

# Sacramento Wheelmen Club Newsletter



2021, Issue 6

## In this Newsletter Issue

- Event Calendar Report
- Club Business Report
- Ride Calendar Report
- Travel Report
- Mike Dodson Memorial Ride
- Miscellaneous

## Event Calendar Report

The next Club Business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM of course. Here's the Zoom link:

Topic: Sacramento Wheelmen Meeting

Time: Oct 13, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86204133211?pwd=SE9PbnF1UDBQbE9hZlZvcXVFcDmNvdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 0413 3211

Passcode: 631603

## Meeting Agenda

1. Social time
2. Approval of minutes: July 14
3. Treasurer's Report: 2022 budget: Bob Storelli
4. Ride Director's Report: Ride Leader Guidelines: Mabel Wong
5. Membership Report: Bryan Stevinson
6. Nomination of Board members for 2022
7. Sierra Century website domain
8. Year-End Awards and Mileage Shirts: Tom Adams
9. Year-End Picnic: Tom Adams
10. New Ride Roster: Mike Goble
11. Rider Information: Tom Adams
12. Social time

## **Club Business Report**

The agenda of the club's July 14, 2021 Zoom meeting was mostly taken up with updates on the status of the Oregon Tour and Italy Tour, the first of which was completed at the end of July and the second of which will begin on Sept. 20, 2021. Tom Adams also proposed a bylaw amendment. Following a lengthy discussion of it, those in attendance agreed that revising the ride leader guidelines was a better way to address the issue.

Part of the issue involves the club roster. The roster helps ride leaders keep track of who is on any given ride. At the end of the ride, it helps the ride leader determine whether or not everyone has returned safely. Those who ride to the start but not back to it can be accommodated as can those who join the route in progress and do not return to the start. This is the practical, everyday benefit of the roster. It also turns out that the club's accident insurance only applies to members who have signed the roster and we don't need a bylaw to establish that.

When the Sacramento Wheelmen began, no one received more mileage credit on a given ride other than the maximum miles posted on the roster. You could receive less but not more. Over the years, that has changed. During the pandemic shutdown, there were no rosters and members called in their miles. Although the purpose of the proposed bylaw was to return us to riding together on a published ride with a ride leader, by tying mileage credit to the roster instead of affinity to the route, the bylaw missed the mark.

Since the tragedy that eventually took the life of Mike Dodson, club officers have been looking into both the club's accident insurance and the club's liability waiver. Insurance and legal experts within the club have advised the officers that the club is well shielded

from liability lawsuits by the waiver that must be agreed to upon joining the club or renewing one's membership. This reassurance was repeated at the meeting. Waiver language also will continue to appear on the roster as a reminder.

Recently the club changed insurance carriers. The accident insurance policy now provides \$25,000 of supplemental coverage. The new policy also includes a \$5,000 accidental death benefit which will go to Mike Dodson's family.

## Ride Calendar Report

Thank you to all the Ride Leaders that support and propel our ride calendar. The Ride Leader is one of the most important jobs in the club and we are all grateful for your contribution.

A very special thank you to Dick Schultz for leading the Thursday Breakfast rides and coordinating with the restaurants to accommodate the club members for many years. A very grateful thank you to Dale Johnson for taking over this ride as the new leader. Dale has also been flexible to alter his other rides to lead the Mike Dodson Memorial Ride and the Pop-up Community Service Demonstration Ride for the Seniors at the Chateau on Capitol Avenue.

