



CycleMasters: I am excited that we can start stripping off our cold weather gear. Soon enough, though, we will be riding in the heat and wishing it was cold again! Enjoy whatever weather you can ride in (almost) all year round. The rest of the country is jealous of the wonderful riding conditions we have here in Tucson.

For our March Saturday morning social rides, we will now start our rides at 8:30am. Our starting point (and breakfast location) is still HOA1. And the HOA1 Roadrunner Grille remains our breakfast location after the ride.

As in past months, here is the recap of what happened in February, and what is currently planned in March 2024 and beyond:

#### MARCH SATURDAY MORNING SOCIAL RIDES:

- ☐ Start Location and Time: HOA1 Bocce Ball courts parking lot at 8:30am.
- ☐ Breakfast: 9:30am at the HOA1 Roadrunner Grille.

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- ☐ Glenda Fredricks joined in early February.

Please make sure to say hello to our new members when you have the opportunity!

#### RECAP OF PREVIOUS EVENTS:

- ☐ February 17 th Valentine's Breakfast Ride: Although we delayed the event by a week due to weather, it was well worth it. Over 90 people attended the breakfast – a record! Thanks once again to all who helped: Our Social Committee, those who made the fantastic food, those who contributed tables and chairs, and all others who contributed to this success.
- ☐ February 24 th Bike Maintenance Workshop and Chili Cookoff: We have not offered events like these in a few years, but they were both great. I think we had between 50 and 70 attendees at each event. We plan on making the Bike Maintenance class a routine event (with varying subject matter). I am already looking forward to the next Chili Cookoff. Thanks to Jim Barrett (Birdie Bikes) and John Boyd for assisting at the Bike Maintenance Class. Once again, a special thanks to everyone who made the Chili Cookoff happen, and especially to those who brought chili to taste test. All of the chilis were spectacular.
- ☐ 2024 Dues: One last reminder - If you still haven't paid your 2024 dues, you have until the end of February to do so. If you do not, you will be taken off the club email list. Please remember to complete a new SaddleBrooke CycleMasters Membership Application (which you can download from the CycleMasters website at <http://saddlebrookecyclemasters.org/>) and give it and \$20 (check or cash) to Madelaine Salas (her contact information is on the application).

#### CRITICAL CLUB NEEDS:

- ☐ Saddlebrooke Progress Delivery Positions: We still have two open Progress delivery units that need regular delivery persons: Unit #8A (145 papers) and Unit #42 145 papers). Please help! We can use you as a primary or substitute delivery person (for about two to three hours a month). Please let one of our Progress delivery leadership team members (Rick Muck, Bruce Hale, Sandee Heighton, Rod Hutton or Todd Hubbell) know you are interested. For those (especially new members) who may not know, the club uses the Progress delivery income to principally fund our bike donations (and additional monetary donations) to our two local school systems and other local worthy recipients. We also use the income to help fund our club get-togethers and other events.



#### CURRENT INTERNAL EVENTS AND REMINDERS (NEW / CHANGED ITEMS ARE IN BLUE):

□ Oracle and San Manuel Bike Donations: John Roberts (Co-VP) has started coordinating with both school systems to identify the student recipients at each grade levels, their bike sizes, the dates of the school presentations, and other details. Very soon John Roberts and John Boyd will be asking for help with bike assembly, storage, and delivery to the schools. And, of course, everyone who can attend will be invited to the school presentation ceremonies. More to come!

□ A Safety and Security Moment (Part 2): If on a ride and stopping for refreshments, stay right next to your bike (even if locked on a bicycle rack). This is especially important at popular locations like the Mercado and other stopping locations around The Loop. A bicycle (with cable lock installed) was stolen last January in St Phillips Plaza less than 50 feet from the bike owner. Thieves act fast!

□ A Safety and Security Moment (Part 1): Our own Wanda Ross provided me the following article a couple of weeks ago that is important for all of us to know and maintain awareness of: "Tucson's Social Problems Meet Cyclists Along The Loop"; [https://arizonadailystar-az.newsmemory.com/?publink=2739c8754\\_134d177](https://arizonadailystar-az.newsmemory.com/?publink=2739c8754_134d177) .

