

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits 2014 Annual Report

October 15, 2014

www.outdoor-pursuits.org



Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is a volunteer based, participatory organization created to provide opportunities and education for outdoor recreation and activities and thereby aid in acquisition of a greater knowledge and appreciation of the out-of-doors and to develop self-reliant, community minded citizens.

We:

- Provide outdoor recreation education to the public, including safety and technique
- Organize and lead outdoor trips
- Train our own outdoor leaders
- Purchase and maintain a limited amount of equipment for use in our programs and activities
- Define outdoor recreation as primarily non-competitive, self-propelled activities such as backpacking, bicycling, kayaking, etc.





Columbus Outdoor Pursuits
1525 Bethel Road, Suite 100
Columbus OH 43220-2054
(614) 442-7901
fax: (614) 459-8044
www.outdoor-pursuits.org
office@outdoor-pursuits.org

Tour of the Scioto River Valley: www.tosrv.org
Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure: www.goba.com
Across Ohio Bicycle Adventure / <http://www.Ride-XOBA.org>
Columbus Fall Challenge - <http://outdoor-pursuits.org/CFC>

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is a non-profit, non-political organization organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and is dedicated to providing outdoor education and recreation to all people, regardless of race, creed, or religion.

MEMBERSHIP

For membership information, contact the office at the phone number or email address shown above. Membership forms are periodically printed in this newsletter and are also available on our website.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Keith Finn, 614/381-9483
president@outdoor-pursuits.org
Vice-President - Jerry Capehart - 216/202-5557
vpres@outdoor-pursuits.org
Secretary - Eben Kent - 614/299-2153
secretary@outdoor-pursuits.org
Treasurer - Rich Lesnansky 614/353-6728
treasurer@outdoor-pursuits.org

ELECTED MEMBERS

Tim McNish - 614/ 873-9331
Tim.McNish@outdoor-pursuits.org
Tim Smith - 614/308-0937 Tim.Smith@outdoor-pursuits.org
Catherine Flemming - 614/288-5432
Catherine.Flemming@outdoor-pursuits.org
Bradley Paskievitch - 614/264-7967
Bradley.Paskievitch@outdoor-pursuits.org
2 Positions Vacant due to family/health issues.

ACTIVITY LEADERS

Backpacking - Position Available
Bicycling - Roy Burnham, 614/ 735-6420 & Suzanne Birk
614/518-4316 bicycling@outdoor-pursuits.org
Bicycle Project Development Fund - Tim Smith 614/308-0937 Tim.Smith@outdoor-pursuits.org
Boating - Walt Taylor, 614/519-8633
boating@outdoor-pursuits.org
Camping - Katie Cordova 614/782-2085
camping@outdoor-pursuits.org
Climbing - Darren Schroeder 614/ 725-6119
climbing@outdoor-pursuits.org
Hiking - Position Available
Risk Manager - Barb Holland 740/503-9229
RiskManager@outdoor-pursuits.org
Running - Eric Anderson, 740/680-3955
running@outdoor-pursuits.org
Winter Activities - Glenn Beachy - 614/268-4904
winter@outdoor-pursuits.org
XOBA - Maureen Capehart - 330/333-XOBA
xoba@outdoor-pursuits.org

ORGANIZATION STAFF

Senior Events Director - Bill Gordon 614/442-7901
Events.Director@outdoor-pursuits.org
Editor - Ann Gerckens 614/442-7901
editor@outdoor-pursuits.org
Event Director - Julie Van Winkle, 614/273-0805
goba@outdoor-pursuits.org
Office Manager - Ann Gerckens, 614/442-7901
office@outdoor-pursuits.org



Presidents Message

Keith Finn, President

Learn + Do! The COP board adopted that as our motto this year, to reflect our unique place as an organization that teaches you how to do something, and then we go practice what was taught!

But, sigh, COP did not have a good fiscal year (October 2013 - October 2014) for finances. Unlike 2011, we did have some warning that this fiscal year was going to be a rough one. A long winter and chilly spring really put a damper on our Big Tours (TOSRV and GOBA). These are our main revenue sources, and when ridership is down we do not do well financially. For 2014, it looks like expenses will exceed revenues in the range of \$60,000 - \$70,000 dollars. This was really bad news for COP - If finances continue in this vein, COP will be in very bad financial straits by the end of 2015.

One bright spot was Bill Gordon and his management of the COP Budget Tours - these were more well attended this year, and brought in some operating cash. The Budget Tours also featured some pre-ride educational clinics focused on safe group riding. And we had a cooperative venture with the Homeless Family Foundation on the Ridge Runner ramble that worked out very well for everyone.

Our perennial bright spot is a all our great Volunteers. I cannot express my thanks enough for all the time and effort you have put into making COP a very good way to "do stuff". Our revenues may be down, but the smiles are always way, way up! Thanks to all our very dedicated and talented leaders and volunteers. We would be lost without you.

The Bicycling activity is also a bright spot - ridership is up on our scheduled rides, and COP is running some rides in partnership with other bicycling groups.

Our other activities have, shall we say, "issues".

Boating, our most popular activity after bicycling, suffered an abrupt drop in the number of scheduled trips this year, as well a drop in educational offerings. Boating remains popular, but we need to focus on recruiting trip leaders this year and getting trips scheduled!

Hiking, Running and Backpacking, have had no Board representation in 2014. Some trips are being scheduled, but the activities have no Activity Leader on the Board.

