

January 2026



MasterLink

The Magazine of the Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey

BTCNJ 48th Anniversary Party - January 17 - page 5 & 11

Year in Review - February 12th - page 11

The Trek Domane+ SLR6 The e-Bike of the Year* - page 12



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MasterLink

January 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 Clip Notes**
- 4 Captain's Corner**
- 5 Anniversary Party**
- 6 New Board Member - Avrin Slatkin**
- 7 New Board Member - Chuck White**
- 8 Volunteer of the Year - Lori Loebelsohn**
- 11 Club Calendar**
- 12 Show off Your Miles**
- 13 The 13th Annual Montclair Turkey Ride**
- 14 Local E-bike Regulation Update**
- 16 BTCNJ Tour Schedule**
- 17 Tour Talk**
- 22 Welcome New Members**
- 22 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

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CLIP NOTES

Happy New Year, BTCNJ!

The start of a new year always feels full of possibilities—a moment to look ahead at the roads we'll ride and the experiences waiting for us. Some routes are familiar, others twist and turn into the unknown, and all of them hold the promise of something memorable. That makes January a natural time to set new intentions, embrace fresh challenges, and dream big about the rides—and the moments—we'll create in the months ahead.

Looking back, 2025 gave us plenty of moments worth retelling—epic rides, shared laughs, unexpected detours, and the kind of days that remind us why being part of this club feels so special. Some of us discovered new routes that instantly became favorites, others pushed themselves to new personal milestones, and many simply found comfort and joy in the steady rhythm of riding alongside friends.

Now, as we turn the page to 2026, the year stretches out in front of us with room for fresh goals, new adventures, and moments we haven't even imagined yet. It's a chance to carry that energy forward into whatever comes next, guided by curiosity, challenge, and the camaraderie that makes BTCNJ what it is.



By Olivia Sharp, President BTCNJ

Even in the winter months, BTCNJ keeps the momentum going. Two exciting events are coming up: Celebrate the anniversary of our very own BTCNJ at the 48th Anniversary Party on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, NJ. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, an elegant buffet, a raffle with cool prizes, and dancing. The live band FanFare will set the beat as we laugh, mingle, and dance the night away.

Tickets are on sale now—don't miss the chance to kick off the year with music, friends, and plenty of fun.

Then in February, the Year in Review—created by Cedric Chow, one of our newest members—will premiere, celebrating the rides, milestones, and memories of 2025. From scenic climbs and rolling hills to quiet country lanes and fast

-continued

Clip Notes

descents, the rides of 2025 were filled with moments that challenged, inspired, and delighted us all.

While the roads may be quiet and the days short, January is full of opportunities to stay engaged with the club. From planning upcoming rides and exploring new routes, to attending events like Bike Prom or volunteering for club activities, there's always a way to be part of the BTCNJ community—even in winter. Take this time to connect with fellow members, share stories from past rides, or plan for the adventures ahead.

Here's to 2026: to the climbs that will challenge us, the descents that will thrill us, and the friends who will make every mile more enjoyable. Big rides, memorable moments, and maybe even a few surprises await us this year. Let's embrace the adventures ahead, celebrate each accomplishment along the way, and make 2026 a year to remember.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A stylized orange illustration of a captain's hat. The hat is orange with a white band. On the front of the band is a blue silhouette of a cyclist riding a bicycle. The text "CAPTAIN'S CORNER" is written vertically to the left of the hat.

DID YOU KNOW? ZWIFT RIDES COUNT TOO!

Did you know that BTCNJ ride leaders can post Zwift rides as official Club activities? Yup! When the roads get icy and the daylight disappears, you can still lead your crew — virtually. Zwift rides are allowed December through March, giving everyone a fun way to stay connected (and stay warm).

If you want to give it a try, all the step-by-step instructions are waiting for you on the Club website in the Documents section. Fire up the smart trainer and keep those pedals turning all winter long!



Join the Fun!!

ANNIVERSARY

PARTY



Celebrate the anniversary of our very own BTCNJ at the 48th Anniversary Party on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, NJ. **It's just \$75 per person** for a great night including hors d'oeuvres, an elegant buffet, and dancing to a live band (donations are requested to help pay for the band). Soft drinks are provided, and adult beverages are available from the cash only bar. Cocktail attire suggested. Members and their guests are invited. Tickets are \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door. Register early and save.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Avrin Slatkin - Vice President

My serious bicycling timeline dates to 1974, when I went on my first bike tour. I have been biking, and especially bike touring/ bikepacking, ever since. I first joined BTCNJ in about 1991. I am honored to serve on the board of our Club to support an organization which has given me countless good friends and great times. In particular, I appreciate those club riders who make me laugh uncontrollably when we ride and camp together. My favorite riding partner is my son Cole, as many of you know. Having recently retired, with a bit more time on my hands, I hope to pull my weight by volunteering whenever I can chip in. I aim to not mess up what so many have created. I previously served on the Board as Membership Chair and Secretary. My bike advocacy work goes back to the 1980's, when I rabble roused for cycling rights in NYC with Transportation Alternatives. I have always marveled at the legions of BTCNJ volunteers who give their time to lead rides, organize tours and staff our special events. They continue to inspire me.



