

WHEELSPEAK

THE NORTH FLORIDA BICYCLE CLUB

JUNE 2022



**SPECIAL
PHOTO EDITION**
Tour de
FORTS
*Classic*SM



C O N T E N T S

June 2022

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2022



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From the Editor

Ed Stanton



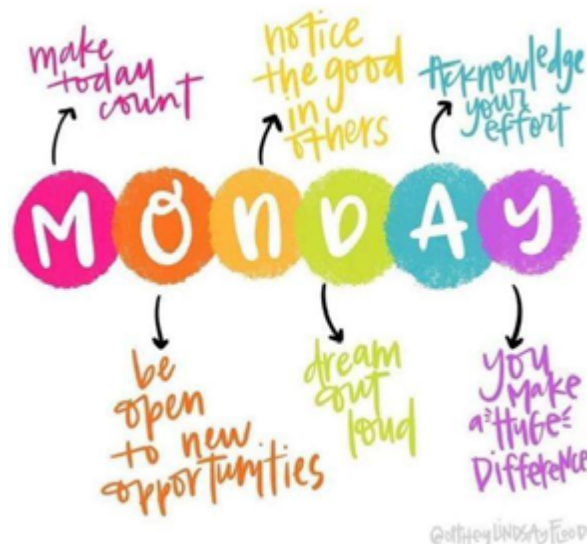
I started off "From the Editor" in the March issue of *WheelSpeak* saying that it had been a busy month for the club. Well, it hasn't slowed since! We've held the 2021 Awards Presentation and Picnic, the Patriot Ride, and the 2022 Tour de Forts Classic. And immediately after the Tour de Forts, we formed the Endless Summer Watermelon Ride planning committee and began weekly meetings. In a couple of weeks, we will have our annual Independence Day YOYO Century. I just want to remind everyone that, without volunteers, none of these events are possible. You'll hear that repeated a few times in this edition of *WheelSpeak*, which is almost entirely devoted to recapping the 2022 Tour de Forts Classic. While I'm on the topic of volunteers, we still have two board positions vacant. They are the membership director and the meetings director.

The charity team captain, an officer position, is also open. Until filled, the work of these positions falls on board members who, let's face it, already have plenty of work! Please join the board! We have a lot to do, and we will get it done, and do our best to have a good time doing it!

A picture of Joe Cona came across my virtual desk, and I was reminded of how much Joe has contributed to this club, so I decided to write an article acknowledging his contributions. Then, I decided to remove it because, as much as Joe has done for the club, there are others who contributed massive amounts of time and effort who weren't acknowledged in this way. Then, I decided that that was a dumb reason not to include the article! We just need to do a better job of recognizing our members that go above and beyond! The article is included.

Just after I sent this edition off to Veronica Lane for proofing (which she does an amazing job of), I learned that Jodi Hohlstein had passed away on Sunday, June 19. If you've been in the club a few years or more, you know who Jodi was and just how much she, and her husband Jeff, contributed to the club and bicycling safety in Northeast Florida. There is no one more deserving of some space in this magazine. I would like to encourage anyone who has some memories of Jodi they would like to share, to write them down and send them, along with any photos, to wheelspeak@nfbc.us. I will do my best to put together a tribute befitting someone as extraordinary as Jodi.

I enjoyed seeing Jodi's posts on Facebook. They were, without exception, upbeat. I went onto her Facebook page while writing this piece to see what she last posted. It was this meme on the right.



Jeff, I hope you know just how much your fellow club members care for you and are thinking of you in this difficult time.

The following was the announcement of her death.

It is with heartfelt sadness that we let you know that after a brief illness, Jodi passed away last night. Jodi passed peacefully, surrounded by her family. She will be missed tremendously by many.

We will be planning a celebration of life in the near future. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in her name to Pedaling For Safety (501c3) through the North Florida Bicycle Club. Jodi recently moved up to President of Pedaling For Safety as it was extremely important to her. She had very specific goals for this coming year and any donation would be put to good use to meet those goals.

These donations can be made through PayPal at www.nfbc.us , Advocacy/Safety, Safety Campaign (donate button at the bottom). If preferred, a check can be mailed to Pedaling For Safety, 733 Blue Seas Court. Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl. 32082.



Jodi and Jeff Hohlstein

President's Message

Jonathan Tomassetti

I am looking forward to the annual NFBC Independence Day YOYO Century on Monday, July 4.

A century ride in the heat of July. Sounds crazy, no? You may ask, why do we ride if it's so hot? We ride in the heat because Florida is our home. And why do riders keep on showing up? That I can tell you in one word... tradition! Because of our traditions, we've kept our club rolling for many, many years.

I truly enjoy the North Florida Bicycle Club's annual traditions. What are our traditional rides? The New Year YOYO ride, the Travel Team Suwanee Sweetheart Ride, Jeanne's Azalea Ride, Clyde's Ride, the Tour de Forts Classic, the Patriot Ride & Picnic on Memorial Day, the Independence Day YOYO ride, Cheeseburger in Paradise Ride, the Endless Summer Watermelon Ride, the Travel Team Three Rivers Ride, the Veterans Wall Ride, the Chili Cook-Off Ride.

We also have many long-standing repeating rides such as the Sandcastle Ride, Tour de Durbin, World Golf Smoothie Ride, Boney Road Ride, JAX Giro, In-Towner, Beaches Sunrise Ride (aka Sundog Early Ride), Thunder Road Sweet Potato Ride, Beach Bike Sunday, West Side Rail-Trail Ride, St Augustine Lighthouse Ride, and Fernandina Main Beach Ride.

However, sometimes we need to change traditions. Riders have been asking, "Why do you call it the Tour de Forts Classic if there are no forts?" I meekly answer, tradition?

Starting the Tour de Forts Classic in St. Augustine has become challenging due to traffic congestion, arduous permitting, and high costs. On the other hand, starting rides at the St. John County Fair Grounds is wonderful. However, it is not close enough to the Castillo de San Marcos to include a fort in the routes.

In April 2023, we will be moving the Tour de Forts to Amelia Island, Florida, where it will include Fort Clinch and Fort Caroline. Also, we will be moving the September 2023 Endless Summer Watermelon Ride from Amelia Island to the St. Johns County Fairgrounds.

This change will seem strange at first; however, in about five years, riders will be asking, "Why do you call it the Endless Summer Watermelon Ride, if they grow potatoes and cabbage?"

Some future NFBC President will answer "Tradition! Without our traditions, our club would be as shaky as, as ... as a fiddler on the roof!"



NFBC President Jonathan Tomassetti in 1982 as Perchik, in Fiddler on the Roof at the Shoestring Theater, Deland FL

Never Ride Faster Than Your Guardian Angel

ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE RIDE

By Jonathan Tomassetti

On Saturday, April 30, 2022, many of the North Florida Bicycle Club (NFBC) members volunteered to prepare for the Tour de Forts Classic to be held the following day. They were out placing hundreds of signs, setting up the start venue, shopping for food and other items, and working on a hundred other tasks that had to be completed before Sunday.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse Ride is a popular North Florida Bicycle Club ride that is frequently held on Saturdays each month. This year, we invited Tour de Forts Classic cyclists who planned to spend the whole weekend in St. Augustine to join us on this ride.

