



Chainstay

Quarterly Newsletter of the Peninsula
Bicycling Association

Newport News, VA

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PBA President's Corner

A new year brings on a new board to serve the members of the Peninsula Bicycling Association. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all returning and new board members for your continued service to our cycling community. I cannot emphasize the importance of having a group of committed people getting the behind-the-scenes work completed. I feel it's important to recognize you for your effort to keep the association running smoothly. I truly embrace the opportunity to serve as your president and look forward in upholding the PBA as an enjoyable experience by continuing to promote and encourage the use of the bicycle as a means of recreation and

transportation; to develop physically fit, self-reliant, well informed citizens, to uphold and support the rights of bicyclists; to encourage the use of facilities for bicycling on public lands; and to provide information in the interests of bicycling safety and study.

As daylight savings time and the warmer weather approaches, many of us are anticipating the upcoming 2024 PBA Calendar. It is finalized! Soon we will start our regular weekly rides. That said, on January 29, 2024, a bicyclist was killed in York County after colliding with an SUV on U.S. 17. To prevent such accidents and provide the best and safest experience to our membership and to offer more ride opportunities at all levels, I'm asking for new and seasoned cycling enthusiasts to please consider a position as a PBA ride leader. Keeping everyone safe while enjoying the outdoors is my number-one concern and remains a priority for the PBA. This is why the association will continue to provide secondary insurance to all our members when they ride on club rides along with the other benefits associated with the club. Please encourage others to join us. Information on our membership, ride leader meeting, and new ride leader training is available on the PBA website and on Facebook. I look forward to seeing you all as our wheels hit the pavement throughout the year.

Ride safe!

Carlos Rodriguez

PBA President

Bicycle Co-Op



GRAND
RE  **MARCH 2**
10A-3P **PENING**

Celebrate with us from 2/29 - 3/2



**Tours, Refreshments, Discounts,
Prizes, Vintage Bike Yard Sale**



Ribbon Cutting on 3/2 at 2pm

James - York Plaza
551-E Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg
757-603-8594

BikeWalk
WILLIAMSBURG

Throughout that week we will offer tours of our spaces along with light refreshments, discounts, a free prize drawing, and yard sale of unique restoration bike projects. These events will occur during our Spring Co-Op hours:

Thursday, February 29, from 5 - 7pm

Friday, March 1, from 12 - 3pm

Saturday, March 2, from 10am - 3pm

Please RSVP for Saturday's festivities by completing this brief Google Form: [RSVP - Bicycle Co-Op of Williamsburg Grand Reopening](#)

Any questions may be directed to our Bicycle Co-Op of Williamsburg manager, Allison Jarvis, at manager@bikewalkwilliamsburg.org or by text to (948) 529-0596.

We hope to see you there, and please help spread the word throughout the community!

[The Bicycle Co-Op of Williamsburg](#)



Awards & Recognition Meeting and Dinner

January 23, 2024

The annual Awards & Recognition Meeting was held at the Anna's Pizza & Italian Restaurant on January 23 with 35 members and guests attending.

Seventy-two member challenge winners were presented with car magnets indicating they were 2023 Member Challenge Champions. Multiple challenge winners also received 3"-circular decals with the club logo.

Award winners were honored with gift certificates from either Trek Bicycle - Newport News or Village Bicycles.

The winners are:

2023 Awards

Most Improved Award: **Scottie Estis**

Most Miles Ridden: **Darren Melhuish**

"Going The Extra Mile" Award (20 or more rides led):

Sandy Bulter, Linda Carter & Bob Carter, Rob Liles, Craig Logsdon, and Robb Myer.

Thank you for your service:

Tregg Hartley, seven years as a founding member of City of Hampton Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Created the Sunday Cruise routes and led 50 monthly Sunday Cruise rides.

Carlton Foster, two years as President.



