

'It's been an honor'

Club President Darcie Pickren offers some final thoughts

Greetings Cherry Capital Cycling Club Members: It is time for me to pass the torch! With almost four years under my wheel – the tires are beginning to thin. Serving this amazing cycling club has been an honor. I plan to volunteer as needed and will continue to support this great cycling club.

During my tenure, the Board accomplished many projects including the redesign and update of our *Bicycle Map Northwest Michigan*. The Club supported local events and projects through TART, NORTE, RECYCLE-A-BIKE and the League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB). We also supported the first Traverse City Trails Festival, planned and organized by Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association (NMMBA). The update of many Board procedures and policies has helped with the administration of club duties.

In 2008 we had 577 members, our highest number... in 2009 our membership dropped to 263 for an all-time low. During the past few years thanks to the efforts of many including Bill Danly, current Membership Director we had a steady increase in Club memberships over the past four years! The membership total is currently at 415.

The Board hired Tom Kern in the spring of 2017. He helped with a Member Survey and brought to the forefront information necessary to put a Strategic Plan in place for the next three to five years. The Strategic Plan represents results and findings from the member survey. Our members asked for more social rides, more statewide advocacy, an expansion of



ride options and Ride Leaders along with more local publicity and strong support to bring back the *Cadence* newsletter.

Bob Downes agreed to join the Board and revived the newsletter! Please submit your photos and cycling stories to him at communicationsdirector@cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org

At our Annual Dinner and Meeting on October 22 members voted for the following individuals to serve the Cherry Capital Cycling Club in 2018:

President – Bill Danly
 Vice President, Dave Drake
 Treasurer – Tom Kirchner
 Communications Director – Bob Downes
 LHT Director – Dan Wittkopp
 Membership Director – Pete Danly
 RAT Director – Paula Anderson
 Ride Director – Mark Esper
 Safety & Education Director – Skip Miller
 Social Director – Carrie Baic
 Website Director – Jeff Dillingham

We value your comments, suggestions and even complaints. I encourage you to attend the monthly Board meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Traverse City Public Library. This is your club – speak up.

Thank you for allowing me the wonderful opportunity to be your president. I humbly pass the torch to the new president, Bill Danly. Ride on safely and often -- **Darcie**

See you next spring...

The club newsletter will be taking a break for the winter months, but we promise to return in time for the 2018 cycling season



Looking Ahead: With incoming President Bill Danly

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club has a lot on our calendar for 2018! Our two major tours, the Ride Around Torch and Leelanau Harvest Tour are scheduled for July 15th and September 15th, respectively. Whether you're riding these rides or being an important volunteer, please save these dates on your calendar.

Beyond our two tours, we are also scheduling several social Saturday potluck rides and discussing options for a Spring membership meeting and an out-of-town overnight event.

These additional events come directly from input we received last Spring from our member survey. The member survey was a part of our strategic planning effort, which resulted in 10 different focus areas. These are the items that your Board will focus on in 2018. The strategic planning objectives include;

- Social; more club-wide meetings and social events.
- Advocacy; work with local community organizations and governmental units.



- Rides & events; expand the types of rides we offer and the number of ride leaders.
- Communications; develop the Club newsletter (a huge thank you to Bob Downes!) and create a media program.
- Education & Safety; develop a monthly bike public service announcement (PSA) and rules of the road.

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club is an all-volunteer group of people who join together for our love of cycling. We can't give enough thanks to those who volunteer their time for leading rides, doing Adopt-a-Road pickup, working on our major tours, or being on the Board. Please consider being a volunteer when you have the time. We appreciate it very much!

Lastly, please take the time to welcome your new incoming Board members; Dave Drake as Vice-President, Paula Anderson as the new RAT Director, and Pete Danly as Membership Director. Continuing in their current Board positions are Bob Downes (Communications) and Carrie Baic (Social). Also, the Board expects to appoint Pat Bearup as Board Secretary at our January Board meeting, to take-over for Dave Drake. Please feel free to contact any Board member with your ideas and suggestions.

Best, Bill Danly

cycle briefs

GIMME SHELTER: A new warming hut is in the works for mountain bikers using the single-track trail off Supply Road, reports Vice President **Earl Gervais**.

"I met with TART, NMMBA and the DNR a while back and they came up with some great concepts for such a building," he says.

Gervais advocates donating funds for the shelter's construction, which is budgeted at \$50,000. "That would be a great step toward assisting our cycling community," he says, adding that it would enhance the club's stature with local mountain bikers. Currently, about 15 percent of club members are mountain bike enthusiasts.

BENEFITS: Didja' know that Adventure Cycling Association provides benefits to Cherry Capital Cycling Club members?

Based in Missoula, MT, the organization promotes dozens of bike-touring routes across the United States. CCCC members are eligible for the following:

- Sign up for four guided bike tours and receive one free tour.
- A 20 percent discount on cycling apparel from PrimalWear.com.



In the works: The Top of Michigan Trails Council has released a map of the proposed Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail, which will connect the TART Trail to the Little Traverse Wheelway. When complete, it will be possible to ride from Traverse City to the Mackinac Straits entirely (or mostly) off-road.

POPULAR DESTINATION! The database for riders participating in this fall's Leelanau Harvest Tour offers statistics about the popularity of our region with cyclists across the Midwest and beyond.

