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2017 - It's A Wrap!

As we wrap up the calendar year, we hope you have enjoyed the outstanding Newsletters this past year. There are some excellent articles on organizing your own cycling fundraiser. The last series submitted by Gary Hirsch, Director of the Ride to End Polio, Tucson, AZ is outstanding! A very special thank you to Jeff Ott, our Newsletter editor and past VP. Make sure to check out upcoming news in 2018.

On behalf of the board of directors, we thank you for your continued membership and support. A significant portion of your membership dues supports the RidetoEndPolio.org, held in Tucson, AZ. This year we presented a \$1,000 contribution to D5500 for support of our adopted annual event.

Welcome to our new members this past month:

- **Vic Gamez** - Yucaipa, CA - Yucaipa Rotary Club
- **Jeffrey Michelman** - Atlantic Beach, FL - Rotary Club Jacksonville Oceanside
- **Mike O'Brien** - St. Augustine, FL - San Jose Rotary Club
- **John Pilger** - Green Valley, AZ - Valle Verde Rotary-Green Valley
- **Amanda Sanchez** - Surprise, AZ - Surprise Rotary Club
- **Sandy Wahl** - Sahuarita, AZ - Rotary Club of Valle Verde -
- **Rebecca Wilks** - Peoria, AZ - Rotary Club Peoria North

El Tour:

Cycling, Fellowship and Rotary service. It just doesn't get any better. This is the Ride to End Polio, cycling through enchanting deserts with saguaro cactus in the El Tour de Tucson. Among the 125 Rotarians from around the USA, this year was particularly special. We were honored to have two of our European FCS (Fellowship Cycling to Serve) Rotarians join us for this spectacular event. **Jean-Luc Berger** from France, who is our international President of FCS and **Uwe Simon**, Germany VP of FCS. Both Jean-Luc and Uwe completed the 106 mile ride. *(Read their stories later in this newsletter -- ed.)*

Like all Rotary activities we have the opportunity to make new friendships. This was especially true this year. My wife and I had the pleasurable opportunity to spend some time with Rtms. Jean-Luc, Uwe and their lovely wives

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As a result we will be traveling to France next year to join our new friends in the FCS annual cycling event [4-Days in Aix en Provence](#). Nestled between hills covered with vineyards, olive trees and azure sea, this spectacular four day cycling event tours Southern France. It will be exciting to reunite with Jean-Luc and Uwe.

[I am saving the best for last!](#) In case you've been out on your bike and haven't seen the news, the final numbers are in! The Ride To End Polio raised **\$11,747,548.10**, including 2 for 1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This is simply outstanding! Thank you Rotarians!

And yes, we'll do some cycling, meet some new friends and raise some money for local projects. What a marvelous opportunity we have in Rotary. It just doesn't get any better!

James Morrison

Albuquerque Del Sol Rotary Club

Ride To End Polio - Perspectives

In this special year-end edition of your C2S Newsletter, we take a look back at this year's record breaking [D5500 Ride To End Polio](#) from the perspective of several riders. For those of you who rode, you can compare and contrast their experience - and photos - with yours. For those of you who are considering riding the RTEP in 2019, let their stories be your inspiration to join us! -- ed.

Inspired By Where It All Started

by Edwin Velarde, USA/CAN C2S Public Relations Director

Few years ago, I rode my bike to [Barrio Guadalupe Viejo, Philippines](#). The very place where in 1979, the first Rotary sponsored drops of the polio vaccine were administered to children. I was fortunate to meet some local folks that were likely some of the beneficiaries of Rotary's initial efforts against polio. It was a special time as this made me feel how the efforts of Rotary and its partners affected lives around the world much like the wonderful people in Guadalupe Viejo that warmly welcomed me.

I went to Tucson to join **Ride to End Polio** with this experience as my inspiration.

I landed in "Old Pueblo" on Thursday to allow time for the C2S Warm-up & Social Ride on Friday morning. Unfortunately, my bike did not arrive with me. After a day of concerns that I might not be able to ride the event, late that evening I was so relieved to be reunited with my bike.

Friday morning, 20-25 cyclists showed up for the C2S Warm-up & Social Ride. After a few words about safety and the route, we rode 20+ miles around Tucson's jewel, The Loop Bike Path and toured part of downtown where we sampled some local coffee and chatted with the other Rotarian cyclists. A couple of things happened on that ride:

1. Got to meet and ride with other participants of RTEP. This helped me understand the field of participants which proved useful during the main ride.

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2. I was able to shake down some mechanical issues that happened during transport of my bike. Lucky to have a Rotarian LBS owner who rode with us. [Fair Wheel Bikes](#) did a wonderful job tuning my machine.

