



Johnson County Bicycle Club

Chain Chatter

www.jcbikeclub.org

March 2010

Greetings from JCBC's

New President

Ken Cobb



Hello, fellow members. Spring is nearly here, and that means big rides are in our future.

I am serving as JCBC President this year. I hope that we can make this a great year for the club and for you as a member.

We have been growing our two main rides in recent years, the Lone Star (June 6) and the Cider Mill (August 1). We also continue to sponsor the Spring Classic (April 24), and the Ride of Silence (May 19).

As much as we enjoy those rides, they are a means to an end. Our greater goal is to enlarge the cycling community and to make our streets more rider friendly for all types of cyclists. That is why we are devoting more of the club's resources and efforts to cycling advocacy.

We have a tailwind. Cycling is getting good press, and more communities are tweaking their bike riding environment in favorable ways. More people seem to be taking up cycling, too. We have never had a better opportunity as a club to make a difference in cycling.

But even with a tailwind you still have to pedal up hills. The bikes won't do it without our effort. The same is true of your Johnson County Bicycle Club. Our "hill" is finding enough members who share our vision enough to help with the club's activities, especially with our rides.

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help staff rest stops at our rides and to function as organizers or co-organizers of the rides. If we can't get enough support from the membership on this, we will waste that tailwind and we might have to cut back on what we can do as a club.

So give it some thought. What do you want out of cycling, and what do you want JCBC to do for you?

Give us your feedback. If you can volunteer or contribute to the club, let us know. If you know of others who could benefit from being in JCBC, talk up the club. If you want the club to redirect its activities in some way, let us know that too.

You are also always invited to come to our monthly board meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 PM, at Community America Credit Union, 5601 95th St., Overland Park, KS.

Sincerely,

Ken Cobb

JCBC Board Meetings:

The JCBC Board Meetings are usually held at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at:

Community America
Credit Union
5601 95th St.
Overland Park, KS

Members are welcome to attend. Please contact a board member to confirm meeting time and location.

Next Meeting: Apr 14

2010 JCBC Officers & Board of Directors

President	Ken Cobb	913-548-6717	president@jcbikeclub.org
Vice President	Maury Brown	816-561-9258	chainchatter@jcbikeclub.org
Secretary	Elise Hickman		calendar@jcbikeclub.org
Treasurer	Kent Fulton	913-236-7223	treasurer@jcbikeclub.org
Ride Calendar	Elise Hickman		calendar@jcbikeclub.org
Advocacy	Doug Polson		advocacy@jcbikeclub.org
Marketing	Fred Wohlgemuth	913-385-9438	marketing@jcbikeclub.org
Membership	Jim Coggins	816-721-6524	membership@jcbikeclub.org
Newsletter	Maury Brown	816-561-9258	chainchatter@jcbikeclub.org
Webmaster	Jim Coggins	816-721-6524	webmaster@jcbikeclub.org
Board Member	Maggi Hacker	913-498-3689	bikinglass@gmail.com
Board Member	Doug Stone		

JCBC members: to receive a printed newsletter in the mail or to notify us of an address change, please email us at: membership@jcbikeclub.org

Or write us at: **JCBC, P.O. Box 2203, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-2203.**

Newsletter contributions are welcome and may be sent to chainchatter@jcbikeclub.org. Please type "JCBC Newsletter..." in subject line. Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Notice of JCBC Family Membership

Dues Increase

The board of directors has decided to increase the rates for family memberships from \$25 to \$30 per year to bring them more in line with the value they represent next to individual memberships. The new family membership rate is still a bargain compared to two individual memberships, and buys club benefits and ride discounts for an entire household.

Individual membership rates remain unchanged at \$20 per year.

2010 family memberships may still be purchased at \$25 through March 31, 2010.

JCBC's 2010 Spring Classic

Saturday, April 24

Volunteers Needed

If you can help with this ride, please contact

Ride Leader, Maury Brown: 816-561-9258 or pbmaury@hotmail.com

JCBC Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Summation

To better inform our members of the work being done by the elected Officers and Board of Directors, a brief summary of the monthly Board of Directors meetings is published in each newsletter. The Board feels that the membership should be aware of the decisions being made for the club, and the activities of the elected officers. We hope that this will encourage more members to take an active interest in the workings of the JCBC. These monthly meetings are open to all members and everyone is invited to attend.