Incoming PBA President Carlos Rodriquez presents the Most Miles Ridden Award to Darren Melhuish for riding over 10,000 miles in 2023



Chip Williams presents Scotty Estis with the Most Improved Award

Member Challenge

Born 2 Ride

To complete the Born 2 Ride challenge members must ride their birth year, or 62 miles if born after 1962, twelve times during the year, with the maximum of two rides recorded per month. In alpha order the challenge winners are:

Helene Drees

Sally Jackson

Richard Maruyama

Robb Myer
Darren Melhuish

Open Season 50-50 Club

50 mile or longer ride during at least two of the three club open season periods

Helene Drees
Darren Melhuish
Robb Myer

2023 Birthday Club Challenge Winners

The club members who rode their age during their birthday window, in alpha order by ice cream flavor:

Vanilla (Age 50 to 59)

Rodney Abare
Don Alexander
Brendan Donahoe
Milda Donahoe
Richard Flannery
Wade Jackson
Patrick Johnston
Craig Longdon
Darren Melhuish

Peaches & Cream (Age 60 to 69)

Jennifer Allen
Darrell Cofsky
Helene Drees
Robert Drees
Jane Elkin
Dean Foster

**Tom Howard
Sally Jackson
Inae Kellum
Raleigh Martin
Ken McFarland**

Rocky Roads (70 & over)

**Bob Carter
Linda Carter
Richard Maruyama
Robb Myer
Mark Suiter
Dale Watkins**

1000 MILE CLUB CHALLENGE WINNERS

[1,000 to 2,499 miles logged]

**Rodney Abare
Kurt Alexander
Thomas Bauer
Joey Chapman
John Connolly
Dan Czupka
Melody Daniels
Brendan Donahoe
Tom Carmine
Milda Donahoe
Dane Dye
Gene Edwards
Peter Franklin
Mark Gamble
Tregg Hartley
Andrew Im**

Inae Kellam
Mike Kenyon
Paul Link
Floyd Newman
Mark Van Raam
Dale Watkins
Arthur Wolfson
Cindy Wong
Stephen Wood
Raul Zevallos

2,500 MILE CLUB CHALLENGE WINNERS

[2,500-4,999 miles recorded]

Jennifer Allen
Sandy Butler
Stacey Cole
Dean Foster
Tarcela Mitchell
Melanie Payne
Craig Logsdon
Mark Suiter

5000 MILE CLUB CHALLENGE WINNERS

[5,000-7,499 miles recorded]

Darrell Cofsky
Robert Drees
Wade Jackson
Patrick Johnston
David Jones
Rob Liles

Richard Maruyama
Brendan Smith

7,500 MILE CLUB CHALLENGE WINNERS

[7,500-9,999 miles recorded]

Sally Jackson
Roy Kidwell
Carlos Rodriquez

10,000 MILE CLUB CHALLENGE WINNERS

[10,000 miles and over recorded]

Helene Drees
Darren Melhuish
Robb Myer



Carlos Rodreguez and Rob Liles present Sally and Wade Jackson with Club Challenge Awards

UPCOMING BIG BIKE RIDES

March 3 [One City Marathon/Half Marathon](#) *needs ride marshals* Newport News

April 6 [Bike the Bridge](#) VA Capital Trail

April 13 Rider's Cup Yorktown Battlefield Visitor's Center

April 19-21 [BRAG Spring Tune-Up](#) Rutledge, GA

April 20 [Tar Wheel Cycling Event](#) Elizabeth City, NC

April 26-28 [NC Coastal Ride](#) Washington, NC

May 5 [City Cycling Challenge](#) Traditions Brewery

May 5 [Pedal Hilton Head](#) Hilton Head, SC

May 10-11 [Cap2Cap](#) VA Capital Trail

May 18 [Tour de Chesapeake](#) Mathews, VA

May 18 [Tour de Madison](#) Madison, VA

Orlando-to-Ocean Pathways in Sunny (?) Florida

By Melanie Payne

This past November I spent a week with Woman Tours on their inaugural cycling trip from Orlando to Cocoa Beach. It was my first trip with Woman Tours and the other riders and tour leaders were fantastic; we were on the road with our twelve BFF's.



The map shows our route which is the eastern stretch of Florida's Coast to Coast Trail. We rode mostly on bike paths and trails and started the tour on the West Orange Trail out of the lovely town of Winter Garden.

We transitioned to the Seminole Wekiva Trail for plenty of scenic diversity with a highlight being the Paint the Trail project, where a Florida artist had reinterpreted iconic celebrity images on the back side of privacy fences. With over 500 murals, it was like riding through an art gallery.



