



What's Happening?

Page

2 Board members

- Message from the president
- SBA Headquarters
- Help Wanted
- SBA Internet Users
- Kudos

3 Events

- Joy of SBA Biking – Secret Santa
- Ride Leaders/Guides
- Follow the trail
- Volunteer corner
- Sweetheart Ride

4 SBA membership application

Membership Benefits:

- **Discounts** on event registration fees
- **Privileges** to use SBA headquarters and equipment
- **SBA open house weekends** and other weekend adventures
- **Opportunity** to explore the Suwannee region on land and on the river with canoe and kayak adventures
- **Newsletter**
- **SBA E-mail List Server** for information and activity announcements
- **Membership** in a dynamic, fun-loving group
- **SBA website:** www.suwanneebike.org

Spring Bicycle Festival

This year's festival is **April 28 – May 1 (Thursday – Sunday) in White Springs** and offers on-road and off-road rides plus canoe and kayak trips (morning, afternoon and evening). Snorkeling, spring hopping, tubing and hiking provide a variety of other activities for riders and non riders alike. White Springs offers plenty of lodging including camping, cabins or motels.

Road rides, along scenic country roads lined with wildflowers, vary in length from short rides of 8–10 miles to moderate rides of 25–40 miles, to longer distance metric century (62 miles) and century rides (100 miles).

Off road rides include 75 miles of single track and jeep trails, most running at some point along the Suwannee River, provide shady beautiful rides. Ride leaders and guides, familiar with these routes and trails, will lead rides.

Enjoy exploring by canoe or kayak not only the Suwannee River but the Withlacoochee, Ichetucknee and Sante Fe rivers including Ginny Springs. Coupons will be sold at the event or collected by the vendor for these paddle/float trips.

Special on-site activities for kids and child care will be available during the festival at no extra charge, provided by Suwannee area Girl Scouts.

Earth Day will also be celebrated with activities and exhibits featuring outdoor adventure, conservation and wildlife displays.

Meals during the event will be served at Nelly Bly's Kitchen at Stephen Foster State Park. Registration fee includes t-shirt and meals.

Register for the full event, weekend or one day. Meal packages for non-registered family members are also available. Volunteers are needed, too. For detailed information about registration fees, activities, road and off road rides, visit www.suwanneebike.org or e-mail event organizers at bikesba@aol.com. If you do not have access to e-mail, call

386.454.3304. Event deadline to ensure a t-shirt is **April 20**. Late entries will be accepted at any time. Enjoy wonderful rides, spring weather, good food and great camaraderie at SBA's Spring bicycle festival.

IDIDARIDE 2005

IDIDARIDE was capped at 300 riders. This year, it was a delightful challenge with miles of mud and puddles that gave way to fast single track along the banks of the Suwannee River. Warm temperatures and friendly riders made this year's event absolutely wonderful. Tony and Bud's super spaghetti luncheon filled our tummies. Wine and cheese was a wonderful way to ease the burden of the last few miles. And the Chicken and rice at the end of the day from Dixie Grill ensured that no one slept on an empty stomach. Of course, one of the highlights was Saturday night. The SWAMP club (Tampa Bay area) lights up the night sky with their huge bonfire at Suwannee Valley campground. It's a great place to share trail stories while staying warm around the campfire.

Date	2005 Events
Mar 19-20	Spring Equinox Open House, Wild Azalea Festival & Suwannee River Valley Birding Festival (ride guide training)
Apr 2-3	Ride guide training
Apr 16-17	Open House (ride guide training)
April 28 – May 1	Suwannee Bicycle Festival in White Springs
May 28-30	Memorial Day Open House & Florida Folk Festival
June 25-26	Canoe/Kayak Trip
July 16-17	Mid Summer Open House
Aug 13-14	Dog Days Festival
Sept 24-25	Open House (ride guide training)
Oct 22-23	October fest Open House (ride guide training)
Nov 4-6	Fat Tire Festival
Dec 10-11	Secret Santa Open House and Century Ride

