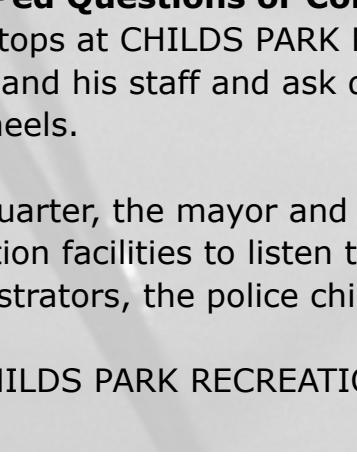


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**SPBC Newsletter -- 2023-12**

Dave Zornow | Published on 12/1/2023

 **Newsletter**

**December 2023**

This edition includes ICYMI pictures from the Orange Belt Crit, the Valentine's Day 5k, and Kris Woodcock's most recent Murals by Bike. There are updates on road improvements for five SPBC routes and future hatched infrastructure planned in Pinellas. And three cheers for the 2023 Volunteer of the Year, Steve Gronemeyer.

**Upcoming Events**

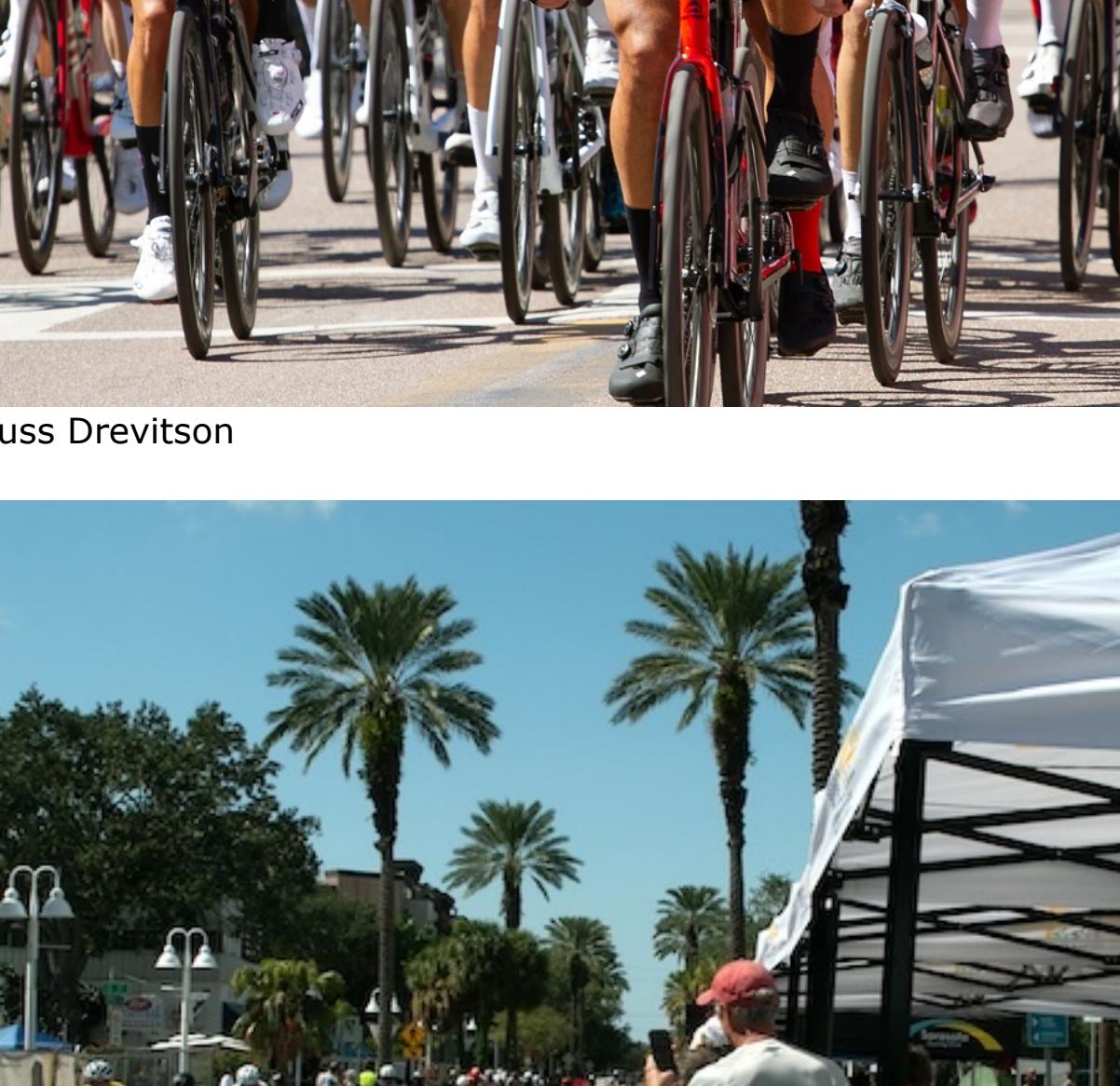
**SPBC Holiday Party, Dec 3:** the holiday season kicks off this Sunday at the annual SPBC Holiday Party! Registration is now closed for this event.

