

# OutSpoken



Very Early Spring 2012

News from the Owen Sound Cycling Club

## Why an Early Newsletter?!?

Why you ask is the cycling club sending out a newsletter in the middle of winter? No, it is not because this winter is more like spring! Actually, we (The OSCC Executive) have a lot of things to pass on to you and it was too important to wait until the bike season. So please read the following thoroughly as there are things you should know and changes that may effect YOUR club.

## Changes!!!

### Goodbye to PayPal

Last season we experimented with allowing members to use PayPal to pay for their memberships. We have decided to drop this option as there were only a few members that used it, each transaction cost the club money, and it caused confusion with filling out forms and waivers.

### Early Bird Savings on registration fees

This season the club will implement an 'Early Bird' fee structure in an effort to try to encourage people to sign up sooner rather than late in the season. If you sign-up before April 13th (We will host another Registration Evening on April 12th - See future newsletters for more information) you will save yourself some money. Here are the registration fees for 2012:

Type	Amount	Early Bird
Adult, with insurance through OSCC	\$40	\$35
Junior (under 19)	\$30	\$25
Family of three	\$80	\$75
Family of four	\$90	\$85
Family of five	\$100	\$95
OCA/UCI Insured elsewhere (proof required)	\$5	\$5

Soon you will receive an email directing you to download the new combined waiver/membership form. Please read it over and fill out and sign the waiver and form in all appropriate places then return it to Fred Zottl as instructed at the bottom of the form.

### New look of the Website

I don't know if you have checked out the club website recently, but it has a new look. For one thing the page expands or contracts to fit most any format. Also Trevor has cleaned up the entire look of the site and simplified the layout. The two yellow panels under the header show the latest information about club events. The upper yellow panel titled "Stop Press" shows the latest information about

the club while the one under it is the events calendar. Click on any event shown and it will take you to a complete description of the event. If needed a Google map will show where the event starts.

There is also a Twitter link at the bottom of the Stop Press panel, where you can receive last minute changes in events. The Bulletin Board will allow you to chat with other members, coordinate rides, buy or sell your stuff or just vent about that jerk that cut you off.

### Thingy in the Corner?

That funny looking maze type box in the top right corner is actually a link to our website. Apparently, if you scan that little box it will take you to the website. Trevor said it works... I haven't tried it yet.  
*Tom Hakala*

### New Categories for Rides

A number of respondents of the recent survey mentioned that they are sometimes intimidated to venture out on a new ride because they are afraid of being dropped or at least of riding above their comfort zone. Starting this season the club will categorise all road rides by average speed. For instance, beginner rides will be below 20 kph, comfort rides fall into the 20 to 25 kph range, fitness rides will go between 25 and 30 kph and fast rides 30 and above kph.

We will designate some evenings to faster rides and some will cover all categories. There will always be issues when only one rider shows up for a particular category, but at least that rider should have a choice of going down or up one category, or just riding alone that evening. We know there are bound to be a few bugs in the system and we will work to iron these out as the season progresses.

### Meeting Place

One suggestion from the survey that we thought could be implemented without difficulty was the idea of a meeting place at time where members can show up, meet other members and go for a ride. This is a no fuss no muss connector. You may or may not find another rider on any given day, but at least if you do, you will have a riding partner.

The 5th Season Bicycle Park, across 8th Street from the O.S. Farmer's Market seems like a logical place to meet. If you show up at either 1:00 or 6:00 p.m. any day of the week, you may be in luck and find another rider.

### IMBA is Back

After letting it ride for a few seasons, the OSCC has again decided to be part of the International Mountain Bike Association (or IMBA Canada). They are a good source for trail building and insurance coverage for the same. *Tom Hakala*

## Ride Coordinator

One position that we would like to add to the executive committee is a ride coordinator. We feel that with all the rides on our agenda and our quest to find ride leaders to take these rides on, we need someone that could make sure this happens. Please consider this as a plea for you to step forward and help the club. If you are interested, contact me at: [president@owensoundcycling.ca](mailto:president@owensoundcycling.ca)

## Possible Changes at Sawmill Trails

In January, the OSCC represented by Doug "Bikeface" Miller, Tom Hakala met with Chris Hachey of Grey/Sauble Conservation Authority and Fred Sheel of the Bruce Ski Club. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of erecting direction signs and maps for mountain bikers at the Sawmill Trails near Hepworth.



At the meeting Chris was in favor of the idea of putting up signs for cyclists, but voiced concerns about the amount of single track trails at Sawmill and how the GSCA as landowners could get a handle on what is there and if they meet IMBA standards. Chris suggested that the cycling club and GSCA get together to map, examine and sign the trail system.

This process will take a while to achieve, but we think it is important to sign and map the trail system so new comers, visitors and the directionally challenged don't get lost. The club has agreed to help with trail maintenance (which we have always done in the past) and determine what the trail conditions are. This will involve one or more club members to work with the conservation authority to make these important changes. If you are a mountain biker and would like to make sure that these trails are maintained the way we like, please consider volunteering to help with this project. Email me at: [president@owensoundcycling.ca](mailto:president@owensoundcycling.ca).

