

Rotary

District 6540



MONTHLY HERALD

March 2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

DISTRICT 6540 EVENTS

APRIL

April 11, 2022 ~ **VIRTUAL**
Fundraising Idea Exchange
For all District Rotarians

April 22-23, 2022
District 6540 Days of Service
For all Clubs

April 29 – May 1, 2022
RYLA
Youth Leadership Nominees

April 30, 2022 ~ **VIRTUAL**
District 6540 Training
For District Leaders & AGs

MAY

May 9, 2022
Idea Exchange ~ Potpourri
For all District Rotarians

May 20-21, 2022
District Conference at
Notre Dame
For all District Rotarians



WELCOME TO SPRING ~

*And the renewal that takes
place with April rains,
flowers and new life*

*A Message From
District Governor Jane Roush*



WE FOCUS ON MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH THIS MONTH

An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care and poor sanitation – all of which can be prevented. Rotary members expand access to quality care, so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future. Members provide education, immunizations, birth kits and mobile health clinics.

DISTRICT 6540 EVENTS

Continued

MAY

May 21, 2022 ~ **IN PERSON**
COTS (Club Officer Training
Seminar) at Notre Dame
For 2022-23 Club Officers

JUNE

**DISTRICT FRIENDSHIP
EXCHANGE FROM VISIT
FROM BRAZIL**

Dates TBD

June 4-8, 2022
International Convention in
Houston
For all District Rotarians

June 18, 2022 ~ **VIRTUAL**
COTS (Club Officer Training)
For 2022-23 Club Officers

What are we doing in District 6540?

You can read about some amazing projects that District 6540 Rotarians have supported under this focus area in the articles by Ranjan and Holli. Let's finish the year strong and here is how you can help by providing support through gifts to **The Rotary Foundation!**

Annual Fund -Share provides the funds for us to transform lives in District and Global Grants. Help us reach our goal – read more from Holli on how that can happen!

Polio Plus – Even though we are this close to eradicating, we still immunize 450 million children every year. Your gift is tripled through our partnership with the Gates Foundation.

Disaster Response – Many have asked how to support humanitarian needs of **Ukraine** children and families. See Sharon Kish's article for the link to give to the Disaster Recovery Fund.

We have seven areas of focus through Rotary and all are important. To me, there is nothing more rewarding than providing children with the opportunities for healthy and fulfilling lives. And that brings me to one of Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's initiatives for the year:



EMPOWERING GIRLS

I had the opportunity recently to virtually live-stream the Rotary Day with Unicef (you can watch the video at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR57IIEvIwE>). This program honored people taking action around the world to solve problems mainly experienced by girls. It is time we as Rotarians step up to end early childhood marriage, human trafficking, create better opportunities for education for girls and support appropriate menstrual hygiene management.

So, it's Time to Take Action District 6540 Rotarians!

At the District Conference, we will be stuffing Period Positivity Pouches. Did you know that 1 out of 4 teens in the United States has missed school due to lack of access to period supplies? I am asking you to start collecting small cosmetic bags and period supplies and bring them to the District Conference on May 20 and 21 at Notre Dame. We will be packing these bags and delivering them to schools, food pantries and some of our safe harbor homes. Click here [for more detailed information](#). We will also be helping with food insecurity by helping package meals at Cultivate.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

I am looking forward to gathering District 6540 Rotarians and friends on the beautiful campus of Notre Dame on May 20-21. Let's join to celebrate club projects and dedicated Rotarians who make such a difference in our communities and around the world. You will hear amazing speakers, share in service project opportunities like the period positivity pouches or helping at Cultivate food bank. Professional photos taken at the conference will be available for sale as a Polio fundraiser to support our ongoing efforts to eradicate Polio. Amazing food, networking and our annual Rose Ceremony honoring our recently deceased Rotarians are all included this year. And a visit to Notre Dame would not be complete without pictures on the football field and our celebration Friday dinner in the ballroom at the top of the east side of the stadium.

Watch emails for more information and visit the District 6540 website for all the details!

I can't wait to see you there!

FUNDRAISING IDEA EXCHANGE!