**Bike/Ped Questions or Concerns? Ask The Mayor on Dec 5:** St. Pete Mayor Kenneth T. Welch's "City Hall on tour" stops at CHILDS PARK RECREATION CENTER on Dec. 5 from 5:30-7:30p. It's an opportunity to meet the mayor and his staff and ask questions you may have about getting around in the City of St Petersburg on two feet or two wheels.

Each quarter, the mayor and members of his city Leadership team host "open house" tour stops at four different recreation facilities in St. Pete and have open discussions about their needs. The mayor will be joined by city administrators, the police chief, and department directors.

The CHILDS PARK RECREATION CENTER is located at 4301 13th Ave. S. in St Petersburg adjacent to the Pinellas Trail.

**Christmas Lights Ride, Sat Dec 16 at 6p:** Light up your bike and wear your fun holiday attire as we take in the holiday decorations in Old Northeast. Meet at North Shore Park parking lot (901 North Shore Dr NE) and end at the Ale and the Witch for holiday cheer. Helmets are required for this event.



**St. Petersburg Black History Bike Tour, Saturday, Dec 9 from 8a-1p:** This FREE, immersive bike tour takes participants to the actual locations where history began for St. Petersburg's African American residents. Meet up at the Wellness Center, at the corner of 15th Ave. S. and 22nd St. S. The tour covers a 5-mile loop riding vigorously on level land. Registration is required to attend and a helmet is required to ride.

**Winter 55+ Coasted Coast to Coast Tour, St. Pete to Titusville, Jan 12-13, 2024:** This 250 mile tour is organized by Bike 55+. \$775 Registration, Fee covers four hotel nights at double occupancy (single rooms are available for an extra fee during registration), SAG, insurance, support, staff, event jersey, maps, a daily happy hour, and transportation from Titusville back to St. Pete.

**Tour de Florida, Jan 12-23, 2024:** This 11-day event offers the opportunity to escape winter's cold and enjoy the endless sun of southern Florida including the Keys, all while creating an opportunity to serve those in need of a decent place in which to live. Nine days of riding, typically 40-65 miles per day with two build days in communities along the way.

**St. Augustine Lighthouse Tour, Jan 17-21, 2024:** 176 Miles from Amelia Island to Cape Canaveral. \$1650 Registration Fee covers four hotel nights at double occupancy (single rooms are available for an extra fee during registration), SAG, insurance, support, staff, maps, sub tours, and admission to lighthouses.

**Tour De Cape Coral, Jan 21, 2024:** Varied routes from 15, 30, 60, and 100 mile courses in the west and north sections of Cape Coral. The event provides a grab-and-go breakfast, lunch, on route rest stations with snacks and beverages, SAG vehicles, police support, and route maps.

**Orange Belt Crit Rides the Edge District in St Petersburg**

When the CRIT Championship professional bicycling competition came to St Pete on Oct 21, the SPBC was part of the action...before the race and on the straightaway during the race.



