

Customization Guide for Club Rides iPhone App

version 1.1

Club Rides comes preloaded with the yearly schedule for the Rochester Bicycling Club. But it can show your club's schedule too!

The only thing you have to do for Club Rides to show the rides of your cycling club is create a file containing all the rides that your club has and a file that contains the scheduled rides for this year, then finally put these two files on the web somewhere and tell Club Rides where that is. Here is how.

The rides file

Club Rides expects information about all your club's rides to be in a file named ride-index.plist. For each ride this file stores the ride number, name of the ride, distance, hilliness, vertical gain, street where the ride starts, the city, latitude, longitude.

Ride number

This is the only required field and must be unique for each ride. Club Rides uses this number to find the detail info about a ride from the schedule file (see later).

Name

A descriptive name by which your club members know this ride.

Distance

How far are we going?

Distance and vertical data for all rides should be either metric or standard. In Club Rides' Preference view you can set which it is.

Hilliness

Most clubs have some difficulty rating for their rides. RBC, for example, uses indicators like “Small hills”, “moderate” and so on. Western Wheelers uses a numeric system. That information goes in this field.

Vertical

The vertical gain of the ride in either feet or meters.

Street

Which street or landmark is the ride starting from?

City

Which city, town is the ride starting from?

Latitude

The latitude in degrees of the ride's starting location. Used to draw a Google Map.

Longitude

The longitude in degrees of the ride's starting location. Used to draw a Google Map.

Making your own ride index file

The easiest way to make your own ride-index.plist file is by starting from a spreadsheet. You are encouraged to take RBC's ride spreadsheet as starting point (<http://www.onno.com/cycling/club-rides/rbc/ride-index.ods>), in OpenOffice format. If you really need it in a different format then email me and ask me nicely).

After you inserted your club's data into the spreadsheet's columns, first save this spreadsheet. Then convert it to a “.csv” file (via File -> Save As in OpenOffice, select File Type: Text CSV), set both the field delimiter and text delimiter to nothing, and save the file.

Open the “.csv” file in your text editor of choice and paste the contents of <http://www.onno.com/cycling/club-rides/header.plist> at the top and the contents of <http://www.onno.com/cycling/club-rides/footer.plist> at the bottom. If in the previous step you also saved the column header information (number, name etc) then you will want to delete that line first.

Save this file and name it ride-index.plist!

The schedule file

The schedule.plist file lists which club rides are scheduled for when. It stores the date and start time of a ride, the ride number, and who leads it.

Date

The date this ride is held. Format: mm/dd/yyyy.

Day

The 3-letter indication of which weekday this ride is held (Sun, Sat, etc).

Time

The starting time of the ride. Format mm:hh AM/PM.

Number

The unique number of the scheduled ride. This is an index into the ride-index.plist file to find the ride's details.

Type

Some clubs have recurring rides that are part of series. For example, RBC has “Slow and Easy” rides, “Sweep” rides and so on. That information goes here.

Leader

The name of the ride leader.

Phone

The leader's phone number.

Email

The leader's email address.

Doing it

Indicates whether the user plans to do this ride. Should be “no” when creating the file. This field is adjusted appropriately on the user's device.

Did it

Indicates whether the user did do this ride. Should be “no” when creating the file. This field is adjusted appropriately on the user's device.

Making your own schedule file

This works basically the same as for the ride-index file. Feel free to use RBC's schedule spreadsheet as starting point: <http://www.onno.com/cycling/club-rides/rbc/2010.ods>

Make sure to name the resulting file schedule.plist.

Profiles

Club Rides can show elevation profiles for each ride (how much climbing are we going to do?).

Typically elevation profiles can be generated by recording a ride with a GPS-enabled bicycle computer (your iPhone even). To save computing time, Club Rides does not (yet) generate the image from a .gpx file itself; instead it looks for “.gif” images in specific locations.

Club Rides displays a ride's profile in two places: in the Single Ride view and in the Profile view which reached by tapping on “Hilliness” in the Scheduled Ride view.

For rides for which you have a profile, you need to create two images:

- profile-small-<ridenumber>.gif
- profile-large-<ridenumber>.gif

The first should be 275x135 pixels and the second 320x360 pixels.

See <http://www.onno.com/cycling/club-rides/rbc/profiles/> for examples.

Probably you won't have profiles for all your club's rides. Don't worry! As your collection grows just put the images on the web and Club Rides will find them automatically.

An easy way to create those elevation profiles is to use the GXP2ProfileImage application which you can find at <http://www.onno-consulting.com/software/>

GPX2ProfileImage takes in “.gpx” files or “.tcx” files and creates the two profile images. GPX2ProfileImages accepts “.gpx” files directly the Garmin Edge 605/705 devices, or those exported from ClueTrust's LoadMyTracks, and “.tcx” files exported from Montebello Software's Ascent and Garmin's Training Center application.

In the Save As dialog that pops up after clicking the “Generate Club Ride profiles”-button enter just the ride number - for example 119 - as the file name. GPX2ProfileImage will then create profile-small-119.gif and profile-large-119.gif.

Putting it all on the web for Club Rides to find

In the Preferences view in Club Rides, change the “Where to look for data” text field to point to the folder or directory on the web where you put the rides-index.plist and schedule.plist files. For example, <http://www.onno.com/cycling/club-rides/ww/> for the Western Wheelers' schedule. In that folder or directory Club Rides will look for:

- ride-index.plist
- schedule.plist
- profiles (optional folder containing profile images for the rides)

Once you've uploaded your files then launch Club Rides, go the Prefs view and enter the url in the text field. Club Rides will load the data from your two spreadsheets. If not everything goes to plan then use the “Restore Defaults” button in this screen to reset everything to RBC's information and try again.

If all looks good then tell your club members the url and “schedule, ride, and repeat!”

That's it!