On the morning of RTEP, I started rolling in the dark from the hotel around 6:00 a.m. It was a nice easy 3 mile ride to the start area where I joined other 106-mile Rotarian riders. El Tour de Tucson had a nice friendly and festive atmosphere. The whole ride was very pleasant. I was able to hang-out with many different groups of Rotarians and other riders welcoming me as a first-time rider of the event. The weather was perfect and did not get too warm. The route did not have much climbing and the wind conditions were quite mild. With only 7-9 percent humidity, I found myself reaching for the water bottle more often than I normally do. There were many rest stops that served water and nutrition. To my surprise, there were volunteers that would hold your bike while browsing goodies or visiting the facility. The whole City of Tucson seems to be involved. Groups of residents were out on the route cheering riders with signs, cow bells and other noise-making gadgets to keep the tired riders smiling.



This Californian had a great time riding with Jean Luc Berger (France), Uwe Simon(Germany), Tom Drennan(MO), Jeff Ott(WA), Alan Havir(CA), Kristin Brown(IL), Marga Hewko(IL), Amanda Sanchez(AZ), Tanya Wolff(ON,Ca) and many other Rotarians from different parts of the world and Rotary Staffs. It was a great event enjoying the company of other Rotarians while helping rid the world of polio.

I recommend the experience to all levels of Rotarian cyclists. Make sure you arrive in Tucson early enough to join us for the Friday "C2S Warm-up & Social Ride".

Imagine a world where all children can grow-up just like the folks in Barrio Guadalupe Viejo. Imagine a world where parents do not have to feel the pain of having their children die or be crippled for life. We are THIS CLOSE in ending polio, come join us to ride our bikes to make it even CLOSER!

Riding The Ride

by Tom Drennan, USA/CAN C2S Membership Co-Chair, District 6060 Governor Nominee

The enjoyment of the Ride to End Polio starts from the moment you send in your registration. You then become part of a worldwide movement to rid the planet of Polio.

Planning ahead is the key to enjoying the ride. Once registered you are part of a dedicated group of Rotarians that are determined to see you succeed in whatever way you choose to participate. For me traveling from Saint Louis Missouri to Arizona in late November is always a plus. I use Southwest Airlines as they can accept bicycles in hard shell cases for \$75 each way. This year we used [Shipbikes.com](#) and sent the bikes to a local FedEx Kinko office in Tucson. The cost was just about the same. Most local bike shops will box bike for you. Many of us with Cycling2Serve would be glad to reassemble your bike in Tucson.

All riders for the El tour De Tucson must pick up their rider packet at the Tucson Downtown Convention Center. A

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had a booth this year and provided information to the many attendees. (C2S member and 2x RAAM finisher, **Bob McKenzie**, manned the booth many of those hours! We'll be hearing more from Bob and his RAAM team in a future newsletter. -- ed.)

Once committed to coming to Tucson, there are options for lodging. The local district offers home hosting for visiting Rotarians, if set up in advance. I have used that option for several of the Tucson rides. The home hosting option can lead to new Rotary friendships.



We arrived the Thursday before the ride so we could enjoy the area, and bicycle some of the trails in and around Tucson. On Friday morning the Rotary Cycling2Serve Fellowship organized a warm up ride on the systems of trails in Tucson known as "The Loop". There was a pretty good turnout of about 25 riders that enjoyed getting to know one another before the main event on Saturday. It was a good way to see if the bicycles were set up correctly. The warm up ride went pretty well with one minor exception as a rider came too close to some fencing and suffered a fall. The bicycle was repaired that afternoon, and the rider was able to ride on Saturday.



Friday evening found us at the Hotel Tucson for pre-ride dinner and celebration. The banquet room was packed with riders and their spouses. There were many introductions and Rotary General Secretary John Hewko provided a detailed update on the Rotary efforts to eradicate polio. As luck would have it, Mr. Hewko was celebrating his birthday and he was joined by some family members to help him celebrate. At end of the dinner, a group of C2S members helped reassemble a bicycle that had arrived late from California. The job was done in record time.

On Saturday morning, the day of the Ride to End Polio, Rotary riders and friends started assembling at the starting line a little after 6 AM. At that hour, Tucson is still very dark. But soon the thousands of riders started lining up in between street barricades downtown Tucson. We were able to connect with many of the Rotary members who rode the 106 mile route. After a great performance of the National anthem, the starting gun was sounded and we took off.

The ride heads south on a wide city street for about a mile, then turns west for about a half mile, then turns south again. After about 9 miles we came to one of the more interesting features of the ride, a dry creek crossing, named the Santa Cruz River Crossing. At this point all riders dismount and either walk, or carry their bike about a third of a mile. It is like walking in the desert, not a drop of water in the river. After that, we resume riding on roads, and work our way around the Tucson International Airport. The first 25 miles or so are not particularly hilly, the more challenging hills occur from miles 26 to about mile 80 or so.



