

2013 MTRAC Annual Meeting held 1 May, 2013

MTRAC officers present included Scott Stevens, Jamie Miernik and George Hamilton. Greg Dukeman was unable to attend due to pending SLS deliverables he was responsible for and Mr. Herndon (RSA) contributed by correcting the MTRAC member emails on the Army side. Many other members stopped by the SHE Day table.

Recent Activity:

MARS Team Redstone Alliance for Cycling (MTRAC) held a meeting at SHE Day and ran a booth all day with an outreach table and a great interactive bicycle generator (second version, bought using Sustainability funding) which was mounted on a stationary bike donated by an anonymous benefactor. The bike was excessed due to an electronics failure deemed not cost effective to fix. The bike was modified and integrated using repurposed parts, and it promotes energy conservation, physical fitness, bicycling and recycling. The bike generator allowed participants to feel the difference (via pedaling effort) in power required to run incandescent, compact fluorescent (CFL) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, all of which had equivalent light output (lumens) yielding an “apples to apples” comparison.

The table display and multiple easel mounted posters included graphics showing good routes to commute to work at MSFC, and we distributed full color maps (provide by the city of Huntsville) showing the signed bike routes and greenways in the Huntsville area. In addition we handed out “rules of the road” condensed versions of the Alabama code as pertains to cyclists, and reminded cyclists of the Redstone Arsenal rules requiring the wearing of a helmet and a reflective vest when cycling on Post. We also provided informational flyers on the local bike club (Spring City Cycle Club) and the statewide bike & pedestrian advocacy group AlaBike.

MTRAC distributed May Cycling Events schedules for National Bike Month which features other local cycling events and those above. MTRAC collected 25 new emails of NASA cyclists interested in MTRAC. There are nearly 500 persons who have signed up to the MTRAC cycling email distribution list from NASA and Army employees.

Upcoming MTRAC Activities:

- 1) Our big event for the year is the 12th Annual Director's Tour d'Arsenal ride (about 20 miles) coming up on 21 May. Putting on this ride requires close coordination with the Garrison for access to the Army Test Area 1 (TA1). The ride roughly follows the historical railroad route around the southern part of the arsenal, making a loop along Dodd, Buxton, and Patton Roads and features a trip through the Army Test Area 1 (TA1) and the NASA Test Area. The route returns north along Patton Rd, well after most traffic has left the arsenal. MTRAC also coordinated with Kent Criswell and Steve Doering of Center Operations for road sweeping (debris removal) prior to the event.
- 2) MTRAC has planned & will support a bike ride and children's Bike Rodeo at the MSFC Picnic on 8 June. The rodeo participants will learn about proper directional signaling while riding a bike, rules of the road, and do some skill drills like riding a path around orange traffic cones to gain confidence and cycling skills.

Periodic MTRAC Activities:

- 1) Give an annual Bicycle Safety briefing to the SHE committee during bike month (May).
- 2) Advocates for safe bicycle routes both into and inside the Arsenal.
- 3) Serves as the proactive voice for the MARS Team Redstone bicycling community.
- 4) Serves as the focal point for bike infrastructure improvements such as acquiring and locating racks.

Minutes compiled by George Hamilton, MTRAC president and submitted to Lisa Dennis.