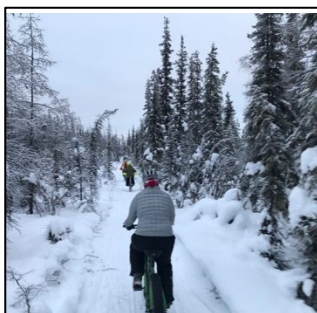




Fairbanks Cycle Club

2023 Annual Report



The Fairbanks Cycle Club hosts a variety of events and rides throughout the year. Clockwise from top: The Ladies of Leisure on an early season ride; Midnight Sun Run riders all dressed up; out on the trails during a Sundays on Snow fatbike ride; stopping for a selfie on a Tuesday Night MTB Ride.

Introduction

As the summer season winds down, now is a good time to reflect on what the Fairbanks Cycle Club has brought to our community over the past year. We've put together this report to outline our successes (and point out a few struggles). Here are some highlights.

State of the Club

FINANCES

The club is in good financial shape. The most recent Treasurer's Report, ending in July, shows that the club has just under \$30,000 in its various accounts (checking, savings, and PayPal). We have several regular expenses for insurance, a storage unit, a USPS box, Zoom, and Wild Apricot membership services. We help pay for those with your dues and fundraisers, especially the Bike Swap.

This past year the board discovered we were four years behind on our Form 990 filings with the IRS and, as a result, our nonprofit status from the IRS had been revoked. We got right on it and worked with a local accounting firm to get our forms filed and get our nonprofit status reinstated. As of this writing, our tax filings are up to date. We just heard from the IRS that the wrong form was filed for our reinstatement. Eric, our treasurer, is working with the accounting firm to find out what went wrong. He will get the correct form filed as soon as possible. This shouldn't affect the club other than having to file extra paperwork and pay some fees for that. We apologize for the oversight and are making steps to make sure that doesn't happen again.

IMPACT

Our impact is good, but we have much more potential. See the rest of this report below for the rides, events, and advocacy we have accomplished for the past year. **And thank you to everyone who volunteers and helps make the club what it is! We couldn't do what we do without you.**

At our Spring Membership Meeting we conducted a survey that showed our members would like to see several events/activities such as a Ride of Silence, family-friendly rides, advocating to make Fairbanks more bike friendly, bike repair classes, mountain bike trail work parties, races, organized bikepacking and touring trips, youth and adult classes, and more.

The board will do what it can, but we are a volunteer-run organization, so we need volunteers to step up and help. If there is something you are passionate about, let the board know, and we'll help you make it happen. If you just want to help and don't have a particular interest, that's fine, too. We all have busy lives, so you don't have to devote a lot of time. If you want to lead just one ride or teach just one class, that would be great. If we all pitch in, we can make a lot happen.

See the list of Potential Events/Programs at the end of this report for ideas.

Events



BIKE SWAP (AND BIKES FOR REFUGEES)

The Bike Swap has been our big regular event of the years. This year we held it in early June at the Borealis Pavilion at the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds. After all expenses are accounted for, we earned \$2,708 for the club. We sold 56 bikes (of 92 put up for sale). We don't have an attendance count, but about 100 people were in



Bankstown at the Swap.

line at the opening. **Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this a big success!**

For the first time Bankstown Bike and Ski brought its trailer to the swap, where owner Dorian Granger gave people free bike checks. Lots of people took him up on the offer. He did quick minor repairs/adjustments and gave them an idea of what bigger repairs might be needed.

Donated Bikes and More

As part of the Bike Swap, we advertised for people to bring donated bikes for an effort organized by College Rotary to get bikes to Ukrainian refugees in Delta Junction. The response was overwhelming!

As we usually do, we also accepted other donated bikes (including bikes that are put up for sale but don't sell). We bring take then to UAF Green Bikes, which chooses ones it can fix up, which are either used for their student and community rental program or are donated to a variety of local groups in need of bikes, such as The Door, The Boys and Girls Club, The Re-entry Coalition, True North Recovery,

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Step In Autism, The Bread Line, and Morningstar Ranch. Green Bikes also takes donated parts, clothing, and biking-related equipment such as bike racks.

Any donated items not taken by Green Bikes are offered to Value Village, which gives a percentage of its profits to the Fairbanks Resource Agency. Finally, anything left is taken to the Fairbanks Borough transfer station recycle platform. This year, we ran into a guy who fixes up bikes on his own and gives them to people in need. He took almost everything we had left.



