



## The Village Bicycle Club 10/12/2015 Meeting Minutes



President Clay Smith began the evening at 6:08 p.m. by welcoming everyone to the "Welcome Back Snow Birds" dinner/meeting. He led the club in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, then encouraged everyone to enjoy the wonderful food provided by members. A regular general membership meeting followed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Clay reported that the club's present treasury balance is \$971.19.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Patti Saxby introduced the names of those running for club leadership positions in 2016: for President: Clay Smith; Vice-President: Phil Ruppert; Secretary: Chuck Rockwell; Treasurer: Bob Gribble; Web Master: Chris Schmidt; Membership: Sharon Bennett; Program Director: Dan O'Hara; President Emeritus: Ed Hankwitz. The membership has the opportunity to nominate others for these offices. An election will be held at the general membership meeting in December.

**"RAGBRAI" Presentation:** Clay introduced club member Sharon Bennett who presented a very comprehensive and interesting presentation about the Register's (Des Moines newspaper) Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. Sharon, along with her husband and friends from the Delaware Biking Blue Hens, have ridden RAGBRAI many times. Sharon explained RAGBRAI began with fewer than 50 riders, but is now so popular that there are over 10,000 riders each year. Riders ride from Iowa's western border with Nebraska for seven days to the eastern border with Indiana, averaging approximately 65 miles each day. Proceeds from the ride benefit, among others, needy children in Des Moines. Sharon highly recommends this ride, saying that people along the ride route are super friendly. In addition, there is nightly entertainment provided as well as excellent SAG and public safety support. Clay mentioned at the end of Sharon's presentation that some members of our club are considering participating in RAGBRAI 2016. More details to follow.

**Highland's Bike Fest:** Club member Phil Rupert shared a detailed review of this bicycle festival which will be held in Sebring, FL, December 4, 5, and 6 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). This is a fully supported ride, featuring ride lengths from 11-62 miles on all three days, and 100 miles on Saturday. Lodging is available at the Kenilworth Lodge or the Inn On-the-Lakes Hotel. The 12/5 ride also includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and an ice cream social at 4 p.m. On 12/6, the lunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. has an amazing assortment of various foods. Cost: \$115 for all 3 days. Go to <http://www.highlandsbikefest.com> for more information.

**Ride Leaders and Sweeps:** Web Master Chris Schmidt reviewed information concerning a revised set of rules and recommendations for club members who will act as ride leaders and sweeps on our club's weekly rides. Chris focused on "Why Designate Ride Leaders/Sweeps?"; the "Primary Responsibilities of Ride Leaders/Sweeps"; the "Duties of Ride Leaders/Sweeps"; and, a "Time Line for the Implementation of these Duties and Responsibilities." Throughout his presentation, Chris emphasized the need for safety as well as having fun. Prior to each ride, ride leaders will describe the length of the group ride, its pace, whether or not it will be a no rider left behind ride, and remind group riders of prescribed safety considerations. In addition, Chris said that a "visitor waiver form" will be made available to all visitors/non-Villages residents which they will be asked to sign. Each and every rider, then, will have signed a waiver, whether "member", or "visitor", which will reduce individual and club liability. In addition, having designated ride leaders/sweeps, will help our club obtain liability coverage through The Villages. A question/answer period followed Chris's formal presentation. One member asked: "what if a person refuses to sign?" Chris replied that "they would then retain the right to sue (members/officers), and we don't want them to ride with us if that's the case." Another member asked if Chris could provide details about the anticipated liability coverage. Chris said "not as yet," but that liability coverage details should be available in the near future.

**"Hearts for Our Hospital:** Dave Taylor discussed this "Bicycle Challenge," to be held Saturday, November 14, starting at 8:15 a.m. at Spanish Springs. Three different rides are planned: a metric century (64 miles), a 32 mile, and a 17 mile. A breakfast will be served, along with food at rest stops, and a lunch. There will also be SAG and public safety support. Proceeds from the ride benefit The Villages Regional Hospital, targeting Urgent Care.

In addition, Dave reminded members of the upcoming joint SLBC/VBC dinner/dance on November 5. See the SLBC and VBC web sites for details.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Clay adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m., after thanking everyone for coming.

Respectively submitted  
Chuck Rockwell, Secretary