

State of the Oshkosh Cycling Club Address 8-26-06

My fellow cycling friends;

We are nearing the end of our first full summer as an organized cycling club. It has been a tough but worth while year! It's always that way at first, like plowing a field that's never been plowed before, very hard going, but worth while because you believe in what you're doing and know that things will be easier from now on.

In spite of not knowing what we were doing, we did get some things accomplished. You can do just about anything with a lot of help from your friends!

Accomplishments:

1. Produced a club jersey. The jersey's unexpected success set certain irrevocable wheels in motion, which finally culminated in what is now known as the Oshkosh Cycling Club (Inc.). Upon it's completion in April 2006 the project had sold 118 jerseys and spawned a club. Ironically, the jersey designed to bring us together was also source of some controversy, and might never be produced again.
2. Drafted Oshkosh Cycling Club Mission Statement, February 2005
3. Drafted Articles of Incorporation, March 2005
4. Drafted Constitutional By-laws, April 2005.
5. Drafted Membership Registration form (who knew?) May 05.
6. Held experimental tour dubbed "Le Tour de Max" century ride to Waupaca, June 18th 05. All 13 riders survived record high temps. Heat index: 105*
Survival tip: Waupaca River.
7. Oshkosh Cycling Club meets Thunder Bay Cycling Club June 24th 05, in Poy Sippi, mid stage of their WI tour, ride to Oshkosh for Joint Club Bar-BQ.
8. Held 1st Annual Spaghetti Elections at the Broda Home, Sept 2nd 2005. Ten were elected to OCC's inaugural Board of Directors. 18 charter members join OCC. The body votes to change name of web site from bikeoshkosh.com to oshkoshcyclingclub.com for continuity.

9. The 1st Annual OCC Fall Fest, held Oct. 1st 05 - Jim Buehner's farm, resulting in 33 charter members, and some anecdotal tomfoolery, etc.
10. Inaugural OCC Board Meeting held October 05, electing its first officers. Oshkoshcyclingclub.com web site is now up and running.
11. January 19th, 2006 – OCC holds 1st Annual Holiday Happy Hour – The Brooklyn
12. February 2006 – Created standardized publication of local ride times now know as “local Group Rides”. It has tried incorporating some new rides, as an attempt to reach out to new riders. This is still a work in progress.
13. February 2006 – OCC Road Race Committee formed working in conjunction with Wheel & Sprocket bike shop to organize a road race in Oshkosh area.
14. May 14th, 2006 - Oshkosh Cyclery fulfills lost niche by hosting by-monthly, 8 mile Time Trial event. It is the first time trial to be held in Oshkosh in 20 years. Last known TT was held in Oshkosh in 1986.
15. The 1st Annual Omro Classic Road Race is held, July 2nd 2006. Part of the Wisport Road Race Series, sponsored by Wheel & Sprocket, hosted by OCC, and first Wisport Road Race in Fox Valley's history. First road race of any kind held in the Oshkosh area in over 20 years. 157 bikes from around state and county participated in historic event, latter dubbed “A Resounding Success” by newspapers. It resulted in no serious injuries. Over 48 Race Staff Volunteers from Oshkosh Cycling Community kept racers safe. They were the chief that the race was an overwhelming success.
16. August 24th, 2006 - The Oshkosh Cycling Club now has 58 members, 10 annual events, traditions, and programs, and over \$1,800 dollars to further the mission. These funds were produced from nothing, but good ideas, hard work, and overwhelming generosity of entire Oshkosh cycling community. The cycling community and sponsors are due all of the credit. Outstanding generosity and commitment to the mission is what made it happen! Our sponsors of course, can be seen on our jersey.
17. And our Mission: To create, organize, develop, support, and foster, cycling events, programs, opportunities, and people in and around the Oshkosh cycling community, to insure the continued health, safety, and wellbeing of cycling, and our cycling community.

It has been a great year! Tough at times yes, but that's how great things are. If you have read this far, you are both rare, and special. Someone I can share a

dream with. It rings in my head, "Bring the Cycling Mecca back to Oshkosh". That's it. We had that, once upon a time. Does it ring in your head? Would that be great? Do we choose our destinies, or does our destiny choose us? Why are some picked for the hard things, and some not? I read once that no one is ever given more than we can bear. That's an answer to a question. Why are difficult tasks put before us? Because we can, that's why. What else could it mean? If doing great things were easy; everyone would do them, not just us, right? We'll see the harvest in seasons to come. Things will get easier. We won't be plowing the field for the first time. Great champions will come from this town, again. Perhaps we'll be old, we'll see them on the Versus Network, and we'll smile while thinking to ourselves, "I know how that happened". "I was there when it started". "I set certain irrevocable wheels in motion..."

Thanks!

Brian Kienert

Dreamer