Rock Climbing, Camping and Winter activities have had no active Board representation this year. While we have a volunteer listed as the Activity Leader, they have not been coming to board meetings, or responding to board correspondence.

As a result of these issues, the COP board are going to regard Hiking, Running, Backpacking, Rock Climbing, Camping and Winter Activities as dormant. The current ex-officio Board positions held by these activities will be vacated, and no longer have representation. Trips in these activities can still be scheduled by qualified leaders, but for now you will have to contact the board at info@outdoor-pursuits.org One of the board members that monitor the mailbox will contact you about setting up the trip.

COP has had some other big changes this year. Our GOBA director for the past 16 years, Julie Van Winkle, decided to resign this year (causing me to miss a few heartbeats...). She is moving on to become the Executive Director of the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund. But read on...

By coincidence, the COP Board had been pondering a change in how events were being run, and how to staff the Big Tours. We had decided on an Event Director / Event Coordinator setup, with all of the COP tours run by this team. Julie's resignation threw a bit of a wrench in the situation....But now the good news - Julie will be working for COP part time as the Event Coordinator.

I used my vast executive powers to appoint Bill Gordon to the COP Event Director position, and Julie will be our Event Coordinator. Bill and Julie have proved to be an effective team, and Bill has met and worked with the GOBA volunteer group. We have high hopes for this team!

Starting in 2015, TOSRV, GOBA and CFC will be managed by one common COP team.

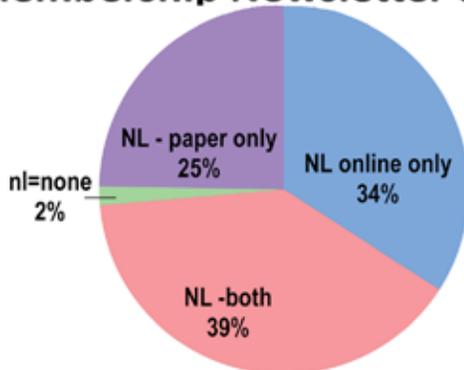
This year's Membership meeting on October 21, we are going to ask the membership to vote on some motions to amend the Constitution. A couple of them are "housekeeping" tasks to allow the Board to conduct business - such as taking the fixed date and time from the Board meeting dates. The one change I want to highlight is the number of board members needed to form a quorum. The past few months, it has been difficult to get 10 voting board members physically present at a meeting, and without a quorum we cannot do business. We will be asking the membership to allow seven board members to form a quorum, instead of ten.

Now comes an appeal - do you care about the fate of COP enough to consider serving on the board? If so, please let us know by contacting us at nominating.committee@outdoor-pursuits.org We will also be taking floor nominations at the meeting on October 21.

So, 2015 will be another crucial year for COP. Please consider riding TOSRV this year, and bring all your friends as well!



Membership Newsletter choices



Join the online conversation and follow @ColumbusOutdoor on Twitter today!

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Newsletter

Ann Gerckens, Editor



Cutting Costs

As part of our cost cutting measures, we will not be publishing a January issue of Columbus Outdoors. Please be sure you get your information in for the December issue by November 5th.

Check www.outdoor-pursuits.org/calendar for any changes/additions to the schedule.

Next year, we expect to combine December and January into one issue and then November/December and January/February 2015.

We will no longer be printing full page registration forms. Expect to see a quarter page of information including who to call if you need a paper registration form and a link for online registration.

Leaders! Instead of step by step directions in your schedule listing, please list the address and a goglemap link.



GOBA

Julie Van Winkle, Director

26th Annual GOBA 2014, June 14-21:

Take A Ride on the Wild Side

Julie Van Winkle, GOBA Director,

The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure celebrated its 26th year with the theme, “GOBA 26-Take A Ride on the Wild Side”. In keeping with the theme, on Saturday, June 14, our opening day, Mansfield used that theme for the bicycle parade costumes and festivities in town. We were honored by a very warm welcome from Mansfield mayor Tim Theaker as well as a Blessing of the Bikes by local Pastor Joe Ashby. Then, on Father’s Day (Sunday) we cycled off to enjoy overnights in Orrville, Coshocton (2 nights), Mount Vernon (2 nights), and Bucyrus, before the triumphal return to Mansfield.

Other great memories of the 26th GOBA: Tours of Kingwood Gardens & Ohio State Reformatory; A concert at Orr Park by the Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Rumours; Scavenger hunt in Coshocton; Boxed lunch and program of Ohio Canal Tales in Roscoe; An elegant dinner at Pomerene Center for the Arts; Hiawatha Water Park; Knox Squares game (a salute to hometown boy Paul Lynde, late of Hollywood Squares fame); Chautauqua Beatles; A

Kokosing River canoe ride; Music at the Mural, and alpacas in camp in Bucyrus; Brats galore; and Optional side trips, Amish Way of Life (including a stop at Rolling Ridge Ranch, with its range of “wild” animals), and Savor Ohio Beauty (including Dawes Arboretum and a boat cruise on Buckeye Lake); the contests: for Rider #s 26 and 2626; “Counting Cemeteries” on the route; the ever-popular Song Contest; and the hard-working amateur radio operators and other volunteers everywhere we went.

As far as the terrain, it was mostly rolling to hilly, although we did enjoy some flat routing on the bicycle trails, especially the long stretch of the Holmes County Trail on Monday, as well as the Kokosing Gap Trail and the new Heart of Ohio Trail (paved from Centerburg to Mount Vernon). Riders generally found the first two days of the week to be the most challenging terrain. Our century option on Tuesday out of Coshocton went to parts of Holmes & Tuscarawas Counties. The century riders said that might have been their hardest century ever, due to the combination of factors, heat, humidity and poorly placed (!) headwinds, added to the hilly terrain.

