

Great Plains Bicycling Club
February Board of Directors Meeting
February 27, 2013

The meeting was held at Southview Christian Church, 22nd and South Streets, beginning at 7:15 PM..

Present: Bob Boyce, Mary Poe, Hal Smith, Dick Draper, Rick Dockhorn, Randy Smith, Jane Goertzen, and Steve Clements.

Minutes from the January retreat were approved.
The Treasurer's report was approved.

Club Ride Discussion

Ride Director Pat Bracken sent out e-mail requests to the membership to assemble a group of ride leaders. This effort was very successful, and many club rides have been proposed for March through May. The board concensus was to start weekly Wednesday evening Show 'n Go rides on March 20, with 5:30 pm starting time. Rick Dockhorn proposed posting club rides incrementally on Facebook. There was also a suggestion to post our public rides on other ride lists (national, Kansas) for wider exposure. Randy will investigate.

Chain Gang

Mary Poe reported that the next issue of Chain Gang is expected to go out next week.

Spring Fling Planning

Rick Dockhorn is coordinating planning for Spring Fling. The Eagle-Murdock-Louisville route will be used again this year. Steve Clements has secured approval to use the parking areas at Eagle Elementary School and Louisville Public Schools for the event, and has checked with the Nebraska Dept. of Roads for construction conflicts. David Schoenmaker at NDOR has informed us that a milling and resurfacing project on Hwy 34 is scheduled to begin on April 15 and may affect 5 miles of the Spring Fling route from Hwy 63 to Hwy 1 (Elmwood turnoff). However, the crew would likely not be working on a Saturday, and it is not clear whether work will begin on the relevant portion of Hwy 34 during that first week. NDOR expects to meet with the contractor in the near future and may know more about work scheduling at that point.

Randy has updated the Spring Fling brochure. In the past, printed copies have been mailed to an extensive list that Steve Clements has assembled from area bike clubs (over 2,000 pieces). A suggestion to save on mailing costs by replacing some of the hard-copy mailing with e-mail notifications was discussed. The e-mail would announce the ride and provide a link to the Spring Fling web page to download the brochure with registration form. This strategy is made more difficult by the fact that not all of the recipients on the mailing list have provided e-mail addresses. Randy suggested e-mailing to the full list and mailing printed brochures to our current and recent members and last year's Spring Fling riders. Rick Dockhorn suggested that Lincoln bike shops might be willing to send out e-mail announcements for the ride. No firm

conclusion was reached; Steve Clements and Randy Smith will settle on the actual number of brochures to print and mail.

Mary Poe will coordinate production of T-shirts. We will try to order the same type of wicking shirts that were very popular at last year's Heatstroke Hundred. Randy will revise the brochure to note that the wicking shirts run around 1 size large. Randy will handle route signage again this year.

Upcoming Rides Needing Planning

Ride of Silence: needs little planning.

Firecracker Ride (July 4th)

Heatstroke Hundred

Steve Clements advocated for recruiting club members outside the board to plan and coordinate the smaller rides and to help with the larger rides. This would help alleviate "board burnout". We also need to start ride planning earlier: set dates, get site approvals, and check with NDOR for construction plans; with enough lead time NDOR could structure plans and contracts to avoid route conflicts. Randy suggested that because the two larger public rides (Spring Fling and Heatstroke Hundred) are signature events that raise most of the club funds, their planning should largely remain with the Board of Directors. Assembling an adequate number of volunteers for day-of-ride activities is already hard, so it is not clear that we would find volunteers outside the board who would be willing to handle planning duties. However, involving other club members in planning could be a tool for recruiting future board members.

Club Vests for Event Volunteers

Steve Clements has not had time to pursue the suggestion made at the January retreat to purchase safety vests to be issued to volunteers at the public rides. Jane Goertzen volunteered to follow up on this, checking on sources and costs. It was also suggested that the club could purchase "magnetic" signs to attach to the roving SAG vehicles to identify them and indicate the 3-foot passing rule. Dick Draper volunteered to follow up.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Wednesday 20 March, 7:15 pm at Southview Christian Church.