Summary Report of Business Conducted at the February 10, 2010 JCBC Board Meeting

By Jan Hudzicki, JCBC Secretary

Board Members present: Maggi Hacker, Jan Hudzicki, Ken Cobb, Kent Fulton, Elise Hickman, Maury Brown, and Doug Polson. JCBC/KCBC member Ron Puett, and Guest Dana Meier (KCBC) were also present.

Minutes of the January Meeting were accepted with spelling corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Kent reported that January showed a net loss which is typical for this time of year. This was due to the annual banquet deposit, dues and subscriptions, and payment of our insurance premiums. We did have \$135 in membership dues last month.

Ron Puett and Dana Meier attended the board meeting to report on the League of American Bicyclists Leadership conference that Ron attended. Ron wanted to share some of the information and ideas that he learned about while attending the meeting: This include a new type of ride insurance to cover non-members and software programs designed to streamline membership record keeping. Ron and Dana also made us aware of the possibility of a club trailer that may be coming up for sale in the near future. This report was followed by a general discussion of up-coming JCBC and KCBC activities. This year, JCBC will host the Joint Membership picnic and ride. Lastly, a short discussion concerning the possible merger of the two clubs was held. Nothing was concluded at this time except that each club needs to determine if their respective memberships would support a club merger in the future.

The remainder of the meeting concerned the final preparations for the banquet. The venue at 75 Café is set. Door prizes have been either purchased or donations were received from several bike shops, in addition to a few non-bicycle related prizes. Maggi will purchase cakes for dessert and make sure we have enough name tags. Fred will bring the supplies from the storage unit to the banquet. Maggi, Ken, and Maury will set the agenda for the business portion of the meeting. Lastly, several additional email blasts need to be sent out to catch any last minute members who might want to attend.

The ride dates for 2010 were confirmed. They are as follows: Spring Classic – April 24; Lone Star – June 6; and Cider Mill August 1. Ride leaders still need to be found to organize each of these rides.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

2010 JCBC Winter Banquet

The 2010 JCBC Winter Banquet and annual meeting was held on February 20 at 75 Café in Shawnee, KS. About 50 people braved a snow storm to participate in the festivities and the election of the new board of directors. 2009 JCBC President Maggi Hacker gave a report of the accomplishments of the club over the last year, including taking on the running of the local Ride of Silence, initiating a productive dialog with the Prairie Village Police Department, and our very successful Lone Star and Cider Mill rides.

Treasurer Kent Fulton summarized the financial state of the JCBC, emphasizing the importance of our three annual pay rides for club revenue, and the annual donations made by the JCBC to local and regional organizations that work to further the JCBC's goals of making our area better and safer for cycling.

Board member Maury Brown addressed the banquet attendees about the most critical challenge faced by the JCBC today: the difficulty of finding members willing to contribute to the club's leadership by serving on the board of directors, and to volunteer to help out with the clubs events. Ride leaders for the Lone Star and Cider Mill rides have not yet been found and the future of the events is currently uncertain.

After serving many years on the JCBC board of directors, Maggi Hacker served as club president in 2008 and 2009. Maggi had planned to step down as JCBC President this at the end of 2009 but will continue to serve as a board member in this year. Ken Cobb, JCBC Vice President in 2009, replaces her as the club's president.

Jan Hudzicki, JCBC Secretary in 2008 and 2009, announced her decision to leave the board of directors a few months ago. Jan has served on the board of directors for several years and as ride leader of the Cider Mill Century in 2008 and 2009. Her contributions will be remembered and her presence on the board will be missed.

There are no new members of the board of directors. The board is currently stretched thin with some members responsible for multiple major tasks. The board of directors has the power to appoint additional at large board members throughout the year and any JCBC members interested in serving on the board are encouraged to contact board members for more information.

The elected board for 2010 is as follows:

President	Ken Cobb
Vice President	Maury Brown
Secretary	Elise Hickman
Treasurer	Kent Fulton
At Large Board Member	Jim Coggins
At Large Board Member	Maggi Hacker
At Large Board Member	Doug Polson
At Large Board Member	Doug Stone
At Large Board Member	Fred Wohlgemuth



Guest Speakers and bike commuters Keith Gates and Noah Dunker. Photo by Maury Brown

As guest speakers, local bicycle commuters Noah Dunker and Keith Gates shared a wealth of information about bike commuting. Topics discussed included many aspects safety and equipment preferences for commuting. Both cyclists commute extensively on their bikes throughout the year, and in all weather, having at times given up their cars altogether. Noah rode his studded tire equipped bike to the banquet in a snowstorm that likely thwarted several people from driving their cars to the event.

