

Insights from our Member Survey

In last month's newsletter, we asked for your input via a Member Survey. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed your thoughts. Your feedback helps to align the prioritization and planning done through the GEARS Board and Committees.

Participation in this year's survey reflected a snapshot of our overall membership and helped to highlight areas where you'd like to see clarification or additions to our offerings. Here are a few key topics that came through across multiple responses:

Pace

We heard various concerns or questions regarding ride pace and divergences from expectations. We understand that our pace categories for gravel rides may need refinement. [Current info and best practices about Rides can be found on our website.](#) We're actively addressing additional questions and in collaboration with the Ride Committee will provide updates on a clearer and more regular basis.

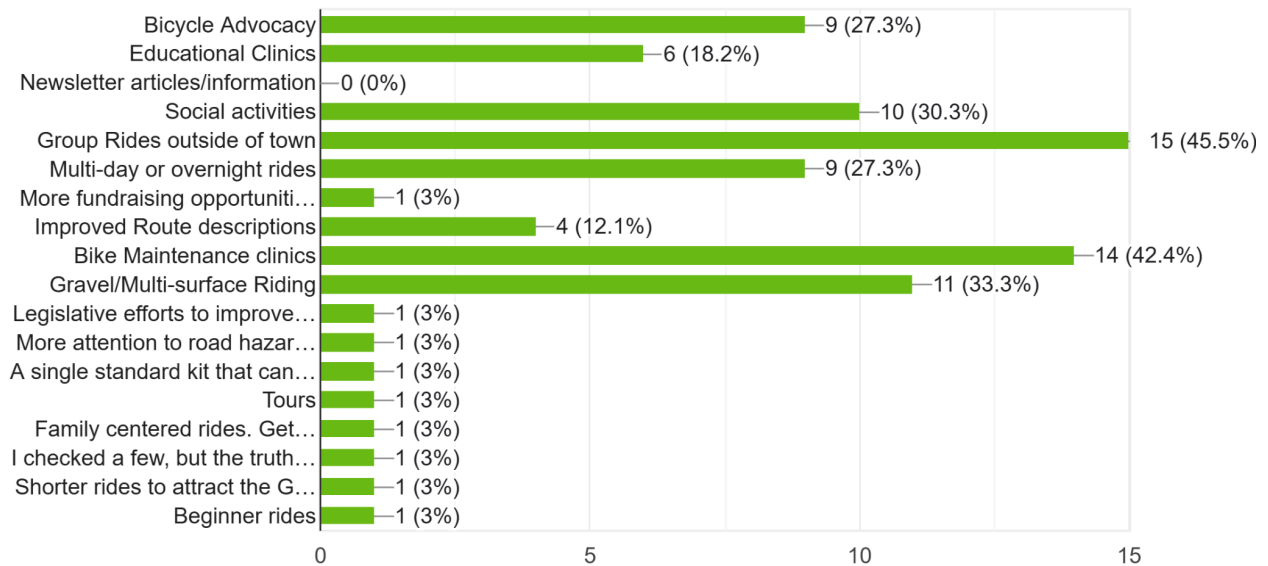
Brevity

Many of you would like to see more short or family rides offered. We want to offer more too! Your responses helped to call out the fact that our ride offerings tend to ramp up in epicness through spring and summer, going longer as the weather peaks. We're looking to institute a more regular cadence of ride offerings that welcome newcomers on a consistent basis and satisfy the needs of folks who lack the time or simply are not up for a 40 miler.

Additionally, we collaborate with other local organizations who also offer shorter community rides—like [Butts on Bikes Rides](#), who are hosting a St. Patrick's Day Eve ride this Sunday at 1pm! We are here to help connect our members and local riders to [ride opportunities in the area](#) that may extend beyond the scope of our immediate activities. We welcome you to [contact us](#) with any specific questions you have.

What would you like to see more of from GEARS? (Please check all that apply)

33 responses



Off-bike offerings

From social activities (like a movie night) to maintenance clinics and greater prominence in bike advocacy, your responses were sprinkled with a wish list of cycling-adjacent group activities. Attendance has been stellar at most of our special programs, this past Wednesday's being no exception. We love to hear your ideas and will spur growth in all these areas. As above, we'll also take initiatives to amplify GEARS collaboration with other local groups as well like BEST (whose [monthly happy hours](#) we recommend all you advocacy advocates attend).

Ride varieties

Gravel rides continue to be popular, but you told us you'd also like to see mixed terrain rides that are on the easier side. A women's ride has been requested—look for updates to come on that one soon!

We also hear your desire to see more variety in our out-of-town rides that might require a drive to the starting point. Our annual Row River Trail and Newport rides are so popular we are not likely to eliminate them, but adding options is something we'd love to do and help everyone explore the greater Oregon area on two wheels.

Metrics and more... or less?

Data drives some of us. But there's so much more to cycling. We hear from some of you that from our website to our chatter, GEARS can seem like numbers and

milestones are what it's all about. We do love to celebrate riders with awards and are truly inspired by those we celebrate. We've taken care to also recognize members for other things too, like Volunteer of the Year, and highlight members' adventurous experiences in these newsletter and special programs because we concur, there's more than metrics at the heart of our passions and our community.

Your input communicates what you care about and helps us be more mindful of this, so thanks again to all who have contributed to this and past surveys. We'll continue to look for opportunities to strike a softer balance in how we present as an organization and welcome more riders, who ride for more reasons.

Anyway, here's another data viz!

What changes would you like to see in GEARS?

33 responses