Photo Credit: Russ Drevitson

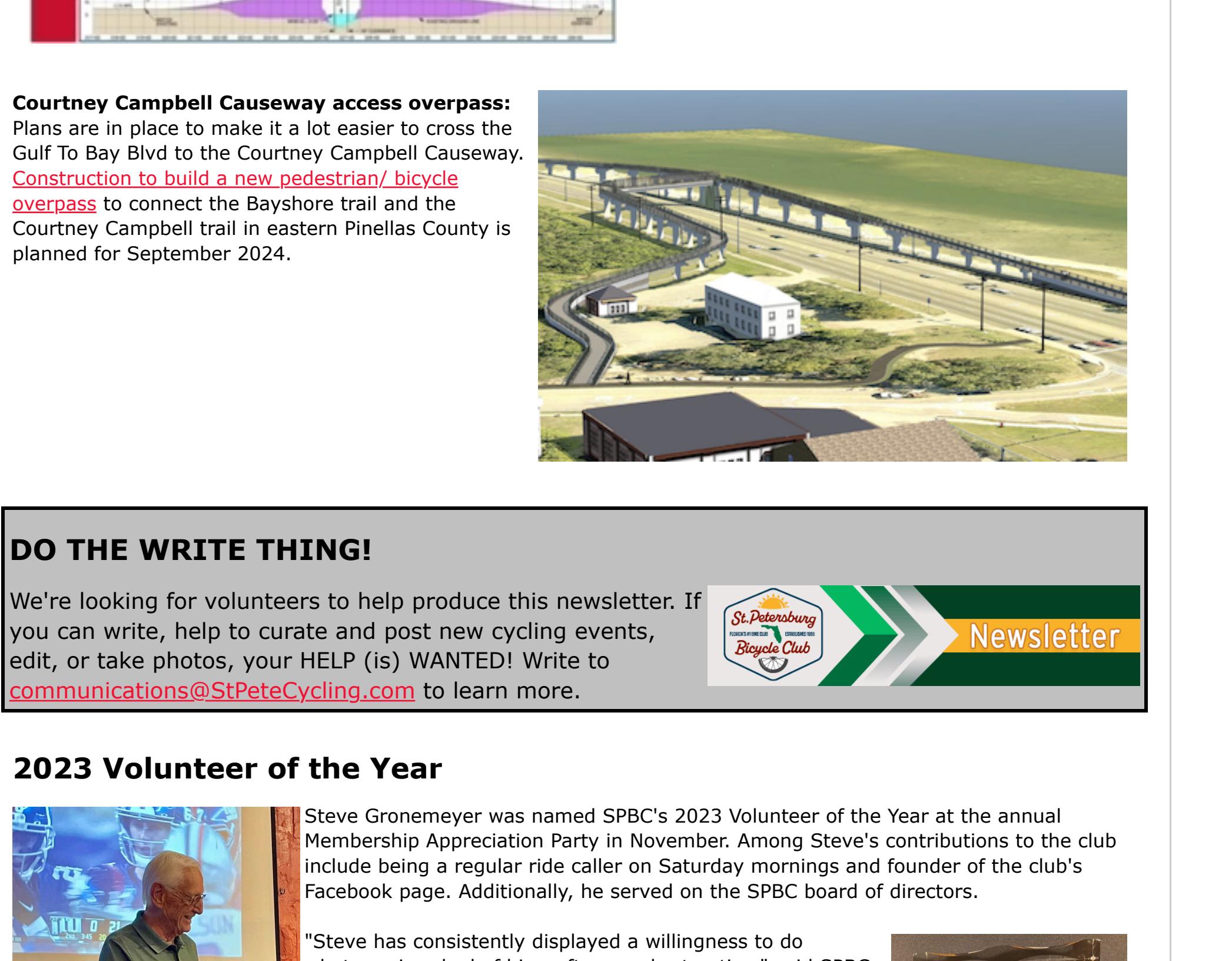


Photo Credit: Russ Drevitson

The club was well represented during the community "Fundo Ride" before the professional riders turned the Edge District neighborhood on Central and 1st Ave N into a fast and furious cycling race. The main race consisted of four sprints within 48 laps. The elite race winners were Luke Lampert, a three-time US Pro criterium champion who lead all male riders and Tulsa Tough omnium winner Samantha Schneider who won the women's races.



Photo Credit: Cali LaFollett

St. Pete Bike Club member John Davis (right) won the National SP CRIT 2023 Masters Category.

