

CBTC NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Coastal Bicycle Touring Club, Savannah GA

www.cbtc.org

CBTC Monthly Meeting

We resume our monthly meeting on Monday, 10 January 2022 at 6pm.

2022 Board of Directors

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 David Jackson
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January meeting

Our first indoor, face-to-face club meeting will take place on Monday, 10 January 2022, starting at 6pm, at the National Spay Alliance, 11 Gateway Boulevard South, Suite 18. Club member and National Spay Alliance founder Pam Pierce has graciously offered this space for this meeting. Our guest speaker will be Nick Palumbo, Savannah City Councilman representing the 4th District. See page 3 for details. Bring your own food, liquid refreshments and perhaps your favorite folding chair and enjoy an evening together with other club members.

2022 Dues

It's time to re-new your club membership. Use the on-line PayPal option, or snail mail, all available at:

<https://cbtc.org/membership-application/>

Editor's note: If you joined the club between Sept-Dec. 2021 your 2022 dues are included.

January Ride Schedule

Ride leaders for each category will be assigned. Ride director: Kim Turner
kimbooskie@gmail.com

Helmets are required on all rides. Rear view mirrors are highly encouraged. Please arrive at least fifteen minutes before scheduled roll-out. Guest riders must sign the club waiver prior to roll-out. Club members acknowledged the waiver when they joined or renewed membership in the club. Enjoy the rides and the company. And if you have an idea about a new ride, contact Kim and she'll work to make it happen.

Date/Ride	Mileage	Directions	Ride Leader
Saturday, 1 January, 9am, Skidaway Island Ride	19/24/33	Meet/park at The Village Parking lot directly across the street from the BP gas station (TL at the second traffic light on Skidaway Island).	Deborah Wharff, 410-905-1690, deborahwharff@icloud.com
Saturday, 8 January, 9am, Rincon Ride	26/35	Meet/park at Macomber Park, 1103 Lexington Avenue, Rincon. GA. Post ride lunch at El Real restaurant.	James Dasher, 912-663-6239, james@jamesdasher.com
Sunday 15 January, 9am, Skidaway Island Ride	18/23/34	Meet/start at The Village Parking lot directly across the street from the BP gas station (TL at the second traffic light on Skidaway Island). Post ride lunch at Your Pie in Sandfly, GA.	Deborah Wharff, 410-905-1690, deborahwharff@icloud.com
Saturday 22 January, 9am, Kilkenny Ride	26/35	Meet/park just outside the entrance to Ft. McAllister, at the end of GA-144 spur. Post ride lunch at Fish Tales dock-side restaurant near ride start/end.	Dave Taylor, 714-322-1173, d3taylor@live.com
Saturday, 29 January, 9am, Ellabell Ride	17/25/32/39	Meet/park at Hendrix Park, Ellabell, GA. Post ride lunch at Sandra's Seafood Restaurant, 4644 US80, Ellabell.	Kim Turner, 214-725-2490, kimbooskie@gmail.com

*January guest speaker
Alderman Nick Palumbo*

Nick Palumbo was elected to the Savannah City Council in 2019 and serves as the 4th District Alderman for the City of Savannah. His District includes the neighborhoods of Parkside, Ardsley Park, Chatham Crescent, Ardmore, Lee and Olin Heights, Habersham Village, Medical Arts, Kensington Park, Groveland, Habersham Woods, Paradise Park, Oakhurst, Mayfair, Bacon Park, and more.

Prior to his election, he served as the President of the Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Neighborhood Association where he led the neighborhood in several pioneering efforts including the creation of Savannah's Conservation District. Following this effort, he was honored with the Lee and Emma Adler Award for Preservation Advocacy from the Historic Savannah Foundation. Jane Fishman of the Savannah Morning News describes Nick as Savannah's "cherubic, hope-filled, and steady-as-he goes Alderman." Nick is passionate about improving public safety for Savannah, improving our infrastructure, as well as promoting bikeability and walkability, and sustainability. Editor's note: Nick was a leader in the creation of the Truman Linear Pathway, the renovation of the Police Memorial Trail, the installation of crossing signals at critical locations, and many other efforts that directly and positively impact foot-powered transportation and recreation throughout the greater Savannah area.



