

SPOKE

Notes

Newsletter of the Cyclonauts Bicycling Club, Springfield Massachusetts

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Thanks to an extremely high vaccination rate among our members, the Cyclonauts have been able to return almost completely back to normal. We have been able to offer mostly complete

ride schedules. Our Traditional Saturday Ride, Wednesday Ride, and Sunday Ride schedules have all been full with good participation. These rides have been averaging around 10 riders. Our Rail Trail Riders group has also had a complete schedule with good participation despite the many rain-outs this season.

The Alternate Ride has been struggling however. There are very few volunteer leaders and so there are mostly open dates. Participation is very low on the few rides that are posted. Historically, the Alternate group branched off from the Traditional Saturday ride because there were many members who wanted to ride faster, further and with more challenging routes. They were given the go ahead to form their own group with the provision that they assume responsibility for scheduling and leading these rides. The scheduling was divided among three members, each taking a season and there were many volunteer ride leaders. Many of these members are no longer riding with the club for various reasons. Several have become Traditional riders and this ride has changed as well, becoming faster as the nature of the participants has changed. I am open to suggestions as to what the club should do with this particular ride. One idea is to combine

the Saturday ride schedules but allow for two rides, a 25 to 30 mile ride as well as a longer, faster ride when leaders are available.

I would like to extend a big *thank* you to all members who have volunteered both to coordinate and to lead rides. I am extending a special *thank* you to Diane and Kerry Goguen, Brian Machia, Glen Barnes, Brian O'Conner and of course my husband Ray for going above and beyond this past year in helping to keep our ride schedules not just complete but with great rides.

Please keep in mind that our club only functions with volunteers. One thing that we all can do to help keep the club healthy is to recruit new members. *Thanks* to our talented Spokenotes Editor Donna Katz, we have a beautiful new Cyclonauts Business Card. Every member should have a few cards to hand out when meeting any new riders who are potential club members. We have been handing out the new cards at rides. Be sure to get some. Donna, with creative assistance from her husband has also created a great "MEMBERS WANTED" poster (brainchild of Diane Goguen) which has been provided to area bike shops.

See you on the road,
Betty Siwinski

Rail Trail Notes



Our Thursday Rail Trail Rides will come to a close on October 14th. Please check out the Thursday Rail Trail schedule on our website for Autumn rides. Despite the unusual number of rainouts this season, there were a number of beautiful rides. If you have not done so yet, please check out these wonderful scenic rides. It is an opportunity to explore many of our local, as well as, more distant trails, in good company. I would like to *thank* all of our volunteer leaders and especially Bill Grigaitis for coordinating this group.



ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

A Great Success!

Thanks to Ann Morin who graciously provided her backyard for our club picnic, the Cyclonauts were able to get together for the first time in 2 years. It was so nice to see everyone again. A great time was had by all. Thanks also to science for providing life saving vaccines.





ELECTIONS



Due to the pandemic, our annual election of Cyclonauts Club Officers will once again be held by email. At this time **we are NOT yet ready to vote** but I would like to present our current slate of officers and request nominations. - *Sue Strange*

Officers

- President - Betty Siwinski
- Secretary - Ann Morin
- Treasurer - Janet Parslow
- Membership Chair - Janet Parslow
- Trips Chair - Betty Siwinski
- Hike Chairs - Mary Ann Siron (Wednesday Hikes) and James DeSellier (Saturday Hikes)
- SpokeNotes Editor - Donna Katz
- Web Master - Ray Siwinski

At Large Members

- Mady Schorsch
- Sue Strange
- Diane Goguen
- Bill Grigaitis

Nominations are open for all positions. If you would like to nominate a fellow member or yourself, please send an email to the attention of Sue Strange to spfldcyclonauts@gmail.com.

A future club email will provide directions for voting.

EDITOR'S REST STOP



Hi everyone,

Just a reminder, if you wish to contribute, please don't hesitate to send in any information you think will be helpful or interesting to the other club members, letters to the Editor, or feedback to me directly at regarding how SpokeNotes can be more interesting or accessible to our members. Send correspondence to donna.katz56@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

This is a place for club members to share their ideas and opinions with respect to all aspects of cycling and our club. Please limit letters to less than 200 words.

