

News Update



COLUMBUS OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Fall/Winter 2019

Newsletter #159

Update Letter from COP President, Jerry Rampelt

On November 25 GOBA registration opened. Seventy riders made the GOBA decision on Day One. The route and stops of Troy, Wapakoneta, Sidney, and Versailles are enthused about the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure coming to their town. Ohio has the distinction of first in flight and first to walk on the moon, so the event has an air and space theme. Did you know that the Wright brothers began their career as owners of a bicycle shop?

The annual Cabin Fever Film event, our biggest social event of the year, will take place at Nocterra Brewing Company in Powell this January as TOSRV registration

kicks-off its 59th consecutive year. Did you know that Tour of the Scioto River Valley is the longest continuous bicycle ride in the USA?

XOBA dates are set! Do you want a cross state ride with just 50-75 riders so you get to know each other? If yes, XOBA is for you. It is a camping ride in July so you can enjoy the stars at night. Mark your calendars for July 25 - August 1. Registration will open mid-January.

Board member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy is leading a resurgence of the COP backpacking program, and backpackers of all levels of experience are welcome. I have backpacked with Maryellen, and her knowledge of backpacking allows even a novice to gain the confidence needed to take on multi-day trips.

This past summer we piloted introductory Bike Tours of downtown parks and Greenlawn Cemetery and Abbey. These tours will resume in April next season. Airbnb promotions have brought cyclists from Pittsburgh, Dayton, and Painesville. Join us and you'll not only have a great excuse for getting outside, but you'll



COP President, Jerry Rampelt

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2020 Hiking and Backpacking Update



by *Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Board Member and Activity Leader*

Women's Backpack Group Day Hike
February 16, 2020

Ides of March Women's Overnight Backpack Excursion, March 14-15, 2020

Women's Lake Vesuvius April 17-19, 2020

Archer's Fork April 26, 2020

Red River Gorge May 23-25, 2020

Otter's Creek Wilderness Backpacking Trip June 26-28, 2020

Building on the momentum in 2019, the backpacking group has an exciting schedule for 2020 planned!

The photos below are from the backpacking groups #optoutside hike at Zaleski Forest the day after Thanksgiving. Cool temps made for a great 10 mile hike!



A trip to the Smoky Mountains is also being planned but dates are not final yet. Stay tuned!

We hope to see you in the forests and on the trails in 2020!



Cabin Fever Social and TOSRV Kick-off

Yes, that is a blue kayak hanging from the ceiling at this year's host location of our annual Cabin Fever Social! The host owners are kayakers, cyclists, hikers, and kindred spirits to our organization!

Mark your calendars for our premier winter social event and be first to register for TOSRV!

Where: Nocterra Brewing Company 41 Depot St, Powell, OH 43065

When: Sunday, January 26, 1:00 pm. '

What: Craft beers and cocktails, non-alcoholic drinks, a food truck, and film footage of outdoor fun, including TOSRV58 will be shown.

To register: <https://app.donorview.com/Z6o6K>

President, cont. from page 1

learn some history about Columbus too.

You know it's winter when pool kayaking practice sessions show up on our event calendar. Now is the time to hone your roll skills so you'll be set for the spring when the water is running. Leaders can help spot you at these sessions in case you need a little help. Some experience with rolling is suggested.

In the past year, COP added five board members, but we still are short the number of board members required by the COP constitution. If you have an interest, contact me at 614-783-5809 so we can set up a time to chat over coffee. We ask all board members to volunteer at some of our events during the year.

COP donations are welcome, and COP members were sent a donation letter and return envelope. You can also donate online at <https://outdoor-pursuits.org/donation/>.

Welcome New Board Members



Jon Davis is an avid bicyclist, hiker and backpacker. Forging his love for God's great outdoors while attending high school in Colorado, he has continued to pursue

outdoor activities throughout his life. Recently he has backpacked in the Canadian Rockies and conquered the Colorado River rafting through the Grand Canyon with his family.

Jon has participated in Pelotonia, the grassroots fundraising event for the Ohio State University's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Center, every year since its inception in 2009. This provides the combined benefit of riding his bike and supporting a cause he's passionate about: cancer prevention and cures.