Following a spur trail to New Smyrna Beach, the scenery highlighted Florida's agriculture and that night's accommodation was a beautiful B&B on the Intercoastal Waterway. On day six we retraced some of our ride and rejoined the Coast-to-Coast Trail. One of the highlights was a stop at the White Sands Buddha Center for a tour and a picnic lunch. We shuttled to Cocoa Beach for our overnight at an ocean hotel with time to play in the sand.



Did I mention that the weather was miserable for the entire week? It was rainy, stormy, and windy, which made the cycling difficult at times. The photo below is fuzzy due to the amount of rain that was falling. I'd never ridden in such conditions where at times the rain felt like needles and soaked us to the skin. What happened to sunny Florida?



We were dumbfounded that the weather showed the front was only hanging over our routes for the week and the rest of the state was sunny. But that didn't stop this bunch of tough and resilient ladies who preferred to battle the elements to get to ride every mile. We rode all 187 miles, while encouraging each other with good humor the entire way.

It was a real experience riding through a rainstorm all day and then dripping and sloshing into the beautiful New Smyrna Beach Night Swan Intercoastal Bed and Breakfast. My clothing and biking shoes had never been so wet and didn't even dry overnight. We were quite the sight. As we were riding in this bad weather, we could imagine people in cars calling us "crazy lady cyclists!"

I thought Florida would be full of critters including alligators, turtles and birds. But even the animals were taking shelter due to the weather. While kayaking in a rain shower on the Wekiva River, we did spot one very small gator and a turtle praying for sun as they sat on rocks. The only day I used sunglasses was the last day in Cocoa Beach.

This trip was a great cycling adventure with some great people and wonderful sights of Florida that I never would have seen otherwise. But now when it's raining in Hampton Roads, I prefer to stay in and dry and not venture out to cycle.

Bike By Ferry

By Robb Myer

The last time the Cycle NC Coastal Ride was in Edenton, one of the routes had us cross the Cashie River on the Sans Souci cable ferry. One of our riding companions noted that it was her first time on a cable ferry, although on a Cape Cod bike tour she's taken the ferry to Martha's Vineyard. Made me think of several Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal tours where we took another cable ferry across the Potomac River between White's Ferry, MD and Leesburg, VA. This was always one of the highlights of any C&O bike tour. Unfortunately, at the time service had just been suspended due to an access dispute on the Virginia side.

The Jan/Feb 2024 issue of the Adventure Cyclist magazine's lead article states, "there are nearly 350 ferry routes in 37 states" allowing you to turn a bike tour into a multimodal

experience. Reading the article started me reminiscing about my bike tours involving ferries. Years ago, club member Bob Carter and I planned and rode a nearly 300 mile Inner-Outer Banks tour starting and ending in Manteo, NC on which we took four ferries crossing the Pamlico Sound, Neuse River, and Pamlico River. Second only to five days riding into the wind, the most vivid memories are of ferry rides.