Several local businesses and individuals showed their support for the JCBC by donating goods and services for the banquet. These items were raffled off and the proceeds help offset the cost of the event. The banquet donors are listed on page 5. Be sure and thank them for their support of the club and support the businesses in turn.

This was our first banquet at 75 Café and the venue worked out very nicely for our event. We had an entire room and the buffet-style meal was very nice. A good time was had by all.

Thank You to JCBC Banquet Donors

The Following Businesses and Individuals Donated Goods and Services

For the 2010 JCBC Banquet

Their generosity helped offset the cost of the banquet and contributed to the fun and festive atmosphere at the event as items were raffled and given away to attendees.

Bike Source

Jan Hudzicki

River Market Cyclery

Doug Stone

Leawood Bicycles

Trek Store

Elite Cyclery

Precision Tandems

Volker Bicycles

Gas Light Grill

Steve Otey

Volunteers Needed for JCBC Board of Directors

And 2010 Events

There are more Board positions than volunteers to fill them this year. Some current board members are working multiple positions as a result. We are particularly in need of a webmaster and someone to be our membership director. If you are a member of the JCBC and are interested in taking a leadership role in your bike club, your help is needed. Please contact a current board member for more information on joining the board. The board can appoint new at large members throughout the year as necessary.

We are still in need of Ride Leaders for:

The Lone Star Century

Sunday, June 6

And the Cider Mill Century

Sunday, August 1

Without Ride Leaders These Events Will Not Happen This Year

A ride leader works with the board of directors to plan, organize, and run the ride. These rides have been done before and much of the basic ground work has already been worked out previously. If you have good organizational skills and would enjoy the challenge of running a JCBC ride, please contact a board member ASAP.

We must have a Lone Star ride leader by May 1 and a Cider Mill ride leader by June 1 to be able to organize and promote these rides.

Building an Advocacy Tradition

JCBC Sends Doug Polson To Washington DC

The JCBC sent board member and Advocacy Chair, Doug Polson, to the League of American Bicyclists' annual National Bike Summit in Washington DC last week, where he received training in the arts of lobbying, education about pending bicycling-related legislation, and had the opportunity to meet with Kansas legislators. As important as the current legislation is, it is also significant that the leadership of the JCBC has a member who is interested in doing advocacy work on not only a local and regional, but *national* level. The JCBC is proud to support Doug in his lobbying efforts, and to have our cycling interests presented by him to legislators.

What did the JCBC get for its investment? Man, did I get an education. The first two days were exactly that—Tuesday and Wednesday there were many break-out sessions on lobbying and all pending legislation. These included the recently introduced Active Community Transportation Act of 2010 by Congressman Blumenauer. This a big deal for concentrated investment in communities to complete active transportation networks that include bicycling and walking (active transportation). This bill is HR 4722 and is not yet funded. HR 1443/S 584, the Complete Streets Act of 2009 requires state and local transportation agencies to adopt "complete streets" policies to insure all road users are included in the design of transportation facilities funded with federal dollars. The argument here is that it is more cost effective to incorporate biking and pedestrian traffic into street design than to retrofit. Again, not funded. And then there is S1156 Safe Route to School Program Reauthorization Act. It's supposed to increase funding to \$600 million annually. HR 4021 Safe Routes to High School Act is new and expands funding eligibility to High Schools (not included in S1156). There are two more that also remain unfunded.

So, Day three—I have set appointments with all three of my legislators. First let me paint the picture the situation for Kansas. States like California had like 15 or 20 delegates. Even our neighbor, Missouri had six. I was the only one from Kansas. This didn't exactly put me in a position of strength. Now guess how many Republicans have signed on to the above bills? Not a one. Now, the "good" news was that Dennis Moore is a Democrat but he has not signed on these bills either.

