

STLRC May 2023 Newsletter

Happy Spring! I hope many of you have been able to get out and ride. We will probably be challenged by rain and heat again this Spring, but we always find a way to ride. Continue to look at our calendar frequently as rides may pop up at the last minute. Always check the newsletter before you leave your house in case we need to cancel a ride.

April Biking / Hiking Statistics: 27 rides were scheduled during the month of April, and we were able to complete 21 rides with 137 participants.

April 2023 Hike Statistics: 4 hikes were scheduled during the month of April, and we were able to complete 4 hikes with 28 participants.

Spring Potluck: Our May potluck was a success. We had 40 plus members attend. A good time was had by all. A fun feature was getting to talk to riders we had never met or ridden with. We will have another potluck in the same location in early October.

Hike Leaders: New hike/ride leaders are needed. We are a volunteer organization that depends on all members to help make our organization function successfully. If everyone would lead or co-lead one hike a year, that would take the pressure off of the 5 or so ride leaders that lead most of our rides. We will help you to do this. Pick a favorite route and call us at admin@stlrc.org and we will help you make it happen.

Charles Koehler has already volunteered to be a leader. Now it's time for others to step forward and help us out. He will be doing a moderate bike ride soon starting at Glen Carbon. You can access several trails from this starting point. Leslie McCormick lead her first ride (second tier) from Millstadt to Freeburg.

Upcoming Board Meeting: We will have a June Director Meeting on Monday, June 26 at 6:30 pm at Faye Holdenried's home, 1304 Summerhawk Lane, Fenton, MO 63026. Any member is welcome to attend but please rsvp to admin@stlrc.org so that we have enough chairs on hand.

MCT Trails: Please check the [MCT website](#) before riding on their trails. There are closures as well as Ameren work being done. They update any problems daily. We are creating new routes to avoid these areas.

Yearly Cycling Favorite Rides of STLRC Members

We are trying to compose a list of organized bike rides or tours, in town or out, that our members may be interested in. This will be in a monthly format and would appreciate any input our members could contribute to this list especially if you have had good or bad experiences. Please send your suggestions or comments to: Joe Kruchowski jsjcat@sbcglobal.net for inclusion on this list.

January:

[Northern Woods & Waters – WI](#)

February:

June cont.: [True Grit - AR](#)

March:

July: [Cowalunga – IL 3-day](#)

April: [Beautiful Southern Ride – IL](#)

[Amish Land & Lake – IN](#)

[Red Bud Ride - KY](#)

[Limestone Century Ride – KY](#)

[Cycle Zydeco – week long – LA](#)

[Flower Power – OK](#)

[Spring Fling – 3 day - GA](#)

May: [Tour de Stooges – IL](#)

[Horsey Hundred – KY](#)

[Peddlers Jamboree – Columbia, MO](#)

[McHenry County Ride – Lake](#)

[Geneva, IL](#)

June: [Big Bam \(week\) – MO](#)

[Ride Across Georgia – GA](#)

[GOBA \(Great Ohio Bike Adventure week\)](#)

[– OH](#)

[TOMRV \(Quad Cities\) – Iowa & Illinois](#)

[Grand Illinois Bike Tour – IL](#)

[Magnolia Bike Tour – OK](#)

[Tour de Corn – MO](#)

[Pumpkinvine Ride – IN](#)

[Gorilla Century – KS](#)

[Tulsa Tough – OK](#)

[Tour de Lakes – Lee Summit, MO](#)

[Pedal Across Wisconsin](#)

August: [Courage Ride – IA](#)

[Rock the Crater – KY](#)

[No Baloney – IL](#)

[BIKEMO – Roucheport, MO](#)

[DALMAC Tour – MI](#)

[Hotter N' Hell – TX](#)

[Shoreline West week – Michigan](#)

[Lakeshore Harvest Ride – MI](#)

Sept: [Prairie Pedal – Decatur, IL](#)