Just some of the donated

Between both our regular donation effort and the College Rotary effort, more than 80 bikes were donated! College Rotary took 62 bikes, UAF Green Bikes took 15 bikes and a large part of the donated racks and parts, Value Village took 2 bikes, a trainer, and bunch of bike shoes. The guy at the recycle platform took everything else.

SPRING MEETING

We held a Spring Membership Meeting and Ride on May 7. A couple of dozen people came out for that. We had a ride before the meeting/picnic.

At the meeting/picnic, Olivia Lunsford from FAST Planning attended and explained about the Spring Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, which FAST holds each spring. Several people signed up to help with the count. Eeve Rynish, FCC member and borough recreational specialist, explained about borough plans for National Bike Month activities that were held later in the month during National Bike to Work Week.



Olivia from FAST Planning explains the Bike/Ped count.

We had a survey that showed FCC members are interested in several activities, such as a Ride of Silence, family friendly rides, helping make Fairbanks more bike-friendly, bike repair classes, and several other bike-related activities. Now the challenge is how to start making some of them a reality. You can see the survey results here: <https://tinyurl.com/mscc9x4n>

FAST PLANNING BIKE VALET SERVICE

FAST Planning organized free bike valet parking service for the Midnight Sun Festival and the Golden Days Street Festival, which was very popular. We lent our bike racks to the effort and some of our members helped volunteer.

Organized Rides



Clockwise from top: Tuesday Night MTB Ride on the Skarland Trail; Women on Wheels (WOW) out on the roads; SCUM riders stopping for a selfie.

WEEKLY RIDES

We hold several FCC weekly rides in summer. The club makes sure these rides have insurance and publicity. **Thank you to the volunteer ride leaders!**

- WOW (Women on Wheels – women who like to ride road bikes fast)
- Tuesday Night MTB Rides
- SCUM on Wheels (SCUM being a ski training/social group)
- LOL (Ladies of Leisure – women who like to ride bikes more leisurely)

We also promote other weekly rides in Fairbanks, including those by Goldstream Sports, Beaver Sports, and Bankstown Bike and Ski. We include them on our

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webpage and promote them through our Facebook page, listserv, and with occasional press releases to the local media.

PERIODIC RIDES

We held several SOS (Sundays on Snow) fatbike rides over the winter. These were a new addition and proved popular. Several were aimed at new or fairly new fatbikers. We plan to continue them this winter. **If you would like to volunteer to lead one, please let us know!**

We also promote other periodic rides, such as those by Rove Co, UAF Green Bikes, and demo rides by Beaver Sports and Goldstream Sports.

ONE-TIME RIDES

We help support several Running Club North races:

- We lead the Midnight Sun Run to help with course control for race leaders.
- For the past couple of years FCC member Tyson Flaharty has cleaned up signs for the Gold Discovery Run.
- We hold the annual Equinox Cleanup Ride on the Sunday after the Equinox Marathon. This is also a fundraiser for the club, as the marathon gives us a donation.

Advocacy

The FCC weighed in on several cycling-related issues this past year. Here are just a few of the things we either commented on and/or passed on opportunities for you to comment on. **If you commented on any of these, thank you!**

LOCAL ISSUES

- FAST Planning's Transportation Improvement Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Plan update
- Updates on the Kinross Tetlin-to-Fort Knox ore-hauling plan
- Old Steese Highway Reconstruction
- The GARS (Gaffney, Airport, Richardson, and Steese) intersection project
- The Steese / Johansen intersection project
 - o Including a trail tunnel under the Steese
- The Fairbanks Comprehensive Trails Plan update (which passed in June)
- The Fairbanks Comprehensive Roads Plan (not yet adopted)
- Tolovana Hot Springs day-use helicopter tours proposal (which was ultimately rejected by BLM)
- The Yankovich-Miller Hill path and shoulder project

STATEWIDE ISSUES

- House Bill 8 "An Act relating to electric-assisted bicycles," which the FCC board supported. (It passed but then was vetoed.)

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- Senate Bill 129, "An Act naming the Matt Glover Bike Path," which the FCC board supported. (It did not yet pass, but it carries over into the 2024 legislative session)
- Alaska Department of Transportation winter maintenance survey
- The Alaska Draft Long-Range Transportation Plan and Freight Plan
- SCORP, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This helps guide the state government in how funds and resources will be used to advance outdoor recreation.
- Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which includes the state's plan for non-motorized recreation projects.

