

building a network of cyclists in the greater Carrboro region

MAY IS BIKE MONTH! Look at what is happening. Get your bike dusted off and ready to go. You will definitely want to ride, and here are even more reasons. Check out these events!

EVENT CALENDAR

CBC MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Carrboro Bicycle Coalition meets the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 8 pm** in the back training room of the Open Eye Cafe. The meetings are open to everyone. Join us and be a part of something big!

We start things off with

OPEN STREETS

SUN, APR. 12, NOON-4 PM, WEAVER STREET

Closing Weaver St to cars and opening it to people! Activities for young and old alike!



BACH BASH

THU, APR. 30, 7 PM, CAROLINA BREWERY
Bicycle Alliance of Chapel Hill social. come have a refreshing beverage and connect with other cyclists in the area.

SWITCHING GEARS

FRI, MAY 1, 6-9 PM, 140 W. FRANKLIN ST, CH
Family Friendly Bike Night Activities with games, giveaways, music, Gold Sprints, and more.



BIKEABILITY EVENT

SAT, MAY 2, 9 AM-NOON, FIRE STATION # 4, CH
Special needs bike-riding practice and safety awareness event.



International BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

WED, MAY 6
Check your local school for plans to observe this event, or just ride to school with friends.



UNC'S GEARING UP FOR BIKE WEEK EVENT

THU, MAY 7, 11 AM-2 PM AT THE CAMPUS BEACH CAFE
Faculty, Staff and Students, come get bike checks, register your bike, pick up local bike info and more.

BIKE-ON-BUS DEMO

SAT, MAY 9, 8:30- NOON, CARRBORO FARMER'S MKT
Learn how to put your bike on the bus!

BIKE SWAP

SAT, MAY 9, 9 AM, BACK ALLEY BIKES PARKING LOT
Come to buy or sell bike gear. Something for all!

SPECIAL SALES AT LOCAL BIKE SHOPS

MON, MAY 11
Check your local shops for sales!



BIKE TO WORK BREAKFAST

TUE, MAY 12, 7-10 AM ROBERSON ST, NEXT TO LIBBA COTTEN BIKEWAY
Featuring biscuits and coffee from the nationally acclaimed Neal's Deli and Open Eye Cafe. Free bike checks. Bike blender smoothies. Stop by on your way to work!



A BIKE/PED CAMPAIGN FOR ALL

WED, MAY 13, TIME AND LOCATION TBD
Jeff Brubaker (former Transportation Planner for Carrboro) will lead a discussion on bike/ped projects and share new perspectives from his time in California, and Seth Lajeunesse will give an overview of Vision Zero.

CARRBORO BICYCLE COALITION MONTHLY MEETING

WED, MAY 13, 8 PM AT OPEN EYE CAFE
Like what you see here? Be a part of it!

KIDICAL MASS

SAT, MAY 16, 2:30 PM CARRBORO ELEMENTARY
Short and fun ride for kids of all ages. A family favorite!



BMX JUMP JAM

SUN, MAY 24, NOON-6 PM BACK ALLEY BIKES



BACH MEETING

THU, MAY 28, 6:30 PM, DSI COMEDY, FRANKLIN ST.
Our friends to the east—Bicycle Alliance of Chapel Hill—will hold their monthly meeting

TOUR DE FAT IN DURHAM

SAT, JUNE 20, 10 AM-5 PM, AMERICAN TOBACCO CAMPUS
Bike parade, vaudeville, music, beer, fun, all while raising funds for bicycle advocacy.

BIKE RODEO

THU, JULY 2, ROGERS ROAD SUMMER CAMP
We are looking forward to teaching young campers about bike safety and rules.

Check our website for more information on these and other events as they are added: www.bikecarrboro.com



New Transportation Planner in Carrboro

We have a new Transportation Planner! After several months of searching for a planner, Carrboro has hired **Bergen Watterson** to fill the position that was vacated by Jeff Brubaker last summer. Some of you may recall that we spotlighted Bergen back in 2011, when she was finishing up her Masters studies in UNC's department of City and Regional Planning. She was also racing competitively at the time, and was a CAT 1 State Champion.