No letters this issue.

Dear Members,

I have been thinking that as a club we may want to standardize our use of hand signals to communicate while riding. This is especially important as we actively pursue new membership, some of whom may not have ridden in a group. It seems that if we are all using the same signals and verbal commands it will maximize our safety as individuals and as a group. Mostly, we are already using these signals. On the next page I have shown the 5 common hand signals: Stopping, slowing, road hazard and the left and right turn. The graphics on the following page show the right hand signaling stopping, slowing and road hazard. However, some riders may be more comfortable holding onto the handle bars with their right hand and signaling with their left. I think we can easily accommodate this variation. However, if a hand signal a fellow rider is using is unclear, please just ask the rider to clarify.

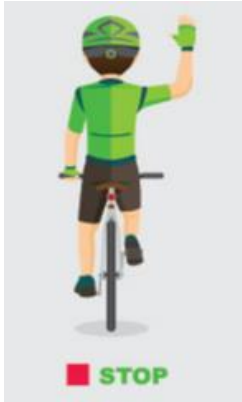
The following page is a draft. I welcome other people's perspectives that I hadn't considered. I would appreciate anyone's input in regard to the signals or how they are used.

Donna, SpokesNotes Editor

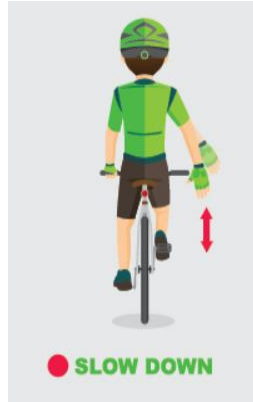


BICYCLE HAND SIGNALS

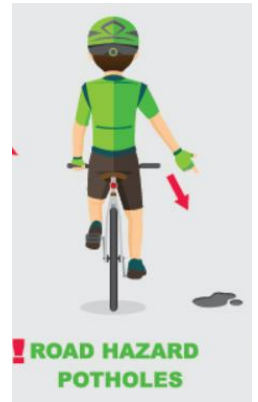
The following signals should be accompanied by a verbal command when possible.



Call Out
"Stopping"



Call Out
"Slowing"



Call Out
the Road Hazard

HAND SIGNALS THAT SHOW TURNING

The **left turn** is a universal signal, and is indicated by the left arm extended fully to the left.

However, there are 2 variations used for the **right turn** hand signal. I am proposing that we adopt the **right turn hand signal shown by the green rider**, which is the right arm fully extended to the right. I believe this signal is more intuitive to most drivers. As noted, **the right turn hand signal shown by the blue rider** is a throwback from when cars did not have electric turn signals. Many drivers are unfamiliar with this hand signal, especially younger drivers.



THE WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Topic: CYCLONAUTS EMAIL

The cyclonauts.com website is the primary source of information for all club activities, whether it's bike rides, hikes, picnics, banquets, etc. Every effort is made to keep the website up to date but last minute changes such as cancellations may not be up to the minute on the website. For these last minute changes, as well as other important club information, we utilize the unique club email - spfldcyclonauts@gmail.com to communicate with members. We also preface the subject of each email with "Cyclonauts Notice:" so members will know that it is an important club message.

In order to keep member email addresses confidential, we use the blind CC function when we send Cyclonauts Notices. This way you only see your address and not anyone else's. But while you cannot see the full list of email addresses, it is still a group mailing and may be subject to your spam blocker, in which case you may not even see these important club messages. You can, and should, overcome this situation by adding the club email address to your contact list.

The club email address is available to all members to use for club related activities. SmugMug photos, ride or hike cancellations (and additions), etc. should all be sent to this address (not the Webmaster's or President's private email addresses). Responses to coordinators calls for ride or hike leaders should continue to be sent to their private email addresses. Also, if you are asked for a response to a club mailing, it is requested that you reply to the spfldcyclonauts@gmail.com address only, and not to "reply all".

Ray Siwinski
Webmaster
Cyclonauts Bicycle Club