

A proposal for the formation of

**<club name here>**

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Prepared by  
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## **First, a Thank You...**

As someone who has only moved to North Georgia in the past year or so, I can truly say that the work done by PaCO and GT members as well as all of the participants in the atlbike.org forums is outstanding. Chris in particular is to be congratulated for his gifts of passion and time.

I want to personally thank you all for what you have built so far and for the enjoyment that all of you have personally provided to me. Your support of our chosen sport in our area adds greatly to my own quality of life and I thank you for what you have done for me.

## Overview and Justification

atlbike.org is currently a loosely associated group of individuals with a common interest in athletic to aggressive cycling. It is because of this common bond that we share a sense of membership, of belonging to a community that shares common interests and common goals.

Membership in an organization or club suggests to the club that the member is willing to commit to providing a requisite level of support to the organization as a whole as well as its individual members. For the member, membership suggests acceptance, approval, a warm welcome, becoming part of a of a larger family and enjoyment of the privileges that membership provides; privileges that non-members do not enjoy.

atlbike.org has the foundation to achieve its stated goals, but lacks organization, formal leadership and the sense of responsibility that membership brings. I am therefore proposing that WACO be formalized as an organization, complete with members, meetings, leadership, advocacy and budget. This new community can become a point of strength for the cycling community in the area, advocating for our own agenda, improving the quality of life for the community and ultimately, having more and varied rides (isn't this what we are all about?).

To this end, I would like to offer the group a list of specific actions items that will establish atlbike.org as a true club. The six specific actions that I propose be taken are as follows:

- Establish meetings.
- Establish membership.
- Define a mission statement.
- Elect leadership.
- Establish membership in the League of American Bicyclists.
- Establish a bank account.

## Six Action Items to Establish a True Club

1. **Establish Regular Meetings:** A suitable location for monthly meetings should be found, a schedule established and the meeting location and time announced. I propose the Paulding County Recreation Department, Paulding County Library or similar non-commercial, governmental or civic entity.
2. **Establish Membership and Membership Guidelines:** Guidelines for club membership should be established including the following:
  - **Application:** A sample membership application is attached to this document and will serve as a waiver and limit of liability for the club, its officers, directors and members.
  - **Fee:** I propose that a fee for membership be set at \$20.00 per year for individuals, \$25.00 for families.
  - **Credentials:** Members will receive credentials in the form of a certificate and/or ID card, possibly also a bike sticker or car sticker.
  - **Benefits:** Membership will allow members to vote on club business at club meetings. Typical club benefits can also be supplied such as we can beg or borrow. Examples may include discounts at local bike shops, entry into club only events, etc.
  - **Database:** The database can be as simple as an excel spreadsheet and in-fact, should be this simple to start with. The idea is that responsibility for maintaining the database may, from time to time, pass from one club member to another.
3. **Define a Mission Statement:** A mission statement should be developed. I propose something simple, like the following:

*“The atlbike.org is an organization dedicated to the promotion of the general interest of cycling, to provide a cycling-related social forum and to encourage safe bicycling within our membership and the communities in which our members live, work and ride.”*

4. **Elect Club Officers and Directors:** Club officers and directors should be elected on a yearly basis. Nominations will be made for all positions at a monthly meeting, the nominations announced to the members at large and elections held at the next monthly meeting.

### Officers will include:

- **President:** presiding over meetings, overseeing the club at large, authority to sign for the club, responsible for relationships with peer clubs and umbrella organizations such as The League of American Bicyclists or similar.
- **Vice President:** Typical duties of a VP. Chairman of the finance committee.

- **Secretary:** Record keeping, meeting minutes, etc.
- **Treasurer:** bookkeeper, etc.

**Directors may include:**

- **Events Coordinator:** Organizing, overseeing and recruiting help for large events such as century rides and other event open to the public.
  - **Advocacy:** Working with local, state and federal governmental agencies to further the sport of recreational cycling in general and club agenda in particular.
  - **Education/Safety:** Working with club members and the community at large to further education and safety issues relating to cycling. Organizing training classes, ride leader seminars, etc.
5. **Establish Membership in Umbrella Organization:** Most big clubs are under the umbrella of The League of American Bicyclists. Located in Washington DC and on the web at <http://www.bikeleague.org> the LAB provides guidance to bike clubs throughout the US. The LAB can provide state specific legal forms, insurance for organizations or for special events and other services invaluable to a growing club. See <http://www.bikeleague.org/support/affiliateyourclub.htm> for information on becoming affiliated with the league.
6. **Establish a Bank Account:** A bank account should be established for club use. I propose the use of a community oriented bank in the Paulding County/Hiram area such as UCBI, Community Trust Bank or similar.

## **Summary and Conclusion**

I believe that in order to support cycling in our area to the extent that we all wish, establishment of a true club is required. All else is predicated on the establishment of a club; a framework and foundation upon which all else is built.

Let's build a club! Build it and they will come! People will want to get involved, to meet other people, ride socially, get healthy, ask for our expertise, attend our rides and picnics and barbeques, lead their own rides and all the other things that come with being part of and a member in a club. I think everything else will fall in place if we... all of us... build a true club.

## **Contact Information**

Anyone wishing to discuss this document may reach me at the contact information provided below;

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