NATIONWIDE ISSUES

Several pieces of legislation were introduced at the federal level, including tax breaks that would encourage cycling and more funding for cycling infrastructure. We publicized these and encouraged people to speak up if they felt strongly about the issue. When possible, we supplied links to sign-on letters or other ways to act.

We also passed on opportunities to comment or otherwise participate with nationwide cycling advocacy groups, such as the League of American Bicyclists and the International Mountain Biking Association.

Support for Cycle Friendly Efforts by Others

As much as possible we try to support efforts by other local entities to support cycling. Those entities include FAST Planning (Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation), the Fairbanks Borough Parks and Recreation Department, and KUAC radio. **And if you've ever helped these organizations, thank you!**

FAST Planning, a planning group composed of several government organizations, has one of the biggest impacts on cycling in Fairbanks in both infrastructure and programs. While the organization is focused on overall transportation, not just cycling, it treats non-motorized transportation as an important component to overall transportation. In addition to FCC Vice President Travis Naibert serving on FAST Planning's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, we also advertise and otherwise support the agency's programs, such as:

- Monthly Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings
- The Annual Bike & Ped Count in May
- A free Bike Valet Parking service for the Midnight Sun Festival and the Golden Days Street Festival. (We lent our Bike Swap bike racks and contributed a couple of volunteers to this exciting new service.)
- The 5th Annual Winter Maintenance Forum



Our bike racks being used for the bike valet parking.

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- The new Bike Friendly Fairbanks program: <https://fastplanning.us/bffbx/>
- The “Bike Lane Signing and Striping Pilot Project,” a joint effort with the City of Fairbanks set to happen in 2024.

Other entities also advance cycling in the Fairbanks area. We try to help them as much as we can.

- The Fairbanks Borough Parks and Recreation Department put on several events during Bike to Work Week in May that were aimed at both cycling commuters and other cyclists, including families.
- KUAC’s Robert Hannon has been doing “Northern Soundbikes,” short weekly interviews about biking with local legend Simon Rakower.
- The University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning holds bike mechanic classes taught by Simon Rakower. He was also featured in the Tall Timber lecture series.
- “Wheels on Ice,” a book of essays about cycling in Alaska by the University of Nebraska Press, featured several essays by Fairbanks cyclists. A local reading was held in December and drew a large crowd.
- Alaska Waste has a “Christmas Promise” program in which they get bikes to kids in need as part of Santa’s Helpers. We donated funds to the effort.
- The Folk School and Bankstown Bike and Ski held intro to fatbiking classes.
- A free Bicycle Maintenance 101 Session at 1504 Gillam Way in May.
- Bike repair classes by Goldstream Sports and Bankstown Bike and Ski.
- A Sharing Alaska’s Trails workshop, which familiarizes trail users with traps and trapping.

Races

We didn’t hold any races this year. In the past we have organized the popular Tour of Fairbanks road race series and the Chena Hot Springs race or ride. Also popular were the Edward Jones Point Series road races and the Icicle Bicycle winter races.

Thank you to past organizers of these events!

Unfortunately, past organizers are no longer doing these events and we haven’t had people step forward to take their place. **If you have an interest in seeing cycling racing happen again, please let us know.**

RACES BY OTHERS



White Mountains 100

Several cycling races put on by others have been happening in the Interior. We try to support them as much as we can, usually by helping get the word out. These include the Black Spruce Nenana-Rama road race, the three big winter multi-sport races (Chena River to Ridge, Tanana River Challenge, and the White Mountains 100), the Ride or Glide fatbike/Nordic ski race, and the Arctic Triathlon series.

Mountain Biking and Trails

We have held the weekly Tuesday Night MTB Rides for many, many years. Board member Geoff Orth organizes occasional work parties for the Ester Dome Singletrack Trails and he is working on a project to bring enhancements to those trails.. Geoff also has worked on other trail projects, including efforts to make the Tanana Valley State Forest friendlier to trail users, including cyclists. Board member Eric Troyer advocated heavily for passage of the FNSB Comprehensive Trail Plan.

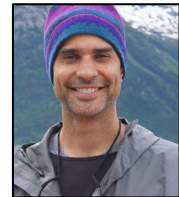
We are working toward creating a separate group or an arm of FCC focused on MTB trail building. **If you would like to help with this, please contact us.**

Occasional opportunities come up with other groups that can help with mountain biking, and we pass those on, such as with hardening the Mastodon Trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area earlier this summer.

