

## *Board members plan new potluck*

Overall plans for the upcoming Year's events was discussed by the board of directors of the Bartlesville Pedalers on Jan. 19.

Members in attendance were Dale Munn, president; Bob Lummis, road director; Patsy Lummis; Joel Martin, treasurer, and Shirley Martin; Bob Pinnick, member at large; and Vincent Hennigan.

The meeting began with a treasurer's report from Joel. The approximate balance in the club's bank account is \$1,300.00. Anticipated upcoming expenses will be: 1) annual renewal of the club's domain name on the Internet; 2) monthly maintenance fees for the club's website; 3) postage and miscellaneous newsletter expenses; and 4) reservation costs, if any, for the Spring Fling campout.

Joel said there are approximately 30 club memberships. He pointed out that almost all memberships are for households with multiple riders.

Next Bob opened discussion on road rides. He will serve as Ride Leader until after Daylight Savings time in April. With the time change, he will need ride leaders to volunteer to handle rides. He liked the "loop around" idea that was tested on several rides late last season. With this program, rides begin with all members in the group staying together until they reach the open road. Then faster riders will loop around and join in at the rear of the group, thus allowing members to stay in closer touch with each other during a training ride.

Bob will introduce a schedule of FreeWheel training rides when the time changes comes in April.

Bob reminded everyone that the rule of thumb for Fair Weather Rides this winter is that rides will go off as planned if the temperature is above 40 degrees. Please see the highlighted box below for details.

The board discussed having the Spring Fling campout April 24th at either Hulah Lake or Copan Lake camping areas. It was noted that shorter routes are possible from Washington Cove at Copan Lake. The campout is a chance for riders preparing for the upcoming OK FreeWheel to test camping skills and take longer training rides.

Also discussed was a No Foolin' Potluck to be held Thursday, April 1st at the Martin's home. Joanne Estes will coordinate items for members to bring. More details will be announced as they are formulated.

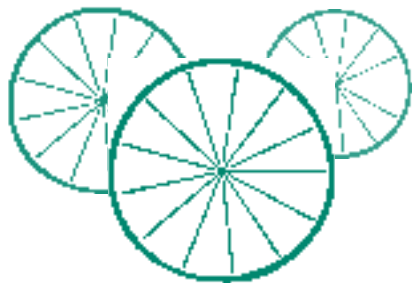
Next the board discussed Old Business concerning creation of a new club logo. The idea was initially suggested last year when it was realized

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I've had several people ask what our ride time is if it is cold. For the rest of this winter season, our ride time is 9:00 and we will ride if it is above 40° by 8:00 Saturday morning. Our fallback time will be an 11:00 ride, but only if the temperature is above 40° by 10:00 Saturday morning.

Our OFFICIAL THERMOMETER for these purposes will be the temperature displayed on the weather information panel of the Bartlesville Pedalers webpage.

**Bob Lummis, Road Director**



# Spinning Wheels

This is the time of the year when we have plenty of variable weather. As I am writing this, I am thinking of someplace nice and warm where I could be laying on the beach or cycling down the coast working on my tan line.

Fortunately this is Oklahoma and we know that there will be some days that we can get together and have an enjoyable ride. If you are feeling down about the weather, go to the Bartlesville Pedalers web page and view some of the FreeWheel albums and make plans for this summers FreeWheel.

Speaking of the web page, you should notice a few changes in the navigation between members areas and download areas. These are now done with php and share the top and left menus which makes it easier to navigate. You may not notice a home menu item, but you can click on the Bartlesville Pedalers logo to take you back to the home page. Keep your eyes on the sunrise/sunset information and you will notice that we are already moving toward good cycling weather.

As you look forward to Spring, this might be the year you consider cycling to work. This is a great way

to get some extra miles in, get your cardiac exercise and best of all as gas prices rise save some money and help the environment. I am currently about 2 miles from work and will be cycling that short distance whenever possible. The beauty of that distance is I can always make the distance whatever I want.

Well that's it for this month, hope to see you cycling whenever there is an opportunity. 🚲

*Dale Munn*, President

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the club was entering it's 25th year. Vincent has volunteered to create several prototype designs. Bob and Dale made several suggestions for logo changes, drawing inspiration from past OK FreeWheel jerseys and other bike club logos.

Vincent said that once he draws up four or so design options he will send out a special memo to all club members to ask them for their input on the ideas. Once an idea has been generally accepted, then the next stage could be to develop bandanas, t-shirts or bike jerseys.