Before moving to Savannah, Palumbo served as a Special Agent in the United States Foreign Service where he traveled abroad ensuring the safety of American diplomatic policy overseas. During his service he was decorated with the Meritorious Honor Award for service rendered at US Embassy Baghdad, Iraq. Before globe-trotting, he served as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer with the U.S. Park Police in Washington, DC. Alderman Palumbo was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama, and a Master's Degree from Armstrong State University.

He lives with his wife Kristen and their five rescue pets in a bungalow in Chatham Crescent. They own and operate a small pet care business together, and when he's not working you're most likely to find him out tending the garden.

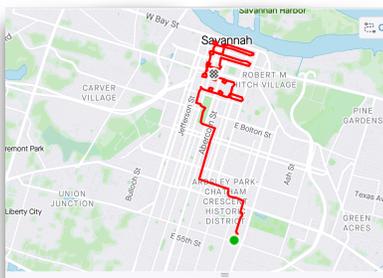
New members - 2021

As we reflect back on 2021, it was another year in which the club responded to life - and cycling - in the COVID-19 pandemic era. As we know, one of the bright spots of the COVID era is a country-wide revitalization and participation in outdoor activities, particularly cycling. Reflecting on this fact, we are pleased to announce that the club gained twenty new members in 2021, an indication that the club's strategy to attract and sustain membership has, and continues to be, successful. We welcome these twenty-one members to the club and thank them for bringing new life and experiences to our club.

Michael Abbott
 Carol Black
 Gregg Black
 Ken Blanchard
 Regina Dunn
 Carl Ericsson
 Andrea Farkas
 Tim Jones
 Ken Ledoux
 Sarah Liddell
 Louis Lipsitz
 Marc Lobit
 Mike McFadden
 Kelly Nelson
 Greg Nelms
 Pam Pierce
 Robert Riordan
 Graham Sadler
 Dan Szumski
 Dave Taylor
 Ed Krass

2021 Holiday Ride

The club resumed the annual Holiday Ride & Celebratory Get-Together on Sunday, 12 December. A large contingent of riders gathered at 5pm at Chatham Square, for a leisurely ride around the many historic squares, then assembled at the recently re-opened Mellow Mushroom for post-ride food and reverie.



After foregoing last year's holiday ride due to COVID-19, this year's event was special. Some club members wore festive seasonal garb, and holiday music streamed throughout the event.



The post-ride get together at Mellow Mushroom was - in a word - fun - and in another word - loud. The group secured seating for all at social distancing protocols and enjoyed camaraderie and delicious food. It was a memorable event, and hopefully we will be sharing the experience with even more participants in 2022.



League of American Bicyclists Georgia Communities of Note

The League of American Bicyclists was founded in 1880. Bicyclists, known then as “wheelmen,” were challenged by rutted roads of gravel and dirt and faced antagonism from horsemen, wagon drivers, and pedestrians. The League draws on a unique history and depth of knowledge and also has a commitment to propel the new, diverse and growing ranks of bicyclists in the United States, recognizing and representing the current and future face of the cycling movement. Today, the League’s “Bicycle Friendly America” (BFA) program provides advocates and change makers with a roadmap and hands-on assistance to build places more welcoming to people who bike. BFA is a tool for states, communities, business and universities to make bicycling a real transportation and recreation option for all, and it recognizes those doing it well. Those entities are rated using the Olympic medal model - Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Georgia ranks 19th among all 50 states, with a dozen bicycle friendly communities, 27 bicycle friendly businesses, and 9 universities rated bicycle friendly.

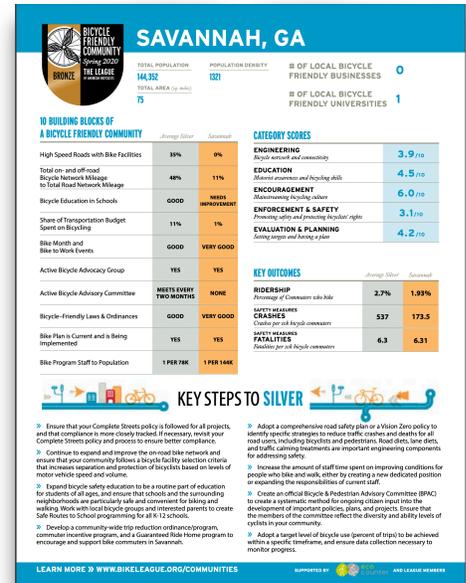
Closer to home, Savannah and Tybee Island are rated Bronze. The League’s rating system includes 10 building blocks of a bicycle friendly community, categories scores, and key outcomes. Savannah’s current scoring results are shown below.