A big group of riders was already gathering in Vilano Beach when my daughter and I arrived with our tandem. It turned out that Mark Atkins, the ride leader, was the only local NFBC member. The others were all out volunteering to set up for the Tour de Forts Classic. I had ridden the Lighthouse Ride several times before, but I live on Amelia Island, which is 50 miles north of Vilano Beach.

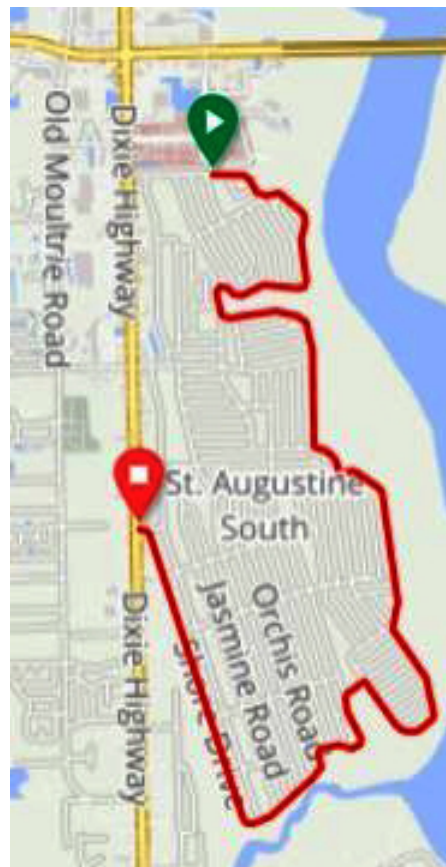
During the pre-ride brief, Mark told everyone, "Once we get on Shore Drive, stay on it. It follows the shore. At the end is a gas station where we will have a rest stop."

Later on, after regrouping at the Flagler Hospital, we all started on Shore drive together. Mark was dropped rather quickly. We stayed up with the group for a while, but as we rounded the corner on the southeast section, we were also dropped. As we finished coming around the bend, we saw everyone go straight and miss the left turn to stay on Shore Drive. We chased, but on our tandem, we could not close the gap. As they disappeared around the next bend, we decided to take a shortcut and meet them at the gas station.

We were the first ones to arrive at the gas station rest stop. We waited. After a while, Mark Atkins showed up. No one else arrived. We lost them all.



The three of us on the two bicycles started back along the route. After crossing the 312 bridge, we found five of the cyclists from the Florida Freewheelers at another gas station. On the way back, we stopped at the lighthouse, crossed the Bridge of Lions, rode past the Castillo de San Marcos and under the canopy of trees on Magnolia



Lighthouse Ride

Street, and cycled back over the Vilano Bridge. At the parking lot, some of the other riders were still hanging around, so it seemed everyone got back without problems.



Lessons for next year:

1. Expect that cyclists who ride a pre-ride the day before the Tour de Forts Classic are probably rather strong bikers.
2. Make sure not all the fast club members are off volunteering on Saturday.
3. Realize that most cyclists assume someone else knows the route, so they do not carefully listen to the pre-ride brief.
4. Bring a map to show everyone the route.
5. Remind everyone that they can ride fast anywhere. It is best on this ride to go a little slower and soak in the St. Augustine atmosphere.



Tour de Forts Classic the Photographers

On May 1, 2022, the North Florida Bicycle Club held the 31st Annual Tour de Forts Classic. This issue of *WheelSpeak* is all about telling the story of the event through some interesting statistics and lots and lots of photos.

We want to thank member Jack Casto for volunteering to take photos. This isn't the first time Jack has volunteered to shoot. You may recall his photos were featured in the March 2022 *WheelSpeak* article on the 2021 awards and presentation picnic. Jack showed up at dark o'clock to photograph the goings-on at the venue and got some great photos!

Another major contributor of photos was Vice President Amy Kahn. If you were at the event, you saw Amy. She was everywhere and doing just about everything! Amy has a great eye for a good photo, as well she should. She used to make her living as a photographer.

Many photos were also provided by our riders and volunteers. I may not have everyone listed, but our photographers included:

Mark Atkins
Arnold Betancourt
Mellissa Chipps
Joe Cona
Daisy Dudas
Kevin Giddens

Mike Kraft
Nochum Kurinsky
Dan Lehmann
Debbie Mills MacDonald
Janet Maloney
Alex Nelson

Donna Prestia
Gus Reinwald
Ed Stanton
Jonathan Tomassetti
Jeffrey Wilson



Photographer Jack Casto with Century Rider Ken



Amy Kahn (left) with Donna Prestia

Tour de Forts Classic the Volunteers

It can't be stated too often just how important volunteers are to the success of the North Florida Bicycle Club and the events we hold like the Tour de Forts Classic. Everything is done by volunteers!

The following is a list of volunteers compiled from the Tour de Forts Classic registration data. Some of these folks volunteered with preparations on Saturday, the day before the event. Many volunteered on Sunday, the day of the event. Some helped both days and in multiple roles. And of course, there were those that took part in the long-term planning during the weeks and months leading up to the event. And, I know we had some people who stepped up and helped spontaneously (your name may not even be listed.) But all of us TOGETHER, made this event possible!

A HUGE THANKS to all our volunteers!!!

REST STOPS

Angela Tompkins	Jacqueline Marshall	RJ Hyatt
Ann Barta	James Ratliff	Rose Hyatt
Boyd Clearwater	Janie Morton	Sally Johnson
Bruce Reid	Jeff Ruvolo	Selah Bishope
Chuck McGuire	Jessie McGuire	Sharon Hughes
Cynthia McGuire	Judy Clearwater	Sherri Hyatt
Debbie Duttweiler	Juile Hart	Sherry Bond
Diane Czekanski	Linda Bushing-Reid	Sue Navarro
Draco Ratliff	Maria Hansil Kiesling	
Jacinta Carter	Rhonda Williams	

SAGS

Bob Fortney	Gus Reinwald	Nanci Scheetz
Dan Lehmann	Mike McNamara	Richard Scheetz

ROUTE SIGN PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL

Larry Crane	Dan Lehmann	Ed Stanton
Robert Fortney	Bob Lucas	Terry Takken
Brad Lefkowitz	Gretchen Miller	Ralph Willits

On Saturday, there were 8 volunteers in 4 vehicles placing approximately 225 signs along approximately 125 miles of roads. On Sunday, as the routes cleared there were 5 volunteers collecting the signs in 3 vehicles.

Volunteers

Out on the routes, we had 38 volunteers acting as ride marshals, ride sweeps, and SAG drivers.

