

***Hoosiers Out On Tandems (HOOTs) 2016 Year End Report***  
**October 30, 2016 - Submitted by John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon**

**Event Leaders for 2016 – THANKS!**

HOOTs Winter Social	Gary & Deanne Browning and John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Springtime in Sheridan Ride	John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Broad Ripple Evening Ride	Tom & Laurie Schumacher
Rolling Eagle Ride	Rick & Andrea Rader
Spring Blind School Ride	Ron Fraley
Race Day Rally	Nathan & Kristen Dinges
Madison Weekend	Bob & Charlotte Canida, Jon Wineland, Don & Chris Kirk, John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Weekend with the Cincy Club	John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
July 4th Ride	John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Fishback Evening Ride	Bill & Cris Bahret
Maumee River Ride	Kent & Anne Ellis
Informal Columbus Ride	Steve & Helen Kinsey
Lafayette Weekend	Tom & Sharon Smith and John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Grand Park Dinner Ride	Jay & Linda Hardcastle
Anderson Ride	Rick & Anna Stanley
MTR Pre-ride in Bettendorf	John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Fall Blind School Ride	Ron Fraley & Jason Askren and Dan & Lucy Neely (ice cream)
Tour de Carmel	John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon
Fall Finale	Jay & Linda Hardcastle
Financial Oversight	Dolly Craft

**What to Expect in 2017**

Although we expect most of the rides will be in the 9-county central Indiana region, we plan to host at least three events that appeal to teams from the rest of the state and beyond. We'll return to Madison, IN the weekend after Memorial Day. We'll also plan to host a weekend event in Shipshewana, and we'll again join with the Cincinnati Cycling Club for a Batesville weekend. Of course, we'll ride to MTR in Dublin, OH, and host a "HOOTs Happy Hour" during the MTR weekend.

We plan to host a spring ride where we invite couples in the CIBA community to join us on their single bikes. The hope is that they will have any questions answered by our group, and then decide to join the tandem community.

We will continue to recruit new ride leaders. New leaders keep the ranks full and they provide new ideas. This year, Rick and Anna Stanley took our group to the world's largest paint ball, and to a glider field; all just north of Anderson.

We were a little concerned that we had over extended ourselves this year, but the rides were generally well attended, and we plan to have more rides in 2017.

We will do some marketing to promote HOOTs in 2017. There are just too many tandem teams, both serious and casual riders, who are not familiar with our club. We expect to do several things next year: 1) Distribute business cards to bike shops, 2) Provide a promotional article to bike clubs in the state, 3) Host a table at bicycle events such as the Hilly Hundred and N.I.T.E. Ride.

## Midwest Tandem Rally (MTR) 2019 – Rediscover Columbus

HOOTs will host MTR in 2019. Madelyn and I will be joined by Steve and Helen Kinsey as co-chairs of this event. We are very fortunate to have two additional couples on the team that have served as MTR chairs. Don & Dolly Craft will be serving as treasurers, and Kent & Anne Ellis will be handling registration. We will begin to fill other committee positions in late 2017.

## 2016 Ride Attendance\*

The winter social was attended by about 55 people, which is about a dozen more than the previous year's attendance. We hosted 21 riding events during the year, which is 50% more than in 2015.

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Teams attending 1 or more rides	79	65	62	38
Teams attending 2 or more rides	43	24	21	20
Teams attending 3 or more rides	23	19	14	12
Teams attending 4 or more rides	17	12	7	6

\*Attendance does not include the non-riding winter socials, MTR social, and the 2016 Hilly Hundred

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

We had two successful events with about a dozen students participating in both the May and September rides. CIBA member Ron Fraley, who was the nurse at the school, led the event. Since Ron has retired from the school, Jason Askren from the school will be taking over as the ride leader. The rides were held on a Monday evening and consisted of a short ride through the surrounding neighborhoods and on the Monon Trail. New this year was an ice cream stop in Broad Ripple. Thanks to Dan & Lucy Neely for treating the group to ice cream! 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 2017 and perhaps expand it to include a few smaller rides of longer duration.

## Madison Tandem Weekend

We had three days of riding in the scenic Madison area. The event was headquartered at the Riverboat Inn overlooking the Ohio River. The hotel staff was very accommodating and the hotel patio allowed for a continuous happy hour when we weren't riding. Bob and Charlotte Canida with Jon Wineland provided local support for the event. We plan to continue this event in 2017 on the weekend after Memorial Day.

Unfortunately, Peter and Becky Louton were hit by a car on the Stream Cliff Farm ride and were seriously injured. They are on the road to recovery, and were able to ride on the Fall Finale Ride. Special thanks to the Canidas, Jon Wineland, and the Bahrets for assisting Peter and Becky.

## Tandem Weekend with the Cincinnati Cycling Club (CCC)

We hosted a pair of rides in Batesville with the help of Bill & Deb Johnson of the CCC. HOOTs hosted the Saturday ride which went to Milan, and then Bill & Deb hosted the Sunday ride to Brookville. We plan to continue this event in 2017, but the exact date is yet to be determined.