Dale suggested that the design would need to be finalized so that jerseys or other items could be made before club members go to FreeWheel. Then they would have a chance to show off the new "look."

Dale closed the meeting by setting the next board meeting for 6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 16 at the east side Pizza Hut located just north of Adams Road on Madison Boulevard. 🚲



## **OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

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# Mountain Biking...

*From the Mountain Biking "Director"...*



By George Harris

I've noted a couple of problems this winter so we are going to try something new. The first problem is the weather. We like to ride Osage Hills this time of the year, nice and cool and no bugs. The problem is that there is no way to know if the trails will be too wet to ride when the ride schedule is set. The other problem is that someone showing up at the scheduled ride site just to find out that no one else showed up. It

has happen to me several times and it has happened to others when I failed to show up. I would like to try something to see if we can get around those two problems.

Sunday rides will be scheduled just like they have always been. Then every Friday night I will put out an e-mail, through the Pedalers' mountain bike e-mail list, to confirm or changed the scheduled Sunday ride. And I'm asking each of you to let me know, before, Sunday, if you plan to ride on Sunday. Make sure that you are on the Pedalers mountain bike e-mail list if you want to get the Sunday ride updates. This approach should give us the chance to change ride locations if Osage Hills is too wet and should also eliminate anyone showing up for a ride and finding out they are all alone. 🚫

E-mail me at [george-harris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:george-harris@sbcglobal.net)

*George*

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## Oklahoma FreeWheel 2004

### Planning Underway

Bartlesville Pedalers representatives attending the OK FreeWheel 2004 January Planning Meeting at Tina Birch's home in Tulsa 6:30 p.m Monday, January 5, were Ross Snider, Bob and Nickie Hall-Hensley, Joanne Estes and renewing Pedaler member, Michael Smith!

With about 22 in attendance, Tour Director, Libby Stalter began the full agenda with news of the hard-hitting effects of the local economy - the Jefferson Lines will be unable to furnish their Super Sag for that week, so FreeWheel is looking for other sponsors! The good news about this is that Rudy, the Jefferson Lines driver will be able to fulfill his dream of joining the cyclists and pedaling FreeWheel on his own bike!

Libby says a driver will have to be hired, plus the Highway Patrol costs are going up this year. Hence the registration will go up from \$70 to \$80 per adult, which is still a bargain! (Same as Nebraska now?).

The \$10 late charge will be in effect probably May 31st. Tina suggested that she would check to see if the Team Crude bus could do the sagging. She will check at meeting on Friday. It can transport about 18 bikes and 15 people. The trailer holds 12 bikes. FreeWheel would pay for driver and the gas - an estimated set

amount. Local school busses are not available because of insurance situations.

The "Tulsa World" purchased the fruit in the past - about \$2,000 - but is not sponsoring this year. The "Lawton Constitution" will be sponsoring by reporting stories of the ride and it's preparation as well as bicycling along with the group.

Carla and Denise from the ATR (All Terrain Roadies) were there and voiced interest in furnishing rest stops to help on days that towns are scarce! They mentioned Schwann's Trucks and individual pizza connections! Tom Brown requested veggie pizzas on the menu.

Jamie Hanson and Tina and their Girls Scout troop will be returning this year and will set up 2 fruit stops each day.

Libby is still looking for temporary office space for packet stuffing in May, and mailings - needs just 300-500 sq/ft. May 3 to June 10th and to be accessible all hours!

Tom Brown reported that several excellent informational Seminars for all ages are scheduled, beginning January 22, then Feb. 9 and 26, and March 8 and 25th and April 12 and 22nd. These will be a same location as last year - the OSU School of Osteopathy. Oklahoma City will have similar opportunities in their area, too.

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# Pedaler Profile

## John Whipple

I can't remember exactly when I got my first bike but I must have been seven or eight years old. I remember learning to ride on 25th Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma on a one-speed. When I was 12 or 13 I got a really cool one-speed Chech bike. I can't recall the brand, but I was clearly the fastest ride in my neighborhood.

Soon my interests turned to girls and cars. I didn't ride for a few years until I was a junior at the University of Oklahoma. I lived a couple of miles off campus. I bought my first 10-speed bike. Wow! I had no idea what great transportation a bike could be. I rode everywhere until I graduated in 1972 and got a job.

Well, I started work; got married to my first and only wife, Velvet, in 1975 and we started having children. Kyle was born in 1980 and Andria in 1989. I didn't get on a bike again until April 2002 – at age 52 and about 50 pounds over weight. I decided I needed a good exercise program and remembered what fun riding around Norman had been in my college days. I pulled Kyle's old Huffy bike out and started riding on Pathfinder Parkway. I worked up to riding from JoAllyn Lowe Park to Johnstone Park and back. I thought I was really into long distance biking at that point.