The week started with good weather, temperatures in the upper 70’s to

low-80’s, fairly low humidity, and cool nighttimes. Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday were in the upper 80’s or low 90’s. On Wednesday evening and overnight, thunderstorms came through Mount Vernon, but the severe weather stayed south of us. After that, the temperatures moderated, and the last Saturday saw overcast skies, morning fog and temperatures in the 70’s, which helped us get over the last of the hills into Mansfield.

GOBA by the numbers: We had 1,917 registrants. 1,134 of our riders were male; 1,361 were from Ohio; 165 were COP members; 38 states were represented as well as Japan, Taiwan, Canada (Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec); 402 were from multiple generations riding together; 147 riders were age 15 or under; 22 have ridden all 26 tours; 1434 (75%) registered online. First-time riders numbered 520 (compared to 617 last year and 484 the year before). Over the 7 days of riding, 2 days were optional loop days; mileage on the five required riding days was a total of 241, and adding in the optional routes, the total was 402. There were approximately 175 century riders and an additional 250 riders who did shorter sections of the Tuesday loops. On the Thursday optional day, about 200 riders rode the 58-mile loop.

In our 26th year, we salute everyone who helped GOBA become a reality. They helped us demonstrate that “Take A Ride on the Wild Side” is a description of GOBA this year and EVERY year: we joined together with other bicyclists for a bicycle camping tour that was a little bit wild, a little bit hilly, a lot family-friendly, and 100% joy.

GOBA 27th Annual Ride: June 20-27, 2015

*(Route Announcement =
November 24, 2014)*

GOBA 2014 - Route Summary			
	<i>Route</i>	<i>Camp</i>	<i>Miles</i>
Sat., 6/14	Check-in / Bike Parade	Richland Co. Frgds	parade: 4.5
Sun., 6/15	Mansfield to Orrville	Wayne College	55
Mon, 6/16	Orrville to Coshocton	Lake Park	57
Tues., 6/17	Coshocton: optional loop	Lake Park	optional: 58 or 100
Wed., 6/18	Coshocton to Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon High School	42
Thurs., 6/19	Mount Vernon: optional loops	Mount Vernon High School	optional: 57
Fri., 6/20	Mount Vernon to Bucyrus	Crawford Co. Fairgrounds	52
Sat., 6/21	Bucyrus to Mansfield	Richland Co. Frgds	35
Maximum total			402.5
Minimum total			241





XOBA 2014

Returning to Our Roots

Maureen Capehart, Director



The 17th Annual Across Ohio Bicycle Adventure took place July 26-August 2. We returned to our roots traveling the Cardinal Trail. This was the route followed by the first Across Ohio Bicycle Tour in 1977. We even had one of the riders from that tour riding with us for the week!

We started in Muncie, Indiana and rode the Cardinal Greenway rail trail to Richmond on the first day. Then we followed the trail across Ohio with over nights in Piqua, Bellefontaine, Marengo, Ashland and North Canton. We ended the week in Lowellville, Ohio after a ride up the Pennsylvania border.

During the week, we had 80 riders who rode over 33,600 miles! They were supported by 14 absolutely awesome volunteers. To keep them fueled; they drank over nearly 20 gallons of chocolate milk, over 100 pounds of bananas and snacked on over 30 pounds of popcorn. I think the popcorn machine worked as hard as they did!

We brought the tent, towel and chair service in-house this year and it worked well and was well received. Brian Jenks from Hubbub/Artispin was with us for the week and kept all our bikes in tip top riding shape.

Although many of our riders come from across Ohio, we had riders from as far as Florida and California. The Edinboro Outlaws (Pennsylvania mostly) registered with our group discount and brought 12 new to Ohio riders.

Randy Austin won the road treasure contest. The Edinboro Outlaws won the non-talent show. The prizes were socks for all and a \$50 discount on a future tour.

Planning is now underway for our 18th tour. It will be the A.E.I.O.U

and Sometimes Y Tour. (Adventurous, Exciting, Imaginative, Outdoor, Unforgettable and Y – Because We Can) The tour will be July 18-25. Pre-sale registration is open now. We will be riding on the east side of the state and will likely be visiting Pennsylvania and West Virginia along the way. Ride details will appear on www.Ride-XOBA.org as they are finalized.

I would like to thank the following volunteers as these events can never happen without them: Blake Williams, Allison Bollinger, Ken Webster (and Grant), Bill Egan, Matt Zirger, Reuben Rall, Rosa Rall, Steve Thompson, Martin Williams, Jerry Capehart, Ginny Brandt, Mary Ann Bontley, Bill Gordon, Allen West and Bill Plate.



COP Main page: <https://www.facebook.com/Columbus.Outdoor.Pursuits>

COP Bicycling is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53811046325/>

Steve Barbour Memorial Tour www.facebook.com/Steve.Barbour.Memorial.Tour

Columbus Fall Challenge www.facebook.com/ColumbusFallChallenge

Tour of the Scioto River Valley www.facebook.com/TOSRV & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/61493140982/members/>

The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure www.facebook.com/gobatour & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/21599037582/>

The Across Ohio Bicycle Adventure <https://www.facebook.com/AcrossOhioBicycleAdventure>

COP Boating is at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/295898643839210/>

Come be a fan and get the latest news, trip reports and event information. See the fun our members are having and share with us your thoughts.



