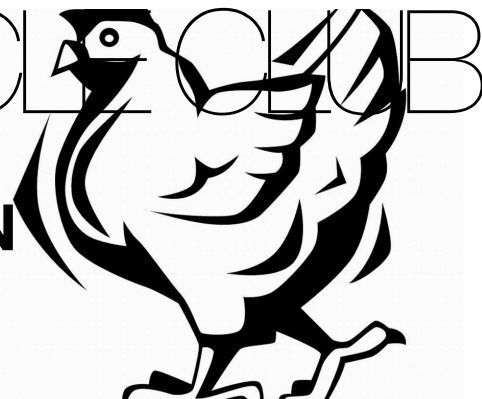


HELENA BICYCLE CLUB



RIDE THE
2011
DOUBLE
DIVIDE:
JUNE
18 & 19

There's still room and time to sign up for this fully supported ride to Lincoln and back, via MacDonald and Flesher passes. Sign-up links on HBC's website: <http://helenabicycleclub.org>

JUNE HBC FAMILY BIG FRIED CHICKEN PICNIC & AFTER- DINNER RIDE

Our annual fried chicken potluck picnic is Tuesday June 28, 6 p.m., in the Lockey Park west-end shelter, located between Broadway and Lockey, two blocks east of the State Capitol complex. No RSVP is required. For this gastronomic phantasmagoria, HBC supplies ample quantities of delicious

Van's broasted chicken, silverware, and water. You bring a potluck item to share. This is a great opportunity to celebrate cycling, cycling friends, and with any luck, the much anticipated arrival of summer. Bring your family and bring your bike if you want to take a short club spin after dinner.

Melinda Barnes on the May 2011 Bicycle Summit in Wash. D.C.

What do Helena cyclists need? Melinda Barnes, HBC member and co-owner of Big Sky Cyclery, thinks we need bike lanes, bike racks, and cyclists and drivers alike need to learn how to better share our roads.

Melinda reported that the Bike Summit was about 800-cyclists strong—mostly from bicycle advocacy groups. Highlights for Melinda included Washington D.C.'s bike sharing program, Capital Bikeshare, an impressively successful means of giving pedal-power to the people. <http://www.capitalbikeshare.com/>

Melinda attended the May 2011 National Bicycle Summit in Washington, D.C. This annual conference, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, is organized to bring cyclists together, in America's capital, to encourage more bicyclist-friendly legislation and funding. The Summit posits that cycling, for citizens and communities, is economical, energy-efficient, healthy, and fun.

Equally illuminating was a group bike ride that passed the White House. Melinda reported feeling safe and able to enjoy her urban ride, even on Pennsylvania Avenue, due to carefully engineered bike trails and bike lanes.

Melinda was most interested in "...hearing about what's happening in other parts of the nation and in other cities... Even seeing what's happening in Missoula and Billings shows how far behind Helena is." "Billings", Melinda continued, "has over sixty miles of bike lanes, and Missoula is putting in lots of [advanced] bike lane [marking and engineered intersections]."

"Bike lanes are number one," Melinda suggested, because cyclists need to feel safe on Helena's streets. "It's kind of a vicious circle," said Melinda, but "if we build bike lanes, bicyclists will use them."

Melinda has been recently appointed by the City of Helena to serve on Helena's Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council—the City's bike/ped citizens advisory group.

Read more about the Summit at: <http://www.bikeleague.org/conferences/>

B I K I N G B R I E F S

One Helena Hundred Century Ride, July 16

Ride a century, 100 kilometers or 100 miles, through the beautiful Missouri River canyon, beginning and ending in Cascade. This popular, fully supported, relatively easy day-long-ride is a great way to stretch your legs, and your smile-muscles as well. Register soon: <http://helenabicycleclub.org>

May 20, Ales to Trails Event

This absolutely rocking fundraiser was attended by over 550 Centennial Trail supporters, each of whom enjoyed great beer, fabulous music, and noisy conversation. This first-time Ales to Trails event raised \$5,650. Thanks to the Narrate Church for organizing this. Now it's time to build some trail.
<http://www.centennialtrail.blogspot.com/>

Bicyclist and Pedestrian Count Results

Lewis & Clark County sponsored a tally of bicyclists and pedestrians, counted during two hours at 15 different sites around Helena. More than 30 volunteers spotted 388 bicyclists and 1,043 pedestrians. For more information:
<http://switchinggearshelena.blogspot.com/>

<http://helenabicycleclub.org>

Lincoln District Travel Plan

The Lincoln Ranger District of the Helena National Forest is accepting comments on the proposed Blackfoot Travel Plan. This plan will determine how trails, routes, and roads are traveled in the Continental Divide headwaters of Big Blackfoot and Dearborn Rivers. Comments are encouraged. <http://www.wildmontana.org/>

Weekly Rides Continue Through September

Watch both the HBC website, <http://helenabicycleclub.org>, and periodic listserv notices, for reminders about HBC weekly mountain- and road-bike rides. Come ride with your friends; no one is ever left behind.

2011 Meeting Dates

June 28, Lockey Park, Picnic

July 20, Tour de France, Stage 17, venue to be determined, last year's was at the Quarry Bar Board Meetings—1st Mondays, 5:15 pm, Staggering Ox

HBC Officers

President – Jullie McKenna

Vice President – Danica Vanderwaal

Secretary – Rob Psurny

Treasurer – Bob Stringer

Newsletter – Bruce Newell

Double Divide Ride – Rick Bush

One Helena Hundred – Heather Lambott

Past President – Kelly Flaherty-Settle