



Rochester Bicycling Club
50th Anniversary
Years 41 through 50

2007

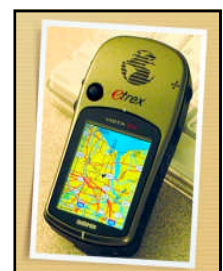
In May of 2007, we held our 40th anniversary party at Cobbs Hill Park. This was where the first rides originated from so it was only fitting. After a ride from there, we had a “dish to pass” dinner. Many of the former members of the club who either left the area or were no longer involved were invited. As part of the celebration throughout the year, the newsletter editor posted articles from the archived newsletters.



There were so many faces that haven't been seen for years, including Bob and Brenda Bundy, Jack Kemp, Bob and Lois DeRoo, Louise Jesserer and Dale LaDue, John DeHority, Chuck and Bonnie Dye, Frank and Kay McGuire, Dave Hurd, Herm Auch and Mel Diamond! That was a great turnout of past members! In fact, there were probably more past members than there were current members.



We also designed a new club jersey and started “ground truthing” our rides to enable folks to be able to follow a cue sheet rather than just looking at a map. This continued for several years and eventually about 75% of the rides had cue sheets. Modern technology has since enhanced our maps and cue sheets.



We started “sweep” rides with a no rider left behind policy in an effort to attract new members and aid them in advancing their ability to do longer, harder rides without having to ride alone.

Our annual “winter” meeting was moved to MCC where we could watch movies on the big screen. The college also has AV equipment which was useful for the advancing media world. Now instead of needing a projector and screen, we could use computers.



Continued >>>

2007

The first Cobbs Hill Cyclocross was held which evolved over the years to include an event on the west side of the city as well as Ellison park on the east side.



A website was established in 2007, most commonly known as a bulletin board and with the rapid advancement of the internet, so we decided to retire the RBC phone “hotline”.

Day rides started to enable members who had free time during the week to be able to get together and ride. They were wildly popular with the retired crowd.

The club received honorable mention and in LAB bicycle friendly community awards program. We continue to strive for a higher designation and in 2012 received Bronze thanks to the advocacy of the club, and the City to make Rochester more bike and pedestrian friendly; just a few more rungs to make it to Platinum! The city painted the first bike lane on East Ave. in 2009 which was the beginning of an ongoing move to promote biking. U of R and RIT were right there with us, receiving honorable mention for their efforts.



R Community Bikes (rcommunitybikes.net) was a result of volunteers at a soup kitchen fixing a few flat tires for their patrons. Once word got around that someone could fix bikes, it kept growing. Thanks to a lot of volunteers, they are running a very successful bike program, giving away hundreds if not thousands of bikes a year to children as well as adults who use them for transportation. Many RBC members are part of this organization.



2008

The Criterium became a three day event known as the Omnium consisting of a Time trial on Friday night, the Criterium on Saturday and a 100 mile road race starting in Honeoye and finishing in Genesee Valley park on Sunday.



In an effort to provide our members with another means of navigating rides, "ground truthing" was initiated. This involved members riding routes armed with voice recorders to note turns and mileages, which were then incorporated into a cue sheet as a supplement to the map.

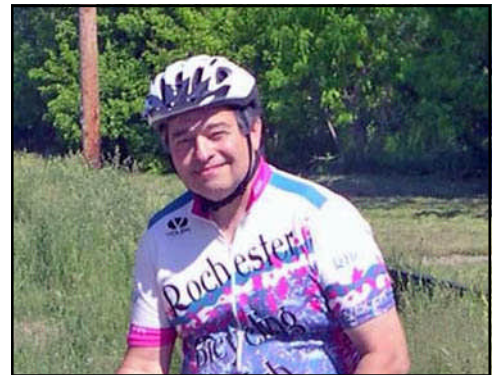


2009

Social Rides were introduced giving folks a chance to hang out and enjoy food and drink with their riding companions after a ride. These were everything from a tailgate party to a “bring a dish to pass” picnic. Many years ago we had weekday evening dinner rides. At one time, you could do a club ride and then meet for dinner afterwards. They lasted for several years until people decided they were eating out five nights a week, plus whatever they might eat for lunch on a weekend ride!



Bary Siegel was given a Life Membership at one of our general meetings. He was greeted with a standing ovation. Bary was club VP followed by two years as President in the early 80's then served a second term as President after recovering from a biking accident which left him with a head injury and a long rehab. Even so, he was also able to be Education chair for 18 years working with Dick Burns and Richard DeSarra.