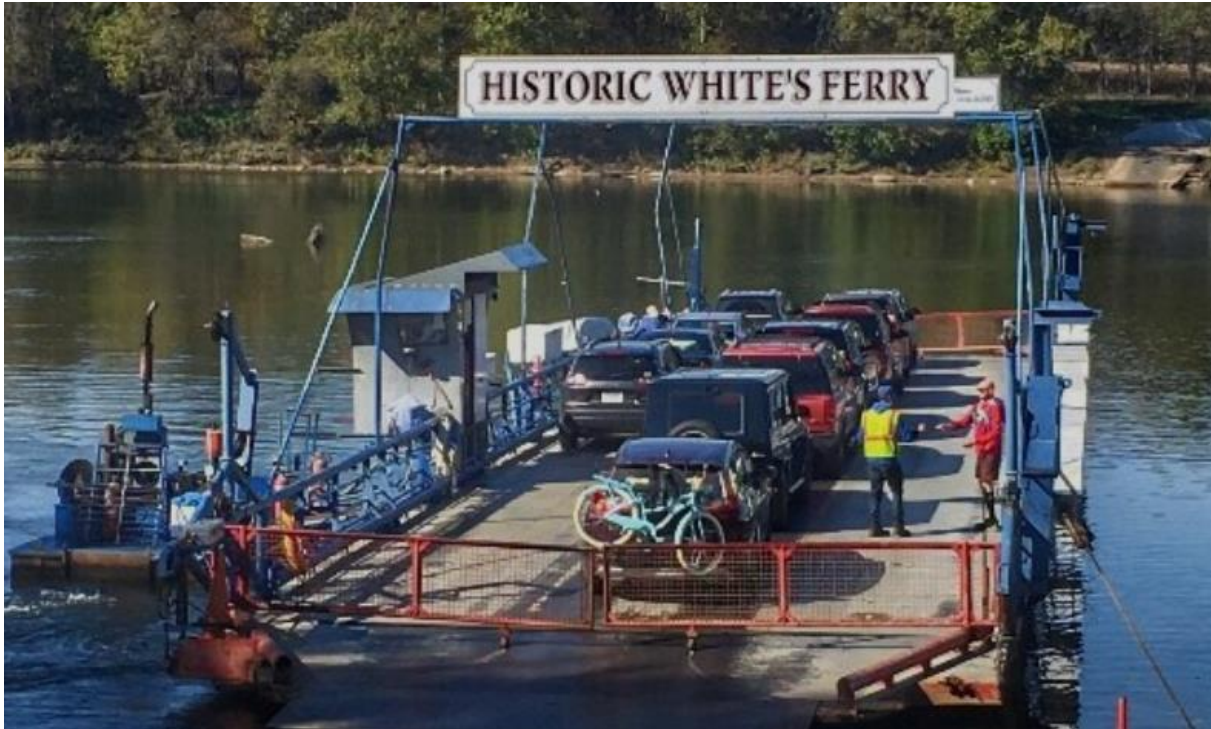
Four ferry rides on the Inner Outer Banks route

My two longest bike tours both included ferry rides, as well. On our 2017 Coast-to-Coast tour with Bubba's Pampered Pedalers, Mark Van Raam and I took the ferry across Mobile Bay from Dauphin Island and the Fort Morgan Landing. In 2021 I rode the East Coast Greenway from the Canadian Border to Key West with Timberline Adventures. On this tour we took the World Financial Center-Paulus Hock pedestrian ferry across the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey and the Fort Fisher-Southport Ferry across the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Weeks later we took the Cumberland Sound Ferry from St. Marys, GA to Fernandina Beach, FL and the next day, the Mayport Ferry across the St Johns River.



Tour operator Bubba Barron, of Bubba's Pampered Pedalers, snaps photos of Coast 2 Coast riders exiting Mobile Bay Ferry

If you haven't taken a ferry during a bike tour, we are fortunate to have the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry locally for your first adventure. The ferry is free, the schedule is seasonal and is available at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/about/our-system/ferries/>. If you start your tour from Jamestown, consider lunch at Anna's Pizza & Italian in Surry or have an ice cream cone at College Run Farms during the season (<http://www.collegerunfarms.com>). If you start west of the James, you are less than a mile from the start of the Virginia Capital Trail with a great lunch stop, Spoke + Art Provisions Co. just past the two-mile marker. Unfortunately, if you'd like to include a cable-ferry in your next tour of the C&O Canal, the historic Whites Ferry has not resumed operation and it is likely to do so unless the Commonwealth of Virginia exercises the power of eminent domain.



Ride Report: Poquoson Saturday

By Robb Myer



The Saturday morning C-pace Poquoson ride has been a favorite for many years, almost as long as the Thursday evening Tabb Library ride and longer than the popular Oozlefinch-Grandview ride. You might think riding in

a town with two main streets and only four traffic lights would not be very interesting, but ride leaders, Linda and Bob Carter created a base 32-mile route with light to moderate traffic and some of the best views on the Peninsula. In fact, they trained for their 2014 3,000+ mile Coast-to-Coast tour almost entirely riding in Poquoson. This is a great starting ride for new members, especially if they are not experienced in riding in groups. Many of the club's B and B+ riders started out with these Saturday morning rides. It's also popular for riders returning after a layoff period, typically in the Spring or after recovering from an injury. For these members, this Saturday morning ride is just a step to returning to a faster group ride. For others is a favorite, not only for the scenery, but because Linda maintains the advertised C-pace.



