
CBTC NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Coastal Bicycle Touring Club, Savannah GA

www.cbtc.org

2025 Board of Directors

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Spring Ahead & dues

Sunday, March 9th, is the day we “spring ahead”, setting our various and myriad clocks ahead one hour. Some people actually do this on the night before, and some of us simply wake up at 6 only to realize it’s actually 7. This archaic custom was designed to take advantage of longer daylight during the summer months, ostensibly boosting productivity. In practical terms, it disrupts the human circadian rhythms, causing adverse health impacts. So, for us, that means we’ll shortly be moving the club’s Saturday rides back, rather than forward, to 8am. Crazy, just crazy. Also, if you haven’t submitted your 2025 dues no later than by 31 March, at which non-submissions will be considered as resignations.

March Ride Schedule

Club rides begin at 9am during the cool months, and once we "spring ahead" start times move up to 8. It's now cool - 9am rollout

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, we're now rolling out at 9am but will soon "Spring Forward" to 8am. Stay tuned.

Date/Ride	Mileage	Directions	Ride Leader/Other info
Saturday, 1 March, 9am, Ellabell ride	25/38	Meet/park at Hendrix Park, 3960 Wilma Edwards Road. Post ride eats & treats TBD	Brian Kadish, redbrian@hotmail.com, 206-890-2526
Saturday, 8 March, 9am, Rincon ride	28/39	Meet/park at Macomber Park Complex, 1004 Lexington Road, Rincon. Post ride eats and treats at El Real Mexican restaurant, 105 Wisenbaker Road	Joe Jacubek, jmjacubek@me.com, 865-266-3590
Saturday, 15 March 9am, Hardeeville ride	30/42.5	Meet/park at Millstone Landings boat ramp, 55 Millstone Landings Road, Hardeeville, SC. Possibility post ride eats and treats back in Savannah at Mellow Mushroom, 11 West Liberty Street	TBD
Tuesday, 22 March, Darien Ride	24/42	Meet/park on Franklin Street, south of Vernon Square and near the United Methodist Church. Post ride eats and treats at Blue Bay Mexican Grill, 110 Screven Street, Darien	John Arney, jaarney@gmail.com, 912-660-4088
Saturday, 29 March, 9am, Publix/Fancy Hall ride	32/40	Meet/park at the rear of the Publix parking lot, 12800 Highway 144 (Ford Avenue), Richmond Hill. Post ride eats and treats at the Sunshine Cafe, adjacent to Publix.	Kim Turner, kimbooskie@gmail.com, 214-725-2490

President's Message

February was kinder to cyclists than January. The weather fluctuated quite a bit, but we didn't have to contend with snow in the streets. We also did not have to cancel any rides!

We had a big group at Harris Neck. Marc Lobit joined us for his first club ride since his August knee surgery. This is one of my favorite routes, as the roads are generally smooth (including Young Man Road) and there is little traffic.

The soup ride was a huge success! There must have been 9 or 10 kinds of soup as well as an assortment of salads, fresh bread and several desserts. I think all would agree that having the picnic at the home of Amos and Claire Gallagher was considerably nicer than it would have been at the Gordonston Park. We had a tent for the food, not one but two solo stoves burning, enough chairs to accommodate everyone and a beautiful home to retreat to during the on and off drizzle. I hope we can make the ride an annual tradition (again).

An away ride in Wakulla Springs (near Tallahassee, FL) has been planned for the weekend of April 10-13. A kayak trip has been tentatively planned for the evening of April 10 when there will be a full moon. Paved bike rides of 34-66 miles (and more) are available and will be organized according to the wishes of the group. Area attractions include the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park (with hiking and boat tours of the freshwater springs) and the Saint Marks National Wildlife Area. It is recommended that individuals stay either at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs or at the Magnuson Hotel in Crawfordville, FL.

A few of the regulars have yet to pay your dues. The money collected from the dues will be used for the website, insurance, support of cycling organizations and for the summer picnic. If you haven't re-upped for 2025, now is the time!

After a great many years as the editor of your monthly newsletter, Rich Wharff, has expressed the desire to step down. I am hoping that some creative person might offer to take on responsibility for the newsletter. (Note that you can do choose whatever style, content, schedule that you like!).

Speaking of open positions, your current board will be stepping down at the end of June. (Some of us have been on the board much too long!). Please give some thought to helping to keep the club vibrant by providing new leadership.

