

Sacramento Wheelmen Club Newsletter



2024, Issue 1

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Message from Steve Wetzel, New Club President for 2024

As your new president for 2024 I would like to thank Tom Adams for all his help so far in the transition and to also acknowledge the great job he did running the club the last few years. Thank you, Tom!

We are in the club because we like to ride, and our club offers so many choices to ride. I would like to encourage everyone to push yourselves and get out for a group ride. From one day rides to multiple day rides - enjoy the comradery and as a start get to know your fellow riders who ride similar to your riding capabilities. Try something new by riding in areas you have not ridden before by looking at the ride options on the Ride Calendar and pick a ride with a GPS route that is new for you. Attend the ride and get to know the ride leader and another club member on the ride.

The club handed out the mileage shirts at the banquet last month. This is one thing fairly unique to our club that I enjoy. I recently was digging through my t-shirt drawer looking at the t shirts saved from different centuries, triathlons, and clubs and I found my first Wheelmen mileage shirt. It is a 500+ mile shirt, the minimum miles to “qualify” for a shirt, from 2001. I had been in the club a few years back then but didn’t ride much with the club because I was focused on triathlons. Today I mostly do the midweek coffee rides and Zodiacs that I can work around my schedule. Last year I did my first Italy Wheelmen zodiac and really enjoyed seeing Italy and getting to know the other members. It was a great time. So, whatever floats your boat, get out and do it and have fun!

Banquet Report

FINLEY AND LASSWELL RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS AT BANQUET

Linda Lasswell and Debbie Finley received the presidential awards at the 2024 Sacramento Wheelmen Awards Banquet, an annual affair which celebrates the achievements and contributions of club members.

The banquet was held at the Dante Club on Jan. 20. A raffle preceded by mileage group photos was followed by a buffet-style dinner, more raffle prize give-aways, and then the awards ceremonies. Pete Rabbon was the event photographer. His mileage group photos along with those he took during the awards ceremony can be seen on the club's private Facebook Group account: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SacWheelmen>

At the top of the mileage accomplishments for 2022-23, Linda Lasswell had the most club miles among female members, 7,016 from December 1, 2022 to November 31, 2023. Ken Bell was the top mileage guy with 8,713 club miles, and Bob Storelli and Mabel Wong walked away with another plaque for the most tandem miles for those 12 months, 4,284. Tom Adams accumulated the most miles as a ride leader when adding up all the miles of all the members on his club rides during that time. It came to 51,832 miles.

Debra Lebish and Debbie Finley teamed up to give away raffle prizes before and after dinner. This time, the raffle prizes were displayed from the beginning of the event. Each guest received two raffle tickets. After being split in two, the raffle tickets were placed in containers (paper bags) set before each raffle prize. It was only possible to be at play in two of the five raffle prizes.

Mileage photo session leaders gathered their respective groups with a minimum of fuss and chaos. Each table went to the self-serve buffet one at a time in sequence. From 6 pm until the awards ceremony began, a PowerPoint slide show of photographs reminded us of where we rode together in 2023.

Mabel Wong recognized all 32 of the members who led rides in 2023, some for the first time. Gift cards were given in appreciation. Dale Johnson led the most rides, 109. Zodiac and Tour ride leaders were also singled out.

In his awards presentation, Tom Adams began by thanking those in attendance for what they have done for the club, now in year 51 of its existence. The club was founded in 1974. The 2022-23 mileage shirts include "50th Anniversary" lettering to commemorate the achievement. Club rides during the week in the Sacramento Area, tours, zodiacs, the annual banquet and picnic, and the cycling related events we volunteer for as a club have the accumulative effect of keeping the club strong, relevant, and rewarding.

For 2023, Linda Lasswell was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. The trial of the young man who ended Mike Dodson's life finally was ended in 2023. Linda kept us as well as members of other organizations up to date and encouraged us to show up at the proceedings. She started leading rides in 2023 (before she retired). She took a club leadership role with regard to bike safety. She, along with others, organized the next European Tour, and she agreed to be nominated as the next vice president of the club.

Our on-going club secretary, Debbie Finley, was named Sacramento Wheelmen of the Year for 2023 due to her outstanding contributions to the club over a number of years. In 2023, she organized the club's participation in the American River Parkway Foundation's Spring Clean event, and she again was our May is Bike Month representative, cheer leader, and trouble shooter. She sorted, bagged, labeled and distributed the 2022-23 mileage shirts. Most importantly, she makes people feel included by just being herself.



