



Bicycling in North Alabama

SCCC Earth Day 2020

Revised Jan 2021

Spring City Cycling Club

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Bicycling in North Alabama

Overview – Available electronically:

https://www.springcity.org/content.aspx?page_id=86&club_id=515233

- *Active Cycling Community*
- *Clubs and Organizations*
- *Routes*
- *Rides*
- *Bike Commuting*
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Bicycling in North Alabama

There is an Active Cycling Community here – since the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, cycling is more popular than ever!

- *Road Biking*
 - *A long-time Bike Club the Spring City Cycling Club (SCCC) is active and holds an annual Century as well as a dozens of regular ride each month.*
 - *Many ride on RSA roads due to low traffic after hours*
- *Bike Commuting*
 - *City of Huntsville (COH) is becoming more friendly for bikes and bike commuting*
 - *Bike commuting is restricted through the RSA main gates, but is allowed*
- *Mountain Biking*
 - *Several mountain bike trail areas in and around Huntsville*
 - *Recent changes now allow mountain biking on trails of RSA*
 - *The is an active high school & middle mountain bike league, NICA*
- *Gravel Grinding*
 - *Wheeler Wildlife Refuge – in Mooresville and Decatur*

Clubs and Organizations



- **Spring City Cycle Club (SCCC)** (<https://www.springcity.org/>) - Founded in 1892, SCCC is one of the oldest cycling clubs in the U.S. The club organizes weekly rides, meetings, clinics and socials throughout the year. SCCC features a selection of rides for riders of all abilities and experience, including an annual program for new riders just beginning with the sport. SCCC also stages an annual century ride every September with routes extending into Tennessee and features a gourmet all-you-can-eat post ride meal. (contact Jamie Miernik: jamorgan10_at_comcast.net)
- **Rocket City Cycle Belles (RCCB)** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RocketCityCycleBelles>) - Founded in 2012 by Grace Ragland and Jana Payne, the Rocket City Cycle Belles (RCCB) is a grass-roots women only group for women interested in anything cycling. The group is organized around getting new women cyclists into the sport by introducing them to more experienced female cyclists. RCCB holds regular rides, clinics and socials throughout the year. RCCB is an affiliated division of Spring City Cycling Club.
- **Rocket City Velosport** (<https://www.facebook.com/alabamawheelmen/> - <http://rocketcityvelo.com>) - (An Alabama Wheelmen race team) is a reformation of the original bicycle racing organization formed in the 1920s. AW and RCV fills that gap between the club rider and the elite cyclist. Affiliated with USACycling as the North Alabama racing club, it promotes an annual road race weekend, training rides throughout the year and a number of smaller time trials in the spring and summer.

Clubs and Organizations, cont'd

- **Team Rocket Tri Club** (<https://www.teamrockettri.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/213862988751320/>) – The local Triathlon club spun off from SCCC in the late 1990s. It serves as the local organization for triathlon training and events. TRTC puts on nine events annually.
- **Alabama Interscholastic Cycling League** (www.alabamamtb.org) – An affiliate of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), the AL Cycling League organizes and promotes high school and junior high mountain bike race teams and races. There are eight teams in Madison County. The high school race teams are a means through which young people are introduced to the sport of cycling as a lifestyle.
- **Huntsville Area Mountain Riders (HAMR)** – (<http://sorbahuntsville.org/>) HAMR is the Huntsville Chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association (SORBA). HAMR is organized around trail building and maintenance on Monte Sano Mountain in coordination with Monte Sano State Park and the Land Trust of North Alabama. HAMR also hosts weekly rides and social events throughout the year. This includes women-only skills rides in the summer, a 10-week summer time trial series (Very popular!), family friendly picnics and scavenger hunts and regular road trips and campouts.