### **Esteemed Ride Leaders through 2020 - 2021 Pandemic:**

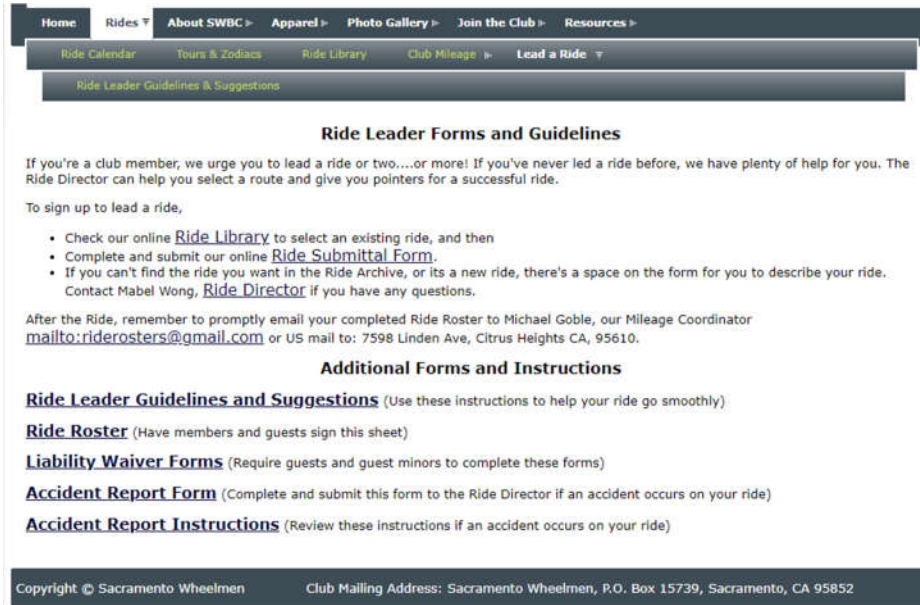
Tom Adams	Dale Johnson
Dennis King	Bob Maben
Bob Mandelson	Scott Rasmussen
Gerry Rohlfs	Pam and Robert Samms
Dick Schultz	Mike Snyder
Linda Zeiszler	Dave Storm
Bob Storelli and Mabel Wong	

### **Esteemed Ride Leaders - June through August 2021 (Group Rides Resume):**

Tom Adams	Ken Bell
Ron Davies	Dale Johnson
Rod Farley	Debbie Finley
Dennis King	Tim Koch
Bob Maben	Bob Mandelson
Scott Rasmussen	Gerry Rohlfs
Carrie Sundahl	Dick Schultz
Mike Snyder	Dave Storm
Pam and Robert Samms	

- Do you like riding to your favorite destination?
- Do you want to decide the date and time of your ride?
- Do you like riding with your friends?

If the answer is YES then you're a born Ride Leader! Mabel the Ride Director makes it so easy, everything you need to make it happen is already on the Wheelmen website (<https://sacwheelmen.wildapricot.org/>), click on the Rides tab then select Lead a Ride.



Are you a first-timer Ride Leader or want a little extra support? Mabel says no problem, she's waiting for you to reach out! We appreciate all the club members who are willing to be ride leaders, it truly is one of the most important jobs in the club.

## Travel Report

### TOURS – International Cycling

Italy trip participants are en route to Italy and arrive Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to begin the tour. We anxiously await the trip report! In the meantime, feel free to enjoy a sip of limoncello in honor of the trip.

## ZODIACS – Domestic Cycling Trips

The next domestic Zodiac is scheduled for January, 2022. Do **YOU** have an idea for a Zodiac? Get in touch with Mabel, the ride director, and get it on the Ride Calendar!

### OREGON TOUR REPORT 2021

By Gilbert Martinez

*“take a chance, while you still have a choice”  
fortune cookie*

I've been living by this bit of fortune cookie wisdom as of late. This is how I came to be driving with my longtime friend, Tom Piette, to Glendale, Oregon, excited to be taking part in my first Sacramento Wheelmen Oregon Tour, a Wheelmen tradition for the past 31 years or more.

Arriving at the local Glendale High School was nothing short of exhilarating. We were greeted by moderate temperatures and cool breezes, a refreshing respite from 100 plus degree temperatures and smoke filled skies. So many familiar faces, Sandy, Candy, Gary, Harold, Tom, Dave, Chris, Carrie as well as many more new faces. Wheelmen tents were already in various levels of construction. A buzz of energy was being fed by rekindled friendships, new acquaintances, snacks, and the discreet consumption of libations.

The first night quickly moved into the first morning and ride day one. The joyous peloton sped away at a vastly slower than brisk pace, perhaps because of the abundance of breakfast treats consumed or perhaps even the effects of the discreet libations. In any event, we were on our way. The measure of the less than speedy pace can be illustrated by the fact that Wanda was at the front for the first 2 miles. But that was not to last, soon everyone found a pace and friends old and new with whom to enjoy the day. The first few miles of a cycling tour are magical in the way, they draw you into the moment.

Equally as magical, is the first time hearing Cliff Mar ring the communal dinner bell, signaling the first night of many culinary joys to come. The first bite, the first realization that this chef was a master, foretold all that one needed to know about what was yet to come. The pasta just an ever so pleasant touch past al dente, the chicken done to a tender perfection, topped with a sauce even Peter Clemenza would have praised. It was the first of many amazing meals orchestrated by Cliff and executed by a rotating crew of Wheelmen. All the meals were planned, spiced and diced to exquisiteness.