Photo Credit: Kris Woodcock



Photo Credit: Russ Drevitson

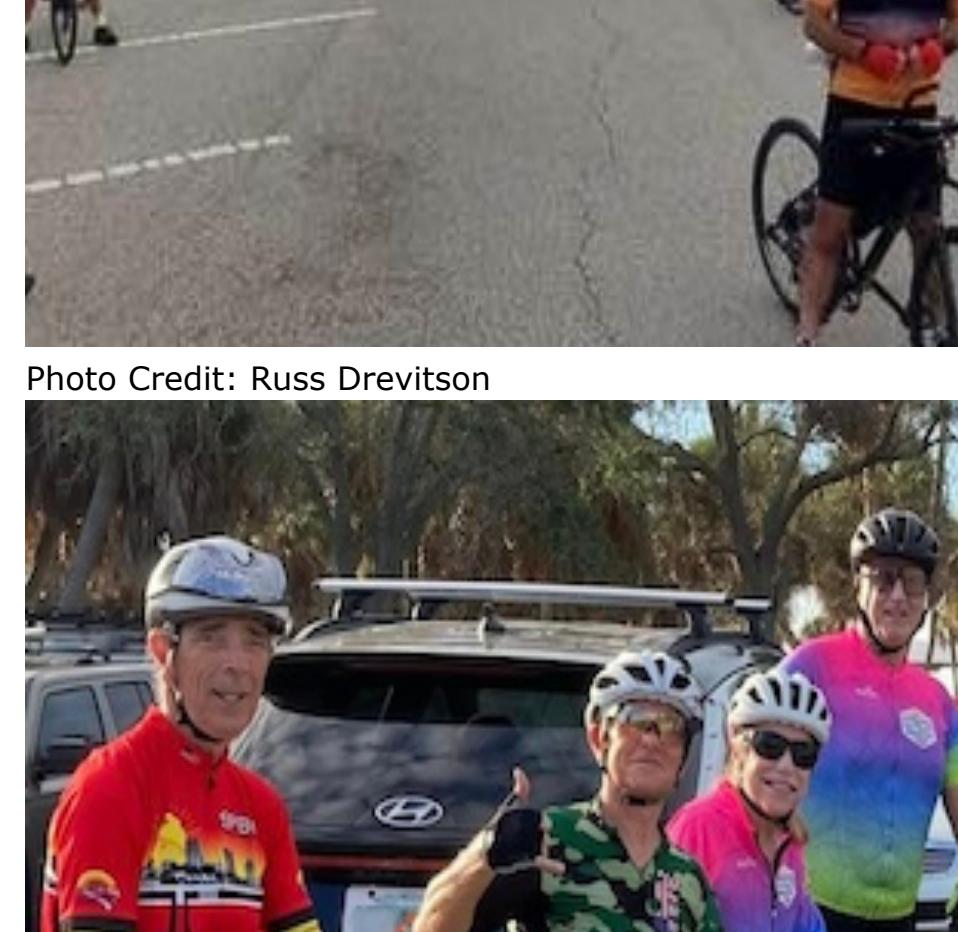
**Good News for Saturday Morning Rides in 2024 and for Pinellas Cyclists...Tomorrow**

