



Fairbanks Cycle Club

2024 Annual Report



The Fairbanks Cycle Club hosts a variety of events and rides throughout the year. Clockwise from top: The Tuesday Night MTB Riders take a break; a Sundays on Snow outing at Tanana Lakes Recreation Area; PPP riders stop for a rest and to socialize mid-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.

(There are several places in this report that encourage members give us ideas or help with more club offerings. If you've got something to contribute, please send an email to the email address at the bottom of every page on this report.)

State of the Club

MEMBERSHIP

We've had a good increase from last year. This is clearly from our ride offerings, such as our new winter rides (Sundays on Snow and Fat Tired Tuesday Nights), our continued summer rides (WOW and Tuesday Night MTB Rides) and our new summer/year-round rides (Zwift, PPP, and Junior Mountain Biking). **If you have ideas for other rides, such as gravel rides, hard road rides, rides on a different night, bikepacking rides, etc. please let us know.**

Our membership increase is a good trend, but we have a lot of room for growth. Many people are riding bikes around Fairbanks and North Pole who are not a part of the club. That's fine, but it also begs the question: Is there anything we can be offering to those non-members who are already riding. One thing we no longer offer is races. That would definitely increase our numbers. Whenever a race is offered, Fairbanks bikers attend. **If you are interested in helping bring more cycle races to Fairbanks, please let us know.**

Many other people around Fairbanks and North Pole are not riding cycles or are not riding much. We would love to get more people riding. We would love to figure out the barriers that are keeping people from cycling and help overcome those barriers. One thing we are working on is to help people teach more cycling classes. **If you would like to help with classes or have other ideas, please let us know.**

Here is a report on our membership numbers:

Type	Sept 2024	Sept 2023	Change
Memberships (family bundles and individuals)	145	114	Up by 31
Families	49	32	Up by 17
Individuals	96	79	Up by 17
Total # of people	197	145	Up by 52

FINANCES

The club is in good financial shape. The most recent Treasurer's Report, ending in August, shows that the club has just over \$32,000 in its various accounts (checking, savings, and PayPal). We have several regular expenses for insurance, a storage unit, a USPS box, Zoom, Wild Apricot membership services, and website maintenance. We help pay for those with your dues and fundraisers, especially the Bike Swap.

To improve the accounting of the club's finances, we tried QuickBooks for a few months. Ultimately, it proved too complicated for our needs. FCC President Eric Troyer, who is also acting as club Treasurer (which is allowed by state law), has come up with a simple Excel spreadsheet system that works well. The rest of the board sees the books at least once a month and has access to them regularly.

If you would like to see a copy of the books (specific year or all years back to Fiscal Year 2018), send us an email.

Tax-exempt status

As of this writing, we are still without our tax-exempt status. We sought help from a local accountant. Unfortunately, help from that person proved faulty and we were twice rejected for retroactive reinstatement by the IRS. FCC President Eric Troyer has taken on the application for reinstatement himself with guidance from a Washington D.C.-based attorney specializing in non-profits. That attorney was recommended by the League of American Bicyclists. Eric feels confident he can navigate the IRS process and get the club's tax-exempt status back. So far, this issue hasn't caused any big problems with the club.

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.**

The board does what it can, but we are a volunteer-run organization, so we need volunteers to step up. If there is something you are passionate about, let the board know, and we'll help you make it happen. We all have busy lives, so you don't have to devote a lot of time. If you want to lead one ride or teach one class or just volunteer at the Bike Swap, that's all 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

The Bike Swap has been a big regular event over the years, held in May or June. We again held it this year on May 18 at the Borealis Pavilion at the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds. That venue works well. After all expenses are accounted for, we earned \$2,814 for the club. We sold 74 bikes (of 120 put up for sale). We don't have an attendance count, but about 140 people were in line at the opening. **Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this a big success!**

Unfortunately, Bankstown Bike and Ski was not available this year to give people free bike checks, but owner Dorian Granger hopes to be there for 2025.