Not every meal was prepared in camp. Wheelmen, being the wanderers that they are, ventured out on occasion to support local restaurants. Pizza night at Dave's Pizza was one of those occasions. It too was a magical evening of unrestrained consumption. Our band of brave and hearty wheelmen had walked over, cycled-on sidewalk over, and powered down the middle over, the ominous and foreboding Conde B. McCullough Memorial Bridge to

arrive in Coos Bay and a well-earned feast. A wonderful night of pizza and storytelling hosted by Tim Koch was an appropriate ending to a rewarding day of riding.

Every town, every campsite, every morning, every evening was filled with its own magic. The beauty of the Oregon Tour is that each Wheelman will walk away with their own favorite meal, their own favorite route, their own magical moment.

Many of the towns and places we rode past definitely required more time to enjoy and appreciate than the moments it took us to cycle by them. Rather than bemoan that fact, perhaps using one's imagination regarding those fleeting moments is all that is needed. Perhaps the names can weave a tale as enchanting as the reality. Glendale, Riddle, Drain, Canyonville, Roseburg, Idleyld Park, Glide, Cottage Grove, Elkton, Reedsport, Coos Bay, Bandon, Myrtle Point, Power.

While I've been a Sacramento Wheelmen for many years, the Oregon Tour was one of the only tours I hadn't done. It's been going on for numerous years and Tim Koch has been the planner, guide and host since 1990. Tim's experience and a generous sense of caring mixed with a healthy dose of humor have made this tour worthy of doing again and again. Challenging routes which wind up, down and around logging roads. Routes which meander along creeks and rivers lined with ferns and pines. Quaint towns and cities that provide a glimpse of what was and is Oregon. The Oregon Tour exposed me to so much of Oregon I was not aware of, and spiked an interest in all that I missed. But more than that, the Oregon Tour reminded me of all the great people that make up the Sacramento Wheelmen. Folks I've known for many years, along with those I just met. So many moments to be shared, so many memories to be made.

Shared at regroup in Riddle, Oregon:

*"What did one wall say to the other wall? ..... I will meet you at the corner."*

Oregon Tour 2021  
In Memory of Mike Dodson

## **Miscellaneous**

### **UPDATED WEBPAGE INFORMATION FOR RIDERS**

The Sacramento Wheelmen Board of Directors collaborated to revise a webpage with the following information as a resource for all participants on a club ride. This updated information will be made available on the club web site under the "Rides" tab. See the updated language on the following page.

## RIDING WITH THE SACRAMENTO WHEELMEN

There are six objectives under Article 2 of the Sacramento Wheelmen Constitution, one of which reads: "To provide a social group in which individuals interested in all aspects of bicycling may participate."

For this reason, we encourage you to join a club ride, meet new people, and become an active member of this club's riding community.

- Check the Sacramento Wheelmen club website for the RIDE CALENDAR to find ride information, start locations, start times, and a GPS file link, if available. Cue sheets can be printed out from the web site of the GPS file. A variety of rides can be found on the RIDE CALENDAR. The club offers TOURS & ZODIACS, which are multi-day events, and have their own section to enable long term planning. They also show up on the RIDE CALENDAR.
- Members can set up an account with the club's group email provider. Weekday ride leaders often use the club's email account to provide specific route information, including links to GPS files, change start times or cancel the ride. Members can easily join by going to the "Members" tab on the club's website.
- Items to bring on the ride:
  - ✓ A helmet (**mandatory**)
  - ✓ Water (either in water bottles or a CamelBak)
  - ✓ Food (energy bars, gels, any kind of high-carbohydrate snack)
  - ✓ *At least one* spare tube(s) and a patch kit
  - ✓ A portable pump that can strap onto your bike frame, or a CO2 set
  - ✓ Tools: 2 tire levers, maybe a "multi-tool"
  - ✓ Money for the breakfast or coffee stops
  - ✓ A bike in *good condition* (make sure you've checked it before leaving home). A road bike, as opposed to a mountain bike, is going to work best for keeping up on a club ride. While some folks occasionally join us on their mountain bikes, they must work very hard to keep up with the lighter and faster road bikes that most club riders use.
  - ✓ Appropriate clothing. Lycra shorts and jerseys with rear pockets are not mandatory, but you'll soon learn why they are the most comfortable choice for several hours on a bicycle seat.
  - ✓ A Mirror is encouraged so left turns can be made safely and also to notify fellow cyclists of approaching cars and bicycles.
- Arrive early enough to meet and greet other riders. Legibly print your name on the ride roster, initial in and write in your cell phone number, too, in case the ride leader needs to contact you. Members are covered by the club's supplemental accident insurance after signing the ride roster and riding the course. This helps the ride leader keep track of who is on the ride and to report mileage credit for riders. Initialing out indicates that the ride leader does not need to wait or look for the rider.
- Non-members **must** also sign the Accident Waiver and Liability Release form. Consider joining the club since members are covered by the club's supplemental accident insurance.
- Club mileage is credited by riding the course as posted on the ride calendar. Route and ride deviations can be accommodated as long as the information is communicated to the ride leader. Riding to the start and not returning to the start or joining the ride in progress on club rides are acceptable for club mileage credit. Communication with the ride leader is expected when deviating from the ride course.
- Initial out on the roster at the end of the ride and record your miles or the ride leader can record your miles. This last step helps the ride leader determine whether or not everyone has returned safely. If the ride leader has been informed a rider is not returning to the start, it is assumed the rider has made it home safely. If not returning to the start, call, text message, or email your miles to the ride leader.