I decided my next goal should be to ride on FreeWheel. I saw a Pedaler's write-up in the Examiner-Enterprise and went out for a Tuesday evening ride. I immediately found that there is a lot more to touring than a ride on Pathfinder. It was only a short ride to Ochelata and back, but I was not able to keep up with the group. Rod and George were kind enough to hang with me to make sure I got back. It was obvious some kind of serious training was necessary to do FreeWheel. Kyle decided he would try FreeWheel also. So I bought a new Giant bike and for several weeks we rode a couple of times a week to Ramona and back through Ochelata. That's about a 45-mile ride with a couple of good hills. We also rode to Wann and back a couple of times which we measured at 60 miles.

We rode our first FreeWheel in June 2002 from Snyder, Oklahoma to South Haven, Kansas. It was one of the most difficult things I have ever done, but I had a great time. I met a lot of interesting people. I enjoyed a week together with my 22-year-old son and was not ready for it to be over. After we got back I started checking into recumbent bikes like we saw on the ride. After



*Above, John and his son Kyle reach the end of FreeWheel 2002. Below, John takes a snooze in the shade of a tree.*

trying a couple out, I bought a new Tour Easy and gave Kyle my Giant. We made the ride again last year. I also made the Fall three-day ride at Fairview. We are making plans to go again this year.

The Pedalers are a great group. I don't get to go on the club rides much but I try to do one or two a year and I always see Bob, Dale, Clay, Dawn, Norman, and others on FreeWheel. The monthly newsletter is a great source of local and regional cycling information.

I am inspired by Pedaler Clarence and hope I too can have a long bicycling career. I want to ride many more FreeWheels. I haven't done a Century yet and want to do one. Also, I want to try some other state rides. Some day when I'm not too busy trying to make a living running my small accounting practice, I plan to ride a lot more. See you on the road! 🇺🇸





## Report from the Road Director

After being gone for most of the month of January, I am sitting here writing this article on Saturday morning when I had hoped to be on my way to Johnstone Park for our regular Saturday Morning Ride. It is 36°, foggy and overcast. This brings to mind some questions that came up at the January Board Meeting. “How do you determine whether or not a ride is going to go on in cold weather, and what are the alternative ride procedures?”

Our guideline is that it must be 40° by ride time. If it is not 40° by ride time, we wait until 11:00 and look at it again. After 11:00 you are on your own.

Our problem with this scheme is “which thermometer determines the actual temperature?” I am going to take a stand and say that our “Official Thermometer” is going to be the temperature displayed on our club webpage at 8:00 am or at 10:00 am. (If you wait until 9:00 or 11:00 to check the temperature, you couldn’t make it to Johnstone Park for the ride anyway.) We will continue this practice for the remainder of this winter.

I am going to be sending out a questionnaire soon asking what your preference is for ride times and cold weather procedures for next winter. Please take a few minutes and answer this request. Just remember, if you don’t answer, you’ve forfeited your “bitchin” rights if you don’t like what I come up with.

Enough on that. Now for some stuff I meant to put in last month’s newsletter, but didn’t.

I plan to continue the way we have conducted our rides under Rod’s leadership. I like Rod’s innovation of the “Loop de Loop”, where the faster riders occasionally circle back and ride with us slowpokes. I hope we can continue this practice, but since I normally ride at the back of the pack, don’t look for me to be looping back.

I too plan to continue the shared Ride Leader concept as we did during Rod’s tenure and also in years past for our Saturday morning rides. I plan to start calling for Ride Leaders for our March rides and continue the practice through October. The rest of the year, we’ll do tailwind rides and choose the route and our ride leader on the spot.

For our Tuesday-Thursday evening rides during daylight savings time, I’ll also be looking for ride leaders starting in April and continuing until FreeWheel week. After FreeWheel, we’ll re-examine the need and probably switch to tailwind rides. Speaking of FreeWheel, we will be doing the FreeWheel Training Rides again starting with daylight savings time in April.

At the December board meeting, quite a bit of interest was expressed in having some metric centuries during the year. What I want to try is having a metric century (or a full century) at least once a month. As with our normal Saturday morning rides, we’ll have shorter options available for those who don’t want to make the longer ride or are too pushed for time to do it. We’ll start our metric centuries in April with our re-scheduled Spring Fling. As with the past several years, we’ll have our Firecracker Century to Mohawk Park and back on the 4th of July.