View with Messick Point in the background

Given all the creeks, coves, and rivers there are a near-endless number of roads with scenic views along the route. When the wind is blowing hard, or there is some coastal flooding, Linda adjusts the route to stay clear of Messick and Tin Shell Points. The brief time for this

ride is normally 9 AM but remember to note the time when you register. During the Summer, the brief will move earlier to beat the heat and during the Winter, 10 AM is normal, and maybe even later, to get the wind chill factor above 40°. The ride briefs in the Wythe Creek Plaza Shopping Center which has numerous post-ride restaurants for food and fellowship. If you haven't tried the Poquoson Saturday ride, make a note to do so. Linda and Bob will be waiting for you. And if you haven't been on this ride for a while and are a regular, they're looking forward to riding with you again.



My Top Ten Favorite Bicycling Places on The Peninsula

By Tom Carmine

Recently, my wife and I saw the Sound of Music in the theater at the Williamsburg Regional Library. Most of the featured songs I remembered, especially the song, “My Favorite Things.”

When it comes to biking on the Peninsula, I have my favorite places to ride my bike. Since I've lived on the Peninsula for seventy years, I have some perspective on how much bicycling has improved on the Peninsula. No, we are still not Portland, Atlanta, or even Greenville, SC with its Swamp Rabbit Trail, but we have more riding options than many cities.

1) The Yorktown Battlefield Tour Road

Perhaps it's not convenient for everyone, but the Battlefield Tour Road is my number one favorite place for biking on the Peninsula. Whether you're riding a road bike or mountain bike, it's over ten miles of shade, serenity, and hardly any traffic which makes riding alongside and talking with a friend possible. I rode there on Saturday mornings for years and only three cars passed us. It's that unused. There is just enough elevation change to make you realize that it is not flat. We always crossed Route 17 at Goosley Road and made a pass down to the waterfront before climbing the hill by the Yorktown Pub back to the Park Visitor Center parking lot before eating breakfast at the Duke of York.



The Battlefield Tour road passes over Beaver Creek.

You might remember that this ride was in the news in 2023 when the Park Service reminded us that use of the Tour Road does require a National Park Price or daily fee pass. If you don't have a pass, find a buddy who does. A National Parks Pass covers four people.

2) The Newport News Park Bikeway

I enjoy trail riding through the woods and the Newport News Park Bikeway, a five-mile trail, is my go-to. Before I venture off on a multi-day trail off road tour, I take practice rides in the mud, ruts, roots, and rocks of this trail. I also use it in winter when I just don't want to ride down a cold and windy street. Riding in the woods just seems to be a little warmer in the wintertime.



The Newport News Park Bikeway trail passes around this gate in the campground area.

You can also leave the trail at about the two-mile mark going counter-clockwise and venture onto the Battlefield Tour Road by accessing a single track path to Washington's encampment. From there, it's a short downhill to a stream that runs across the Park road. From there you can do the whole Battlefield Tour Road.

You can also leave the trail at about the three-mile mark and get off onto Crafford/Crawford Road. (The spelling differs between the Newport News and York County ends.) I'll often take the road and ride to the graffiti bridge and back to add

another two miles my ride. Someday, a subdivision will open along this road, but for now it is still very lightly used.

In summer, the Bikeway is a break from the heat with its shady canopy. The Newport News Park Campground office also provides a convenient restroom stop and refreshment center when you are doing multiple loops.

3) The Gold Coast

For those of us who grew up on the other side of the tracks, we referred to the roads from Hilton Village to the Riverside neighborhood running along the James River as the Gold Coast because of the nicer houses overlooking the James River. If you ride from Christopher Newport University to Huntington Park you will ride by these houses on the River.

When I ride to Huntington Park, I usually start at the Corner Shoppes Center on the corner of Maxwell Lane and Warwick Blvd and ride to the Park and back, but the Mariner's Museum seems to be a popular starting point. Either way it is one nice long stretch of 25 mph residential roads. One day, most of it will officially be part of the Birthplace of America Trail.

4) Jefferson Avenue Sidewalk/Sidepaths

We all understand we're not supposed to ride our bikes on a sidewalk, and that mindset erroneously carries over today. Some of you might be surprised to know that the sidewalks on Jefferson from Denbigh Blvd to Newmarket at least are actually for walkers and bicycles. When I explained this to a neighbor who thought they were only for walkers, she replied, "I would never ride a bike on them."

