

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society

Club Ride Guidelines

An important function of the AABTS is group rides. We have revised our online ride calendar to allow any member to schedule a ride. This will allow others to join them and make it easier to communicate any last-minute changes to anyone that may be interested in participating. We want to ensure AABTS is open and attractive to all members or nonmember cyclists.

We have made significant changes to how rides will be published on the AABTS.org calendar, and how members mileage will be logged.

Beginning January 1, 2021:

- Any member can put a ride on the calendar
- Rides can be cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled prior to the start
- Rider mileage will be logged separately from calendar listings

Keep reading for more details on how this will work.

Have a good ride!

Member Responsibilities for scheduling rides:

Any club member can lead a ride and post it on the club calendar using the following guidelines:

- You must be capable of logging into the AABTS website and following the prompts to post a “quick event”. A robust ClubExpress support site including phone support plus step-by-step instructions are available if help is needed.
- When you post a ride, you are the ride leader. You can name an alternate or have more than one ride leader per ride.
- The ride should be described in the text section and include: How far, how fast, coffee, food or other stops, drop or no drop and any other details that could help a cyclist decide if it is a good fit for them.
- You must attend any ride that you schedule or arrange for an alternate member to be at the ride. If circumstances change, you can cancel the ride on the calendar at any time up to one hour prior to the start.
- You are encouraged to post rides as soon as you are confident it will take place, but they can be posted as late as the day before the scheduled start date.
- You can create a recurring ride by copying it to multiple days, (e.g., every Tuesday, etc.). These must be limited to not more than 6 weeks in advance at which time you can review or edit as needed and copy it for another 6 weeks. This will require assistance from the ride committee or webmaster.

Ride Participant Responsibilities:

- Understand and follow the AABTS safe riding guidelines
- Have a bike in good working condition
- You must wear a helmet on any club ride
- You should have basic riding skills and be comfortable riding with others
- You should have the tools and spare parts required to repair a flat tire. (Other riders may help but it is not their responsibility to repair your bike)
- Choose a ride that is appropriate for your abilities. Riders new to the club should choose a ride in an easier category to gauge if it is fun for them.
- Nonmembers must read and agree to the liability waiver either by registering for the ride in advance or on their phone at the ride start.
- Members should enter their mileage into the AABTS.org ride log tool. (located under the “club Mileage” tab). Ride leaders will no longer record and report miles. Mileage should be entered the same day as the ride and not later than 7 days after the ride. Year to date ride mileage totals will be updated throughout the year and published under the same Club Mileage tab on the AABTS website.

Ride Categories:

Rides are designated and color coded on the calendar in three categories:

- **“C” ride** -- Green: slowest speed, shortest distances no drop.
- **“B” ride** -- Blue: 25 -60 miles 15 – 18 mph may or may not have rest stops, may regroup at turns, may have drops
- **“A” ride** -- Red: 30+ miles, 17+ mph, , stops, drops possible as noted in ride description.

Rides should be defined in greater detail in the text section when scheduling a ride.

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society

December 29, 2020

Metro Areas:

All rides can be designated according to their starting point to the areas listed below. This is done in the “Metro Area” drop down box. This makes it possible to filter the calendar view to show only those rides that start in a chosen location.

- Ann Arbor
- Dexter/Chelsea
- Plymouth
- Out of Area
- Out of State

Ride Start Locations:

Numerous existing ride starting locations are already defined in the “locations” section of the quick event scheduling page. Most contain a link to google maps.

Please use these existing start locations whenever possible. They typically have adequate parking and other facilities. Minimizing the number of starting locations can also reduce confusion regarding where a ride is starting. Also, AABTS has made donations to some of these locations in the past, so we should be welcome there.

Ride Realities:

There may be more than one group of riders on any AABTS ride. The ride leader will post a pace for the ride. The ride leader will always ride at that posted pace.

AABTS rides may have riders or groups of riders who go faster or slower than the posted pace. This is normal and is the choice of those riders. However, the support of the Ride Leader may not be available to those riders who choose to ride at a different pace or are unable to ride at the posted pace.

The primary responsibility of the ride leader is to those riders who ride at the posted pace since the ride was designated for a particular skill level of rider.

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Ride/event protocols during the Covid19 era:

- Stay home if you exhibit any symptoms of illness
- Restrictions and guidelines vary throughout the region. Be aware of and comply with all regulations in effect in the area you are riding to or visiting
- Keep an appropriate space between you and other cyclists when moving (i.e. 2 to 3 bike lengths), and 6' when stopped. Leave indoor places where you cannot maintain the 6' separation distances outlined above.
- Carry water, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to further protect yourself.
- Carry a face mask and use it when going into a store or other public setting.
- Avoid handling other riders' bikes or gear.
- No spitting or "snot rockets" when cycling. Carry a handkerchief and cover your mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Lastly, it is recommended that the intensity level be "dialed back". Reducing exertion level reduces the risk of transmission.
- **Cyclists not abiding by the new protocols will not be allowed on Club rides under this interim policy.**

AABTS ride safety rules:

All AABTS riders agree to:

- Wear a helmet
- Obey all traffic laws
- Ride no more than two abreast
- Ride as far to the right as practicable
- Use appropriate hand and verbal signals to communicate with other cyclists and with motorists
- Move right and single up when there is a "car back"
- Observe for themselves whether an intersection is clear before crossing (not just follow the pack)
- Not wear earbuds or headphones that restrict their ability to hear surrounding traffic or speech or warnings from others while riding