SWEEPS

Peyman Abadi
Mark Atkins
Brain Benwick
Ivette Berrios
Arnold Betancourt
Len Burroughs
Steven Davies
Al Dreher
Arthur Edmond
Bobbie Fost
Jack Gilman

John Ginn
Mike Griffith
JJ Gullett
Danny Hayes
Dan King
Nochum Kurinsky
Robert Lewis
Scott Manning
Jack McGarry
Arodis Rodriguez
Carlos Rodriguez

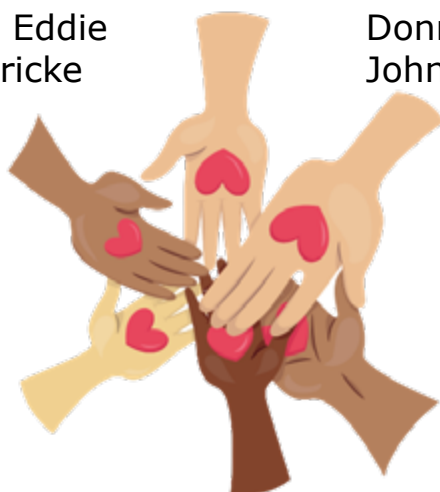
Jose Santiago
Ann Marie Shrader
Paul Stevenson
Brian Stokes
Greg Umberger
Ann Valle
Mark Valle
Luz Velazquez
Elizabeth Wilson

VENUE, HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Amber Anderson
Dan Baker
Mitzy Beck
Gidget Bennett
Brian Benwick
Arnold Betancourt
Selah Bishop
Len Burroughs
Bridget Carter
Linda Casto
Mellissa Chipps
Joe Cona
Sarah Cox
Daisy Dudas
Ann Duncan
Sheree Eddie
Anita Fricke

Karen Gaby
Michael Gaby
Kevin Giddens
Mary Glackin
JJ Gullett
Danny Hayes
Sally Johnson
Amy Kahn
Mike Kraft
Nochum Kurinsky
Debbie Mills MacDonald
Janet Maloney
Sharon Mcneal
Gretchen Miller
Alex Nelson
Donna Prestia
John Pretzell

Gus Reinwald
Paul Ricci
Laureen Ricks
David Schropp
Ann Shrader
Ed Stanton
Walter Steele
Cindy Stellar
Fredrick Stellar
Jonathan Tomassetti
Madeleine Travis
Gregory Umberger
Deborah Wharff
Jeffrey Wilson
Michelle Wood
Peter Wyckoff



**WE LOVE OUR
VOLUNTEERS**

Say it ain't so, Joe!

by Ed Stanton

Maybe we had crossed paths on another ride, but the first time I recall speaking to Joe Cona was at the pavilion on Vilano Beach. I had shown up early for the Cheeseburger in Paradise Ride so I could take a walk on the beach. I think it was 2018. I noticed a guy schlepping stuff back and forth from his pickup truck to the pavilion. A BBQ grille in the truck required two people, so I offered to lend a hand, then went on my walk. Later in the day, I chatted with this Joe guy. He seemed like a genuinely great guy. This would not be the last time I saw Joe working hard to make a club event successful. Nor would it be the last time it occurred to me that he was genuinely a great guy.

Not long after meeting Joe, I became active as a volunteer in the club. My volunteer roles allowed me to get to know Joe a little better, and allowed me a glimpse into the depth of Joe's involvement with the club, which was extensive. He served on the board of directors as treasurer, and for several ESWR and TdF events, he was the guy who drove the U-Haul truck. He also stepped in early and often to do many volunteer activities for our many lesser events and rides.

Unfortunately for the club, Joe has moved a couple of counties south, making it logistically impossible for him to continue being as active as he was in the past. Fortunately, though, he's close enough to make some rides occasionally (right, Joe?)

When I saw this photo of Joe with his friend Nick Navarro from his last TdF as the "truck driver," I wanted to include some words of gratitude. (By the way, Nick is another tireless volunteer who has helped Joe in this role.) That's how the idea for this article came about. So, what does Joe, the "truck driver," do? A lot more than driving the truck.

Planning and Permitting

Joe would attend event committee and board meetings in the months leading up to the event. Based on route information and rest stop locations, he would work with government agencies to get the necessary permits and with law enforcement to ensure police were there to keep us safe at intersections and conflict points. If the rest stop was on private property, like Buddy Boys on the TdF, he would contact the owner and request permission to use the site.

He helped determine the food and beverage requirements as the registration data rolled in.

Logistics

Joe would coordinate the preparation of the rest stop kits to ensure everything needed was available. In addition to the big stuff like canopies, tables, and coolers, this included the "little" stuff, like paper towels, disinfectants, food serving gloves, dish towels, bug repellent, and sun tan lotion (and a bunch of other things!)

He would schedule the truck rental(s), pick up the truck, drive it to the club storage locker, load it with the help of other volunteers, and deliver the items to the venue the day before the event. With the help of others (I think), he would do the shopping for food, water, and ice and make sure it was delivered to the venue.

Game Day Execution

On the big day, in coordination with the rest stop volunteers, Joe and Nick would deliver all the necessary items to create a rest stop to the several rest stop locations. Along the

routes, they would cross paths with some of the riders and provide encouragement by honking and waving!

Post Event

Joe and Nick would then help with cleaning up the venue, loading everything back onto the truck, driving it back to the storage locker where it would be unloaded, and then dropping it off at the rental location.

Now, I might have gotten some elements of Joe's "truck driver" job description wrong. And, it did vary some depending on the event. But you get the idea!

We have so many great volunteers; it is with some hesitance that I want to single any one person out for recognition. It takes everyone's involvement to make this club successful; after all, we are a club of volunteers. Nonetheless, I thought it appropriate



Joe and Nick

with Joe's level of involvement and his moving out of the area to write an article. And I realize the article is a little lengthy, but so are Joe's contributions to the club!

If you see Joe out on a ride, say hello to him. Maybe say "thanks" too. And, Nick too, as he'll likely be with Joe. Nick is visually impaired and relies on the taillight of Joe's bike to navigate the roads on his trike. Yep, there you have it! As I said, Joe is genuinely a nice guy!

Thank you for your service to the club, Joe! We wish you all the best!

Tour de Forts Classic

Some numbers

For an event like this to be successful, it takes a lot of planning, volunteers, and some luck. Particularly when it comes to the weather. This year, the weather was close to perfect. Temperatures for the day started out in the low 60s with calm winds and reached a high only in the low 80's. The wind did kick up in the afternoon to around 16 mph out of the ESE, as expected. This made the last leg through the potato fields a challenge for those on the metric century-plus and century routes.

Let's take a look at some other interesting statistics...

- 570 people registered to ride.
- 70% of the riders were men. 30% were women.
- Our youngest rider was 10 and our oldest rider was 83.
- Seventy-five people were age 70 or older.
- Seventeen people between 70 and 79 rode the century route.
- Seven of our riders were in their 80's.
- Two people in their 80's rode the century route (see photo on following page).

Century	172
Metric Century Plus	66
Metric Century	114
Half Century	127
Half-Metric Century	58
Quarter Century	16
Family Fun Ride	17
Total:	570

Breakdown of riders by route

The combined total miles rode by all the riders was about 38,874 miles or 62,562 kilometers! That would be approximately 8 round trip rides from St. Augustine to San Diego.

How many calories were burned to go that distance? Well, calorie burn varies a great deal between people, but my Google search tells me that, on average, you can expect to torch about 50 to 60 calories per mile. So, that is around 2,000,000 calories! That's a bunch of bananas!!!

