"I have cycling friends I see only on the bike. I wouldn’t recognize them in a suit and tie." —Paul Fournel

It’s the summer and we’re all busy, so the President’s Pen will be short this issue.

Pan Ohio Hope Ride
I recently completed my fifth Pan Ohio Hope Ride. This ride always inspires me and this year was no different. For several reasons, this year we rode from Cincinnati to Cleveland for the first time. I think it was a good idea to change things up a bit. It made it more interesting. It was fun riding part of the traditional route in the opposite direction, and it was also fun riding new roads and climbing new hills. Well, maybe not always fun on some of the hills. The new landscapes and new rest stops and new friends that we made, now, those were fun! The one thing we missed was Westerville’s Fourth Friday. Because of the change in route we stayed at Ohio Wesleyan and not Otterbein and instead of stopping by the WBC bike corral, we took a walk around downtown Delaware. There were more places to eat, but not the same as good old Westerville!

Annual call for new officers
We have begun our annual search for Club officers and committee volunteers. We need a new Treasurer, Education and Advocacy officer, and a new apparel coordinator. We may have a few other openings as well. We can always use help on the committees. I ask all of you to consider serving the WBC as an officer. It is fun and rewarding and we need everyone’s help. Send me or one of the current officers an email and let us know if you’re interested.

And also, please try to attend our monthly meetings. We only have 8-9 a year, and each lasts no more than two hours.

Not good cycling ambassadors
The following in not a behavior of our Club members. I’m addressing it to the cycling community in general. It’s one

Save the Date: Dry Run, 9/11

Sunday, September 11th, is the WBC’s annual Dry Run. Those calls for volunteers have been coming out, from marking the route, performing “Dry Run” dry runs, driving SAG, assisting at registration or rest stops, you name it. Bake those cookies! They set our ride apart from all others.

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President’s Pen, continued

of my pet peeves. I’ll start by stating I’m not perfect.

What has happened to courtesy between cyclists? When did we go from sharing the roads to making each ride a race? Does anyone let other riders know when they’re passing anymore? Which is as annoying as riders who quietly latch on to another’s wheel and let you pull them for miles, then pass you and don’t even thank you. I don’t mind pulling strangers, (okay, maybe I do), but let me know you’re there and do your fair share.

And what is it with those riders who insist on racing down the east driveway and across the causeway at Hoover Dam? On almost every ride lately, and especially the Wednesday night rides, cyclists seemed determined to “beat” all the other riders across the dam. They take ridiculous chances and weave in-and-out just to get around other riders, and then sit up after they have “won” some major event that exists only in their own mind.

Got news for you. It’s not a race, you don’t get a prize and you haven’t won anything. All you’ve done is demonstrated how juvenile and obtuse you are. If you were dropped on Walnut and Cubbage, you didn’t come back and catch the “breakaway” riders who dropped you. They chose to slow down, ride carefully and show respect and courtesy to the runners and walkers on the dam. Trust me, you’re not going to affect your new average mph PR that means so much to you by obeying the bike path speed limit and riding carefully instead of recklessly.

On a recent Sunday ride I was almost rear-ended on the causeway by a speeding cyclist who dropped you. They chose to slow down, ride carefully and show respect and courtesy to the runners and walkers on the dam. Trust me, you’re not going to affect your new average mph PR that means so much to you by obeying the bike path speed limit and riding carefully instead of recklessly.

Just my opinion.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see all of you at the Dry Run and at our September meeting.

Ride in the Dry Run, and bring your friends!

Jeff Pierron | Dry Run Director

The Dry Run Tour is the club’s showcase event, and we need you—as a rider, volunteer or both!

The 35th annual Dry Run on Sunday, Sept. 11, will offer the opportunity to ride challenging, well-marked routes of 34, 54, 70 and 100 miles. There’s great food, valuable prizes and friendly service—all at a low cost of only $30 on the day of the ride.

The Dry Run also gives WBC members a chance to give back to the club and the biking community as volunteers. Dozens of members step up to staff the food stops and registration tables, plan and mark the routes, help lost or stranded cyclists, line up prize donors and sponsors, bake cookies, direct traffic in the parking lot, and perform myriad other duties behind the scenes.

As director, I’m especially grateful for the expertise, experience and hard work of coordinators John Clectner (SAG), Andrew Grandjean (registration and bag-stuffing party), Craig Leach (food stops), Mike Perakis (route maps and supply transport) and Chuck Perry (route marking).