SHOW THANKS

'We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.'

-John F. Kennedy

Cover photos wanted! Your editor is looking for content for the MasterLink cover. Be immortalized. Send your bicycle content photos to masterlink@btcnj.com

Know a fellow member who goes the extra mile—leading great rides, volunteering behind the scenes, or bringing something special to our cycling community? Nominate them for Ride Leader of the Month, Volunteer of the Month, or suggest an interesting member to be featured in the Masterlink!

Send your suggestions (and a few words about why) to our Masterlink Editor, Bob DeMair, at masterlink@btcnj.com.

Let's celebrate the people who make BTCNJ such a great Club!

NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Chuck White – Rally Chair

For most of my BTCNJ membership years, I was content to follow along behind several B leaders, hanging along wherever and whenever I wanted. I didn't have too much responsibility, other than to be helpful and supportive when necessary.

When I retired recently, I was then able to ride more consistently and I got a little stronger, strong enough to become a leader myself two years ago. That made me appreciate the work and responsibility that leaders have. We earn those leader jerseys! LOL! To make my leads more convenient for myself and some Essex County riders, I added Lurker Park to ride starts, which is right across the street from Sorrentos.

Last year, just as I was getting used to leading, it was "hinted" to me that Joyce Haddad was looking for help coordinating the Ramapo Rally. I think I had been "nomineered"! LOL I was the willing follow-up person for Joyce and got my feet wet with sponsorships, printing banners, getting supplies from the storage unit, and especially early morning setup including blowing up our arch!

So, now, in addition to leading, I was thrown into Ramapo Rally duties in 2025, and I am now Rally Chair for 2026. The chair position comes with a seat on the BTCNJ board and I'm happy to step up and continue to support the club.

But for those that know me, I think that sums me up quite well. I'm often willing to help and encourage, and sometimes I find that I get myself in a little deeper than anticipated. But that's OK. After all, we're worth it, right?

May the end of summer be warm and dry for the 2026 Rally!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

by Sharon Hurwich

The BTCNJ Executive Board has voted unanimously to honor Lori Loebelsohn as our Volunteer of the Year for her work in producing outstanding bike jerseys for the club. Last year's jersey, nicknamed "The City Jersey" was very popular among ride leaders and club members. This year's jersey, created by Lori with input from over a dozen club members, will be revealed in early 2026. The board kept the nomination a closely guarded secret and did not loop in David Goldstein, our outgoing president and Lori's husband, prior to the vote, so he was just as surprised as her by this honor.

Lori's interest in art and sports dates back to her childhood in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. Lori and her identical twin, Alise, grew up as real city kids, getting around Brooklyn and Manhattan by walking, bicycle, and subway. Their father was a New York City policeman, and very athletic. He was the NYC Police Department handball champion for New York City. Their mother was a fashion illustrator whose work appeared in Vogue and Bergdorf Goodman advertisements. Watercolor paintings done by Lori's mother now hang in the living room of Lori and David. Lori graduated from the Cooper Union School of Art, majoring in painting. Growing up in Brooklyn, Lori rode her trusty steel Nishiki bike all around her neighborhood, and beyond. She didn't have fancy bike clothes, but the Nishiki did have cages on the pedals, and Lori always wore a helmet. Lori had a group of friends, some of whom built their bikes from scratch, who also liked to ride. She has fond memories of her days riding with those friends.

Lori and her bike pals would think nothing of getting together in the morning and casually deciding to ride from Park Slope out to Long Island or to Bear Mountain.

After graduating from Cooper Union, Lori began work as a public school art teacher. Along the way, she earned a degree in special education and worked as a learning specialist in private schools and in her private practice. Lori continued to paint and draw throughout her career as a learning specialist. Much of Lori's current work, in painting, drawing, and paper cuts, has a Jewish theme. Her work is available at CBL Fine Arts in West Orange, NJ and Ketubah.com. Lori has received commissions to do paintings for special occasions, such as anniversaries and honorary awards. She loves doing work for Ketubot, Jewish wedding contracts, and other special occasions. More of Lori's work is available on her website www.loriloebelsohn.com.

