

the CueSheet

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS

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Club Webinars

Club leaders, tune in to bikeleague.org for a whole season of SRAM-sponsored club webinars starting this September. The webinars will be interactive and informative, providing a forum for online conversation among club volunteers across the nation. All webinars will be at 8 p.m. EST and downloadable on bikeleague.org following the presentation. E-mail Scott@bikeleague.org for more information.

SEPTEMBER 8 VOLUNTEERS AND SUCCESSION

This webinar will discuss recruiting and training new officers, easing the transition period between old and new officers, and creating a workable system for clubs to use with transitions.

OCTOBER 5 MEMBERSHIP

Getting and retaining members is important, in addition to managing and tracking your membership. This webinar will address membership databases,

newsletter printing and distribution, maintaining members-only and public Web sites, and the pros and cons of anniversary versus annual membership. We will also discuss recruiting new members.

NOVEMBER 3 BUDGETING

Money is important for a club — especially managing it. We will cover cash flow, preparing financial information records for your board, money management, and planning and paying for big expenditures.

JANUARY (DATE TO BE DETERMINED) CLUB INSURANCE

American Specialty Insurance — protect your club, protect your riders, and insure your ride.

FEBRUARY 2 RIDE LEADERS

Rides and volunteers are the lifeblood of any club. Managing them is one of the toughest jobs for club leadership. This session will show successful ways to get volunteers to lead rides, train ride leaders, easily manage volunteers, and offer tips on recruiting more volunteers.

E-mail Scott@bikeleague.org for registration info.

501(c)3

Clubs Incorporated

Starting a bicycle club or advocacy organization is a productive way to get people riding in your community. However, it is not all fun and cycling. There are plenty of logistics to figure out and paperwork to complete. One issue that is best to decide early is whether your club should incorporate. Incorporating may seem confusing but the benefits are worth the work. Paybacks include tax benefits and avoiding legal liability.

First Things First

Before you incorporate, first obtain a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). An EIN is to an organization what a Social Security Number is to an individual. You need it to open a bank account, whether or not you ever plan on having employees. To get an Identification Number, you file an "Application for Federal Employer Identification Number," (Form SS-4) with the Federal Internal Revenue Service.


Incorporate as a Non-Profit Organization

The second step is to incorporate as a non-profit corporation in your state. Each state has its own regulations and procedures, and your state's Secretary of State office has all of the necessary documents for this procedure. Visit the Club Corner on bikeleague.org to find the contact information for all 50 Secretary of State offices.

Register as a 501(c)3

Lastly, you need to register as a 501(c)3 – most bike clubs are considered a 501(c)3. According to 501c3.org, a 501(c)3 is "a particular nonprofit organization has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, charitable organization. 'Charitable' is broadly defined as being established for purposes that are religious, educational, charitable, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering of national or international amateur sports, or prevention of cruelty to animals and children." To qualify you must be a not for profit and your earnings cannot benefit private shareholders or individuals. All organizations are required to register with the appropriate agency, normally the local office of the IRS, to ensure your organization meets all the 501(c)3 requirements. Then you simply pay the necessary filing fees, submit the appropriate forms, documents, declarations and other relevant info.

After all the paperwork, enjoy the benefits of your labor. The best part of becoming a 501(c)3 organization is that your bike club will be exempt from paying federal income tax. You also will protect your club's leadership from legal liabilities.

If you do not think your club fits the 501(c)3 qualifications, you might fit into one of the other categories ranging from 501(c)1 to 501(c)28 – but keep in mind that most clubs are a 501(c)3. For more information visit irs.gov. 

2010 Bicycle Friendly State Rankings

The League recently announced the third annual Bicycle Friendly State (BFS) rankings. "We are delighted to report that states, and statewide bicycle advocates, are using this program to target legislative changes, adopt new policies and even start new advocacy groups in order to improve conditions for cyclists," said Andy Clarke, League president. "Change at the state level is harder to see than in a community or business, but is no less important – and we are seeing real progress."



AT THE TOP OF THE LIST ARE:

1. Washington
2. Wisconsin
3. Maine
4. Minnesota
5. Oregon

THE LOWEST SCORING STATES RANKED 46 THROUGH 50 ARE:

46. New Mexico
47. West Virginia
48. Montana
49. North Dakota
50. Alabama

View the BFS rankings at bikeleague.org.

CLUB PROFILE:

Bluegrass Cycling Club

VITAL STATS:

Location: Lexington, KY

Current membership: Over 550

Club President: Peggy Littrell

Founded: June, 1970. The BCC turns 40 this year!