Virtual Cycling Groups

- **Spring City Cycle Club (SCCC) Facebook:**
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1745700022376193>)
- **Rocket City Cycle Belles (RCCB) Facebook:**
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RocketCityCycleBelles>)
- **All You Can Eat Century Ride (AYCE) Facebook:**
(<https://www.facebook.com/AllYouCanEat2020>)
- **Marshall Team Redstone Alliance for Cycling (MTRAC), open to RSA (including all NASA) workers with badge, or most anyone with RSA badge sponsor. MTRAC sponsors the Tour d'Arsenal, largest free ride in No. AL.**
(<https://explornet.nasa.gov/thread/17191>)
- **Redstone Arsenal Mountainbike Peddlers (RAMP) Newly formed for mountain bikers on RSA.**
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/613786059384074>)

Virtual Cycling Groups, cont'd

- **[North Alabama] Cycle Club.** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/648905521800790>). Over 1000 local cyclists connect via Facebook to attend group rides. Rides for every skill level.
- **Bikes & Brews Huntsville.** Monthly casual social bicycle and beer drinking group since 2014. (<https://www.facebook.com/Bikes-Brews-Huntsville-103763977670217>)
- **Team Redneck "Cycling TR".** Local social cycling group for the retired and wished they were retired. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/265155520256635>)
- **Southern Carnage Gravel Grinders.** All things unpaved roads, gravel grinders, cyclocross and outdoor recreation. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178137956325387>)
- **SRC MTB Trail Conservation Club** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/srctrail>). This group page is for managing a consolidated effort to maintain, improve, and expand on the trails located at Aviation Challenge at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL

Routes

- Spring City Cycling Club maintains a library of local GPS routes on its website = (<https://ridewithgps.com/clubs/121-spring-city-cycling-club>)
- Local routes can also be found on GPS sites such as [Strava](#), [RideWithGPS](#) and [Garmin Connect](#). GPS files can be downloaded to on-bike GPS units or phone applications.
- Huntsville Area Mountain Riders maintains a trail database online with TrailForks = (<http://sorbahuntsville.org/trails/trail-maps-and-conditions/>)
- Greenway: Aldridge Creek (<https://www.huntsville.org/listing/aldridge-creek-greenway/101/>), Indian Creek (<https://www.huntsville.org/listing/indian-creek-greenway/107/>),
- Bradford Creek (<https://www.madisonal.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7243/Bradford-Creek-Greenway?bidId=>)
- Rail Trail: Richard Martin Trail, Elkmont, AL (<https://www.trailink.com/trail/richard-martin-trail/>)
- Or, show up at local rides and learn routes firsthand.

Rides

Annual:

- “Space Race”, Mountain Biking Race for the AL NICA high school Mtn bike teams each April at the Space & Rocket Center. (Canceled in 2020)
- 19th annual Tour d’Arsenal, Bike Ride, May 19, 2020 (Canceled)
Hosted by MTRAC (contact Jamie Miernik: jamorgan10_at_comcast.net)
- Mayor’s Bike Ride, Each May, May 30, 2020 (Held)
- 36th annual SCCC All You Can Eat Century (Held)
ride (3rd Sat in Sept) Sept 19, 2020
(<https://www.springcity.org/>)
- Annual Tour de Ville Sept. 26, 2020 (Held)
(<https://www.facebook.com/events/campus-no-805/tour-de-ville-2019/421312272039839/>)
- Blossomwood Witches Ride (October)



Rides, cont'd

Regularly Scheduled Rides (some are temporarily suspended)

- [No. AL] Cycle Club, Facebook ride announcements (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/648905521800790>)
 - Monday evening Jetplex Ride
- SCCC Website weekly rides calendar and Facebook page (<https://www.springcity.org/content.aspx?page id=2&club id=515233>) (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1745700022376193>)
 - Wed and Sat rides from Rocket Republic on Meridian downtown
- RCCB Women's rides, both mountain and road, see SCCC above and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RocketCityCycleBelles>)
- Progressive: SCCC Ride a Metric (RAM) (<https://www.springcity.org/>) Usually begins in May and finishes in time to ride a metric at the SCCC AYCE Century in September.

