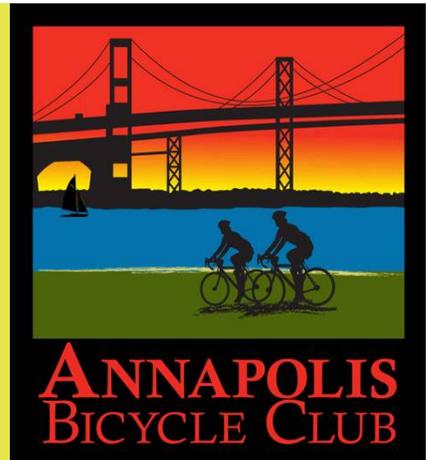


Tailwind Express

February/March 2014

The club with a place for every pace.

annapolisbicycleclub.org



Election Results and Announcements from the ABC Annual Meeting

The ABC incumbent club officers were reelected in a landslide. Congratulations to Jim Black, Jim Van Horn, and James Edison for serving another year as the club's President, Vice President, and Treasurer, respectively. ABC membership has increased to over 150 members at the time of the annual meeting. As of February 14th 2014 our membership count was 165.

Club finances remain consistent with previous years with approximately \$2,100 balance as of January 12th. Our Treasurer will issue a financial report in June, once renewals have been received and most of the year's expenses have been paid.

In 2013 the Annapolis Bicycle Club made a \$100 donation to Hospice of the Chesapeake, a local organization.

Projects in the works include creation of a questionnaire for club members to provide us with feedback on the club's activities and mission, and the writing of a set of by-laws. We plan to restore ABC's status as a Maryland corporation and register a copyright for the club logo.

ABC News

- We'll be starting our club rides an hour earlier at 9:00 beginning in April, as well as hopefully saying adios to that old man Winter dude, who has way overstayed his welcome.
- Our *Third Thursday Get Together* takes place this week on Thursday March 20th, beginning at 6:30pm, at Houlihan's in Crofton/Gambrills.

ABC Officers

President: Jim Black

Vice President: Jim Van Horn

abc_pres@annapolisbicycleclub.org

Treasurer: James Edison

treasurer@annapolisbicycleclub.org

**Web Masters: Jim Black,
Joe Hutchins**

webmaster@annapolisbicycleclub.org

**Tailwind Editors: Mark Hanna,
David Bliel**

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ABC Ride Classification Table

Classification	Pace on rolling hills (typical ABC ride)	Pace on flat terrain	Rest Stops
CC	12-14 MPH	14-16 MPH	At least one stop
B	14-16 MPH	16-18 MPH	On stop at midpoint
BB	16-18 MPH	18-20 MPH	On stop at midpoint
A	18-20 MPH	20-22 MPH	One stop at most



**Bicycle Maintenance Workshop
January 19, 2014**

**Larry Dieren
Champion Cycle & Fitness**



Several ABC members attended Larry Dieren's Bicycle Maintenance Workshop in January. Larry went over basic bicycle maintenance, including chain maintenance, tire repair, and cleaning and lubing your bike.

Bike Law Presentation - March 6, 2014 - Maryland Hall



Peter Wilborn, Esq.
Bike Law
Derfner Altman & Wilborn



ABC Members



James Black
President
Annapolis Bicycle Club

By Jim Black

On Thursday evening March 6th, Peter Wilborn of Bike Law gave a fascinating and detailed presentation to ABC members on the legal challenges faced by cyclists who are involved in accidents with motor vehicles. Peter is the founder of Bike Law, a law firm in Charleston, South Carolina specializing in the issues faced by cyclists. Peter is a litigator for Derfner Altman & Wilborn (DAW), focusing on cases of serious injury, labor law and civil rights. An advocate for pedestrians and bicyclists, he has represented cyclists and their families in more than 200 accident cases.

My first meeting with Peter was by phone when I called Bike Law to get advice on matters of club insurance and corporate status. I was shocked – pleasantly shocked – to find out that counsel to cycling clubs was performed pro bono. Later I learned that his firm has received an award from the ABA for their Pro Bono work. Peter and the other attorneys and staff at Bike Law are on a mission to improve laws, legal practices, and to change negative or inaccurate attitudes by law enforcement officers toward cyclists.

