TCTC Annual Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Deb L. at 6:12 pm, in the meeting room at the Bloomington REI.

We had a round of introductions. There were 22 people in attendance, representing 12 teams.

Following introductions, we moved on to election of officers. It was pointed out that, for the health and future of the club, we need a new set of officers. All the current officers have been in their roles for quite some time, and new, vibrant energy would only enhance the club dynamics. If there is no one else who is willing to join the leadership team, we will need to discuss other options for the club such as becoming a subset of TCBC (Twin Cities Bicycle Club) or sunsetting the club altogether. The current officers have set a timeline of within the next three years (at a minimum) to make such a decision.

Our current officers are:

- Helmut and Joan Porcher – President, Head Loon
- Mark Seaburg – Vice President, Loon At Large
- Deborah Liang – Treasurer, Keeper Of The Golden Egg
- Matt Tillotson – Secretary, Quill
- Bob Wavrin – Website, InterNest

There were no new nominations, Steve V made a motion to re-elect all officers, this was seconded by Steve A. Voice vote was unanimous.

On the website we have a link to descriptions of the tasks that each office does, if you are interested in being an officer in the club, you can read all about the positions and feel free to let someone know.

Deb presented the financial report. In 2025, we did spend more than we took in, but this was mostly due to some multiyear website hosting payments that we will not have to pay this year. Our main expenses are website, insurance, and LAB membership. Insurance goes up every year. Currently we have just over $1,000 in the bank at the start of this year.

Helmut gave an update on MTR. He is a part of the MTR advisory committee. They meet quarterly. They are mostly focused on how to keep MTR going and how to make it more collaborative and efficient. Up until now, every MTR is a brand-new event, with no shared resource from any year to year… no consistent website, no continuity of

organization, no sharing what works, what doesn't, how best to hold the event. They are trying to change that.

This year, MTR 2026 will be in Kalamazoo, MI – hosted by the MUTS. In 2027 it will be in Wausau, Wi. Hosted by the COWS. In 2028 it will be in Aurora, IL. Hosted by the CATS. There are currently 132 teams registered for MTR this year.

It was asked if other clubs have similar issues to LOONS, and the unfortunate answer is YES, nearly all clubs seem to be struggling with membership and organization lately. One exception is the HOOTS, but they are also buoyed by being affiliated with a statewide cycling umbrella organization. That helps them with logistics, insurance, and any organizational resources they need when putting on events.
Several Midwest clubs have likely disbanded in recent years, or at least gone very quiet.

We have hosting a mini LOONS rally this year, as a way of preparing for hosting a full MTR in the future, to see if the club has the resources to pull that off.

One change with the LOONS this year, emails will be sent out via MAILERLITE, which is an actual distribution service – for free! So… we should not have any repeat of the issues we have had in previous years with emails not getting to some addresses. Fingers crossed this works much better than previous solutions.

As stated, LOONS are putting on a mini rally, in Mankato. The ride will take place June 5th-7th. Martha Wavrin has been spearheading this and put a lot of work into the logistics and organization of the club rally. There will be a short ride on Friday to make sure bikes that were packed for travel are setup and working before our big group rides on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday will have rides of three different lengths, and dinner will be at a local winery, drinking is 100% optional. Sunday will be a shorter ride day, followed by lunch, then head home. It is imperative to sign up earlier rather than later, hotel space is likely to fill.

If all goes well, we may be hosting MTR in 2029 , so make mental notes of how the rides go, how the logistics work out, needed/desired communication levels, etc…

Helmut had business cards at the meeting, for anyone to grab and hand out while we are out biking, if we come across other tandems who do not know about TCTC, or come across anyone who might be interested.

May 2nd and 3rd there will be a DEMO RIDE WEEKEND across the country, Steve Veenstra will be hosting demo rides on Saturday May 2nd, 12:15 start, with a 13 mile

loop around Elm Creek, and a longer option of 35 miles for those interested in more riding. Hopefully a lunch stop at a chalet around 1:15.

Steve's shop is renting tandems, $60 for 4-hour rental. If anyone you know is interested in a tandem for rental, purchase, or info, send them to Steve's shop "Twin Cities Tandems."

There was some talk about midweek, midday rides for those folks who are not saddled with full-time jobs.

May 30th is the grand opening of the Hummingbird Trail on the Mississippi River in Henderson Minnesota - https://www.hummingbirdtrail.org/. Martha would love it if we could get a good showing of tandems for their grand opening. This is a non TCTC ride, but a lovely location.

One other point of business, we have had many requests to post tandems for sale by non TCTC members. We are not always able to vet the people requesting these, so the thought was to charge a nominal fee, $15 or maybe a full membership fee, for us to post ads for no club members. We will need to see if there are any legal ramifications to that.

John M. made a motion to adjourn, Chris G. seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

- Meeting Notes by Matt Tillotson