For your own safety, please read and pay attention to the detailed insights provided.

□ New CycleMasters Logo and Club Jerseys: The board is close to finalizing a new club logo and club jersey. My goal (if everything goes smoothly) is to have the new jerseys available for the Italy trip in June.

□ Weekly CycleMasters Happy Hour: As a reminder, come and join good friends and good conversation! We meet weekly on Tuesday at the HOA1 Roadrunner Grille (or HOA2 if HOA1 is closed). Happy Hour starts at 3:00pm and continues to 4:30pm (or even later now!).

□ March 9 th Marana Rotary Tucson Tour de Cookie: As you know, our CycleMasters club will again participate as we did last year. Significant information has already been sent out by Julia Boyd (Board Secretary) on the ride details. Expect one or two last meet-up details prior to the event. If you need Julia and me to pick up your packets, please let us know prior to March 7 th (that is when we will pick up packets for those who asked us to do so).

□ March 21-24 2024 El Tour de Zona (Sierra Vista / Bisbee / Tombstone): This three day ride is also getting close! Note that you can register for 1, 2 or all 3 days of riding. I believe we have seven CycleMasters attending this event (search "Bisbee Trip" on our Gaggle Email website). For more information on registering, please see: <https://www.eltourdezona.org/> .

□ April 13 th Tour de Scottsdale: You can ride either the Metric Century (100KM - 62 miles) or the Half Metric Century (50KM - 32 miles). This is typically a ride with many participants, lots of vendor displays, medallions for all finishers, and much more. For more information, please visit: <https://www.tourdescottsdale.org/> .

□ April 14 th 2024 GABA Bike Swap: This event happens annually. This year it is at 221 S 6 th Ave in Tucson from 7am to 1pm.

□ May 15 th Ride of Silence: Suz Weston has done an excellent job coordinating this evening ride over the past few years within SaddleBrooke. Our ride is only one of a worldwide group of rides where participants remain silent during the ride. The aim of the ride is multi-fold, but the primary purpose is to show respect for and honor the lives of those who have been killed or injured while bike riding. The participants get together afterwards for refreshments.

Suz' tenure had ended! We need a volunteer to whom Suz can "pass the baton" for this upcoming May and (hopefully) beyond. The coordination effort is straightforward (Suz will train her replacement), and the ride is extremely meaningful. How about you? Please contact Suz or Kurt if interested.

#### UPCOMING EXTERNAL EVENTS AND RIDES (NEW/CHANGED ITEMS ARE IN BLUE):

□ Our Next Unique Club Bike Trip (Hotel Dory in Italy): As you know from last month, we have over 20 CycleMasters and guests signed up for the week of June 16-23, eight signed up for the week of June 23-30 and eight signed up for the week of September 14-21. If you are interested in joining this



adventure, please reach out to Donna Sohikian ASAP at ( [dsohikian@gmail.com](mailto:dsohikian@gmail.com) ) with any questions and to begin the process of finalizing a reservation. If you are already signed up for the month of June, make sure to get your airlines reservations completed!

☐ Other Out-of-State Rides:

☐ Copper Triangle, August 3d 2024 at Copper Mountain Resort CO: The same organization that conducts the Tour of the Moon ride in Grand Junction CO (that four CycleMasters rode last year and loved it) also conducts the Copper Triangle ride. For more information, please visit: <https://www.theridecollective.com/coppertriangle> .

☐ Mammoth Gran Fondo, September 7 th 2024 in Mammoth Lakes CA: All previous participants agree that this is a very fun ride. For more information, please visit: <https://mammothgranfondo.com/> .

☐ Mountains to Desert (M2D), September 21 st 2024 in Colorado: We want to find CycleMasters to ride the 2024 Mountains to Desert (M2D) in Colorado event this September. Detailed information can be found on the "Mountains to Desert Classic" website: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/CO/Telluride/m2dclassic> . Nine CycleMasters rode the event in 2018 and loved it. Maybe it's time that more of us ride it this year! The more that sign up, the more we can share costs (driving; hotels; etc). Please contact Kurt McMillen if you are interested.

My best, Kurt