



January 30, 2012

Dear members:

I hope this message finds you well, and I expect no less given the ride-ability of the winter we've been having! I expect such out-of-season cycling stoke to carry through into the season, and in that vein there are many recent changes to BNS that should make 2012 especially significant.

As you may know, we held our Annual General Meeting a few weeks ago in Halifax. Pursuant to the discussion we've been having throughout 2011 regarding what sort of cycling organization we wish to have, we held a vote on a Special Resolution to adopt new by-laws, which passed with a vote 27-2. Most importantly, these by-laws (accessible on our webpage) have refreshed the structure of BNS.

We have dedicated the former road and mountain bike committees to competition—now known as the Road Competition and Mountain Bike Competition committees. Simon Roberts and Jon Burgess are both continuing on as the respective VPs, however (and consistent across all committees), they are always looking for help. There will be commissaire courses held for both disciplines in the early spring, a most welcome development as we're in desperate need of more riders/parents/supporters/spouses/friends to share the officiating workload. Should commissairing not pique your interest, both committees also need more members, both to aid in decision making and to assist with smaller tasks; a media/results coordinator and race reporters are needed for both committees, and a timing system coordinator would be an incredible asset for the road scene. Please contact Jon/Simon for more information.

Representing the interests of all mountain bikers and trail builders is the new Mountain Bike Trails—Off-Road Advocacy committee, aka, the former Nova Scotia Mountain Bike Trails Association. The NSMTBTA has done incredible work around the province, and we're pleased to welcome them onboard, hopefully setting the stage for even bigger things to come. Please contact Sue Earl, the VP of MBTORA, for more information.

Many of you may have heard rumblings of a BMX track in the Eastern Passage area, and if so, you've heard about the efforts of Geoff Hoare. Geoff and his organization, Eastern Passage BMX, have been working toward the construction of a track in Eastern Passage for a few years now, and just this week have received confirmation from HRM that the design and planning of the track will take place this year, with construction to start in 2013. (See www.epbmx.ca for more info.) We're pleased to welcome him into the BNS community with the creation of the BMX committee, which he now leads as its inaugural VP. Please contact Geoff if you'd like to assist the project and/or the committee.

The former Touring and Trails committee has been refashioned as the Recreation and Touring committee, with Jeff Townley continuing as VP. Jeff has digitized the "Nova Scotia by Bicycle" touring book BNS sells, and hopes to have it accessible online this season; an updated and upgraded print version is in his future plans. Jeff is always looking for people to serve on the R&T committee, and would like assistance in compiling locally recommended routes around the province for the updated book. Please contact him for more info.

The advocacy side of BNS has been considerably refreshed, emerging from the AGM as the new Roads, Education, and Bikeways Advocacy committee. The new REBA committee has subsumed the former Education, as well as the Advocacy and Transportation committee, and is poised to become one of our most active sectors under the leadership of Lawrence Plug, VP, and the former Nova Scotia Bikeways Coalition. On the Can-Bike front (now represented on the REBA committee), Bob White has replaced Doug Regular, and will continue on as the program's most prolific instructor in the HRM area. Please contact Lawrence should you desire to assist the REBA committee.

Eric Vienneau has retired from his long, and much appreciated tenure as our Treasurer, but he has passed the books to the capable hands of Stacey Taylor, whom we're quite pleased to welcome aboard the Board. Also new is Ryan Lindh, of downhill and trail building fame, in the capacity of Director at Large, replacing Scott MacPhee (who now sits on the REBA committee). Al Heubach is continuing as our second Director at Large, while Simon Myatt has begun another term as our Coach and Athlete Development Coordinator. Consistent with this theme, Darren Scott is continuing as Secretary, and Zuzana Ecerova remains our Events Coordinator.

Kaarin Tae is continuing as our Registrar, and, thanks to the CCA, will finally be issuing proper plastic ID-card-style licenses. The kinks are still being worked out of that system, but everything should be operational in early February—keep your eye on our website and Facebook group. Kaarin is also looking for help this season; the Registrar's workload has been made much easier with the advent of our online system, but licenses still need to be packaged and mailed out by hand. Kaarin will be traveling from early May until mid-June, and is in need of an assistant to fill in for her during that time. Please contact her for more information.

Each committee will soon have a section of our website where they'll be uploading content, meeting minutes and dates, and other information as the season progresses. Kyle Hebb, of Hebb Microsystems in Parrsboro, does his best to keep our site up to date, but we'll also be posting to the BNS Facebook group—check it out, and share it with your friends!

One of the seemingly small changes we've made to the by-laws is to allow any BNS member to serve on any committee. A member needn't commit to serving as a secretary, an athlete rep, or as anything particular—keeping in mind that the organization is much more than the sum of its parts, anything you can do will be much appreciated. Talk to me, or to the VPs! To paraphrase Gandhi, you must be the change you want to see in BNS!

Yours very truly,

Jamie Lamb

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