The second river crossing come at mile 49, the Sabino Creek Crossing. The Clif Bar Company provided a lot of their sports energy treats for the riders.

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There is only one hill that was a challenge, it was steep, but only about a third of a mile. We did enjoy some great downhill runs seemed to be over 5 miles in length. I should mention there were well supported rest stops about every 10 miles or so. They were set up so you could spend as much or little time as you wanted. Volunteers would hold your bike as you enjoyed the many choices of snacks and/or bring you water right to your bicycle.



As the ride went on, Rotary riders would be in groups and as lone riders many times regrouping at the rest stops. The Rotary fellowship is great during this ride. The more seasoned riders offer encouragement to all riders. In some cases, this event is the most ambitious cycling undertaking by some riders. At the end of the ride a Rotary Tent provided by Rotary District 5500 was there to provide refreshments and snacks for the finishers. The feeling of accomplishment was thick in the air that afternoon. The weather could not have been better. The City of Tucson, Oro Valley and other local communities were very welcoming to all the riders.

The route was well marked, and the local police were stationed at every turn location and alongside many of the side streets to keep the motoring traffic off the route. The ride safety and security were the best of I have enjoyed.

I would recommend this event to riders of almost any ability.

Foreign Perspectives - Once Is Not Enough

by Jean-Luc Berger, Fellowship Cycling To Serve, International President, Aix-en-Provence, France

I didn't get enough on my first Tucson trip for the 2016 RTEP. No need to wonder this year! This year, my Rotarian wife Beatrice and I left our home in France for some Arizona sun and friendship!

Do our American friends realize how great is that event? I'm not sure! El Tour of Tucson is such an experience! It is a huge gathering of experienced cyclists or just families with kids, joining for one goal - to serve and help other people. American people just do what European citizens are not used to do: make things great.

I travel a lot around the world and take part to different happenings. None of them keep up with El Tour of Tucson. We experienced thousands of people enthusiastically supporting good causes.

This year again, more than 150 Rotarians took part to that event, a great way to continue the Ride to End Polio action. We now talk about this great action in Europe and that gives us a lot of new ideas to develop in order to start to raise funds.

This meeting is The opportunity to meet friend members with whom we talk all through the year by mail. I would say that it's a pity not to have more time to share with them.

We had a great time, but I guess I probably didn't get enough. See you next year!!



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Foreign Perspectives - Ride To End Polio in the Arizona Desert

by Uwe Simon, Fellowship Cycling To Serve, Germany President,

This is cycling event that has interested me for a while. It was so from home far! Gudrun, my wife and I made the trip. There, we were enthusiastically received by Sally and Ernie Montagne on Thursday at the pre-ride meeting and we got to know many of our fellow riders. The appointment for a morning ride on the following day was agreed quickly. Ralph Phillips (Rotarian who has owned [Fair Wheel Bikes](#) in Tucson) provided good rental bikes. In the field of 20 riders along the Rillito River I got to know some Rotary friends better. Thank you Edwin for the initiative of this morning ride

It was nice to meet other Rotarian cyclists at the Pre Ride dinner in the evening. James Morrison, now a familiar face, helped make further contacts. Cozy Birthday party for John Hewko, he turned 60 this evening!

November 18, the morning of the ride at 7.00 am, in the center of Tucson! Thermometer showed only 46 ° F. In the starting area of the 106 Miles a group of Rotary Bikers already gathered together. About 150 for the whole event! Recognition is easy due to the eye-catching Rotary outfit "End Polio Now". Even on the streets in the early morning light a group of equal performers stayed together, it was nice with Jean Luc Berger, Kristin Brown and many others.(There were over 9000 starters!)

Cyclists were seen everywhere, like a caravan the field pulled through the washes of dried out rivers. The route was excellent. Impressive was the increasing number of Rotarian riders due to the staggered start of shorter distances!

A considerable group of Rotarians passed together the finish line, great finish! At the Rotary booth we enjoyed



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I have great impressions and fun for everyone, great result of \$ 11 million for Polio Plus!!
Chapeaux !!



News and Updates

Newsletter

Interested in Submitting an Article for the USA/CAN Cycling To Serve Newsletter?

By **Jeff Ott**, President, Gateway Rotary Club (Lacey, WA), C2S Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

We are always looking for new articles for upcoming newsletters. Did your club have a successful cycling event this year? What did you do right? What did you do differently? Did your club have a not-so-successful event this year? Can you share your lessons learned? What would you do differently?

Did you ride in a Rotary held cycling event? Please share your experience. What did you like? Did you take any photos?