Are you looking for new ways to raise money for your club projects? Or maybe you just want to increase the amount raised at your events? Do you have a great Fundraising project that is fun, includes the community and makes a lot of money? Come join us as we offer tips and share projects during our next Idea Exchange on Monday, April 11 at 7:00pm/6:00pm on ZOOM.

[Click here to join the discussion](#)

Everyone is welcome!

Here's a great idea: Lowell Rotary Club does a 50/50 Raffle. Drawing one of the 24 lucky winners are Rotarians Jody Herr & Bonnie Oxley. **24 DAYS OF CASH PRIZES!** Imagine how much fun the winners will have!



YOUR GIFTS FOCUS ON LOCAL & GLOBAL NEEDS

Messages from Holli Seabury, District Annual Fund Chair

Rotary International's monthly theme for April is Maternal and Child Health. Giving birth is dangerous in many parts of the world and every year millions of babies and children will die from malnutrition and preventable disease. Rotary's work helps to change those statistics.

Our District is participating in a global grant in India designed to save both mothers and babies. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne and the Rotary Club of Raipur Greater, Project Mamatva builds on the work done by the Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals who provide free cardiac surgeries to babies and children. Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect in India; many are caused by poor nutrition in pregnancy. Sai Sanjeevani is opening maternity hospitals on the campuses of their three cardiac hospitals to give low-income women free prenatal and nutritional care and to give them a safe place to birth. The hope of this project is to drive down the rates of congenital heart defects while also reducing the rate of infant and maternal death and complications.



Pregnant women in a rural location receiving education from the Sai Sanjeevani outreach.

Annual Fund SHARE - How You Can Help!

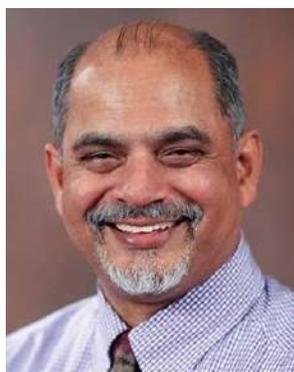
Ah, spring! It's a time when I start thinking about planting flowers in the yard, getting out my warm weather clothes, and unfortunately, doing my taxes. As I was doing my taxes this year, I noticed the charities I give to at a meaningful level haven't significantly changed in several years. If I know I am going to give, why wait until December and get hit with charitable giving and the holidays all at once? As we start to wrap up our Rotary year, I am trying to put a few things in place for both my Rotary giving, and my other charitable gifts. I am looking at my annual giving amounts and putting them on a monthly deduction or an annual deduction earlier in the year.

Luckily, Rotary offers us the option of monthly, quarterly, or annual giving through Rotary Direct! It's easy to set up Rotary Direct online at My.Rotary.org. Sign in and click on your name at the top right of your screen, click on My Donations in the drop-down menu, and when the page opens click Make a Recurring Gift. Or you can go to our District website to access [a printable form](#) here that you can submit.

We have a District goal of \$360,000 for the Annual Fund SHARE – if we can meet that goal not only will we have helped with the work of Rotary International, but we will reap the benefits in our District. Half of the funds our District raises through the Annual Fund SHARE before June 30 will come back to the district in three years to be used for the incredible work our District does through District Grants and Global Grants.

Using Rotary Direct, a donation of \$84 a month will put you at \$1,000 of giving and earn you a Paul Harris every year and only \$8.50 a month will put you at the \$100 goal of Every Rotarian, Every Year. I just paid \$8 for a Starbucks latte at an airport! The Rotary Foundation would have put that money to better use.

Check with your club's Foundation Chair about how your club is doing towards your Annual Fund SHARE goal. If your club hasn't set a goal, encourage your Foundation Chair to set a goal exceeding the Annual Fund SHARE amount raised by your club last year or \$1,000, whichever amount is higher. Contact me at RotarianHolli@gmail.com if you need any assistance finding your club's goal or where your club currently stands in giving.