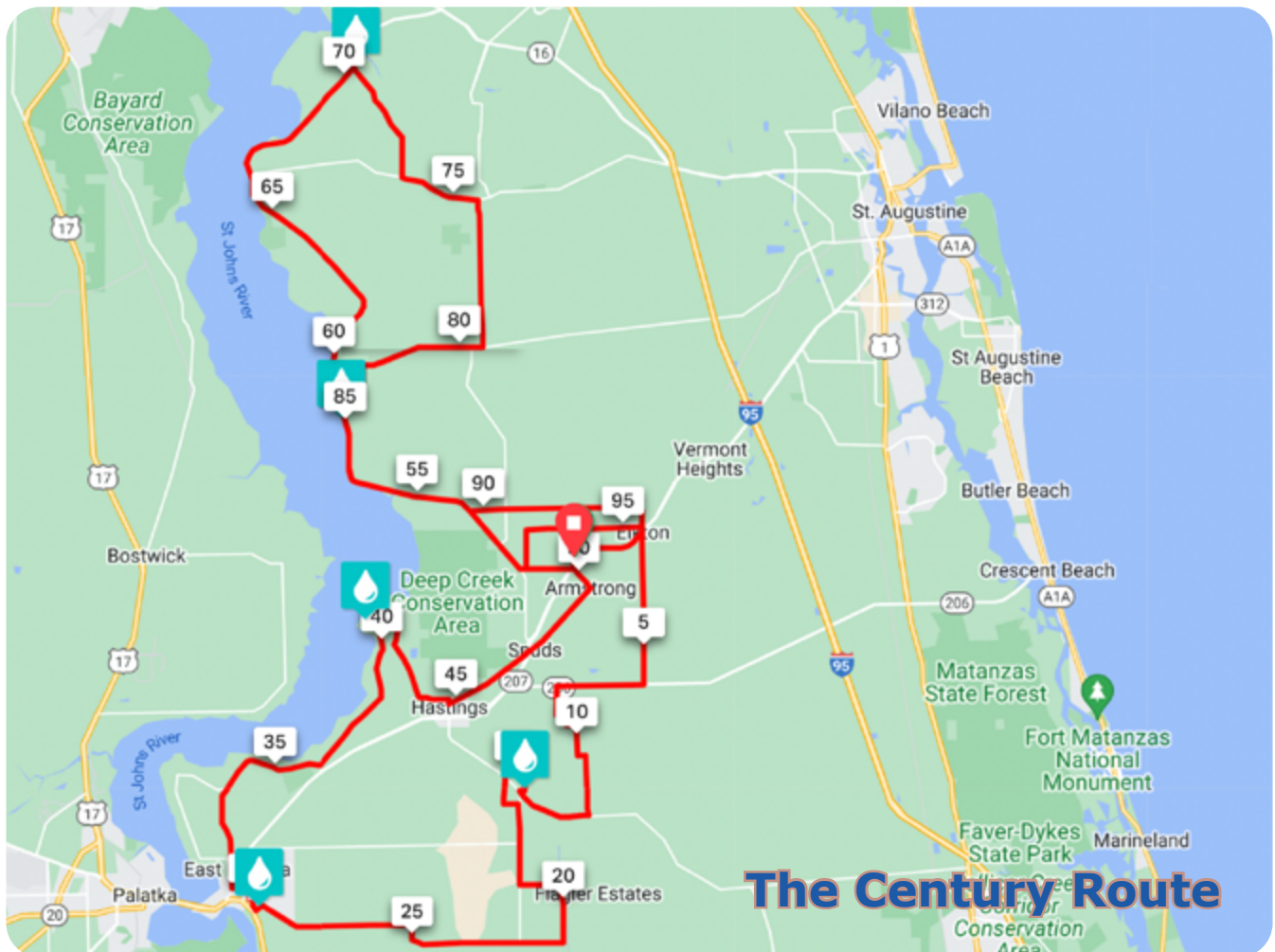
Numbers

The message below was emailed to the editor from Bill Baker, one of our friends from Flagler County:

*Congratulations and thank you for putting on another wonderful Tour de Forts ride event. Sixteen riders in our Flagler Coastal Flyer group participated this year - two other of our riders were recovering from cycling injuries and were unable to attend. Next year, though, they will for sure. Attached is a photo of our group. The man under the arrow is Bill Adkins. He is 80 years old and had no trouble completing the century route. He is an inspiration to all his fellow riders. Seven members completed the century, five are over the age of 70. Our other riders completed either the metric century or half century rides. We all had a great time and look forward to doing it all again next year. Thanks again,
Bill Baker*



*It really is just a number!
Congratulations Bill Adkins!!*



Tour de Forts Classic

Teams, Clubs and Such

Below are the teams, clubs, organizations, and companies that registered for the 2022 Tour de Forts Classic. We saw jerseys from other groups as well. Thanks to all of you for participating in and supporting our event.

Alligators	OB4
Arlington Army	Ocala Bicycle Center
Bartram Bearz	Oly Concepts
Blue Hammers	One Love Cycling
Boca Raton Cycling Club	Open Road Fleming Island
Camden Cycling Club	Pecan City Pedalers
Capital City Cyclists	Project Hero
Champion Brands	Road Sharks Cycling
Champion Cycling	Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club
Citrus	Seminole Cyclists
Coastal Bicycle Touring Club	SLAP
EnjoyFitness	Spacecoast Freewheelers
Flagler Coastal Flyers	St. Petersburg Bicycle Club
Florida Blue	Stellar Endurance
Florida Cyclopaths	Suncoast Cycling Club
Florida Freewheelers	T-1
Florida Xtreme	Team Blue Gear
Gainesville Cycling Club	Team CAAM Events
GERC (Global ElliptiGO Riding Club)	Team D2
Golden Isles chain gang	TeamE4E Wellness
Gulf Coast Velo	Team Left Hand
Half-Fast Social Cycling	Team Spanish Beer
Jack Pine Savage Cycling Club	Team CSX
Keep It Wheel	VDB Cycling Club
KIW	Village Idiots Cycling Club
Major Taylor Cycling Club of North Florida	Warriors 4 Life
North Georgia Cycling Association	Western Athletic Club (WAG)
	Wounded Warrior Project

Tour de Forts Classic Morning of the Ride

You want us at the venue when?!

The day started early for our volunteers. Most were asked to be there at 5 am. Dark o'clock indeed!

Venue volunteers included 23 people on Saturday and 35 on Sunday. These volunteers helped to set up the venue, mix drinks, create parking lanes, and help park over 250 cars. Volunteers also helped Hurricane Pattys serve breakfast to over 200 people and lunch to over 500 people. Breakfast included coffee and breakfast burritos and lunch included pulled pork, pulled chicken sandwiches, coleslaw, and macaroni salad.



Morning



Morning



DJ Extraordinaire, Walter Steele!