Board members

Bill Wills, president,
850-656-7987

billw@mail.co.leon.fl.us

Kim Frawley,
vice president,
904.797.7290

woodbike@bellsouth.net

Jerry Willert, treasurer,
352.344.1004

jwillert@msn.com

Joy Taylor,
secretary,
904.522.0437

taylorj5@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Board members

Sharon Allen Shea,
newsletter

904.249.1307

sharonallen.shea@gmail.com

Tony Beavor, trails
904.813.9612

btonybea@aol.com

Scott Chase, event
coordinator

352.367.4512

sachase@bellsouth.net

Jeanne Hargrave, event
coordinator

904.264.7168

biknjeanne@aol.com

Edwin McCook, liaison
386.362.6154

emccook@lani.net

Sam Veal
904.285.8392

saveal@bellsouth.net

Advisory board

Lys Burden, event
coordinator

386.454.3304

wpburden@aol.com

Jodi Chase, web master
352.367.4512

jodibeane@bellsouth.net

Gene Currin, volunteers
229.244.1955

gcurrin@automedical.com

Mike Kelley, ride guide
coordinator

352.335.2534

mckelley@bellsouth.net

Wade McGinty, water
program

904.247.9836

wademcinty@aol.com

Chandler Otis, road ride
coordinator

352.376.4963

chanbike@aol.com

David Pharr, liaison
386.364.4991

outpost1@lani.net

Mari Towle, membership
352.344.1004

mth0925@hotmail.com

Message from President

It was not a surprise to become a Board member of SBA, an organization that I feel is one of the best and most diverse organizations in the southeast for biking, paddling and recreational educational pursuits. But to also become the President is more humbling. I would like to share my three pronged platform:

SBA trail expansion & consolidation:

Kiosks need to be established at all trail loops, as well as consistent blazing. G.P.S. digital maps will be made of our trails and published on the SBA website. This will help SBA's trails both be recognized, consolidated and assist future trail building efforts. SBA is central to trail building activities along the Suwannee River public land system.

SBA Building renovation activities:

During the coming year architectural conceptual drawings and cost estimates will be reviewed to enhance the SBA club house building. Some of these renovations entail showers and additional restroom facilities. Special fund raising activities need to be planned to assist in completing these building modifications.

SBA Event expansion activities:

SBA has had several events of long standing. These events are and remain our bread and butter. However, we do have opportunities to explore several unique options. For example, Ididaride, an event near and dear to my heart, has the ability to provide a Metric Century (or better yet a 75 mile) option. The trail building mentioned before dovetails nicely into this event expansion possibility. Twelve years ago, people looked to SBA to provide or establish the parameter of endurance events; now other clubs offer some similar events. So this year SBA can and will raise the bar of endurance. A 75 mile Ididaride is easily within our grasp. Also, open house and training weekends will offer canoe rescue, trail building techniques, ride guide and leader training, event planning and establish SBA training protocols. We will review offering 6 or 12 hour time trials on designated trails and special fund raising activities to help with our headquarters renovations.

SBA is a very special and unique bike club in White Springs, and I look forward to working with you and leading the way.

Bill Wills

Your SBA Home — Headquarters

It was so nice seeing Ididaride participants enjoying our headquarters! A letter from one of the riders mentioned how lucky we are to have a headquarters which reinforced what I already knew. Now it's time to prepare for the Spring Festival participants! At **March's Open House weekend**, we will do some spring cleaning and organizing. Pizza and appreciation will be the reward for your labors!

We need volunteers with experience in laying tile, painting, plumbing, electrical work or organizational planning. We also need a clean used stove/oven. Remember this is your club house! We want everyone to feel comfortable here, to know where everything is, and to express their wishes in what they would like to see at headquarters! Take part in keeping headquarters wonderful!

Contact me if you would like to help with any of these fun improvement projects.

Kim Frawley at 904.797.7290 or

woodbike@bellsouth.net

Help wanted

Bike shop liaisons for cities in Florida and the Southern Georgia

Historian

For more information, contact Gene at

gcurrin@automedical.com

SBA Internet Users

SBA maintains a free list server through sba@topica.com to inform subscribers of SBA events. If you would like to subscribe and receive SBA information, access www.topica.com and follow the directions, or contact Mary at mtb0925@hotmail.com.

KUDOS

Kim Frawley and **Joy Taylor** for organizing Secret Santa, **Jodi** and **Scott Chase** for organizing the Ididaride; **Jeanne Hargrave** for organizing the Suwannee Sweetheart

Team Newsletter. Send articles to: Sharon Shea, editor; sharonallen.shea@gmail.com

Joy of Biking

Secret Santa is one of my favorite events at SBA because it's less structured than some of the bigger weekends allowing us all to de-stress from the holiday bustle. We enjoyed some cool weather down-and -dirty off road riding, a chilly century on Sunday, wonderful food, social interaction and an opportunity to do something nice for some local needy children. Five happy elementary school children picked up their new bikes. Friday night highlights included a cookie and gift exchange, decorating the SBA Christmas tree and our float for Saturday's parade.