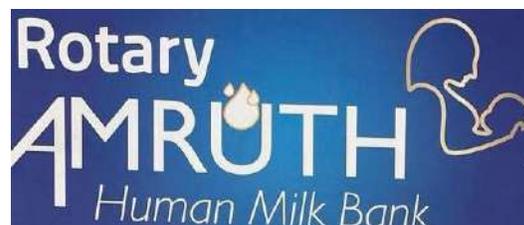
MANGALORE ROTARY'S HUMAN BREAST MILK PROGRAM SAVES LIVES

The work of Rotary's Global Grants

A message from Ranjan Kini, District Foundation Chair

Nearly 6 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka State in the Rotary District 3181 region has an Infant mortality rate of 10% with neonatal mortality of 5.3 per 1000 live births. To reduce it further, one needs to save babies born with weight less than 1500 grams.

The Rotary Club of Mangalore and Rotary District 3181 with support through a Global Grant GG2123577 from Rotary Foundation, Rotary District 6540, Rotary District 6600, Rotary Club of Kentland, and New Tampa Noon Rotary Club, USA, expanded access to quality care, so mothers and their children can live and grow stronger.





Donated breast milk ~ a priceless gift

high-risk neonates admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Nearly 20 - 30% of the neonates admitted are weighed less than 1000 grams and mothers are malnourished. This Lady Goshen Hospital contributes to 65-70% of all neonatal deaths in the district and Rotary Club of Mangalore thought it would be appropriate to establish a Human Milk Bank in this hospital.

'Amruth Milk Bank' as they called it will store the donor human milk and provide it to newborns as well as to babies, whose mothers are unable to lactate. According to doctors, mother's milk improves the health of newborns and is ideal for the survival of prematurely born babies. Rotary Amruth will initially focus on meeting the needs of needy babies of the Lady Goschen Hospital first, before serving others.

The Lady Goshen hospital, attached to Kasturba Medical College, a prominent medical college in India, and in the Rotary District 3181, performs 6000 deliveries each year and 70% are 'high' and 'very high risk' pregnancies. In such high-risk cases, one challenge that the medical profession faces is the availability of mother's milk after delivery for premature babies. To address this challenge, Rotary Club of Mangalore initiated a 'Human Milk bank', a progressive concept wherein, the donor mothers' milk is stored to "save Premature" babies.

Human milk can be stored for up to 6 months and can be used to feed tiny newborn babies and to babies of those mothers who are having lactation failure. Feeding human milk will not only save lives but also improves the health of prematurely born babies beyond survival at Lady Goshen Hospital, Mangalore, which handles delivery of all types of



A message from Carla Herr, Membership Chair

Here comes Spring with promises of sunshine, longer days and blooming flowers. While we are all excited about the new growth going on outside, we need to harness some of that positive energy and focus on helping our clubs to grow.

We are in the second month of our Each One, Bring One campaign and the response has been wonderful. Our District will make a \$75 donation to a charity of the winner's choosing. We will draw once a month and the winner will be announced in the newsletter. Just let us know you invited a guest by emailing E1B1Dist6540@gmail.com to be entered.

If you are following the implementation tips on the District 6540 website, April is the time for your club to make a [guest follow up plan](#). The sample form can be used as a template to create a plan that suits your club. Keep following the implementation guide for monthly suggestions to improve your club.

Clubs are coming up with innovative ways to encourage their members to “Bring One.” One suggestion is a friendly competition within the club. Divide your club into teams and set a time frame to see which team can bring the most visitors to a meeting, social or project. Be creative with the prize for the winning team. A free meal, no singing or the non-winners can wear a silly hat. Just remember, this is all in fun. By exposing more people to Rotary, everybody wins.

The more people that you invite to your club, the greater the possibility of them joining. Just like fishing, not everyone is going to bite. Patience and persistence will be the catalyst for growth. If I may quote fellow Rotarian Jeffrey Krull, “If we want to grow, they’ve got to know”. So make sure that your friends and co-workers know about Rotary. Provide an opportunity to showcase all the value that Rotary brings into the world. #GrowRotary



RI President Elect
Jennifer Jones with
Rick Zolman at PETS

HUNTERTOWN CLUB INTRODUCES “HUNTERTOWN HELPING HANDS”