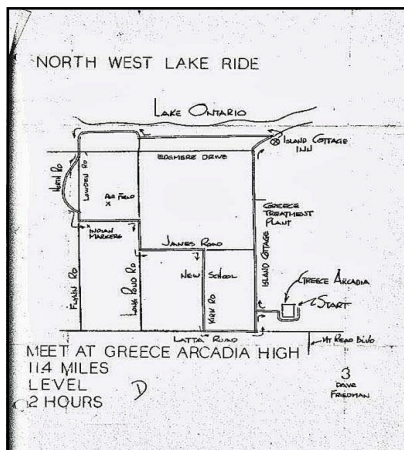


2010

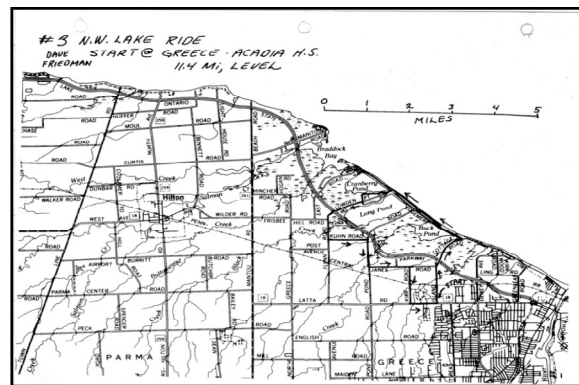
Time trials were moved to Webster Park to Chili but cancelled later in the year for lack of interest. They had been attracting fewer and fewer people over the years.

RBC "Open Houses" were held for new and potential members, to share information about all that the club offered and to answer questions.

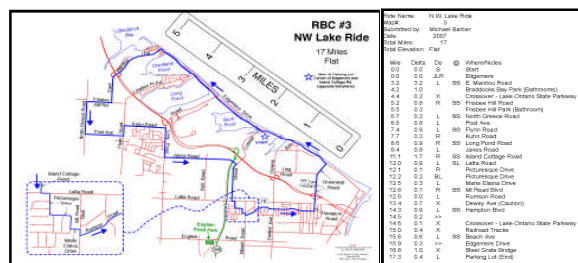
By 2010 we had a official website set up and all the RBC maps were digitized. The old hand drawn maps with lots of character are archived in the club library! How times have changed.



Oldest Hand Drawn



Mid Years



Newest

Technology was advancing. Our maps were improving, enabled by better graphics software. Member Onno Kluyt created an app called "Club App" that allowed members to access the club schedule on iPhones, as well as on desktop. Later the app was available also for use on Android phones. As technology progresses, there is no doubt that these apps will continue to evolve into something even better in the future.

Continued >>>

2010 (cont'd)

The first local chapter of “Ride of Silence” <http://www.rideofsilence.org>, was held in remembrance of fellow bikers injured or killed in cycling accidents. This is an event held annually world wide where riders ride a short course at an uninterrupted funeral procession pace (usually an hour long) in total silence. It’s an emotional experience you never forget. The first ride attracted 18 people as they rode the canal path to Genesee Valley Park and back. They next year the ride was moved to Penfield for more visibility and expectation of growth, and grow it did. The group takes over the entire lane of traffic assisted by motorcycle escorts and the County Sheriff. Over the next few years, attendance pretty much doubled every year.



Mountain biking started making a comeback after dying out in the late 90's. GROC (Genesee Regional Offroad Cyclists) <http://www.victormtbc.com> of which there are many RBC members, gained access to do trail maintenance in Tryon Park. They were so successful, they were granted permission to build trails in West Irondequoit Bay park with the hopes of eventually gaining access to the county parks. They are still waiting and hoping.



2011

The city was rapidly increasing their Bike Lane program. Now in addition to more and more Bike Lanes appearing, we had “sharrows” and in 2012 there were a total of 6 miles of Bike Lanes.



Bike Lanes -This painted white lane line with bike symbols designates a 5 to 6 foot wide travel lane for exclusive use by bicycles. Motor vehicles may cross the bike lane to access adjacent parking spaces or to make a turn, but motor vehicles must yield to bicycle travel in this lane and may not use the bike lane as a travel lane.



Sharrow-A Shared Use Lane Marking Symbol indicates that motor vehicles and bicycles should share the travel lane.



A Cycle Track is a one-way or two-way bicycle only facility that runs adjacent to the street but is *physically* separated from both motorized traffic and the sidewalk.



