: Sacramento Wheelman

Location: Finish Area (CA State Capital)

Date: Sunday, December 3

Time: 7:30 am - 11:30 am

Use the link below to register as a volunteer (required).

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

LINK: <https://thesacramentorunningassociation.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=76953>

PASSWORD: Wheelman

Registration Steps:

- On the volunteer registration page, please enter the password in the password box at the top of the page
- Once the password is entered, your aid station will appear
- Please complete the required volunteer information and you are set to go

Miscellaneous

SACRAMENTO WHEELMEN: LOOKING BACK 50 YEARS – Part 1 of 2

By Tom Adams

The Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Club was created almost 50 years ago by a small group of friends interested in more serious recreational riding. Doug Klein, the club's first president, was one of those founding members. Now 82 years old, Klein contacted the Sacramento Wheelmen this year by sending a letter to our PO Box. He wanted to pass on some club memorabilia, most of it focused on the very early days of the club. Reading through it, I learned a few things about our origins. Also, I was struck by how much cycling has changed in 50 years. But some things have not changed, including how true we have been to the identity established early on.

In 1974, Klein decided that cycling might be a good way to make new friends so he joined the Sacramento Bike Hikers. On his very first ride with the club, there were children included and that was both the first and last time he rode with the Bike Hikers. He decided to start a club of his own and his neighbor Donn Kegel agreed to help him.

“First we needed a name,” Klein wrote in a letter to us dated June 15, 2023. “At the turn of the century,” that would be between 19th and 20th centuries, “bicycle enthusiasts were referred to as ‘Wheelmen.’ Most rode Penny Farthings. Donn and I thought that ‘Sacramento Wheelmen’ had a nice ring to it.”

And so the club was founded in April of 1974 and Klein decided to promote the club with a submission to the “What’s Happening” column of the Sacramento Union newspaper, now long gone. “We sent in a ride description and the following Saturday eight cyclists joined Donn and me.” The club’s first ride circled the Sutter Buttes because it was scenic, not too hilly, and about 40 miles in length. After a year of posting ride notices in the Sacramento Union, those notices plus word of mouth resulted in a club with about 60 members.

“In 1974, few wore helmets, padded gloves, padded shorts, sun block or sunblock clothing,” Klein writes. “Clip-on pedals were just beginning to be used. Most people had never seen bicycles on highways. Some (drivers) showed their resentment by driving dangerously close to us.” Most bikes had 5-cog rear cassettes, and few club members were aware of the importance of hydration, especially on hot days.

When you look at the old photos he has passed down from those early days, you remember how it used to be. Guys with long hair, sporting cutoffs and tennis shoes, maybe wearing a cap, and standing next to their now vintage bikes.

Joining the Sacramento Wheelmen in 1974 set you back \$5 per year for individuals and \$7 per year for family memberships. Members were entitled to a one-year subscription to the bi-monthly ride schedule/newsletter distributed by mail and later available at bike shops in the region and were eligible for discounts at businesses placing ads. You received a membership card and voting privileges. And you qualified to organize and lead tours.

In October of 1974, Klein officially became the club’s first president. Other club members filled the following six positions: treasurer/membership chairman, public relations, political representative, outings chairman, newsletter editor, and meetings program chairman. A club questionnaire dated December 1974 was distributed to club members “so that we can organize things that you like to do.” What distance do you prefer to ride? What type of terrain do you prefer? What is the maximum distance you are willing to travel to reach the starting point? When would you like to start?

My favorite question: When traveling in someone else’s car to the ride starting point, what do you consider a fair amount to pay per mile: 1 cent, 1.5 cents, 2 cents, 2.5 cents, 3 cents, other?

“What camping equipment do you have that can be used on club outings?”

We still ask a version of the last question on the questionnaire: Would you be willing to be a ride leader, research ride routes, be a club officer or committee chairman?

The club created a ride grading system for the ride schedule/newsletter. There were five mileage designations (1-5): 1-10 miles, 11 to 20 miles, 21 to 30 miles, 36 to 50 miles, and over 50 miles. There were also five terrain categories (A-E):

- flat terrain for 3-speeds, 5-speeds, and 10-speeds
- some small, gentle rolling hills for 5 and 10 speeds
- some small, steep grades and/or long gentle grades for the beginning and experienced cyclist on a 10 speed
- some larger hills and/or longer grades for the enthusiastic beginner and experienced cyclist on a 10 speed
- numerous large hills and/or steep grades which are a challenge to the experienced cyclist on a 10-speed bike.

Every ride was rated by mileage and terrain using a number and letter system. So, a 1A ride was no more than 10 miles on flat terrain. On the other end of the spectrum, a 5E was more than 50 miles with numerous hills and steep grades.

The first ride leader guidelines encouraged ride leaders to ride the route before offering to lead a ride on it. The guidelines go on to state: "Get the trip kit from the previous ride leader. Check it to make sure it contains: first-aid kit, tire pump, clipboard, sign-up book, and extra newsletters." Ride leaders were asked to give new people a copy of the newsletter and introduce themselves to the group. Ride leaders were encouraged to describe the route, including lunch and rest stops, and "remind people to ride safely." In addition, "spend a minute or two talking to new people."

Cue sheets are not mentioned. Ride leaders were asked to "ride to the front of the pack to advise the group of turns, rest stops, etc. It is not necessary to be the first rider except in cases of complicated routes, such as routes through towns."

The first paragraph of the December 1974-February 1975 Sacramento Wheelmen Newsletter, black ink on blue paper, states: "The Sacramento Wheelmen is a touring oriented bicycle club. We conduct rides within the Sacramento Metropolitan area and throughout Northern California each weekend. Some two and three day tours are also organized throughout the year."

This early newsletter/schedule presents eight rides between December 8, 1974, and February 23, 1975. Every ride in the schedule is on a Sunday. There was also news of an upcoming Christmas party on December 13, two bike repair instructional workshops in January, a club meeting on January 28, and the newsletter ends with the news that the Sacramento Spring Century Committee was formed at the club's October meeting. Names, phone numbers, and event duties of all the committee members followed....To Be Continued with Part 2.

TOM GOODWIN IS LOOKING GOOD

Tom and Steve enjoyed their lunch together in June!