A message from Rick Zolman New & Innovative Clubs Chair

The *Huntertown Helping Hands* initiative was introduced at the Rotary Satellite Club of Anthony Wayne, Huntertown (Huntertown Satellite Club) meeting last week. The initiative is a collaboration between the town of Huntertown and the Huntertown satellite club with the goal being serving others in need. The town will help identify individuals or families that need assistance with something as simple as cutting their grass or snow removal. The Huntertown club is developing a list of

volunteers and skill sets along with organizations that are willing to provide service for more complex situations. Creating connections and hope for individuals who need a "Helping Hand" due to their current life circumstances. At the end of the meeting, two individuals that attended the meeting, signed-up to be the newest members of

Rotary. For me, the cool part of this is that the initiative does not have all the details finalized. As an event manager those are difficult words to say! It is an initiative that will develop as needs are determined. The key is the Huntertown club members are People of Action and I'm excited to be a part of their growth! **For more information about creating an innovative new Rotary Club, Contact Rick Zolman at rzolman@gmail.com**



Huntertown Satellite Club



HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!

A message from Sharon Kish, District Grants Chair

I hope you are getting out and enjoying the warm weather, the greening of the grass, the trees budding, and the flowers peeking up in the sunshine.

By now, clubs should have their grant applications in for the 2022-23 Rotary year. Thank you for all the submissions. The District Grant Committee will be reviewing the applications this month. We will inform you in May of preliminary approvals, which will then be submitted

to RI for final approval. Please do not start your grant until you have received final approval from the District, which should be in June. DO NOT start your projects or expend any funds until after **July 1, 2022**.

Also, now is the time to submit your Final Report for the 2021-22 District Grants. If your project is completed and you have compiled the receipts, the Final Report form is on the District 6540 website on the left-hand side, under *Download Files*. Please remember to send a couple pictures of your project, too. Send the Final Report and pictures to me at the email below. Your Club will be reimbursed as soon as the report is approved. If you have not completed your project for 2021-22, please do so ASAP. The project must be completed, and the Final Report submitted no later than June 30, 2022. If for some reason you cannot complete your project, please let me know NOW. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at skish33@gmail.com or call or text 219-508-1516. Thanks for all your great work, serving your community!

The Rotary Foundation has established a Disaster Fund to assist the Ukraine. *Any contributions to the Disaster Response Fund received by 30 April 2022 will qualify for use in support of the Ukrainian relief efforts. Here are the links to make a donation: [Disaster Response Fund | My Rotary](#) or <https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund>. Disaster grants are available to Rotary Districts in the Ukraine and in the surrounding countries, to assist in relief efforts in the Ukraine and refugee support.*

Hoping to see everyone at the District Conference at Notre Dame in May!



END POLIO NOW BRINGS ROTARY CONNECTIONS

A message from Jim Jeselnick, District Polio Coordinator

As “snowbirds” in Naples Florida, we like to make up at The Rotary Club of Naples Bay. They meet Tuesdays at noon at a close by Perkins’ restaurant. Recently I was able to give my polio talk to the assembled guests and members, including “the old judge” from LaGrange who now lives there. During the “Q & A” period a gentleman stood up and introduced himself as Jack Tomley, a member of the Swissvale Rotary Club from District 7300 near Pittsburgh. To our amazement he told us how he was personally vaccinated by Jonas Salk in 1955! He was a medical student at the Watson Rehabilitation Institute. Of course, Pittsburgh is where Dr. Salk did his extensive research and developed the polio vaccine. Jack is a “very young” 92 and vividly remembers that day. It is also one of the reasons he became a Rotarian, just like me. I would encourage all Rotarians to “make up” at other Rotary clubs. You meet great people and learn many things during the talks. We need to maintain our due diligence and continue to support the End Polio now campaign. To make your personal donation, visit <https://www.endpolio.org/donate>. Your support is deeply appreciated. I am happy to give my polio talk to your club. Email me at JLJESLNIC@YAHOO.COM or call me at 219-928-5585.



Rotarians Jim Jeselnick, Mary Kay Jeselnick and Jack Tomley



We are THIS close!



ALL CLUB NEWS, FUNDRAISERS AND PROJECTS ARE WELCOME!