Lori and David met in 1987 on a blind date. After they were married, they lived in Houston for three years while David was a law professor. They moved to Glen Ridge in 1999. Their two children, Rachel and Alex, were raised in Glen Ridge.

continued



Lori Loebelsohn

Volunteer of the Year - Lori Loebelsohn

After moving to New Jersey, Lori gradually became more involved in organized bike riding. She became active in Bike and Walk Montclair, serving as the web master. Lori discovered BTCNJ because she was looking for a link to a local bike club to include on the Bike & Walk Montclair website. Around the same time, Lori joined a regular Friday morning ladies' group ride, sponsored by the Montclair Bikery. Lori and I met on one of those rides. Shortly after we met, Lori joined BTCNJ. Lori designed two bike jerseys for the Montclair Bikery and a bike jersey for an organization raising money for medical research.

Lori has been on several BTCNJ weekends and week-long trips. Pioneer Valley and Vermont are two of her favorite weekend trips. One of her fondest memories of a BTCNJ ride dates back to the DelMarVa trip run by Rich Brookler and Debbie Ungerleider. The routes were mostly flat, but each day's ride was over 50 miles, including one that took place mostly in the rain. Two days after the dreadful rainy ride came the century ride, for which we had all been training. Lori is very proud to have been part of a group that completed the century at an average pace of 15.8 mph, thanks to great paceline riding, taught by Kenneth Solomon earlier in the trip. Lori was riding a Van Dessel professional racing bike for that trip, but last year treated herself to a Blue Trek Domane 2024, which she loves. Lori spent her professional career as a learning specialist working in teams with teachers, school psychologists, speech therapists, and other educators. She employed the same team-based approach to creating the jerseys for BTCNJ. Each year's design team included riders at all levels.



The design process began with a team meeting, to which participants brought a few of their favorite jerseys. Lori brought various color palettes and some sketches to inspire the team. Lori and the team looked at all the jerseys and discussed the colors, design elements, and styles that they liked or did not like. At the initial meeting, Lori and the team developed a summary of colors and design elements for Lori to focus on. After the initial meeting, Lori went "back to her drawing board" to come up with designs to reflect preferences expressed by her team. She brought her perspective as a professional artist to the design process, but her design process didn't involve the drawing board very much. Her experience as a painter was helpful, but most of the detailed design work was done using Adobe Illustrator and other design software, not with paint, brushes and canvas. At first, Lori found Adobe quite a challenge. Over time, she grew much more fluent in using Adobe and other design software. The process of designing the 2025 jersey was easier because she was much more adept at using design software. At every step of the process, Lori offered various alternatives to her team, solicited their input, and went forward with the consensus. Lori and the team went through many iterations to come up with a

Volunteer of the Year - Lori Loebelsohn

name for the jersey, that satisfied Lori and everyone on the team. Lori really enjoyed working with a design team, not only because the team provided wonderful ideas, but because she also got to know club members besides her regular bike buddies.

Once the City design was finalized, Lori worked with Alex Klafehn, a professional bike clothing designer, to turn the Adobe illustrations into functional bike clothing. Alex designed the 2024 "Blue" racing style jersey, giving ride leaders and club members two jerseys to choose from. The colors and design of the Blue jersey were chosen to complement the City jersey. There will again be two jerseys for 2025. Club members have appreciated having options; some members have chosen one as a ride leader reward and then purchased the other jersey.

When I called Lori to tell her she had been chosen as Volunteer of the Year, she was totally surprised. Over and over, she has commented how much she feels honored by the recognition. She's grateful that the Board and club members have shown their appreciation for her work in the most visible way: Wearing the jerseys. Thank you, Lori Loebelsohn, for the beautiful bike jerseys! We look forward to the unveiling of two new designs for 2025.



CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Anniversary Party

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Indian Trail Club, Franklin Lakes NJ

Celebrate the anniversary of our very own BTCNJ at the 48th Anniversary Party on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, NJ. Enjoy a great night, including hors d'oeuvres, an elegant buffet, a raffle with cool prizes, and dancing. Soft drinks are provided, and adult beverages are available from the cash only bar. Members and their guests are invited. Space is limited.

Tickets are \$75 per person through January 16 and then will be \$85 at the door.

Once again we will be fundraising for FanFare, our very own live band, which was enjoyed by all last year. If you would like to contribute, we are accepting donations (no more than \$20 suggested donation) we would be grateful!

Venmo: @Janine-Cheresnick or Zelle: Janine Cheresnick 914-523-1652

For more information contact Janine at: jmcbreeze32@gmail.com

Thank you in advance to all our generous contributors who made live music possible!!

Year in Review

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Ridgewood Public Library

Come relive the best moments of the year with your BTCNJ community! From epic climbs to coffee stops, big group rides to scenic miles, we'll revisit the highlights that made 2025 a standout season — every mile ridden, every new friendship formed, and every moment that made the year unforgettable, all because of you. We'll look back at the rides that defined the season, highlight your favorite photos, celebrate the spirit you bring to our club, and connect with fellow riders as we look ahead to even more adventures.