Chris feels that this process is necessary to keep the trails open and

safe for all cyclists. The conservation Authority's insurers have asked them to shore up their properties to make sure that they are safe to use. One point that Chris made is that there are to be no new trails cut at Sawmill or any other GSCA lands, without written permission.

*Tom Hakala*

## Non - Changes!!! Retirement NOT

Okay, as it turned out... nobody wanted this job (President of the OSCC), so for the next season it looks like you are stuck with me again! Now Patty Marr told me not to say that since she has agreed to sort of 'co-pres.' the club this next season. I will carry the title of President and Patty will still be V.P., but she will try to take on more responsibilities and duties. And I will make an effort to delegate to Patty and others in the club.

So as you read on in this newsletter you will hopefully feel the urge (or be laden with guilt) to lend a hand with rides and events throughout the season. If we want this club to move forward, we all need to take a bit of the responsibility.

Without a few dedicated leaders like: Scott Thomson who organizes time trials, Trevor Stokes who maintains our web and other electronic operations (as well as the Monday rides), Fred Zottl who has taken charge of the memberships and the Whemmys Enduro, John Brown our long time treasurer, who keeps the books in check and costs at a minimum, and of course Doug Miller and Patty Marr who host and organize the majority of rides throughout the season; we would not have a club. We also need to make sure that none of us burn out, and the best way to do that is to share the load. If you are interested in leading a ride or maybe starting a new event, please email me at: [president@owensoundcycling.ca](mailto:president@owensoundcycling.ca). End of sermonette. *Tom Hakala*

## The Survey!

All of you should have received an email after the cycling season finally ended in 2011 (Where was the snow!) with a short survey. In an effort to stay in touch with the club membership, the executive committee felt that we needed to ask you what you wanted out of the club.

Our wizard of the ethernet, Trevor Stokes, designed the survey, compiled the results and passed them around the executive to ponder. Here are the results of that survey for all to see. We felt we received direction on a number of points and will act on them as best we can. At the end of the survey many of you left comments and questions and we will attempt to answer them as well.

### Response Summary

Total Started Survey: 42

Total Completed Survey: 42 (100%)

1. Should the club re-instate the Points System (you earn a point for participating in a ride or event and spend them at a fun auction in the off-season)?

answered question 38

skipped question 4

Yes 52.6% 20

No 47.4% 18

2. When should the club BBQ be held?

Answered question 39

Skipped question 3

Response

July 12.8% 5

August 43.6% 17

September 48.7% 19

October 5.1% 2

3. Do we want more social events or just rides?

Answered question 38

Skipped question 4

Response

More social events. 42.1% 16

Just rides 57.9% 22

4. What type of rides do members want?

Answered question 42

Skipped question 0

Response

Offroad 38.1% 16

Road 81.0% 34

Races 23.8% 10

TTs 45.2% 19

Touring 59.5% 25

5. Comments:

MEMBER'S COMMENT - Would really like to see more organized rides. Ladies night is great on Tuesday, but it would be nice to have the chance to ride more than once a week in a group setting. Maybe have a set time, meeting place through out the week so people could just show up and ride with others if the Tuesday, Friday night didn't work out. Also a msg board, or email list so people could post or let others know if they are heading out for a ride.... better communication between members would be nice. I feel like everyone gets into their own little groups makes it hard for new members to fit in or enjoy getting out. Different paces, or start times for the group rides would be helpful so new riders don't feel intimidated by the "fast" riders. A bring a friend night would be fun maybe a few times over the season to encourage new riders to see what it's all about or to meet the groups. Would like to see more weekend rides or get togethers over the course of the season with as many members as possible. I would really like to see a standing ride time and meeting place so if you were just wanting to ride on a random night you could find someone to go with.... not super organized but just if your there your there make an on the spot decision about where you are going or even a set route on a set day so people could join or you would see others riding while you were out.

EXEC. RESPONSE: - Last season we did have events on every day (except Sundays) and we do have a message board (I guess we need to promote it better).

*The idea of a set time and place to meet other members to ride is not a bad idea, and is something we are willing to try. See the 'Changes' story for details.*

*We will be starting a new system of 'speed categories' for every ride so riders will know what to expect. See 'Changes'.*

*It is possible to "Bring a friend" but we have to contact the OCA and insurance company 2 weeks in advance with the names and address of non-members before they can ride. That is something beyond our control.*

*We did try a few Sunday rides last season, but there didn't seem to be much interest. There is always room to try again and one way to do that is to organize a ride yourself.*

MEMBERS ON SOCIAL EVENTS - Combine social events with rides.

- Don't matter to me.

- I consider a club ride to be a social event.

- I think both are important!

- The Tuesday night ladies have a great social schedule. Even a 1/2 hr get together after a ride is fun. Or maybe a breakfast ride on a Sat.

EXEC. - *We have done Saturday or Sunday breakfast rides in the past. Maybe we can try one again this summer.*

MEMBER - Is there interest in am rides (6:30 to 8am 2-3 days per week leaving Bikeface, for example?). I certainly would be able to attend all and I would expect attendance to be light and spotty). Just a thought.