Donated Bikes and More

College Rotary did not call about donated bikes for the Ukrainian refugees (or anyone else) like last year. That was fine, as last year was pretty crazy. Still, we would like to find a way to get more donated bikes fixed up and out to people in need.

We always get a few donated bikes. Some people put their bikes up for sale and donate them to the club if they don't sell (thank you!). Others just donate bikes to the club outright (thank you!). We put them up for sale with the proceeds going to the club, if they sell.

We have a system for any donated bikes and other gear that doesn't sell.

- First, we offer them to UAF Green Bikes. They use some bikes and gear for their own operations. They also fix up bikes and get them to a variety of local non-profits in need.

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- Next, we take what's left and offer it to Value Village. Value Village gives a small percentage of its profits to the Fairbanks Resource Agency.
- Finally, anything left is taken to a recycle platform at one of the transfer stations. (A few items are sometimes in such bad shape that they just need to be tossed.)

This year after the swap was over, we had nine bikes left for donation and several parts, pieces of gear, trainers, and shoes. UAF Green Bikes took six of the bikes and most of the parts and miscellaneous gear. Value Village took the other three bikes, both of the trainers, and some shoes and sandals. The only thing left for the recycle platform was a lonely wheel chock for a trainer and a kid helmet.

SPRING MEETING

We did not hold a spring meeting this year. Got too busy with other things. We would like to hold one next spring. Perhaps a relaxed potluck with a group ride after. **If anyone is interested in helping make that happen, let Eric know.**

FAST PLANNING BIKE VALET SERVICE

FAST Planning organized free bike valet parking services for the Midnight Sun Festival, the Golden Days Street Fair, and the Music in the Garden at the UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden. We lent our bike racks to the effort and some of our members helped volunteer. The valet service at the Midnight Sun and Music in the Garden events were popular. The Golden Days less so, but plans are in the works to make that better next year. **If you would like to help with this effort, please let us know.** We will get you in touch with Olivia, the organizer at FAST Planning.



Random Awesome Fairbanks Bike Photos to Fill an Awkward Space!



Sundays on Snow!



Jr Mountain Bike Riders!

Organized Rides



Clockwise from top: Women on Wheels (WOW) out on the roads; Fat Tired Tuesday Night riders in the Goldstream Valley; Junior Mountain Bike Riders get instructions at Birch Hill Recreation Area.

WEEKLY RIDES

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

- Junior MTB Rides – Kids and parents riding bikes at Birch Hill; a great, new addition to our ride schedule! Ride leaders plan to hold it again next year.
 - Ride leaders: Garrett Armstrong and Glenn Gambrell

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- Just a few were held this summer, but the highest participation was 12 riders, including leaders and parents
- PPP (Pedal Powered People) – People who like to get exercise and socialize, too; another fun new addition to our ride schedule. Ride leaders plan to hold the rides again next year.
 - Ride leaders: Monica Tolley, Ginny Kinne, and Evee Rynish
 - Ride participation average: About 11 per week
- WOW (Women on Wheels) – Women who like to ride road bikes fast. This will happen again next year if there is enough interest.
 - Ride leaders: Corrine Leistikow and Erica Blake
 - Ride participation average: About 5 per week
- Tuesday Night MTB Rides
 - Ride leaders: Eric Troyer, Garrett Armstrong, Glenn Gambrell, and Dean Englehaupt. (Longtime leader Dave James had to take the season off for a hip replacement.) This will happen again next year.
 - Ride participation average: About 8 per week
- Zwift Sunday Rides – trainer rides that happen all year
 - Ride leader: Monica Tolley
 - Ride participation average: In summer down to just 2 or 3 a week, but in winter we have up to 5 participating.

There has been some desire for a less-intense WOW ride, but so far attempts to get one started haven't been successful. **If you are interested in helping get this started, please let us know!**

Ride Changes

We used to have LOL (Ladies of Leisure) rides, but they died off for lack of participation. The PPP rides came out of trying to revive the LOL. They have been well-received and include an optional mid-ride stop for a drink or snack at a local business.