The winners will be announced after the video.

Commentary

by Bob DeMair

The Domane+ SLR6 e-Bike is a game changer. Having nearly 33 years in BTCNJ I have seen many people move to lower speed categories or drop out of cycling completely. While many of us recoil at the thought of going electric, life has a way of altering our convictions. Take a brief look at why we ride. Health, Camaraderie, Fun, Competition, Errands. These are all positive benefits of cycling. All of these benefits can be obtained on an e-bike. The motor is there just to help smooth out the tough spots. The principal reason most people get e-bikes is so they can continue riding with their close friends. Why do I say the Domane+ SLR6 e-Bike is the bike of the year... because I am taking delivery of one in February. Look for a review this spring after I have put some miles on it.

SHOW OFF YOUR MILES!

We look forward to publishing our BTCNJ members' 2025 riding accomplishments, along with any other accomplishments you have achieved this year, in the February MasterLink. Feel free to add to the brag by including other statistics, like how many hours or days you rode, elevation gain or anything else interesting or significant about your riding achievements.

Submit yours by using the "Yearly Mileage" link on BTCNJ.com on your Account page (look on the right side of the page) to enter your info. In order to be included in the February MasterLink, update your 2025 mileage total by January 15.

Domane + SLR6 E-Bike of the Year*



*editors opinion

The 13th Annual Montclair Turkey Ride

by Len Ruvolo

On a brisk (low 30's) November 23 morning, over twenty-five members of BTCNJ, myself included, signed up for David Goldstein's posted ride to participate in the 13th annual Montclair Bikery Turkey Ride which started out in the parking lot of Montclair Bikery.

The ride, a 15-mile circuit through beautiful neighborhood roads where you would...

...roll in to the parking lot behind Kings Food Market and buy a frozen turkey (many riders bought more than one) and...(optionally) stuff said frozen turkey in your backpack or pannier ride a few more miles to a food donation distribution center with hundreds of families lined up to accept your donation...and finally, arrive at the finish line party with free eats and hot apple cider (and a cash bar for those of us ready to imbibe at an early hour) -courtesy of Egan & Sons Irish gastropub.

Over 360 riders were undaunted by the cold riding weather and we collectively donated 1,403 turkeys to the Human Needs Food Pantry.

All in all, it was a great feeling of community generosity and comraderie by our club's riders and the other hundreds of participants.

So mark your calendars for November 22, 2026 and join us at the 14th Annual Montclair Bikery Turkey Ride.





Local E-Bike Regulation Update

By Anastsia Conlon

The New York Times recently quoted Matt Willis, Marin County health officer speaking of e-bikes as saying "The technology has moved forward way faster than our ability to measure its impact or develop sensible regulation." That same article says that the odds of a fatality in a traditional bicycle accident are under 1%, whereas e-bikes have been measured to be 11%. Not surprisingly, regulators are playing catch up.

Recently the town of Ramsey updated their e-bike/e-scooter regulations to reflect those that Florham Park had previously implemented. Each town cited recent e-bike accidents as their motivation to keep pedestrians, cyclists and drivers safe. Other towns in New Jersey will almost certainly follow their lead, with the Ramsey/Florham Park regulations likely to be the starting template for their own.

The regulations cover Class 1 e-bikes (pedal assist – allowed by the BTCNJ), and Class 2 (speeds up to 20 mph and not permitted by BTCNJ). Class 3 e-bikes with nominal top speeds of 28 mph, are considered motor vehicles, and are subject to those regulations, in addition to the e-bike regulations. They require a driver's license to operate them. E-scooters are covered by the e-bike regulations as well.

The vast majority of the e-bike /e-scooter regulations are common sense for our membership. These include such things as following traffic signs and lights, wearing a helmet, not riding on the sidewalk, riding single file, having a white light in front and a red one in the back, riding with traffic, using hand signals, stopping and yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks, and not carrying passengers unless the bicycle is equipped for it, with helmets required for passengers too.

However, there are some less than obvious restrictions. Neither town allows e-bikes /e-scooters on town property unless specifically indicated by signage. This is notable since the town of Ramsey owns a parking lot some BTCNJ rides leave from. And Ramsey will not allow e-bikes or scooters on Main Street or the sidewalks between Central Street, and Franklin Turnpike. Ramsey also does not permit them on the Central Bike Path, which runs from Prospect Street north up to the Interstate Plaza.

continued



Local E-Bike Regulation Update

Student riders have additional restrictions. They must dismount and walk their e-bikes/e-scooters on crosswalks leading to the schools, and on school driveways and entrances. They may not ride them on school lawns or on adjacent sidewalks. E-bikes and e-scooters must be parked in the bike racks on the school property.

