

Welcome to Summit Biking's 2026 Season

April 9, 2026

Group Rides

After a less than stellar snow season, our thoughts turn to biking. We usually start our season in early May, but due to our spring-like conditions, look for emails from Betsy, our ride coordinator, for show-and-go rides in April. She has dubbed these "Java & Strava" and they will start at a local coffee shop before the ride.

We are eager to see all your smiling faces at our group rides. Board member Charlie is looking into obtaining name tags for all our members, but in the meantime, please wear any type of name tag so that we get to know each other.

Our regularly scheduled rides resume in May, dependent on weather conditions. The first rides may be in Denver or the front range to insure drier conditions and higher temperatures. The rides typically begin at 9:30 a.m. in Summit County, and 10 a.m. when traveling out of the county.

You can access the complete ride schedule at [Summit Biking Group Ride page](#) (scroll down for the calendar). An email each week will give particulars for that week's ride and picnic location if scheduled. Our primary club rides will continue to be on Mondays until the first Monday in October. The Monday rides are available to all ability levels and will have options to do shorter or longer routes. A pre-ride meeting will be held prior to each ride where we will introduce newcomers and discuss route options.

Chip Babbitt has suggested that Google Calendar users sync our Summit Biking Group Calendar to their personal Google Calendars, so you'll be able to easily see where our rides take place. Any updates we might make to the group calendar will be reflected in your calendar as well. Note the calendar is not a replacement for the detailed emails that are sent out every week by our ride leaders. To sync, go to Google Calendar and click the "+" button next to Other Calendars, then click "Subscribe to calendar." Next type summitbiking@gmail.com into the "Add calendar" box. Click on that group name. Make sure the box next to the calendar is "checked."

We would like to have a sweep assisting the ride leader so we don't lose anyone who is unfamiliar with the route. Those of you who assisted in that role last year were very much appreciated. We will be looking for assistance from the membership again this year.

We have a long tradition of gathering post-ride for a picnic at a location convenient to that Monday's ride. Since Covid, we have been struggling to maintain and grow this way of building member relations. We supply paper goods and cutlery, and ask that you bring a chair, your lunch and drink, and something to share. We would like feedback on continuing this tradition. Should it be monthly instead of weekly? Is one location more conducive to attending than others? Should it not be a pot-luck?

The loosely structured Wednesday and Friday rides will be continuing this year. Any member can send an e-mail to the group with a suggested route. (Send to summitbiking@googlegroups.com). Our typical Friday ride is around the lake, ending up at the farmer's market in Dillon for lunch. Due to construction on Swan Mountain Road and its expected long closure this summer, we will mix it up and do different routes starting in Dillon so we can still catch lunch at the farmer's market. Watch for emails the day before that will tell you where and when to meet, but it usually is at the bench at the top of the "corkscrew" (top of the dam) at 10 a.m. This is a show-and-go ride, so if no email is sent, just show up.

Please note that all show-and-go rides are informal and not club rides, not led, ride at your risk, pedal at your own pace, and not subject to the club's insurance.

Our Annual Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3 following the ride and picnic.

New Ride Coordinator

We would like to thank our ride coordinator of many years, John Bowyer for his dedication to the task of setting up the ride calendar, sending out emails with details of the rides, checking the weather the morning of to see if any cancellations are warranted, and bringing the picnic supplies. He resigned last year to make room on the board for Betsy Hackemer, who did such a splendid job of ride coordinator. She has some exciting new ideas.

Bring a Friend

We encourage our members to bring a friend, neighbor, or coworker to join us for a ride. We hope everyone is welcoming to them, and we gain new members. Waivers will be available at the start of the ride and are required to join the ride. After one ride, you must become a member to continue riding with us.

Bike Maintenance

It's always a good idea to get your bike tuned up and serviced at the start of the season. Please keep in mind that our local bicycle shops are very busy this time of year, and any parts they may need to order may be in short supply and/or take a while to ship. Please don't procrastinate. At the very least, check your bike for proper functioning and inspect tires, chain, cassette, cranks, cables, and brake pads.

Safety

We hope you enjoy your best and safest riding season yet. Please observe the rules of the road, make sure your helmet is in good shape (maybe upgrade to a new MIPS helmet to protect that noggin), and consider adding a red blinking light to the back of your bike. Signal your intentions (slowing down, turning), announce when you are passing/overtaking another cyclist ("on your left"--nobody likes to be surprised when another cyclist is passing), and call out road hazards when riding in a group. Colorado's Rules of the Road can be found [here](#). It's also a good idea to visit and review our website's Safety Information <https://www.summitbiking.org/safety> before our riding season begins.

