
CBTC NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Coastal Bicycle Touring Club, Savannah GA

www.cbtc.org

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New Members

Please welcome new club members Lin Woodward (rejoined after a short hiatus), J. Matt Collins, Craig Shatto, Kathy Colmenares, Larry Dixon, Todd Fruit, Terry Fruit and Darian Johnson. With the addition of these new members, the club roster now sits at 72.

September Ride Schedule

Club rides begin at 9am during the cool months, and once we "spring ahead" start times move up to 8:30am

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 any board member and we'll try to make it happen. Oh, yes, all Saturday rides roll out at 8:30am.

Date/Ride	Mileage	Directions	Ride Leader/Other info
Saturday, 7 September, 8:30, Hardeeville ride	34/43	Meet/park at Millstone Landing, 55 Millstone Landing Road, Hardeeville, SC. Riders often gather after the ride at the Mellow Mushroom, 11 West Liberty Street, Savannah, for post-ride eats & treats.	Paul Bier, bierpaul@gmail.com
Saturday, 14 September, 8:30am, L. Scott Stell ride	28/36	Meet/park at L. Scott Stell Park, 195 Scott Stell Road, Savannah, just off Little Neck Road. Both groups need to watch for pot holes on Little Neck Road. Post ride eats & treats at El Mariachi restaurant, adjacent to the Kroger on Ogeechee Road.	John Arney, johnaarney@gmail.com , 912-660-4088
Saturday, 21 August, 8:30am, Riceboro ride	32/35	Meet/park at the Midway-Riceboro Library, 9397 E. Oglethorpe Highway. Post ride eats & treats at Smokin' Pig, 13711 E. Oglethorpe Highway.	Kim Turner, kimbooskie@gmail.com , 214-725-2490
Saturday, 28 August, 8:30am, Darien ride	TBD	This is a new ride, revived from the distant past. Routes yet to be finalized, but guaranteed to be over well paved and slightly traveled country roads.	Kathy Schaefer, kwillyschaef@gmail.com , 912-661-2884

Kristen Faulkner takes Gold at Paris

93 riders from 57 nations lined up to start the Women's Road Cycling event in the recently completed Paris Olympics. The route through Paris and environs was 98 miles, or 158 kilometers. The United States was represented by two riders - Kristen Faulkner and Chloe Dygert. Faulkner, from Homer, Alaska, a small fishing village and renowned as the halibut capital of the world, graduated from Harvard University in 2016. At Harvard, she was a varsity rower, and holds Harvard's record for the fastest 2 kilometer rowing time for lightweight women. Her parents still reside in Homer.

She started cycling in New York in 2016 at the age of 27, and in 2018 moved to San Francisco. In 2020, Kristen began racing for Team TIBCO-Silicon Valley Bank.

Kristen was a late addition to the U.S. Women's Cycling team, selected as a replacement rider for Taylor Knibb, who decided to focus on other events, in particular the women's triathlon. Knibb was the winner of the women's individual time trial at the USA Cycling Pro Road National Championships in May. However she lacked international road racing experience and thus forfeited her position to concentrate on the triathlon. Unfortunately for Knibb, that decision didn't turn out very well - she finished 19th in the Women's Triathlon.



Pre-race favorites included Lotte Kopecky (Belgium), Marianne Vos (Netherlands) and Kata Blanks (KB) Vas (Hungary). Given that Kristen Faulkner was a late addition to the U.S. team, few if any considered her as an eventual Gold Medalist.

The race was eventful. USA's Chloe Dygert crashed early in the race, and fell off the pace line. Fortunately, Kristen Faulkner was just ahead of the crash, and shortly afterwards vaulted into the lead. With about 5 kilometers to go, pre-race favorites Vos and Vas were in the lead, followed by Kopecky and Faulkner. While the favorites were keeping an eye on one another, Kristen Faulkner vaulted past them and cruised to the finish line 58 seconds ahead of the trio. She was the first American female to win Olympic Gold in 40 years.

Having started her cycling race career later than her contemporaries, Kristen Faulkner won Gold at Paris at the "ripe old" age of 31, an age when other riders begin to consider retirement. Cycling, like other Olympic events, is a sport normally dominated by young athletes. Tell that to Kristen Faulkner, Katie Ledecky, and Simone Biles, all of whom swept up Gold at an age when most competitors are gone. Good luck with that generalization!

If you haven't seen highlights from this epic race, you may do so by clicking on the link below:



Faulkner wasn't done gathering Gold. A mere 48 hours after capturing the Women's road race, she won Gold at the Women's team pursuit event.



Forthcoming “away” rides

As we wind down and head towards autumn, there are a number of rides that club members have traditionally participated in, and which are considered “away” rides. A select few of these rides are considered “away club” rides, while others are just there for club members to consider.

