

JSTS MINUTES OF June 16, 2008 MEETING

Meeting called to order at Federici's by President Robert Leitner at 7:00pm.

Introduction of 3 board members and 7 members was announced. Dan Hinton was unable to attend.

Minutes – Laury Wills

- Treasurer's Report for 4/1/08 – 4/30/08 was read and minutes were accepted as posted on the web site.

Correspondence – Laury Wills

- Several magazines were passed around.

Treasurer's Report – Ed Marx

- Motion made to accept May report and carried.

Membership Report – Ed Marx

- As of May 31st, there are 67 new members, 162 renewed members and 2 lifetime members for 2008. With the 11 bike shops that makes 242 total members.
- Membership renewals are up 20 since a year ago, and bike shop memberships are way up – 11 in 2008 compared with 5 in 2007. Beacon Cycling also just joined, bringing the number of bike shops to 12.
- Links to all of the current bike shop members are on the website.

Ride Report

• **Road Rides**

- **New B Rides on Thursday Nights** - Steve Karger is now leading B rides on Thursday nights out of Brookdale. The B ride leaves at 6:15pm (that's 15 minutes earlier than the All Pace ride that Wes leads, which leaves at 6:30pm). Afterwards, riders will join Wes and the other riders for pizza.
- **Keeping the group together** - Rob received another e-mail about keeping the group together during rides. This particular issue involved the B ride on Sunday. The group was quickly strung out, as a number of A riders rode with the B group and set a fast pace out of the gate. **Remember, each person is responsible for the person directly behind them.** Alert the group if the person behind you falls off the group. The group should slow down until everyone gets back on. Then the group should continue riding at a pace that everyone can maintain. Don't speed up as soon as the stragglers get back on... give them a chance to recover. If the group is going to split, make sure it is a group decision.... don't just speed up and leave a few riders behind.
- **NJ traffic laws apply to bicycles as well!** We heard about a recent incident where many riders blew through a red light on a club ride. A person stopped at the light in an auto commented to the riders who did stop at the light about the unsafe behavior of the other riders. Riders on club rides must obey all traffic laws. Running red lights on a busy road just gives all cyclists a bad reputation. Please do not do this.
- **Safe Riding** - We discussed how we can do more to encourage safe riding and to keep the groups together. A motion was made and accepted to send another e-mail to all members reiterating the rider guidelines.
- **Ride Changes** - Feel like the posted ride is too short? Too long? You can always propose an alternate route with a different distance. If there is already a leader posted for that ride, contact the leader about changing the route. If there is no leader, sign up as the leader and send the route you want to use to Rob (email link on the ride schedule page).

OLD BUSINESS

- **Club Picnic**
 - Scheduled for July 13th at Andy Melnick's house. All rides start and finish at Andy's house. Board will follow up with Dan about the organization plans. Remember, Andy and his family should not have to do any set-up or clean-up. Andy is providing the venue... that's all... the rest is up to us!
- **Club Promotion**
 - Jody Rubin presented the new club magnet in a smaller size for those of us who don't drive Hummers. There was a lively discussion about whether we should raise dues in order to purchase magnets and then give them to all members. The topic of raising dues will be placed on the agenda for the September meeting. We'll see what we can do about moving ahead with the magnets in the meantime.
- **Charity Rides**
 - Ride for Autism (June 14th)
 - This year they had the largest number of riders. 380 people preregistered, and at least 180 walk-ups the day of the event. They grossed somewhere around \$110,000.
 - Apologies to Wes and Donna who were inadvertently left off the marshal list. Andy apologized for the confusion.
 - While many riders were exhausted by the end of the ride, Sue Scarola finished around 2pm and was looking great!
 - Sue raised an issue about whether the registration fee is tax deductible as receipts were not given for cash payment. Andy indicated that the registration fee is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. He offered to ensure Sue, and any other participants, get a receipt for any funds contributed (registration fees and/or donations). Andy subsequently provided the attached letter detailing the non-profit status of the organization and how they account for registration fees. The letter also includes instructions on how to get additional information on the organization, including access to their tax returns. Any further questions about fees for the ride should be addressed to Ride for Autism, Inc. They are more than happy to explain the nature of their organization.
 - Tour de Cure - ADA (June 21st)
 - Still on for this Saturday. If you are planning to ride on Saturday, please consider supporting this important organization.
 - Anyone planning to do the ride who also wants to serve as a marshal, please contact Andy Paquin or Steve Karger, or volunteer at the event.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fundraiser for Monmouth County Foodbank
 - Jody has made the past couple of deliveries of club donations to the Foodbank. On a recent visit he noticed that the Foodbank resources are really stretched thin these days (less donations and greater demand). We are looking for creative ways to drum up more donations. The Foodbank prefers food donations rather than cash.
 - We are looking for a volunteer to investigate organizing a ride to collect donations for the Foodbank. We will also ask people to bring a more significant food donation to the club picnic.
- Wes would like all the C/D rides to leave from Brookdale. There are not enough riders in this group who are interested in traveling to the remote starts. Wes will send the proposed routes to Rob to be posted.
- Rob will put Wes as the posted leader for both the C and D rides. Rob will change the D rides so that they are listed as 10+ mile leader lead ride (no route sheet). Wes will either lead the D ride himself, or make arrangements for another leader.
- Laury will organize a FREE yoga class for JSTS members and their families sometime over the summer. The class will be held at Dancing Foot Yoga in Red Bank. It will be suitable for everyone. Mats and props will be provided. Date is tbd. Look for an e-mail with the details.