Summit Biking Board

Our board now consists of co-Presidents Polly Koch and Roberta Dakan, treasurer Terese Tane, ride coordinator Betsy Hackemer, webmaster Chip Babbitt, community liaison Don Hansen, secretary Pamela Paling, and members-at-large Charlie Shofnos and Nola Chavez. We are hard at work to prepare for the beginning of bike season.

As many of our board members have served several terms, we are always looking for some new "blood" and fresh ideas going forward. If you have any interest in serving, please see any board member. We're a pretty low-key group and the commitment is only one or two meetings a year, sometimes by Zoom.

Summit Biking Dues

The club continues to need your support to pay for ongoing expenses (general and liability insurance, community charitable activities, picnic supplies, and more).

The dues rate for 2026 is \$20 per person. This does not even cover the insurance for our organization. Dues are due ASAP, as May 1st is the start of our fiscal year. [Click here](#) to take care of it while you are thinking about it. PayPal is the club's preferred method of payment. You don't need a PayPal account to pay by credit card to use this. PayPal is simply the platform for membership. Follow the online links to digitally sign your waiver and pay. Please also add your emergency contact information.

If you absolutely refuse to use PayPal, please contact a board member. We have discontinued our PO Box as it pretty much just collected junk mail. Polly has volunteered her home address as our "official" address (see address at end of letter).

Your dues must be paid in full and your waiver signed in order to participate in any rides or club activities. Please do this on our website and save us administrative time before each ride.

As a member of Summit Biking, you can continue to enjoy the physical benefits of cycling as well as camaraderie, mental rejuvenation, and knowing we support one another, the club, and the community.

Donations

As we are now a 501c3 tax-exempt organization, any additional donations you care to make will be tax exempt and we can continue to raise money for Summit County biking projects. Among these projects have been the Swan Mountain Recpath, lights in Vail Pass tunnel, improved signage throughout the Recpath System, and maintenance of the Vail Pass recpath.

In late 2018, Summit Biking contributed \$20,000 toward the 3-mile recpath extension project from Copper towards Fremont Pass. This is a beautiful, peaceful section of trail to ride as it follows an abandoned railbed of the historic Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad.

On December 4, 2024, Summit Biking made a donation of more than \$13,000 to Summit County Open Space and Trails to sponsor new and improved kiosks on the recpaths. The kiosks are updated to improve user experience and awareness and have user-oriented maps, etiquette tips, and rules, as well as a plaque acknowledging Summit Biking's contribution to the project. The photo below features board members Chip Babbitt, Pamela Paling, Nola Chavez, Don Hansen, Terese Tane, and Roberta Dakan, along with Jordan Mead, Resource Specialist for Summit County Open Space and Trails.



On July 28, 2025, Summit County Open Space and Trails, a county commissioner, and many of our bikers attended the unveiling of the new Recpath kiosk near the Kayak parking lot in Frisco that was funded by the Summit Biking Group.

Click [here](#) to view the article about the unveiling that appeared in the July 29 edition of the Summit Daily News.



In 2026, we are contributing to the Summit County Open Space and Trails program to have ambassadors on the recpath to give directional information and to promote safety. Plans are underway to purchase a custom pop-up tent for this project. We have pledged \$7500 towards start-up costs for this program.

We are seeking other opportunities to contribute to enhance bicycle safety and infrastructure. If you have any ideas, please bring them to our attention.

You can make a donation [here](#).

Recpath

Summit County Recpaths are open and fully plowed as early in the season as weather allows. Although the path is plowed there remain a few icy patches, especially in shady areas and underpasses. Please use caution. You can check the county's website for current conditions and which trails are open [here](#).

Recpath Working Group

Members of Summit Biking were invited by Summit County Open Space and Trails Recpath Working Group to participate in their meeting in November 2023, along with representatives from each of the towns. They voiced some of the same concerns we had regarding safety, striping and crack sealing of recpaths, safety and etiquette signage, e-bikes, rental shop safety presentations, etc. There are some exciting recpath connectors and extensions in the works. Summit Biking offered to contribute money for some of these projects and can provide suggestions and eyes on the road for hazards.