When he's not on his bike, Jon is an Associate General Counsel at Verizon. Jon is a deacon in Xenos Christian Fellowship and leads a home based Bible study. Jon is also a community board member of Riverside Hospital's Institutional Review Board. Jon has been married to his wife Anne for over 30 years and has 3 children.



Lindsey Updike has been cycling ever since she can remember thanks to her father Dennis. When she was eight years old she completed her first GOBA and has continued riding the weeklong tour ever since. In addition to GOBA, Lindsey has ridden TOSRV and Pelotonia to name a few. Other activities she enjoys are backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, yoga and most recently downhill skiing.

Besides having a passion for the outdoors, Lindsey enjoys giving back. She serves on a community service committee at BakerHostetler Law Firm where she is the Accounting Manager. They provide fundraising, drive campaigns and volunteer opportunities that benefit local organizations within Columbus and Franklin County. Lindsey graduated from Ohio University and lives in Clintonville.

Welcome Matt Wolf

*by Matt Wolf,
Program Coordinator*

I'm Matt Wolf, the newest addition to COP's staff. My focus will be coordinating the events and programs of the organization.



My outdoor passions include kayaking, running, and hiking -- all with a hefty dose of environmental stewardship. Ensuring that future generations have quality outdoor recreational opportunities is a passion of mine. With a lot more people arriving in central Ohio, sustaining healthy rivers, parks, and forests will require thoughtful planning and effort. I enjoy participating in those activities for the benefit of all Ohioans.

I've been fortunate to live, work, and recreate in some amazing places. Backpacking through Alaska's Brooks Range, kayaking the Scioto River in Ohio, trail running in the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon, backpacking in Utah's Canyonlands, exploring ice caves in Antarctica have all helped shape me into the person I am today. As a small-town Pennsylvania boy, these experiences have afforded me growth and perspective.

I hold a B.S. and M.S. in Meteorology from Penn State. And yes, I am still a Nittany Lion! In my spare time I enjoy volunteering with Keep Columbus Beautiful (a litter education and resource city office) and other civic groups, as well as caring for my historic home in the Harrison West neighborhood of Columbus.





Introducing the Cycling Series

Get set for the rides of your life this season with the 2020 Cycling Series!

We're throwing in an official Cycling Series T-shirt with our new branding for FREE! 10 rides for only \$50! (\$100 for non-members)

Not a Member? Join today and save \$20 off the \$100 price! (Seniors save \$25!)

Each ride includes:

- Multiple mileage options ranging from 25 miles to 100
- Multiple pace options ranging from 8 mph to 20+mph
- Well-marked routes
- Printed Maps

• **An official 2020 cycling series t-shirt!**

- Ride with GPS Links sent out the evening prior to the ride or as soon as the route is final (whichever comes first)
- Sweep support

Are you riding with a team to raise funds? Let us know so we can set up your team fundraising page. <https://outdoor-pursuits.org/join-a-team>

Register: <https://app.donorview.com/D5mq>

(Does not include TOSRV, GOBA, Ridge Runner, or XOBA.)

April 18
Woodstock

April 25
SPOT

May 2
Mid-Ohio Century (MOC)

May 9
Top of the Ohio Hundred (TOOH)

June 13
Heart of Ohio Tour (HOOT)

August 15
Ride the Darby

August 22
Steve Barbour Memorial

September 12
Covered Bridge

September 19
Fall Heart of Ohio (Fall HOOT)

September 26
Knox County Fall Challenge

New Branding/Volunteer Spotlight Oscar Fernandez

Oscar Fernandez, long-time supporter and rider of TOSRV has been working on a cohesive brand-



ing strategy for Outdoor Pursuits over the past few months. Look for the symbols above as we begin to integrate the new branding in our communications, websites, merchandise and more!

Thank you Oscar, for your spectacular volunteer efforts in the Outdoor Pursuits brand!

Thanks to the Sponsors of the Cycling Series



5985 Maxtown Rd,
Westerville, OH
43082
trekbikes.com/us/en_US/



3449 Grove City Rd,
Grove City, OH 43123
heritagecycles.net

What Does My Money Pay For?

