



The Freewheel



The New Mexico Touring Society (NMTS), founded in January 1980.

A recreational bicycling club promoting safe enjoyable road and off-road cycling via organized day and overnight rides for all ages and abilities

October 2026

Website: <https://www.nmts.org>

Vol 47-10

President's Message

As we roll into October, the cooler mornings and golden cottonwoods are giving us some of the best riding weather of the year. Fall always brings a special energy to our cycling community, and this month is packed with opportunities to ride, explore, and have fun.

Upcoming Out-of-Town Special Event Rides

We have two great out-of-town rides coming up, and they're perfect chances to stretch your legs beyond Albuquerque.

On **October 3**, NMTS riders will head west for the **Tour of El Malpais**, a scenic route through lava fields, quiet roads, and wide-open sky. Then in November, many of our members will be traveling to Arizona for **El Tour de Tucson**, happening **November 20–21**. It's one of the Southwest's premier cycling events, offering multiple distances and a festive atmosphere that draws riders from all over the country.

Details for both rides can be found in the **One-Time Rides** section of our website at www.nmts.org.

Bike to Balloon Fiesta

If you're planning to attend Balloon Fiesta this year, consider commuting by bike — it's genuinely one of the easiest and fastest ways to get to the park during busy morning and evening sessions. Balloon Fiesta offers a **free Bike Valet**, staffed by local volunteers, with secure parking and easy access via the **North Diversion Channel Trail**. More information

on routes and hours can be found via this link: [Bike Valet Service - Convenient Bicycle Parking at Balloon Fiesta](#)

Morning and evening sessions mean you'll be riding in the dark, so please bring:

- Headlight
- Taillight
- Rear reflectors
- Helmet

It's a great way to avoid traffic, enjoy the trail network, and support the volunteers who make the Bike Valet possible.

Cycling Peeps Glowdeo Ride – October 8

Our friends at **Cycling Peeps** are hosting a **co-ed ride to the Glowdeo on Thursday, October 8**, and NMTS members are warmly encouraged to join. The group will meet at The Daily Grind at 5:45 PM and rides north along the North Diversion Channel Trail to Balloon Fiesta Park.

A quick note: Cycling Peeps requires that **a female member of Cycling Peeps (free membership)** be the one to register for the event on Meetup. If you'd like to attend, coordinate with a female member. Expect crowded trail conditions, bring fully charged lights, and enjoy a fun, social evening ride.

Seasonal Riding Notes

October brings cooler starts and earlier sunsets. A few quick reminders:

- Layering helps with chilly mornings
- Lights are essential even for "daytime" rides
- Recent rain storms have left sand and debris on the trails
- Hydration still matters even when it's cool

- Darcy -

NMTS Elections Are Coming

It's time for NMTS elections once again. We are a volunteer run organization that depends on the participation of the membership to keep it running. Our nominating committee has identified candidates for most of the board positions with the exception of one of the Bicycling Advocate positions. Whether you're ready to take on the open position or feel inspired to challenge the other positions, your leadership can make a real impact.

Nominations are open now. Email Frank Bouchier, Barbara Titus, or Lisa Olewine to toss your hat in the ring. In the next newsletter, we'll publish the candidate slate. The election will take place in person at our November meeting. Watch this newsletter and NMTS website for details.

NMTS Century Ride - September 26

On Saturday, September 26, four riders completed a 100 mile ride going south of Belen and back.



The four finishers after 100 miles



Ice cream is good after 80 miles

E-bike Versus Analog

Our collective experience is the traditional bicycle, “analog,” of unassisted grind and go. From a physical fitness perspective, it stands above the e-bike. Sort of, the Class I and III also demand physical input with varying, selectable assist. Inevitably a conflict of sorts has risen in the cycling community: purity versus power. In the recent “South Park” (Paramount streaming), or “South America,” they touch on the conflict. I caution, South Park is political satire, vulgar at times, and not for all. This episode, by exaggeration, catches the conflict.

As some know, I have and ride both analog and e-bike. My own view, the rules and courtesies of cycling are transcendent. A safe speed, by example, on a bike path applies to both. In this regard, there should be no conflict. Yet it exists. For the e-bike community,

some riders can and do operate at speeds inconsistent with safety. I hasten, I have observed some analog cyclists riding too fast as well. In point, this “rebel” group of e-bike riders rightly earn disapproval. The purist's reaction is to restrict trails to analog or class I e-bikes. Understandable, yet it channels outrage into horsepower, not conduct.

To this point, traffic laws such as speed limits are performance based, not horsepower per se. For us, descending at high speeds on a multi-use trail exceeding limits is wrong for either type. In Albuquerque, the speed limits are 15 to 20 mph and, often, posted on the trail. With other trail traffic, kids present for example, the conscientious rider will slow down even more.

