

# Tailwind

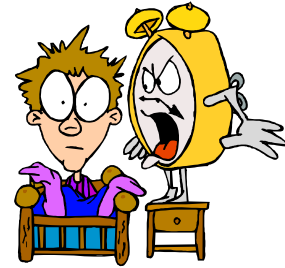


“George Washington rode here”

March 2008

## Saturday Rides Start at 9 AM in March!

Starting this Saturday, 1 March, the Davidsonville Park and Ride rides will start at 9 AM. The earlier sunrise makes for better light and warmer mornings, so we'll start a little earlier so as to beat the traffic that builds up later in the day. If you forget and show up at 10 AM, have a nice ride, but you'll probably be riding alone!



## Ride Leaders Needed

A special ride once a month would give us a chance to see some new territory – but we need ride leaders to check out the territory and help verify the course and locate parking. There are many rides we know about but haven't done lately – Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Cambridge/Hooper's Island, Paxtuxent River Park in P.G. County, and many others. Most have cue sheets readily available, all that's needed is someone to check them out and be sure the routes are still practicable. Help is available from the club to prepare cue sheets and maps. **Contact Jim Claffey at [jclaffey@erols.com](mailto:jclaffey@erols.com)** if you're willing to help out.

## New Laws for Bicyclists

Most important is *HB 667, Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence*. Maryland's standard for cases of reckless driving is currently very high – so high that it is *very* difficult to hold a driver responsible for killing a bicyclist. This law would help remedy the situation by giving a fine and jail sentence to someone **causing the death of another by driving in a “Criminally negligent manner”**, which is a lower standard, and hence easier to obtain a conviction. The bill will be before the House Judiciary Committee, and Anne Arundel Members are:

Benjamin S. Barnes, [ben.barnes@house.state.md.us](mailto:ben.barnes@house.state.md.us) John H. Dwyer, Jr, [don.dwyer@house.state.md.us](mailto:don.dwyer@house.state.md.us)  
Tony McConkey, [tony.mcconkey@house.state.md.us](mailto:tony.mcconkey@house.state.md.us)

Two bills under consideration in the Maryland House Environmental Matters Committee that, if passed, could make our rides much easier and safer. Two important ones are *HB 143 – Bicycle Safety*, requiring a driver to pass a bicyclist at a **safe distance of at least 3 feet**; and *HB 875 – Bicycle and Pedestrian access on Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) toll facilities*. This one removes the state's prohibition on bicyclists and pedestrians on MdTA bridges and tunnels. Removal of this prohibition would **allow future bridges to be fitted with bicycle** and pedestrian access facilities. An email to Anne Arundel representatives on the committee may help – they are:

Chairman Maggie McIntosh [maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us](mailto:maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us)

Anne Arundel members on the committee:

Virginia P. Clagett: [virginia.clagett@house.state.md.us](mailto:virginia.clagett@house.state.md.us) Barbara Frush: [barbara.frush@house.state.md.us](mailto:barbara.frush@house.state.md.us)  
Pamela G. Beidle: [pamela.beidle@house.state.md.us](mailto:pamela.beidle@house.state.md.us)

**Details on some of the laws under consideration are available at**  
<http://www.baltimorespokes.org/index.php?topic=BikeLaws>

# *Tailwind*

## **Bikes in Annapolis**

The Annapolis Bicycle Transportation Committee will recommend improvements for cyclists in Annapolis. Listed below are some items that the Committee *may* recommend. Everything is still under discussion, with a report to be filed with Mayor Moyer and other officials in a month or two. If you don't see something you consider important, contact Jim Claffey at [jclaffey@erols.com](mailto:jclaffey@erols.com) More info on this committee is available at [http://www.annapolis.gov/display\\_ann.asp?ID=12221](http://www.annapolis.gov/display_ann.asp?ID=12221)

### *Connections between the following points:*

Poplar Trail to the Spa Creek Trail via Smithville or South Cherry Grove/McGukian  
South Cherry Grove to Ritchie Court and beyond  
Loew's Hotel service road to downtown, paralleling West Street  
Victor Parkway to Georgetown Road  
Cypress Avenue link to Quiet Waters Park  
Bay Ridge Bypass  
Poplar Trail to Jennifer Road  
Lincoln Drive to Bywater Road  
Academy Bridge to Gate 8  
King George Street to Annapolis Street  
King George Street to College Avenue  
West Street to the Annapolis Mall