Morning



Morning



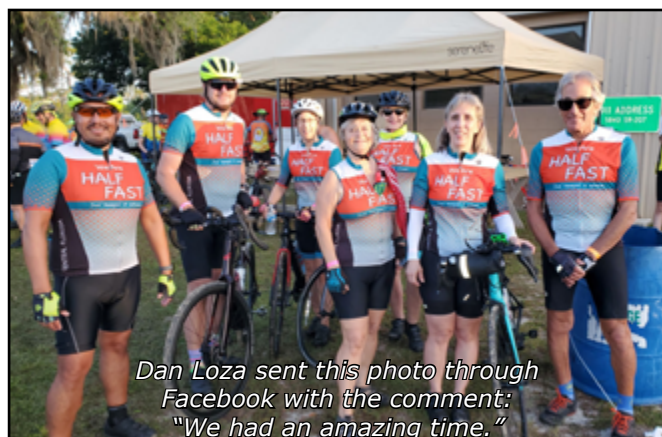
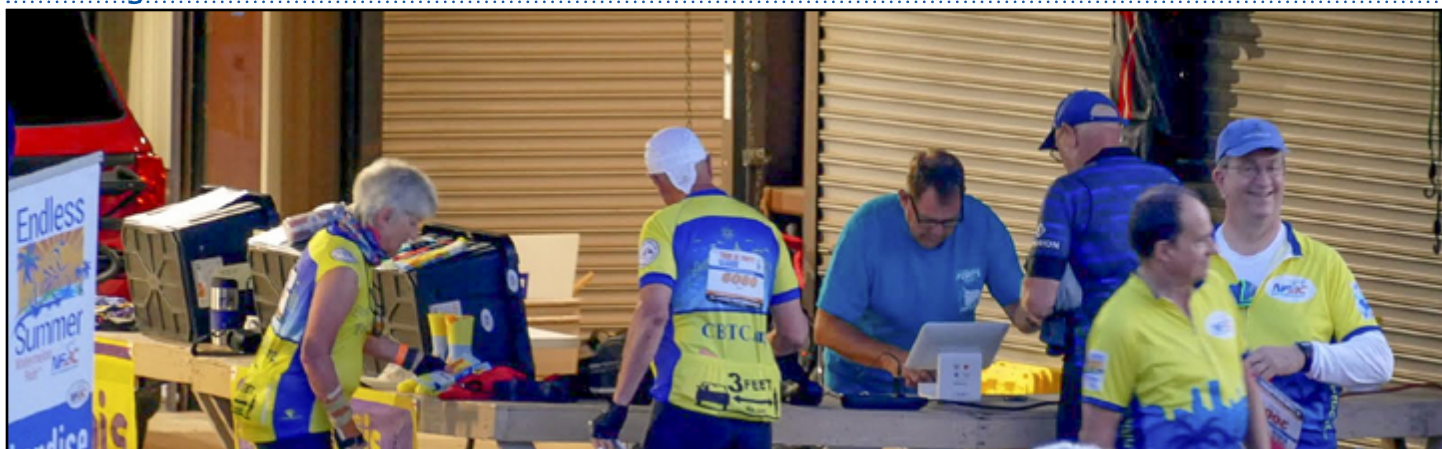
Morning



Morning



Morning





LET'S RIDE!

Tour de Forts Classic Police Support

A big **THANK YOU** to the Saint Johns County Sherriff's Department officers and PSAs for helping to make the ride a safe one!



Officer Nathan and NFBC President
Jonathan

Police support



Tour de Forts Classic Rest Stops and Bike Shops

Thank you to all the awesome rest stop volunteers and the bike shops that came out to provide support.

We had five stops, with the one at Riverdale Park doing double duty. It took a total of 28 volunteers to run the rest stops.

Volunteers included people from:

- Black Girls do Bike
- Major Taylor Cycling Club of North Florida
- Chuck McGuire and his family (Chuck runs Bikes 4 Putnam Kids)
- St. Paul Episcopal Church members
- Friends of the club

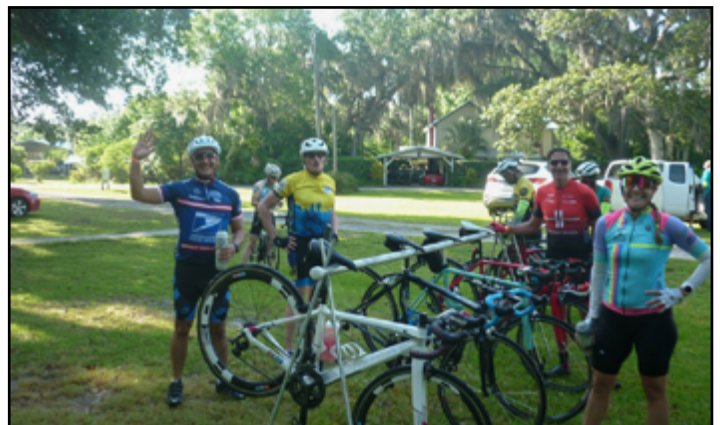


Stops



We also had representatives at our rest stops from the finest bike shops in Northeast Florida:

- Champion Cycling
- Lakeshore Bicycles
- Open Road Bicycles
- Putnam Bicycles
- Quicklink Cycling Solutions



Stops



Stops



Approximately 250 gallons of water were needed to keep everyone hydrated along with 770 lbs of ice. Twelve portable toilets were rented and placed at rest stops along with eight sinks.



Century Sweep and Ride Marshall and Sweep Coordinator, Jack McGarry



SAG, Gus Reinwald

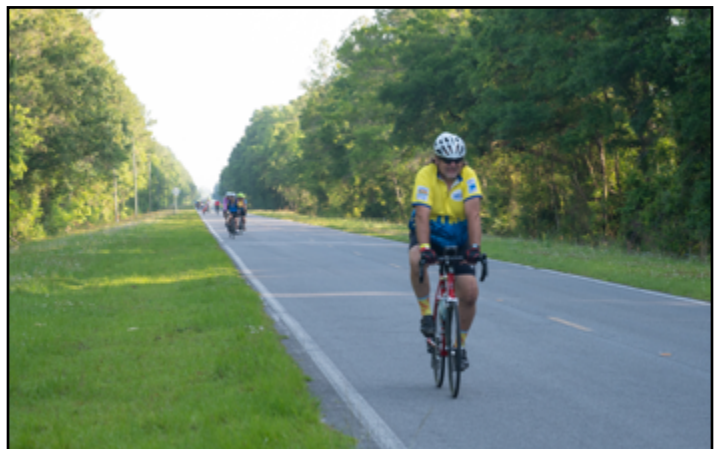


SAG, Dan Lehman

Tour de Forts Classic Out on the Road



On the road



On the road



On the road



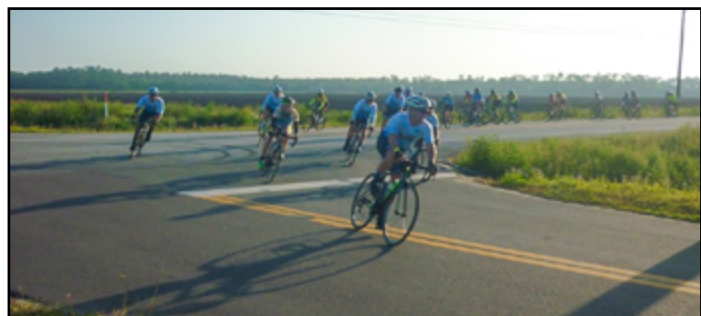
On the road



On the road



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Betancourt riding their tandem...
the "Double Trouble" Team



Tour de Forts Classic Family Fun Ride



Family fun



Tour de Forts Classic After the Ride



Post ride



Post ride



Post ride



NFBC President Jonathan Tomassetti was also the SAG coordinator this year. Here he is with a big smile knowing everyone made it back safely!



