

# BikeAAA 2013 Annual Report: A Look in the Mirror at 2013 and Rolling Ahead to 2014

---

Dear BikeAAA Members and Friends,

2013 will likely go down as a turning point year for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County cycling. We mourned the loss of two outstanding residents in cycling incidents but also came together as a cycling community. 2013 was the launch year for [Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County](#) (“BikeAAA”) and thanks to all of you; we are off to a fast start and have great momentum rolling into 2014!

## **Startup**

BikeAAA’s genesis was in the [Leadership Anne Arundel](#) Flagship program 2012-13. A team of 6 took on a project to make the county “more bike friendly”. We spoke to folks at the city, county and state; cyclists, bikeshop owners, bike clubs and others in search of a gap that we could fill. We quickly discovered that unlike nearby Howard, Montgomery, Baltimore, Frederick, DC and others that our county had no bicycle advocacy group. In fact when the City of Annapolis applied for Bike Friendly Community status in 2012 and received Honorable Mention, this was cited as a deficiency. We had found our gap and moved rapidly to fill it!

In March, 2013 our first community meeting hosted by Compass Marketing in Annapolis was attended by 30 people including keynote speaker *Michael Jackson*, Maryland D.O.T. Bike/Ped Director and facilitator *Anna Kelso* of BikeMD. Attendees included *George Cardwell* from County Planning & Zoning, *Iain Banks* from the City of Annapolis and *Lt. Dave Ennis* of AA County Police. Others represented bike clubs, bike shops, bike commuters and other concerned cyclists. There was strong support for creating an independent advocacy group so we rapidly launched and achieved these milestones:

- April 2013 Incorporated and board of directors established; website launch
- May 2013 First bike safety program held at Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- July 2013 Over 100 Facebook followers
- Sept 2013 501c3 Approval
- Oct 2013 Official Launch!
- Dec 2013 44 Members, Over 200 followers



Michael Jackson, MDOT Bike/Ped Director at March, 2013 Meeting

## **State of Cycling in the County**

BikeAAA’s mission focuses on safe cycling for “*transportation, recreation and fitness*”. Three very different cycling segments with different types of bikes, skills, objectives, demographics, etc. For all types of riders, Anne Arundel County cycling is a set of dichotomies:

- Outdoor lifestyle but obesity is a major health concern
- Beautiful [trails](#) but not well connected

- Good [Bike/Ped Master Plans](#) but little funding and follow-through
- Active and vocal [bike clubs](#) but no county bike/ped coordinator
- An important crossroad for nationally recognized routes and events but too few know about it
  - [East Coast Greenway](#) (Maine to Key West) & [American Discovery Trail](#) (Delaware to California) intersect in Annapolis
  - [The Race Across America](#) (“RAAM”) starts in Long Beach, CA and ends at Annapolis City Dock. In 2013 the single rider record was broken....under 8 days!
- Geographic disparities
  - South county attractive for on-road fitness (distance) cyclists but few trails for recreation
  - North, West and East have trails (BWI, WB&A, B&A) but few safe roads
  - Residential centers and commuter destinations (work, school, shop) not well-connected with safe routes
- Attractive tourist destination but little cycling tourism (vs. DC, Baltimore, Alexandria, etc.)
- Chesapeake Bay drives environmental conscience but single-driver car use prevails
- National trend shifting to multi-modal transportation but we remain auto-centric

Studies show that “being safe and feeling safe” trumps all other factors when people decide whether to ride. Bike-friendly communities across the U.S. recognize this and have



adopted policies and devoted resources to provide safe biking infrastructure. This is true for cities of all sizes and character. In Maryland, there are four Bronze [Bike-friendly Communities](#) – Baltimore, Bethesda, Frederick and Rockville. We have taken on a goal to work with the City of Annapolis to join this list but we’ll need a real commitment from the City to achieve it.

