



Austin Cycling Team Mission Statement:

Purpose. "To promote the fun of cycling (mountain, road, and cyclocross) in the Central Texas area through racing, touring, fun/benefit riding, weekly rides, training, and commuting."

Austin Cycling Team Vision Statement:

The Austin Cycling Team should continue to be a cycling group that includes, accepts, and encourages participation by members of all riding types; those that are recreational, those that are mountain bikers, road racers, club riders, beginners, experts, men, women, old people, middle aged people, younger people, and juniors. Anyone who has an interest in bike riding who is generally pleasant to be around, is tolerant of others, is friendly, and is a reasonably good member of society should be welcomed where it fits with our overall plan for the team.

We should make an effort as a club to offer as much opportunity for members to learn and grow in their area of interest as we can. This should be limited only by the talent, energy, and resources available to the group. This roadmap should be facilitated by a strategic plan and annual operating plan. We should make an effort to facilitate the opportunity for members to experience, learn, and grow in areas of cycling that they are not familiar with. However, no one should be obligated or pressured by the organization to be anything or join in anything other than the activities that gives them pleasure out of being part of the group. For example, club riders should feel no obligation to race. Road racers should feel no obligation to mountain bike. This does not mean we can't ask team members if they want to race. We can ask. It does mean that we must be clear that they do not have to race to be a valued member of the team. It also should be clear that racers should be welcomed to continue to pursue their racing interests to whatever level their talent takes them limited only by the practical support the team can offer based its capabilities.

Our organization should have controlled moderate growth as a goal. This growth is in the interest of providing more opportunities for fun to the membership and to maintain the critical mass necessary to maintaining a healthy organization. As we grow we should organize representatives and coordinators for the groups that have special needs to make every effort to accommodate those needs.

You can be part of this group by positively contributing by your participation in the activities you enjoy. Everyone should participate in some way in making the club better and in the fund raising activities required to keep the club healthy. This should not be more than one or two days of activity per year for the typical member. If your activity requires more effort than this your extra participation should be totally voluntary and consistent with what you feel you are getting out of your participation.

Our group is one that is actively promoting cycling and includes a competitive racing component. We would like to be a positive voice for constructive policy and development of cycling by supporting organization like the Texas Bicycle Coalition but are not trying to duplicate their efforts or organization.



AUSTIN CYCLING TEAM

We would like to host team rides and suggest that organizing our membership to participate in Austin Cycling Association events and other local rides is an effective method to achieve this goal. We do feel that maintaining a once a week team ride recovery ride is an excellent way for us to stay connected, meet and attract new people to the organization, and enhance membership satisfaction. Our goal should be to work with the membership to keep this going with enough critical mass that it is sustainable. We do not want to create a situation where members are obligated to do this ride where it doesn't fit with their personal goals.

The group should be one that allows us to not take ourselves too seriously. We are here to have fun. What is fun to each member is different. Where groups of members interest of what is fun is the same we should encourage them to make the most of it.

Lastly we expect members to temper and moderate their expectations of what the group can do and what it will do for them. Jersey orders are always late. Reimbursement programs, if they exist are narrowly drawn and not meant to be lucrative. They are a bonus if it ever happens. This group is run by volunteers. Thank them for every thing you do get and let it go when things don't go exactly as you might expect. Lighten up. We are here mostly to have fun and to make some friends. That is the group's mission. Let's go ride our bikes!

Austin Cycling Team Values:

We want to be a positive group.

We want this to be a good group of people to ride with that will accept people of all abilities.

We want to support members in their cycling to the limits of our resources and energy.

We want to continually expand our boundaries and capabilities. We don't want to limit our membership in their interests. However, we want to avoid overreaching the talent of our management group and the capabilities of our members.

Some other practical items (effective 1-9-06):

We need to have a goal of growing the team (moderate controlled growth) because otherwise we will tend to stagnate. We will start to have class balance issues.

We probably should be a little bigger (than 25) to help us achieve discount rates on cycling clothing. (In the range of 50-125 in the next year or so.)



AUSTIN CYCLING TEAM

Our road racing team could be “funner” if we had 12+ members in each cat so there is a reasonable chance of working some team tactics. (Knowing it is hard to expect ½ to show at any one race.)

Our mountain biking group could probably use a bit more critical mass in order to assure sustainability.

Longer term the areas of rallies, charity work, recreational rides, community involvement, environmental stewardship, and building safe places to ride are areas we could become stronger and more effective.

45 is a lower limit. 12 members in 4 different cat would be 48 road racers. 12 more would be a decent mountain bike showing. 25 to 50 more ad hoc members could round it out. This would put us at 110 which is probably a size we could handle without having to think about changing our structure.