The second offense may result in a fine up to \$500 with a 60 day impound of the offending vehicle, while the third offense may result in \$1000 fine and a "long term" impound. While these fines seem to focus on juveniles, we should assume adults who violate them will be subject to their consequences.

Parking restrictions also deserve a mention. Using bike racks wherever possible is ideal. Locking them to handicap signs is forbidden. Other restrictions are also common sense such as no parking in landscaping or in places that block buildings.

Fines for violation of these regulations are the same in both towns, and focus on the parents of juveniles under 18. First offense is a fine up to \$250, with a 7 day impound of the e-bike/e-scooter.

As municipalities update their e-bike regulations, BTCNJ members play an important role in modeling safe, respectful cycling. The vast majority of these rules mirror the expectations we have as a club, and staying informed and compliant with these regulations ensures our rides remain welcome in every community we pass through. Awareness and courtesy have always defined BTCNJ, and these new regulations give us another opportunity to show that leadership on the road.

References:

1. New York Times, November 30, 2025

2 Ramsey, NJ

3. Florham Park, NJ

Shout Out to Amy Avitabile!!

A big thank you to Amy, who served as MasterLink editor from December 2021 through September 2024, for graciously stepping in as editor for the November 2025 issue. Aside from her experience as a former board member and MasterLink editor, Amy is an avid cyclist who spends half the year in Florida and, in the summer, leads rides for BTCNJ—including organizing the popular Bike & Brew ride out of Denville. We're so grateful for her dedication and for keeping everything running smoothly!

BTCNJ Tour Schedule

See the new tours for 2026

Ride Name	2026 Dates	Tour Leader	Email	Cost*	Status
Memorial Day Weekend Southern Vermont	May 22 -25	Linda Krauss	lkrauss@att.net	\$565	Opens Monday January 5 at 8PM
New Paltz Gravel	May 21 - 25	Lou Scheifer	lou185bw@gmail.com	TBD	Save the Date
The Wonders of Eastern Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Tour)	June 5-7	Tom Wieser	tom.wieser@outlook.com	\$360	Opens Saturday January 3rd at 8PM
Amagansett, NY	Sept 18-20	Robert DeMair	robertdemair@gmail.com	\$295	Open for email sign up at 8 PM 4/6/26 to 4/8/26
XNHAT+	Oct 5-9	Avrin Slatkin Jerry Szubin	aslatkin@hotmail.com thejerry88@gmail.com	\$550	Opens Monday January 5th at 8PM
*All costs are PPDO - per person, double occupancy					

TOUR TALK

TCNJ 20th Annual Cycling Tour in Southern Vermont, May 22-25, 2026



This will be our **20th annual Memorial Day cycling weekend in beautiful southern Vermont.** (We've only missed 2020 due to COVID.) We will be staying again at our home away from home - the quintessential Vermont country inn -**The Landgrove Inn (www.thelandgrove.com)** - set in the gorgeous countryside between Manchester and South Londonderry.

The Landgrove has changed hands, and we will certainly miss Tom, our friend and former innkeeper. But the new owners, Bruce and Emily (along with their children and two dogs), are looking forward to welcoming us. The Inn has charming rooms (all with private bath), large and comfortable common areas, storage for bikes, beautiful grounds, outdoor pool, pickle ball courts, and a lovely dining room. You will see several upgrades at the Inn, and many of the same staff. We have reserved the entire Inn with space for 30.

We'll revisit our gorgeous and well-liked cycling routes in the surrounding area, which offer the possibility to stop for lunch at a country store, visit a historic site, shop at a farmer's market, or simply take in the scenery. It is Vermont so don't expect flat riding, but the routes are crafted for all levels (C*/B/B*/A) - some shorter and very manageable; others longer and more challenging; and many in between. Different cycling options will be offered each day including Friday - Monday, and we'll organize into groups each morning at breakfast. The Inn is set on a dirt road, so the ride starts will be remote, a small trade-off for this lovely setting. GPS routes will be provided before the tour.

In addition to great cycling, there will also be time to kick back and relax in the peaceful undeveloped surroundings of the Inn. And there are lots of other things to see and do in the area: farmers' markets in Manchester & Londonderry, hiking (Hapgood Pond and the Catamount Trail are nearby), canoeing, kayaking, quarry swimming, and the Bromley Mountain Alpine Slide. Peruse craft and antiques shops, outlets and art galleries. Check out museums (Southern Vermont Arts Center is a favorite), historic sites such as Hildene, and quaint towns, like Weston with the Vermont Country Store. And Memorial Day is Open Studio Weekend, allowing you to see artists' works in their own studios.

