

SPOKE

Notes

Newsletter of the Cyclonauts Bicycling Club, Springfield Massachusetts

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I would like to *thank* all of our volunteers who led rides over the three month summer season. I would also like to *thank* our

members who showed up and supported our ride leaders. It is disheartening to volunteer to lead a ride and have just a few riders, or none, show up. We are still looking for ride leaders for open dates in September and October. Late summer and autumn is one of the best times to ride with much cooler weather and lovely foliage in October.

I also would like to *thank* James and Cindy DeSellier for hosting our club picnic in their backyard. The weather was absolutely perfect and the food was delicious. It was nice to see so many of our older members as well. At our brief membership meeting, (see the minutes below), we took the opportunity to *recognize Ken Paquette for his many years of service to the club.* Ken, with the help of his son-in-law, designed and built our original website. He served as Spokenotes editor off and on when needed and was our original webmaster.

As those of you who were at the picnic are aware, I am not running for President for this coming year. I have nominated James DeSellier for President and I hope that you will all give him your vote and your support. James has a long history with the club having grown up with the Cyclonauts, riding and hiking with his father, Henry. He is dedicated to not only helping the club survive these difficult times but to seeing it grow again.

It is with some sadness that I note that this is my last President's Corner. I have enjoyed my almost 8 years as club President. If elected I will continue to serve the club as Rides Coordinator and with the support of my spouse, as Webmaster. When all is said and done, the heart of our club is our members who continue to ride with us and to lead rides as well. The best way to increase membership is to keep offering the variety of rides that we do.

I hope to continue to see many of you on club rides.

Betty Siwinski

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

continued

ELECTRIC BICYCLES

I thought that it is well past time to clarify the club's policy on electric bicycles. The policy has been in existence since 2018 when our first long time club member began riding an e-bike on Alternate Rides.

At that time board members did extensive research on e-bikes, contacting various other bicycle clubs, the DCR for trail policy, and our insurance company.

Ultimately, the final arbiter of our e-bike policy was our insurance company who informed us that e-bikes are fine, but pedal-assist only, no throttles. This has been the policy of the Cyclonauts since 2018. This is also the policy of many of the bicycle trails that our club rides. We currently have many members, especially our Thursday Trail Riders who ride pedal-assist e-bikes. This has enabled many of our long time members to continue riding with the club.

CYCLONAUTS ON BRIDGE OF NAMES

Thanks to the efforts of our Webmaster, Ray Siwinski, the Cyclonauts are now represented on The Bridge of Names in Lake Pleasant. The Bridge of Names has been a popular place to visit on many of our club rides with its view of the pristine lake and the various names on the pickets along the bridge. The board voted to make the \$25 donation required to add our club's name on a picket. The donation goes to maintain the bridge.



Annual Picnic Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2022

President Betty Siwinski welcomed the attendees and extended a big thank you to Cindy and James DeSellier for hosting the picnic and for providing good weather.

- **Ken Paquette was honored** with an award for his twenty years of continuous service to the Club. Due to the pandemic, the award was bestowed two years later than originally planned.

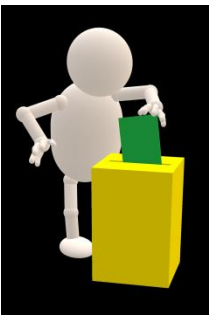
- Susan Strange addressed the upcoming **Club Board Elections** and introduced the Board members who were in attendance. There will be some changes as Betty announced that she is stepping down as President. She has nominated James DeSellier as her successor. Ray Siwinski will be stepping down as webmaster and has nominated Betty for that position. The Wednesday Hikes Chair position is open. Mady Schorsch has resigned from her At-Large position. Other Board members are willing to step down and nominations can be submitted to

Susan for any Board position up to 8/31/22. The elections will be conducted via email again this year.

- Janet Parslow gave the **treasury and membership report**. The current bank balance is \$1,150.39. Club membership consists of 23 family, 59 individual and 11 lifetime memberships.

- Final discussion covered issues regarding the quest for **additional ride leaders** to fill the schedule; also, more ride participation by members was encouraged. Issues regarding the declining **Alternate ride** schedule were discussed, with some suggestions for solutions. It was noted that ride leaders are not required to provide cue sheets and can include a Ride with GPS link in the ride description. Also, Ride with GPS links are being solicited for the ride library on the Club website.

Submitted by:
Ann Morin, Secretary



ELECTIONS



We will be voting by email once again this year in September. Please be aware of some changes to the slate for this year listed below. - *Sue Strange*

Officers

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

At Large Members

- Ray Siwinski
- Sue Strange
- Diane Goguen
- Bill Grigaitis

Nominations for all positions closed 8/31/22.

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 submit information you think will be helpful or of interest to the other club members. Send letters to the Editor, or feedback to me at donna.katz56@gmail.com regarding how SpokeNotes can be more interesting or useful to our members.

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.

THE WEBMASTER'S CORNER

It is with great regret that I write my final Webmaster's Corner. I have decided to pass the torch on to someone else who can take what I have built from the initial website created by Ken Paquette years ago, into what I hope is an informative, and attractive, main source of communication to all Cyclonauts members. Of course I would never leave this important task without a capable and willing replacement. That "someone else" is my cycling buddy, and wife, Betty Siwinski, who graciously volunteered to take over the job. With a little help from me, I'm certain she will take the enthusiasm she had as our club President and do a great job as Webmaster going forward. Please give her your full support in doing this job. And thanks for all the support you gave me throughout the years I was Webmaster.

Ray Siwinski
Webmaster
Cyclonauts Bicycle Club