Of the 703 riders who registered for the LHT, more than 200 came from the Grand Traverse area. Southeastern Michigan and the Detroit area accounted for roughly 70 more riders. Here's the breakdown on some other supportive communities provided by LHT Director **Dan Wittkopp**:

Kalamazoo/Portage: 28 riders
Holland: 20
Saginaw: 19
Grand Rapids: 15
St. Johns: 12
Grand Haven: 10
Midland: 9

States & Provinces:
Ohio: 41
Ontario: 16
Illinois: 9
Indiana: 7
Florida: 5

The balance of riders came from all over the map. One surprise, Ann Arbor, which is alleged to be a big cycling town, fielded only 6 riders at the LHT: the same amount as tiny Clio, Michigan.



Champion Triathlete He's #1 in Michigan

Club member **Duane Amato** returned from Rotterdam in the Netherlands in September after placing 19th in his age group at the World Age Group Triathlon Championships.

This was his third year in a row competing on Team USA and representing the U.S. It was also his eighth and final triathlon of 2017, winning his age group at the other seven triathlons he raced in this year.

Duane is currently ranked #1 in Michigan and #2 in the Mid-East region (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois) in his age group by USA Triathlon. In 2015 and 2016, he was awarded "All American" by USA Triathlon and is hoping for the honor again when results are in for 2017.

Congratulations Duane!

Follow the leaders:

Ride leaders are at the core of the club's success. Here's a rundown of rides led in 2017 by 38 leaders:

Leaders	Rides Led
16	1-5
12	6-15
7	16-30
1	31-49
3	50+

Bike etiquette tips

Below are eight things riders should refrain from doing, from **Kevin Gray**, a Dallas based cyclist/writer, submitted by **Skip Miller**, club Safety Director

1. UNSOLICITED DRAFTING

At best, it's unnerving when one rider speeds unannounced past another on a narrow path. At worst, it can lead to a crash. If the front rider's not keeping a straight line, or moves left to avoid a road hazard, the passing rider risks hitting them and sending both cyclists tumbling to the ground. So don't be stingy with those calls of "on your left."

Think twice before sitting on a stranger's back wheel. For starters, it's rude ... and a little creepy. The average rider also might not feel comfortable with you being so close to their bike, so it's best to leave some breathing room.

2. UNANNOUNCED PASSING. HALF WHEELING

This term refers to maintaining a half-wheel lead on your adjacent riding partner, causing the other person to constantly speed up. It's annoying, and can be avoided by keeping a steady pace. Speaking of annoying ...

4. USING INSIDER LINGO

Yes, like "half wheeling." But consider

the following phrase: "I smashed the climb, but then the pelo put the hammer down and dropped me. I chased for awhile before I bonked. Man, I was creepin' out there toward the end."

Translation: I climbed that hill well, but then the group sped up. I tried to catch them, but couldn't keep up and eventually ran out of energy. Man, I was going slow toward the end.

Next time you're relaying your ride to non-cycling pals, stick with the latter.

5. NON-STOP TALKING

If you're riding with a friend, by all means, talk as much as you like. But if you pull up on a stranger, don't chew their ear off. For many, getting outside for a few hours on the bike is one of life's true pleasures — an opportunity to reflect, relax and enjoy some peace and

quiet. A simple "good morning" will suffice before you move on.

6. NOT GEARING DOWN FOR STOPS

Before you come to a stop, you want to shift into an easy gear so you can start back up again quickly. Forget, and you'll have trouble. In solo riding, it only impacts the rider — so it's not a big deal. But in group rides, it impacts everyone behind the culprit. As you struggle to stay upright and get moving, your companions must slow down, unclip or possibly stop. Again.

7. CHECKING YOUR PHONE WHILE RIDING

Texting while driving is a terrible idea. Texting while biking is also dangerous. Too often, we see riders consulting their phones, which means at least one hand's off the bars, and their eyes aren't concentrating on the road ahead. Attach a good computer to your bike, and you'll have the time and your cycling stats available at a glance.

8. WEARING EARBUDS...

Next to running red lights and not wearing a helmet, sporting headphones is just about the most dangerous thing you can do on a bike. But we get it — rides can be long, and a little music helps to pass the time. So if you want to listen to music while you ride, use just one headphone, and keep your left ear free to listen for cars and passing riders. something else."





TART Executive Director Julie Clark outlined the new route along the west side of Boardman Lake at a recent open house. Downes photos.

Boardman Lake trail extension moves forward

It's been a long time coming but expectations are that groundbreaking on the new two-mile extension of the TART Trail around Boardman Lake should take place next year, with the entire trail to be completed by summer, 2019.

At a recent open house, the staff of TART (Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation) presented schematics of the new trail extension on the west side of the lake.

The \$5.5 million project calls for a trail extension south from 16th Street to a board-

walk at the southern end of the lake. From there, two new bridges to Medalie Park at Logan's Landing will link to the existing trail on the east side of the lake. A separate extension will run to the intersection of Cass and South Airport roads to facilitate access to the BATA station and the industrial area along Cass.

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club is doing its part to make the trail dream come true: this year the club donated \$7,500 to TART for trail building and maintenance.



The red line on the map, above, offers the proposed extension of the Boardman Lake Trail, including a boardwalk at the south end of the lake. At left, a 2016 artist's conception of the two bridges to Medalie Park at Logan's Landing; the final outcome will likely vary somewhat from this drawing.

