



***Joliet Bicycle Club***

**[www.jolietbicycleclub.com](http://www.jolietbicycleclub.com)**

**P.O. Box 2758, Joliet, IL 60434**

## ***MEMBER'S HANDBOOK***

# JOLIET BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERS HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Joliet Bicycle Club! We hope that you will enjoy our club as much as we do. The way to do that is to become active. This member's handbook is to give you an overview of the club's programs. Please keep it handy for reference until you have learned your way around.

**Organization:** The Joliet Bicycle Club (JBC) has four elected officers: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Other volunteers are essential to help the club function. Some of these volunteers include: ride calendar chair, program chair, social chair, statistician, newsletter editor, newsletter assembly, invitational chairs, ride leader's, membership chair and internet contact.

**Meetings:** General and board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at a location announced in the News Letter and Event Calendar. Board meetings begin at 6:30 pm followed by general meetings at 7:30 pm and are usually followed by a speaker and pizza provided by JBC.

**Communication:** As a JBC member, you will receive an Electronic News Letter monthly, including an updated Event Calendar, listing all of the club rides for the coming month, other information about upcoming events in our club and information on other invitationals in the area. The newsletter is published 10 times per year. All information for the newsletter is due by noon on the Friday following the monthly meeting. All members are welcome to submit articles.

**Membership:** JBC is comprised of many members from towns like Chicago, New Lenox, Tinley Park, Lockport, Oswego, Plainfield, Wilmington, Morris, Hinsdale, Park Forest, Naperville, Aurora, Westchester, Wheaton, Darien and Joliet. Members range in age from 18-90. Dues are a mere \$15.00 per year (January 1-December 31) for each adult over the age of 18. Minors are included on their parent's membership. All members are eligible for club mileage awards, which are distributed at the year-end awards banquet held in November.

**Safety:** JBC is a safety minded group of cyclists. We do everything possible to minimize the dangers of riding as much as possible. Helmets are required of all members. Members are also expected to obey the Rules of the Road (or the rules of any state they are visiting while on a club ride) as they apply to bicyclists.

**Assortment of Activities:** The club provides other methods of entertainment and exercise throughout the year. A chili cook-off occurs in the winter (usually January or February) followed by an evening of bowling. Other forms of entertainment that have been organized in past years include a Christmas Walk in Chicago, hiking, cross country skiing, volleyball and roller skating. These should all be listed in the Event Calendar.

**Touring:** Our touring program is famous for its variety. Rides of various types are scheduled all year long. During the winter months shorter rides are the norm. During the rest of the year rides of all lengths are scheduled. Each ride on our ride schedule has a category with a ride contact so that our Members can match their skills and speed to the ride. We encourage new riders to get the feel of things by trying the shorter, less difficult rides first. On social rides the ride leader chooses the route and oversees the ride. It is the leader's responsibility to see that everyone knows where the ride is going and approximately how many miles will be covered. The ride leader has the authority to cancel a ride if the conditions are unsafe. On show and go rides those present to ride these rides will decide the route, distance and pace for the day. We are always looking for new and different rides and members are encouraged to make suggestions.

**Variety of Rides:** Each month, the JBC publishes a calendar of rides by date, time, location, distance and pace for each ride. Each ride has a contact person to call for information regarding the ride. Some months have over 100 different rides for you to choose from and "Theme" rides pop up from time to time. Rides are structured with **5 speed ranges** to cover all levels of riding ability. Below is a guide for classifications listed in the monthly newsletter.

**Level I = 10 to 12.5 mph ride pace**

**II = 12.5 to 15 mph ride pace**

**III = 15 to 18 mph ride pace**

**IV = 18 to 20 mph ride pace**

**V = 20+ mph ride pace**

**S = social ride or event**

**S&G=Show & Go**

**RSVP = call the ride leader before the ride**

**Ride Leaders:** Social rides will have a club member who serves as the ride leader. The Event Calendar includes the name and phone number of the ride leader. The ride leader determines the pace, distance and route for the ride.

