

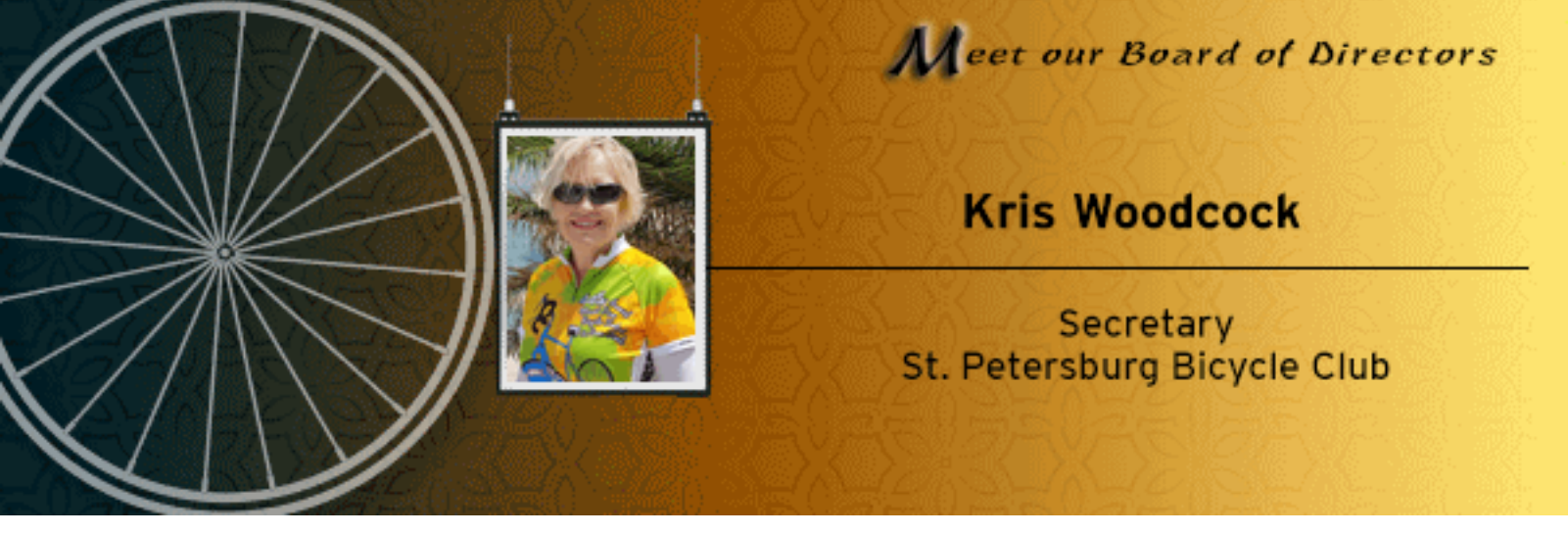


ST. PETERSBURG BICYCLE CLUB
FLORIDA'S #1 BICYCLE CLUB EST. 1968

April 2021

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Kris Woodcock

I'm a relative newcomer to the Florida scene, having arrived in 2009 from Chicago for a job opportunity. My bike arrived on a Friday and Saturday I was down at North Shore Pool looking for a ride. Joining the club helped the "new girl" in town make friends and discover the area. While the job lasted a few years, my love for St Pete was sparked and my husband and I decided to plant roots here downtown. As anyone who meets me knows, I'm St Pete's biggest cheerleader and am active in the arts and mural scene as a docent for The Dali Museum and give Mural Tours by Bike for The Bikery.

As club Secretary for 6 years, besides documenting our meetings, I've become the "social secretary" – planning our Holiday Party, Volunteer of the Year event, as well as organizing some special rides like the Mural/Brewery Tour. I've learned the key to a successful cycling event – plenty of hearty food and lots of beer!

Riding with the club in this beautiful place has become a real high point of life in retirement. Looking out at the Gulf from Passe a Grille Beach with my fellow riders on a quiet Sunday morning will always be a special thrill!



2021-2022 SPBC Board Member Elections

SPBC Board of Directors Election is coming up May 22nd!

We have openings for new members this year so if you enjoy your club and would like to be a part of the team, we welcome your new ideas and energy! We plan events like our exciting new Sunshine Classic in March/2022, social events, safety initiatives, city/bike planning and charitable giving. We meet via either ZOOM or in-person on the 2nd Saturday of the month post-ride. If you would like to join us, please speak to any board member or send an email to secretary@stpetecycling.org.

Join us May 22nd after the ride to cast your vote and enjoy a brunch social along with our election. We will serve an array of brunch dishes along with coffee and drinks.



Saturday Club Rides

Everyone is welcome on rides facilitated by SPBC; membership is not required. Of course, we hope that after you ride with us and will want to join and help keep the club rolling! With limited exception, all of these rides are "Show and Go." Unless otherwise noted, these rides start at 8:30 AM (8:00 AM beginning May 29th, 2021 for the summer months). Rides meet between the parking lots in front of North Shore Aquatic Center, 901 North Shore Dr. MAP. Check our [Facebook group](#) for the latest updates.