In the 60's and 70's when I rode on the shoulder along Jefferson Avenue, I would have loved to have had sidepaths to ride on. All there was from Main Street in Newport News to Williamsburg was a dirt shoulder with some gravel and potholes. I would ride my heavy-duty Schwinn paperboy bike the half-mile from Ivy Farms to Brentwood, but never my skinny tire ten-speed. The summer I commuted to downtown Newport News to my job at a lumberyard, I added two miles of backroads to my ride to Main Street to avoid Jefferson Avenue's rough shoulder.

The summer I commuted to downtown Newport News to my job at a lumberyard, I added two miles of backroads to my ride to Main Street to avoid Jefferson Avenue's rough shoulder.

Today, I still prefer not to ride along Jefferson, but it's nice to have those sidepaths when you need them. I regularly use the sidepath when I leave Kiln Creek and ride to Bland Blvd. Recently, my wife and I only had one car on a day she needed to drive to Suffolk, so she dropped me and my bike off in City Center because I had a meeting to attend. When I finished my meeting, I rode the sidepath from Casey Chevrolet to Wholefoods, where I stopped and bought some Icelandic chocolate bars. I then continued home on a very busy Victory Blvd wishing it had a sidepath.

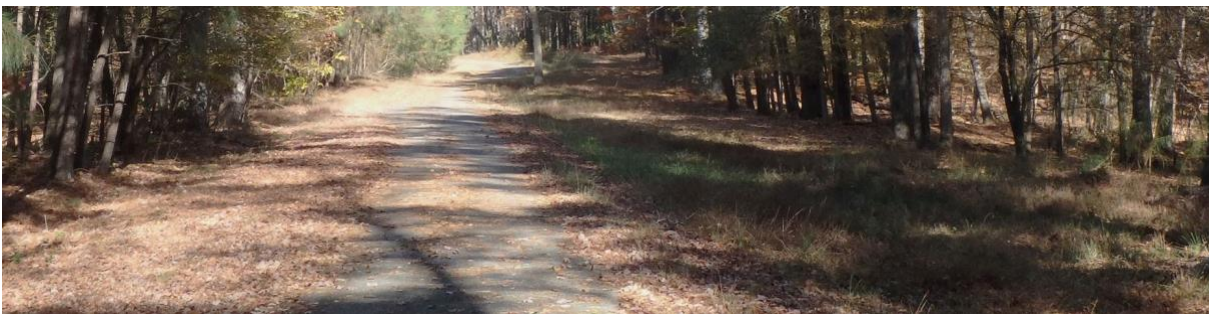
5) The old Fort Eustis Blvd/Siege Road

My 25-mile bike ride goes from Kiln Creek to Yorktown Beach and back. When I tell people that I ride my bike to Yorktown, they can only think of the way they would drive it.

My route takes me along Jefferson sidepath to Bland Blvd to McManus Blvd passing the NN Airport and into Windsor Great Forest to the Shields Road walking and bike path. From there I ride Richneck Road to Fort Eustis Blvd. Then I cross Fort Eustis Blvd and enter the woods and ride what remains of the old Fort Eustis Blvd to Siege Road and Route 17.

This mile-long stretch passes by the Newport News golf course on one side and the Grafton Lakes Natural Area Preserve on the other side. The Preserve is Virginia's best remaining example of a coastal pond complex and one lake is visible from the path. The road surface has aged, with cracks and some potholes, but it is still a pleasant tree-covered route that is safe from cars.

There's also a half-mile shortcut near the Route 17 end that goes directly to the Battlefield Tour Road. The path has a small post marker at both ends with a white number 1 painted on a post. It's a single-track trail through a high grass lined corridor.



Old Fort Eustis Blvd.

6) Harwood's Mill Bike Trails

Harwood's Mill has three technical mountain bike trails. Leaving the parking lot by the lake on Oriana Road, there are

signs to follow for trails A, B, and C. All three trails are all connected by a path that ends at Denbigh Blvd, where trail C emerges from the woods.



