

THE REAL STORY
BY DICK BOGRAD
CIRCA 1984

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD SEVERAL VERSIONS OF HOW THE PRINCETON FREE WHEELERS GOT ITS START.

ORIGINALLY, THE CLUB WAS STARTED WITH TWO CO-FOUNDERS, BARBARA HUNT AND MYSELF.

IN 1980 ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND I PUT UP FLYERS INVITING CYCLISTS TO GO ON TOURING RIDES IN THE PRINCETON AREA. AS I RECALL, I RECEIVED 43 RESPONSES IN THE FIRST WEEK.

LATER THAT MONTH, I LED A RIDE WITH BARBARA HUNT FOR THE OUTDOOR CLUB OF SOUTH JERSEY. BARBARA AND I TALKED ABOUT STARTING A TOURING CLUB. WE MADE UP A SMALL SCHEDULE OF RIDES FOR OCTOBER. THESE WERE MAILED TO THE PEOPLE THAT CALLED ABOUT RIDES AND WE ALSO POSTED THE SCHEDULE AROUND TOWN.

ON A RIDE THROUGH WASHINGTON CROSSING, NJ, WE RAN INTO HANK HIRSCHMAN. HE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE CLUB. HE ALSO OFFERED TO HELP WITH STARTUP EXPENSES.

BY THE END OF OCTOBER 1980, I HAD RESEARCHED AND LEARNED WHAT WAS NEEDED TO BECOME A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION.

TO BE A CORPORATION OF THIS TYPE. WE NEEDED FIVE PEOPLE. BESIDES BARBARA AND MYSELF WE NEEDED THREE MORE AS INCORPORATORS. DAN RAPPAPORT, JAN CAMERLENGO AND HELEN PLUMMER BECAME THE REST OF THE INCORPORATORS. ON NOVEMBER 21ST, 1980, THE PRINCETON FREE WHEELERS, INC. CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE INCORPORATORS WORKED ON A SET OF BY-LAWS.

IN MARCH 1981, THE PRINCETON FREE WHEELERS, INC. HELD IT'S FIRST MEETING AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN PRINCETON TOWNSHIP. THIS CONTINUED TO BE THE MEETING PLACE FOR THE CLUB UNTIL FRANK STANSKI, OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT, FOUND A FREE MEETING PLACE. THE MARY JACOBS LIBRARY IN ROCKY HILL.