All this collaboration is aimed at making Dry Run both fun and a fantastic value for our participants. The tour is the club’s primary fundraiser, and proceeds from the event help us keep membership dues incredibly low—$25 per family—and donate thousands of dollars each year to bicycle-friendly organizations in Central Ohio. Cyclists who join the club when registering for Dry Run get a special $10 membership that lasts until March 31, 2017, complete with a discount it provides you at BikeSource.

The Dry Run typically draws about 400 riders. This year, we’re again looking to increase participation with a special promotion to attract riders from Pelotonia teams. For every 10 riders from a Pelotonia team who register for Dry Run, the WBC will make a $20 donation to the peloton’s team account to help in the fight against cancer. It’s a chance for teammates to reunite to ride together and continue to raise money for their peloton. So please help spread the word. Everybody likes riding with their friends, so we hope this promotion will encourage that—and help boost the turnout for the Dry Run.

So, club members, please join us on Sept. 11th at Westerville Central High School and be sure to invite your friends! For more information and to register, go to www.westervillebicycleclub.org/dryrun. Or you can email the director at dryrun@westervillebicycleclub.org.
We need a new WBC editor

Shari Heinrich | Editor

Kathy Martin did an amazing amount of work all those years she served as the Pedal Pusher editor. Alas, I’m done in one. I’m working hard on my novels (yes, plural—my next one is a young adult story about 16-year-old Marissa, who gets visions about others, but not herself), short stories, and peer critiques. Toss in the agent hunt plus building the “author’s platform” that shows your prospective agent or publisher that you’re serious about the business of writing, and “spare” time is even more hard to come by. My bike miles have never been so low: 201, and we’re in fall! That means my editor hat’s gotta come off.

My blog takes over where my “Spinning a Tale” column left off. Well, sort of. It’s not bike-centric, but you can rest assured the bike will make it in now and again, when I manage to make room for an adventure. The blog does still carry the spirt of my column, looking at the world with wonder, the way a child does. I see so many possibilities. I hope you’ll check it out at http://shariheinrich.com/.

Oh, wait, I was telling you we need a new editor, and what the Club editor does, wasn’t I? It’s planning, formatting, and proofing.

You solicit content. You might do that by listing to your friends as you ride (and I haven’t been making it to many group rides), or looking at their Facebook posts, or posts on the WBC page. The harder part is finding the ones willing to tell their story. The Pedal Pusher always needs content.

Now that the Pedal Pusher is quarterly, issues might be longer, especially when you’re putting in minutes from several meetings. Or, like this issue, it might be shorter if you haven’t actively solicited content. I knew I needed to put this issue out early so that we could promote the Dry Run a final time; and one timed for October would have bumped into a vacation I’m taking.

You’ll need newsletter software if you don’t already have it, but the club will pay for it; it needs to be a topic in budget planning. You’ll pay up front and then submit for reimbursement. Microsoft sells a license for Publisher, but be forewarned: if you own any other Microsoft software, it’ll need to be the same version as Publisher. Adobe’s InDesign has a yearly license, but also a more expensive price for a monthly license, so create the Pedal Pusher, cancel, and then re-join 3 months later. It comes down to the software you know/like.

If you’re interested in being the next editor and have questions, feel free to chat me up if you catch me on a ride. You can also shoot me an email at newsletter@westervillebicycleclub.org.

Vicki Chorman, Mike Rea, Mike Perakis and Jon Hayes at the top of Ute Pass, Ride the Rockies 2016. Photo supplied by Mike Perakis

Kathy Petrucci and Julie Schmitt take a breather during Ride the Rockies, at the top of Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous motorway in the US. (12,183’ above sea level) Photo by Mike Perakis
Things that go bump in the night

Mike Perakis

Fall is fast approaching, and the time is near for WBC’s annual Wednesday NIGHT Ride series. The regular Wednesday evening rides finish up at Hoover at the end of September, with the sun setting at 7:15 pm. In October, we’ll embrace that early sunset and go out on our bikes in the dark. Last year’s series was extended well beyond the planned Halloween finale, with a dozen “rideable” Wednesdays all the way to the middle of December.

Of course, lights are required, bright enough to be seen for sure, but to see our way as well. Several companies make truly spectacular bike headlights that allow riding at any pedaling speed. Our local BikeSource locations carry a variety of these models, many well under $100, with rechargeable internal batteries and multiple brightness settings. White front lights and red rear lights are required, with many folks including some well-placed reflectors and even additional side lighting.

