

the Wheel

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Letter from the Chair



Hello RBC Members and Friends!

Though the march towards warm weather seems to have taken a diversion the second week of March, I share with all RBC members the anticipation of a new ride season. I have already been on a few group rides and can say many of us were hard at work over the winter and are starting the season in good form. Be sure to check the [Reston Bike Club](#) for the new season of rides and adjustments to existing start times as the weather and daylight patterns shift and evolve (and also to check out the new website design that was announced last month)! This year, myself and the board are committed to supporting new rides - particularly weekly rides in the Ashburn area, but any place else there is interest. If you have routes that you want to test, email [Chris Griffin](#) and I will see they get posted and flagged on the club's communications channels. I know from my conversations that there is deep interest in new rides - the board is here to support and make that happen.

Thanks everyone for the responses to the [Club Kit survey](#) of a few weeks back. We are finalizing the design, and thanks to your response, are confident we will meet the order minimum. Look for an email once the design is final and the Cutaway order link goes live.

Below, you will find an update from Laura regarding changes to the club's dues structure that will roll out in April. The club is financially healthy, and the board has taken incremental steps to ensure we continue to remain so for the coming years. These changes also more equitably balance the costs of running the club among the membership tiers - something that has not been the case with our current dues structure.

Finally, I want to thank [Mike Dinsmore](#) and his team for their outstanding work planning our 2024 Century. Mike has some exciting innovations planned, which are sure to make this the best year yet.

Chris

[Link to 2024 Liability Waiver](#)

If you plan to ride with RBC this year at any time (including the Century), you will need to sign the 2024 Liability Waiver. You only need to do this ONCE each year.

RBC Changes Membership Prices

Since the pandemic RBC has seen increasing costs in our three major line items: insurance, membership software, and membership benefits (annual meeting and events). The following chart shows these increases:

	Calendar year		Percent Increase
	2021	2023	
Insurance	\$9,048	\$11,168	23%
Membership Software	\$4,536	\$5,724	26%
Member Benefits	\$3,090	\$5,039	63%

While RBC continues as a fiscally healthy club with an emergency contingency fund, the Executive Board does not want to create an emergency forcing a large increase in dues in the future. So, to offset these trends and to ensure the long term viability of the club, we are increasing our dues (for the first time in ten years!)

When renewing your membership on or after Tuesday April 2, 2024, please choose from the following options. Please note that the change in the family membership tier is due to the insurance cost structure which in past years was subsidized by individual members. All of these options will have the auto-renew feature turned on which should make future renewals easier.

Category	Membership Length	Cost
Individual (new category)	1-Year	\$30
Individual	3-Year	\$80
Family, 2-5 household members living in the same residence	1-Year	\$50
Family, 2-5 household members living in the same residence	3-Year	\$140

For questions or concerns, please contact Laura Robinson at treasurer@restonbikeclub.org.

41st Ken Thompson Reston Century Update

As we start the month of March the theme seems to be "confirming". Confirming people, places and things. We have confirmed our four rest stop locations and the rest stop captains. Both captains for Reston Town Center are coming back. These people and their positions are very important to a successful event, and if there is a vacancy it's best to know it sooner rather than later.

As for the "things" it's reservation season. Reserving port-a-johns, bike racks, tables and chairs, snow cone machine, vans etc. All our vendors do a great job. and it's easy to just rinse and repeat for 2024.

Recently we received a request from Lime-Connect asking if their riders and volunteers could join our century ride instead of producing their own. Of course, we said yes. Lime Connect is a nonprofit that helps disabled young people go to college and then enter the work force. If you see them on century day, be sure to say hello and get information about their organization.

During this confirmation process it's common to have a long-time volunteer want to make a well-deserved change and ride the century instead of leading a key position. Long Nguyen will ride this year with Viet Velo still hosting at Old Mill. The other is Ed Dimonda who has led our SAG group for the last 10 years and will stay in a supporting role.

We have also started to receive emails from people reaching out to us asking, "When is your century?" This is when we reach out to other cycling groups and bike shops with a save the date.

Personally, I think these details are more fun and satisfying to work on than permits and insurance, but both are equally important. The weather is improving, and the daylight is increasing, so get out there and ride.

Welcome New Members!

Jonathan B
Deborah E
Joshua F
Milind G

David H
Anne-Marie L
Karen L
Keith W

Riding in Winter

A group of RBC'ers just participated in Bike Arlington's outdoor riding game called [Freezing Saddles](#). Karen Hass, Kristen Hull, Tajr Hull, Timothy Prange, Laura Robinson, and Kelley Westenhoff were on Team 22 "The Wheelie Good Team". As of St. Patrick's Day, the team of 10 had ridden over 13,000 miles with 4 members riding every day since January 1. Congratulations! The game ended March 18.

W&OD Adopt-a-Trail

RBC is now an official Adopt-a-Trail partner of the W&OD Trail, in partnership with [Friends of the W&OD](#). We recently formalized our adoption of the trail segment between Isaac Newton Square and Sunset Hills Road. Sharp-eyed club members may have noticed the new signs that have recently been put in place to mark the occasion.

As an Adopt-a-Trail partner, the club will be organizing several trail clean-ups throughout the year. The next event will be April 27, when we mark "Celebrate Trails Day." W&OD partners up and down the trail will all be doing clean-ups on the same day. You can sign up for that event and other upcoming clean-ups by visiting the RBC [Events Calendar](#).



Club Store

Show off your RBC pride by purchasing socks, a sticker, or magnet.

Click [here](#) to visit the RBC store.

- Socks are \$7.50 a pair
- Stickers are \$2 each
- Magnets are \$3 each
- Order stickers and magnets together and save!

Free delivery within 10 miles of Reston.

Events Calendar

The winter riding season is on! Here are some of the rides on the schedule:

- Tuesday & Thursday - 5's @ 4
- Wednesday - Ramble Rides (different location every week)
- Saturday - A/B and C Rides from Art Space in Herndon
- Sunday - Tour Rides (different location every week)

New rides will be added once the full season launches. We also need ride leaders for the group rides next season. Please [email](#) the club if you are interested in helping out.

If you don't see a ride you'd like to do, reach out to us and we'll help you set it up!

Click the "Events Calendar" link above or download the Wild Apricot For Members app (links below) for updated events listings. Login credentials for the app are the same as for the website.



Local-ish Events

We are happy to share local cycling and other interesting events in the DMV and surrounding area with our members. Send an [email](#) if you'd like to see your event listed here.

- [George Street Bike Challenge for Major Taylor](#) – July 24, Worcester MA

Chain Links

- [Who We Are](#)
- [Membership Info](#)
- [RBC Ride with GPS](#)
- [Borrow a Travel Case](#) (Members Only)
- [Board Meeting Minutes](#) (Members Only)
- [Past Issues of the Wheel](#)
- [RBC Insurance Information](#)

Reston Bicycle Club | PO Box 3389 | Reston, VA 20195
571-445-5993
info@restonbikeclub.org