Alex Nelson submitted this photo on Facebook with the comment: "The result of a first century"

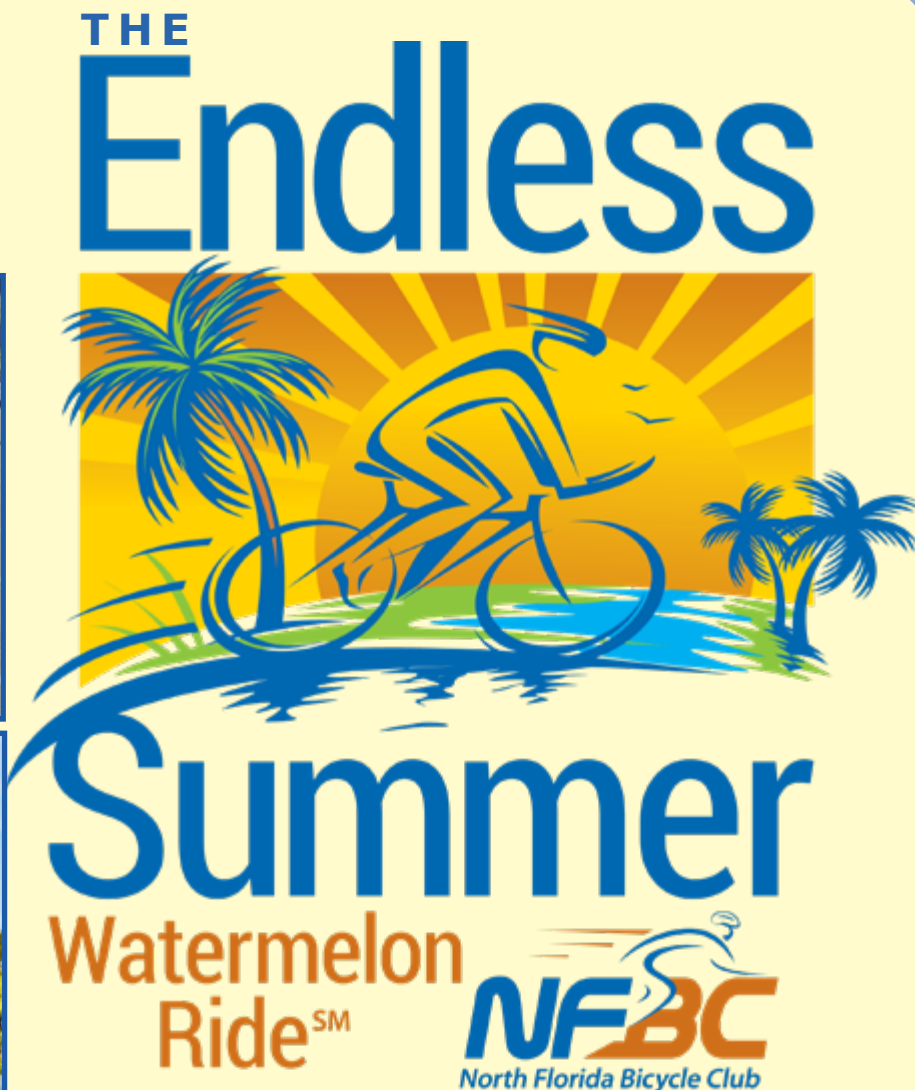
That's all, folks!

Please join us for our other major event on Sept. 11, 2022, in Amelia Island, Florida

**ENDLESS SUMMER
WATERMELON RIDE**

www.eswr.raceroster.com

The NFBC and
CAAM bring you
another classic
cycling event...



September 11, 2022 — Amelia Island, Florida

Join us on Sunday, September 11, 2022,
for a ride along the northeast coast of
Florida starting from Amelia Island.

Register today at:
www.registerESWR.com



Remembering Paul and Han

It is with heavy hearts that we recognize the passing of two of our North Florida Bicycle Club members and friends, Paul Hutchins and Han Tak.

Paul Hutchins passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, following a two year battle with cancer.

The North Florida Bicycle Club was a big part of Paul's life that he truly enjoyed and was mentioned in his obituary.

The following is portion of a post Jonathan Tomassetti, our 2022 club president, made on Facebook following Paul's death:

One of the first times I rode with Paul was on the "Longest Ride on the Shortest Day" event we held on December 20, 2015. This was a 130-mile ride from Southwest Jacksonville to Gainesville and back. Paul was there along with Al Dreher.

Paul and Al became best friends through cycling. They did their first century together and many more rides together after that. They became ride leaders and strengthened the club through their enthusiastic leadership.

We will miss Paul's happy demeanor and smile, his willingness to help others, and his love of cycling. Our hearts go out to his wife Amy and his wingman, Al Dreher.

To view Paul's obituary, click [HERE](#).



Han Tak passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Han's sister Nancy Tak, announced his passing with the following message:

It is with immense grief and pain to inform those that knew my brother Han Tak that he unexpectedly passed away. Our family would have loved to have informed you on a more personal level so please forgive us. We are so incredibly grateful to his Florida friends who loved my brother like family. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

When Jonathan Tomassetti was *WheelSpeak* editor, he was surprised to see Han pull up to one of the rides on his motorcycle with his bicycle mounted on the back and asked him to write an article about the arrangement. Han wrote the article and it can be found in the July 2021 issue [HERE](#).

To view Han's obituary, click [HERE](#).

We will miss Han's smile, warmth and enthusiasm.



Travel Team Recap: BO BIKES BAMA

by John Ginn

On April 23, four NFBC members participated in the BO BIKES BAMA Charity Ride, starting and finishing in Auburn, Alabama (approximately a six-hour drive from Jacksonville). BO BIKES BAMA is an annual charity bike ride led by two-sport legend and Alabama native Bo Jackson. Every year, BO BIKES BAMA raises money for the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund, which provides crucial disaster preparedness and emergency management resources for Alabama.



The first BO BIKES BAMA ride was held in April 2013 as a way to help after a series of devastating tornadoes ripped through Alabama on April 27, 2011, claiming hundreds of lives and destroying countless homes. Bo knew he wanted to do something special for the people back home—and that's where the BO BIKES BAMA story began. The ride was canceled in 2020 and held virtually in 2021, so it had been three years since the last in-person ride. I heard they had about 850 total registered riders this year.

The ride offers two distances: 20 and 60 miles. The ride started at 7 AM with temps in the high 50s with many riders donning arm sleeves, but it warmed up quickly, and temperatures were in the high 60s to low 70s for most of the ride, making for perfect riding temps. Temps were approaching 80 as we finished, so we beat the heat.

The ride is very well organized, with police and volunteers at intersections resulting in zero stops over the route. There were three rest stops at 15, 35, and 50 miles, with enthusiastic volunteers manning the stops and plenty of porta-potties. The roads are good, and the scenery is beautiful. The 60-mile route has quite a few rolling hills and a climb of nearly 3,000 feet over the distance. I think it takes me about six months to get that on my NFBC rides! Following the ride, there was a catered lunch.



John, Cheryl and Phillip - the 60 milers before the ride.



Sally Ginn, posing with Auburn Mascot, Aubie

Special Announcements

NFBC INDEPENDENCE DAY RIDE, JULY 4

Every year, the NFBC offers 30, 55, and 100-mile rides on New Year's Day in January and for Independence Day in July. Although New Year and Independence Day rides follow the same routes, the ride experience differs significantly.

Temperatures for the January ride are often in the 40s with strong northeast winds.

The landscapes tend to be brown and grey. On the other hand, the temperatures in July are usually in the 90s and occasionally over 100. The winds are out of the southwest. The forests and fields are now bright green and lush.

For these rides, we break into two groups. Group 1 will be the 100-mile and the 55-mile riders who will depart at 7 AM to avoid the heat. Sunrise is at 6:30 AM. The ride leader for the 100-mile route is Jonathan Tomassetti.

Since July 5th may be extremely hot, it may not be the best choice for your first century of 2022. If you start on the 100-mile ride and decide mid-route that you are not up to it, you can change to the 55-mile route from Rest Stop #2 in Macclenny.