by Gordon Brown

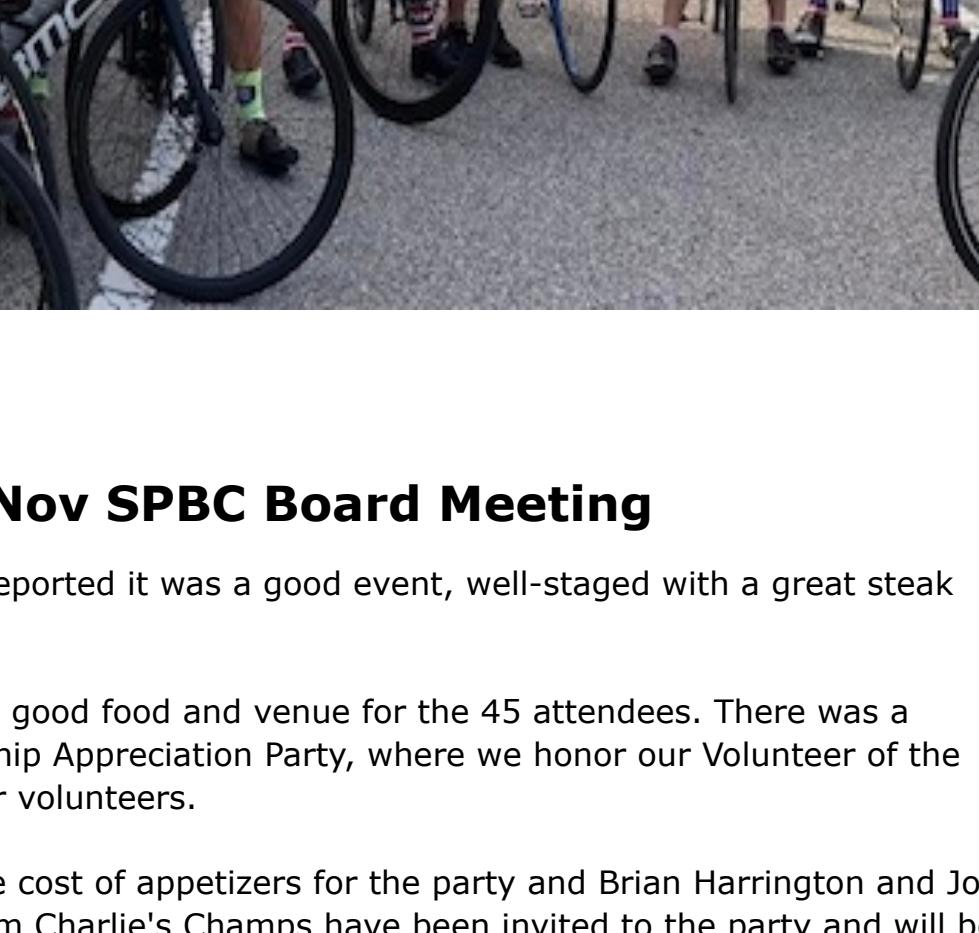
Pinellas County's 2024 Pavement Preservation Program includes resurfacing for the pothole-plagued 83rd Ave N, Petco Rd NE and San Martin Blvd from 4th Street to 10th Street. The resurfacing will be applied to the current roadbed. Sharrows and Shared Use signage will be added.



**New Bridge Over Riviera Bay Planned:** The county's updated Capital Improvement Plan calls for replacement of the San Martin Bridge over Riviera Bay in 2026. The new bridge design will include 11' travel lanes, 7' buffered bike lanes, a 6' sidewalk and a 12' shared use path.



**Courtney Campbell Causeway access overpass:** Plans are in place to make it easier to cross the Gulf To Bay Blvd to the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Construct to [www.pedestrianlinkinc.org](http://www.pedestrianlinkinc.org) to connect the Bayshore trail and the Courtney Campbell trail in eastern Pinellas County is planned for September 2024.



**DO THE WRITE THING!**

We're looking for volunteers to help produce this newsletter. If you can write, help to curate and post new cycling events, edit, or take photos, your HELP is wanted! Write to [communications@StPeteCycling.com](mailto:communications@StPeteCycling.com) to learn more.

**2023 Volunteer of the Year**

 Steve Gronemeyer was named SPBC's 2023 Volunteer of the Year at the annual Membership Appreciation Party in November. Among Steve's contributions to the club include being a regular ride caller on Saturday mornings and founder of the club's Facebook page. Additionally, he served on the SPBC board of directors.

"Steve has consistently displayed a willingness to do whatever is asked of him, often to the point of exhaustion," said SPBC President John Sinibaldi. "He was heavily involved for years with the St. Pete Spinners, and he has been a huge help to the club by volunteering to mark and paint trails. Steve goes out of his way to call on his cycling friends that are sick, injured, needing help with physical therapy, or companionship," said Sinibaldi.

You can usually find Steve on Tuesdays leading the "3 bridges" ride from Seminole to Dunedin and the Sunday morning ride at the St. Pete Main Library. "He is just an all-around good guy, and exemplifies what it means to be the 'Volunteer of the Year,'" said Sinibaldi.

Forty-five club members were on hand at the Pinellas Ale Works on November 12 to see Steve receive a plaque and a gift card to The Bikery.

Photo Credit: Dan Loyd

**Picture This!**

Great rides with great friends deserve epic photography! Here are a few photos of recent club events and member rides. Want to help us capture the moment for future issues of the SPBC Newsletter? Write to [communications@StPeteCycling.com](mailto:communications@StPeteCycling.com) to volunteer to take photos and curate future rides and events!

**October Mural Tour with Kris Woodcock**



Photo Credit: Sandy Weiss

The SPBC joined the Transition from Hollins' Nov 11 **Veteran's Day Bike Ride**, which supports the [Hollins](http://www.hollins.org) Foundation.