Summit Biking Website

Check out our website at www.summitbiking.org. This is an ongoing project as Chip has recently upgraded to a new hosting site to fix some mystery glitches and make things easier in the future. Be sure to thank Chip for all his time and effort.

The Charitable Events page on our website is a place where members can post information to promote various charitable events specifically related to biking, giving others the opportunity to learn about the events, donate to a fellow member's ride or perhaps even ride themselves. This way, members can view charitable event opportunities on their own terms without being presented with an email in their inbox asking them to donate. Check it out [here](#).

Summit Biking FaceBook Group

Per Betsy's suggestion, we now have a Summit Biking FaceBook group which was set up by Stephan Horlak. We envision this as a place to post informal rides, pictures, safety concerns (i.e., watch out for gravel at so-and-so intersection), and anything else our members want to contribute. If interested, go to FaceBook and search for "Summit Biking," then join the group or follow this [link](#) This group will be viewable by anyone, but you must be a member to post or comment. This will not take the place of the weekly emails for our regular rides.

Jerseys

Our project to design and manufacture a new club jersey was a smashing success. If you missed out and are interested in getting a jersey, please contact Charlie at chocoshof@aol.com.

OLEA SUMMIT BIKE CLUB

PELOTON S/S JERSEY



Colorado Safety Stop Law

Governor Jared Polis signed this into law on April 13, 2022. This means bicyclists have a new safe and legal option to proceed through intersections across the state. When an intersection is clear and you already have the right of way, bicyclists age 15 and older may now proceed to treat stop signs as yield signs and treat stop lights as stop signs. Thanks to Bicycle Colorado, a nonprofit advocacy organization, for promoting this bill which helps prevent bicyclist-driver crashes where they happen the most--at intersections.

Our board member Nola turned us on to Bicycle Colorado, a nonprofit that advocates for bicycling in our state and bicycle safety. Check out www.bicyclecolorado.org for a vast array of information.

Guthrie Memorial Stone

A continuing project is landscaping and maintenance of the Bob Guthrie Stone which honors our former leader and motivating force for recpath and bicycle infrastructure improvements. Please enjoy the bench and setting as you traverse the Swan Mountain recpath. Thanks to Lisa Kidd for keeping this tidy.

Adopt-A-Recpath Volunteer Program

We also volunteer to pick up trash on the portion of the recpath from the Guthrie Memorial to Swan Mountain Road as part of the Adopt-A-Recpath Volunteer Program in conjunction with Summit County Open Space and Trails. Don is in charge of this program and will send out an e-mail for volunteers as needed.

Bicycle Rodeo

Several of us volunteered at the Silverthorne Elementary School for their bicycle rodeo day. This was a very worthwhile endeavor and we loved seeing the kids enhancing or learning new bicycle skills. If this opportunity arises again, we will look for volunteers. This generally takes place at the end of May, before school summer vacation starts.

Other Member Benefits

We are very sorry that our local **Pearl Izumi** store is no longer in business here. We are working on obtaining discounts at other local bike shops, or online at Pearl Izumi. Stay tuned.

We will also have **Medical ID's** for distribution at the rides. Make sure your contact info is in your helmet! This was very handy for at least one member after a crash.

Another safety accessory is a **Road ID product**. Access their products at www.roadid.com. They offer wrist and shoe styles, as well as ID's that work with fitbits, etc. These include an updateable online Emergency Response Profile.

Sad News....Two Passings of Note

Long-time member **Steve Ladin** passed away on February 5th, 2026. He was an enthusiastic bike rider, a board member of Summit Biking, and served as treasurer where he organized our funds to optimize our interest earnings. In 2019, Steve implemented the change for Summit Biking to become a 501(c)3 non-profit. He will be sorely missed.

Summit Biking was notified in late 2024, that Frisco resident, **Douglas Robinson**, who passed away on November 14th, 2024, had generously named Summit Biking as a beneficiary to his estate. His brother-in-law Troy Powell, executor for Doug's estate, said that Doug was an avid bicyclist and was on the Rec Path daily as it was easily accessible from his home in Frisco.

We greatly appreciate these individuals who helped Summit Biking's mission to enhance recreational bicycling opportunities in Summit County and to provide financial support for projects that improve the Summit County Recreational Pathway System and other Summit County road cycling infrastructure. [Make a tax deductible donation here.](#)

Please stay safe and healthy. Here's to another great biking season.

Polly Koch and Roberta Dakan, Co-Presidents, Summit Biking, Inc.

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