### ***A Year of Tragedy and Call for Action***

Sadly, 2013 marked two cycling fatalities, “Doc” Heslin in July and Trish Cunningham in August. Both avid cyclists, parents, coaches and outstanding citizens. One loss from cyclist error and the other from driver error. The cycling community rallied to be sure some good came of these tragedies. BikeAAA members Tracy Van Dagna and Fran Interlandi launched Facebook group [Spokespeople](#) after the loss of Trish Cunningham which spawned a Labor Day Safety Rally in various locations around the county. In late September, BikeAAA board member Alex Pline organized a memorial ride for Trish that drew about 200 cyclists and outstanding support from Anne Arundel County Police. These losses and events have drawn greater attention to safe driving and cycling in the press, among citizens, law enforcement and government. BikeAAA is now working across the “5 E’s” of bike safety advocated by the League of American Bicyclists: Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation/Planning and Engineering to promote safer practices and places to ride.



**Trish Cunningham Safety Rally**

### **Commitment of Startup Team and Initial Board**

BikeAAA launched quickly and achieved quite a lot for a brand new all-volunteer group. For the planning and formation, we owe gratitude to the original Leadership Anne Arundel team – *Jimmy DeButts, Dayna Bernard, Lynn Buhl, Jim Gregory, Jon Korin & Cathy Rich* and the support of LAA Executive Director *Eric Edstrom*. And for our launch, growth and 2013 achievements we thank our startup board members:

- *Jon Korin*, President
- *Joe Piette*, Vice President & Safety/Education Lead (League-certified Bike Safety Instructor)
- *Cathy Rich*, Treasurer
- *Bob Chaisson*, Events (retired from Board Dec, 2013)
- *Alice Christman*, Secretary
- *Alex Pline*, Communications/Website Lead (Co-chair County Transportation Commission, Member Annapolis Transportation Board)
- *Christina Pompa*, “Annapolis Go Bronze!” Lead



**Bike to Work Day,  
May 2013**

### **2013 Accomplishments**

BikeAAA quickly became the go-to source for cycling advocacy in the press, government, and among other constituents. We have been cited numerous times in the Capital Gazette, Baltimore Sun, Severna Park Voice and the local Patches. Bike safety has been a front-page story and common Opinion Page topic. We have and will continue to use misinformed and sometimes hostile views of cycling as “teachable moments” to educate drivers and cyclists of the rights, responsibilities and rules to co-exist on the road. Among our 2013 accomplishments:



**Baltimore Sun, Dec 2013**

### **Advocacy**

- Key contacts with City, County, and State Officials
- Provided input to Anne Arundel County Pedestrian/Bike Master Plan update
- Participation at numerous county transportation planning meetings
- Alex Pline, board member, co-chairs county Transportation Commission
- Interaction with State’s Attorney General regarding charges and laws related to cycling fatality
- Coordination with city, county, and state agencies, as well as advocacy groups including BikeMD and BikeHOCO, to advance safe bike routes
- Interaction with Healthy Anne Arundel, ARTMA, Friends of AA County Trails, East Coast Greenway, County Bike Police, and other groups
- Provided first bike commuter count for City of Annapolis
- Working with City of Annapolis to advance LAB Bike-friendly Community status



**Capital Gazette, June 2013**

- Working with BikeMD, WABA and others to advance state legislation to improve bike safety

### *Education and Promotion*

- *Joe Piette*, board member and a league certified bike safety instructor, provided free bike commuter safety program at Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Participation in community events including Bike to Work Day, Maryland Seafood Festival, Maryland Ave Festival, Tour du Port, Broadneck Trail ribbon-cutting, Ft. Meade Health Expo
- Participation in [Spokespeople](#) road safety rally
- Board member *Alex Pline* organized Trish Cunningham Memorial Ride
- Quotes and articles in *Capital Gazette*, *Patches*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Severna Park Voice*