TOSRV 2014

- 53rd Annual

*Rick Hoechstetter,
Assistant TOSRV Director*

awesome bike weather we experienced on Sunday, May 11. It was as good as it gets for Ohio. THANK YOU to you and your team for all that you do in making this a successful event!

- Dan P., Strongsville, OH

Thank you very much for joining us for TOSRV this year. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.

1570 people signed up for TOSRV 2014, the 53rd annual event, the weather cooperated as well as can be expected in these changing times. As usual the weather on Sunday was preferable to the previous day's conditions. The flawlessly-run operations were the result of the massive effort of hundreds of talented volunteers, and it all worked beautifully, all coordinated by our new boss, Bill Gordon. Bill ran the Waverly Food Stop last year and took over full operations this year. He brought his detailed perspective, a new energy, and a focus that has helped to define the direction that TOSRV will take in the future. He introduced the One-Day TOSRV and the Adventure Expo this year and changed the lunch menu for the better. His efforts have helped in many other areas and anyone interested the full picture may contact him. He's also available for any other questions (particularly with any offers of help), and may be reached at director@tosrv.org

I wanted to send a quick note of appreciation for a wonderfully organized and well-coordinated TOSRV53 2014 bike tour this past weekend. I have completed 19 TOSRVs and I am so respectful and appreciative of the countless hours devoted by you and your staff of volunteers for the planning, organizing, logistical support and tremendous execution to make this event one of the premier bike tours in the country. Also, take credit for the

TOSRV/53 by the numbers:

- * 1185 riders signed up on line (75.48%)
- * 250 riders signed up by mail
- * 135 riders signed up through Day-Before-the-Ride Registration (DBR)
- * 1254 riders were male (79.87%)
- * 316 riders were female
- * 1244 riders rode the full Tour (79.23%)
- * 326 riders rode the Half Tour
- * 603 riders completed the Tour, which is a 38.4% completion rate.

TOSRV/53 riders by the state.

TOSRV riders primarily came from Ohio and the five adjacent states although 31 states, the District of Columbia, and Ontario, Canada were all represented. For a full list of riders by state, please visit TOSRV.org.

- * Ohio - 1314
- * Michigan - 61
- * Pennsylvania - 44
- * Indiana - 25
- * Kentucky - 20
- * West Virginia - 16
- * New York - 8

* Riders ranged in age from 2 to 89 (155 riders did not include their age):

- 2-10: 3
- 11-20: 47
- 21-30: 136
- 31-40: 156
- 41-50: 288
- 51-60: 509
- 61-70: 234
- 71-80: 39
- 81-90: 9

This year's senior finisher was Mr. David Norman, 82, of Columbus, Ohio.

Thanks for a great event!

- Dave C., Xenia, OH

The following people were responsible for the management of TOSRV:

- Bill Gordon, Director
- Rick Hoechstetter, Assistant Director
- Bill Duemmel, Online Registrar
- Jim Redpath, Database and Mail-in Registration Administrator
- Greg Siple, Graphic Artist and Historian
- Phyllis and Allan South, Volunteer Coordinators
- Keith Mayton, Vendor Coordinator
- Tony Huffman, DBR Registration
- Kal Dworkin, ARES Coordinator
- Glen Beachy, Saturday Morning Registration
- Kevin Reedy, First Response Coordinator
- Mike Fox, Luggage Coordinator
- Tim and Jodie Smith, Half Tour Coordinators
- Brad Lutz, Circleville Food Stop
- Walt Taylor, Chillicothe Lunch Stop
- Barb Holland, Waverly Food Stop
- Kim Bauer, Portsmouth Coordinator
- Greg Forst and Eve Holland, Sunday Check-in

Baer Wheels, Breakaway Bike Shop, and Century Cycles provided on-site repair services.

The volunteers of TOSRV are the best there are. TOSRV runs so well because so many talented people put an enormous amount of effort into it.

Enjoyed the weekend, thank you for a well-run event.

- Dave H., Dayton, OH

Our Sponsors

We gratefully recognize the support of our sponsors; Porter, Wright, Morris, and Arthur, and the Southern Ohio Medical Center. The Southern Ohio Medical Center also provides overnight sleeping space at their SOMC Life Center. Thanks to both of these great institutions.

The Tour Route Marking

The attempt to create fluorescent road arrows failed miserably and will not be repeated. Please depend on the

appearance of highly visible Dan Henrys next year.

The new One Way option was well received. One Way riders started in Columbus, arriving in Chillicothe and returning to Columbus on Saturday night for the new Adventure Expo. We don't have good numbers on the riders who selected or completed this option, something we intend to correct next year.

Merchandise and Certificates

We still have some quantities of merchandise, although not all sizes. If you did not pick up your certificate or your merchandise, please let us know. There is no cost for sending certificates. Please indicate whether you rode the 200 miles, completed the Half Tour, or just participated. If you did not pick up your purchases, we will send them to you. If you would like to purchase merchandise, please enclose \$55 for jerseys and \$15 for t-shirts, with \$3.50 p&h. We still have most years' patches available for \$2.00 each.

Hi. I just wanted to send a note to tell you what a fabulous event you organize.

- DeNeil H., Ironton, OH

Feedback

Do you have a question, suggestion, or addition (to the TOSRV archives)? If so please use the back of this form or email director@tosrv.org. Thank you.