Group 2 will be any level cyclist riding the 30-mile JBRT. Group 2 will depart at 8:30 AM. This is actually the same as the weekly Westside Rail-Trail Ride that is held every Monday. So if you usually work on weekdays, this is a chance to try this popular ride. The ride leader for the 30-mile group is Clyde Riggs!



NFBC STATISTICS

MILES, CENTURIES AND VOLUNTEER POINTS as of June 3, 2022

Although our statistician is constantly improving his handwriting deciphering skills, when signing the ride sheet, please PRINT LEGIBLY the FIRST and LAST NAME you used to register with the NFBC. Please don't use nicknames.

Kudos

Everyday Category Mileage:

- Congratulations to Joe Pitchko on reaching 3,500+ miles!
- Congratulations to the following for reaching the 2,000+ mile level:
Peter Bock, Donna Prestia, Patricia Pitchko, Danny Hayes, John Pelham, Clyde Riggs, Donna Sherman, George Katras, and John Ginn

Limited Category Mileage:

- Congratulations to Greg Babich for reaching 1,500+ miles
- Congratulations to Don Taylor and Jonathan Tomassetti for reaching the 1,000+ mile level!

Volunteer Points

- Congratulations to Clyde Riggs on reaching approximately 300 plus Volunteer Points!
- Congratulations to the following members for exceeding 100 Volunteer Points!
- Mark Atkins, Peter Bock, Len Burroughs, Denise Dailey, Harry Davis, Patrick Hale, Danny Hayes, Robert Lewis, Joseph Pitchko, Susan Taylor, Susan Wallace

Please note that mileage and points shown are for the 2022 club year as of June 3, 2022. If you would like a detailed report of your statistics, email nfbstats@nfb.us

Top 100 Mileage Leaders, Everyday Category

3,676	Joseph Pitchko	1,459	Gus Reinwald	1,155	Bill Bokram
2,862	Peter Bock	1,453	David Kelley	1,139	Susan Wallace
2,762	Donna Prestia	1,438	Ken Wilson	1,134	Terry Takken
2,663	Patricia Pitchko	1,412	James Rountree	1,112	Cheryl Richardson
2,314	Danny Hayes	1,408	Michael Spino	1,075	Patrick Hale
2,153	John Pelham	1,407	Linda Kelly	1,073	Rickey Givens
2,093	Clyde Riggs	1,373	Dave Kirby	1,064	Ann Duncan
2,050	Donna Sherman	1,362	Paul Stevenson	960	Tom Page
2,039	George Katras	1,324	Sallie McDonald	946	Deborah Pierce
2,036	John Ginn	1,318	Lenward Burroughs	921	Grear Kimmel
1,934	Harry Davis	1,310	Jack Spanner	916	Steven Williams
1,904	Jim Halle	1,297	Robert Fortney	898	Phillip Bowen
1,854	Steve Sargent	1,260	Richard Wilcox	887	John Gilman
1,706	Denise Dailey	1,242	Amy Kahn	882	Hartley McClean
1,597	Susan Taylor	1,214	Mark Atkins	836	Charles Snavelly
1,555	Patty Riley	1,206	Larry Elswick	832	Stephen Kimmel
1,536	Todd Hastie	1,200	Kathleen Falk	828	Bob Lucas
1,519	Julius Grant Sr	1,179	Ken Blackett	797	Brian Stokes
1,482	Steven Josephs	1,177	Scott McLean	756	John McGarry

Stats, continued

739	Doug Roselle	438	Daniel Smith	350	Andrew Geiger
725	David Briggs	430	Mike Ryan	340	Jack Casto
682	Charlie Bostwick	430	Rocky Raco	340	Patrick Graham
680	Robert Hathcox	418	Gordon Linn	337	Guy Anderson
623	James Hedges	418	John Crocker	332	David Wilcox
596	Jane Vasileff	414	Darrell Ballinger	325	Jeffrey Campbell
594	Hugh Giggy	409	Linda Kimmel	321	Dan Lehmann
513	Robert Bream	401	John Pretzell	317	Charley Sacher
499	Michael Griffith	387	Wayne Officer	306	Bob Dee
489	Ron Cloud	386	Jack Houghton	303	Arthur Edmonds
477	Carroll Sharp	385	Martha Radovic	287	Linda Casto
471	Michael Regan	382	Kevin Jones	284	Rebekah Sauls
461	John Wilson	371	Eugene Kerr	283	Meredith Munsey
445	Mark Sekelsky	367	Paul Callahan		
443	Jim Collett	366	Maureen McCormick		

Top 100 Mileage Leaders, Limited Category

1,697	Greg Babich	243	Camilo Martinez	108	Jerry Perkins
1,131	Don Taylor	236	Harry ter Mors	106	Michael Leweke
1,129	Jonathan Tomassetti	217	Albert Lamoureux	103	Michael Elderkin
867	Virginia Deroy	212	Perry Pelham	100	David Petkovsek
827	Robert Lewis	207	Carolyn Graham	100	Fred Springer
599	JJ Gullett	203	Pat Welsh	100	Nochum Kurinsky
596	Edmund Stanton	189	Al Dreher	100	Oscar Rosado
593	Michael Layland	183	Roberto Guardia	100	Paul Tebbs
546	Ann Shrader	180	Richard Polk	100	Woodie Westbrook
527	John Sauer	178	Donna Fielding	97	Jose Barrera
520	Donald Holden	173	Dterry Coy	90	Nick Tallyn
515	Brian Benwick	168	Alvaro Carvajal	78	David Richards
462	Alexander Tassy	165	John Serban	78	Michael Gruber
416	James Pernell Sr.	154	Anthony Flaris	78	Trisston Brown
410	Paul Dick	154	Jerry Yarborough	75	Joseph Moran
393	Peyman Ata-Abadi	153	Paul Medina	73	Bob Randle
363	Arnold Betancourt	151	Fred Rounsaville	72	Terry Riley
362	Gretchen Miller	151	Jeffrey Ruvolo	70	James Bailey
358	Henry Silverman	145	Joseph Cona	69	Scott Fricks
337	Sarah Knowles	145	Mario Quiroga	67	Charles Walton
320	Kevin Hicks	144	Randall Honeycutt	66	Lana Tomassetti
315	Thomas Hawkes	140	Jeffery Couch	63	Frank Greene
308	Michael Elison	138	Mark McManus	63	Adam Cox
294	Norm Soucy	133	Ivette Berrios	63	John Ryan
288	Michele Yasson	133	Larry Hutson	63	Patrick Gibbons
287	Todd Levy	130	Kari Riddling	63	Richard Golod
280	Thomas Chynoweth	126	Gabriel Bove	60	Christopher Peeler
256	Elizabeth Feliciano	123	Sean Guldi	60	Sherry Bond
247	Chris Cayan	114	Brian Reyes	55	Andy Carratala
244	Casey Murphy	114	Henry Gibson	55	Richard Oblak

Stats, continued

54	Chris Eckols	52	Chris Johnson	50	Robert Devers
54	Stephen Tocknell	52	Greg Stewart	46	John Harding
52	Brian Bush	52	Paul Roth		
52	Cindy Coxwell	50	Peter Wyckoff		

