Minutes of a Meeting of

The Freewheelers of Spartanburg
and
Freewheelers Cycling Association
(August 4, 2026)

The monthly meeting of the Freewheelers of Spartanburg and the Freewheelers Cycling Association was held on August 4, 2026, at Venus Pie restaurant. Present at the meeting were: Kristie Thome, President; Michael Forrester, Vice-President; Karl Johnson Bicycle Shop Liaison; Joan Glynn, Safety Committee Chair; Tim Thome, Webmaster; Marshall Walsh, Secretary, Kathy Hamilton, Treasurer; Cheryl Miller, Member at Large; Robert Barnes, Member at Large; and Dave Coggins, Member at Large. Also present were Mike Bonner and Roger Brubaker.

The President called the meeting to order and noted that pursuant to Article V section 2 of the By-laws, a quorum was present. She then reviewed the Agenda, which had previously been forwarded via email to the members of the Board.

Approval of Minutes

The first item of business was to review and approve the minutes of the July 7, 2026 meeting. The Secretary had previously forwarded a draft of the minutes to the members of the Board electronically.

After careful review and upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as presented.

Freewheelers Cycling Association

Dave Coggins gave an update on the planning for the Miles for Mammograms ride that is planned for September 19, 2026 at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. The planning team has been meeting every two weeks with the most recent meeting being held immediately before the Freewheelers meeting. Registration is now open and they are beginning to receive early registrations. It was noted that based on prior experience with this and other rides the majority of registrations come close to the day of the event.

Since early registrations help with the planning process they have devoted substantial marketing efforts to web and social media outreach to attract riders. As an example of such efforts on August 1, 2026, over 200 flyers publicizing the event were distributed at the Flight of the Dove ride in Clinton. A reduced registration fee is being charged for those who register on or before August 29th.

There will be four routes: Thoroughbred (64 miles); Appaloosa (52 miles); Racehorse (41 miles) and Mustang (28). Locations have been arranged for four (40 SAG stops. The group is working with Polk County Emergency Management to coordinate on road security.

Post ride there will be entertainment including a live band, a luncheon and Saturday Night Live equestrian event.

Based on last year's event, they are budgeting on the assumption they will receive of 150 registrations. So far they have not needed to draw on the "seed money" received from Bearden-Josey.

Tour de Paws

Kristie Thome reported that the Spartanburg Animal Shelter has contacted the Club requesting assistance with a ride tentatively scheduled for October 10, 2026. In the discussion of this matter it was noted that Angel Cox was no longer with the Animal Shelter. In the past she had handled the bulk of the planning and administration of the ride with with the Club name being used to publicize the event and club members planning the routes. Because this was close to the Miles for Mammograms ride, concerns were expressed that the Clubs volunteer capacity would be strained. In addition, it was noted that this ride would be in competition with several other rides this year. It was felt that it would be better to schedule this ride in the Spring when the Club membership could provide more participation and support and when there would not be as many competing rides.

Upon motion duly made and adopted, the Club decided to decline participation in an October 10th ride and propose rescheduling the ride to the Spring of 2027.

Board Administration

At the July meeting, Jennifer Weaver had was elected to the position of Director of Membership and Karl Johnson was elected Bicycle Shop Liaison. They have requested that they be allow to swap positions.

After a discussion and upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted Jennifer Weaver was elected Bicycle Shop Liaison and Karl Johnson was elected Director of Membership.

Club Ride and Leadership Strategy

The members present engaged in a general discussion concerning whether there should be any limits on official club rides. Currently, any member can post a ride on *groups.io* and it is considered an official club ride. On such rides, all participants who are Club members are covered by the Club's supplemental medical insurance policy. It was noted that occasionally rides are posted during the early morning hours or shortly before the ride was to begin. This was seen by some as intended to limit participation to a specific group of friends. While as a matter of general policy all rides should be open to all members who are physically able to participate, it was agreed there was nothing inherently wrong with this. In the past the Club's insurance carrier was questioned about this practice and they express no concern.

Additional concerns expressed included: the lack of C level rides suitable for new riders and those who were more concerned with the social aspects of group rides; whether ride scheduling could be more orderly and whether for safety reason official club rides should be limited to rides saved to the Club's account with Ride with Groups. It was noted that only Club members could access the Club's RWG account.

It was suggested that a committee be established to study this matter and consider what parameters, if any, should be established for Club rides.

Committee Reports

A. *Kit Committee.* The new Club Kit is in the process of being distributed. Members who have not already picked up the Kit can do so at the Trek Store in Spartanburg. Each

member who has not picked up their Club T-Shirt and new members may also do so at the Trek store. As long as the supply lasts, members may also purchase additional T-shirts.

B. *Membership.* Karl Johnson reported that the Club now has 263 members. it is anticipated that there will be additional member signups prior to Miles for Mammograms.

C. *Sponsorship and Marketing.* Kristie Thome reported that subsequent to becoming a sponsor, Club member Bryan Reese incurred large expenses as a result of serious medical problem causing him severe financial burdens. By a special vote via email the Board authorized the Treasurer to return is $500.00 payment, butt he be allowed to continue as a sponsor.

Tim Thome reported on plans from time to time to post information on the Club Facebook page focusing on Club sponsors to encourage Club members to do business with them. He has also posted on the Club's website and Facebook page information regarding the benefits offered to Club members at several of the local bike shops. The goal is to collaborate with and give value to Club sponsors.

Tim Thome also reported on plans to build a new website. The anticipated costs is $300.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted he was authorized to proceed on this project.

D. *Treasurer's Report.* The Treasurer, Kathy Hamilton, noted that expenses for the website were much less this year. She reported that one of the Club's largest expenses was for tax return preparation. She suggested that it might be possible to save money with another accountant.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Treasurer was authorized to seek proposals from other accountants for tax preparation for the Club and the Freewheelers Cycling Association.

The Treasurer also gave a rundown on the current balances for the various Club bank accounts and those of the Freewheelers Cycling Association.

E. *Other business.* Dave Coggins reported on the Club's support for a young rider, who is currently attending Wofford College.

Adjournment

There being no further business and upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held September 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted

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Marshall Walsh, Secretary