[STLRC Tour de Popeye – IL](#)

[Big Dam Bridge – AR](#)

[BRAT – Bike ride across Tenn.](#)

[Amish Country Bike Tour – IL](#)

Oct: [Glassner Century – AL](#)

[Bourbon Trail – KY](#)

[Free Wheel Fondo – OK](#)

[Tour de Cape – MO](#)

[Cotton Ramble – MO](#)

Nov: [Festivelo - SC](#)

DARRYL FABICK OBITUARY: It is with great sadness to report that **Darryl Fabick** has passed away. He was such a valued member of STLRC. He will be greatly missed. He was a founder of STLRC, our treasurer, and posted every ride we did, changed or canceled on our website for many years.

Darryl Casper Fabick was born September 11, 1940, and he passed away on Friday, May 5, 2023.

Darryl is the son of Casper Frank Fabick and Yvonne Fabick. Darryl was married to Sara Frances Fabick and has one son, Christopher Darryl Fabick.

Darryl was a graduate of Lindbergh High School, attended Washington University, and served in the Air Force for four years working on guided missiles. He served as an adjunct professor at St. Louis Community College in various technology programs and worked as a Field Engineer.

Darryl and family were active members of the Carlyle Sailing Association, with Darryl serving as a club Commodore.

Darryl helped to create the St. Louis Recreational Cyclists (STLRC), an organization which has provided safe outings for many seniors in both biking and hiking since 2011. In his retirement, Darryl taught senior citizens computer skills, visiting their homes to help with installations and instruction. Darryl was an active volunteer with St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and a supporter of Opera Theatre Saint Louis, Angels' Arms, and the Humane Society.

The family will hold a private Celebration of Life to honor Darryl.

The family requests donations in Darryl's memory to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theatre St. Louis, Angels Arms, or the Humane Society, in lieu of gifts or flowers.

In memory of Darryl Fabick from David Brown

Darryl Fabick

I do not recall when I first met Darryl. I know that he was a ride leader of the Turtles and Turbos at least as early as 2006 and probably earlier. I joined in about 2004. The Turtles and Turbos rode regularly during the months of the year that allowed for it. Our rides were planned a couple of months ahead as they were printed in a paper newsletter, *The Gateway*, that was published a few times a year. *The Gateway* was the official St. Louis newsletter of Hosteling International/American Youth Hostels.

After the tragic death of Mike Katz who was hit on his bike by a motorist in about 2005, I took over the website that he had started. I suspect that is when Darryl and I started working together. As time passed, we started posting rides on our website without requiring such a long lead time. I also knew him as a strong rider who rode with the Turbos most of the time while I rode with the Turtles.

Perhaps it was 2011 when HI/AYH decided to cease sponsoring our groups after the attempt to establish a youth hostel in St. Louis had not been successful. Several of us, Darryl and I included, decided to recover what we had lost by starting our own bicycle club. We found that we could buy insurance to protect our ride leaders if there was ever a lawsuit against one of them by affiliating with the League of American Bicyclists. That group of about ten people continued to meet regularly and build a bicycle club that would be a welcoming organization for riders who wanted the camaraderie

and exercise that such an organization could provide. We decided to use our website as the primary means of communication to announce our ride schedule and other club news. We also decided that the name "Turtle" was not how we wanted to present our club, so we adopted the name St. Louis Recreational Cyclists (STLRC).

The group of ten started calling ourselves the "Bicycle Committee" although we decided not to have a formal leadership structure. Perhaps Darryl and Wayne Marsh were the two dominant voices although the rest of us were very actively involved. Darryl agreed to be our treasurer and set up a mechanism that allowed him to piggy-back our account on his own checking account. As webmaster, I restructured the website to be more up to date with the technology of the day. Darryl and I designed a logo to go at the top of the home page and on business cards.