Decatur, Georgia, was elevated to “Silver” status this year, becoming the first community in the state to be so awarded. For Savannah and Tybee Island, improvements and advances in several bicycle friendly categories are attainable. Our guest speaker for January will be pointing out some of those

on-going efforts, particularly as it relates to Savannah city government. The club's collaboration with Bike Walk Savannah also furthers efforts to increase bike safety and community awareness of bike riders.

An overhead view of an intersection in Decatur highlights the city's elevation to Silver status. While we have visible bike lanes on Price and Lincoln streets in Savannah, we have nothing like the intersection in Decatur, which obviously requires city government investment. This reality is evidenced



contribution (11%). Decatur, on the other hand, invests 50% of its transportation budget on bike friendly initiatives.

Dennis Lee Stuart - Update

Dennis Lee Stuart, who pled guilty to hit-and-run with fatality in the death of CBTC member Deborah Wilkowski, continues to serve his sentence at the Riverbend Correctional Facility in Milledgeville, Georgia. He was sentenced to five years for the felony hit-and-run with fatality and also five years for filing a false statement, and 1 year for vehicular homicide. According to the Georgia Department of Corrections, Stuart's maximum possible release date is 13 February 2023.

Stuart had two prior records and incarceration. He was incarcerated from 2 February 1996 until 11 June 1998, and again from 28 January 1999 until 3 December 1999. Under Georgia case 354780, Stuart was sentenced for burglary, attempted burglary and possession of a firearm during a crime. His complete criminal information can be found at:

<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/GDC/Offender/Query>

The most recent Georgia Department of Corrections photograph of Stuart is included. As of this date, there is no indication that Stuart will be paroled prior to his maximum release date.



2021 - The year in review

Club members put up some extraordinary numbers in the past year. Through an analysis of ride information garnered from the club's STRAVA website, we offer up the following for your consideration. Editor's note: this information is through 30 December, so no doubt the actual year-end totals are higher. Also, this information is from those club members who are registered on the club's STRAVA website. Certainly not all club members are on our STRAVA site, so, again, the actual numbers are doubtless much higher.

Rider	Miles	Elevation	# Rides	Total time riding
Rich Wharff	10,968.0	37,260'	344	828 HR 56 MIN
John Arney	9,211.8	79,744'	301	566 HR 14 MIN
David Jackson	8,088.0	28,642'	250	491 HR 45 MIN
Kim Turner	7,888.4	60,515'	312	511 HR 39 MIN
Ken Pierce	7,538	N/A	N/A	N/A
Susan Weiner	5,924.7	7,776'	203	365 HR 1 MIN
Deborah Wharff	5,645.5	46,598'	187	371 HR 26 MIN
Kathy Schaefer	4,380.4	35,394'	146	296 HR 15 MIN
Jackie Black	3,548	63,885	155	248 HR
Graham Sadler	3,449.4	32,310'	108	192 HR 54 MIN
Eric Holmes	3,323.8	66,974'	220	239 HR 28 MIN
Joel Mitchell	2,417	26,663'	62	167 HR 3 MIN
Geoff Carson	2,050	27,539	58	117 HR 22 MIN
Dave Taylor	2,168	18,451'	87	155 HR 52 MIN
Pam Pierce	1,195	51,556'	47	91 HR 29 MIN
James Dasher	928.5	12,451'	27	50 HR 6 MIN
Bill Webb	443.9	2,864'	13	33 HR 26 MIN
Total:	79,096.4	598,622'	2,520	4,726 HR

Given that the circumference of the Earth is 24,901 measured at the equator, CBTC members rode slightly more than 3.1 times the circumference of our planet. The elevation of Mount Everest, Earth's tallest peak, is 29,032'. Club riders racked up 598,622' of elevation, which comes out to 20.6X the height of Mount Everest, all without Sherpa assistance, just our legs and lungs. All of this accomplished on 2,520 rides that took a combined 4,726 hour or just over 196 days. Pretty impressive statistics for a relatively small bike club in little ol' Savannah, Georgia.