Scenic portion of one of the Harwood's Mill connector trail

If you ride the connector path to Denbigh Blvd, you can pass through a tunnel under Denbigh Blvd and continue riding on the other side. There are numerous other trails through the woods and the utility easements that crisscross the connector trail. Just get on your bike and explore.



Tunnel under Denbigh Blvd

7) Neighborhood Connectors

Some of our developers and planners had more vision than others when it came to facilitating inter-community connections. When I lived in Merry Point in Newport News, I would run down to our private beach, then duck through some bushes at the end of Madison Lane, and cross into James Landing. This gave me a big loop to run, rather than an out-and-back. I also used it for biking. Throughout the Peninsula, there are numerous connections and passageways between developments.

One the most useful passageways for me is the opening in the fence next to the Coastal Community Church which is behind the Old Bike Beat store on Victory Blvd. Leaving Kiln Creek, this passageway allows me quick and safe access to Route 17, Coventry, the YMCA, the library or onto Poquoson through another connector in Running Man. I shared this once with a

young woman who was commuting down Route 17 to Kiln Creek to get to work on Denbigh Blvd. She had been doing left turns at the busy Victory Blvd and Route 17 corner, which I considered dangerous. She was ecstatic to find out that she could avoid that intersection using the opening in the fence.



The opening in the fence next to the Coastal Community Church on Victory Blvd.

Another of my favorites is the connection from Kiln Creek recreation area to the Foxwood neighborhood, which I use whenever I go mountain biking in the woods behind the Kiln Creek Golf Course.



Foxwood to Kiln Creek connector. Connectors are usually not very noticeable.

These little connectors are out there, but you might have to look for them.

8) Virginia Capital Trail

What more can you say about the Virginia Capital Trail (VCT) where we can ride 50 miles off-road on a paved path with an abundance of scenery all the way to Richmond? We're truly blessed to have local access to this state treasure. The 25-mile out-and-back from Jamestown to Charles City is ideal with toilets behind the Charles City Courthouse. You have numerous eating options going and coming including Cul's Courthouse Grill, the Breeze-In at Sandy Point Road, the Chickahominy Campground for ice cream or drinks, Spoke and Art, and the café in the Jamestown Settlement Visitor's center. It's a cyclist's dream ride.

9) Jamestown Island

Jamestown Island holds a special place in my cycling memories. When I was a student at the College of William and Mary, I took occasional rides to Jamestown Island and back to the College on the Parkway.

One spring morning after a five AM thunderstorm, I decided to ride to Jamestown Island, so I slipped around the closed gate and entered a magical animal kingdom. As the first visitor on the island, I sent deer scurrying off into the woods. Rabbits ran into the brush and turtles were all over the road. I decided to dismount and walk to avoid spooking the critters and better enjoy this morning.

All went well until the Park Ranger arrived. He was none too happy and threatened all sorts of unpleasant outcomes if he ever caught me there again. I continued on, but he had spooked all the animals back into the woods. I still ride the Island whenever I can. I love it, but it requires a Park Pass.

10) Sandy Bottom Park

I waivered on this last choice between the uniqueness of riding around the old Fort Monroe base, or the long view of the Hampton Roads from Old Wythe to Newport News riding along the Chesapeake Avenue bikepath before deciding on Sandy Bottom Park. Since I ride both road/touring and commuter/mountain bikes, my choices obviously reflect my bi-bicycling nature.

The Sandy Bottom trail is not as long as the Newport News Park Bikeway, but it is a pleasant ride in the woods. The trail begins on gravel but becomes mostly dirt when it enters the woods. I've heard there are rattlesnakes in the back of the Park, but I have yet to see any.

I'm sure that each of you have your own favorite places to ride. I believe that my top ten choices show that we do live in an area with places to ride. I feel especially fortunate that I can leave my house and bike 25 miles to Yorktown Beach and back without having to drive anywhere. I wish we all could do long rides from our homes.

If you have a favorite place to ride, share your thoughts in a future issue of the Chainstay.

It's N+1 Time Again, Again, and Again!