Before coming to Carrboro, Bergen worked at Triangle J Council of Governments, and did internships for the City of Durham and the Town of Chapel Hill. She is especially interested in bicycle and pedestrian transportation, which is a great match for Carrboro. Welcome, Bergen!

BikeWalk NC hires Executive Director

BikeWalk NC (formerly NCATA) is a membership-based, statewide nonprofit advocacy organization promoting non-motorized transportation choices for residents of and visitors to NC. BikeWalk has been run completely by volunteers until just last month when they hired their first full-time Executive Director, Lisa Riegel. Lisa is a graduate of Duke University and resident of the Town of Cary. Prior to this position, Lisa served as Executive Director of the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, a grant program housed in the Secretary's Office of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). BikeWalkNC has been the main sponsor of the NC Bike Summit, which was held in Carrboro in 2013. They have also been responsible for putting on the Tour De Fat celebrations in Durham the last three years. Just days after Lisa began in her new position, she traveled to Washington to attend the National Bike Summit and set up meetings for the North Carolina attendees with their elected officials and their staff.

Having a fulltime director will raise the visibility of BikeWalk NC, and it will also help to inform and unite all of the individual advocacy groups around the state. To learn more about the work of BikeWalk NC or to become a member, go to www.bikewalknc.org.

On the Horizon

Good news! With luck, we will soon witness the taming of two main roads in Carrboro. The first is Jones Ferry Rd. (the part between 54 and Davie Rd.) with its super-wide car lanes and blind crest at Davie Rd. The second is Smith Level Rd. with its massive southbound hill and lack of space for anyone outside of a car. Both of these main roads will soon welcome those of us who get around on foot or bike.

Starting this summer, Jones Ferry Road will become a place where we no longer have to sacrifice life and limb to cross the street or bike toward town. Our comrades in the Town's planning department are working with NC Dept of Transportation (NCDOT) engineers to put in a protected bike lane with a 3-foot painted buffer on the uphill (eastbound) side of the road. They will also put a regular bike lane on the downhill (westbound) side. A sidewalk from Alabama Ave. to Davie Rd., and traffic signals and crosswalks at the Davie-Jones Ferry Rd. intersection will make crossing easier and safer. Jones Ferry is also improving its looks. It's slimming down to one car lane in each direction, and will feature a center median with pretty plantings.

Town planners and NCDOT engineers are making sure Smith Level Rd. is done right this time. Though construction was delayed by utility placement issues, expect a finished job by January 2016. Smith Level, which for too long catered to cars only, will soon sport bike lanes and sidewalks, as well as a ped-bike connection to the future Morgan Creek Greenway at the bridge. Town staff are even talking with NCDOT about the possibility of a two-way cycle track on the Smith Level Rd. bridge. Stay tuned for more on that later.

In somewhat related news, we heard from NCDOT last week that they will soon lower the speed limit from 45 to 40 mph on Old 86 from the Carrboro town limits to about 1500 feet north of the intersection at Dairyland. We feel this stretch needs more improvements, but this is a small step in the right direction.

Happenings in Raleigh that could affect cyclists around the state

North Carolina's "Rules of the Road" are not very clear in how they pertain to bicycles; however, bicycles *are* defined as vehicles in this state, and with that designation they have rights to the roads that are written into law. A few weeks ago **House Bill 232** was introduced, a bill entitled "An Act to direct the Department of Transportation to study the bicycle safety laws in this State and make recommendations as to how the laws may be revised to better ensure the safety of bicyclists and motorists on the roadways." The bill was passed by the house and sent to the senate last week. Originally there was only one slot slated for "someone from the bicycling industry" on the 9-12-member committee. BikeWalk NC has requested at least one of the committee seats be filled by an expert in cycling safety. We will be monitoring this and will put updates on our Facebook page as we get them.



Kidental Mass

Kidental Mass rides once again! We'll join the ReCYCLERY, Carrboro Parks and Rec, and the Town of Carrboro on Saturday, May 16 at 2:30 at Carrboro Elementary School. There will be helmet fittings, bike checks, crafts, giveaways, and tons of fun before we head out for a short bike ride. Bring kids on bikes, in trailers, on tandems. There will be helmets available for those who need them. Contact the ReCYCLERY for more info at recyclery_nc@yahoo.com.