Please submit articles and photos by the 20th of each month to Jane Delligatti, delligatti116@comcast.net

SUMMIT CITY SOUTH IS HELPING HARDING HIGH SCHOOL CREATE A "MILLION DREAMS NATURE TRAIL"

Harding High School, Fort Wayne, is creating a nature trail that will be an integral part of the Fort Wayne trail system. They are in need of a tractor to create and maintain the trail on an ongoing basis. For more information on the type of tractor needed to allow them to maintain the prairies and trail during all seasons, visit

<https://www.deere.com/assets/publications/index.html?id=116932e2#7>. You can also visit the project on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AMillionDreamsNatureTrail>. If you'd like to help with this effort or have questions, please email Dave Broerman at davebroerman@yahoo.com.



ROTARY CLUB OF LOWELL HOLDS POT OF GOLD 50/50 RAFFLE

It's another successful "Pot of Gold" fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Lowell. They sold 520 tickets at \$50 each and awarded \$15,500 in winnings! They gave away \$500 Tuesday through Sundays in March, and \$1000 on Mondays to participants. Winners are announced on Facebook LIVE each evening at 6pm ~ check out their FB page. Club members dress the part and have lots of fun. Daily winners are then put back into the drawing and are able to win a second time on the same ticket. This fundraiser has been extremely successful, and there's usually requests for more tickets! Drawing live and having Rotary members engage in silly antics draws a nice crowd to view in person and online. It also gives the club opportunities to promote past projects and to advertise upcoming projects or fundraisers. It also gives the audience a chance to identify Rotary Club of Lowell members.

Rotary Club of Lowell members featured L-R drawing winning tickets: Nicole Downey, Karen Molden, Ruby Dotson and Bri Hamm; Don Meyer, the Easter Bunny and Guy Carlson; and Nicole Downey and Rachel Kiszemia



ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH MANCHESTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR COMMUNITY POLLINATOR GARDEN REFURBISHMENT



Pollinator Committee volunteers assembled a storage shed for garden equipment

A collaborative effort led by the Rotary Club of North Manchester has been awarded a Good Deeds grant from the Community Foundation of Wabash County to replace tired garden beds with a pollinator garden at the Rotary Gazebo next to the North Manchester Public Library. The gazebo, erected on town park property to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, has failing barberry bushes and other plants that no longer suit the space. Rotary will work with Wabash County Purdue Extension, Master Gardeners, library, an area church and others to refurbish the beds with plants selected to serve pollinators. Club President-Elect Janina Traxler, who chairs the committee, and the extension director and educator, Geoff Schortgen, will offer an educational program at the library on April 5 about the gazebo project. The site will also be used for youth garden programming, and members of the elementary Dirty Diggers club library summer program will help with watering and weeding. The Pollinator Committee is made up of Rotarians, library folks and the extension director. The Rotary Club of North Manchester has three members on the committee.

CROWN POINT ROTARY CLUB VOLUNTEERS AT BUDDY BAGS



The Crown Point Rotary Club chose Buddy Bags as one of the organizations to volunteer and help as one of our Service projects. Buddy Bags provides hundreds of students on the free lunch program with meals for the weekend. Many of those students benefit from free breakfast and lunch at school but are not always as fortunate on the weekends. Volunteers from our club and their families spent a few hours on a Saturday morning getting food bags and activity packs ready to go out to the students in need. We also stuffed envelopes with information about the Buddy Bags organization and helped with other tasks that needed to be completed. Our club has made monetary donations to Buddy Bags as well and have additional volunteer opportunities with Buddy Bags planned for this Spring.



OSSIAN ROTARY COMPLETES ANNUAL SHOE DRIVE

Ossian Rotary Club's annual shoe drive is now complete, with a record 955 pairs of shoes collected for Changing Footprints, an organization whose mission is to refurbish gently used shoes and repurpose them to those in need. Ossian Rotary was just informed that some of the shoes collected this year are being distributed to the people of Ukraine. This year's efforts received assistance collecting shoes for the needy from Bluffton Rotary and Shelton Financial. Previously worn and new shoes will be distributed to homeless, disaster-stricken, and underprivileged people in the U.S. and abroad. Over 100 Indiana organizations, among others, are expected to be the recipients of the collected tennis shoes, snow boots, soccer shoes, flip flops, crocs, dance shoes, slippers, sandals, high heels, baby shoes, cleats, work boots and others. Even damaged and single shoes will be chopped and converted into playground materials. Changing Footprints collects and redistributes 60,000 pairs of shoes a year and, on average 80% of the shoes collected are redistributed in Indiana. Changing Footprints is a 100% volunteer organization.