To best enjoy our time in the dark, we hit all the best hidden paths, alleys, neighborhood streets and even country roads. The rides start at 7pm, from the parking lot to the west of Panera Bread at State Street and Maxtown Road, and last about 20 miles or 1.5 hours, weather permitting. Lots of people will ride their alternative bicycles; fixed gear, cyclocross, mountain or city. The pace is casual, usually averaging about 14-15 mph, and steady riding speeds can be around 16-17 mph.

Be on the lookout for email announcements in October.

Once more with friends

Spinning Another Tale  |  Shari Heinrich

Monday nights, Kathy Martin leads a ride out of McNamara Park. Thursdays, it’s her husband Alan. Despite my living barely two miles from there, and having the best intentions of making at least one of their rides once a week, how many rides have I done with them? Three rides. It’s the end of August, and that’s it? And of those, only one did I actually go the whole way. Mike Perakis took the role of pacemaker that night, and he assisted several of us with a push up the hills. At stop signs, he’d soft-pedal to keep us together.

I enjoyed a chance to chatter on (and on and on and on) if anyone was silly enough to ask me about my writing. Now and again, I remembered my manners long enough to ask what they’d been up to.

Tonight, Daniel Tinderholt caught up to me as I rode from home. There I was, not even two miles into my ride, and I had to slow so I could talk.

“Are you running away from home?” he asked.

Despite my lack of breath, I laughed. I rode Intrepid, my trusty commuting steed. If I’m taking a bicycle (and writing) vacation down the road, my butt needs saddle time. Besides the rear panniers, I also had the front bag on. It allowed me to squirrel away my camera and the handy-dandy Epi-Pen I must always carry, courtesy of the wasp-sting reaction that made me miss Alan’s Thursday ride.

Nikki and I rode comfortably, chatting away the miles. She did such a cool thing, serving as one of the kayak course marshals during the recent Ironman. She rescued a woman who couldn’t contend with the choppy waves. Later, she helped keep a swimmer on course. Poor guy, he missed the time cutoff by 10 seconds.

As I prepare for my vacation, I absolutely have to carve out that balance of yardwork, writing, riding, and running. But for now, I’m settled in my comfy couch, finishing this short column, and putting the Pedal Pusher to bed.

Save the Date: Team WBC, 9/18

Meet at BikeSource Dublin (4840 Sawmill Rd.) for the Team WBC organizational meeting. Arrive by 4:15, and meeting begins promptly at 4:30 pm. Attendees must be dues-paid WBC members. Team WBC members serve as ambassadors of riding, especially when in the kit. Bring a chair if you want to sit.
LAB bike friendly survey... do it by September 15

Shari Heinrich, taking material from Ken McLeod | LAB State & Local Policy Manager

Westerville, Ohio, has applied to continue to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community. We’re currently at the “Bronze” level.

This round LAB is trying a new local review process. Our community can distribute this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WestervilleBFC so that anyone can give feedback without signing up to be local reviewers.

LAB has changed the local review survey to align with questions from the 2012 NHTSA Attitudes and Behaviors survey so that their local review process can give LAB data, and we citizens of Westerville can come to an understanding of how our community compares to a nationally representative sample of citizens. It is LAB’s hope that with sufficient survey responses, this comparative information will prove useful to Westerville and complement the community’s efforts to understand the attitudes and behaviors of our citizens regarding bicycling.

The survey will close on September 15th at Midnight Pacific Time.

Westerville won’t be judged on the number of responses to this survey. It will provide context while LAB is deciding an award level and to, hopefully, provide valuable feedback in the community’s Report Card and Feedback Report.

The Pedal Pusher is a publication of the Westerville Bicycle Club, Central Ohio’s premier cycling organization. None of this content may be reproduced without the express written permission of the WBC. Questions or comments should be directed to Shari Heinrich, editor/publisher.

All articles and photos for submission into the Winter issue of the Pedal Pusher will be due by the deadline established by the next editor, whose email persists as newsletter@westervillebicycleclub.org.
Shots from the Monday night ride

Photos by Shari Heinrich unless attributed otherwise.

Ed Hayman, Dusty L?, and Nikki Heath
Wayne
Larry Graham, Shari Heinrich, and Kris Oaks. Photo by Ed Hayman