

# ...SPOKIN' WORDS...

## COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS NEWSLETTER

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA CYCLISTS

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photo by [www.EpicRoadTrips.us](http://www.EpicRoadTrips.us)

### ANNUAL MEETING ELECTS OFFICERS

**BILL FOSTER,**

**KELLY WILLIAMS PRESIDENT,**

**JENNIFER PREVILL**

The annual meeting of Country Roads Cyclists met at Panera Breads in Clarksburg October 22 and following the announcement that President Ken Parkington did not intend to stand for re-election, the members unanimously elected Kelly Williams president, Jennifer Preville vice-president-road captain and Bill Foster secretary-treasurer. Bill noted that even with a lower membership (124), 2011 income was projected to again be slightly more than expenses, mainly due to the printing and postage savings from members accepting e-mail newsletters. Kelly thanked all the club volunteers who helped make the Club cycling season successful, especially noting all the ride leaders and retiring president Ken Parkington.

### WINTER SOLSTICE CENTURY

Weather permitting, Jack Barker will lead a Winter Solstice Century on Sunday, December 18, from the Monongalia County Courthouse in down-town Morgantown at 8:00 am, riding to Prosperity. Do a metric century by meeting Jack at Kirby, Pa. at about 9:00. Confirm with Jack at 304 282-6275.

### DUES TIME AGAIN

Note: The annual form is included with this newsletter and posted online at [crcyclists.org](http://crcyclists.org).

Newsletters are also posted online at this site, in color, member last names usually deleted. Check out past newsletters since 2006 in our archive.

## MEET NEW ROAD CAPTAIN/VICE PRESIDENT JENNIFER PREVILL

Hi, My name is Jennifer Previll, Country Roads Cyclists' new road captain/vice president for 2012. I have lived in Marion County for 14 years. I live in Fairmont and work full time at the FBI. In addition to cycling, I also enjoy swimming, hiking and aerobics. Growing up in New Jersey, I rode my bike a lot with friends for fun and transportation. I used it for transportation around Keyser, West Virginia during my first two years of college, but after I transferred to WVU I only used it for recreation when I went home on school breaks. When I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science, my bike stood in the garage unused while I worked 60 hour weeks as a Vet Tech with little time for such fun. When I moved to West Virginia in 1996, my husband and I lived out in the country where coal trucks ruled the roads. Then, about 7 years ago I heard about the rail trail system and I got my bike fixed up and started riding on the Morgantown trails.

In the spring of 2010 I was riding in Morgantown on the trail and stopped for air at Wamsley's. I noticed a sign for the Appalachian Spring Spectacular Ride and decided to try the 25 mile ride, although I'd never ridden that many miles at one time. I survived, met really nice people, and decided to join Country Roads Cyclists. The next ride I went on was on Deckers Creek Rail-Trail to Masontown and then I really enjoyed the annual picnic at Prickett's Fort and the fall ride on the Great Allegheny Passage to Ohioport. I also did a lot more riding during the week and some weekends with Nick. This year I really enjoyed the Club weekend in Emlenton, Pennsylvania, riding the trails, kayaking, playing in the river, just hanging out at the Berlin's cottage and enjoying the festival in town. I also had a great time on two road rides with the Mon girls club to Rising Creek Bakery in Mount Morris.

In the past I did not like road riding. People seemed nasty and rude and I almost got hit by a car once, so I only rode the trails. Then I took the Traffic Skills 101 course last May and have since slowly done more road riding and expect to do more in 2012. I am already looking forward to spring and I welcome any suggestions for road rides, trail rides and ride leaders.

**OFFICERS MET** November 3 in Clarksburg for a reporting and planning session, President Kelly Williams presiding. Members are welcome to attend officers' meetings. Contact any officer for details  
New V-P Road Captain Jennifer Previll was welcomed to the team. Bill Foster noted that his printer was down, so he would have to send his official report later. As treasurer, he noted from the October 22 annual meeting report a current balance of \$1,413.37. Membership was reported as 124 paid for 2011, including 34 in Harrison Co., 43 in Monongalia Co., 29 other West Virginians and 18 out-of-state. The reasons for a drop-off from 141 members in 2010 were discussed as generally unknown, as nonrenewing members were sent a renewal form in three newsletters.

Fall rides were discussed and President Williams offered some suggestions for rides and goals in 2012. He noted that Jack would be doing a Solstice Century on December 18, and the May 6 weekend was confirmed for the next Appalachian Spring Spectacular. A spring pizza party was suggested for early March, details pending. The bad condition of rt.100 and the continuing loss of access at Ices Ferry bridge were discussed.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Membership is currently at 124, including the following:  
Phil - Bridgeport, Lisa - Morgantown

Also it has been good to hear of members back on their bikes, including our former long time vp-road captain Laurel, who got a few rides in before the winter weather arrived.

