

New President's Address on 1/22/23 by Roland Cooper

Many Thanks to Deb, MJ, for organizing this party and to Joe for arranging for our use of the room.

Let's recognize Deb and the 2022 Board members for a successful year for the club. Let's all recognize the following members for stepping up or continuing to take an office or appointment for 2023:

Vice President and Ride Chair	Neal Barg
Treasurer	Johannes Smits
Secretary	Keith Carlson
Membership Officer	Flo Bvunzawabaya
Publicity Chair	TBD

Appointed Officers

Title	Name
Harmon Chair	TBD
Harmon Vice Chair	TBD
St. Pat's Ride Chair	Scott Assmann
Chair Persons and Backup	
Harmon Database	Emily Qualich
Mileage Statistician	Emily Qualich
Picnic	TBD
Banquiday	MJ Drouganis
Web Master	Johannes Smits
Web Master Backup	TBD
Club Group Moderator	Jim Boyer

Make sure you are on groups.io. Don't miss out on communications from the Club! Neal has emphasized that groups.io will continue to be our communication tool regarding ride schedules, cancellations, and new road construction projects.

I will announce via Groups.io when updates to the Presidents Corner and Board communications including important dates to plan for are posted to the website.

Meet up will continue to be used for more social media exposure. Please use it to help others know the rides you are joining. Some members are using Meet up when deciding to ride, so let's support it.

Planning for March 19th is underway. Scott has reserved Wauconda High school for 7:00 AM.

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After we receive approval from Wilmot High School, we will formalize the date, but we are looking at Sept 17th for the Harmon Hundred. Please reserve this date on your calendars.

I did an introductory Bio of my Wheelmen times for the members.

Covered Riding with Kilian Emanuel in 2010. Chairing the Harmon 100 from 2013 to 2015. Started the Harmon 100 documentation and Manual for club use. (updated and maintained by others since that time)

So how about 2023?

We must support our club traditions; the rides, events, and social gatherings,

We need a Harmon Chairperson. Anyone who steps in will have the benefit of the Harmon Hundred Manual, and my full support and experience. Of course, we need the usual support from everyone.

Stop as Yield Campaign for 2023:

I have never really been comfortable with blowing through stop signs on our rides.

In 2023 I want to lead a petition and letter campaign to add the "Idaho Stop" to the rules of the road for cyclists. That rule allows a cyclist to treat a Stop sign as a Yield sign when there is no conflict with traffic. Virtually everyone does this anyway, so why not make it legal? It's legal in 7 other states. Illinois could be first in the mid-west to do it. Maybe we can get our new Secretary of State on board.

So can an effort like this really work?

Well, as Yogi Berra once said, Predictions are tough, especially about the future..... However, if we get that done I think Phillis Harmon would say we've fulfilled part of our role as Advocates for better bicycling.

I introduced the first Unofficial Wheeling Wheelmen club song. It's a slightly modified lyric to a song by Randy Neuman from the animated classic Toy Story

It's a great song about how we hang together out on the roads and support one another. It's called "You've Got a Friend in Me".

The song was introduced, and the party attendees joined in.

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You've Got a Friend in Me by Randy Newman (with a few revised lyrics)

1.You've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me.....

When the road looks rough ahead,

And you're miles and miles from your nice warm bed,

You just remember what your old pal said, "You've got a friend in me".

2.You've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me.....

You got troubles, I got'em too,

There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you,

If we stick together we can see it through.. 'cause you've got a friend in me.

(Break)

Now some other folks may be a little smarter than I am, bigger and stronger too.

But none of them will ever pull you the way I do. It's me and you.

3. And as the years go by, our friendship will never die,

You're gonna see it's our destiny, 'cause you've got a friend in me, Oh yeah!

You've got a friend in me, Oh Yeah! You've got a friendin me.