Spotlight on Kevin Hicks and Triangle Bikeworks

Most of the people that you read about here or in other places who are advocating for better bicycling facilities have day jobs that pay the bills. Their advocacy work is done in the evenings, on weekends, and on days taken off work using vacation leave. Their work on behalf of cycling is done because of a passion they have and want to share—a belief that cycling can open many doors, some beyond the obvious one of a healthy form of transportation.

Kevin Hicks, founder of Spoke N' Revolutions and Triangle Bikeworks, is one of those advocates. By day, Kevin does tech support. But find him on the weekend and he is likely working with teens on honing their cycling skills, planning a major trip for the summer, or planning a summer camp. His non-profit group, Triangle BikeWorks has some ambitious plans.

We first wrote about Spoke N' Revolutions (SNR), a group of teen riders, in 2011 when they were heading out on a cycling trip that would take them from Alabama to New York, following the general route of the Underground Railroad, and learning a lot of history along the way. There have been more trips since then, and there is a trip planned this summer that will go through the Gullah Geechee Cultural Historic Corridor that runs from NC to Florida.

Kevin recounted instances where the racially diverse group was met with assistance and friendliness from strangers. He says the news focuses too much on the bad, when there is much good to be found.

Triangle Bikeworks is a 501(c)3 non-profit that includes the SNR program, Youth Hammercross, and Summer Camps. If you are interested in any of these programs, or if you are interested in working with Triangle Bikeworks to keep these events strong, you can go to trianglebikeworks.org for more information.



Kevin Hicks (third from left) with some of the SNR participants.

Carrboro awarded Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community for second time

Recently Carrboro joined more than 325 other towns and cities across the country that are currently recognized as Bicycle Friendly Communities by the League of American Bicyclists. Through the efforts of Town staff, local advocacy groups, and citizen enthusiasm for the “real-time and long-term impact that a culture of bicycling can create,” Carrboro earned North Carolina’s only Silver Level designation. Ten other NC communities were presented with Bronze designations.

The application process for the designation itself constitutes a tool for progress towards the kinds of infrastructure, attitudes, and outreach that normalize bicycling as a transportation option. Carrboro’s progress via a growing network of bike lanes, increased bicycle parking, and public education is reflected in our ridership levels, and in our safety statistics, both of which exceed those reported by some Gold Level recipients. Carrboro ranked highly in public education and outreach, bike-friendly laws and ordinances, and in our support of Bike Month events.

The League also made recommendations for further promotion of bicycling in Carrboro, several of which are already underway. The CBC continues to add bike parking, is engaging business owners through the local Bicycle Friendly Business program, and is collaborating with the public schools on the Active Routes to Schools program. The Carrboro Police Department recently sent some of its officers to participate in a League-sanctioned bike skills and safety class.

Other suggested bicycling improvements would benefit all residents. Streetscape design that creates pleasant, comfortable surroundings for bicyclists and pedestrians is also associated with reductions in crime. Community pride and social capital are enhanced by conditions that make all road users feel welcome and included. A Complete Streets policy, which the League recommends for adoption by Carrboro planners and engineers, promotes street designs focused on access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel.

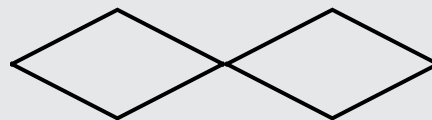
The League recommendations make one thing clear. We’re all in this together. We are not, or we shouldn’t be, opposing factions locked into mutually exclusive identities as motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians. We’re citizens. We’re community. We’re Carrboro.

Our designation as a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community is a sign that we’re doing at least some things right—for everyone who lives here. Let’s work together towards an even more bike-friendly future.



What Doesn't Get Counted Doesn't Count—So Let's Get Counted!