There are no TVs or phones in the rooms (this is a very peaceful place). Wifi is now expanded throughout the Inn, but there still is virtually no cell service. You can use the Inn's phone for short calls.

continued

TOUR TALK

TCNJ 20th Annual Cycling Tour in Southern Vermont, May 22-25, 2026



Included in the weekend are 3 nights lodging, 3 full breakfasts, two 3-course dinners with menu options (Saturday and Sunday evenings), welcome reception Friday late afternoon, cocktail hours Saturday & Sunday with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Total package price: \$565 per person double occupancy.

Registration opens at 8:00PM ET on Monday January 5th. To request your spot, please use the email below in lieu of mailing through the BTCNJ website as emails from the website do not always go through. The last 19 years, this weekend has sold out very quickly (often within 48 hours) so don't delay. If you want to sign up with a roommate, please indicate who you plan to room with.

If the number of registrants exceeds the number of spaces available with 48 hours of registration opening, a lottery will be held. You will be notified if your spot is reserved. Only when notified, please send a check (made out to Linda Krauss) for \$565.00 (per person double occupancy).

Linda Krauss

570 Homestead Dr. Unit 51

Edwards, CO 81632

Zelle also accepted: (201) 220-0205 or Lkrauss@att.net

Cancellations: All cancellations will incur a \$20 per person cancellation fee, which will be added to gratuities for the very hardworking staff at the Inn. If only one of the two people sharing a room cancels, a roommate must be found for the remaining person. No refunds for cancellations received after April 20 (unless we are able to fill your space).

Additional nights at the Inn prior to and/or after our weekend can be arranged directly with the Inn.

For questions or further information, contact Linda Krauss. Email Lkrauss@att.net or mobile (201) 220-0205. Email preferred if possible.

TOUR TALK The Philadelphia Bike Tour

For the 3rd year in a row, WE ARE BACK! Friday June 5th – Sunday June 7th



Tour Leader: Tom Wieser. tom.wieser@outlook.com 908-512-2687

Coleader: Chuck Goodgal. cgoodgal@gmail.com 201-638-0577

Open space, rivers and lakes, mountains and nature provide endless options of beautiful cycling opportunities, and a weekend away. Cities provide endless action, culture, art and a variety of culinary experiences. What about combining both? Welcome to Philadelphia!

Our base is in Philadelphia, BUT almost 80% of our routes are outside the city, a combination of farmland and small charming towns between Eastern PA and South Jersey!

The Eastern Pennsylvania , AKA The Philadelphia Tour, is intended to combine great cycling experiences, in the surrounding areas of South Jersey and Pennsylvania. Our routes will span open farmlands and some urban cycling on dedicated trails. You can enjoy historical sites, shows, great restaurants, and art exhibits.

Cycling routes: We will offer new options for each day. Friday will focus on exploring the beautiful spaces of Eastern PA and/or South Jersey before arriving in Philly. Saturday and Sunday will provide options for urban explorations: the wonders of cycling along the Schuylkill River, teaming up with the Philadelphia Cycling Club and venturing to neighboring counties. Some will be remote starts. GPS routes will be provided before the tour.

continued

TOUR TALK

The Philadelphia Bike Tour

Hotel: [**Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District**](#): A beautiful city hotel with rooftop pool and gym, in the center of the Philadelphia historic district. Limited to 40 Club members, based on 2 per room. Accommodations include: Lodging, Friday and Saturday, hot breakfast, and 2 Happy Hour gatherings. We plan to incorporate an entertainment/dinner event TBD.

Parking: We negotiated a great rate with the hotel's indoor secure parking lot with unlimited in and out for \$20+tax per overnight (\$40+tax for the 2 nights). The parking fee is NOT included in the tour fee and will be paid directly by you.

Group Activities for Friday evening: In previous years we included a group visit to a comedy club, and a combo of a cruise with dinner. The plan for 2026 will be shared later as we explore different options. But for Saturday night, we encourage all participants to explore the variety of excellent restaurants Philly has to offer, spanning many different cuisines and budgets, as opposed to organizing a second group dinner. A list of restaurant options will be provided.

Registration: Registration will open Saturday Jan 3rd at 8:00pm ET and will follow Club rules regarding registration and lottery, if needed. Send your registration email to Chuck Goodgal at cgoodgal@gmail.com.

Payment: The total package is **\$360.00** per person based on double occupancy. Payment is due upon registration. Payments can be made in any of the following ways:

1. Mail check to: Chuck Goodgal: 501 Crankshaw Pl, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
2. Payments can be also made electronically to:
3. Venmo ID is @Chuck-Goodgal Phone number (201) 638-0577 for verification purposes.
4. Zelle: phone number (201) 638-0577

Cancellation and refund: As always, a refund depends on the ability to find a replacement.