Here are some points to keep in mind when considering an article for the USA/CAN Cycling To Serve Newsletter:

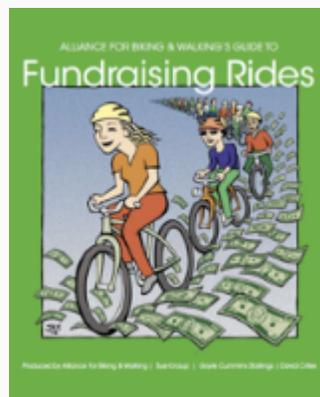
- Consider the audience. You are writing for fellow Rotarian cycling enthusiasts. Limit the use of jargon, slang or other language that is not appropriate for the audience.
- Articles should be informative, engaging and educational regarding how Rotarians can use cycling as a means for fund raising or first hand experience riding in or working on a Rotary Club sponsored event.
- Submit articles electronically. Use of MS Word is preferred but not required. Handwritten articles cannot not be accepted.
- Spell check and grammar check your article.
- The newsletter editor has the right to edit your submission for content and length.
- We cannot accept previously copyrighted articles.
- Articles should be 300-600 words in length.
- Photos are welcome!
 - Submit photos electronically as type .JPG or .JPEG.

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o Photos are best that include happy cyclist and preferably including Rotarians, identified by their name, address and/or logo.

- o Photos should be full size and high resolution for best reproduction.
- o Do not embed photos into the article. Send them in a zipped or compressed file along with the article file.
- o Provide captions to the photos, identifying people and/or scenery. Identify the photos by file name.



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[Announcing A New "How To Plan Your Rotary Cycling Fund](#)

Raiser" Regular Feature!

Starting with the February Cycling To Serve newsletter, we will start to draw on the experience of some of our Fellowship members on how THEY plan a Rotary cycling event. Even if you already hold a cycling fund raiser, there is probably something you can learn from others. Connecting Rotary Cyclists with other like-minded Rotarians is a prime goal of this Fellowship. This new feature will become invaluable.

If you would like to share some of YOUR experience, send an email to: newsletter@cyclings2serve.us. We would like to hear from you!

Do you want to get an earlier start, you can. Check out this wonderful resource, available from [The Alliance for Biking and Walking](#). From their website:

From rural communities to big cities, organizations are planning fundraising bike rides that are bringing them new members, new partners, new political connections, and funds to help their organizations thrive. But how does an organization get started organizing such an event? The Alliance for Biking and Walking's Guide to Fundraising Rides is the first book to bring you the ins and outs of organizing fundraising rides that benefit bicycling. This guide will take you through all the steps of planning a successful fundraising ride, from setting a date to thanking your sponsors and volunteers. Filled with expert advice, samples from successful rides, and take-away tools you can use, this guide is an invaluable resource for the aspiring event planner while offering new tips and ideas to veteran ride directors.

The guide costs \$22.95 for non-members of the Alliance.



Cycling To Serve Benefits!

You already know the main benefits of your Cycling To Serve Fellowship is the ability to connect to other Rotarians:

- That share your passion for Rotary and Cycling
- Who host cycling related fund raising events
- And find Rotary cycling events across the USA/CAN and around the world.

Did you realize you have additional benefits? In this newsletter we welcome new two companies who are offering discounts to Cycling To Serve Fellowship members. For a full list of Fellowship Member benefits and respective discount codes, visit the Cycling To Serve [Member Area page](#).



Dual Eyewear - Dual provides performance eyewear for those athletes who need bifocals in their glasses. If you have trouble seeing your cycling computer, these glasses will work for you! Dual is offering 30% off select products!

Want To Get Your Favorite Ride on Our Calendar? Your Fellow Rotarians DO!

Know of a Rotary cycling event? Please share it by submitting your event by clicking either here or on the Cycling2Serve website!



Facebook Anyone?

Stay up to date with the latest in Fellowship happenings on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/cycling2serve/>



Got STRAVA?

Stay connected with Rotarian Cyclists from around the world on a [Strava Club just for Rotarians!](https://www.strava.com/clubs/Rotary)

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/Rotary>



On TrainerRoad?

Join the TrainerRoad Team! We will be adding workouts to help you prepare for your next Century or Fondo!

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On Zwift?

Add "Rotary" after your last name so other Rotarians can see you as you ride the roads of Watopia, London or Richmond.



Safe cycling from your Cycling To Serve Fellowship Board!

James Morrison - VP USA / CAN (vp@cyclling2serve.us)
Dan Kapsak - Secretary
Jeff Ott - Treasurer (treasurer@cyclling2serve.us)
Tom Drennan - Membership (membership@cyclling2serve.us)
Colleen Radich - Events (events@cyclling2serve.us)
Kristin Brown - RI Coordination
Jeff Ott - Past VP USA/CAN, Newsletter (newsletter@cyclling2serve.us)

Cycling To Serve Rotary Fellowship



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