

...SPOKIN' WORDS...

COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS NEWSLETTER

Serving North Central West Virginia Cyclists

May-June 2021 Issue 2

Special Announcement!

Join us for our annual Spring Bike Ride weekend on Saturday, May 1, 2021 and Sunday, May 2, 2021

Saturday, May 1 at 9:00 AM Bonus Bike Ride, Kelly Williams 304-276-5530

(***,R) 60 miles or (*,T) 25 miles. Meet at the Mon County Courthouse. The road ride will be a challenging 60 miles with 5,000 feet of climbing. Or, the trail ride will be 25 miles along the river. Helmet required.

Sunday, May 2 at 9:00 AM Spring Bike Ride, Kelly Williams 304-276-5530

(***,R) 25, 45, or 60 miles. Meet at the Wharf District Parking Garage (40 Clay Street). Choose either a 25, 45, or 60 mile road ride on scenic roads in Mon county and Greene county. Helmet required.

Sorry, this is not a spectacular ride - we will not have snack stops or a SAG. It is a regularly scheduled weekly ride for club members and guests.

NOTE: This is a club ride for club members and guests. We did not promote or advertise this ride as an open invitation ride, and we are not charging for the ride. So, only members and guests. And if any guests want to join, that would be fantastic!

Sample Ride Report from April 24



10 CRC riders had a good ride today around the back roads of Mt. Morris. There were 10 riders today. Jimmy, Kelly, Randy, Phil, Steve, Dana, Tom, Joe, Rick and Marilyn. We did the Kirby loop today and made it back to the cars just as the rain started. We rode Big Shannon to Claughton Chapel then down Kirby to Rt. 19 then back to Mt.Morris on Rt.19. We had 21 miles with about 1,900 ft of climbing. Great riding today. Thanks Jimmy for taking the picture and Kelly for posting it....

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New Trail News

New Benches at Prickett's Fort: In March club members Michael Boyce, Jim Lester, and Tom T helped to install two new benches along the trail at Prickett's Fort and one north of Little Falls.



Clean up of Snack Shack: Several members of the club in April help to rake and clean up the Snack Shack at Mile marker 9 on the Decker's Creek Trail.



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Local Bike Rides:

Wednesday Hammer Ride:

The Wednesday night Hammer Ride has started and usually continues into mid September. There won't be weekly reminders, just assume it is rolling unless the weather is REALLY bad. Even then, at least one or two ~~fearish~~ brave riders will usually show up.

For more detailed discussion, ride reports, and funny photos, I suggest joining the Facebook Group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/506256116151794/>

These Wednesday Evening Rides start from Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheatre

Time: meet at 5:30, start promptly at 5:40.

Friday Social Ride:

On the night of the full moon, local cycling enthusiast Drew Gatlin leads a night ride up and down the streets of Morgantown. This last week there was a full moon ride on Friday, April 23rd. Future rides are scheduled around nice weather, and they begin in different parts of the city. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MowtownSocialRides/> for the related group rides, or call/text Drew at (304) 719-7900 or email johngatlin@gmail.com for the latest information.

TOP 10 WV Rail Trails from RTC:

The Rails To Trails Conservancy (www.railstotrails.org) recently visited the state of West Virginia to bike on some of our railtrails. Here is there post about the top 10 trails in West Virginia. Follow this link -

<https://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2021/january/29/top-10-trails-in-west-virginia/>

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Local Bike stores:

We plan to visit several of the local bike shops this summer on our club rides. Here is a list of the bike shops in northern West Virginia.

Wamsley Cycles 709 Beechurst Avenue Suite # 3 Morgantown, WV 26505 Phone: 304-296-2447 Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 am to 6 pm Saturday: 10 am to 5pm	Pathfinder 235 High Street Morgantown, WV 26505 Phone: 304-296-0076 Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 am to 6 pm Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Positive Spin 1216 university Avenue Morgantown, WV 26501 Phone: 304-933-2633 Hours: Tuesdays 3 pm to 7 pm	Pike Street Bikes LLC 215 Pike Street Shinnston, WV 26431 Phone: 304-592-3000 Hours: Monday thru Wednesday & Friday Noon to 6 pm Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm
Blackwater Bikes 685 William Avenue Davis, WV 26260 Phone: 304-259-5286 Hours: Thursday thru Monday 10 am to 5 pm	Joey's Bike Shop 19b 3rd Street Elkins, West Virginia 26241 Phone: 304-636-0219 Hours: Mo, Tu, Th, Fr 9 am to 5 pm, Sa 9 am to 1 pm
Sports N Spokes 306 N Walnut Street Philippi, WV 26416 Phone: (304) 457-6090 Hours: Monday thru Friday: 10 am to 5 pm Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm	Fat Tire Bike Shop 317 S Virginia Ave Bridgeport, WV 26330 304-933-3072 Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 am to 5 pm Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm
Speed Vision Bikes 722 Valley Falls Road Fairmont, WV 26554 Phone: 304-933-4533 Hours: Monday thru Friday 11 am to 6 pm	