CHESTERTON-PORTER ROTARY ANNUAL FISH FRY FRIDAY, APRIL 29 ~ FROM 4:30-7:00 PM CDT



"We are so excited to be able to bring this fundraiser back to the community," said Martha Brubaker and Glenn Yerby, event co-chairs. "It's wonderful that guests can once again enjoy the camaraderie and friendships that have sustained us through the difficult health crisis we've experienced". The Fish Fry (& Chicken Too!) will be held in the Westchester Intermediate School cafeteria, 1050 S. 5th St. in Chesterton. The always delicious menu includes mouth-watering fried fish and chicken provided by Dan's Fish Fry Services of Huntington, IN, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, butter, amazing chocolate chip cookies baked by the Duneland Schools Kitchen Staff, and assorted beverages.

Both dine in and carry out meals are available. Ticket cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for kids ages 5-12, children ages 4 and younger eat for free. Tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the event or by contacting Jane Delligatti, Club Fundraising Chair – delligatti116@comcast.net.

ROTARY CLUB OF LOWELL OFFERS ADULT EASTER EGG HUNT ~ APRIL 2nd AT 5PM CDT AT THE LOWELL AMERICA LEGION

Over 1,000 eggs to find! Cost is \$25 if presold, or \$30 per person day of the event – includes the hunt, one drink ticket and chance to win additional prizes (jewels, tools & more), raffles and 50/50. Must be 21 years of age or older. Limited tickets available. Cash bar and food available. Tickets are available at Classy Cuts Salon, Lowell Carpet & Coverings, and DeMotte State Bank.



HELP US SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB'S SERVICE PROJECTS AT THE ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

What you can do:

- Designate a club member to find one or two of the best photos from each of your club service projects from the past year.
- Write a sentence or two about the project, including the name of your club and what the project was.
- Email the photo(s) and brief description for each project to annegregory39@gmail.com with "Club Service" and your club name in the subject line.

Notes:

- 1) If you want the district to highlight your club's multiple service projects, you must email each project separately. Too many photos could easily send your email behind a firewall.
- 2) If your club submits more than one service project, the subject line should say "Club Service," your club name and the project number on the description and all photos. "Club Service Ossian 2" for example

E-BIKE RIDE COAST TO COAST FUNDRAISER SEEKING ROTARIAN'S ASSISTANCE ON INDIANA ROUTE

Several communities in Rotary District 6540 will be on the route of former World Bank Executive Dr. Gregory Maassen (pictured at right), during his 120- day solo bike ride along the original route of the Lincoln Highway, traveling from Washington DC to San Francisco beginning April 2, 2022. He will be in Indiana April 19 (Ft Wayne) through April 24 (Michigan City). The electric bicycle adventure will follow almost 90% of the original route scouted in 1919 by Maj. Dwight D. Eisenhower, planting the idea that eventually became the basis of the modern Interstate Highway System. This will be the [first coast-to-coast route covered on an electric bicycle](#), or eBike. While the ride offers the opportunity to voluntarily support the Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy, Greg is not requesting financial or logistic support from Rotarians.



Greg, a Dutch citizen, is seeking contact with Clubs or individual Rotarians along the route who would be willing to connect him with local points of interest and serve as an emergency contact for that section of the trip. Andy McCaskey, Elkhart Rotary, has volunteered to act as the informal coordination point for Rotary members, biking and e-Biking enthusiasts who might have interest in following Greg's progress, would like to ride on some portion of the route and/or want to assist him as he makes stops along the northern Indiana portion of his journey. A detailed spreadsheet of the route and planned stops can be made available to interested Rotarians. Please alert the clubs in your area and bicycle enthusiasts and contact Andy at andy.mccaskey@gmail.com with intent to participate.

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