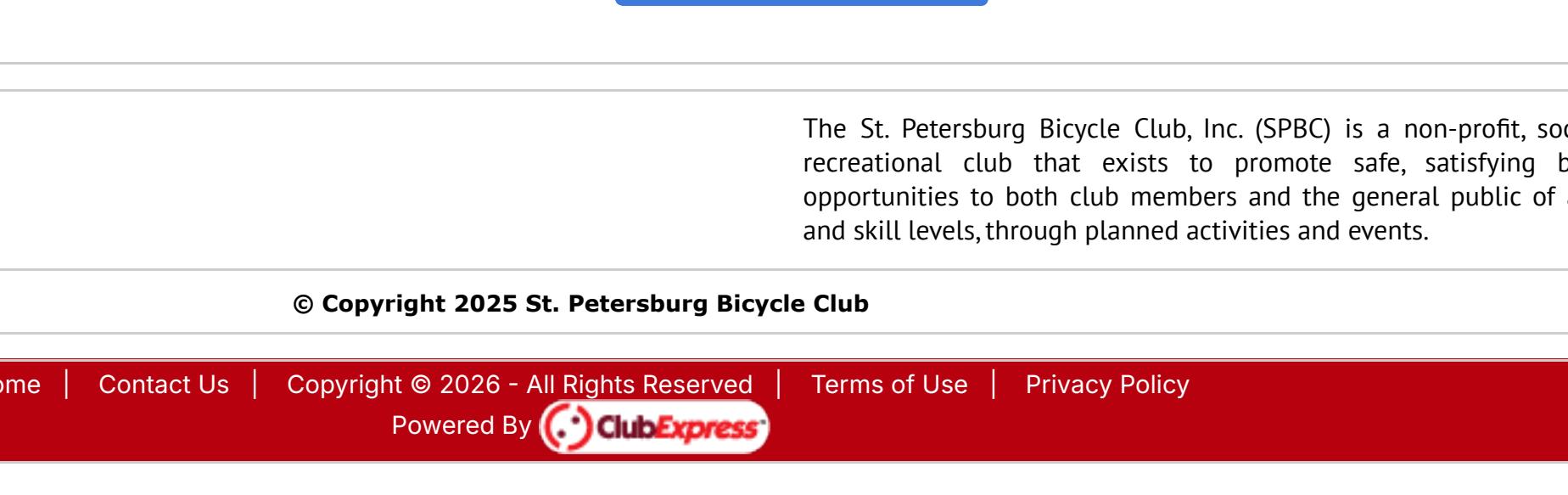


Photo Credit: Michael Ebert



Photo Credit: Russ Drevitson



Photo Credit: Peter Edward Wray

**Board Business -- Highlights of Nov 9 SPBC Board Meeting**

Veteran's Day Ride recap -- 11/11: John Sinibaldi reported it was a good event, well-staged with a great steak dinner. The event was well-organized and well-supported.

VOY Party recap -- 11/12: The event was well-organized and well-supported.

Holiday Party -- 12/3: The Bikery is underwriting the cost of appetizers for the party, and Brian Hampton and John Roman will split the parking charge. Ally and John from Charlie's Champs have been invited to the party and will be present to thank the Bikery for their support.

Sandie Helmets to Ride: members are supporting this quarterly Bike To School event. It was suggested we

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Dec 9 at 12n.

**Welcome New Members**

Manvel Andryc	John C. Hester	Michael Ridout
John Brannan	Scott J. Johni	Todd P. Hester
Ian Briggs	Thomas J. Lacyon	Brad Rosehill
John Brannan	James L. Lacyon	Christine Tammel
John Brannan	James M. Lewando	Jeff A. White
Colleen Dunn	Dave M. Mercherger	
Colleen Dunn	Heidi Nelson	
Jerry Durante	Jeffrey Pearson	
Colleen Dunn		

**The St. Petersburg Bicycle Club Board of Directors**

John A. Sinibaldi, Jr. President	Kris Woodcock, Secretary	Mike P. Hester
Dave Zornow, Newsletter/Communications	Dave Zornow, Communications	Michael Ridout
Dave Zornow	Steve Gronemeyer	Todd P. Hester
Dave Zornow	John C. Hester	Brad Rosehill
Dave Zornow	Michael Ridout	Christine Tammel
Dave Zornow	Jeffrey Pearson	Jeff A. White

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