



The GREASE RAG

March 2017



Bike line up at recent Flea Off Market

Upcoming Events

March 27, 6:30-9:30 PM, Bike fix 'em up

[Join us](#) for camaraderie, snacks, and bike repair at the shop for another fix 'em up day. These days help us get bikes in condition for sale at the shop and various events. All levels of experience welcome. This is a great way to get in some sweat equity hours too!

April 4, 5:30-7 PM, Bike Kick Off

Join FCCBikeworks, B4L, Bike Louisville, and other bike-related organizations at the [annual bike kick off](#) at the [Highlands Community Campus](#). This is a chance to learn more about bikes, bike facilities and plans, and make your opinion heard.

April 15, 9 AM - 1:30 PM, Schnitzelburg Farmers Market

Did you know that Schnitzelburg is getting its very own Saturday Farmers Market? We're really excited, and we'll be there to talk about the shop and sell bikes. If you can lend a hand for a couple of hours, please sign up for set up, market time, or breakdown [here](#).

April 18, Mayor's Give a Day and Kentucky Gives Day

Each year, Mayor Greg Fischer invites citizens to give back to their community by volunteering at a local organization. This year, FCCBikeworks invites you to come by the shop for a BBQ and some shop work. Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) and your email for more details soon.

If you can't make the volunteer day, please consider donating to the shop on Kentucky Gives Day [here](#). Your donation can make a difference by helping make bikes available at a reasonable price in our community.

June 24, Bike Beyond tour comes through Louisville

Bike Beyond, a group of about 22 riders, is biking from New York City to San Francisco this summer to raise money and awareness for Type 1 Diabetes. They will be coming through Louisville June 24th, and are looking for places to stay. If you have an extra bed or couch available to share with some of the cyclists, please contact danieljohnkel@gmail.com and let him know. See more information on the ride [here](#).

Shop Talk

501c3 status

Falls City Community Bike Works now has 501c3 status! Formerly, we were sponsored by B4L, but we are now our own non-profit entity. The status resulted from a lot of hard work, research, and paperwork, especially by co-founder, Bella Christensen.

Membership dues

Membership dues, whether paid in cash or in sweat equity, are the backbone of FCCBikeworks and make it possible for us to accomplish work in the shop, pay the rent, and purchase necessities. Now that we have a dedicated membership software program, we'll be able to remind members to renew before their membership lapses. Currently, almost all existing members who have not renewed in the last three months have expired membership. If this is you, please renew your membership today. It's easy to do by [visiting our website](#), and it makes a big difference in our efforts.

2017 donations

Your Falls City Community Bike Works is now two years old and is supported by over 400 volunteers and community members. During that time, we've been able to offer hands-on teaching through open shop hours and workshops, reasonably priced bikes, and share bike repair knowledge with outside organizations to enable people to ride and maintain their bikes.

In 2017, we'd like to hire a new shop coordinator and conduct more workshops and events, but we can't do it without you. Please [make a donation](#) if you can. Your community bike shop thanks you!

Volunteers

We need you! If you have time to volunteer, FCCBikeworks welcomes assistance in bike repair, shop clean-up, special events, or administrative duties. Volunteering is one way to [become a member](#) at FCCBikeworks, learn more, share your knowledge, and get to know people in our community.

We now have an [orientation checklist](#) for those who are new to bike repair. The purpose of this is to provide a structure for volunteers to learn about bike repair at their own pace with dedicated help from our mechanics. If you're interested, please contact us by [email](#) or via [Facebook](#), or stop by the shop during open hours.

Membership options.

We have hourly and annual membership options. All options include access to shop equipment, the opportunity to buy discounted parts, and the expert assistance of our volunteer mechanics!

An [application](#) and waiver must be on file before using shop equipment or services. Payments may be made online.

Recent Events

February 7 - March 14. JCPS Adult Education "Bike Rx" program

FCCB participated in a bike repair class offered through JCPS' "Louisville Learns" program. Bike mechanic Jim Phipps led six students through bike maintenance and repair.