Saturday featured trail riding (Bridge to Bridge and Gar Pond) and some impromptu road rides around White Springs. SBA president, Jerry Willert, dressed as 'Elf Boy' on his bicycle and pulled a sleigh-full of SBA members donning reindeer antlers in the White Springs Main Street Christmas Parade. Afterwards we enjoyed a wine and cheese party at headquarters.

Sunday morning, informal trail rides left from SBA while the featured Secret Santa Century riders headed out. Dixie Grill's lasagna, salad, garlic bread and Christmas cake rewarded riders Sunday afternoon. If you missed this year's event, mark your calendars for December 10 – 11.

Contact Joy Taylor at trekjoyt@aol.com.

Ride Guides and Leaders

Log your hours on the trail or road under the direction of our qualified Ride Leaders (road) or Guides (off road) to accumulate hours toward ride leader/guide status. Remember that ride guides must be a member in good standing who have completed the required pre-event trainings and agree to apply their leadership and riding skills to guide, sag or sweep rides at an event. This qualifies them for a free or reduced event registration.

See event calendar for training weekends.

Ride Guides: Contact Tom at tomsturf@earthlink.net.

Ride Leaders: Contact Jeanne at BiknJeanne@aol.com

Follow the Trail

Trail work is an ongoing club effort. With the new initiatives outlined in the President's Message, this year will be a year of expanding and connecting trails, marking and mapping trails. If you enjoy trail work or would like to learn more about developing trails, e-mail Tony at btonybea@aol.com.

Volunteers Corner

SBA volunteering offers a wonderful opportunity for members to be together while contributing to the local community and to the club. Volunteering is an essential part of the club. Club members are expected to volunteer for at least one event, ride or other activities for at least a few hours. Consider donating your time or special skills to help your club grow. Age is no limit; make this a family volunteer event. When and where you volunteer depends on the nature of the services you want to provide. You may

volunteer during certain hours at events, open houses or other weekends. If you are interested in volunteering, e-mail Gene Curran at gcurrin@automedical.com with "Volunteer" in the subject line. Provide the following information:

- What position you want to fill
- Personal experience that will help with this position
- What days/hours you can volunteer
- Your e-mail address
- Acknowledgement that this is not a paid job

Suwannee Sweetheart

Suwannee Sweetheart Cycling Weekend and Century Ride finally had great weather. It may have been a little nippy in the morning for Floridians, but many of our riders were from out-of-state and didn't even notice the chill. The largest group were 11 riders from Indiana. Andy Washburn from Jasper, IN has been coming to White Springs for the last six years. Every year he talks more Hoosiers into coming down for our ride. Other states represented were: Georgia (6 riders), Massachusetts (3), Illinois (3), Michigan (2), Minnesota (2), New York (1), and Ontario, Canada (4). Altogether there were 137 roadies in White Springs, making this the biggest Sweetheart ride so far.

Since Bobbie and Marie have retired, we had new cooks this year. They had big shoes to fill, and they did it very well. Sandra Palmer, from Jacksonville, and her mother Mae Cannady, from White Springs, volunteered their time to fix all the food on Sunday. The breakfast casserole was a huge hit. The chili was pretty special, too. This ride also had the three best rest stop workers in Florida. Tony Beavor, Peggy Ritz, and Chandler Otis are regulars on the Sweetheart Ride. They each manned their own stop alone. I also want to thank Jerry Willert, Hanna Carroll, Glen Morey and my sister, Terri Floyd. They helped around headquarters with registration, t-shirt sales and clean-up. Then there was Butch Siegel, from Wisconsin, who made himself very useful at registration and as a roving sag, and the great t-shirt my daughter, Becky, designed. It certainly was a sweet weekend. *BiknJeanne* (Jeanne Hargrave)

**Support cycling – promote the
Share the Road Bicycle Tag Campaign
May 13 to 15**

Note: If you have **not** renewed your membership for 2005, this will be your **last** issue of SBA News. So renew today using the form on the next page and continue to be part of our club and receive this newsletter and other membership benefits.

If you move and/or change email addresses, please let us know your new addresses.

SBA Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Newsletter preference: hard copy of the newsletter online via e-mail Subscribe to Topica List Server

I am interested in the following opportunities: Volunteer Ride guide (off road) Ride lead (on road)

Trail maintenance Bike shop liaison for _____city/ies

Other _____

Membership Type: \$25 Individual \$35 Family

Make your check payable to Suwannee Bicycle Association; mail to 12585 East Walton Drive, Floral City, FL 34436

**Suwannee Bicycle Association
12585 E. Walton Drive
Floral City, FL 34436**

SBA News Today: Share this newsletter and our website with your cycling family and friends.