

## ***Hoosiers Out On Tandems (HOOTs) 2014 Year End Report to the CIBA (Central Indiana Bicycling Association) Board***

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### **What to Expect in 2015**

Although we expect most of the rides will be in the 9-county central Indiana region, we plan to host two events that appeal to teams from the rest of the state and beyond. We'll host a weekend event in Madison, IN the weekend after Memorial Day. We also hope to host a fall rally in late September; perhaps in Lafayette. We'll continue to advertise events in the CIBA ride schedule.

We would like to encourage families to participate in our rides. We hope to host an event that will combine parents with their child stoker; perhaps as part of the Fourth of July ride.

We would like to encourage new teams to join us. We are considering an event in May that pairs experienced teams with novices. We would publicize this event with flyers in local bike shops.

### **Midwest Tandem Rally 2014 - Fort Wayne**

Kent and Anne Ellis culminated at least two years of work with an outstanding event in Fort Wayne. The committee consisted of several veteran teams, but also included several couples serving on their first MTR. HOOTs should be well positioned to host its next MTR in 2019 or 2020. Attendance for the event was lower than expected with 350 teams (65 from Indiana) participating. This compares to 475 teams (86 from Indiana) attending at Shipshewana in 2010. The Fort Wayne MTR will contribute about \$6,500 to bicycling related groups in the Fort Wayne area and to Bicycle Indiana.

Five teams rode from the Indianapolis area to Fort Wayne for the event.

### **2014 Ride Attendance**

The winter social was attended by about 40 people, which is comparable to previous year's attendance. We hosted 14 riding events during the year, not including the Midwest Tandem Rally.

	2014	2013
Teams attending 1 or more rides	63	38
Teams attending 2 or more rides	28	20
Teams attending 3 or more rides	18	12
Teams attending 4 or more rides	11	6

The increase in attendance is primarily due to the Batesville weekend, and does not mean that individual events are better attended.

### **Tandem Rally at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

We hosted our first event with the Indiana Blind School in May, and followed it up with a second event in September. Each event teamed about a dozen blind stokers with captains from our club. CIBA member Ron Fraley, who is the nurse at the school, was the ride leader for both events. Rides were held on a Monday evening and consisted of a short ride followed by refreshments at the school. This is a unique event that is fun for the students and our members. Many of the captains came from outside of our normal pool of captains. Women, who normally served as stokers, rode their single bikes along with the group. We plan to continue this event in 2015.

### **Batesville Tandem Weekend**

This was the first HOOTs rally in about ten years, with 22 teams participating. Two of these teams came from the Louisville area, and a third team came from Columbus, OH. The remaining teams were from Indiana. We had three days of riding in the scenic Batesville area. We hosted a Saturday evening banquet at the Sherman House and a dessert reception in their hospitality room. Jim and Sue Marcotte were the ride leaders for two of the three rides, and they also served as a local liaison.

We see these weekends as a great way to meet teams that would not normally participate in rides in the Central Indiana area. Although teams paid for their own meals, there was no fee to participate in the weekend.

## **[www.TandemHoots.ning](http://www.TandemHoots.ning)**

We plan to continue using the social website from NING. If we can grow the club to perhaps 200 active members from around the state, it will certainly make sense to keep the site indefinitely.

## **HOOTs Membership**

For 2015 we will require that members be dues-paying members of an Indiana bicycling club. There are currently 25 such clubs in Indiana, including the state-wide Bicycle Indiana. A team not belonging to one of these clubs may join by paying \$10 for the calendar year. Teams not meeting these requirements will be considered guests; no one will be "kicked off" the NING social website. In January we will send notices to the 25 clubs in Indiana letting them know that their local club membership entities them to be a HOOTs member.

Should a HOOTs member who is not a CIBA member lead a ride, it will be sanctioned by the qualifying Indiana based club. The host club's insurance and waivers will apply.

## **Finances**

We will be working with Dolly Craft and the new CIBA treasurer to determine the best way to maintain HOOTs funds.

## **Miscellaneous**

We did not have much success recruiting new ride leaders which is essential for growth of the club. In the past, ride leader training was done by our parent organization (CIBA), but that has not occurred in recent years.

Although we haven't heard any complaints, there is concern that our rides are attended mainly by "hard core" or "A" type (fast) riders. This is not an easy problem to deal with given that most of our rides attract less than ten teams.