Rides, cont'd

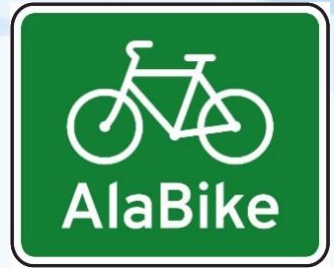
More Regularly Scheduled Rides

- Blevins Bicycle Speedway cruise: Wednesday 6 PM during DST from the shop. (<http://www.blevinsbicycleco.com/>)
- Southern Carnage gravel and road rides from Mooresville (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178137956325387>)
- Bikes & Brews monthly rides – casual social rides (<https://www.facebook.com/Bikes-Brews-Huntsville-103763977670217>)

Bike Advocacy

- City of Huntsville (COH) See and Be Seen page - Offers the ability to upload video or photos of vehicular bad behavior that will be tracked and referred to HSV Police.
(<https://www.bikehuntsville.com/bike-huntsville/make-a-report-or-request/>)
- COH Bicycle Advisory and Safety Committee (BASC) - COH committee of COH depts. and citizen cyclists that meet and advise the COH on better cycling policy and infrastructure. (contact Jamie Miernik: jamorgan10_at_comcast.net)
(<https://www.bikehuntsville.com/community-bike-projects/>)
- MTRAC - MARS Team Redstone Alliance for Cycling - A Redstone Arsenal/MSFC virtual group that holds the largest free bike ride in No. AL annually: the Tour d'Arsenal (TdA), 3rd week in May
(<https://explornet.nasa.gov/groups/mtrac-mars-team-redstone-alliance-for-cycling>)





Bike Advocacy, cont'd

Alabama Bicycle Coalition (AlaBike)

“Promoting bicycling access, education, and safety throughout Alabama”

- Statewide advocacy group
- Founded by folks from Huntsville in 2003
(<https://www.alabike.org/>) (contact Jamie Miernik: jamorgan10_at_comcast.net)
- Instrumental in passing AL 3-foot passing legislation
- Attends the National Bike Summit (NBS) each year
 - Including Lobby Day with US Congress
 - Virtual since 2020
 - Please contact Jamie Miernik: jamorgan10_at_comcast.net if interested in participating

Bike Commuting



- League of American Bicyclist (LAB) Cycling Instructors (LCI) in town that teach cycling skills and safety classes
 - Jamie Miernik LCI# 3099 (contact Jamie Miernik: jamorgan10_at_comcast.net)
 - Morgan Andriulli LCI# 3106
 - Dave Stone LCI# 1244
- Code of Alabama cycling laws:
(<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CoA.aspx>) Go to Title 32, Chapter 5A to find traffic laws pertaining to bicycles. See articles 82, 260-286
- Huntsville Bike Commuter Facebook page
(<http://huntsvillebikecommuter.pbworks.com/w/page/38047523/Huntsville%20Bike%20Commuter>)
- Bike Commuters of Huntsville Facebook page: hosted by a long-time HSV Bike Commuter
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/797068617155652>)
- RSA Cycling Regulations and limitations on road cycling
 - See next slide

RSA Cycling Regulations

and limitations on road cycling

Effective December 6, 2018

2-3. Bicycle Safety. The law enforcement branch, USAG-Redstone, shall enforce safety guidelines described in this paragraph.

a. **Cyclists will not be permitted to enter Redstone Arsenal through Gate 9 between 0530-1700 Monday-Friday excluding federal holidays. Rideout Road (between Gate 9 and Martin Road) is off limits to cyclists between the hours of 0600-1700 Monday-Friday excluding Federal Holidays, as well as, Martin Road (between Patton Road and Rideout Road) is off limits to cyclists between the hours of 0600-1700 Monday-Friday excluding Federal Holidays.**

b. Motorists will "share the road" with cyclists and allow enough space and separation between their position and the cyclist for integrated safety.

c. Cycling is authorized in the on-post housing area.

d. Cyclists will ride no more than 2 abreast and ride in the direction of traffic if on an approved roadway. Pelotons will be limited to a maximum of ten cyclists and must maintain a minimum of 300 meters between groups unless participating in a sanctioned event approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Commander Redstone Arsenal.

e. Whenever a usable pedestrian path or bike trail is provided adjacent to the roadway, cyclists will use these and not the roadway. Cyclists must ensure it is safe to transition from a pedestrian path or trail out onto the roadway.

f. Cyclists will yield the right of way to pedestrians at crossings or on sidewalks.

g. Cyclists will wear a bicycle helmet approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and have the chin strap fastened when riding on the post.

h. Cyclists will not race on Arsenal roadways unless participating in a sanctioned event approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Commander Redstone Arsenal.

i. Cyclists are prohibited from wearing headphones, earphones or others listening devices while bicycling on Redstone Arsenal.

j. During hours of darkness or limited visibility caused by environmental conditions (rain, fog, snow, etc.), cyclists will ride with a lit front and rear taillight (not a reflector) and wear **high-visibility** or **reflective apparel** as an upper outer garment. Lights should be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and the rear.