Following is a chronological synopsis of those rides under consideration:

- Endless Summer Watermelon Ride, Fernandia Beach, Florida, Sunday, 15 September. 30, 50, 70 and 100 mile routes. A CAAM event and sponsored by North Florida Bike Club, this event draws hundreds of riders. Event information can be found at <https://eswr.raceroster.com>
- Spaghetti 100, sponsored by the Capitol City Cyclists, this ride takes you into the scenic back country of North Florida and South Georgia. The event takes place on Saturday, 2 October. 32, 65 and 100 mile options, as well as 40 and 60 mile dirt options. Information can be found at: <https://cccyclists.org/spaghetti100>
- Inter Coastal Water Way Century (ICWC) ride. Another CAAM event sponsored by North Florida Bike Club, this has been an event that club members have participated in for several years. There are 14, 28, 66 and 100 routes. Superbly supported, this ride is a must do. The event starts and ends at Cocoa, Florida, and will be held this year on Sunday, 27 October. For more information, visit: <https://icwc.raceroster.com>
- Three Rivers Ride, sponsored by Camden Cycling Club, this ride starting in St. Marys. Georgia, and held this year on Saturday, 2 November. There are 30, 40, 62 and 100 mile options, and area-wide renowned chili for after ride eats.. For more information, click here: https://camdencyclingclub.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=493098&module_id=508735
- Bike Blufton, Blufton SC. Sunday, 3 November 2024. 10, 30 and 62 mile options. For more information and sign up information go to: <https://bikeblufton.org/sponsor-2024>
- Cycle Sequatchie Century, Saturday, 5 October. Suggested by club members Tim & Vicki Cox, Chattanooga residents and part-time Savannah residents. This ride starts about a half hour from Chattanooga, is a world away from traffic. With four base routes ranging from 15 to 80 miles, plus three optional climbs that give you up to 103 miles and 8,200' of climbing. Information can be found at: <https://www.cyclesequatchie.com/>

Johnny & Matthew Gaudreau’s tragic death

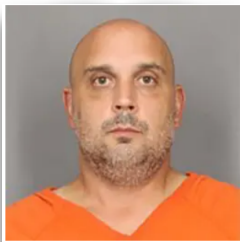
Hockey fans were stunned by the deaths of Columbus Blue Jackets star forward Johnny Gaudreau and his brother, Matthew, who were killed when a suspected drunk driver fatally struck the siblings while they were cycling in New Jersey on 29 August. Johnny, known as Johnny Hockey for his enthusiasm on the ice and kindness off it, and his brother Matthew, 29, were riding bicycles around

8:19pm on a country road in Oldmans Township, a community in southern New Jersey near the Delaware river. This tragedy happened just hours before the brothers were to serve as groomsmen in their sister's wedding. Matthew's wife is expecting their first child.

The brothers were struck by a Jeep Grand Cherokee that was attempting to pass two slower moving vehicles, according to New Jersey State Troopers. The Jeep driver, who police identified as 43-year-old Sean Higgins, is charged with two counts of vehicular homicide in the second degree, according to the complaint. "Through further investigation, Higgins was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol," State Police Sgt. Jeffrey Lebron said in a news release. Higgins stated he had consumed roughly five to six beers before the accident, according to a probable cause affidavit filed with the Salem County Superior Court Friday.



Columbus Blue Jackets star Johnny Gaudreau



Sean Higgins

For cyclists, it's the latest example of an incident that's become all too familiar. The latest federal statistics show that the Gaudreau brother's deaths are not an anomaly, as the number of cyclists who died in motor vehicle crashes in 2022 jumped to its highest mark in years.

The deaths have galvanized biking safety advocates around the nation, like the [Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia](#), which spoke out about bike lane safety in the city after children's hospital doctor [Barbara Friedes, 30, was struck and killed while biking in July](#).

The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA) reported that [1,105 bicyclists died in 2022](#) due to motor vehicle crashes. While 2022 was the first year that motorized bicycles were included in the tally, this figure trumps the number of deaths in previous years, including in 2021 (976), 2020 (948), 2019 (859) and 2018 (871).



Johnny Gaudreau - Calgary Flames

The NHTSA said the number of [bicyclists killed in traffic crashes](#) has even been "steadily trending upwards since 2010."

"The National Hockey League family is shocked and saddened by the tragic passing of Columbus Blue Jackets forward Johnny Gaudreau and his brother Matthew," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a [statement](#).

"While Johnny's infectious spirit for the game and show-stopping skills on the ice earned him the nickname 'Johnny Hockey,' he was more than just a dazzling hockey player; he was a doting father and beloved husband, son, brother and teammate who endeared himself to every person fortunate enough to have crossed his path," Bettman said.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy in a statement said "the people of New Jersey grieve" with the Gaudreau family. Murphy noted how the brothers "discovered their love for hockey in the rinks of South Jersey, and followed their passion up to Boston, where both brothers quickly emerged as star players on the Boston College men's hockey team."

Postscript: As tragic as this incident was, there is added irony to the story. The alleged drunk driver who killed the brothers is a decorated veteran, having served as a U.S. Army Major with the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Kosovo. Even more ironic is that he is employed by the Gaudenzia Addiction Treatment and Recovery Center. Following was extracted from the New York Post on-line edition of 31 August 2024.



The alleged drunk driver **arrested in the deaths of NHL star Johnny Gaudreau and his younger brother** has been placed on leave from his job as a financial officer at a rehab center, the company told The Post.

"We received the heartbreaking news regarding the tragic crash that took the lives of Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau, along with charges brought against Sean Higgins," Gaudenzia Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers said in a Saturday statement. "Mr. Higgins, an employee of Gaudenzia, was immediately placed on leave.

"We extend our sympathies to the Gaudreau family during this incredibly difficult time," the company wrote.

Sean Higgins, 43, of Pilesgrove, NJ, a married father of two young daughters, has worked at the Norristown, Pa., company since September, according to his LinkedIn profile, which also lists him as a decorated US Army major who served in the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Kosovo, he wrote in his profile on the networking site.



Higgins in Kosovo - 2019

If you're in need of bikes, bike equipment or repairs, visit any of these shops and receive 10% discount on parts and accessories, by mentioning you are a CBTC member.

