

HELENA BICYCLE CLUB

Next Meeting:

Jan 27th, 2015

Where: Montana
Wild Center
2668 Broadwater
Ave. (south end of
Spring Meadow
Lake)

HBC 2014-2015

A report by HBC President Rob Psurny



2014 HBC YEAR IN REVIEW

The end of the year is an opportunity for us to reflect on what we have accomplished over the past several months, and prioritize things that we still need to do. At the annual HBC Meeting in October, I gave an overview of some of the important things that happened with HBC in 2014, and here they are again in a nutshell:

BICYCLE RIDES

The Helena Bicycle Club once again put on its signature rides in 2014: The One Helena Hundred and the Double Divide Ride. Both rides were financially successful and we were able to add a gravel option to the DDR! The club also hosted the York Burger Boogie, 4th of July Boulder Ice Cream Ride, Avon Pie Ride, the Ride to Eat event, and more than 42 weekly Tuesday or Thursday evening rides. Thank you to all ride leaders and organizers!

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Thanks to club members and guests, we were able to present FREE monthly programs on cycling the San Juan Islands, Riding the Camino de Santiago, Planning a Self-supported Ride Across America, Randonneuring, the Connection between Public Health and Built Environment, and an overview of the Cycling Savvy Bicycle Safety Program. We also gathered as a club to watch a stage of the 2014 Tour de France.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & BICYCLE SAFETY

2014 was a good year in building support for bicycling safety through our community relations projects. Proceeds from our major rides allowed HBC to donate \$1000 to the Helena YMCA, and the contract we sign with the Lincoln School district for catering and school use supports numerous extracurricular activities at the school. HBC also participated in the Recycle Your Cycle again in 2014 and we were proud to give away more than 30 bicycle helmets to children who were at this event. HBC members also presented bicycle rodeos to school-aged children and a program on bicycle safety and bike fitting to adults.

HBC AND TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

The HBC Board of directors worked hard in 2014 to try and secure 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status for the club. To this end, we revised our bylaws in February and submitted our application for Non-Profit status to the IRS in March of 2014. We learned in September that our application was approved, and HBC is now certified as a Tax-Exempt Public Charity! We hope to utilize this designation to solicit more corporate support for our annual rides and for programs on bicycle safety. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bruce Newell, who spearheaded the application process. Thank you, Bruce! **If you are considering end-of-year donations for tax purposes, please know that donations to HBC are now tax deductible.** I plan on making an end-of-year donation so that we can better continue our work at putting on rides and advocating for bicycle safety.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

In an attempt to facilitate better communication among the community of cyclists in and around Helena, HBC undertook two major initiatives in 2014. First, we now have an official HBC Facebook page where club members and others can see our current events and share them with friends. Second, we instituted a new listsev email distribution system for our club. It has two main advantages over our previous newsgroup list, as it does not require a proprietary user ID from Yahoo, Google, Facebook, etc., and we also have direct control over subscribing or unsubscribing members. Also in the realm of public relations, HBC published seven newsletters in 2014, with each one having another "great ride" to add to our growing archive of popular rides around Helena.

NEW FACES ON HBC BOARD

At our October meeting, we elected two new officers to the HBC board. They are Rick Bush, Secretary, and Rick Dendinger, Treasurer. I have spent a lot of time riding with these two, and they are both devoted cyclists, who will bring valuable skills and ideas to the HBC Board.

OTHER FINANCIAL NEWS FOR HBC

In October of 2014, HBC consolidated its financial accounts and moved them to First Security Bank of Helena, which has been a long-time financial supporter of our rides, especially the DDR. The Board contracted Jody Crane at Paper Chase to audit our books monthly to keep us in line with IRS regulations in order to maintain our Tax-Exempt status. We also approved a balanced budget for 2015 at our October meeting.

2015 HBC PREVIEW

The most important news about HBC in 2015 is that the Board has already set the dates for our major rides in 2015. This will give us extra time to advertise and start working to secure more corporate sponsors. Dates for HBC 2015 rides are:

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015: ONE HELENA HUNDRED
SAT. & SUN, AUGUST 1-2, 2015: DOUBLE DIVIDE RIDE**

We hope you will join us for one or both of these rides. Preliminary information is already on the HBC website, and online registration for both rides will begin in FEBRUARY 2015.

2015 REGIONAL RIDE CALENDAR

I spend a good deal of time in the Holiday season updating the regional ride calendar on the homepage of our club website. If you know of a ride for 2015 that I don't have posted, please contact me and submit the information so I may post it to the website.

2015 CLUB PROGRAMS

We are in the process of setting programs for 2015 and some of these include, Bicycle technology, Stretching and Training, Legislative Initiatives involving cycling, and numerous bicycle tours. If you have an idea for a program, please contact myself or another board member. The 2015 program calendar is filling up quickly.

2015 CLUB LEADERSHIP

As many of you know, I will be taking a sabbatical from my day job (Teaching at Carroll College) beginning in January of 2015, when I will be spending four months in the Czech Republic. I will be studying language, doing research and teaching. (I also hope to do some cycling) For the time I am away, Vice President Bill Schneider will assume my Presidential Duties, and I will remain in email contact with the board. I hope to come back semi-fluent in Czech and with a report on at least one European Cycling Trip.

2015 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

It wouldn't be a 2015 preview if I didn't ask you to renew your club membership for 2015. Thanks to our Membership Director Peggy Stringer, we were able to increase our club membership from 128 members in 2013 to 231 members in 2014! We want to continue building a growing community of cyclists in and around Helena in 2015 and beyond. Membership forms for 2015 are included in this mailing. For those of you who get email versions of the newsletter, membership forms can be downloaded from the HBC website. Please mail completed membership forms to:

Helena Bicycle Club
PO Box 4682
Helena, MT 59604

Thank you and have a great 2015. Sincerely,

Rob Psurny, HBC President



Helena Bicycle Club
PO Box 4682, Helena, MT 59604

HBC 2015 Board

Rob Psurny, President
Bill Schneider, Vice President
Rick Dendinger, Treasurer
Rick Bush, Secretary
Peggy Stringer, Membership Coordinator
Don Harris, DDR, Outreach & Education
Wayne Chamberlin, Double Divide Ride
Rob Psurny, One Helena Hundred