TOUR TALK

Cross-New Hampshire Adventure Trail

Hosted by Avrin Slatkin and Jerry Szubin

XNHAT+ Bikepacking New England Fall Foliage (Mixed Surfaces - 60% paved, 40% unpaved)

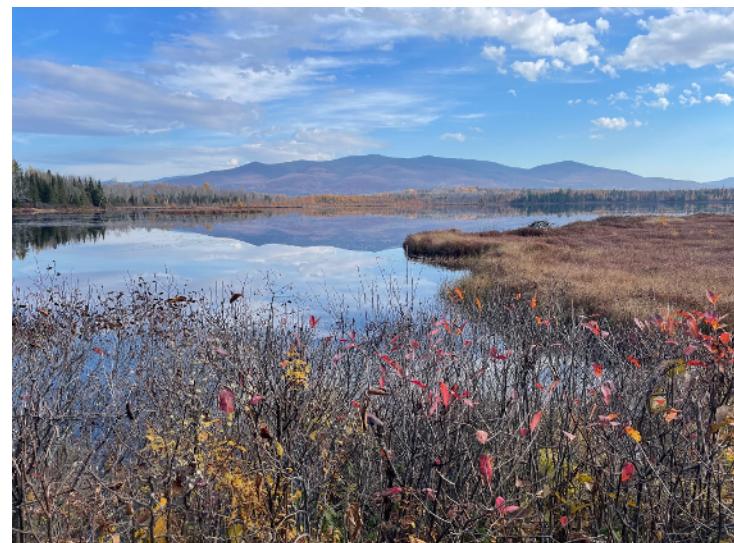
Dates: October 5-9, 2026 (Monday – Friday) See the Fall Foliage in New England at peak colors and put the "T" (for touring) back in BTCNJ. This is a self-supported pannier tour. We carry all our gear and do not have a sag. Lodging will be at a hostel (2 nights) and a hotel (2 nights). The route traverses very gently graded rail trails eastbound across New Hampshire on a route known as the Cross-New Hampshire Adventure Trail, or XNHAT. We see some covered bridges spanning the Androscoggin River. We then ride pavement into Bethel, Maine, where we have a layover day. People can bike a beautiful paved road route that day, which again takes in a covered bridge and includes a great lunch stop, or take a canoe trip with an outfitter, or just hang in town. We then return westbound on the XNHAT. See <https://www.xnhat.org/> The surface is suitable for 38+ tires. 40 is ideal. There are short chunky portions, but most of it is comfortable on wider lower pressure tires. Here are the routes: <https://ridewithgps.com/collections/8040894>.

The daily rides are 32, 52, 54 (optional ride day), 52, and 32 miles. The grades are generally gentle rail trail, with a few larger hills on the road portion of the route. Overall, the elevation is less than 10,000 feet climbing (under 45 feet per mile). By New England standards, this is very flat. Cost is \$550 to include 4 nights lodging, 4 dinners, 2 breakfasts. Minimum trip enrollment is 4 riders, maximum is 8. Leaders: Avrin Slatkin

aslatkin@hotmail.com, Jerry Szubin,

thejerry88@gmail.com

Rain contingency: In the event of forecasted heavy rain, we will not go. Refund of all refundable lodging expenses will be provided. A rear rack and set of rear panniers are available for loan. Participants should submit a \$50 non-refundable (except for rain contingency) deposit by March 30th. Aside from the deposit, other fees will be refunded to the extent such costs can be recovered.





TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Cathy Bennett	West Orange	NJ
George Innocenti	Hawthorne	NJ
Jeffrey Mitchel	Edgewater	NJ
Steven Moelk	Ridgewood	NJ
Joel Oster	Butler	NJ
Joseph Ray	Bernardsville	NJ
Steve Winoker	Edgewater	NJ

BTCNJ Executive Committee Monthly Meeting

Date: December 1, 2025

The meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Olivia Sharp at 7:09 PM

Present:

Olivia Sharp, President

David Goldstein, Outgoing President

Avrin Slatkin, Vice President

Joyce Haddad, Secretary

Len Ruvolo, Treasurer

Lou Schleifer, Tours

Sharon Hurwich, Publicity

Marc Soloff, Special Events

Janine Cheresnick, Special Events

Anastasia Conlon, Advocacy & Safety

Keith Schlanger, Rides Captain

Chuck White, Rally Chair

Absent:

Regina Bueno, Membership Chair

Robert DeMair, MasterLink Editor

David Pawlyk, WebMaster

The Board meeting began with the financial report presented by Len Ruvolo. Through November, the Club is operating at break-even for the year to date compared to a \$5,000 loss for the same period last year. Our cash position is \$113,000, compared to \$110,000 last year. The improved overall financial position was due primarily to an increase in net profit from the Rally. This in turn resulted from better cost management, higher participant fees and increased Rally sponsorships. Len noted that the Club's storage facility rent at the new location has increased by 23% which is still lower than the rent at the former facility.