EXEC. - *Doug and Patty do this already. I guess this is another thing that should be promoted.*

MEMBER - Perhaps an interclub competition between Saugeen Shores and Owen Sound clubs.

EXEC. - *Not a bad idea... but we would need someone to organize this.*

MEMBERS ON TTs - I prefer the flat time trial routes.... Obviously I don't expect them to always be flat, but more frequent TTs on flat courses would be my preference.

EXEC. *Thanks for the input. We try to offer a variety of courses to assist the cyclist's endurance and keep things interesting. The Shallow Lake course should be back in the lineup this year and is close to flat.*

- The time trials are fun and friendly. Scott does a great job organizing these.

EXEC - *Thanks!*

- Would like to do a time trial, at the start of the season and one at the end, to see progress. Wednesday doesn't work for everyone would be nice to hold a TT maybe once a month on a Sat AM, or even one at the start of the season, then again in October to see how much improvement you have made....personal goals etc.

*EXEC. - Progress can be monitored weekly or as a rider participates in the planned Wed. night TT's. Comparisons can be made with your previous times in the same year, or with previous years, and with other riders. I have thought of adding the occasional TT on a weekend, and will see how this year goes. Look for it.*

*- 1) Re-Introduce a competitive system into TT's and/or road races.. e.g. a points BAR system .. 2) Start a Youth Academy for young cyclists with instruction in riding techniques and racing . 3) more publicity in the local press eg. publish TT results in the Sun Times and over the Radio.*

*EXEC. - For that past few seasons we have tried to keep the TT s low key so they do not intimidate new or less experienced riders. The idea behind the time trial is to gauge your personal improvement. All time trial and race results are posted on our website. Trevor has set up a tracking system so you can keep track of your results and it will also give you an 'age grade' if you so desire.*

*We certainly could submit results to radio and paper... if that is wanted! This would be publishing everyone's results, or the usual "winners". I am not strongly against the idea, but favour just announcing when TT's will take place, and leave the results to the website (Bulletin Board and TT Results - lots to digest)*

*A Youth Academy sounds like a good idea, but to implement it would require a very dedicated volunteer group. If you feel strongly enough about this, you are welcome to take the lead on this.*

*- A return to the Sauble speedway TT course and maybe could we add a TT from Desboro to Mooresburg?*

*EXEC. - I will look into them. TT courses Must have good and safe parking, quality road surface, and low volume traffic at the time of the TT. Too many courses dilutes results for comparisons. However courses will come and go, depending on conditions.*

*- Could members get a number at the beginning of the season with a deposit, then hand the number in at the end of the year? This would eliminate much of the organization every TT night. People could simply keep the numbers on their bikes for the year. Only a few numbers would have to be given out each night for those people who rarely come out or are out for the first time. A master list could be produced and copied which would make recording easier.*

*EXEC. - I have certainly considered this option. Might happen this year. Mary - chief volunteer timer - does prefer seeing the number easily on the front, and second on the side facing the timer- when I am timing finishes I can recognise the rider coming in from a distance. Permanent numbers could include a smaller plate inside the frame triangle or back of the seatpost, and less likely to be removed, but harder to see.*

**MEMBERS ON RIDES** - Da good old days where once a month, there was an MTB ride, even a backroad ride.

*- While I predominantly road ride, I don't think we should limit the possible types of rides that we can offer.*

*- The MTB riders are still out there, but simply doing their own thing. MTB Night rides are also quite the experience.  
- Social rides - Emil's back country and Doug's rides are great.*

*EXEC. - There are MTB rides every Tuesday at 6:30 and Saturday mornings at 8:00.*

**MEMBER** - We received a few like this: As a newly returned member this past year my participation was low and because of this I feel the weight my opinion carries should also be very low. Thanks for asking, hope to see you more next year.

*- Not very active in club. Choices shouldn't count for much.  
- New to the club so I don't have strong opinions - as a new member it would be good to attend more social events.*

*EXEC. - We would still like to hear what you like or don't like.*

**MEMBER** - Could members get a number at the beginning of the season with a deposit, then hand the number in at the end of the year? This would eliminate much of the organization every TT night. People could simply keep the numbers on their bikes for the year. Only a few numbers would have to be given out each night for those people who rarely come out or are out for the first time. A master list could be produced and copied which would make recording easier.

*EXEC. - We feel that more often than not people would forget to bring their numbers and they would just get lost over the season.*

**MEMBER** - I think the executive of the club is doing a fantastic job and the variety of cycling opportunities organized by the club is excellent. Thank you!!

*- Fantastic Job!*

*EXEC. Thank-you!*

**MEMBER** - I didn't know how to answer question 1, as I had no reference point. However, if we did reinstate a point system, how would the points be awarded, and how would this be regulated?

*EXEC. - The Point System was something we tried a number of years ago. To encourage participation, members were awarded points for every event they attended or organized. It seemed to work for a few seasons then passed on. We are still debating whether to try it again or not. The program would require a volunteer administrator.*

*If you have any comments, additions or ideas about the questions and answers to the survey, feel free to email me at: president@owensoundcycling.ca. I would be glad to hear from you.  
Tom Hakala... Still the Prez.*