SCUM rides, which were once formal weekly rides, have switched to a more informal meet up ride. Ride participation had dropped off and the main organizer was busy with other life events.

ONE-TIME RIDES

The WOW do their annual Butterfly Ride in August. This popular ride, with a LOT of climbing and descending, is open to everyone. We also support several Running Club North races with once-a-year rides:

- We lead the Midnight Sun Run to help with course control for race leaders.
- We clean up signs for the Gold Discovery Run. (We decided to make this a regular ride, and it will be a fundraiser, too.)



Midnight Sun Run!

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- 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.

We would love to offer more rides. If you would like to be a volunteer leader, please let us know.

Other Local Rides

We also promote other weekly rides in Fairbanks, including Boomers on Bikes and those by Goldstream Sports, Beaver Sports, and Bankstown Bike and Ski. We include them on our webpage and promote them through our Facebook page, listserv, and with occasional press releases to the local media. We also promote Far North BMX when we can and Rove Co rides, when they happen.

Our members are often out doing cycling adventures on their own or with others. When they write something up about it, we pass that on.

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

- Senate Bill 129, "An Act naming the Matt Glover Bike Path," which the FCC board supported, passed!
 - We are eagerly awaiting the path being finished so that we can organize a ride on it.
- FAST Planning's FFY2025-26 Unified Planning Work Program
 - See FCC's letter here: <https://tinyurl.com/2942jrrk>
- Updates on the Kinross Tetlin-to-Fort Knox ore-hauling plan.
- Various road construction projects in the Fairbanks/North Pole area.
- The Fairbanks Comprehensive Roads Plan.
- Proposal to increase snowmachine tours and add helicopter tours in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.
- A proposed wind farm on Murphy Dome.
- Cycle-friendly projects on the FNSB Capital Improvement Program.
- Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan (which mentioned cycling and pedestrian transportation prominently).
- West Valley and Hutchison High School area transportation survey by DOT and FAST Planning.



Biking in the White Mountains NRA

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- A ride by North Pole Coffee Roasting Co. owner Tom Bartels, who pedaled cross-country while raising money for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.
- In support of the FNBS Parks and Rec Department.
 - See FCC's email here: <https://tinyurl.com/uknn48hc>
- DOT's Alaska-Richardson-Steese Corridor plan.
- We also donated to a fundraiser for the family of a North Pole boy who was killed while cycling after being struck by a vehicle.

STATEWIDE ISSUES

- Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which includes the state's plan for non-motorized recreation projects.
- Richardson Highway new passing lanes.
- Comment period on BLM study on whether the Alaska Long Trail should be named as a National Scenic Trail.
- Opportunities to comment on DOT's Complete Streets efforts.

NATIONWIDE ISSUES

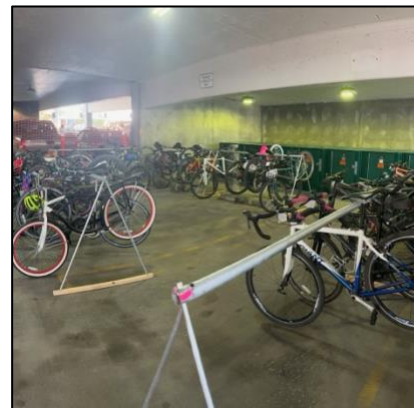
Several pieces of legislation were introduced at the federal level, including tax breaks that would encourage cycling and more funding for cycling infrastructure. We publicized these and encouraged people to speak up if they felt strongly about the issue. When possible, we supplied links to sign-on letters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



Our bike racks being used for the bike valet parking.

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- 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, the Golden Days Street Fair, and Music in the Gardens. (We lent our Bike Swap bike racks and contributed a couple of volunteers to this great service.)
- The Annual Winter Maintenance Forum.
- The 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 2025.