## **Lafayette Weekend**

We spent two days riding in the area east of Lafayette with a Saturday banquet at Mountain Jacks. Tom & Sharon Smith assisted with this event.

## **Tour de Carmel**

Rain washed out our second attempt to form a tandem group at this year's Tour de Carmel. Twenty seven people had signed up to ride on a tandem, so we'll seriously consider trying this again in 2017. Tour de Carmel is a family friendly ride with about 800 participants riding through the neighborhoods of Carmel. Our participation is an outreach to teams that may not normally ride the HOOTs events. We're looking for new teams, teams with children, and riders that enjoy a more casual pace. This is important to the long-term success of HOOTs

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

We were informed at the end of August that our yearly rate would go from \$240 to \$588. Fortunately(?), we had just renewed our contract at the old rate through July of 2017. We will begin to phase in a new website next spring.

## **Indiana Bicentennial Jerseys and HOOTs Nametags**

We sold 76 jerseys, and they were quite visible (literally) at the Midwest Tandem Rally. If there's interest, we may make one final order in early 2017. We also purchased nametags for HOOTs members. These can be worn at HOOTs and other tandem events.

## **HOOTs Membership**

We will continue to 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. 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**

Dolly Craft continues to serve as HOOTs treasurer, keeping an eye on our expenditures. HOOTs received \$320 from CIBA to support activities in the 9-county central Indiana area. We have requested that CIBA increase this to \$500 for 2017 to support our expanded activities. We started the year with a bank balance of \$9,544 and we currently have \$9,309.

## **Hilly Hundred**

We had a small group of five teams on Saturday's ride. We hope to expand this, and get it listed on the Hilly Hundred schedule to attract teams that don't normally attend our events. We'd also like to have a presence at the registration area on Friday night to promote HOOTs.

## **Survey Results (see next page)**

## Survey Results (49 responses)

1. Please indicate which years you attended a HOOTs or other tandem-specific riding event. If you would like to identify yourself, you may enter your name and email in the comments box.

Answer Choices	Responses
None, but I'm looking forward to riding tandem events next year.	8.16% 4
2016	65.31% 32
2015	75.51% 37
2014	77.55% 38
2013	57.14% 28
2012	53.06% 26

Total Respondents: 49

2. Please indicate what distances you would ride during a HOOTs event. Select all distances that you'd ride.

Answer Choices	Responses
15 miles or less	8.16% 4
15-25 miles	32.65% 16
25-35 miles	57.14% 28
35-50 miles	79.59% 39
More than 50 miles	65.31% 32

Total Respondents: 49

Summary: 25 to 50 miles seems to be the desired range – no surprise here.

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3. Please indicate which ride types you prefer. (It's OK to love them all!)

	I dislike this type	Neutral on this type	I like this type	I love this type	Total	Weighted Average
Casual rides where teams generally stay together and ride as a group	2.08% 1	25.00% 12	47.92% 23	25.00% 12	48	3.96
Faster rides where smaller groups form based on speed	12.50% 6	18.75% 9	45.83% 22	22.92% 11	48	3.79
Multi-day rides outside of the Indianapolis area	6.38% 3	19.15% 9	57.45% 27	17.02% 8	47	3.85
Flat rides where the biggest hill is a highway overpass	10.42% 5	35.42% 17	29.17% 14	25.00% 12	48	3.69
Rides with rolling hills, but climbs are always less than a 100ft elevation change	4.17% 2	10.42% 5	54.17% 26	31.25% 15	48	4.13
Rides with hills, as long as the hills are less than a 10% grade	8.33% 4	20.83% 10	50.00% 24	20.83% 10	48	3.83
Rides with the biggest hills that Indiana has to offer (such as Hilly Hundred)	33.33% 16	33.33% 16	25.00% 12	8.33% 4	48	3.08

Summary: It's difficult to analyze this one, but big hills are definitely not loved. We will try to identify the type of ride in the ride calendar listing.

4. We would like to reduce the number of printed maps / cue sheets provided at the start of each ride. Can you print your own copies?

	No, I can't do that	I'd prefer not to do that	Yes, I'd be glad to do that	Total	Weighted Average
I can print my own map / cue sheet from the website	2.04% 1	22.45% 11	75.51% 37	49	2.73
I can download a track to my GPS	46.67% 21	6.67% 3	46.67% 21	45	2.00

Summary: We will try to move towards printing 5 maps/cue sheets per event. This may take a few years for everyone to learn the process.

5. How do you follow a route? You may select more than one item per row.

	Never	Only if I get lost or there's a road blockage	Only to identify points of interest or rest stops	I prefer this to follow the route	I require this to follow the route	Total Respondents
Map	0.00% 0	31.91% 15	27.66% 13	53.19% 25	10.64% 5	47
Cue Sheet	2.08% 1	8.33% 4	27.08% 13	62.50% 30	12.50% 6	48
GPS File	40.00% 18	8.89% 4	4.44% 2	46.67% 21	4.44% 2	45

Summary: There may come a point where we only post a link to the RideWithGPS file, and teams may download the cue sheet / map / GPS file(s) as needed. This may take some time as the produced maps (Google Maps) have low contrast making them difficult to read. The maps also do not distinguish between paved and unpaved roads.

