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Twin Cities Tandem Club



June 2021

www.twincitytandembike.com

Annual Meeting Minutes

Scribe: Matt Tillotson

The 2021 annual meeting of the Twin Cities Tandem Club was held via Zoom on May 20th at 7:00pm. We had 17 teams in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Deb Liang.

The agenda started with the election of officers. This was complicated this year by the fact that Jean Hurlbert is stepping down club president and so needs to be replaced, and Mark Seaburg has also indicated he was hoping to be replaced as Vice-President. The only nominations we had prior to the meeting included several people not in attendance, and as tempting as that was, we decided not to go forward with electing officers who had no idea they were even nominated. After a little discussion, and no additional nominations, we tabled this topic till later in the meeting. It was asked if a tandem team could be an officer instead of just one person. Consensus of discussion concluded there is no reason that would not be allowed.

Deb pointed out that descriptions of the various board positions are on the website in the annual meeting notice. Exceedingly short summaries are:

- President- conducts the annual meeting, oversight of all things club.
- Vice-President- helps president, helps organize LOONS rally, other tasks as needed.
- Scribe – arranges annual meeting, takes notes at annual meeting, sends out newsletters/emails, maintains club membership list and email list.
- Treasurer – handles all club finances, pays all club bills.

When the club is not hosting a rally (Loons or MTR) or creating new jerseys, the President and Vice President positions do not involve much work at all.

Third item up for discussion was club finances:

As a club we are starting this year off with \$1,672.18 in the bank. This is after paying web hosting fees, but before we pay for insurance at ~\$487, League of American Bicyclists club membership at \$75. So for the start of this season, before accounting for any membership renewals, we will have approximately \$1,100 to sustain the club through the season.

Since our newsletter is email only now, we have no printing and mailing expenses. Lyle also suggested we could eliminate a few of the URLs that we currently pay for. As that makes it easier to find the club online, we have not yet decided to drop those URLs yet. One expense we have little control over is insurance, and it has not been astronomical, but it does go up each year. Then there was last year – not your typical year since we did not ride at all as a club. We only had a couple renewals last year, but since we did not do any riding last year that is not something we pushed, nor expected. We will send out an email solely focused on asking members to renew this year – as we are fully planning on doing club rides!!!! HooooRayyyyy!!!!

Once again, we also are looking at fewer renewing members, and not many new members. In order to be a viable club for the future we will need to see if we can work on recruitment of newer riders and engagement with current members. But in order to do that, we need to have more rides as well!

At this point we reviewed the new “Returning to Club Rides Guidelines” – these are available for review on the website and will also be included in the first newsletter of the season.

Check the website for updates, as we will put any new rides or changes to rides there first. We will also be using email more frequently for details about rides, etc...

If you want to host a ride, send the ride details to schedule@twincitiestandembike.com and we will publish them on the website, include them in the newsletter, and if necessary, send email notifications out to club members about new or changing rides.

Indicated rides so far:

- Porcher's will be hosting a Root Beer Float Ride on Saturday, July 31st, with Sunday, August 1st set aside as the rain day.
- Speaking of ice cream, we have a new ice cream shop in St. Paul, Nellie B's Ice Cream that is just begging to be good starting or ending spot for a tandem ride.
- Mattsen's have a couple rides to put on the calendar and will submit them soon.
- Deb and Matt are hoping to host the Scandia Scamper again, but need to iron out our work schedules, so no date as of yet.

We will publish details about these rides as we get them.

Not a club ride, but on June 5th Cannon Valley Trail is hosting an open house where there will be no trail fee and Welch Village has a festival, band, bike maintenance, and a naturalist planned for that day as well.