That about wraps it up for this month! Don’t forget to respond to the ride questionnaire when it comes around. Have a safe ride! 🚲

**Bob**

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### News from the Road...

Janis Blanton will be taking a year-long assignment in England around April 1 – in a little town near Birmingham. It will be 2-hour train ride to London & 6-hour train ride to Paris and 25 miles from cycling friends she met on bike tour in Ireland recently. She’s very excited about this opportunity!

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Welcome new members **Rev. Sharon Watkins**, her husband, **Rick Lowery**, and our newest member - **Michael Smith**! That’s a nice way to start off the new year with new folks in the midst!

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The Pedalers would like to extend sincere sympathy to the Jim and Donna Black family for the recent loss of Donna’s father.

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Promoters of the Tulsa Zoo’s Earth Ride plan to focus their energies on the Earth Day celebration and will not be putting the ride on this year. We’ll have to find some other way to get good miles during the early Spring this year! 🚲

## Tulsa Oxley Gate Construction

Fellow Bicycle Riders:

My DayOne Ride on New Year's Day from Mohawk Park was attended by 25 riders and the next day I turned in the key (which I had earlier borrowed) to the main gate of Oxley Nature Center. They had allowed us to unlock the gate and to ride through instead of lifting our bikes over the top. In the past year they had already constructed ride-through gaps at two other gates. Thus, even though the Center was closed, we (with the key) were able to ride down Old Mohawk Boulevard unhindered and enjoy the ambiance of the tree-shrouded road as we pedaled toward Owasso.

I was saying thank you to them for allowing me to borrow the key and was telling how much the Tulsa Bicycle Club members appreciated their modifications to the other gates, when we started a conversation concerning the main gate.

These discussions were amicable and before long

the manager of Oxley had granted me permission to modify the fence on the right hand side (as you enter) of the gate. A few days later my good friend Vic (a fellow rider and a master carpenter) went to Mohawk and proceeded to dig holes, set posts, cut rails and construct a walk-through bicycle gap with a vertically swiveling gate. We trust that some of you will find it useful during the morning or evening hours when the main (car) gate is locked. Please remember to close it after you have passed through.

I hope that sometime during hours when Oxley is open, many of you will stop at their building and say thanks to the nice people there. Also they are asking ride leaders and others to call (918-669-6644) and let them know each time after you individually or your group (of any size, at anytime) has used any part of the Center including just bicycling down their road. This will help them track usage and could be a good thing for all of us. 🚲

*Forwarded via e-mail from Howard at the Tulsa Bicycle Club.*

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Ronny Cookson announced plans for Speedwheel to be in Fairview.

Harold and his bike detailing and other services will be back this year as well as "Grimebusters R Us!" who will also be on hand for bike cleaning.

Al's Bike Shop from Oklahoma City will be sending a truck out to help cyclists on the route. The other four Tulsa Bike Shops will be on hand as well. This should allow one of the shops to be at the campground for the early arrivers needing tune-ups! Tom mentioned that the new bikes are so good now they don't need much maintenance - but riders will need to be wary of Western Oklahoma goatsheads!!!! Closest distance to Tulsa this year will be 2 1/2 hours away - often the shops need to return home to replenish supplies during the week.

Porta-John services at campgrounds are set!

There is a question on the availability of massage therapists being at campground - as Dwight at Williams was laid off.

Libby is open for ideas for t-shirt and jersey. Maybe a t-shirt color other than white this year!

Since Bill from Stillwater wasn't in attendance,

bagging loading schedules will be discussed NEXT meeting!

Tulsa FreeWheel Training rides will begin March 13th. Libby asked for schedule of Bartlesville rides as well. The Bartlesville Pedalers will be sponsoring guest speaker, Libby, at an informational meeting at the Public Library, noon, Tuesday, March 9th. The official FreeWheel training rides usually begin from Johnstone Park the following Saturday morning!

Callers are already wanting to register - although forms are forthcoming! "Bicycling Magazine" may be featuring OKFreeWheel as favorite ride soon!

Regarding the new OBC Calendars - hot off the press - Libby reports she's looking for a new printer - since from the 250 calendars ordered and printed, only 85 were boo-boo free! So the 70 advanced orders were filled and the remaining 15 went fast!

Next monthly planning meeting is Monday, February 2, same time, same place! 🚲

Respectfully submitted,

***Joanne Estes***

Bartlesville Pedaler & Freewheel Volunteer