It was at this time that Darryl really became the primary person responsible for getting our club well-established. He decided to learn HTML, the raw language of website coding, so he could work on the website with me. It was my decision to use HTML rather than use one of the development tools as the current website uses. We decided to display ride listings in a format like the way they had been displayed in *The Gateway*. I created a template for Darryl to use that had a place for the date and time of the ride, the starting location, a description, contact information for the ride leader, and possibly a link to a que sheet for the ride. We allocated one webpage for each month and listed all of the rides for that month.

Darryl devoted a large part of his life to keeping up these ride listings. Ride leaders would send him the information for their rides, and Darryl would update the website with the listings. Since people sent him ride information in various ways, Darryl had to extract the information he needed and enter it into the template; this really complicated his task. However, Darryl's flexibility and dedication to the task made ride scheduling for ride leaders easy. They could send him new information or cancel a ride shortly before it was to take place. He was up and ready to take information as early as 6 AM. No one else was willing to do this task, but having a dynamic ride list was key to developing our club into the successful organization it became.

A feature of web-based ride listings was that we could include a link to a cue sheet for a ride; the ride leader did not have to print out enough cue sheets for all riders, and riders would know ahead of time what to expect on a given ride. As time passed, we amassed a collection of cue sheets that could be reused on subsequent rides. Darryl organized this collection of cue sheets according to the starting point for the ride into what we called our "Cue Sheet Library". Now a ride leader could tell Darryl that they wanted to repeat a certain ride, and Darryl could copy the previous listing, appropriately modified, and include a cue sheet.

In about 2016, we decided to adopt a set of bylaws and elect officers. I became President, and Darryl was the Vice-President. At this time, he passed the position of Treasurer to Jim Cobb. Wayne Marsh, who had been serving unofficially as Secretary became the official Secretary. Fay Holdenried was the membership person. That group of people managed the club using a spreadsheet which we passed around as an email attachment to keep up with members and finances. Even after the formal structure was set, Darryl continued to be the person to update ride listings on the website.

In about 2018, I decided that I wanted to pass the webmaster role to a younger member. We were fortunate to find Jane O'Donnell who had just retired from teaching web development at a community college. She suggested using a calendar program to maintain our ride listings and that we could teach ride leaders to enter their own ride listings. Some ride leaders were reluctant to take on this role, but generally, it has worked fairly well with the help of Joe Kruchowski who has taken on much of

the website support role. Faye Holdenried became the President and Darryl resigned a Vice President.

The new way of operating the website allowed Darryl to pass the torch of maintaining the ride listings. Unfortunately, he was slowing down as he began to be afflicted with Parkinson's Disease. For a while, he was able to ride a tricycle, but eventually he had to give that up, too.

STLRC owes Darryl Fabick a debt of gratitude for his help in making this into a strong organization.

LYNN REITER OBITUARY

It breaks our hearts to announce the passing of our hero, the person we admired most in life, our dear mother/wife **Lynn F. Reiter** of St. Louis, MO. She died on April 23, 2023, at the age of 82, after a nearly two-year battle with ALS. Lynn was born to Oliver and Adelaide Reis on February 25, 1941. On a blind date she met the love of her life, David Reiter. A few years later they were married on May 5, 1962. Together they had two children, Keri and Craig.

In 2007, Lynn & Dave began spending their winters in Arizona. Lynn was a very social person who called her Arizona communities "paradise" because they were the perfect places for her to "meet new people and make new friends every day of her life." She was an avid athlete her entire life; cycling, volleyball, tennis, golf, pickleball and more. Lynn also enjoyed cooking and creating delicious meals for her family and friends. She treasured her friends and they were a godsend to her and her family during her battle with ALS.

The memorial will be a private ceremony with only immediate family members present. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the ALS Association to help fund research to end this devastating disease, link:

https://donate.als.org/give/287064/#!/donation/checkout?c_src=jumppage

Have a great summer. I hope to see many of you out there on our rides.

Sincerely,

Faye Holdenried

STLRC President