By Robb Myer

If you've been riding with us for a while, you already know of "N+1", where "N" equals the number of bikes you own and "+1" is the number of bikes you should own (in other words: buy another bike). Like many of you, I was skeptical that the slogan is merely a bicycle industry tagline to sell more bikes. After all, I owned a 34-pound 12-speed Bridgestone Road bike for 14 years which I commuted on, ran errands with, did weekend group rides on and even did my first two multi-day event-rides on. When co-workers coerced me to join them in a triathlon, in the mid-80s, the Bridgestone let me down.

Before the next "tri" I upgraded twice, first with a Schwinn 10 pounds lighter than the Bridgestone and then an Italian "tri" specific bike. Within three years, I added a dedicated commuter bike, a couple of loaded touring bikes, and a custom tri-event bike. You could say I became a bike-shop's dream customer.

Shortly after I moved to the Peninsula and started riding with the PBA, I met Ron Hafer, long-time club officer and ride leader. When Ron started riding recumbents, I paid close attention and soon entered round two of "N+1." Many recumbents later, I settled on the Cruzbike that I rode from San Diego to St. Augustine in 2017 and later the East Coast Greenway on another tour.

After recumbents, Ron moved to pedal-assist bikes, in fact several generations of them. At the time I didn't follow his lead, but after passing age 75 and closing in on 80, round three of "N+1" was triggered. Last year, I approached Walt and Connie at Village Bicycles for a recommendation on a light-touring bike (i.e. 38-mm tire adventure bike) and purchased a Specialized Turbo Vado SL, which has performed very well on a two-week long tour to three week-long tours.



Specialized Turbo Vado SL

Then, just before the holidays in 2022, Specialized put some of their Turbo bikes on sale, so I had to purchase one for my wife. It's a Turbo Como SL and ideal for casual and errand rides. With its 650Bx2.3" tires, it's a great addition to our family rails-to-trails vacations. Last summer we spent a week riding the Greenbrier River Trail in West Virginia and the Como was right at home.



Specialized Turbo Como SL

The Turbo Como SL doesn't really count as "N+1" because it's my wife's bike, but the Turbo Vado SL with its Jones Loop H-Bar (swept-back flat bars) is not intended for group rides, so it was back to Village Bicycles for a road bike recommendation. This time it was a Turbo Creo SL, which I've been riding since last May including over 500 miles on the Virginia Capital Trail.



Specialized Turbo Creo SL

So, is this the end of “N+1” round three? Well, maybe not. Walt has piqued my interest in the Turbo Tero X, a full-suspension pedal-assist bike for more rugged bikepacking adventures. Round four in 2024 is a possibility.

Life may have been simpler when I owned the 12-speed Bridgestone Road bike, but considering all the adventures I would have missed, I’m no longer a “N+1” skeptic.



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STORAGE

2360 Hampton Hwy,
Yorktown, VA
757-865-8200

TREK



Don't forget that our local bike shops, Trek Bicycles Newport News and Village Bicycles, offer PBA members a 10% discount on supplies and accessories. Check with each shop for their specific discounts. Thank you Trek Bicycles of Newport News and Village Bicycles for supporting PBA.

CHAINSTAY is the quarterly newsletter of the Peninsula Bicycling Association, published using Word for Apple. The Club encourages and supports all types of bicycling on Virginia's Peninsula. Email your cycling-related photos and story submissions to Jane Elkin, Chainstay Editor, at jelkin87@gmail.com. PBA's website is hosted by Wild Apricot Membership Management Software.

To join the Peninsula Bicycling Association log onto <https://pba44.wildapricot.org/membership>

PBA Club Officers for 2024

President - Carlos Rodriguez

Vice President - Rob Liles

Treasurer - Tom Carmine

Secretary - Craig Logsdon

Advocacy Director - Mark Suiter

Safety & Training Director - Tregg Hartley

Community Outreach/Volunteer Director - Tom Bauer

Newsletter Director - Jane Elkin

Rides Director - Robb Myer

Programs Director - Chip Williams

Membership Director - Dale Watkins

Non-Voting:

Awards, Recognition and Statistics Coordinator - Robb Myer

Webmaster - John Bright

Historian - Sandy Butler

The PBA Officers and Executive Committee meet on the first Sunday of each month, electronically at 7 PM. Contact Carlos Rodriguez for login directions or to have your topic added to the meeting agenda. *All PBA members are welcome to attend.*

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