Helmets are required for all riders and use of tri-bars are prohibited within the group. Follow traffic laws and use established group riding techniques. If you are unfamiliar with group techniques, please ride to the rear and observe. Review group riding techniques [here](#) and how we ride [here](#). Safety is everyone's priority and you may be asked to leave the group if you exhibit unsafe habits. Be aware that cycling is a dangerous sport. You ride at your own risk.



Ride of Silence 2021

As hundreds across the nation, the **SPBC** is joining the **Ride of Silence** on May 19th this year leaving from North Shore pool @ 7PM. Please plan on being early as we'll leave on time for 7-8 mile ride in silence for our fallen cyclists.

The Ride of Silence will traverse and unite the globe as nothing before it. Cyclists will take to the roads in a silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public often isn't aware of these rights, and sometimes not aware of the cyclists themselves.

In 2003 Chris Phelan organized the first Ride of Silence in Dallas after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was hit by the mirror of a passing bus and was killed. ([Read the full history here...](#))

The Ride of Silence is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph, wear helmets, follow the rules of the road and remain silent during the ride. There are no registration fees. The ride, which is held during [National Bike Month](#), aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for and honor the lives of those who have been killed or injured. Please check the resources on this site. If there is a Ride of Silence in your area, we encourage you to join them. If there is not a ride planned in your area, please consider adding your city to the ever-growing list of sites.

For more information, take a look at the ride's [FAQ](#).



Commission Votes For Expanded And Permanent Ferry Service

The Hillsborough County Commission voted by 6-1 to expand ferry service and make it permanent on April 7.

Under the ferry plan, seasonal service would be expanded to operate year-round on weeknights and weekends between Tampa and St. Petersburg, with added service to South Hillsborough County. Weekday commuter service would run between South Hillsborough County and MacDill Air Force Base. Look for improved seasonal service starting this October.

Permanent ferry service will take thousands of cars off our crowded roadways and bridges every day. It will connect our region with a fun, easy, congestion-proof travel option.

Future votes remain, but the November 2020 elections resulted in a County Commission that wants to get this done. More to come!



Florida's Texting While Driving Law

by Jim Dodson

Texting while driving is incredibly dangerous. Although nearly everyone is aware of this fact, many of us are guilty of doing it. In my tidbit last week I mentioned that in the time it takes to send or read one text, a car can travel the length of a football field at 55mph. In addition, in 2016, texting while driving in Florida was responsible for 50,000 crashes. That's the equivalent of 5 crashes every hour.

Importantly, texting while driving is not only dangerous, it is also illegal in Florida.

Texting while driving has been illegal in Florida since 2013. Initially, it was only a "secondary offense." This meant that if a police officer saw a motorist texting while driving, he or she was legally unable to stop that driver. The officer would need to see the driver speeding, swerving or performing some other illegal act in order to intervene.

This changed in 2019 with the [Wireless Communication While Driving Law](#) (F.S. §316.306). The official "warning period" for this law expired January 1, 2020. This law allows law enforcement to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to motorists who are texting and driving without any other traffic violation.

Specifically, the law says that a person may not operate a motor vehicle while manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers, or symbols into a wireless communications device to text, email, and instant message.

It is important to note that this law does not prevent using one's phone for music, GPS or other functions commonly used. However, doing these, or any other action which takes a driver's eyes off the road, is another dangerous maneuver. It is always safest to use one's phone only at a complete stop, away from the flow of traffic.



Distractions Happen to Cyclists Too

by Jim Dodson

This month I have focused on distracted driving awareness. As we push into the second half of April, I would like to discuss some of the common distractions cyclists encounter and how to avoid them.

First and foremost, just as texting and driving is incredibly dangerous, using your phone while on your bike puts you at serious risk by taking your eyes from the road. We all feel tempted to quickly glance down when a message comes in, but it can always wait. This also applies to using the phone for GPS directions or any other function. Always use the phone from a dead stop. I assume it goes without saying that having the phone in your hand as you ride is a major no-no.

Similar to phones, your cycling computer can be a major distraction while riding. I know I make this mistake too often for comfort. I'm not saying to never check your cycling computer, especially if you're training. However, it is smart to only check as needed to help keep your eyes and focus on the road.

I have also written in the past about headphones, which are technically [illegal to wear while riding](#). This is because the music, or a phone call, will hold your attention and simultaneously prevent you from being able to hear your surroundings.

Finally, be careful to enjoy beautiful scenery in a safe and limited fashion. We all want to appreciate the sun gleaming off the water as we cross the causeway, or a beautiful home along the trail; these are some of the great joys of riding. That being said, always be cognizant of your surroundings and the road to make sure that beautiful view doesn't take your focus away from defensive riding and safety.



Is Cycling Bad For Bones?

I ride a bike for exercise and have for years. Now I understand it isn't good for bones. If true, I would like to know what I can do to improve my bone strength.

[Read more](#)

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