On the club website, under resources, we have Ride Leader Resources. Included here are the waiver that should be used for each ride and other basic rules and insurance info. If you want something added that you think would be helpful – let us know and we will make sure to update that section with additional helpful information. It was asked what we publish on the website when rides are hosted, specifically for when a ride is starting at a person's home. Currently we let the ride leaders make the call as to what is listed in the posting on the website. Ride leaders can choose to have their home address listed or just list an email address for folks to contact for details and directions. So, when you submit your ride for inclusion on the club website, specify if you want any location information hidden from the public website and only available on an email request basis.

Club future: If we do not have officers, club incorporation will dissolve... We actually need to have a board with officers in order to get club insurance and be incorporated. So, if we do not get a new president and vice president, we can decide to join with another tandem club, or with TCBC, or we could become an informal

club without insurance and all ride leaders assume any liability on their own.

Since we had just less than half the current club roster in attendance, it was asked how do we appeal to the rest of the club members for officers, ride leaders, and general engagement... No actual solution was presented.

However, it was at this point that Mark Seaburg nominated the Porcher's for president, John Mattsen seconded the nomination and they accepted. Mark then nominated himself to stay on for another year as vice president, John Mattsen seconded that nomination. Jean Hurlbert nominated Matt Tillotson and Deb Liang as scribe and treasurer, respectively. Mark seconded that nomination. Deb made a motion to elect all nominated officers for the current year by a simple voice vote. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, all nominated officers so elected for 2021 calendar year. Welcome to Helmut and Joan – our new club presidents. Thank you so very much Jean for all your work as president these last several years. Thanks to Lyle for his continued work on the website. And, thanks to Mark, Matt, and Deb for continuing on in their officer roles.

Then we discussed how to get new members. It was pointed out the club does not have enough active members to be able to host the Midwest Tandem Rally. We do have a club member (Steve Veenstra) who owns a tandem shop out of his house - <https://www.twincitiestandems.com>. Steve is still learning about the club and hoping to go on some club rides, so he can learn more about the club and how he, his shop, and the community can all help promote tandeming and cycling in the Twin Cities.

MTR will be hosted by the COWS in Racine, WI this year. It is currently stated to be ON!, but registration is not yet open for it.

TCTC Returning to Club Rides Guidelines

We are happily returning to club riding this year with some new guidelines for club riding for now.

TCTC Returning to Club Rides Guidelines

- Rides are for members and first-time guests only - make sure your membership is current.
- If you are not feeling well or have a temperature, do not come to a club ride.
- Be prepared to be self-sufficient.

- Masks are recommended but not required at the ride start and rest stops. Masks may be needed if entering businesses during or after the ride.
- Be respectful of others' space at all times, including spacing while riding.
- Social distancing is recommended at the ride start and rest stops.
- Read the ride details completely for additional requirements on specific rides.
- Check the schedule for new ride postings and the club website for other updates.
- TCTC Officers reserve the right to suspend group riding based on the current status of the epidemic and local health guidelines.

If you have a club ride you want to put on the calendar, please send the details in an e-mail to: schedule@twincitiestandembike.com

Ride leader resources are available: <https://twincitiestandembike.com/index.php/resources/ride-leader-resources>

If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to officers@twincitiestandembike.com

Root Beer Float Ride Saturday, July 31st

Hosts: Helmut and Joan Porcher

On Saturday, July 31, Joan, and Helmut Porcher will host a ride in the Lake Elmo, Grant Township and Stillwater areas using the Gateway and Brown's Creek State Trails and some county roads.

Estimated distance is about 31 miles with shorter and longer options available. Ride briefing at 8:30 am and ride starts at 8:45 am from their home. Refreshments (the ride's name sake) will be available at a yet to be chosen location on the route.

Contact Joan and Helmut Porcher by Thursday (7/29) evening via e-mail hporcher@comcast.net and directions to the ride start will be provided via return email. In the email, please provide a contact phone number so we can contact you if the ride needs to be rescheduled.

For more information about the Gateway Trail go to: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/gateway/index.html.

For more information about the Brown's Creek Trails go to:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/browns_creek/index.html

The rain date for this ride is Sunday, August 1.