I am posting this not to admonish our riders. The NMTS members are predominantly very mature, experienced riders. The concern I have is the example we set for the younger riders. For many it is their grandchildren. It is more than safe speeds; it is reinforcing safe practices. Some coming to mind,

—The Left Cross. Anticipating a vehicle's left turn from opposing traffic lane. In this the driver may see or evaluate the oncoming bike's closure and turn in-front. Given the relative higher speeds of an e-bike (especially Class III at up to 28mph), this scenario increases.

—The Right Cross. A vehicle approaching from behind overtakes, the turns right and in front of the approaching bike, cutting them off, and collision. Again, the driver may not appreciate bike speeds. For bikes on adjacent bike path, not bike lanes, the hazard increases as the driver may not see or, again, appreciate the bike's speed. Entering a crosswalk from a bike path requires extra caution.

—The main road, side access road. A cyclist on the side road has two hazards, the first is the Right and Left Cross. The other, vehicles turning into traffic or crossing the intersection must contend with both the side and the main road further distracting them. At higher cycle closure speeds, the hazard increases.

—Momentum. This is unique to e-bikes, they are heavier by twice as much or more. The less expensive e-bikes may not have the heavier duty brakes causing longer braking distance. In an odd circumstance, the better e-bikes have highly effective brakes. As the MTB crowd knows, locking a front brake is “thrilling.” Braking technique must accommodate weight and brake effectiveness.

—Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). For e-bike riders some, I read, recommend a heavier duty helmet, such as what the MTB community uses. I offer, as a motorcyclist, higher speeds are proportional to higher injury such as “road rash” (polite term for heavy abrasion injury). Whether one approaches with PPE reduced speed is up to the rider. Modification. Under no circumstances should one modify power unless provided by the manufacturer.

I offer the comments for consideration not only for those of riding e-bikes, but those with kids now owning e-bikes. My view, restrictions should exist for riders under 16, especially the Class III. Older riders should respect the same rules governing any bicycle operation. Most important, we should, by example, reinforce safe riding. Conduct, not exclusion, is the better answer.

Upcoming Area Bike Events

October 24th & 25th: [Day of the Tread](#)

November 21st: [Tour de Tucson](#)

2026 NMTS Officers

President: Darcy Lewis

Vice-president: Lisa Olewine

Secretary: Barb Titus

Treasurer: Dianne Cress

Freewheel Editor: Chris Marsh

Ride & Mileage Chairman: Frank Bouchier

Webmaster: Rob Brueckner

Safety Chairman: Dave Olson

Bicycling Advocate 1: Mike Olewine

Bicycling Advocate 2: Tom Squier

At-Large Board Member 1: Bill Thompson

At-Large Board Member 2: Charlie Randour

Ride Leaders Wanted

Anyone who leads a club ride gets an NMTS coffee mug and an invitation to the next NMTS volunteer party. If you lead 5 rides you get a free membership! To volunteer to lead a ride go to the **Ride Submission Form** -

<https://www.nmts.org/membersOnly/submitRide.php> on the **Members Only** portion of the club website.

Welcome New Members

Michael Purtee

Mike Carpenter

Useful Web Links

One-Time Rides

[NMTS One-Time Rides](#)

Weekly Rides

[NMTS Weekly Rides](#)

Calendar

[NMTS Monthly Calendar](#)

Route Library

[NMTS Route Library](#)

Strava Club

[NMTS Strava Club](#)

Club Mileage

[Club Mileage \(members only\)](#)

Join/Renew

[Join/Renew your NMTS Membership](#)

Club Minutes

[July Board Meeting Minutes \(members only\)](#)

Biking in ABQ

[Bicycling in Albuquerque \(new city website\)](#)

Treasurer's Report

Membership

Renewing Members: 4

New Members: 3

Total Members: 146

Financial

Beginning Balance Septemner 1, 2026: \$9540.34

Total Income: \$221.84

Total Expenses: \$999.69

New Balance September 30, 2026: \$8762.49

Notes

- The Freewheel deadline is 6pm on the last day of the month. Please forward articles to the Freewheel Editor, email: nmtsfreewheel@gmail.com
- Please forward mileage information to Frank Bouchier, email: mileage chair or call 505-266-0323.
- Please send mileage ride sheets, change of address information and newsletter distribution to NMTS Treasurer, P.O. Box 1261, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1261 or email: info@nmts.org.
- Send web information to Rob Brueckner, email: info@nmts.org.
- Paid advertisements are accepted on a space available basis.
- Members may post free ads in The Freewheel. Please send the information to the Freewheel Editor, email: nmtsfreewheel@gmail.com
- To submit a new ride, navigate to members only section on the NMTS website.
- Send all other club inquires to email: info@nmts.org.



Email club inquires to info@nmts.org

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