Bike Shops – New and Bike repair

- Blevins Bicycle Co (<http://www.blevinsbicycleco.com/>)
- Bicycle Cove, Hampton Cove (<http://www.bicycle-cove.com/>)
- Bicycle Cove, Madison (<http://www.bicycle-cove.com/>)
- Southern Carnage, Mooresville, AL (<https://www.southerncarnage.com/>)
- Trailhead Inc (<https://www.trailheadinc.net/>)
- REI (<https://www.rei.com/stores/huntsville.html>)
- Dick's Sporting Goods has a respectable inventory of bicycles and parts.
- Academy Sports has many "entry-level" bikes for casual riders or those looking to test the waters.



Bike Share, Rental and DIY repair

- **Tandem Mobility and Movatic** (Docked and dockless city bike rentals)
[https://info@tandem-mobility.com](mailto:info@tandem-mobility.com)
\$2 per 30 minutes of riding.
- **Huntsville Urban Bike Share Coop—HUBS** (in formation)
(<https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleUrbanBikeShare>).
To provide affordable access to bicycles, bicycle safety programs, and advocates for inclusive “All Ages All Abilities” mobility infrastructure throughout the Huntsville metropolitan area.
- Ask about rentals at the bike shops.

Bike Touring Companies

- **Country Lanes Cycle Tours** (<https://www.facebook.com/countrylanescycletours>) (canceled in 2020)
Specializing in guiding small American groups through Europe's beautiful and historic countryside. Owned and operated by MSFC employee, Andy Brown.
- **Alabama's Magnificent Bicycle Adventure—AMBA** (canceled in 2020) (<https://www.amba1.com/>). AMBA is a multi-day bicycle ride which visits historic and interesting sites around Alabama. Explore and get to know the culture, nature, and history of Alabama. Up to six days of riding with one day off mid-week to rest or visit on your own. Daily remote starts, to which you drive yourself, offer diversity in experiences. Usually held in late May; canceled for 2020.

May is National Bike Month

- May 17-23, 2021 is National Bike Week
- Friday, May 21 is National Bike to Work Day
- Tuesday, May 18, 2021 is the 19th annual Tour d'Arsenal (TdA)
- The Mayor's Bike Ride will be a Saturday in May

Enjoy Bicycle Riding in North Alabama!

contact info, Jamie Miernik: [jamorgan10_at_comcast.net](mailto:jamorgan10@comcast.net)

Epilogue – A Request/Message from Cyclists

- As a Motorist
 - You are driving a 2-ton vehicle capable of high speed, please stay in control
 - Please be watching for vulnerable users, like cyclists and pedestrians on the roads – *SEE CYCLISTS AS TRAFFIC**
 - Know that cyclists have all the same rights and responsibilities as motorists – the “Rules of the Road” apply to all road users
- As a Cyclist
 - You are driving a 25 lb vehicle that is slow, silent, but maneuverable and often delightful, always be aware of the traffic around you
 - Always ride with traffic (same direction) on roads and obey traffic laws
 - *BE SEEN* – Wear Bright Visible clothing and use lights on the bike

** Expect Cyclists to Ride with/as Traffic*

Thank-You!

Jamie

Janie Miernik

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Spring City Cycling Club/Rocket City Cycle Belles

Director, All You Can Eat Century Ride 2021 – Sept 18

Community Affairs Officer

Huntsville Bicycle Advisory and Safety Committee (BASC) Secretary

Huntsville Urban Bike Share Coop (HUBS)

Alabama Bicycle Coalition (AlaBike)

LCI#3099

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