We sometimes get questions about why we don't offer our rides for free. Here is what your \$ covers:

1. Insurance - we pay ± \$1 per rider
2. Safety - we check the route
3. Paint - we mark the route
4. Printing - we give you a map
5. GPS account fees - we give you a digital route the evening before the ride
6. Mileage - we reimburse volunteers
8. Staff - we submit waivers, set up registration, and follow up on incidents
7. Community and camaraderie - we introduce you to friends

Bill Eisele Award Recipient Bill Egan

Congrats to Bill Egan for receiving the 2019 Ron Eisele Award. This award is given to a volunteer, who, like Ron Eisele, has done a yeomans work for COP over a long period of time. It is considered to be a "lifetime" achievement award. Bill Egan certainly fits that description.

Bill first started riding TOSRV in 1988 when registered riders topped the 5000 mark. He remarked that a fair number of rider "bandits" also rode in those days. In the early years, he volunteered for rider packet stuffing, and packet pickups on Friday.

He worked many food stops, including Whilte Lake and

Chillicothe. He was the face of the Waverly rest stop for several years. For many of these years, he also handled equipment loading, cleaning, and unloading. No job was too dirty for him!

Bill started riding GOBA and volunteering a few years back. He drove the box truck for several years and was also the Med RV driver.

He has also volunteered for XOBA, and helped this ride and other rides with route marking.

In the many years Bill has volunteered, a couple of memories stick out. One year, he helped bring back TOSRV riders via old school buses to Columbus from Portsmouth on Saturday. One bus broke down halfway back!

Needless to say, the busload of hot, sweaty riders were not happy!

He also remembers being a part of the team that had to become the towel service providers when the hired vendor did not show. They bought 500 towels and laundered them every night for the riders.

Duty called and Bill has always answered!



The morning of TOSRV, sometime in the early 90s. From left to right: Bill Patrick Egan (Bill's brother), Tom Fagan, Matt Egan (Bill's son, now 37 years old), Joel Goodman (Bill's brother-in-law, deceased) and Bill!

Fly High with GOBA

Register now for the 2020 Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure - Fly Wright, Leap Boldly!

The sky's the limit and the stars will be within reach for an air- and space-themed GOBA on June 20-27, 2020, in western Ohio.

Visit major museums and other sites that celebrate the Ohioans who were first to fly and first to set foot on the moon. Soar in a vintage biplane. Pedal to the world's largest private bicycle museum.

The 32nd annual GOBA begins and ends in Sidney and includes overnight camps in Wapakoneta, Versailles and Troy. Ride all seven days on supported routes or just on the four days when we move to a new town. GOBA is COP's family-friendly, self-paced



adventure full of scenery, good food and great friends. Don't miss it!

Learn more and register today at goba.com.



Rich History of Team Training with Outdoor Pursuits

May 29, 1986

THE NATIONWIDE DIVIDEND

3

Nationwidiers accept challenge of 210-mile bike trip

Like the Boston Marathon or Iron Man Triathlon, the Tour of the Scioto River Valley (TOSRV) has a special appeal for those who are challenged to test the limits of their fitness and stamina.

For others, the 210-mile bike trip simply provides an opportunity to enjoy the freedom of travel along a winding river and through the rolling hills of southeastern Ohio.

Twelve members of the Nationwidiers Bike Club were among the 4,600-plus participants of TOSRV '86 May 10-11.

The annual weekend trip from Columbus to Portsmouth, Ohio, begins on Saturday in Columbus. The route spans 105 miles and requires between five and eight hours of pedaling time.

Employees of Nationwide's Portsmouth Medicare Office hosted their Home Office colleagues by providing refreshments and accommodations for Saturday night's stay over. The bikers returned north to Columbus on Sunday.

Those experienced on the tour recommend a pre-tour training that includes riding between 500 and 800 miles within two months and at least one 100-mile trip.

Jack Hunter, IIT systems and



Portsmouth Medicare employees Charlotte Balzer and Deanna Flaughter greet Home Office bikers upon their arrival. Pictured (l to r, back) are Lance Evans, Art Siegesmund, Rick Taylor, Scott Taylor, (front) Jack Hunter, Charlotte, Mollie Wolfe, Diana Wolfe, Woody Olson, and Deanna.

programming supervisor, is one of the tour's most experienced. In fact, Jack is considered one of TOSRV's founders, having first taken the tour at the age of 16 with three high school friends. One of those friends, Greg Siple, had toured with his father a year earlier, in 1962, and that trip is considered TOSRV's beginning.