Blessings in a Book Bag - 2021 bike giveaway

The annual bike giveaway, hosted by Blessings in a Book Bag and sponsored and supported by Bike Walk Savannah, took place on a cold, wet Tuesday, 21 December 2021. A total of 87 kids were able to claim a bike, along with a donated helmet.

Blessings in a Book Bag (BBB) is a non-profit organization that ensures students in Chatham County receive food to sustain them when they would otherwise go hungry. In concert with Bike Walk Savannah, BBB hosts the bike giveaway, held at Savannah Gardens. This year's event made the Holiday season special for 87 kids - some of whom received their first ever bike.

A special shout-out to club members John Arney, Jackie Black and Kim Turner for their volunteer work at Bike Walk Savannah, turning the 87 donated bikes into street and sidewalk ready two-wheel transportation and fun vehicles.

You can see nothing but smiling faces on those who helped make this event so successful, as well as the wide smiles on the kids faces as they obtained their bikes.



Getting ready for the Holiday bike give away



Some of the happy, smiling kids and their new bikes



Some of the happy, smiling faces of just some of those who made this event happen

Bikeygees - Teaching Refugees to Ride

A heart warming story comes from Germany, a country whose concept called “Willkommenskultur” - or “welcoming culture” - greets refugees, many from war torn areas of the world, in particular Syria, Iraq, and areas in and around the Horn of Africa.

Girls around the world don’t always get to experience the joy of a first bike ride. In some countries, conservative societies frown upon women and girls who ride bikes. It’s not considered dignified or appropriate, and gives girls too much independence.

In Germany, destination for many refugees, a nonprofit group called Bikeygees is teaching refugee women how to ride. Bikeygees began in 2015. The group’s name is a word creation from “bike and refugees”.

Bikes are an important part of German culture, where 9 out of every 10 residents own a bicycle. Assimilating refugees into German culture - the above mentioned “willkommenskultur”, spawned the creators of Bikeygees to launch their program to teach bike skills to arriving female refugees. Volunteers offer riding lessons to refugee women five days a week in 15 locations in Berlin and Brandenburg. The women can take as many classes they



need to master the skill. Since the program first started, it has taught over 1,245 women how to ride a bike, through 671 bike lessons. The group also teaches women how to fix bikes. It instills a sense of self-sufficiency. If they can do bike repairs, ride and learn the German rules-of-the-road, they are awarded with a bike kit. That includes a bike, helmet, bike lock and bike tools. Bikeygees has distributed 482 such kits, paid for through donations.



Shaha Khalef, a member of the Yazidi religious minority from Sinjar,

Iraq, wasn't allowed to ride a bike when she was growing up. Now, Shaha is a volunteer trainer for Bikeygees, and she is also studying to become a social worker. Her three sisters also learned to ride through the program and her mother insists Shaha teach her fourth sister - the youngest - how to ride.

Editor's note: This article was extracted from a NPR on-line article that first appeared 22 August 2021, in the "Goats and Soda" section of NPR. That article can be found at:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/08/22/1028084787/a-beautiful-feeling-refugee-women-in-germany-learn-the-joy-of-riding-bikes>

For those interested in details of Bikeygees, their web site is: <https://bikeygees.org/en/>



If you're in need of bikes, bike parts or bike maintenance, please try to frequent one of our area bike shops, who have been open during the COVID-19 pandemic and providing assistance to the bike community of the greater Savannah area. Just be prepared for a slow turn-around. The pandemic, as we all know, has disrupted the world's supply chain, to include bikes and bike parts. That means getting bikes, bike parts and bike repairs takes a long time. Most major U.S. bike companies warn that any bike ordered this year will likely not be available until early 2022 at best.

Notwithstanding, show your support for your local bike shops whenever and however you can, and don't forget to remind them that CBTC members receive a 10% discount on parts and service.