2021 TCTC Rides

Want to add a ride to the calendar? Send an e-mail to: schedule@twincitiestandembike.com

Saturday July 31st (Rain date Sunday, August 1st)

Root Beer Float Ride

Hosts: Helmut and Joan Porcher

Sunday September 26th

Northern Chili Ride 2021

Hosts: John & Helen Mattsen, Rachel & Chris Gilchrist

Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership! The club membership form is available on the website: <https://twincitiestandembike.com/index.php/join>

To renew you can:

- Print the form, complete it, and mail it
- If you have the appropriate application (Adobe Acrobat Reader – free), you should be able to fill it out, save it, and email it to membership@twincitiestandembike.com (Electronic signatures are allowed.)

Please complete a new membership form so we can make sure we have the correct information in our system and if desired, this is where you would opt out of inclusion in the club roster.

Club dues (\$25 per team) can be paid by:

- Mailing a check along with the completed membership form to the address on the membership form
- Electronically via one of the following methods:
 - Apply Pay: 651-402-1298
 - Paypal: debliang@comcast.net
 - Venmo: @Deborah-Liang, 651-402-1298
 - Please note, if you pay electronically, we still your completed membership form sent to us by either email or snail mail.

Please email membership@twincitiestandembike.com if you have any questions or concerns! Thanks!

Midwest Tandem Rally 2021 September 3rd – September 6th

Couples on Wheels invites you to MTR 2021, the 45th Annual Midwest Tandem Rally! The event will be held in Racine, Wisconsin, conveniently located in the southeast corner of the state, on the shores of Lake Michigan. The Racine County Convention and Visitors Bureau and our host hotel, Delta by Marriott-Racine, are excited to partner with us in 2021.

KEY REGISTRATION DATES

- June 30 — Last day to register at \$85 rate.
- June 30 — Last day to order merchandise.
- July 1 — Rate increase to \$95/person.
- August 2 — Last day to make hotel reservations at our special group rate.
- August 13 — Last day to cancel MTR reservation. See cancellation policy on the MTR website.

Further details and registration are on the website - <http://mtr2020.org>

Picture from Kelley's Heroes Ride #1

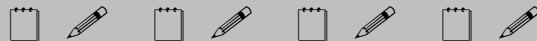
Many thanks to John and Helen Mattsen for hosting the first two rides of the 2021 TCTC season – Kelley's Heroes Ride #1 & #2!

From all accounts – a great time was had by all! The picture below is courtesy of Linda Sandall from ride #1 on May 29th



Pictures from the June 12th rendition of Kelley's Heroes Ride #2 are posted on the tandem club's Facebook page: <https://fb.me/TwinCitiesTandemClub>

Notes from The Newsletter Editors



Send articles, comments and ideas to:
Deb Liang & Matt Tillotson, (651) 642-1617
1236 Hague Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104, E-mail:
newsletter@twincitiestandembike.com

Welcome to the 2021 TCTC season! We are very excited to return to club riding this year and hope to see folks out on the road.

Our club ride calendar is currently very light – we would love to get more rides scheduled! If you are interested in hosting a club ride, please send the details to schedule@twincitiestandembike.com - this email address goes to both the webmaster to get the ride details posted on the website and to us to include in either the next newsletter or an email to the club specifically about the ride.

Just a reminder that we have gone completely electronic! We email newsletters and occasionally emails on specific rides out to all club members. This info is also posted to the club website - <https://twincitiestandembike.com/> - and an announcement will be posted on the club's Facebook page - <https://fb.me/TwinCitiesTandemClub>. We don't post details on the Facebook page – we direct folks to come to the website to get those.

We apologize for not getting this newsletter out sooner – life and work conspired against us. And honestly, we are just not sure what happened to May and June – these last two months have flown by!

Stay safe and happy riding everyone! Hope to see you out riding soon!

