

Rides, local cycling news and more!



Tidewater Bicycle Association

February-March 2018 Newsletter

TBA Closing - What's Next?

Our board recently announced that TBA will be winding down and closing this year. As yet no firm timeline has been set. But a rough estimate is that we will end all normal operations and begin dissolution over the summer. We'll keep you posted as things progress.

There may be some near-term losses due to our absence. But we are confident that existing organizations and even new ones will step in to fill the void(s) in ways which we've been unable in recent years. We can't stress enough the importance of supporting our local bike organizations, particularly ones doing bike advocacy (please see the article below on this topic).

TBA wishes to thank our many volunteers and supporters who have helped us achieve so many wonderful accomplishments on behalf of the bicycling community over the past 55 years. We certainly could not have done it without you! It's been an honor and privilege to have played such a central role for bicycling in our area for so many years.

What Next for Bike Advocacy?

TBA has had an active role in bicycle advocacy for much of its history. This will change in the coming months.

While there may be some losses in the short term, over the long run TBA's leaving could turn into a positive, if certain changes result.

Ninety percent of our advocacy problems are down at our own city halls, particularly when it comes to bike infrastructure, even-handedness of law enforcement, and the city's receptiveness for hosting rides and special events. The other 10 percent can be divided between the state and national level, which includes cyclist's rights, traffic law, and underlying policy to support bicycling in transportation projects.

It's important that we cyclists stand united on all three of these fronts and support those organizations doing the heavy lifting.

One of our challenges has been staying on top of everything going on bike-wise within the five Tidewater area cities, as well as the VDOT District Office, DCR, and the Hampton Rds Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). We've had at most two people carrying the advocacy banner, and things can get spread thin very quickly. More often than not we'd find ourselves dealing with a given opportunity or issue, but rarely had time to report out to our members what we had just achieved on your behalf before we had to move on to the next one.

From our perspective, having a single, unified organization in each city fully devoted to and engaged in bicycle advocacy will attain better results overall than a regional group ever could.

Our reasons include:

- elected officials are more receptive to grass roots organizations within their city.

- a local group is better poised to develop the relationships with other organizations such as business groups, citizen advisory committees, and civic leagues who can support a shared vision of how bicycling fits within the kind of city we all want to live in.

- hearing from residents gives city planners and decision makers the confidence to know they are working in line with the mindset of their citizens

- we cyclists are a very diverse range of types and interests. City officials often hear diverging opinions especially on bike infrastructure. And when they do, inaction is the normal result. We can't expect city officials to forge a consensus among cyclists; we have to do this ourselves if we want to see progress.

So, if new coalitions form that result in more and better communication with our elected officials, city staff and other community groups that's a positive.

Our advice for groups or individuals considering a move into this area is don't dilute yourselves, and keep advocacy as the main focus and preponderance of your time and efforts.

One other tip: avoid one size fits all solutions, i.e. think "the right facility, in the right place, for the right user."

Bike advocacy is not always the most exciting thing to talk about and do. And getting results can sometimes take a decade or longer. But we aren't exaggerating when we say that without bike advocacy many of us would be relegated to doing loops on a shared-use path in our local city park.

We are hopeful for a better advocacy and cycling future for all in the post-TBA era.

Legislative Update

Virginia's 2018 Legislative Session is fully underway as of this writing. Among several bills of interest to cyclists, HB428 generated significant concern statewide.

In an effort to ban motor scooters from certain highways, the bill originally proposed setting minimum speed limits of 45 mph. This was later narrowed in scope to remove "primary roads" and apply to non-interstate limited access highways through an amendment in sub-committee. But we weren't out of the woods just yet.

Fortunately for cyclists the Virginia Bicycling Federation had two reps present during the sub-committee hearing when this bill was reported out of. They notified groups statewide including TBA. Everyone quickly assessed the proposed law and realized there would be immediate and significant impacts.

It turns out there are 41 locations around the state where cyclists are currently permitted to use certain non-interstate limited access highways. These are often places where no viable alternatives exist and are relatively safe to bike. One example locally is VA Route 164 West Norfolk Bridge (aka Western Freeway Bridge). Plans for the South Hampton Roads Trail depend upon this bridge, as do bike commuters and others. If enacted, we would have been barred from such use as of July 1st.

The other concern generated by this bill is that it would have established a precedent for

banning other types of vehicles from any roadway based upon minimum speed limits. It would have placed us within a stone's throw for a future ban from roadways we currently use (and have paid for through our taxes).

Given the above, TBA, VBF and other advocates began contacting legislators serving on the full House Transportation Committee in advance of the hearing.

We are grateful that the patron withdrew the bill as it came before the full House Transportation Committee this past week.

The TBA Tour de Cure Team

By Randy and Betsy Scales



Team Tidewater Bicycle Association is gearing up for the Hampton Roads Tour de Cure on April 28th 2018. This is our opportunity as cyclists to change the future and make a positive impact in the lives of those who are affected by diabetes.

Our team has supported the American Diabetes Association for the past 20 years, because we want to make a difference. We want to lead. We want to inspire. We want to empower. **We want a cure!**

By participating in the Tour de Cure our hopes are that we can help prevent, cure, and to improve the lives of all those affected by diabetes. So you ask how? Ride your bike or support a TBA team member riding. We currently have 5 registered riders and are looking for more. If you are thinking about riding the Tour de Cure join our team.

Our team is looking to change the future and make a positive impact in the lives of those who are affected by diabetes. "It's not how fast or how far you ride" But that you ride in the fight against diabetes. It's a great and fun day to be with your friends and fellow cyclists. For any questions or additional information, email Randy Scales at rlscales@cox.net or check out the team page at: <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/TeamTBA>. If you have already signed up and would like to join the team contact Robin Kantor (email: RKantor@diabetes.org or call (757-424-6662 ext 3269) and she will add you to our team.

We are committed to participate together and raise money through this inspirational event not just because over 30 million people in the United States have diabetes, but because so many of us personally know some of them, and want to do something about it.

Local Screening of MAMIL (Middle Aged Men in Lycra)

Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 at the Regal Greenbrier Stadium 13 Cinema in Chesapeake, VA



CLAMS (Cycling Legs Against MS)

Raising funds to stop Multiple Sclerosis

Polly and Joe Frease



For the past 37 years TBA has participated in Bike MS150 raising funds to stop Multiple Sclerosis. Polly and Joe Frease have captained TBA's Cycling Legs Against MS (CLAMS) for 13 years. Their hard work was recognized by the Virginia-West Virginia Chapter by presenting Polly and Joe with the Chapter's annual Make Your Mark Award. At their peak, the CLAMS had 92 members and in 2007 the team raised a stunning \$86,893, a record for Virginia that still stands. Over the past 13 years, the TBA CLAMS have always been a Top 5 fundraising team and have raised a staggering \$683,128! Polly and Joe have stepped down from their captain duties this year, but they have made a lasting impact and set the bar high for the Bike MS event. Congratulations to two special members who continue to motivate the team to create a world free of MS.

To find out more and to help out, please contact Bruce Drees, president@tbarides.org

2018 TBA Calendar

March 10 - Chili Ride (tentative) - Location is tentative

April 28 - Tour de Cure - Suffolk Executive Airport

June 2/3 - MS150 Ride - Smithfield

Looking for more rides? Click [here](#).

Copyright ©2018 Tidewater Bicycle Association. All rights reserved.

Address: P.O. Box 66522, Virginia Beach, VA 23466

Email: editor@tbarides.org

Web: www.tbarides.org

[Facebook](#)
[Unsubscribe](#)