



NBC Newsletter – May 2017

Greetings NBC members and fellow riders!

One of the recommendations adopted at our May Club Meeting was that we want to publish a monthly newsletter to our members informing them of some of the topics discussed among the board and club members as well as other matters of interest to the club. Please note that *everyone* is invited to submit material to be published in our newsletter. Right now, for this first newsletter all of the material below was penned by Yours Truly, but we will be more than happy to include material provided by you, our members!

Incident at Tuesday Blur on May 16th

Unfortunately I have to start this newsletter with some appalling news regarding an incident that occurred at, and terminated, our Tuesday Blur ride last week. Here is what happened:

On a right turn at the stop sign on Conan Doyle and Falkner (less than a mile into the ride) a motorist apparently felt that the cyclists in the front of the group had cut him off from turning into his driveway right after the intersection. I was not present at this ride and from the information I was given it is not clear whether or not the motorist did have a valid complaint. What is clear, however, is that what followed was well outside of normal human behavior regardless of the legality of the traffic situation. The motorist stopped his truck in the middle of the lane, forcing the riders behind him to stop as well. He then got out of his truck and physically assaulted the rider that happened to be closest to him. The cyclist who was attacked ended up in the ER with a concussion and a fractured elbow. Police was called to the scene and arrested the motorist.

There are a number of ways to look at this incident which we may want to discuss in the near future, but for now I will resist the urge to get on a soapbox and restrict myself to this very simple message: Be careful out there, and remember that there is no way to tell what kind of person you may be interacting with on the road.

Items from the May Club Meeting

- **Club Activity**

As I have mentioned in an email to the club, NBC has seen a bit of a decline in both number of rides offered as well as attendance of rides, coupled with the retreat and loss (or pending loss) of a number of active members which were really the life blood of our organization.

In our discussion, *ride leadership* emerged as one of the key factors for the health of our club: For a bicycle club to be attractive, it needs to offer a broad selection of rides that can attract people across the entire spectrum of cyclists represented in our organization. We will therefore continue working on making the process of announcing, posting and leading a ride as simple and un-bureaucratic as possible. Basically, all you need to do is invite club members to join you on your ride by posting the ride in our [calendar](#). You need to [log in as a member](#) to do so and then go to the [Control Panel](#). Don't be intimidated by all the fields that exist in the online form: You can fill out as few of them as you like; as long as others know the start time and can find the ride start you're good! When you go to your ride, print out the [Ride Leader Form](#) and have your riders sign in to have a record of who attended your ride, and that's all you need to do.

In addition, we are encouraging ride leaders posting a ride on our calendar to simultaneously announce the ride (and its cancellation if necessary) via email to the club. This will help boost awareness of the rides that are being offered, and potentially increase attendance to some of the rides. It is a good idea to send out such email reminders for every ride you lead, even if the ride happens on a regular schedule.

- **Strava**

We have also discussed integrating Strava into the life of our club. We found that more than 50% of our current club members are already on Strava, and there is even an unofficial registration of the Naperville Bicycle Club on Strava. In our discussions it became clear that, while we will of course never require our club members to become active on Strava (or any other third-party organization), it really doesn't make sense to keep a popular community such as this at arm's length. The idea will be to offer cyclists that use and like Strava additional benefits through membership with our club. The initiative to integrate Strava into the life of our club is headed by our Vice President Daryl Monge (darylmonge@mac.com) and Club Member Jeff Cox (coxjeffrey@gmail.com). Feel free to contact them if you would like to provide feedback or help.

That's all for now, and I look forward to seeing you on the road or trail.

– Dietmar