Looking Ahead to TOSRV2015

Entry forms will be sent out to all riders who registered in 2014 by mail on the 15th of January, 2015. Riders who signed up online last year will receive an email as soon as we can confirm the date that TOSRV54 online registration will open. Please email director@tosrv.org if your email changes. We will again offer both the Half and One-Way TOSRV options in 2015.

rickh@tosrv.org
TOSRV Hotline: (614) 461-6648
TOSRV, P.O. Box 16003, Columbus, OH 43216-6003
www.tosrv.org



Bicycle Development Fund

Tim Smith, Chair

It's been a year of change for the Bicycle Development Fund (BDF).

The fiscal year began without a BDF chair. The position was filled at the November annual board retreat when Tonya Fasone was voted in as chair. After Tonya resigned in February the position was again unfilled until I was voted in as chair in July.

During the August board meeting changes relating to the BDF were proposed and accepted.

Prior to changes the Operating Guidelines for the Bicycling Project Development Fund read: "COP accepts applications annually between August 15 and September 15. Applications are reviewed during September and the Board considers proposals at its October Board meeting. Applicants will be notified by November 1."

It was proposed and accepted that the Operating Guideline be amended to read: "COP accepts and reviews applications on an as received basis. The Board will consider any proposals at the next Board meeting following the receipt and review of the application. Applicants will be notified within 14 days of the Board decision."

Additionally, it was recommended and accepted that guidelines be amended to replace all references to "Bicycling Project Development Fund" with "Bicycle Development Fund". This is a housekeeping change and by no means changed the purpose of the fund.

Two grant proposals were

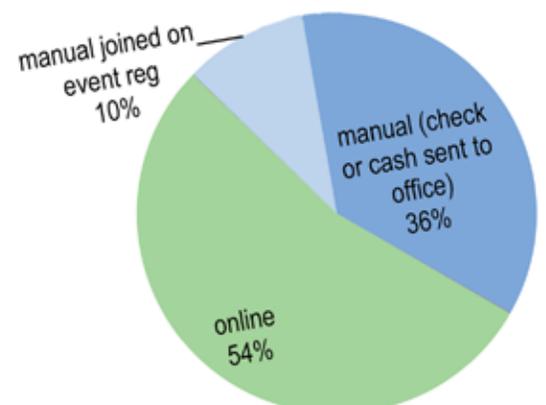
presented to the board for approval this fiscal year.

At the November annual board retreat the board voted to award Bike Lady, Inc. a \$5,000 grant. Bike Lady, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer charitable organization, used the grant directly towards the purchase of new bikes, helmets and locks for children with a history of abuse, neglect and abandonment. A worthy cause indeed!

The second proposal was received from Yay Bikes! Yay Bikes! was seeking \$7,500 in relationship to an opportunity to redesign their bike corral. (Their corrals may be used at events such as ComFest and OSU football games.) Their proposal was voted down 6-5 at the July board meeting. The primary cause for rejection was concern for COP's financial health.

Historically over \$1 million has been awarded from the BDF. As COP's financial health improves it is my hope that we can continue to offer support for worthy organizations.

How Members Join





Boating Walt Taylor

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer trip leaders, school directors and instructional assistants, we were able to continue the boating program and community outreach offerings in line with Columbus Outdoor Pursuit's mission of providing safe, low-cost outdoor education and recreation. Volunteers are the heart and soul of COP and the boating group.

2014 Goals

- * Maintain a positive budget
- * Identify and train potential leaders
- * Invest in equipment and leader training
- * Maintain current level of school offerings
- * Maintain trip diversity

General Items

Numerous in- and out-of-state canoeing, kayaking and rafting trips offered a wide range of experiences to our boaters.

Winter Pool Sessions were held Sundays January through mid-March at the Grove City YMCA.

Wednesday Night Paddles resurfaced this year. These are 5 – 10 mile social paddles, running from May through mid-September.

The Alum Creek Beach Events (ACBEs) were well attended this year. These are social paddles with a focus on practicing strokes, rolls and rescues in kayaks and canoes. These run from early June thru late August.

Because of work in and along the Scioto River downtown, it wasn't possible to run our popular Red, White & Boom paddle. This is regularly a significant income source for the boating group, renting 70 boats to over one hundred paddlers, offering them an unprecedented view of the fireworks from Columbus' best vantage point.

Students learned new skills at numerous

classes taught by new and veteran boating leaders.

Toni Hartley continued to coordinate our Boating Newsletter submissions.

Canoes and kayaks were loaned to groups for instruction and river cleanup activities.

Boating Classes

This year's classes were well attended.

In February, Kayak 1 School (Intro to Kayaking - Strokes) introduced new whitewater kayakers to the sport this past spring, and the Kayak Eskimo Roll class readied students for K-2.

The usual group of whitewater commandos provided our annual mid-April K-2 (Intro to Whitewater Kayaking) training on the Rocky Fork and Paint Creek Rivers, although the pool of students continues to dwindle.

Other instructional trips included Doug Eldridge's Essentials of River Kayaking.

John Lane, Curt and Debbie Goetz coordinated the Rec(reational) Kayaking classes. Kayak Quick Start Class offers a fun, fast-paced four-hour introductory class following ACA "Quickstart" lesson plan and included a mandatory "wet exit." Rec Kayak Touring taught students the fundamentals of kayak trip planning. Rec Kayak Rescue teaches both self- and assisted water rescues.

"Get Your Feet Wet Trip" Class taught basic short trip planning.

