

Chicago Area Tandem Society (CATS)

Annual Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2017

Next meeting: Chili Pumpkin Ride, October 22, 2017

Meeting called to order at 2:30 pm by Hank Gentry, President, with 40 members present.

I. Introductions:

Hank introduced the board members. Attendees introduced themselves and there were no new members.

II. Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes for the 2016 Chili Pumpkin Ride and the minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Financial:

A. Budget:

Copies of the proposed budget were distributed by Mary Jane Cross, Treasurer, and she noted that dues do not meet expenses. Tom Masters reported that he projects that the club would have a balance of \$4000 in 2020 (one year prior to the next MTR) if dues are not raised. This precipitated a discussion about how much we need as start-up for MTR; the response from Sam Waterstreet and Tom Masters was that several thousand dollars are necessary. Aside from MTR, Karen asked how much money we need to maintain for our expenses. Those members unfamiliar with the budget timeline were explained that MTR profits sustain the club and that CATS will undoubtedly have the opportunity to host MTR again some years following 2021. (The issue is the willingness of a member to chair and organize the event.) It was noted that insurance is the big expense and not under our control or predictable. Members asked if higher dues would discourage persons from joining. Local club dues vary; Elmhurst club charges \$30 per family, Arlington club is at \$15, but Wheeling Wheelman club is bankrupt. There was discussion about increase to \$15 versus \$20 and a motion to raise dues to \$15 (per couple) in 2018 was defeated. A subsequent motion to raise dues to \$20 in 2018 passed.

B. Insurance:

The officers' and directors' insurance charge has remained constant for last three years at \$575. Membership insurance has increased from \$267 in 2015, to \$353 in 2016, and is now \$442.68 for 2017. That is a rate of \$4.52 per person (for the 98 members as of December 31, 2016). There is no reason to believe that this will not continue to increase in the future. Per member, then, the combined insurance is approximately \$10.25.

C. LAB, RideIllinois, and ATA Organizational Involvement:

There was no discussion of changing our current support of \$75 for the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) and \$100 each for RideIllinois and the Active Transportation Alliance (ATA).

D. Other Expenses:

There was no discussion about altering other projected budget items, although Sam Waterstreet indicated that the Website expense would probably be less than \$150.

IV. Special Rides:

A. Blind Stoker Rides:

John Loesch reported that the agencies sponsoring these rides have determined that most of the participants have been coming from Chicago and Cook County - not DuPage, which is the area the agencies serve. Hence the blind stoker ride program is on hiatus until local interest/participation

increases. The agencies are reaching out to schools and other service groups. They may organize an introductory session in the summer. In the meantime, John has tandems for sale.

B. Prairie State Tandem Rally:

No one has come forth to plan and run the Prairie State Tandem Rally as yet.

C. Other Rides:

There will be no one-week CATS ride this summer. Several couple are doing the Northwoods Ride - a one-week, hotel based ride in the Eagle River, WI area. This ride is organized by PAWS (who do 2 other Wisconsin rides). Ford and Lynn Sakata have found them to be a good experience. Jim Click asked if members want to continue to do one week rides and whether there are places we want to visit. He mentioned Shipshiwana, as a possibility, building off a prior MTR. No conclusions were made during the meeting.

V. Communications Report:

Sam Waterstreet reported that the Website is being transitioned to Jim Click. At this point, though, ride announcements should continue to be sent to Sam. He asked that we include the day as well as the date of the ride. Members asked that the Communication officer also post ride announcements on Facebook.

VI. Old Business:

A. CATS Jerseys:

Brian Patterson had jerseys available for purchase. Mary Kohl indicated that she would order more T-shirts when 10 members wanted them..

B. Publicity:

Ford Sakata had rack and business cards to distribute.

C. 2021 MTR:

Ford Sakata is starting to investigate several mid-state locations including Peoria and Decatur. Bruce Kuehl suggested Kankakee since it has a convention center.

D. Board Election:

2018 officers will be elected at the Chili Pumpkin Ride scheduled for October 22, 2017. Dave Dockstader has indicated that he would no longer serve as secretary. Members indicated that Scott Duncan said he would accept that position, but that needs to be confirmed.

VII. New Business:

A. ATA Information:

Tom Preston had coupons for \$5 discount on ATA events, Bike the Drive and Kickstart. The latter is a Sept, family-oriented race in Bartlett. It had about 700 participants last year with closed course of about 30 miles and great community support.

B. Ride Illinois Information:

Bob Hoel reported Illinois has new legislation affecting bike riders. Major changes are that: 1) cars can legally cross a yellow line to pass a cyclist; 2) a blinking light can substitute for a reflector on the back of a bike; and 3) cyclists can legally ride on the shoulder of a substandard road.

Ride Illinois has bike safety quizzes on line with versions for children, adult cyclists, and vehicular drivers. Wrong answers are followed by explanations for the correct ones, and mastery is necessary before moving into the next set of items. Mary Jane Cross suggested that members take the quiz - she missed items and learned from the experience. Current emphasis is on commercial drivers, developing a specific safety quiz for them and working with commercial driving schools. Their annual fund-raiser is a one-week bike tour - the Grand Illinois Bike Tour. It will be in mid-June, has hotel

and camping options, and takes place in the quad-cities area this year. The hotel options sold out this year.

VIII. Ride Schedule:

The following ride schedule has been set:

Hibachi Ride	May 7	Phil & Mary Kohl
Daffodil Ride	May 13	Bill & Karrie McDermott
South Fox River Ride	May 20	Bruce Kuehl & Mary Jane Cross
Road to Ribs	June 25	Phil & Mary Kohl
Onion Pub Ride	July 29	Frank & Sheila Mueller
Sweet Corn Ride	August 6	Larry & Barbara Fetzer
Long Way to Long Grove Ride	August 12	Barry & Carol Cohen
Midwest Tandem Rally	September 2 - 5	GOATS
Leaf Me Alone Ride	September 30	Frank & Sheila Mueller
Chili Pumpkin Ride	October 22	Tom & Sherry Masters
Holiday Lights Ride	December 9	Ford & Lynn Sakata
Christmas Party	December 10	Frank & Sheila Mueller

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Dockstader

Secretary