Hope you will join me in at least one ride next month!

Kathy



Kathy Schaefer

Truman Linear Trail - progress update

As part of the larger “Tide to Town” trail system planned for the greater Savannah area, Phase 2B of the Truman Linear Trail is well underway.

The Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B will begin at 52nd St. and Bee Road and run to East Derenne Ave., connecting Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 1 (Police Memorial Trail) to Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2A and Lake Mayer Park. Once completed, both phases of Truman Linear Park Trail will create approximately seven miles of continuous off-road, multi-purpose, ADA accessible trail for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The new phase of the Tide to Town trail will be a 10-foot-wide concrete path with a timber bridge ditch crossing and includes an 8-foot-wide protected, shared-use path across the 52nd St. bridge over the Truman Parkway.



DeRenne Avenue & Reuben Clark Drive



Reuben Clark Drive

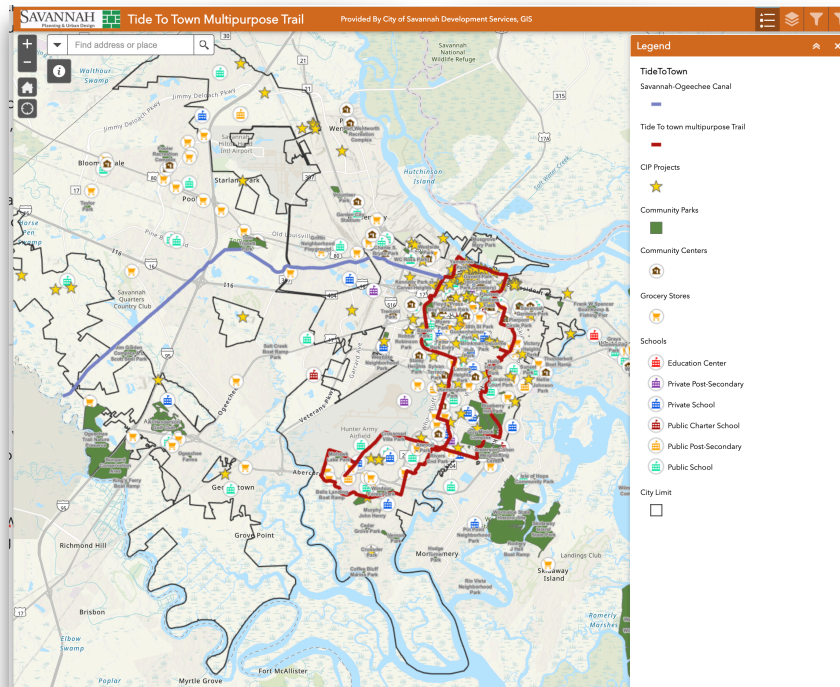
Construction for Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B was approved by City Council on February 8, 2024. The contract was awarded to JHC Corporation out of Newnan, Georgia at a cost of \$8,193,540. Tide to Town is largely funded by the hotel/motel tax which granted the project a total of \$10 million through a resolution passed on May 24, 2023. Tide to Town also received funding from SPLOST VII and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In the wooded area along Reuben Clark Drive (the street which connects DeRenne Avenue with the Memorial Hospital campus over the Truman Parkway), lighting and Emergency Call boxes are being installed. As of the date of this newsletter, construction from Reuben Clark Drive and parallel to the Truman Parkway is underway, which will

eventually bring the trail to the 52nd Street bridge over the Truman. The photograph to the right shows some of the construction equipment for this segment of the trail.

Tide to Town is an initiative to create a system of trail ways connecting Savannah’s neighborhoods to safe, affordable and cost-effective walking and biking infrastructure encouraging long-term socio-economic development. The map below, while busy, shows (in red) the Tide to Town trail, as well as the proposed trail (in blue) to Enmarket Arena, along the Ogeechee Canal.



Leading to the 52nd Street bridge



Tide to Town trail

Soup ride reboot



Rest stop - Wormsloe

After a five year hiatus, CBTC rebooted its annual "Soup Ride" on Saturday, 15 February. The ride itself was a modified "Slow Roll Wednesday" route, essentially a loop starting in the Gordonson district, then to Bonaventure Cemetery, then onwards to Thunderbolt, winding down to Isle of Hope and returning. Roy Reynolds led a shorter out-and-back route along the Truman Linear Trail.