Members and More

SAD GOODBYE

We noted the unfortunate passing of FCC member Matt Glover, who was known as a “monster rider,” bike commuter, and participant in several group rides, including the SCUM ride. Matt was hit by a vehicle while commuting in November 2022. We hope to start a Ride of Silence to honor riders like Matt who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. **If you would like to help with this, please let us know.**



WILD APRICOT MEMBERSHIP SERVICE

We purchased and started using Wild Apricot, a membership service. This makes our membership sign-up and renewal much easier for members. We have set it up to send out automatic reminders each year. The service allows us to track membership much easier than with our old method and it allows us to integrate our email list with our membership list so that we know we are reaching all our members. (Our past membership and email lists were separate and difficult to track.)

This new service costs more than our previous methods of membership services, but we are hoping that it will help us increase FCC membership, which will eventually pay for the service.

ONGOING ORGANIZATION EFFORTS

The board is slowly working on two projects.

- Change the FCC from a 501c4 to a 501c3, which affects our status with the IRS. As a 501c4, donations to the club are not tax-deductible.
- Update the club bylaws, which haven't been revisited in a long time.

Potential Events/Programs

As a volunteer-run organization, we rely on volunteers to make things happen. It's possible that certain events or programming could be set up so that the instructor or leader is paid, but someone needs to bring that to the board for it to consider.

What else could be we doing? Here's a list of things, many that came from the survey at the Spring Membership Meeting.

- Races: We have held several races in the past, including lower key races, such as the Icicle Bicycle series, and big events, such as the Tour of Fairbanks. We would love to have these happen again, but we need people to step up and do the organizing. We have equipment and the expertise to help make it happen.
- Youth programming: Over the years we have had youth mountain biking programs. Years ago, we had a free weekly program over the summer that was very popular. More recently, we did some paid classes with an instructor-organizer who was paid. Youth cycling programs are something we really need.
- Smart Cycling classes: The League of American Cyclists has an organized set of classes that teach bicycling skills and build the confidence of riders, both new and experienced. These would be a good way to encourage cycling as a way of commuting.
- More rides: We do several rides, but we could be doing more, such as family friendly rides, especially ones that welcome cyclists pulling kids in a trailer. These could be regularly scheduled rides, occasional rides, or single rides.
 - We hope to do a Ride of Silence, honoring those cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. The 2024 global event is scheduled for May 15.
- Events: We could be hosting social events, such as cycling movie nights or family cycling nights.
- Bike Valet Parking: FAST Planning started this for the Midnight Sun and Golden Days festivals, and it was popular. That organization would like to turn it over to another group. We would love to be that group, but we need some volunteers to organize it.
- More advocacy: Fairbanks has been improving as a cycling town, but we could be doing more. We would love to have a small group focused on advocacy.
- Bike repair classes: UAF, the Folk School, and bike shops have put some on, but we could use more.
- MTB trail work group: We would love to see a group of people get actively involved in maintaining our local trails and/or building new ones for mountain biking.
- Bikepacking or touring trips: Traveling by bike is a great way to see the country. We would love to offer clinics, classes, and led trips.

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As you can see, many things are possible! **If you have any interest in seeing any of the above happen, please contact us.** We will help connect you to people who can help. Or if you've got any other ideas, let us know. We'll help!

FCC Misc

Membership

Currently the FCC has 114 active memberships. We have 79 individual memberships and 32 Family memberships for a total of 145 active individual members.

Current FCC Board

President: Alyssa Enriquez

Vice President: Travis Naibert

Secretary: Jenny Campbell

Treasurer: Eric Troyer

Members-at-Large: Geoff Orth and Eric Betts

Resources

- Rental storage unit that has misc supplies.
- Race supplies that are kept at Goldstream Sports.
- Supplies for the Bike Swap, including about 20 easily stored bike racks.
- Laptop computer
- Website with information on Fairbanks cycling, including:
 - Winter Riding Tips
 - Tanana Valley State Forest roads
 - Ways to advocate for cycling, locally, nationally, and internationally
 - Much more

Address

P.O. Box 82136

Fairbanks, AK 99708

Email

fbx.cycle.club@gmail.com

Website

www.fairbankscycleclub.org/

Facebook

www.facebook.com/fairbankscycleclub/