Rides that do not have a ride leader are designated as a **Show and Go** and a contact person is listed in the event calendar. On a **Show and Go**, the riders that show up, split up into different groups and each group determines its distance and pace. JBC prides itself on not letting new members ride alone. One of our riders should always be willing to ride with a newer member. It is requested that you chose rides with a pace listed that you are comfortable with.

Anyone can and should be a ride leader. The more ride leaders, the more variety in our rides. It also guarantees the ride leader a ride they will like. It is a very simple process. All you have to do is contact the ride chairperson at the meeting, by Email or phone. Let him or her know the Ride Classification, anticipated mileage, date, starting time and place. Check the route out beforehand and show up early on the day of the ride to lead the other riders. Before the ride begins, have the riders sign in on the ride form. That way you get to know who everyone is, and you have a ready-made list to report riders and mileage to the statistician.

**Invitational Rides:** The Joliet Bicycle Club hosts the Metric Century Ride on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Ride Mileage Guidelines:** The board has the final decision on all rides.

Mileage is only for the round trip from the posted starting point and back. On invitational's, mileage cannot exceed the longest route planned by the organization.

JBC has adopted strict adherence to the rules for reporting miles ridden as listed below, and that any miles not reported in this manner will be disallowed.

- A. The ride must be listed in the newsletter on the monthly Event Calendar.**
- B. Ride mileage starts and ends at the scheduled meeting point.**
- C. All riders must start at the scheduled time posted.**
- D. There must be two or more club members riding on an in-State ride.**
- E. There must five or more club members riding on out- of-State rides. This applies to both single and multiday rides.**
- F. Miles ridden between home and the beginning of the posted ride do not count.**
- G. Rider's membership must be current for their miles to be counted.**
- H. Miles must be submitted to the ride statistician Chairman by Email or phone call on a timely basis.**
- I. Miles must be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to the ride statistician chairman in order to be published in the next newsletter.**
- J. Corrections can be made up to a month later, by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.**
- K. Miles submitted for each ride, for all riders, must be submitted by one person.**
- L. Invitational Rides must be published in the newsletter. Rides not listed need board approval for mileage to count.**

**Rules of the Road:** As a responsible bicycle rider, all members of JBC are expected to obey all rules of the road, be courteous to motorists, stop at all stop signs/lights, signal an intention to turn in advance, ride on the right side of the road, ride in single file in traffic and ride intelligently. Also, as a responsible cyclist, it is expected that all riders will have their bicycles in good working order and carry a minimum number of cycling necessities with them. These necessities include:

- A. Spare tube/patch kit, pump, tire iron
- B. Full water bottle(s)
- C. Quick energy snacks (raisins, trail mix, power bars, etc.)
- D. Tools (any "special" tools necessary for you bicycle)
- E. Allen wrenches/Adjustable wrench
- F. Screwdriver(s)

**Bicycling Terms & Lingo:** Riding in a group requires that all riders alert each other as to their location or conditions that might affect riding. Some common things you might hear on a ride are:

**Car Back/Car Up:** Alerts riders that a vehicle is approaching. If riding two or three abreast riders should get in a single file.

**Slowing/Stopping:** Lets riders at the back of a group know that the group is slowing down or stopping.

**Car Right/Left:** Alerts riders crossing an intersection that a vehicle is approaching.

**Clear:** Lets Riders know that an intersection is clear and safe to cross. ALL riders are expected to LOOK BOTH WAYS, regardless of this call.

**On Your Left/Right:** Signals that a rider is passing or being passed.

**Glass:** Glass is on the road surface.

**Hole:** There is a hole in the road.

**SAG:** Officially "Support and Gear". In practice, it means the ride has support vehicles patrolling the route to assist disabled or injured cyclists.

**Invitational Ride:** An invitational Ride, is a ride hosted by an organization, charges an entry fee of each rider and provides SAG services, marked routes, and official rest stops with food.

## **GOOGLE GROUPS**

Google Groups is a list server for Joliet Bicycle Club where all members are able to post information regarding activities relating to JBC.

General Guide lines for use are as follows:

1. When posting information please maintain civility and think about what you post. All articles are to be posted in good taste.
2. All posts must reflect your full name.
3. There will be ABSOLUTELY no lambasting of any one or group of individuals by anyone.
4. There will be no tolerance for anything but legitimate, non-vitriolic, non-cynical commentary.
5. There will be no posts regarding business issues pertaining to the club. All business issues must be presented at a general meeting.