Amos and Claire Gallagher graciously hosted the post-ride eats and treats in their lovely home in the Gordonson district of Savannah. Participants contributed a wide range of delicious soups, sides and desserts, which were enjoyed in and outside the Gallagher home. Oh, and as Kathy Schaefer observed, there was not one but TWO fire pits outside to ward of the cold drizzle that dipped in and out on the day.



The last "Soup Ride" was held way, way back in 2020, with the venue being the meeting building of Macomber Park in Rincon. In prior years, it was (like this year) hosted in the home of a CBTC member. Judging from the turnout this year, the club's annual soup ride will doubtless be on the agenda next year.



Not-so-local ride opportunities

There are a couple of ride options that club members may take advantage of, particularly if your travels take you to South Carolina or Florida. To the north, Trek Bike Stores of Mount Pleasant and Charleston offer several ride options from each town. South of Savannah, the North Florida Bike Club also offers a range of cycling events. In case any club members are in either South Carolina or Florida, they may take advantage of the ride offerings.

Trek bike shops offer Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday shop rides. The Saturday rides are road, whereas the Sunday and Tuesday rides are gravel.

For Saturday road rides, the Mount Pleasant store rides starting at 8am, with a 45 and 52 mile road options. The 45 mile route is a "B"



pace, 19-21 mph. The 52 mile route is a "C" pace, 16-18 mph. The Charleston store Saturday rides depart at 9am, with routes of 18, 32, and 38 miles. The 38 mile route is 19-21 mph pace, the 32 route at 16-18, and the 18 mile route at 13-15 mph.



Sunday "Dirt Church" group gravel rides depart at 9am from the l'On Trailhead in the Francis Marion National Forest outside of Charleston. There are 75, 37 and 29 mile options.

The Tuesday gravel ride, AKA the "Wolfpack ride", is an evening ride leaving at 6:30 from the same l'On Trailhead, with a pleasant 16 mile route and a "party pace" of 10-12 mph.



To the south, the North Florida Bike Club is planning several rides in March and April, in addition to their normal weekly club rides. On Sunday, 2 March, the club will ride their Annual Azelea Ride, a full century (actually, 102 miles). NFBC has participated in this ride for 20 years, which starts at Cove Plaza, 1401 U.S. 17, Green Cove Springs, FL.

The monthly "Smoothie Ride" takes place on Sunday, 9 March. Routes of 53, 44 and 36 miles are offered, with all rides starting at the Publix in Murabella Shopping Center, St. Augustine, FL. In April, the club's inaugural "Spring Fling and Bling Ride will take place on Saturday 19 April, at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, in Elkton, FL, a location some club members may remember from past Tour de Forts rides. Finally, on Sunday, 27 April, Clyde's Spring Ride will take place. Starting at the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail, there are 39, 75 or 100 mile options. For anyone interested in any of the North Florida Bike Club rides, a complete ride calendar can be found at:

https://nfbc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=597416

Green Island path update

For those CBTC members who actually read the monthly newsletter, you may recall the Green Island path initiative described in the December 2024 missive. The path initiative is under the auspices of Chatham County Department of Engineering, and will result in a multi-use path along Green Island Road. Green Island is actually a separate island from Skidaway Island, the boundary being Delegal Creek. Green Island road starts at the intersection of Diamond Causeway (the 4-way stop sign intersection just outside the Main Gate of The Landings) and ends at the south part of Skidaway and

Green Islands. When complete, the path will connect the South Harbor and Grand Harbor gated communities to The Village on Skidaway Island.

Chatham County solicited public comments on the project between 5 December 2024 and 3 January 2025. A total of 378 comments were received. 106 were in support of the project, 210 were opposed, 17 were uncommitted and 45 expressed conditional support.

On 31 January, 2025, Chatham County responded to questions, concerns and comments received from the public, and issued the following letter addressing those concerns. It may be worth mentioning that our Congressional Georgia District 1 representative has a home in South Harbor, so there is probably some influence being rendered on Chatham County to go forward with this project.

https://engineering.chathamcountyga.gov/Projects/ViewFile/df77de69-e811-4490-b3c8-f2515e0d81be/PI0019015_Meeting%20Comment%20Responses_20250131.pdf



Green Island

Savannah area bike shops

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.



Montgomery Cross Road, Savannah



Pennsylvania Avenue, Savannah



Ford Avenue, Richmond Hill



Located on Wilmington Island - Johnny Mercer Boulevard