The next meeting will be September 8th (location TBD). Enjoy your summer!

There was no additional business so the meeting was adjourned.

Robert Leitner

From: ride4autism@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 11:47 AM
To: Robert Leitner; dfh1149@optonline.net; lwills0@att.com; harpo383@yahoo.com
Cc: Ellen Schisler; VINCENT J SCANELLI; Tim Hitzel
Subject: Ride Status

Dear Rob, Dan, Laury, and Ed (JSTS Board),

One of the club's members, Sue Scarola, raised some issues at last night's meeting about the Ride for Autism, which the club has been kind enough to support since inception in 2001. I am not sure why this was an issue for the club to address as opposed to our organization. In any event, we welcome questions about our organization, and given the club's support I thought it would be useful to send you this email to clarify any issues to the extent they were not fully addressed during the back and forth discussion last night. Please feel free to add this email to the minutes of the meeting or send it to the club members if you believe that would be useful.

1. Sue questioned whether the event was in fact for "charity" given the \$40 registration fee was not explicitly characterized on our walk-up registration form as a "donation."

The answer is yes. The registration fee is collected by Ride for Autism, Inc., which is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (IRS EIN 02-0536119) and is registered as a charity with the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs (Reg. No. CH2134300). This information is on our website, www.ride4autism.org.

2. Sue stated she was concerned that with over 500 riders and a \$40 registration fee, there might be \$20,000 "rattling around" and that there have been problems in the past with funds collected by other nonprofit organizations, such as Bikes for Tykes.

I have no idea what Sue means by "rattling around" or why problems experienced by other organizations are at all relevant. I am happy to explain how we handle, and account for, registration fees. We collect and record registration fees (the majority of which are made online via credit card) and then deposit them in our bank account. Our outside bookkeeper reconciles the bank records with the registration records from the event. We report the amount of registration fees as revenue from special events on our tax return (Form 990), which is prepared by the our outside accounting firm. We then sign and file this form with the IRS. This form is available for public inspection (on the Internet for free at www.guidestar.org) and we are also happy to furnish a copy upon request. For your reference, the amount of registration fees we reported on our most recent Form 990 (for the year ended 12/31/07), was \$20,940.

3. I stated at last night's meeting that there were no reports of injuries during this year's ride on June 14, 2008. Sue responded that was not true. She said that she saw a rider hit by a car in Marlboro. Sue also stated the rider got up and continued to ride.

I checked today with the personnel staffing the SAG emergency phone line, and they confirmed their initial report to me on Saturday, which was that they had not received any reports of injuries via the SAG emergency phone line or any other source. If the rider referred to by Sue was injured (which, given he got up and continued to ride, seems doubtful), it was not reported that day by the rider, Sue, or anyone else.

I hope this clarifies the issues raised at last night's meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again for your support.

Andrew Abere
President
Ride for Autism, Inc.