We were totally absorbed for nearly two hours as Peter spoke and fielded questions from the audience. A veteran of many bike club gatherings, he quickly assessed the status of our club and addressed the key issues facing us at this time. Peter described his firm's educational efforts to change law enforcement officers, at time showing hints of anger toward the injustices that can result from our existing enforcement and judicial system.

Bike Law Presentation (cont.)

Some highlights from Peter Wilborn's presentation:

- Report all incidents by calling 911 and get the police to write a report, no matter how minor the incident may seem at the time. Get the name and contact information of any witnesses. More information: <http://www.bikelaw.com/legal/advice.html> and <http://www.bikelaw.com/legal/lessons.html>
- Uninsured Motorist (UM) and Underinsured Motorist (UIM) insurance can provide coverage to cyclists in the event of hit and run accident. He recommended increasing UM/UIM coverage – it is inexpensive.
- In the event of an accident on your own (for example: you crash your bike, no motor vehicle involved) homeowner insurance coverage applies.
- Peter discouraged no-drop rides because the riders tend to get spread out along the road, becoming difficult for cars to pass. Ideally, club riders should stay in pacelines or groups of no more than 6 or 8. Riders who are slower and/or not experienced in pacelines should ride on trails until they have the skills and speed to stay with a group.
- Peter advised us as a club to get involved in cycling advocacy. Since we already work with a kindred advocacy organization, BikeAAA, he recommended making membership in that organization automatic for ABC members.

I encourage all club members to consult with Bike Law on any legal matter that involves cycling. Having an attorney with specialized cycling experience on your side can make all the difference in the outcome of an accident investigation or trial.

Cycle Safely,

Jim Black
President
Annapolis Bicycle Club

Florida's premier rail trails

Florida has developed some prime rail trails and is expanding some of them. The economic development provided by cyclists visiting these trails has encouraged their maintenance and expansion. For riders looking for a pleasant way to avoid Maryland winter here are a few trails to consider.

West Orange trail, currently 22 miles of paved road free biking curving around Lake Apopka. The northern end is currently being extended to Orlando. Trail overpasses carry cyclists across any major roads. Twelve miles of this trail have a parallel unpaved horse trail. Train stations now serve as rest rooms and picnic areas (plus gift shops of course).



A re-purposed railroad station on the West Orange trail.

Gen. James Van Fleet trail, the state's most rural trail is 29.2 miles of near ruler straight paved trail, a favorite for time trial riders. But if you are intent on setting speed records you will miss the wildlife because the trail runs through the Green Swamp and Richloam wildlife management areas. Alligators are frequently present and may occasionally be sunning themselves on the trail. I rode it in the for and drizzle. Never saw an alligator.



Riding the James Van Fleet trail.

Florida's premier rail trails (cont.)

Withlacoochee State Trail from Gulf Junction to Owensboro, this paved trail is 12 feet wide, 46 miles long with only three at grade road crossings. There are bike shops, places to eat and one motel directly adjacent to the trail. The motel has locked bike storage and is trail rider oriented. Much of the trail parallels the Withlacoochee State Scenic river a favorite with kayakers and canoeists. The trail runs through state forests and wildlife areas.



The Withlacoochee river

Pinellas Trail is more urban, running from Tarpon Springs along the Gulf Coast to St. Petersburg. Eleven overpasses carry bike traffic across all highways. There are a few grade level crossings of minor roads. The Pinellas trail is fully paved and 34 miles in length. Food and rest rooms are directly accessible from the trail.



Road crossing – no traffic.



Tarpon Springs, the trail starts here.

ABC Winter Party - January 12, 2014 - Poncho N' Pepes Mexican Grill



ABC Winter Party - January 12, 2014 - Poncho N' Pepes Mexican Grill



**Third Thursday Get Together (TTGT)
February 20, 2014 - Paul's Homewood Cafe**



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