Trips

Canoeists, kayakers and rafters had a variety of trips from which to choose throughout the year. Water conditions ranged from calm, flatwater inland lakes to the challenging waves of Lake Erie and rivers ranging from gentle riffles to the difficult Class V rapids.

The boating calendar began early with the February Icebreaker and didn't end until the 40+ year old annual Flocking to the Hocking. Popular annual events included the Spring Southern Flatwater trip, Little Beaver Creek Paddle, Licking River Paddle and Hike, Hocking River Pedal and Paddle, NOC Sale and Whitewater Festival, Mad River Kids trip, Kelleys Island Poker Paddle and Current River trip (renamed the government budget sequestration-modified 11 point River trip) . Other rivers navigated included the Clear Creek, Big Darby, Cheat River Narrow,

New, Gauley, Kokosing, Cassleman, Slippery Rock and . . . our Yough.

Camaraderie and shared meals are always on the menu at the Yough Stop.

Leader Training

Boating leaders attended ACA (American Canoe Association) certified training in canoeing and kayaking. These classes taught our leaders proficient paddling, leadership techniques, rescue skills and trip planning strategies.

Budget

The 2014 expenses exceeded revenues, resulting in a negative budget.

Storage of the canoes and inflatables is an expensive, but necessary, outlay of boating funds. The canoes, trailers, inflatables and equipment are kept at a commercial storage facility on the west side of Columbus. The kayaks continue to be housed by a gracious COP member at a private rural residence in Hilliard.

The upkeep of the Yough Stop is another necessary expenditure of boating monies.

Again, the Red, White and Boom paddle was cancelled, depriving the boating group of one of its major sources of income.

Depreciation also took its toll on the budget.

Yough Stop

The Yough Stop continues to be used year-round by COP members participating in boating, bicycling, skiing and other activities. The charge for the use of the Yough Stop is a paltry \$5/night/person. This helps defray the cost of electricity, taxes and porta-john cleaning.

Recreational Kayak Grant

The recreational kayaks secured through the ODNR grant continue to provide training for new kayakers in the ACA Quickstart, Trip Planning and Rescue classes. They were also used to provide instruction for the ODNR "Take Me Paddling" portion of the Annual Alum Creek Boating and Fishing Festival.

Rentals

Daily rental rates are \$10 for aluminum canoes, rafts (per seat) and duckies. New canoes (plastic) and whitewater kayaks rent for \$15. Sea kayak rental rates are \$25 per day, \$45 per weekend and \$15 for WNP or SMP. Whitewater kayak rentals

are available by contacting Sharon Hsu and Dave Seslar. Contact Walt Taylor for canoes and inflatables and John Lane for sea kayak rental. Rentals are a privilege of COP membership. Right of rental refusal is retained if paddling skills are questionable or a safety risk is perceived.

2015 Goals

- * Maintain positive budget
- * Identify and train potential leaders
- * Invest in equipment and leader training
- * Maintain current level of school offerings
- * Maintain trip diversity
- * Continue development of a kayaking training program focused on introducing the sport to more children

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Taylor, Boating Activity Leader
614-519-8633
kayakcolumbus@gmail.com

First Columbus Adventure Expo!

Eben Kent

With the persistent humidity since Sat, my clothes have finally dried out sufficiently to wear! But a tardy, but heartfelt thank you for your contributions during our recent Columbus Adventure Expo!

Despite the inclement conditions, you all did something important for this community. You showed greater Columbus that the region offers wonderful outdoor opportunities – on foot, by bike or in a boat! And, through hiking, running, biking, camping and kayaking, COP programs and events can make a connection with Nature that too many of our peers simply take for granted or are simply too oblivious to. And most of all, you reinforce that the outdoors can be F-U-N!

During the Expo, I observed a lot of camaraderie and support from all of you – whether it was addressing a vendor need, answering an outdoor question from one of the intrepid attendees, providing a child with a life experience, or simply providing support to each other while the dreary weather persisted much too

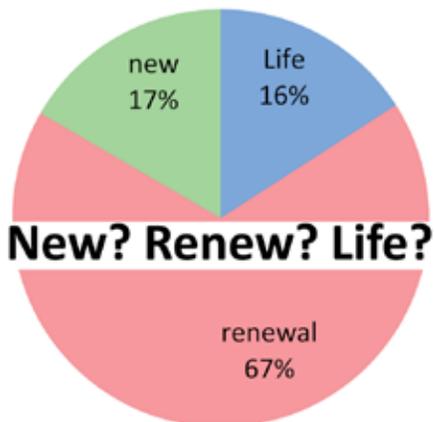
long.

The COP Marketing Committee – most of whom were at the Expo – will be meeting soon to discuss what can be done to improve the Expo. I welcome any and all suggestions as well! So, please feel free to provide your comments and suggestions (some of you already have – thanks).

And, shortly, we will follow up the vendors to receive their impressions. But anecdotal evidence indicates that they value this sort of event and would like to see it flourish in the coming years. And, even with the light turnout, many cited satisfaction with the time they spent at the Expo.

One more time - on behalf of the whole Committee, thanks again for braving the wet and taking so much time out from your weekend to make the event so meaningful.

And, as we had a number of volunteers show up without my knowledge, please feel free to forward this email on to them. All who participated (and persisted) deserve thanks!





Bike Tours

Bill Gordon
Senior Event Director

This was a year of changes and an opportunity to test ride ideas. The Spring Budget Rides had a very high participation rate. My guess is everyone was ready to get out and ride after a cold winter. We had total of over 1500 registered riders across all our Budget rides. The Mid-Ohio Century had a few issues due to poor road conditions, discovered late in the route planning. We will review the spring routes much earlier in 2015.