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 puts on occasional cycling events or events that include cycling.
 - They also block out space in the Carlson Center parking lot for biking. A great place for kids to learn to bike.
- KUAC’s Robert Hannon has been doing “Northern Soundbikes,” short weekly interviews about biking with local legend Simon Rakower. (This just ended.)
- The University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning holds bike mechanic classes taught by Simon Rakower.
- Beaver Sports has free weekly bike repair clinics.
- Goldstream Sports’ Bike and BBQ Friday nights at the Ester Dome Singletrack trails.
- Commuter Coffee (Evee Rynish) has cycling tips and advocacy on Instagram.
- 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.
- Far North BMX, which holds rides and races at its track on Kiana St & 19th Ave.
- The Folk School and Bankstown Bike and Ski held an intro to fatbiking class.
- Bike repair classes by Goldstream Sports and Bankstown Bike and Ski.
- North Pole Police Department’s ice-cream-for-helmet-use campaign for kids.
- National Trail Day events that benefit cycling.
- Fairbanks Trails Inc.’s efforts to improve trails in the area.
- Grooming of and other work on the Ester Dome Singletrack Trails by Goldstream Sports and its supporters.
- Woodriver Elementary School’s Bike to School Rides during National Bike Month.
- Bike Swaps by others, such as Beaver Sports/West Valley XC Running Team and UAF Green Bikes.

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 big winter multi-sport races (Chena River to Ridge, Tanana River Challenge, and the White Mountains 100), the new T-Dog multi-sport race, the Ride or Glide fatbike/Nordic ski race, and the Arctic Triathlon series. Unfortunately, the Black Spruce Nenana-Rama road race didn't happen this year, but we are in talks with Black Spruce to help put on the event next year.

FAIRBANKSANS RACING OUTSIDE FAIRBANKS

Fairbanksans competed in several other cycling races around the state. We highlighted their efforts when we could.

The Fireweed 200 road race from Sheep Mountain Lodge to Valdez happened again this year and several Fairbanks riders, including a group of WOW, competed in that. Apparently, it was a rainy, chilly race!

And several Fairbanksans participated in the Iditarod Trail Invitational, with Tyson Flaharty winning the 1,000-mile version with Anchoragite Miron Golfman. In the 350-mile version Kevin Breitenbach tied for first and Peter Delamere came in third.



WOW at the Fireweed 200!

More Awesome Fairbanks Bike Photos to Fill an Awkward Space!



Mountain Biking and Trails

We have held the weekly Tuesday Night MTB Rides for many, many years. While out on the rides, the riders often do some trail clearing. Occasional opportunities come up with other groups that can help with mountain biking, and we pass those on. President Eric Troyer also runs a trails newsletter and advocates for local trails issues.

Board member Geoff Orth is working on a project to bring enhancements to the Ester Dome/Happy Valley Singletrack Trails. Work for that project will be funded by a reimbursable Recreational Trails Program grant. Acceptance of that grant money is contingent on the club regaining its tax-exempt status. Regaining that status is the club's top priority.



Waiting for the trail to get cleared on a Tuesday Night MTB Ride.

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 possibilities:

- 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: Thanks to Garrett and Glenn for getting a youth mountain biking program going this summer. We would love to see more youth cycling programs.
- 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 cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. This international event is held on the evening of the third Wednesday in May.
- Events: We could be hosting social events, such as cycling movie nights or family cycling nights.
- Bike Valet Parking: FAST Planning runs this for the Midnight Sun and Golden Days festivals and the Music in the Gardens, and it is popular. That

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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 for non-motorized transportation.
- 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.

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

Current FCC Board

President: Eric Troyer

Vice President: Travis Naibert

Secretary: Garrett Armstrong

Treasurer: Eric Troyer

Members-at-Large: Geoff Orth, Monica Tolley, Alyssa Enriquez, and Glenn Gambrell

We are always looking for people to serve on the board. If you are interested, let us know!

Resources

- Rental storage unit that has misc race and ride 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 FCC events and other Fairbanks cycling info
- An enclosed trailer (9'10" long by 5 feet high by 4'10" across)

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