

Hoosiers Out On Tandems (HOOTs) 2018 Year End Report
October 31, 2018 - Submitted by John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon

Event Leaders for 2018 – THANKS!

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| HOOTs Winter Social | Gary & Deanne Browning and John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon |
| Tour of Boone County | Jeff & Ann Marie Walker |
| Spring Blind School Ride | Jason Askren & John Calhoun |
| Race Day Rally | Nathan & Kristen Dinges |
| New Harmony Weekend | John Nelli, Dave Shrimpton, John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon |
| Cincinnati Tandem Weekend | Jim & Betsy Chisholm |
| July 4th Ride | John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon |
| Southern Indiana Weekend | Brian & Jessica Christoff |
| Warsaw Weekend | Kent & Anne Ellis |
| Madison County Tour | Rick & Anna Stanley |
| Blind School Ride | Jason Askren & John Calhoun |
| Grand Rapids Happy Hour | John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon |
| Nickel Plate Overnighter | Don & Chris Kirk and John Calhoun & Madelyn Zalon |
| Fall Finale | Jay & Linda Hardcastle |
| Financial Oversight | Dolly Craft |
| Insurance Liaison | Pamela Hollick |

What to Expect in 2019

We plan to make the Midwest Tandem Rally in Columbus the highlight of the year. Nonetheless, we still plan to have a full schedule of events throughout the year. Although we expect most of the rides will be in the 9-county central Indiana region, we hope to find a host for a northern Indiana multi-day event.

We will continue to recruit new ride leaders. New leaders keep the ranks full and they provide new ideas. This year, Brian and Jessica Christoff hosted rides for the first time. Our goal is to recruit two new teams to lead rides in 2019.

We plan to host another overnight ride, and we're looking for suggestions. One possibility is to ride from Carmel to Frankfort for the Hotdog Festival on the last weekend in July.

We will try to partner with another group to host a family tandem ride for children to ride with their parents or grandparents. This might be part of the CIBA annual picnic or other ride.

Looking for Mr. and Mrs. Goodbar

After 6 years of leading HOOTs, it's now time to start thinking about new leadership. When MTR is completed next September, we will have met our goals for moving HOOTs towards being a truly state-wide club. Anyone interested should contact ja_calhoun@indy.rr.com. You don't need to live in central Indiana, but you do need to be a CIBA member. Madelyn and I would like to continue our multi-day rides and the blind school rides under the leadership of this new couple.

Midwest Tandem Rally (MTR) 2019 – Rediscover Columbus

Madelyn and I will be joined by numerous couples in hosting MTR. We plan to fill the remaining committee positions in early 2019. We have three goals: 1. Present an event that is enjoyable for both the committee and the participants 2. Promote tandem riding in general and specifically in Indiana 3. Generate a surplus of \$5,000 to fund our events over the next five years.

2018 Ride Attendance*

The winter social was attended by about 42 which is a little less than the previous year's attendance. We hosted 13 riding events during the year, which is 2 less than in 2017. Attendance was down this year, and we had our first two rainouts in six years as HOOTs chairs

| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|---------------------------------|------|--|------|------|------|------|
| Teams attending 1 or more rides | 75 | 89 | 79 | 65 | 62 | 38 |
| Teams attending 2 or more rides | 32 | 36 | 43 | 24 | 21 | 20 |
| Teams attending 3 or more rides | 15 | 26 | 23 | 19 | 14 | 12 |
| Teams attending 4 or more rides | 9 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 7 | 6 |
| | | *Attendance does not include the non-riding winter socials, MTR social, and the 2018 Hilly Hundred | | | | |

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

We had two successful and fun rides with the students again in 2018. The fall ride was moved to late August due to the lack of daylight in mid-September. We continue to have the gracious support of Brics Ice Cream in Broad Ripple. Channel 6 and the Indianapolis Star covered our August ride with a very nice article in the August 29 newspaper.

We would like to add additional rides of longer distance and fewer students, but we need to firm up the ride organization before proceeding.

We are trying to utilize the website U.S Blind Tandem Cycling Connection (bicyclingblind.org) to match adult blind stokers with our captains. We met with Kurt Deichmann of Bosma Enterprises in January to discuss options, and I have ridden with Kurt nine times on his tandem from his home in Westfield. These rides typically lasted just over an hour.

The New Harmony Project

The three days of hot but beautiful weather greeted us in New Harmony. The event was headquartered at the New Harmony Inn. This was the first time that we've charged for an event, and we weren't sure how many people would make the drive to the far southwest corner of Indiana. As it turned out, we filled the ride with 27 tandems, and we were able to give each team a \$20 rebate. We received considerable support from John Nelli and Dave Shrimpton of the Evansville Bicycle Club who helped with the creation and checking of the routes. In exchange for their help, about a dozen single riders from the club joined us for the Saturday ride. Many roads in the area had been paved in the last ten years, and did not show up on GPS maps. This created some navigational problems which will be dealt with should we return to the area. Another problem that we faced was the lack of facilities in this isolated area. Because of this and the heat, some teams ran out of water. Should we return to New Harmony, we would certainly solicit the support of the Evansville club, and we might consider a partnership with the Harmony Hundred ride in early May.

Warsaw Weekend

Twenty three tandem teams enjoyed the scenic lakes of this small town which is a 2-hour drive north from Indianapolis. Kent and Anne Ellis were our hosts for three days of riding and a very nice Saturday banquet. Several teams from Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois joined us.

Nickel Plate Overnighter

Nine tandems and one triple rode the length of the Nickel Plate Trail from the north side of Kokomo to Rochester Indiana. The trail length was just over 40 miles with an optional 18 mile loop on Saturday. For at least two of the teams, this was their first experience of loading up the panniers and hitting the road. We had dinner at the Dam Landing on Lake Manitou.

Midwest Tandem Rally 2018 – Grand Rapids, MI

Although several Indiana teams did not attend, we still had a better turn out on a per capita basis than any state other than Michigan. We had a great turnout at the Saturday afternoon happy hour at GP's Sports Bar, with over 40 people attending.

Winter Social

We plan to have the 2019 winter social again in Westfield. We hope to precede the happy hour and dinner with a few hours of game playing hosted by Randy and Connie Schmucker.

Marketing

We will be promoting MTR, HOOTs, and tandeming in general heavily during the first half of 2019.

We had a table at the Hilly, and spoke with a few couples during the weekend. We hosted a tandem group on Saturday morning at the Hilly, but we didn't attract any new teams. We will not continue any formal presence at the Hilly in the future.

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 \$543 from CIBA to support activities in the 9-county central Indiana area. CIBA also pledged \$200 to pay for ice cream at the Blind School ride, but we've been able to get other sponsors, so this money was not used. We started the fiscal year with a bank balance of \$9,361 and we currently have \$9,763 (adjusted for MTR Expenses).