Hope everyone appreciated the links to a GPS file when registering online by the Thursday evening before the ride. We will continue to perfect this ability as well as have better printed maps when requested. Registering online helps us in tracking the rides and makes it easier for the day of registration volunteers. We plan to keep the online registration available as late as possible on the Friday before the ride. It is very important to register for the ride, so we can be of assistance if something happens.

The Ridge Runner Ramble was one of our test ride ideas. We partnered with the Homeless Family Foundation. COP was guaranteed a certain dollar figure for each registered rider. The Homeless Family Foundation paid ALL the expenses and kept any income after the expenses, donations, and income from sponsors. We had 292 riders, 169 of these were non-members. And, this ride resulted in the highest income of any of our "Small Rides". The Homeless Family Foundation board was so excited about the event they are already planning it for next year and hope to attract 500 to 600 riders. The Director of Development said it was the "easiest and most successful fund raiser she had ever been involved in". Look for this ride next year mid-July starting at New Albany High School.

The Steve Barbour Memorial Tour is a ride that friends of Steve keeping requesting we continue due to his love of COP and cycling. His Mother and I talk every year after the ride and she thanks the cycling community for how great they have been to her and Steve's sister. After the City and Consider Biking were not able or willing to be part of the ride in 2013, I moved it to the Dublin area the end of August. We had 143 riders and served Subway sandwiches at Richwood Lake Park in Richwood. I would like this ride to be a "Celebration of Safe Cycling" and to remember all the cycling friends we have lost or are not able to ride with us due to injury. I also hope to use this ride as an opportunity to donate additional funds to a cycling related charity.

The Columbus Fall Challenge offered a New Format with two (2) out and back routes both Saturday and Sunday from Bloom-Carroll High School. One route was a 60 plus miles and the other a 100 mile route all with hills. The routes were selected to offer a different riding experience each day. All riders had the option of riding one day or two. At the finish was a Subway lunch and other snack and drink items. Next

year I would like to partner with other cycling organizations and create a "Fall Bike Festival" with additional types of rides and lengths.

In closing, we are in need of Volunteers; we need weekly ride leaders, food stop volunteers, and volunteers willing to mark routes. Many of our long term volunteers need a break and are willing to coach new volunteers. If you have some time and interested contact me at: bill.gordon@outdoor-pursuits.org.



24th Knox County Bicycle Challenge

- Saturday, September 20, 2014

Gary Schmidt, KCBC ride leader

We had a great turnout this year, with 265 riders leaving Gambier near Kenyon College. The weather was excellent, with temperatures in the mid 60's at the start and warming up to the low 80's by late afternoon. Just a little wind near the end of the ride, but of course it was a headwind since we are going west/southwest back to Gambier.

Thanks again to the New Guilford UMC for hosting the morning snack stop and getting the porta-johns, and thanks to Mike Miller for setting that up. And thanks to Nellie UMC for the lunch stop. We had Meg Litteral and friends providing music again, and it was so nice out we set up tables under the trees so cyclists could hear their excellent quintet while they ate. Chuck Luzader's Cap City Diner soup is always a big hit, served up by our great volunteers- Taj Bakare, Deedra Buxton, Chris Radel, Cameron Schmidt and Malinda Yoder. And many thanks again to Charlie Pace (TOSRV emeritus Director) and Robbie Robison for helping getting everybody signed up at the registration.

The route stayed the same this year, tough as usual (especially for the 78 mile and 100 milers- like we used to say, if you can do KCBC you can do Fall Challenge!). I think we have about 25% of the riders doing the long routes, with most going for the 62 mile option. This has been causing faster riders to show up at the lunch stop before 10:30am, which is tough on our volunteers, who are just getting that setup. So if you are a faster rider who likes to start early, why not consider doing the longer routes next year? You will be amazed at some of the beautiful scenery around Roscoe Village in Coshocton County and Glenmont in Holmes County! Thanks again to all who come and do this ride every year and to all my volunteers who make it happen!



COP by the Numbers

Ann Gerckens, Office Manager

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 we offered 685 trips:
 560 were day trips
 31 were weekend trips
 2 were long weekends
 And 5 were extended trips (more than 4 overnights)

157 trips were cancelled, most due to weather

25 of these trips were formal education programs,
 36 included informal education

We racked up 28,031 participant days

128 leaders made this happen.

On October 1, 2014, we had
 1578 memberships and 1968 individual members

313 members were life members
 327 were new this year
 1328 had renewed their memberships

284 people volunteered, many in multiple capacities.

Together they donated 17,137 hours to Columbus Outdoor Pursuits.