"In the early days, we took group pictures and knew everyone by name," recalls Hunter. Both are impossible

now that the tour attracts thousands of bike enthusiasts from all over the United States and Canada, he adds. The tour's growth over the past 24 years is chronicled in Siple's recently-published book, *The Mighty TOSRV*.

Hunter was surprised to find himself somewhat of a celebrity among 1986's participants at the Saturday night group dinner in Portsmouth. His fellow bikers gave him a round of applause not because he was one of

TOSRV's pioneers and not because he is a veteran of 12 tours, but because his 25-year-old Bianchi 18-speed bike has accompanied him every year since 1963.

"They asked me to hold up my bike. I think it was more of a celebrity than I was," says Jack.

"No one is really quite sure why they take the trip," Jack says with a laugh. "It usually rains, it's held too early in the season to be in good shape, and the roads are getting pretty congested with bikers, but everyone still wants to do it. It has really become the Boston Marathon of the bike world."

Other Bike Club members who participated in the tour include Art Siegesmund, Woody Olson, Lance Evans, Rick Taylor, Gary Kessler, Mollie Wolfe, Diana Wolfe, Mike Moses, Luis Trujillo, Scott Taylor, and Mark Erbaugh.

Nationwide has two other connections to TOSRV. Retiree Jack Shepherd, an amateur radio buff, was stationed along the route with an emergency radio in case of accidents.

And if an accident should occur, Nationwide is on the biker's side with a group accident policy. Nationwide has insured the tour since 1978.

Attention Teams!

Outdoor Pursuits wants to help you achieve your riding goals. Whether you're riding just for fun or to raise funds, we're here to help. Tag your photos with #OPandme and you might see your team featured on our social media channels.

Fundraising? We offer your own fundraising page, a place for donations (we'll forward donations to you quarterly) and promotions through our social media for your team!



Members of the Pan Ohio Hope Ride Team



Connex Portsmouth Members



Road Warriors Members

Picture
Your
Team
Here!

Paddling News

A wet spring and early summer greeted Ohio paddlers who found themselves flooded out for many trips and classes. Intro classes for quiet water, moving water, and white water class were held, but due to high levels, the white water class moved to flat water. All other area rivers were flooded out.

Many kayakers met weekly at Alum Creek Reservoir to practice their roll and to socialize. Volunteer and COP member Matt Place, remarked that these sessions were well attended even on days with less than ideal weather. Matt said many others helped with these sessions and he appreciated their help!



Practice Pool Session Schedule

Groveport sessions:

Sundays, 10 am - 12 noon

Westerville sessions:

Sundays, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

December 15 - Westerville

December 22 - Groveport


January 5 - NO SESSION

January 12 - Westerville

PADDLESPORTS Social & Film Fest

Food, Friends, Film, Funds!

Saturday, January 25 - City Barbeque Event Room
5979 East Main, Reynoldsburg 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm

FOOD: Who doesn't love  ?!

Purchase your mouth-watering favorites then dine & socialize with your **FRIENDS** - paddling pals old and new!

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

FILMS: Best of NPFF / Bluegrass Wildwater Association Paddling Films
Stillwater Zen to Whitewater First-Descents



FUNDS: \$10-\$15 Suggested donation at time of event

Proceeds benefit:



CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Outdoor Alliance American Whitewater is a founding member of the Outdoor Alliance, a coalition of user groups that work to ensure the conservation and stewardship of our nation's land and waters through the promotion of sustainable, human-powered recreation.

January 19 - Groveport

January 26 - Westerville

February 2 - Groveport

February 9 - Groveport

February 16 - Groveport

February 23 - Westerville

March 1 - Groveport

March 8 - Groveport

March 15 - Groveport

March 22 - NO SESSION

March 29 - Groveport

April 5 - Westerville

Register from the events calendar at outdoor-pursuits.org/events-calendar/



1193 S. Front St.
Columbus, Ohio 43206
www.outdoor-pursuits.org

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#COPandme



This string of characters is the official Columbus Outdoor Pursuits tag used for social media posts.

Post your photos with this hashtag and you might see your photo shared on our site or in our newsletter!



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- Jon Davis, Director
- Jeff Sherman, Director
- Lindsey Updike, Director
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- Lisa Daris, TOSRV Director
- Jeff Pierron, GOBA Director
- Matt Wolf, Program Coordinator