Website: www.bgcycling.net



Last year, the BCC led 679 rides during eight months, many with multiple distances and skill levels so that all riders could have a challenging and fun ride.

The Bluegrass Cycling Club (BCC), originally conceived as the “Bluegrass Wheelmen,” and the League share more than just the “Wheelmen” past. The BCC’s mission to “encourage bicycling for health, recreation and transportation, to promote bicycle safety and improve bicycling facilities” is one that the League can easily get behind. The League also named the club one of the League’s 2009 Clubs of the Year.

The BCC has members who ride 365 days a year, but the main touring season is March 1 until October 31. Last year, the BCC led 679 rides during those eight months, many with multiple distances and skill levels so that all riders could have a challenging and fun ride. In case you don’t want to do the math, that is at

least one ride happening every single day. Every spring the BCC hosts the Horsey Hundred, a century ride in the Bluegrass. In the less-distant future is the Red River Rally, a great way to celebrate the cooler months, which will be held October 2 and 3.

What really makes BCC stand out as a club is the hard work they do to advance cyclists rights and education in Lexington and other cities in the Bluegrass area. Griff Baute, the head of the BCC’s education committee, told the League about some of their efforts: “We gave financial support for 40 Share the Road signs (in place now) on state and county roads around Lexington. We annually give away over 50 bikes to children [and] the recipients are taught bike safety.” To help make joining the BCC



easier on your wallet and available to lower-income constituents, new members pay no dues for the first year. This resolution has greatly increased the BCC’s membership and involvement in the community.

With their mix of riding opportunities and organized advocacy, it’s not surprising that the Bluegrass Cycling Club is one of the League’s Clubs of the Year. 🚲

ARE YOU UPDATED?

THE LEAGUE’S BI-WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER *AMERICAN BICYCLIST UPDATE* IS THE SOURCE FOR ALL LEAGUE ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND CLUB NEWS. SIGN UP TO RECEIVE *AMERICAN BICYCLIST UPDATE* AND READ PAST ISSUES AT BIKELEAGUE.ORG.

National Bike Rally Recap

The League held its 130th National Rally with the Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M. this past June. The ride was in celebration of Gail Ryba, founder of the Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico, who sadly passed the month before the rally. The three days of great riding through the colorful and historic New Mexican terrain, with routes that catered to all abilities, was certainly a fitting farewell to the cycling and renewable energy advocate.

Andy Clarke, President; Preston Tyree, Director of Education; and Scott Williams, Membership Director, attended the National Rally and had the opportunity to meet and ride with many Bike League members. The temperatures were steamy but the triple digits didn't prevent riders from cycling the 100-mile perimeter loop through New Mexico's beautiful Sandia mountains.

Highlights included:

- Traffic Skills 101 course, followed by a LCI certification seminar, led by rally organizing committee chair Craig Degenhart of BikeABQ.
- Albuquerque councilman Isaac Benton and Chuck Malagodi, Bicycle Safety Program Manager for the city, joined us for the opening reception.
- The rides, routed by the New Mexico Touring Society, were fantastic. The Friday group rode 40 miles down to Belen, where they were greeted by Mayor Rudy Jaramillo before riding back to Albuquerque in a Rail Runner train car. The rides all showed off Albuquerque's great Bicycle Boulevards and off-road trails. (Thanks to Chris Marsh for not providing mechanical assistance on the Belen ride!)
- Saturday's Albuquerque Century/Tour de Cure event. More than a hundred riders rode in the Century ride, with plenty of riders in 65, 50, and 25-mile rides, along with a 10k ride.
- The Saturday night bike expo and banquet included a moving tribute to Gail Ryba, League of American Bicyclists' volunteer of the year 2009 and "mother of New Mexico cycling advocacy." Ryba lost her struggle with cancer just weeks before the rally. Lynette Chiang gave the keynote address; attendees viewed her documentary *Route 66 by Bicycle* on Friday evening.
- And most of all, League members from around the country riding together. While most attendees hailed from New Mexico, there were representatives from Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, Michigan, and even Australia.



Many thanks to Craig Degenhart, Bike ABQ, the New Mexico Touring Society, the Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico, the American Diabetes Association and Albuquerque Century Tour de Cure, and everyone else involved in putting on the National Rally. 🚲

Save the Date for Club Conference Calls!

AUGUST 25 at 8 p.m. EST

- Rumble Strips
- Club Leadership Training
- Updates on League Programming
- Upcoming Calendar Items

DECEMBER 1 at 8 p.m. EST

- Member Feedback on Club Insurance Program
- 2011 Club Insurance

E-mail Scott@bikeleague.org for more details.