Treasurers Report

Rich Lesnansky, Treasurer

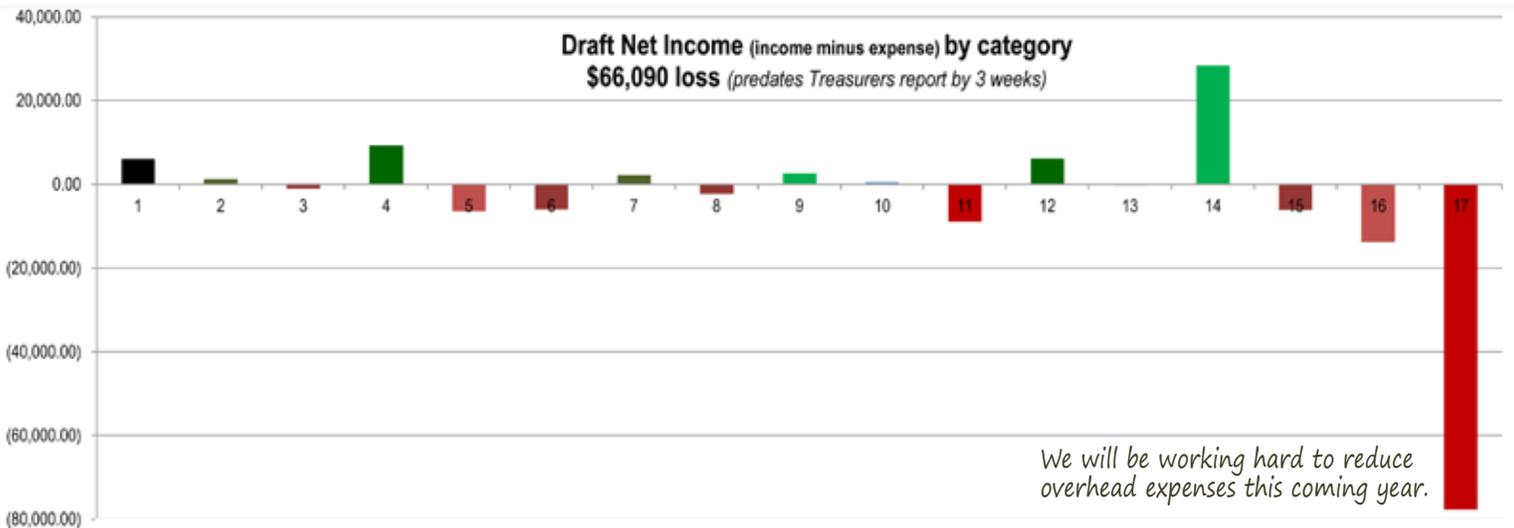
COP's Financial State of Health

The fiscal year ended with a \$78,096 loss compared to the previous year's \$10,005 profit. Our major rides, GOBA and TOSRV, did not deliver produce profits as expected. TOSRV produced a profit of \$6,115 versus a budget of \$27,290. GOBA produced a loss of \$9,605 versus a budget of \$27,315. Ridership was less than expected for both rides. Our ride directors are exploring new ways to increase riders and reduce expenses. In addition, the board has been closely managing overhead expenses and exploring new revenue sources, such as the Expo that was held in conjunction with the new one day TOSRV ride. A profitable next fiscal year will be critical for the long term survival of our organization.

The unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014 are on the next page. Reviewed Finances for Fiscal year 2013 can be found on our website at:

http://www.outdoor-pursuits.org/resources/Documents/reports/Reviewed_FinancialStatements_FY2013_20140212.pdf

FY 2014 will be posted when they are final and reviewed this winter.



We will be working hard to reduce overhead expenses this coming year.

	Overhead *	Small Activities **	Bicycling & Bike maps	Budget Tours	Cof's Adv Expo	Boating	KCBC	CFC	Barbour	Upper Sandusky	GOBA	TOSRV	XOBA	Membership	Newsletter	Interest & Treasury	Office
NET INCOME	5,985.00	1,219.63	(999.14)	9,270.78	(6,406.40)	(5,952.31)	2,175.84	(2,249.31)	2,615.57	437.03	(8,918.97)	6,114.65	(273.46)	28,369.57	(6,103.71)	(13,737.84)	(77,637.19)

* Risk Management, Leader Development, Publicity, Grants, Executive Board, Med Info kits, website
 ** Hiking, Backpacking, Camping, Climbing, Running, Winter



Draft Finances FY 2014

September 2014 Final Income Statement

	Revenue	Expense
Trip Fees	\$ 560,920	
Membership Dues	\$ 40,995	
Merchandise Sales	\$ 44,590	
Misc Revenue	\$ 9,682	
Cost of Sales	\$ (33,739)	
Total Revenue	\$ 656,187	
Payroll, taxes and benefits		\$ 215,935
Printing		\$ 49,745
Professional fees		\$ 68,647
Facilities		\$ 61,185
Insurance (liability, excess, other)		\$ 38,071
Postage & Shipping		\$ 17,389
Equipment Repair & Rent		\$ 81,594
Service and credit card fees		\$ 15,642
Supplies Trip Food		\$ 58,353
Support (Drivers, Medical, Security)		\$ 52,141
Electronic Commerce		\$ 7,878
Mileage Reimbursement		\$ 16,074
Misc Expenses		\$ 51,630
Total Expenses		\$ 734,284
Net Income (Loss)		\$ (78,096)

September 2014 Final Balance Sheet

	Assets	Liabilities & Capital
Checking-Regular	\$ 55,647	
Checking - Paypal	\$ 21,263	
Money Market	\$ 40,491	
Longer term investments	\$ 10,098	
Resale Inventory (CFC,XOBA, Office)	\$ 10,733	
Inventory	\$ 536	
Prepaid expense	\$ 31,753	
Property and equipment	\$ 5,208	
TOSRV Cash Advances	\$ 2,378	
Deferred Expenses	\$ 78	
Total Assets	\$ 178,184	
Current Liabilities		\$ 18,762
Life Member Fund		\$ 20,000
Bicycle Development Fund		\$ 29,258
General Fund		\$ 188,261
Net Income		\$ (78,096)
Total Liabilities and Capital		\$ 178,184