Century Riders, Total of 53 Centuries

Jonathan Tomassetti	6	Richard Stevens	1	Jack McGarry	1
Joe Pitchko	5	Steven Schultz	1	Jack Gilmann	1
Rickey Givens	2	Victoria Schultz	1	Hobie Luebker	1
Greg Babich	2	Donna Fielding	1	Oscar Rosado	1
JJ Gullett	2	Scott McLean	1	Joe DePietro	1
Ann Olsen	1	Camillo Martinez	1	Steven Davies	1
Larry Imperiale	1	Alexander Tassy	1	Eric West	1
Clark Gnann	1	Robert Bridges	1	Mario Quiroga	1
Fred Springer	1	Doug Knowles	1	Jeffery Campbell	1
Wesley Davis	1	Sarah Knowles	1	Casey Murphy	1
David Petkovek	1	Kevin Hicks	1	Dan King	1
Michael Schoenfeld	1	Robert Dowling	1	Perry Pelham	1
Paul Tebbs	1	Eric Lakey	1	Patricia Pitchko	1
Pat Welsh	1	Nochum Kurinsky	1		

Volunteer Point Leaders, Top 100

297	Clyde Riggs	63	Jack Spanner	39	David Kelley
179	Joseph Pitchko	57	George Katras	39	Cheryl Richardson
162	Mark Atkins	55	Donna Sherman	39	John Wilson
161	Patrick Hale	53	Virginia Derooy	38	Brian Stokes
156	Peter Bock	53	James Rountree	37	Wayne Officer
152	Lenward Burroughs	53	Jose Santiago	37	Deborah Pierce
140	Susan Wallace	51	Jim Halle	36	Sallie McDonald
135	Harry Davis	51	Scott McLean	36	Tom Page
133	Robert Lewis	50	Gus Reinwald	35	Ken Blackett
127	Denise Dailey	49	Larry Elswick	35	Mark Huelsbeck
105	Susan Taylor	49	Steve Sargent	35	Grear Kimmel
101	Danny Hayes	47	Bill Bokram	33	John Gilman
93	John Crocker	45	Julius Grant Sr	33	Bob Lucas
89	Doug Roselle	45	Paul Stevenson	32	Ken Wilson
85	Ann Duncan	45	Richard Wilcox	31	Chris Cayanias
83	Amy Kahn	43	Robert Fortney	31	Todd Hastie
77	Charles Snavelly	43	Ted Ingraham	30	Phillip Bowen
76	John Pelham	42	Greg Babich	30	Donald Eipert
72	Kathleen Falk	41	Steven Josephs	30	Stephen Kimmel
70	Donna Prestia	41	Linda Kelly	30	Dave Kirby
69	Michael Spino	41	Patty Riley	29	Diane Conley
68	John Ginn	41	Jonathan Tomassetti	29	Albert Lamoureux
67	Patricia Pitchko	40	Allen Gould	28	Hartley McClean
66	Don Taylor	40	Terry Takken	26	Ann Shrader

Stats, continued

25	Rickey Givens	20	Michele Yasson	16	Linda Casto
24	Bradley Lamb	19	David Briggs	16	Edmund Stanton
24	Steven Williams	19	James Hedges	15	Jim Collett
23	John McGarry	18	Brian Benwick	15	Daniel Smith
23	Eric West	18	Charlie Bostwick	14	Paul Dick
21	Jack Houghton	18	Jack Casto	14	Hugh Giggy
21	Wigbert Kreidl	17	Robert Hathcox	14	Michael Regan
20	Linda Kimmel	17	Donald Martin	14	Mike Ryan
20	Michael Layland	17	Jane Vasileff		
20	Carroll Sharp	16	Guy Anderson		

Century-A-Month Club

Century-A-Month recognition will be awarded for 12 consecutive months of centuries.

The following 2 members have ridden centuries in consecutive months since the date listed:

Jonathan Tomassetti	November 2011
Joseph Pitchko	November 2016

Current Year Summary

Total Events Held.....	463
Total Members Attendance At Events.....	4,616
Total Miles Ridden.....	159,318
Total Points Earned	6,770
Number of Members Attending at Least One Event.....	504

WheelSpeak Back Issue Links

Click the picture to see the back issue

April 2022



March 2022



February 2022



September 2021



August 2021



June 2021



Special 2021



May 2021



April 2021



March 2021



February 2021



January 2021



NFBC Weekly Repeating Rides

Each week, our bicycle club offers over 20 rides in Northeast Florida. Details of each ride are available on the events calendar page on the NFBC web site. These details include start date, time, start location, ride length, ride levels (A, B, C & S), ride leader contact information, and a written description of the ride.

You are already reading this on an electronic device, so you can easily check the NFBC ride calendar by clicking on this link: [RIDE CALENDAR](#)

Also, to find out if the ride has been canceled due to weather or other factors, you can check the ride update section of the website: [RIDE UPDATES](#)

Arlington	Mandarin	Beaches
1025 Arlington Rd Jacksonville, FL 32211 Ph. (904) 724-4922	11447 San Jose Blvd Jacksonville, FL 32223 Ph. (904) 262-5744	1303 N Third St Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 Ph. (904) 241-0900
Felt Giant Haro Pinarello	 JACKSONVILLE, FL CHAMPION CYCLING	Quintana Roo Solar Cycle Thule Racks Cervélo
championcycling1@gmail.com		

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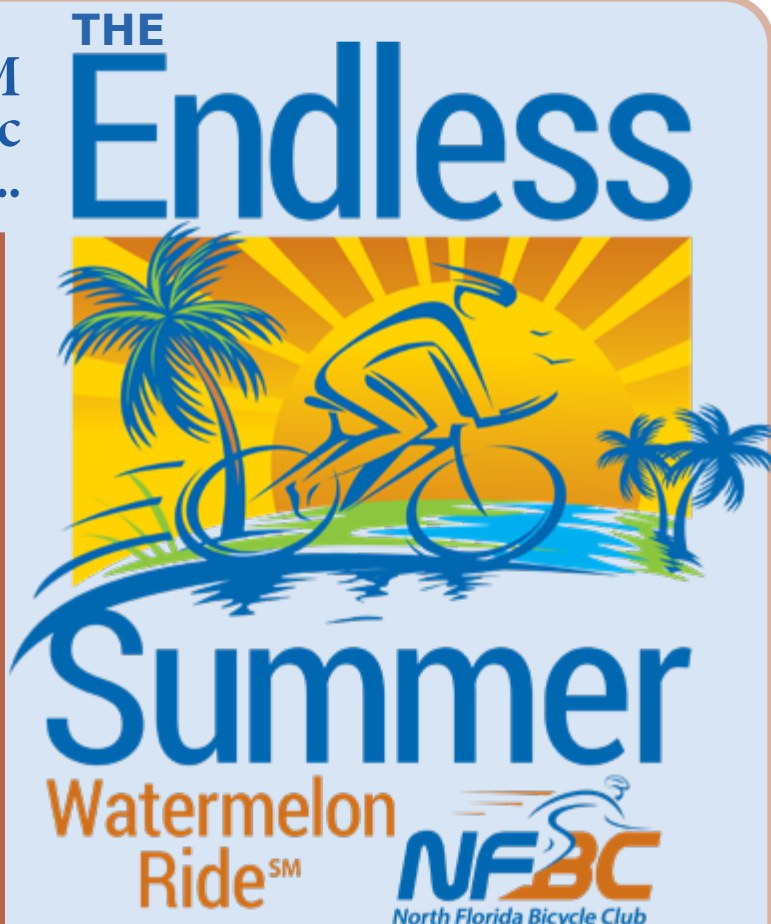
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