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6. We plan to host several out-of-town rides next year. These routes will always be created by riding the route to check for suitability, scenery, safety, etc. How much route checking should we do just prior to the event to ensure that we don't encounter road closures, closed convenience stores, etc? Please select all items that you require.

Answer Choices	Responses
None	4.55% 2
Provide a good map to allow me to reroute if necessary	56.82% 25
Do a remote check using online resources and contact with local cyclists when possible	52.27% 23
Ride / drive the route no more than 4 weeks ahead of the event	20.45% 9
Ride / drive the route no more than 2 weeks ahead of the event	31.82% 14
Total Respondents: 44	

Response: If we have confidence in the online resources (County Highway Dept.) then we may decide that a route precheck is not necessary. Last year at Madison, the bridge closure on IN 356 was “discovered” by checking the IDOT website.

7. We often have meals or banquets as part of our events. What amount would you pay per couple for a meal? (prices includes tax and tip but no alcoholic beverages) Please complete all rows.

	Would not attend	Maybe, but we'd look for cheaper options in the area	Probably	Most Definitely	Total	Weighted Average
\$75	34.04% 16	38.30% 18	19.15% 9	8.51% 4	47	2.02
\$60	25.53% 12	34.04% 16	25.53% 12	14.89% 7	47	2.30
\$50	10.64% 5	25.53% 12	29.79% 14	34.04% 16	47	2.87
\$40	4.26% 2	8.51% 4	38.30% 18	48.94% 23	47	3.32
\$30	2.13% 1	6.38% 3	27.66% 13	63.83% 30	47	3.53
\$20 (This might be carryout pizza with salad)	2.22% 1	2.22% 1	33.33% 15	62.22% 28	45	3.56

Summary: It's always been a priority to keep costs down. At Lafayette this year, several teams choose to eat on their own due to the cost of Mountain Jacks. We will look to reduce costs for dining and hotels, as long as they meet our needs.

8. Due to a price increase of over 100%, we will be changing websites in the summer of 2017. Please help us identify the requirements for a new site. Please complete all rows. If you'd like to suggest a new domain name, please add it in the comments box.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total	Weighted Average
I like to get email notices of upcoming events	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.08% 2	34.69% 17	61.22% 30	49	4.57
I'd like to get text messages sent to my phone about upcoming events	8.16% 4	30.61% 15	34.69% 17	22.45% 11	4.08% 2	49	2.84
I like to post my own pictures on the website	6.25% 3	4.17% 2	50.00% 24	31.25% 15	8.33% 4	48	3.31
I like to communicate with other teams through the website.	2.08% 1	8.33% 4	47.92% 23	35.42% 17	6.25% 3	48	3.35
I like to post articles.	8.51% 4	21.28% 10	51.06% 24	17.02% 8	2.13% 1	47	2.83
I enjoy seeing the postings of other team members	4.17% 2	0.00% 0	14.58% 7	62.50% 30	18.75% 9	48	3.92
I'd prefer a "static" website.	10.87% 5	36.96% 17	47.83% 22	4.35% 2	0.00% 0	46	2.46
I rarely visit the HOOTs website.	10.20% 5	28.57% 14	36.73% 18	18.37% 9	6.12% 3	49	2.82

Summary: We will continue email notifications; probably using Mail Chimp. We will try to integrate a Facebook page into the website to allow postings.

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9. HOOTs intends to host a Midwest Tandem Rally in 2019. Please give us your feedback on potential locations.

	Bad	Poor	OK	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Carmel	6.67% 3	8.89% 4	35.56% 16	33.33% 15	15.56% 7	45	3.42
Columbus	0.00% 0	6.67% 3	20.00% 9	35.56% 16	37.78% 17	45	4.04
Indianapolis (northwest side)	6.52% 3	15.22% 7	34.78% 16	34.78% 16	8.70% 4	46	3.24
Lafayette	4.35% 2	10.87% 5	26.09% 12	47.83% 22	10.87% 5	46	3.50
Shipshewana	2.22% 1	4.44% 2	31.11% 14	24.44% 11	37.78% 17	45	3.91

Summary: Columbus and Shipshewana were popular. We plan to host in Columbus in 2019, and perhaps Shipshewana in 2025 (that's a long way off!).

10. Please give us your comments and suggestions. Perhaps you have an idea for a HOOTs "Battle Cry."

You may have heard the stories That Hoosiers are hicks But those are all lies We're owls, old and wise.

Would like a hoots jersey that includes many fluorescent colors in the design such as lime, orange, blue, yellow, pink and purple.

Hooty Hoot Hoot!!! I love owls, just not ones with pink bows. No owls with too much bling. I wish we had the old yellow jerseys. I will not buy a low visibility jersey. I prefer bright, neon colors: yellow, orange, bright green (not pink).

Battle Cry-"We are the HOOTS. Whoo. Whoo. I SAID, WE ARE THE HOOTS."

Who are you? Hoot, hoot, hoot hoot.