### *Top Ten Improvements in the Short Term:*

1. Better signage and better mapping
2. Improve the Poplar and Spa Creek Trails and then connect the two trails
3. Improve shoulders on Bay Ridge Avenue, from Chesapeake to Tyler Avenue
4. Develop the Victor Parkway Connector to from Bay Ridge Avenue to Edgewood Road
5. Recommend the State install bike lanes on MD 450 between the end of the Academy Bridge and the Gate 8 traffic light
6. Provide more bike facilities downtown - racks, lockers, showers - and promote "Ride to Work" programs with incentives
7. Make the "Safe Routes to School" the engine for providing safe cycling in Annapolis
8. Recommend the State install non-skid grating on the Spa Creek Bridge
9. Extend the Poplar Trail into downtown via the Lowe's Service Road and on the other end to Parole
10. Expand the Bike Lending Program

### *Top Ten Improvements in the Long Term:*

1. Create a Bicycle Master Plan for the City
2. Establish safe and efficient routes into and out of the city
3. Better enforce laws for cars and bikes
4. Better bicycle safety and education programs
5. Hire a City staff person to develop and manage the bike system
6. Accommodate bicycle safely on all of West Street
7. Explore closing certain city streets at certain times to cars
8. Work with the Naval Academy to open the facility to bikes again
9. Dramatically expand signage, mapping, law enforcement and safety programs
10. Make Annapolis one of the Top 10 bicycle destinations in the U.S.

# Tailwind

**Annapolis Bicycle Club**  
**P.O. Box 224**  
**Annapolis, MD 21404**

<http://www.annapolisbicycleclub.org/>

The Annapolis Bicycle Club is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to the interests of recreational cycling enthusiasts. Our interests are recreation, exercise, safety and camaraderie. We don't pollute or block traffic and we encourage cyclists to adhere to traffic laws.

The Annapolis Bicycle Club is affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists.

Members and prospective members are encouraged to call any of our officers to answer any questions and obtain information about Club activities.

**President** – Jim Claffey  
[president](mailto:jim@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at  
annapolisbicycleclub.org  
410-956-5219

**VP**  
[vicepresident](mailto:jim@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at  
annapolisbicycleclub.org

**Secretary – Treasurer**  
[secretary](mailto:jim@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at  
annapolisbicycleclub.org

**Newsletter/Webmaster**  
Jim Claffey  
[vicepresident](mailto:jim@annapolisbicycleclub.org) at  
annapolisbicycleclub.org  
410-956-5219

## Saturday Rides

Please **check** with a buddy to verify the ride in the winter months

**March – May; September – December 9:00 AM**

June – August – 8:00 AM

January & February – 10:00 AM

**Davidsonville Rides** – Multiple rides; speeds from 13 – 20+ mph.  
35+ mile rides

Meet at the Davidsonville Park 'n Ride, Routes 424 & 50 for rides to Deale, Galesville and around South Anne Arundel County.

## Spring Rides

With spring nearing, we can be anxious to get on the bike. But remember, changeable spring weather may cancel a ride. So call and check with your buddies to be sure you'll have company. And take it easy the first ride or two – winter inactivity may have taken its toll on those leg muscles! And be sure to come out – as soon as it warms up a bit, we'll be out there!

## Annapolis Bicycle Club Activities

- Tuesday morning - Meet at Charlie's at 10 AM, call for directions - 410-841-6269. *Call first to verify the ride.*
- **Occasional Membership meetings** with programs on bicycle topics. To be announced in the newsletter and on the web site.
- **Special event rides** and other bicycle related social activities
- **Group participation** in regional bicycling events

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## Membership Application and Renewal Form

In consideration of accepting application for membership and being permitted to participate in any way in the activities of the Annapolis Bicycle Club, ("ABC"), I/WE, for myself/ourselves, my/our personal representatives, assigns, heirs and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree and represent that I/we understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I/we am/are qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such activities. I/we further acknowledge that certain of the activities will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the activities and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I/we further agree and warrant that if at any time I/we believe conditions to be unsafe, I/we will immediately discontinue further participation in the activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that (a) bicycling activities involve risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my/our own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the activity, the condition in which the activity takes place, or the negligence of the "RELEASEES" named below, (c) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me/us or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I/we fully accept and assume all such

risks and all responsibility for losses, costs and damages I/we incur as a result on my participation in the activities of ABC.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE ABC, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, and employees, other participants, and sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which activities take place, (each considered one of the RELEASEES herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the RELEASEES or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations; and I/we further agree that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I/we, or anyone on my/our behalf, makes a claim against any of the RELEASEES, I/we will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such claim. I/we have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I/we have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one and circle fee)

FAMILY = Annual Fee: \$18 email newsletter, \$28 US mail newsletter

SINGLE – Annual Fee: \$10 email newsletter, \$20 US mail newsletter

Membership Year runs from March 1 to February 28. New memberships begun between November 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> terminate February and are half price.

NAMES AND SIGNATURES OF APPLICANTS OVER AGE 18:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Annapolis Bicycle Club

P. O. Box 224

Annapolis, MD 21404