

SPOKE

Notes

Newsletter of the Cyclonauts Bicycling Club, Springfield Massachusetts

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



GREAT NEWS!

The Cyclonauts Executive Board has voted to begin posting a **complete ride schedule starting in June**. This includes

Saturday Traditional and Alternate rides, and Sunday, Wednesday; and Thursday **Rail Trail** rides. Participants will no longer be required to sign up in advance and we will be operating under Covid guidelines that have been updated due to revised CDC guidelines and the Massachusetts Governor's rescission of the "mask at all times" mandate. Our website has been updated with the new guidelines, but they are also listed on the following page. We will continue to monitor CDC and State guidelines and update club guidelines if and when appropriate.

I would like to *thank* all of our wonderful volunteers for leading hikes and bike rides during these difficult times. *Thanks* to our great membership for hanging in there with us as well. We do see light at the end of this dark tunnel especially as Massachusetts and Connecticut lead the nation in vaccination rates. We are still hoping to be able to hold a **picnic** at the end of August or early September. I am sure that all of us will be looking forward to being able to get together again after a year and a half apart. In the meantime, I hope to see you on rides.

Betty Siwinski

Rail Trail Riders

The Rail Trail group would like everyone to know that they will be starting up again in mid-June. The rides will now be on Thursday and will be posted on the Cyclonauts Website on the Trail Riders Page each month. For those new to our club, this group rides exclusively on Trails, mostly paved, and never on roads shared with cars. As we are fortunate to have a large number of beautiful trails in our area, the rides are still quite varied. All club members are welcome to join. Anyone interested in leading a Rail Trail Ride should contact Isabel Rzeszutek at isabelrez@outlook.com or Bill Grigaitis at billthehill@juno.com

Updated Covid Guidelines For Group Rides

1. **Do not attend a ride if you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 or have come into close contact with someone who has.**
2. No restaurant stops or club sponsored pre-ride breakfasts. Regroups with snack stops are encouraged especially for longer rides.
3. Rides should not start before 9 am.
4. Masks must be worn when participants can not be six feet or more apart.
5. Six feet (one bicycle length) shall be kept between riders except for those in the same family. Masks do not need to be worn while actively riding.
6. Interested participants should email the Ride Leader prior to the ride that they plan to attend so that enough cue sheets can be provided.



We are looking for a volunteer to host our Cyclonauts Summer Picnic in their backyard. While we are hopeful that we will be able to have a picnic in late August or early September, this will depend completely on the Governor and the CDC guidelines. The Governor has announced that he is currently planning to remove all restrictions by August 1st, but this can change quickly if cases do not continue to decline as expected due to vaccination. In that case, we would have to cancel. We will be communicating more information by email as there will not be another Spokenotes until September. In the meantime, if conditions allow, anyone who would be willing to host the club picnic in their backyard, please contact spfldcyclonauts@gmail.com .

MEMBERSHIP

Current membership:

- 59 singles
- 19 family
- 8 Lifetime

Membership applications for 2021 were sent out this spring. If you did not receive an application or you're in doubt on whether you renewed, please contact Janet Parslow, our Membership Chairperson, at janetparslow5@gmail.com

New members

Ginny Bromage – Suffield, CT

Paul Dower – Holyoke, MA



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 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 for this edition, however, there is an announcement.

Announcing

our new club card



front



back

Whereas our previous club card was informative and useful, the Executive Board recognized the need to update the contact information and chose to add more detail regarding the rides and winter month activities.

THE WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Please excuse me if I use this soapbox to talk about something other than the Cyclonauts website. But this subject is just as important, if not more. Our Club is nothing more than its members who organize and participate in activities, be it bike rides, hikes, picnics or banquets. So a vibrant membership is key to a successful Club. The past year has seen an explosion in bicycle sales and new or renewed riders trying to escape home quarantine. This presents a great opportunity to expand club membership with riders who want to take the next step in their newfound recreational hobby. If you have friends or family who have recently taken up cycling, or if they have been bicycling solo for years, please encourage them to check out the schedule pages at www.cyclonauts.com and join us for a ride or two. Better yet, bring them along with you as you participate in a ride. As we expand the ride schedules in accordance with Massachusetts guidelines, there will be rides that match every skill level. Remember, cyclists can try us out before joining the club. This is how most of us got started and we are glad that we did.

Ray Siwinski