The Anniversary Party/Bike Prom discussion was the next topic. Janine Cheresnick reported that the Indian Trail Club and live band's contracts have been finalized. Registration is open and starts at \$70 per person which will increase to \$75 on January 1st. It will go up to \$85 at the door. To offset the additional cost of having a live band, requests have been made to send the band donations directly to Janine. So far \$40 has been donated. The Rally donated foot and back massagers to be raffled at the event to raise additional funds. Marc Soloff will be working with Janine and they are looking for additional volunteers the day of the event.

Photo submissions for the Year in Review were discussed next. Keith Schlanger noted that they haven't received many emails with new photos. He will send out a reminder for photo submissions and encourage others to do the same. He suggested asking ride leaders to mention this topic along with their pre-ride announcements and also to reach out to our Tour leaders to send in their photos. Olivia suggested that we also include Rally photos that weren't published in the Rally photo website. Photos can be submitted through the link on the homepage which has been updated. The deadline is December 15th. Marc Soloff suggested extending the deadline for photo submissions if necessary.

The board confirmed their nomination for Volunteer of the Year which will be publicized in the January Master Link. Sharon Hurwich offered to notify and draft the VOY's profile.

Lou Schleifer opened up the next topic regarding Tours. Linda Krauss, who traditionally runs the Memorial Day Weekend Vermont Tour at the Landgrove Inn requested permission to get publicity out for this tour ASAP since the new owners of the Landgrove Inn are requesting a deposit by 12/15. It was suggested that Linda or Sharon write up something in the Newsletter about the LandGrove Inn.

The next topic for discussion was the upcoming publication deadline for the MasterLink, which is typically around the 20th of the month. They agreed to aim for the 15th to allow more time for Bob given the busy holiday schedule in December. Olivia Sharp asked Len Ruvolo to write an article for the ML about the recent Turkey Ride and mentioned planning next year to have the Club's Turkey Ride participants wear turkey hats or some type of costume to show Club spirit. She noted that several club members participated in this fun charity event.

Anastasia Conlon brought up the topic of e-bike regulations. She is planning to write an article about Ramsey's new e-bike restrictions, which mirror Florham Park's recommendations and prohibit e-bikes on Main Street between Central Street and Franklin Turnpike. The discussion highlighted ongoing debates about e-bike usage, with some members noting that regulations often lump together different types of e-bikes, including those allowed by their club.

Keith Schlanger presented the 2025 Ride Leader jersey designs which the group reviewed. They will offer 2 jersey designs as was done last year and non-Ride Leaders will be able to purchase the jersey without the "Ride Leader" designation. The group discussed jersey designs, focusing on a lighter-colored option with a slimming optical illusion effect on the sides. They agreed to move forward with submitting this design to Alex Claffin for production with the collaboration of Lori Loebelsohn's design work. The two are currently working on minor template adjustments and Lori will give this design a name. Long sleeve jerseys will also be available. The orders to Pactimo go out by the middle of January. The team decided to send emails to ride leaders in early January for orders, with the goal of receiving them by the 20th, and planned to include the jersey reveal in the February MasterLink.

Keith Schlanger also presented ride statistics showing a decrease in overall rides and A/B* categories compared to the previous year, with C category rides being the only exception, prompting discussions about recruiting more active leaders in those categories and potentially engaging younger members. He will send an email to ride leaders about a new cafe in Butler offering a 15% discount to BTCNJ members, but first wants to verify insurance coverage for such endorsements.

The group discussed upcoming meetings and events. January is the Anniversary Party. They confirmed February will be the Year In Review meeting. Happy Hours will be planned for April and October. Avrin S is working on a Ride with GPS primer for the May membership meeting including a gear swap. Chuck White spoke about the Ramapo Rally Date choices. The Board selected August 30th as the date for the rally, after discussing various factors including sponsorship timing and attendance considerations. Olivia Sharp mentioned that the 25th anniversary of 9/11 will take place in 2026. She is reviewing the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance's plans and proposals.

The group also discussed insurance coverage for non-bike events such as hiking and skiing, with Len Ruvolo confirming that these other activities are not covered by their current insurance policy. The group decided to block non-cycling events from being posted on the ride schedule page due to these insurance concerns, agreeing that such events should be promoted through BTCNJ's Facebook page instead.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 5 at 7:00PM and will be held via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned by Olivia Sharp at 9:19PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joyce Haddad, Secretary