## TRIP REPORT - RAGBRAI

### RAGBRAI - Rod's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa

By Rod Farley



If the heat doesn't get you, the stupidity will. I never understood what that meant, but it was damn hot this year, so perhaps it's that. Having been spoiled by the great weather in 2018 and 2019, Ragbrai 2021 was an experience in exactly what uncomfortable heat and humidity means and why folks look at me oddly when I get all excited about Iowa. Now I understand the odd looks I got. Not only that, the first day was almost 90 miles, which, in these COVID times, is close to a double century for me. Good thing that I took my gravel bike so I had plenty of excuses for going slower than usual.... Yeah these big tires are great... blah blah blah.

I was very skeptical about a gal in a golf cart selling home raised and personally home cooked \$6 pork chops, but she was right. It was the best pork chop ever and it came with a glove to keep the juices off my hands. Mr. Pork Chop (\$10) has been on the ride for many years. Bob and Mabel tried it, but not me. I found \$6 pork chop nirvana on the first day and never looked back. Besides, included in the \$6 was a picture with the La Mars Iowa Pork Princess! How cool is that?



Speaking of that, we rode into a town, I think it was Aubury, on the 3rd day and as usual they funnel 10 thousand riders through a small gate into town to revive the economy. As thousands of us were walking our bikes a young girl in a formal gown was waving. She was the Aubury Princess. Someone yelled out: "Hey... what does it take to be the Aubury Princess?". She replied back in a monotone deadpan voice: "not much". It was hilarious, and in two words she defined life for a teenager in small town Iowa.

For the first time I used Pork Belly as a charter service and it was outstanding. I set up my own tent, Bob-Mabel went all bousey and had the tent and porter service, which must have been great except that there are so many tents that they are usually set up in an open field, which means hot, hot and hot until the sun sets. Great Craft beer from Pork Belly lessens the blow.



Although it was typical Iowa weather, the feeling of rolling into Clinton on the last day is overwhelmingly sweet. High 5'ing kids on the street and knowing it's over are conflicting emotions. The ritual tire dip in the Mississippi is silly and overwhelming at the same time as jet engine powered tugs pushing huge 1000ft long barges forty feet away is something we don't see in NorCal.

Next year is the 49th edition of the ride and I will be the ride leader again, likely to take the train to Omaha with the bike in tow. Put it on your Bucket List or your other list that starts with an F. Rod Farley RAGBRAI 1985,1986, 2018, 2019, 2021 . . . .2022?



PS: I did most of the Katy Trail in northern Missouri prior to the ride and the Mickelson Trail in South Dakota after, and both are excellent fun.



## MIKE DODSON MEMORIAL RIDE

A Memorial Ride to celebrate Mike's life was held on August 24, 2021. The event was attended by approximately 120 people, including family members, Wheelmen, and many non-cycling friends. The six mile, silent bike ride started at the Pavilion at Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova and the celebration of life gathering was held at the Pavilion immediately following the ride.

Mike had a huge impact on many lives as evidenced by the number and variety of people that stood to speak on his behalf – family, friends, and old neighbors. His interests and abilities were far wider than just cycling - he was an avid skier, skydiver, among many other hobbies. He was part of the World's First Nude 8 Man Star and was in the Guinness Book of World Records - who knew?!?



A quiet and kind man, the Club will miss Mike for a long time.

On Tuesday, June 29, 2021, Mike was cycling on the American River Bike Trail with fellow Wheelmen when he was struck by a drunk driver, critically injuring him. On July 23, 2021 Mike succumbed to his injuries. The person at the vehicle wheel was a drunk driver who is still in custody with several charges pending.