Lovely Linda Lasswell



Delightful Debbie Finley

Dan Anglim made all the arrangements with the Dante Club again. Michael and Annemarie Goble registered guests as they entered the venue. Bob Evans was the club's representative with the mileage shirt company. Sandy Yarrow designed the mileage shirts. Sixty-four people, members and guests, attended the banquet.

Tom Adams thanked Mabel Wong for her excellence as the club's ride director. Mabel has switched places with the newly elected ride director, Caron McMillan. Mabel takes over membership duties from Caron, who was also recognized for her excellence in that position. Debra Lebish was recognized for her many contributions while serving as club vice president over the last three years, and Linda Lasswell was welcomed into that role going forward. Bob Storelli got a shout out for continuing as our treasurer. Newly elected President Steve Wetzels received praise from the out-going president.



At the conclusion of the evening, two longtime members were recognized. The Executive Board conferred a lifetime membership on Dick Shultz in 2023. He was at the banquet on Jan. 20, 2024, and was recognized. The Board surprised Dale Johnson, also in attendance, by conferring a lifetime membership on him as well. The Executive Board is allowed to confer a lifetime membership on one member per year. Dale is the 2024 honoree.

Thank you to everyone that made this year's banquet a huge success and congratulations to our amazing members!

Event Calendar Report

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY SPRING CLEAN UP

Saturday, April 13 - The American River Parkway Foundation invited our club members to participate in their Spring Cleanup event taking place on Saturday, April 13th from 9 am to noon. The Clean Up directly supports the Club's mission to support cycling in our community and helps our ecosystem too! All you need to do is to register and then show up!! Visit our website for more information <https://sacwheelmen.wildapricot.org/Events> or reach out to Debbie Finley dfinley@dcn.org. This is a family friendly event – please feel free to bring friends, kids, and grandchildren!

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next Club Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Zoom information will be sent via Groups.IO closer to the meeting date.

NOV. 15 CLUB MEETING REPORT – FUND RAISING IDEAS AND NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Following up on the club's deficit budget disclosure in October, those in attendance at the Club Zoom meeting on Nov. 15 discussed possibilities for increasing club income. We also elected the 2024 Executive Board, discussed the possibility of a new Wheelmen kit design, and previewed the 2024 Oregon Tour in more detail.

Tom Pon led the fundraising discussion. He is suggesting raising the yearly club membership dues from \$20 to \$25 and also raising the Annual Awards Banquet copayment by \$5. A quick calculation based on our current membership and past attendance at the banquet adds up to \$1,750 in increased income. Last year's budget deficit was \$1,462. There were no objections to Pon's suggestions. Safely investing a percentage of our reserve and setting up a "planned giving" or legacy process for the club were also suggested. Although the club has a healthy reserve going into the 2023-24 fiscal year (about \$73,000), there is widespread concern about continued deficit spending, projected to be as high as \$4,470 this fiscal year.

Serving on the next Executive Board will be Steve Wetzel, president; Linda Lasswell, vice president; Bob Storelli, treasurer; Debbie Finley, secretary; and Caron McMillan, ride director. These candidates, nominated in October, ran unopposed and were elected unanimously.

Sandy Yarrow led the discussion on the possibility of a new club kit design and asked for feedback. She does recommend that a new kit design retain some key elements of the current design which has identified Wheelmen on the road for years. Every year, the club opens a custom account with a manufacturer so that members can order

Wheelmen apparel directly from the manufacturer's web site. That is the plan for 2024. A new kit design? A new supplier? We shall see.

Tim Koch presented an Oregon Tour history lesson which concluded with a description of the next Oregon Tour. In the beginning, we pitched tents in campgrounds. Later, we added school grounds to the mix. Following that we started mixing camping with hotels. Next year, as the year before, it will be an all-hotel tour, but instead of moving from one hotel to another day after day, those on the 2024 tour will be staying in only two hotels for the duration of the tour: first in Grants Pass and then in Ashland. After traveling to Grants Pass on May 14, the tour begins on May 15. The last day of riding will be May 21. The new format lends itself to multiple routes and the possibility of driving to a start. All routes will return to the start. All participants will be expected to transfer their own luggage from Grants Pass to Ashland. Details are still being worked out. For the latest information, check the club's Tour and Zodiac Calendar on the web site. In other business at the Nov. 15 Zoom meeting, Lesli Pletcher asked Wheelmen to volunteer for the 2023 Crocker Holiday Artisan Market, a fund raiser for the Crocker Art Museum and the Creative Arts League of Sacramento. It ran from Nov. 24 to Nov. 26. Debra Lebish also called for more Wheelmen volunteers for the California International Marathon on Dec. 3, 2024. At the conclusion of the race, participants need to change out of their running clothes and into something dry and warm. We continue to be in charge of distributing that all important post-ride clothing. Steve Forsberg filled us in on the Paso Robles Zodiac. Participants arrived on Oct. 16 and rode from Oct. 17 through Oct. 20. We're going back in October of 2024. Check out the 2024 Tour and Zodiac calendar for the latest details.