Here is what one student had to say about his experience:

"This year's 'Best Louisville Bargain' was the Jefferson County Public School and Fall City Community BikeWorks "Bike Rx" 6 week course. A hands on introduction to fixing tires, wheels, bearings, gears, and brakes on your bike or for someone in need. Included was access to the FCCB shop, tools, and volunteer assistance on Logan St., confidence to do it yourself, and a boost for the city's fitness, community, and transportation." ~Bob Uhl, student

February Fix 'em up

We had around six volunteers for our February bike fix 'em up which allowed us to get 7-8 bikes ready for sale. Thanks for all the help; we love our volunteers!

Louisville Sustainability Forum

Jane Halliday dropped by the monthly meeting of the [Louisville Sustainability Forum](#) to talk about FCCB. The forum's mission is to promote sustainability and foster community. Attendees asked questions about how FCCB serves individuals in the community, the kind of fun dynamic we have in the shop, and how our efforts promotes bike re-usage and alternative transportation.

March 4, Flea Off Market

One of our favorite events to work is the Flea Off Market! We get to talk about bikes, introduce people to our mission and organization, and sell some bikes. This time, we sold around \$900 in bikes at the market, plus, we sold three more the following Wednesday to visitors who had dropped by our booth.

SHOP HOURS
SUN: 1-4 PM
WED: 6:30-9:30 PM

Meet the FCCB Board of Directors: Samantha Rivera



We welcomed several new members to FCCB's Board of Directors in January. One of our new members, Samantha Rivera, talked to us last September about her love of bikes and the community she found at FCCB.

How long have you been part of FCCBikeworks and what do you do there?

I have been going to FCCBikeworks since mid July when I donated an old bike. I got a tour and fell in love with the idea of the establishment and began volunteering the following day. I am currently learning the tricks of the trade in hopes of becoming a mechanic for the shop someday. I try to step in and lend a hand to others that need it and do some cleaning and organization from time to time currently.

You recently completed volunteer training (the first to do so!). What did that involve and what did you think about it?

My orientation involved 8 hours worth of tasks to complete. The most beneficial part of orientation was shadowing a mechanic. I got some great pointers. Nik [Mihaelj Ross], whom I shadowed, was a phenomenal teacher. I also had to break down a bike and take the parts to their respective spots in the back room. Having me hunt out the appropriate spot for each part was a great way to familiarize me with what was what, and where to find each part. I also had to spend an hour sorting and patching inner tubes which, of course, is very important in case you have to patch a tube on the road. I also had to spend time cleaning and organizing in order to complete orientation. I think having a "todo list" to complete for starters is a great thing to do. It's like having training wheels before taking on more responsibility of being a volunteer. No pun intended!

What inspired you to get involved with a community bike shop?

I adore riding my bike. I really wanted to learn about my bike and ways to make my biking experience better through maintenance and knowing what types of bikes are best for different terrain. I really just want to learn as much as I can. The thing that inspires me is the support. This place is my church. The sense of community is profound and for someone who needed to find their niche, I'd say I hit the bulls eye.

What kind of bike(s) do you ride?

I currently own just one bike. I say it that way because I realize that bikers are all about the whole n+1 rule. You'll always have a bike and at least one more. I ride a single speed commuter bike built for me and I ride it like mad.

Do you ride for fun/tour/commute/any or all of the above?

I tend to commute with my bike so long as my destination is within a 10 mile radius. I also enjoy the empowering and freeing nature that comes with it. Sometimes I want to be challenged and hit hills I probably shouldn't. The wind in my hair and the zone I get into is just invigorating. What activities do you enjoy doing outside of biking? I love spending time with family and the few solid friends I have. That's important to me. One thing I'm slowly putting back in my life is my love for music. Maybe you'll hear more of me in the future!

What advice do you offer fellow cyclists who come into the shop to learn?

Don't be intimidated. This is not the place for that whatsoever. I can't tell you the amount of times I talked myself out of checking out the shop because of potential judgment for being ignorant or for being a female. There aren't many places that I feel are welcoming, at least not genuinely or unconditionally. This place stole my heart, not to be sappy or anything.

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