## ABRA 2012 RACING SCHEDULE

A complete list of the 2012 schedule for Road, Criterium, Oval, Cyclocross and Mountain Series bike races as well as favorites like the Hilly Billy Roubaix is now posted on the ABRARacing.com website under the schedule page at <http://www.abraracing.com/Schedule.html>. The action begins on March 18, 2012 with training races, followed by The Morgantown Road Race on April 7, first of the ABRA series, and the Clarksburg Downtown Grandprix criterium on April 14.

## RAIL TRAIL DEVELOPMENTS

Our next newsletter (Feb.) will indicate in more detail the further developments of area rail trails, for example:

Mon River Rail Trail in Morgantown north of Wamsley's was re-opened this fall with a gravel surface at the slip, yet to be stabilized and repaved next year.

Marion County is working to add a 17 mile corridor to their rail trail system going from Barrackville through Mannington. According to Tony Michalski, assistant director of Marion County Parks and Recreation, "We plan on making an across-town link to connect to the West Fork River Trail and the MCTrail. The MCTrail connects to the Mon River Trail, which runs through Morgantown and into Pennsylvania."

North Bend Rail Trail is being improved west of West Union towards Pennsboro through a NBRT Foundation grant initiative and the State Park.

Of particular concern for such projects are the several efforts in Congress to eliminate the Transportation Enhancements program which helps fund them.





Kaye on Sat. with the fog beginning to lift

Smith photos



Taking a break after raiding the apple trees at Clover Lick.

### MIKE REPORTS ON THE MARLINTON WEEKEND IN OCTOBER

Great riding in West Virginia. Fall color only a few days shy of its peak. Weather couldn't have been better and all roads on the routes were in excellent condition. Just two of us on the rides but did have a good visit from leaf peepers Laurel and Bill at the Old Clark Inn. Many caves in the area. Spotted this one through the trees as we began the climb of Droop Mountain. Did give a toot on the snake whistle before entering. Couldn't go too far without a flashlight.



### AND THE LAST SCHEDULED RIDE IN 2011\*

To crcyclists 10-31-11 (ed.) kellyrwilliams@msn.com  
Seven hardy cyclists were out cycling with me today, on a very cold (at least at the beginning) ride. At the courthouse at 11:00 AM, the thermometer was showing 33 degrees. I was joined by Frank G, Jack B, Tim N, and Joe (a WVU student). We took Rt.100 out of Morgantown to Rising Creek Bakery in Mt Morris, where we meet Phil (Phil is new to cycling, and will be joining the club in 2012). This would be Phil's first time cycling Shannon Run and Rt.19. Tim went into the bakery, had a cup of coffee, and refused to come out until it warmed up. The rest of us continued up Shannon

Run, to Kirby and back down RT 19, returning to the bakery. Frank and I went inside for coffee and lunch as the others returned to Morgantown. Dave P caught up with us there, having done the loop alone trying to catch us. Meanwhile, the sky cleared and the sun came out so it was still cold but pleasant. Dave and I decided to finish the loop, back to Morgantown, but Frank said it was too nice a day to stop cycling, and left us on his way to Mile Climb. All in all, I was glad to have the company on the last scheduled ride for 2011. ( I came in with 41 miles and 2200 feet of climbing.) Kelly  
[\*especially since the Solstice century got cancelled. ed.]



## SEPTEMBER CENTURY PARTICIPANTS GET GREAT WEATHER

Nine members and seven guests from the Fairmont Flyers rode part or all of the Country Roads Cyclists annual September Century from Salem to New Martinsville and back on September 25, stopping for the snack spread each way in Shirley and a tasty brunch at John & Mary Ann Yevuta's Baristas in New Martinsville.



John Yevuta photo

While we were there, we discovered that not only was Barista's bossman John Yevuta a serious cyclist, his wife Mary Ann (top cook and bossman's boss) was also a real cyclist, as shown by a Wheeling News-Register article headlined "Marking 60 Years With 60 Miles." The 2010 article (with a nice photo) noted that she was doing a 60 mile ride with a friend on October 15, to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays. As it turned out, three friends celebrated being 60 with the 60 mile ride, with other friends along for the "party." Two notes: It's in the family - their son Aron, well known in the local racing scene and around New Martinsville for his bike shop, is currently enjoying racing and working in a bike shop in California. Also, Mary Ann says she and John saw the GAP trail in Frostburg, and that's now on their list for 2012.

### AN INVITATION FROM BIKE VIRGINIA

They say, "Your bike may be in winter hibernation but it's time to start dreaming about your next riding vacation. Our [25th annual Bike Virginia Tour](#) will start in the Berryville/Winchester area and will venture over into neighboring West Virginia. There's tons of history, rolling terrain, and beautiful scenery. Routes will vary in length and include at least one century option.... The 2012 ride difficulty is rated a 6 of 10." Check it out at [www.bikevirginia.org](http://www.bikevirginia.org), or call 757.645-1861



Our next (Feb.) newsletter will have the typical listing of regional rides, special events and the area racing schedules.