Abusers of the policies will be warned once and then temporarily removed from Google Groups. Repeat offenders will be permanently removed. Decisions regarding these policies will be determined and followed by the executive board.

# ***Joliet Bicycle Club Inc.***

## ***Constitution***

### **Article I**

The name of the organization shall be: Joliet Bicycle Club, Inc.

### **Article II**

Aims: The aim of this organization shall be:

1. To promote a greater public awareness of the pleasures, benefits and usefulness of bicycling.
2. To provide a service to our community in all areas involving bicycling.
3. To advocate the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists.
4. To improve conditions for bicycling.
5. To provide opportunity for bicyclists of all age to share their ideas and experiences in an organized manner.

### **Article III**

#### **Membership**

Anyone who is 18 years of age or older, who owns and rides a bicycle, or who is sincerely interested in promoting the clubs aims, is eligible for membership. Children under the age of 18 are eligible to ride with paid family members. Membership runs from January 1-December 31.

### **Article IV**

#### **Finances**

Club dues shall be \$15.00 per year for individual membership. A vote of those in attendance of the July meeting (2/3) will entertain a motion to change or retain the club dues for the following club year. All dues and funds shall be made payable to the Joliet Bicycle Club, Inc. Funds will be deposited in interest bearing accounts, at the discretion of the executive board. An annual audit shall be made of the organization accounts. Liability insurance shall be purchased annually, traditionally June-to-June for the Joliet Bicycle Club, Inc.

## **Article V**

### **Officers**

The following officers shall be elected by the membership: **PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER**. These offices shall constitute the executive board. The President presides at meetings and is responsible for general leadership of the club. The Vice-President will preside in the absence of the President and is responsible for insuring that an annual audit is conducted and may be assigned certain duties by the President. The Treasurer takes care of all money and collects all dues. The Secretary keeps a record of all meetings.

## **Article VI**

### **Elections**

Elections of club officers shall be held annually. A nominating committee, appointed by the President shall present a list of candidates for the offices to be filled. Additional names may be placed in nomination from the floor, immediately prior to the election. A plurality vote shall be necessary to elect.

## **Article VII**

### **Meetings**

Regular meetings shall be held on the second Monday of the month, unless otherwise posted. The President may call special meetings whenever required. Ten members constitute a quorum.

## **Article VIII**

### **Order of Business**

The order of business at a regular meeting shall be:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
3. Report of officers and committees
4. Unfinished business
5. New business: announcement of rides, special meetings, etc.

6. Adjournment

**Article IX**

**Committees**

The following committees may be formed as the need arises:

- Event calendar
- Ride statistics
- Social
- Membership
- Safety
- Program
- Newsletter assembly
- Newsletter editor and designer
- Finance-Fund Raising
- Legislative
- Refreshments
- Route Planning
- Community Relations
- Public relations
- Internet contact
- T-Shirts sales
- All other committees deemed necessary

**Article X**

The constitution may be amended at any of the regularly scheduled meetings of the organization by a two-thirds vote of the members present.



# *Joliet Bicycle Club Inc.*

## **A Brief JBC History**

The Joliet Bicycle Club was formally organized as the Joliet YMCA Bicycle Club by a small group of bicycling pioneers back in 1974. The moving force and first president was Jack Coleman. Jack served as president until 1980, while Ruth Coleman was treasurer until 1978 and newsletter editor through 1980. In 1982 the club voted to sever their affiliation with the YMCA and the present Joliet Bicycle Club Inc. (JBC) started the 1983 cycling season as an independent organization.

In the very first year, 1974, The Joliet YMCA Bicycle Club sponsored their first invitational ride, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ride. The club's first century officially started in 1979 with the "Summers End Century" which became known as the "Sudden Century". In 1980, the "Across Illinois Bike Ride" the clubs third invitational, emerged from Chuck Mickelwright's dream of an Illinois RAGBRAI. Today, the club consists of around 175 members.