### **2014 Goals**

In 2014 we aim to continue and strengthen work on our initial goals and are adding one that was originally in our long range vision but now is in our 2014 plan -- a signature charity ride through Anne Arundel County! There are loads of charity rides on the Eastern Shore but only a few here in Anne Arundel County, mostly in south county. Through the collective vision, partnership and commitment of Anne Arundel County Police, Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks and BikeAAA, we are planning an October 2014 charity ride that covers north, east, south and west county and utilizes roads, trails and county parks. Rides will range from a full 100 mile century to a short kiddie/family ride. Please watch for more details. BikeAAA 2014 goals are:

- Increase safe bicycling for transportation, recreation, and fitness through education and encouragement
- Provide a forum and stronger voice for bicycling through collaboration among residents, government, businesses, schools, non-profits, clubs and other advocacy groups
- Improve bicycling conditions and choices both on & off road
- Start an annual county-wide charity ride through partnership with county and city agencies
- Partner with the City of Annapolis to seek LAB Bronze Bike-friendly Community status



We will need your help to achieve these. Please contact us through our [Facebook group](#), [website](#) or email [president@bikeaaa.org](mailto:president@bikeaaa.org)

## ***Financial Status***

BikeAAA is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501c3 organization. In 2013 all contributions went to startup costs and program expenses. No money was spent on legal, accounting or other professional fees. All of that was done through volunteer hours, primarily of our board and others. We would like to thank [Compass Marketing](#) for pro bono development of our beautiful logo and [Creative Jestures](#) for pro bono design of promotional material. We operate on a cash basis and have no accruals or liabilities. As of December 31, 2013, our 2013 financial summary is as follows:

<b>Revenue</b>	
Memberships	\$ 3,605
Contributions	\$ 497
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 4,102</b>
Expenses	
Startup	\$ 1,154
Promotion	\$ 1,102
Administrative	\$ 133
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 2,389</b>
<b>Net Surplus &amp; Year-end Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,216</b>

## ***Membership***

BikeAAA offers [annual membership levels](#) ranging from \$10 for seniors and students to \$1000 for lifetime membership. Memberships at the \$50 Charter Level and above are recognized in the Annual Report. On December 31, 2013, we had 44 paid Members, nearly 200 Facebook followers and over 200 on our email list. As of January, 2014, we are off to a good start bringing on additional members and have over 250 on our email list. We are very grateful to all who expressed their commitment to safe cycling and confidence in our launch by joining in our early months. Generous members at the \$50 Charter Level and above as of January 31, 2014 are acknowledged below:

*Members at \$50 Charter Level and Above*

<b><u>\$1,000 Lifetime</u></b>	<b><u>\$50 Charter Members</u></b>
<i>Jon Korin</i>	<i>Michael Berry</i>
<i>Kathy Korin</i>	<i>James Black</i>
	<i>Robert Chaisson</i>
	<i>William Crabbs</i>
	<i>James Curran</i>
	<i>Eric Edstrom</i>
<b><u>\$250 Silver</u></b>	<i>Paul Fickinger</i>
<i>Christina Pompa</i>	<i>Mark Hanna</i>
	<i>Adam Hewison</i>
	<i>William Hunter</i>
<b><u>\$100 Bronze Members</u></b>	<i>Ken Keeler</i>
<i>Joseph Lynagh</i>	<i>Alexander Pline</i>
<i>Cathy Rich</i>	<i>Rino Sanchez</i>
<i>Bill Somers</i>	<i>Alex Schwab</i>
	<i>Tracy VanDagna</i>
	<i>Kenneth Weddle</i>

We thank all of you who helped us launch, follow us on Facebook or email, and support safe cycling in so many ways. With your growing support we will achieve even more in 2014. If you haven't joined yet and would like to now, just click [here](#). We look forward to working with you and seeing you out on the roads and trails of Anne Arundel County. Thank you and ride safely!

Jon Korin  
President, Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (“[BikeAAA](#)”)