

Summary of the first FVBSC Zwift meetup (and other helpful hints)

I led a Zwift meetup today with 5 riders as a test of doing a meetup.

The results were good and I think everyone enjoyed the ride, even though it was short (11 miles). To me it was even better than an outside group ride because we could easily talk while riding as we could all use ear buds for conversation.

Note-you should install the Zwift companion app on you phone or tablet as that makes things a bit easier to setup or join a meetup. Also to be able to talk with other riders you should install the Discord app. It's best to also use earbuds with you phone or tablet to have better quality sound.

I run the Zwift application on my laptop and can airplay it to my tv if I like. I have an ant+ usb dongle to communicate with my trainer, cadence sensor, etc. you can also run Zwift on a phone or tablet or an Apple TV. I also run the Zwift Companion app on my phone as it has some nice extra features.

In addition to your trainer, you should get a fan or two to keep you cool. I also have a table to place in front of my bike to hold the laptop and other stuff I want to keep handy. Checkout my setup in the picture below.

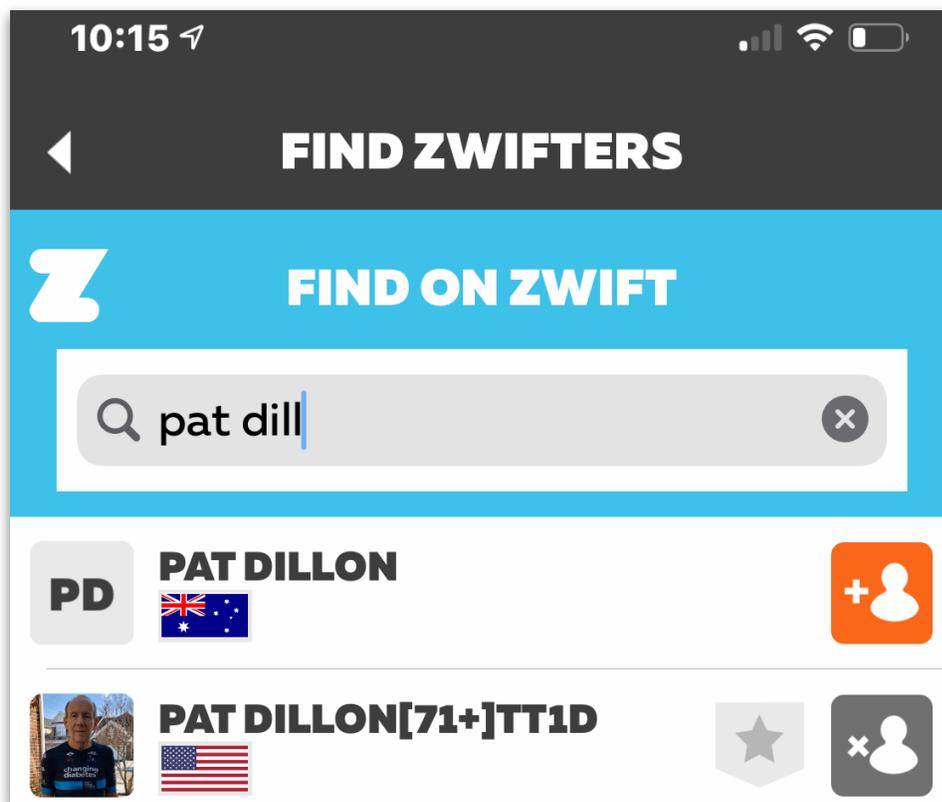


Check out the links in my announcement email to get more information on Zwift and various configurations that are possible.

If you have already ridden on Zwift, doing a meetup is just a slight bit of extra setup. The main work is on the ride leader, who will have to define the meetup, select from one of the many Zwift routes and then invite people to join the meetup.

This means that the leader has to know who to invite so participants need to take the steps of:

1- going onto the Zwift companion app and requesting to “follow” the leader. This must be done so the leader can invite you to the ride. Use the Find Zwifters function to locate the ride leader (use the leader’s name posted in the calendar). Note - the leader’s zwift name may not be unique so be sure to look for the name as posted in the calendar and the one with the American flag.



Then select that entry and request to follow him/her (by clicking on the +Person button).



If you are already following the leader, you will see the following icon.



2- you should then contact the leader and let them know that you want to join the meetup so the leader will know to “invite” you.

3- when you have been invited you should then accept the invitation by indicating that you are going to the meetup, also using the Zwift companion app. If you do this before the meetup starts you will be added to the list.

4- if you want to be able converse with the group you should join the Discord channel that the ride leader will send you a link to before the ride starts.

5- log onto Zwift a little bit before the ride is scheduled to start and go to the events and join it. You will be placed at the starting point on a trainer until the ride actually commences, at which time all riders will start to ride the route. Note - you can warmup before the meetup by riding any part of the Zwift worlds as though you were riding solo, and when you “Join” the meetup, it will take you immediately to the starting location of the meetup.

At this point just enjoy the group ride👍

I’ll post other tips as we gain more experience with meetups.

Jerry Shields - FVBSC Ride Director