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NEWS: From the Great Allegheny Passageway -

Construction to Close 10-Mile Section near Boston:

The Regional Trail Corporation, which owns and manages significant sections of the Great Allegheny Passage between Homestead and Connellsville, announced that it will close the GAP to all travelers between mile marker 120.9 (the Buena Vista trail access area and parking lot) and mile marker 131.1 (where the GAP crosses Liberty Way in Port Vue, near McKeesport), beginning November 16, 2020.

This closure is planned to last for five months – at least until May of 2021, and perhaps slightly longer depending on winter weather and the progress of contractors. There is no posted or easy detour, as nearby roads are hilly and narrow. We will keep www.gaptrail.org updated on progress as we receive updates from the Regional Trail Corporation.

This closure will allow contractors deployed by Elizabeth Township to install municipal sewer lines underneath the GAP for approximately nine miles. Long-term benefits include the replacement or repair of culverts that divert stormwater runoff under the GAP, and a complete trail resurfacing between Boston and Buena Vista.

Big Savage Tunnel Open for Season:

We're pleased to announce that the 3,294' Big Savage Tunnel is open for the season, making travel on the Great Allegheny Passage between Maryland and Pennsylvania possible! Officials from Somerset County, volunteers from Somerset County Trails and Recreation Association, and staff from the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy opened the tunnel on Friday, April 9 after heavy late-winter storms left snow and debris near both entrances.

Youth Cycling Coalition chooses Morgantown for pilot, OEDC partners for success

Morgantown has been chosen as the location for a groundbreaking pilot program [Youth Cycling Coalition](#) composed of 10 national, youth-focused bicycling organizations who have partnered to integrate programs that provide positive cycling experiences to youth across the nation.

The pilot draws on each organization's expertise, which includes road cycling, BMX, mountain biking, infrastructure, advocacy, education and positive youth development, to implement a range of programming for kids ages six through 18. Together, the coalition works to get more children on bikes and can provide a complete pathway with intersections and alternatives to keep them engaged and to foster a passion for biking as they grow into young adults.

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Why Morgantown?

An already vibrant cycling community coupled with an abundance of established outdoor recreation assets, Morgantown is a growing destination to live, work and play. Recent accolades include the popular Mon River Rail-Trail System, now nationally recognized since its recent induction into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's "Rail-Trail Hall of Fame," and the Trail Accelerator Grant awarded to the University from the International Mountain Bike Association.

Kat Andrus, manager at the Youth Cycling Coalition, had the opportunity to visit Morgantown while conducting the pilot location selection process for the YCC.

"It became obvious that for the YCC pilot, this had to be the place," she remembers. "Everybody I spoke with not only really wanted this, but also had a deep connection in understanding the work and how it fit into a larger desire to improve their home city and their home state."

Andrus recognized that the combination of community support, the connection to West Virginia University, and the alignment of [Science Behind the Sport](#) would allow the YCC to take advantage of the intellectual and social capital that a university town can provide.

Choosing a pilot location was a collaborative effort of several people within the YCC. After the site visit, Morgantown had to go through a rigorous application process against 33 other cities where a selection committee decided the finalists together. Final approval was decided by coalition members.

Volunteer opportunities

The YCC is looking for volunteers in the Morgantown area for all 10 partner organizations, which include the [USA BMX Foundation](#), [USA Cycling](#), [Free Bikes 4 Kidz](#), the [League of American Bicyclists](#), [Little Bellas](#), [National Interscholastic Cycling Association](#), [PeopleForBikes](#), [Project Bike Tech](#), [Safe Routes Partnership](#), and [Trips for Kids](#). All volunteers are connected to a national support system as each organization is established in several other states.

Two of those organizations need lead volunteers to get their programs running: Trips for Kids introduces children of all ages to biking and has multiple entry-level programs, and Free Bikes 4 Kidz is looking for three to four people to take on collecting, housing, refurbishing, and distributing bikes. Those interested do not need to be an athlete but do need to have a passion for engaging kids in cycling.

Interested volunteers can contact Kat Andrus at info@youthcyclingcoalition.org and visit youthcyclingcoalition.org for more information.

For more information, visit: youthcyclingcoalition.org