Total membership as of Nov. 15, 2023, stood at 336 members. That included six new members, two pending new members, and one returning member since the October 2023 meeting. Caron McMillan also presented graphs comparing our annual club mileage to the number of club mileage riders. In 2020, we had 154 members reporting mileage; by October of this year, the number of riders reporting mileage increased to 207. Collectively, however, we are not putting in as many total club miles as we used to. Caron concluded her presentation with the announcement that the Executive Board has conferred lifetime membership to Dick Shultz in recognition for his outstanding contributions to the Sacramento Wheelmen.

Social Media Report

Please continue to RSVP for rides that are posted on Meetup. Rides that have a high number of RSVPs are well-attended by members and future members.

As of 2/22/2024 we have 419 members in our Sacramento Wheelmen Cycling Meetup Group - Wow!

Travel Report

ZODIACS – Domestic Cycling Trips

Santa Cruz Zodiac

Monday – Thursday, March 25 – 28, 2024

Santa Cruz in March is perfect for cycling – the weather is pleasantly cool (but not cold!) and roads are free of summer beach tourists. The anti-luxury Hotel Solares is again the tour's home base and rides will start and end from here, as well as Happy Hour(ssss). Rooms are \$110.00 per night plus tax and every room will have two beds. Join your friends for some epic riding and good times – don't miss this Zodiac! Get more information about the trip here:

<https://sacwheelmen.wildapricot.org/Tours-Zodiacs/>.



Yellow Spandex on the pier.



Big Daddy Gary White leading the group out for the day's ride.

TOURS – International Cycling Trips

2024 Europe Tour

September 10 – 30, 2024

This year's European Tour is headed to the French Pyrenees and the Basque area of Spain, a nice change of pace from the suffering experienced in Italy (lol). Seriously though, the terrains between these two regions are very different and each will be beautiful. The Pyrenees will challenge the legs of most and the Basque plains are to be appreciated by all. Reach out to Trip Leader Linda Lasswell for more information: swvpl@gmail.com.

2025 New Zealand Tour

By popular demand we are planning another small group trip to the South Island of New Zealand!! The Itinerary is still tentative but draft dates are March 30 – April 16 2025. Reach out to Ride Leader Debra Lebish if you are interested in going.

Miscellaneous

VOLUNTEERING – Wheelmen Make a Difference!

Run To Feed the Hungry 2023

It was a record setting year for the 30th annual Run to Feed the Hungry. Over 31,000 people registered for the event that raised over a million dollars for the Sacramento Food Bank. The number of participants and the amount of money raised this year are both all-time highs for this event. The Sacramento Wheelmen have supported this event for many years with the help of numerous club members volunteering as course marshals. This is another example of how the Sacramento Wheelmen support our community. The volunteers for the Wheelmen were Bob Mandelson, Bruce Nixon, Art Oliver, Linda Lasswell, Nick Hourigan, Mike Kersten, Hal Baker, Jeanne Leland, Bud Leland, and Fred Turner.

California International Marathon

Wheelies showed up in force to support the athletes participating in the recent California International Marathon. A big thank you to the 25 Sacramento Wheelmen that volunteered at the gear check/pickup station at the race finish line!

Art Oliver	Harold Alves	Ron Davies
Barbara Bravos	Jean Pon	Sandra Yarrow
Bob Storelli	Karen Lehman	Sheila Forsberg
Carrie Sundahl	Lela Bayley	Sue Johnston
Chris Drews	Lelani Alves	Tom Adams
Cliff Marr	Linda Lasswell	Tom Pon
David Clifton	Mabel Wong	Vince McDonald
Debra Lebish	Marsha Roberts	
Eric Birum	Michael Goble	

It was a thrill to be so close to the action and give back to the community. Please set your calendar for the first Sunday in December to volunteer at the 2024 CIM.