I first met with Brownback's General Counsel, Darin Guries. He was my favorite as he actually smiled and was pretty easy to talk to. No money, but he will pass my views on. Next I met with Senator Pat Roberts (for about 30 seconds) and then was handed off to two "Legislative Assistants". When I pointed out that if congress could not agree on health care, maybe they could come together on bicycling. Sam could show unity by being the first Republican to sign on. They didn't even smile and stated "maybe next year". In the afternoon I met with Dennis Moore's Senior Legislative Assistant, Sarah Lochner. She was very nice and agreed to ask my old buddy Dennis to sign on.

Here's my take: Kansas is in the beginning stages of bicycle advocacy and there isn't any extra money this year. We need a concerted continual effort including lots of emails to our elected congressmen and this includes the state legislature as well. I don't know if they bought my "I represent thousands of bicyclists" rap. It would be more effective if there were thousands of emails, letters and visits to back me up. As I kept repeating to myself all week "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step". At least Kansas was there and she said her piece.

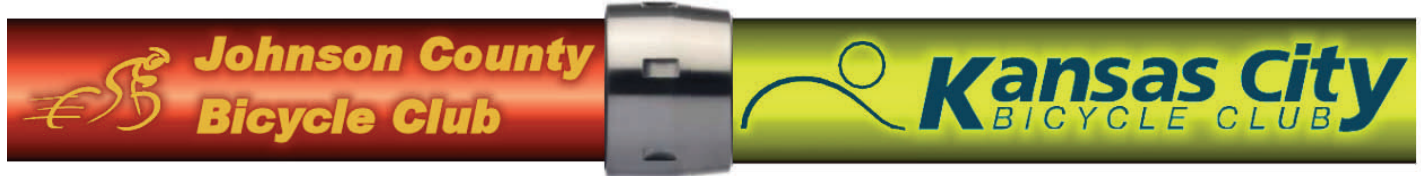


Doug Polson at the League of American Bicyclists' National Bike Summit, March 10, 2010.

Local Bike Shops

<u>Shop</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Bicycle Shack	816-761-3233
Bike America—Lee's Summit	816-524-1819
Bike America—Olathe	913-780-4500
Bike America—Overland Park	913-381-5431
Bike Source	913-451-1515
Bike Stop—Blue Springs	816-224-8588
Bike Stop—Lee's Summit	816-525-8686
Biscari Brothers Bicycles—Liberty	816-792-8877
Biscari Brothers Bicycles—Kansas City	816-231-1331
Elite Cycling	913-648-6277
Epic Bike and Sport	816-382-3100
Family Bicycles	816-268-1757
Leawood Bicycles	816-942-4442
Midwest Cyclery	816-931-4653
Pace Bicycle Haven	816-461-7433
Peddlers Cycling and Fitness	816-254-6855
Precision Tandems	913-962-8866
River Market Cyclery	816-842-BIKE
The Wheel Cyclery	816-455-2453
Trek Bicycle Store of Kansas City	913-631-6800
Turner's Cycling & Fitness	913-381-5298
Volker Bicycles	816-756-5510
Waldo Bike Shop	816-333-6595

Check Out the Joint JCBC/KCBC Ride Calendar



View the interactive calendar by visiting the JCBC website at www.jcbikeclub.org.
Click the Ride Calendar button at the top of the page.

Or just click here <http://freecal.brownbears.com/jcbcrides>

To post your ride on the calendar, email: webmaster@jcbikeclub.org

Please note that the information listed on the calendar may change at any time.

The information on this calendar is only as accurate as the information that has been given to JCBC

Johnson County Bike Club Membership Application for 2010

Join the JCBC and support cycling - Membership good until **April 30th, 2011**

Name(s): _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City, St, ZIP: _____

Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail: _____

If this is a family membership, please list other members at this address.

Name(s): _____ Age: _____

Name(s): _____ Age: _____

New Member Renewal Address Change Notification

I would love to volunteer once this year to assist with a ride or other activity. **Annual Membership Fees:**

Please do not publish my name in the annual club member directory.

Please send a paper newsletter

\$20 Individual

\$25 Family (\$30 after March 31)

I, the undersigned (a parent for members under 18), accept that cycling is a hazardous activity and I accept all risks associated with participation in the Johnson County Bicycle Club and its events and activities. I agree that in the event of a mishap during a ride or activity, I will not hold the JCBC, its members or officers responsible for any injury, loss or inconvenience.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Make check payable to JCBC and send this form to:

JCBC, PO Box 2203, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

Sign up is also available online at Active.com. Search for JCBC