**Looking to our Future:
Colored Bike Lanes in Portland, OR**

2012

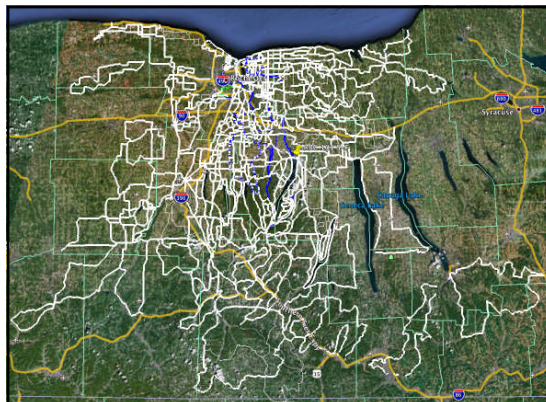
“Conkey Cruisers” started organizing evening rides in lower income urban areas in an attempt to improve overall health with diet and exercise. These rides were extremely popular. They had loaner bikes for their participants to ride. Unfortunately someone broke into their storage and stole all the bikes.

Actually this may have been a blessing in disguise since they wound up getting hundreds of bikes were donated to replace what was stolen and they had to find a bigger shed to house them all. Some RBC members donated bikes to this group.

We celebrated our 45th Anniversary with a beautiful cake.



Brian Managan also produced a map showing all of the RBC Rides in our Map Set.

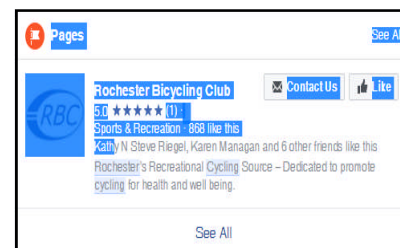


The City of Rochester and Monroe County received the LAB Bicycle Friendly Communities Bronze Award, one of only 2 cities in New York to be honored at the time. The U of R and RIT also reached the Bronze level for Bicycle Friendly Colleges.



2013

The club continues forward in technology. With our new website package, we acquired “state of the art” club membership management software. This simplified the application and renewal process allowed on-line payments and registration for events, and made member database management and communications much easier!



An RBC Facebook page was created, along with a Meetup page. Both were fairly limited in promotion and use until later years.

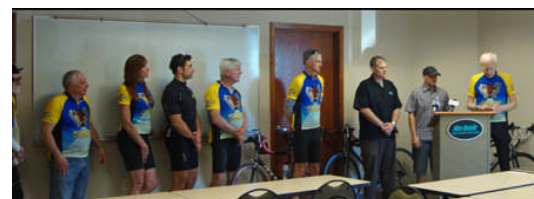
The Challenge Ride was officially named the Andrew Spiller Memorial Challenge Ride and Picnic in an effort to avoid confusion since over the years it had been called a variety of different names.



This was the year Dick Burns stepped down from making maps after doing so for almost 20 years.



The RBC presented Nu-Look Collision with the Bicycle Transportation Community Recognition Award for their promotion of bicycling safety. Their marketing campaign over the past several years featured a series of commercials known as “Safety Shorts.” They provided tips to the community about safe driving, vehicle maintenance and sharing the road with bicyclists.



2014

The first Santa” Ride was started on a December Saturday. Gifts were brought for the residents of Hillside Childrens Center, then riders rode around the City stopping to sing Christmas carols at various sites including INSIDE the bus terminal!



New jerseys were designed and were very popular.

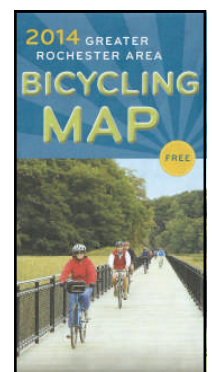


The RBC awarded Harts Local Grocers with the Bicycle Transportation Community Recognition Award for creating a bicycle corral at their business to provide a safe place for shoppers and employees to lock down their bicycles.



Richard DeSarra was given an award for his many years of activism.

He also oversaw the development of the Greater Rochester Area Bicycling Map, utilizing road ratings provided by volunteer members of the RBC.



2015

Member Mingles and New Member Rides were introduced. The mingles are social events offering members a chance to chat "off the bikes." The new member rides were created to welcome new members, with a tailgate after the ride.



Our entire ride schedule was placed on Meetup, and we began to promote this app to communicate about club rides. Now members could see who else was going to rides, ask questions, and post ride related information and updates and photos.



The Rochester Criterium returned after an 8 year hiatus and continues to grow again in popularity.



Awards to Businesses

Many years ago, the club hosted the GEAR (Great EAstern Rally), in 1971, 1980 and 1993. The money earned from the last event was put into an investment fund with the intent to spend on educational/advocacy programs. Finally after almost twenty years, three groups were awarded money for community projects.