Recently NCDOT, along with the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at NCSU and local governments, installed 20 permanent continuous bike/ped counters around the state, several in the Triangle. One of the counters in Carrboro is on the Libba Cotten bikeway, so every time you use that to get to campus, you will be counted! There are two other counters installed on Old 86 just north of the intersection with Hillsborough Rd. The one heading out of town is well-positioned and should catch many of the hundreds of cyclists who use that route ever week. The counter on the other side, however, is positioned in a spot where many cyclists may have already begun moving over to the left turn lane. We pointed out the poor positioning, but it appears that it will not be moved. Watch for the double diamonds that mark the counter locations in the bike lanes. We are excited to have some counting devices, and hope that these will help show just how big a role cycling has in our community.



BIKE PATROL

Being buzzed by a vehicle traveling too fast and too close, watching a car creep into the bike path, being blared at by a loud horn—these are experiences that are hard to explain to non-riders, but a BikePatrol police officer knows all about these things..



The League of American Bicyclists encourages police bike patrols as part of their Bicycle Friendly Community program. Carrboro has struggled with this due to budget and staffing issues, but if you go to downtown Durham, you are likely to see officers on bikes. Recently, Charlie Hileman sat down with Sgt. Brian Massengill of Durham Bike Patrol to hear his perspectives.

Brian is a gregarious giant, who loves to talk and help people. He has watched the renaissance of downtown Durham over his 14 years with the Durham Police Department and is one of 21 officers assigned to the Bike Patrol unit. They work 10-hour shifts, sometimes well past midnight.

Ten hours on a bike can be painful for anyone, but add a nightstick, radio, handgun, etc., plus a heavy bulletproof vest, and you are carrying 50 extra pounds. Hauling that weight on a hot day must be incredibly draining, but for Sgt. Massengill, it is worth it for the human interaction.

A patrol officer in a car with a closed window can be intimidating, but bike patrol officers are easily approached. They are frontline ambassadors, directly interacting and understanding the community at the street level. The city of Durham is large, covering 95 square miles, but the Bike Patrol is primarily assigned to downtown Durham and the American Tobacco Trail.

Officers in a patrol car are wired in with laptops, able to navigate with online maps and read a suspect's background. The bike patrol officers do not carry computers, so they depend on their radios for verbal communication.

A bicycle is quiet, allowing an officer to ride right up to an unwitting suspect without being heard. In bad traffic, a bike can often arrive before a patrol car. The bike is faster than walking, and can easily move through crowds, so when there are late night events downtown, the Durham Bike Patrol is on duty helping to pinpoint the trouble spots.

The Carrboro Police Department has recently restarted its bike patrol. With Carrboro's dense center and many pedestrians downtown, it is well suited for officers on bikes. The success of the Durham Bike Patrol could serve as a model.

BIKES+



NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT

The 2015 National Bike Summit was held in Washington, D.C. March 10–12. While the statewide Bike Summit allows us to build stronger advocacy across our state, the National Summit allows advocates to see what is being done in other parts of the country. This year's meeting had some very inspiring keynote speakers, including Ren Berger from Oklahoma who started the nonprofit Tulsa Hub, only to suffer from burnout and a dysfunctional board. She recounted how she was paired with a consultant/mentor who taught her how to improve and grow the health of her organization.

Mike Cornett, mayor of Oklahoma City, described how he challenged his entire city to go on a diet after being named one of America's most obese cities, and how they lost a combined 1 million pounds.

We also heard from Victor Mendez, U.S. Dept. of Transportation Deputy Secretary and others. All of the plenary speakers' talks were taped and can be seen at the League's website: bikeleague.org/content/summit-2015.

On Thursday of the meeting, most of the attendees went to Capitol Hill to lobby their elected officials to support upcoming bills that promote safer streets. This is one of the main events at the summit—to connect voters with those who represent them in Washington and to win their support for bills and measures that will benefit all users of the roads.

If you have never considered joining the League of American Bicyclists, Bike Month is a good time to do so. The League is our national advocacy voice, and it provides many materials that can be adapted for use by local advocates. Memberships start at \$40 a year (\$25 for students), and you can join online at www.bikeleague.org.

The **Carrboro Bicycle Coalition (CBC)** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit advocacy group that seeks to create a bicycle friendly community through cycling awareness, education, safety advocacy and promotion of bicycling for transportation, recreation, fitness, and a livable future. The CBC is a member of 1% for the Planet.



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