

the **Wheel**

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Letter from the Chair



Hello RBC Members and Friends!

I hope everyone is recovered fully from the holiday season and hard at work with your personal winter training regime. Personally, I am proud of my 13-week Zwift streak but even more impressed with the Freezing Saddles crowd that has been braving the snow and wind these past few weeks. Happily, spring is just around the corner, and soon we will be back to the Club's weekly ride routines. As part of the preparation for the new riding season, don't forget to sign the [annual liability waiver](#) which is part of the club's insurance requirements. Each member is required to sign every year, and doing so insures protection under the club's insurance policies. As an aside, if you are interested in additional medical coverage for cycling, I recently signed up for [USA Cycling](#) ride membership, which includes medical coverage any time you are on a bicycle.

Your board has been hard at work this month with a variety of initiatives that, while not always glamorous, will strengthen the club and help us continue to grow and evolve with the region and our sport. An initiative you may notice is we now have our own @restonbikeclub.org email domain. This is part of a transition to use Google for Business rather than personal email accounts. This allows the club to retain and control its data and records, smoothing the transition as new volunteers take on individual projects and responsibilities. Another change to look for in the coming months is a revamp of both our public-facing website and the backend Wild Apricot platform that supports our membership and event functions. I am grateful for board member Andrew Schaaf to take lead on this project - the first comprehensive refresh of the tools that support the club since we moved away from pen and paper about ten years ago. I appreciate the support of the board for funding this effort. A third initiative to keep an eye out in the coming weeks is an update on the club riding kit order. Danny B is taking long pulls to get this project to the finish line - look for additional updates in a separate email soon.

Finally, I want to note the retirement of local resident and friend of RBC [Joe Dombrowski](#). Raised in Marshall, Va, Joe cut his teeth in the local race scene, winning the Jefferson Cup in Charlottesville, before going on to spend a decade in the World Tour and completing a dozen Grand Tours, with a stage win in the Giro. Joe spoke at a RBC Annual Meeting when he was with Team Sky, and we would love to have him back again in the future. Congratulations, Joe, on a successful career at the pinnacle of the sport!

Cheers,

Chris

[Link to 2024 Liability Waiver](#)

If you plan to ride with RBC this year at any time (including the Century), you will need to sign the 2024 Liability Waiver. You only need to do this ONCE each the year.

41st Ken Thompson Reston Century Update

Last month I was telling you about some of the permits we need for our century ride. It's a lot of permits! One question on many of those permit applications is "what routes" will we be using? Deciding on the century route takes some time and effort. We are starting that process now.

If you remember, last year's 40th anniversary century was done counterclockwise so we had the big climbs earlier in the ride rather than later. We received a lot of positive feedback from riders saying they liked that. We also got some comments suggesting less mileage on the W&OD Trail. Hmmm, where did I see that suggested someplace else? Oh yeah, on the W&OD application for our century! Trail management is asking us to have as few miles as possible on the trail as well. But somehow we need to cross route 28, and all the interchanges that cross 28 are not very bike friendly. What to do....?

Another consideration is identifying those roads that *are* bike friendly. Things like bike lanes, wide shoulders, signals, visibility, signage, and posted speed limits, to name a few. Then: do those roads take us where we want to go? We want to go to our four rest stops as it is quite difficult to find a new rest stop location. Another place we want to go is our two traditional climbs, Taylorstown and Stumptown.

So, the general framework for our century route is:

- Start and finish at Reston Town Center.
- Cross route 28 twice.
- Minimize miles on the W&OD trail.\
- Use bike-friendly roads.
- Use our four established rest stops.
- Include Taylorstown and Stumptown hills.

Then we must consider road construction and repaving operations that could begin just before the start of the ride and impact our route. As you can imagine, it's an exercise in compromise. Creating the best century route that we can is a task I underestimated.

RBC Bike Cases - New Coordinator!

One of the most popular benefits for club members is free use of bike cases when traveling. The duties include tracking who has which case, and either meeting the borrower at our storage locker or keeping a case or two at your residence. For the last six years, James K had managed this process. We now have a new Bike Case Coordinator - JC Chamberlain. Here is his contact information:

global.chamberlain@gmail.com

703-597-4029

Major Taylor Documentary



Major Taylor Association, Inc.

PBS will broadcast a new documentary, "[Major Taylor: Champion of the Race,](#)" at 8 p.m. EST Monday, **Feb. 26**, on WTIU in Bloomington, Ind. The film will be livestreamed nationwide at the same time via the [PBS App](#) and [YouTube](#), and will be available to stream on demand after that.

The one-hour film explores the life and legacy of the fastest bicycle rider in the world at the turn of the 20th century, featuring interviews with noted historians, athletes, and social justice advocates. It is narrated by acclaimed mezzo-soprano opera singer **Marietta Simpson**, with Grammy-winning jazz musician **Branford Marsalis** reading passages from Major Taylor's autobiography. Original music is composed and performed by Emmy-winning musical director **Tyron Cooper**.

For details, visit wtiu.org/majortaylor.

National Bike Summit



The [2024 National Bike Summit](#) will take place in-person in Washington, D.C. from Tuesday, March 19, through Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Register to attend and hear from awesome speakers including:

Erick Cedeño, the Bicycle Nomad

Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary of Transportation

Shailen Bhatt (invited), Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration

This year, the Summit will begin on Tuesday, March 19, with mobile workshops followed by an opening plenary and keynote, then other programming and an evening awards reception. On Wednesday, March 20, participants will take part in Lobby Day to meet with their representatives in Congress. Conference plenaries and programming will resume on the morning of Thursday, March 21, with additional breakout sessions, and plenary speakers.

Members of Major Taylor Alliance and Black Girls Do Bike - affiliated bike clubs enjoy special scholarship pricing, thanks to our good friends at SRAM. Email kevin@bikeleague.org for details.

Welcome New Members!

Roger R

Club Store

Show off your RBC pride by purchasing RBC gear. Add to your beer fridge magnet collection. Adorn your car-mounted bike rack with a sticker. Have socks that show the club logo.

Click on [here](#) to visit the RBC Store.

- Socks are \$7.50
- Stickers are \$2 each
- Magnets are \$3 each
- Order together and save!

Free delivery within 10 miles of Reston.

Club Events Calendar

The winter riding season is on! Below are some of the rides that will be on the schedule:

- Tuesday & Thursday - 5's @ 4
- Wednesday - Ramble Rides (different location every week)
- Saturday - A/B and C Rides from Art Space in Herndon
- Sunday - Tour Rides (different location every week)

New rides will be added once the full season launches. We also need ride leaders for the group rides next season. Please [email](#) the club if you are interested in helping out.

If you don't see a ride you'd like to do, reach out to us and we'll support you in setting it up!

Click the "Events Calendar" link above or download the Wild Apricot For Members app (links below) for updated events listings. Login credentials for the app are the same as for the website.



Local-ish Events

Virginia Cycling Resources

Check out this link for [Cycling Virginia](#)! 2024 is the 6th year for this website and with 70,000 unique visitors. It is your one stop resource for information on cycling in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[Virginia is for Lovers](#)

[Bicycling in Virginia \(VDOT\)](#)

[Virginia Bicycling Federation](#)

[Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling](#)

Chain Links

- [Who We Are](#)
- [Membership Info](#)
- [RBC Ride with GPS](#)
- [Borrow a Travel Case](#) (Members Only)
- [Board Meeting Minutes](#) (Members Only)
- [Past Issue of *the Wheel*](#)
- [RBC Insurance Information](#)

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