

Outreach Ride Policy

One of the continuing TCBC Board Focus Items is Outreach. Outreach can take many forms, one of which is supporting rides of other bicycling clubs and organizations in Minnesota and the surrounding states through TCBC members' attendance. As the largest recreational bicycling club in Minnesota, TCBC can make a difference in the success of some of the smaller events if we encourage our members to attend. In addition, TCBC becomes more visible in the greater bicycling community by attending other events (especially if we wear our TCBC jerseys), thus creating positive awareness of our club and goodwill in the biking community while, at the same time, introducing club members to potentially new riding opportunities.

To that end, the TCBC Board of Directors has approved a new category of rides called "Outreach Rides". Outreach rides are "event" rides such as Tour of Saints, TOMRV, Horribly Hilly Hundreds, Jesse James, etc. in which TCBC members receive mileage credit for attending. This concept is not without precedent, as TCBC already gives mileage credit for the Ironman and St. Paul Classic rides.

In order for the ride to qualify as an Outreach ride the following criteria would need to be met:

1. A TCBC Ride Leader must act as the Ride Leader and perform all the normal Ride Leader duties associated with the ride (i.e. submit the ride to the schedule, answer questions, hold a ride briefing, sign members in, etc. basically the same tasks as for a "normal" TCBC ride, minus making the map.)
2. Ride must be an "event" ride of 1 or 2 days (no weeklong tours, or portions thereof, will qualify).
3. Ride must be in MN or a bordering state (WI, ND, SD, & IA).
4. Ride must be available to all members. Rides that have a restricted registration, such as, but not limited to, open to a particular group (women only, for example), require participation in a registration lottery, or have a very short registration period (i.e. less than 24 hours) do not meet criteria and will not be considered for outreach rides.
5. Ride must not be a 'pledge' type of fundraiser ride.
6. Riders must be registered for the official ride and covered under its insurance (TCBC insurance does not cover these rides.)
7. Ride needs to follow the same guidelines as for existing (nonoutreach) rides (i.e. ride must be published in the newsletter, leader must hold a ride briefing at a set published time, riders must sign in and attend leader briefing in order to get credit for the ride, etc.)
8. Ride must not conflict with TCBC's Watermelon or WOW rides or other dates that may be blacked out by the club.
9. Ride must be approved by a subcommittee of the Board prior to being listed in the Activity News (web rides will not be allowed.)

So now that we have explained what an Outreach Ride is, and what the criteria would be to schedule this type of ride, here's how to schedule this ride:

Only current active TCBC Ride Leaders can schedule Outreach Rides. First, make sure that the ride meets the all of the criteria previously mentioned. Then write up the ride description as you would normally write up any other TCBC Ride, but do include on the tag line, "OUTREACH RIDE". (Example: 4 SAT OUTREACH RIDE: TOUR OF LAKES 41 OR 70 MILES continue on with ride description).

Outreach rides will be noncategory (i.e. they will not be listed as A, A/B, B, etc.) rides as they are supported by the Event organizer. The Ride Leader can ride wherever they choose and can indicate in the ride description if they plan to ride at a certain pace.

Submit your Outreach Ride(s) proposal(s) via email to the Outreach Ride Committee - Outreach@bikeTCBC.org. The members are Lisa Austin (laustin@visi.com), Richard Franco (phoenixfyr1313@comcast.net), and Pete Hawkins (pnh706@gmail.com). When 2 of the 3 committee members reply to you and the Ride Scheduler with approval, then you may submit the Outreach Ride(s) for inclusion in the TCBC News published schedule. Please note that Outreach Rides are not eligible to be web rides, so plan ahead so that the Outreach Ride is published in the ride schedule prior to the closing of the ride registration.