- R Community Bikes, was given \$3,000 for tool kits to be given out with their bikes.
- The Rochester Public Library was given \$2,350 to build another book mobile.
- Finger Lakes Health System Agency was given \$3,500 to train LCI instructors but their grant was withdrawn when they were unable to fulfill the requirements.



2016

In 2016, all the RBC paper newsletters were digitized. We produced T-shirts for sale in addition to jerseys. The public market offers benefits to people who ride their bike to the market to shop.

At the March Awards Banquet the RBC awarded Erik Frisch, Rochester Transportation Specialist, the Bicycle Transportation Community Recognition Award for his work on the Rochester Bicycle Master Plan. The plan is the cornerstone for getting Rochester to the LAB's Bicycle Friendly Communities next level.



Technology continues to advance - a decision was made to use Ride With GPS to centralize all our club routes, and the routes were linked to Meetup entries for rides. A decision was made to retire the club app because Meetup allowed additional functionality. Facebook and Meetup were promoted and use of both skyrocketed.

Many thanks to NYBC (New York Bicycling Coalition), RCA (Rochester Cycling Alliance), our own Harvey Botzman and other RBC members for their continued work advocating for bicycles.



Finally, after many years of advocacy from bike groups and Harvey, Amtrak is allowing unboxed bikes on some of their trains with the plan to eventually allow them on all trains.



2017

We began the year working on ways to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We dug up old photos, maps, and newsletters and posted on Facebook for “Throwback Thursdays”. Clips from older newsletters were rerun in this year’s issues. Rides at the Challenge Ride and Picnic were 50 miles and 50K along with a 50 foot slow race. We had celebratory cakes at the Kickoff Dinner and the Andrew Spiller Challenge Ride, and a big bash was planned.

RBC bought a Ride With GPS club account which gave our members premium features - e.g. audible turn by turn navigation on our cell phones. There’s a lot less stopping and looking at maps now!

Bike lockers were installed in various parking garages around the city.



The board voted to make Jerry Vogt a Life Member of the RBC. He is a long-term member and was very active in our club rides, including leading many of our day rides. He suffered a serious accident in October 2016 and is now recovering.



The Zagster bike program was started in Rochester and is off to a huge success.

Zagster makes it easy to grab a bike and go where you want, when you want.

It’s a fast and convenient way to reach nearby destinations. It’s the freedom to explore and discover new places. And it’s an exhilarating way to move yourself.



Continued >>>

2017 (cont'd)

After celebrating all year, it is finally time for the big "PARTY" for all club members at Glendoveer's Party House. This will be a combination anniversary party and volunteer dinner with volunteers getting in free.

We will start off the evening by having a running photo display of club photos from the last 50 years. A sequel for the last decade has been created to accompany the 40th anniversary booklet, and this will be sent electronically to all members. There will be a digital display shown at the party, along with hard copies of both booklets.

Members will also be able to view a video display of vintage bikes from the 50's era along with club jerseys, patches and assorted memorabilia from the club library. Attendees will have a chance to mingle and sign up to lead rides for the 2018 season with music from the 70's playing in the background. There will be a 5 and 10 table where you can bring your old jerseys and either swap or sell with other folks.



We'll have hors d'oeuvres and a fantastic buffet dinner, followed by a very special 50th anniversary cake and other desserts. Entertainment will include a Cycling Trivia Game and an Ugly Jersey Contest - both with prizes!



A big thanks to the committee who worked on this event. Kathy Riegel, Steve Riegel, Richard DeSarra, Karen Managan, Brad Jensen and Mark Robbins. A lot of planning went in to making this night special but the biggest thanks is to ALL our RBC volunteers who make this club a success year after year!



New List Of Life Members

Jan Bares

Sigrid Burns

Marilyn Colby

Meg Colgan

Richard DeSarra

Elizabeth Gruner

Kurt H. Kreckel

Carolyn & Art Kriesen

Kay Mcquire

Clifford Milner

Ruth & Rich Morrill

Gene Oliver

Margie Sabath

Bary Siegel

Stan Smiley

Milan Stolka

Jerry Vogt

Hank & Carol Walck

Stan & Elaine Zack

Louis J. Zerdoner

Leon & Sarisa Zoghlin

Kudos!

Thanks to the many members who scanned their memories, helping to supply content for this publication.

Thanks, especially to Katy Riegel, Karen Managan and Brad Jensen who performed many hours performing a thorough Newsletter scan to nail down the timelines.

These three also performed exhaustive proof reading and re-wording of this document.