



# IVW

Illinois Valley Wheelmen's Newsletter

February 1991

## TANDEM RIDERS UNITE!

The Midwest Tandem Rally is definitely the class act of the multi-day rides. There's no sleeping on hard ground and packing up a soggy tent. Something else the experienced rider will miss is standing in line for a heart stopping cold shower. In spite of these obvious shortcomings, it is a very family oriented event, which attracted over 250 couples, a few triples, and numerous Buggers last year.

The 1991 MTR will headquarter at a resort near Oconomowoc miles west of Milwaukee. It takes place over the labor day weekend and is followed by a supported tour. So why all the advance notice? Well, it seems there is a growing number of tandems within our own I.V.W., so let's unite and have a good representation at the MTR. Some of the bigger tandem groups vie with each other for sponsorship of future rallies. They also dress for the closing banquet according to their chosen club name and mascot. The Couples on Wheels and the Chicago Area Tandems were the major contenders last year. We Peoria area tandem people should be able to come up with something to rival the Cows and Cats.

By writing this I've volunteered to serve as a contact for anyone interested in more information, in ride sharing, and most importantly for the collection of ideas for whatever kind of a group we can muster. I can now suggest joining the Tandem Club of America by sending \$10.00 per couple to: Tandem Club of America, M. Boyd & J. Allison-Treasurers, 19 Lakeside Dr. N.W., Medford, New Jersey 08055. You'll get the TCA magazine, rally information and lots of interesting double talk.

George Dudley (692-7076)

## INSIDE DINO'S MIND

Well this month brings us all a little closer to the riding season and I'm assuming that all of you who do not ride year round are getting anxious to hit the road, me too! I've resolved to losing weight, getting in shape and re-mounting the wheels for more riding this new year.

Let's say a word of prayer for the men and women who are serving our country in the Middle East. I know of 2 sons of IVW members who are there, and we all wish they and the others are safe, and can get the thing over with and safely return home as soon as possible.

I'd like to welcome back Sam Joslin's writings to the Newsletter after a short absence. I have always respected Sam for his literary and artistic talents, and sincerely thank him for his donations of wit and wisdom to the pages of this Pulitzer Prize calibre rag.

Also, thanks goes to Gary Hartzler, our new Mailing Superintendent, for getting the Newsletter out efficiently and quickly.

The new Ride Committee has got some super rides scheduled, so get it ready!

Dean Grethey, Editor

## BASICS OF BICYCLING SEMINAR

I am planning a program to teach basic cycling skills to riders (&prospective riders) in the Peoria area. I feel this is a great way for members of the IVW to share their many miles of experience and get new riders started down the right track (and safely over RR tracks). My general ideas thus far are as follows:

- Basic seminar is a 1/2 or one day program. Perhaps 1-2 hours of discussion followed by some "hands on" riding exercises to practice basic cycling skills. Topics stressed will include how to safely share the road, how to deal with common road hazards, basic equipment ins&outs.
- Seminar to be offered 2-3 times early in the riding season (perhaps Sat. afternoons in May/June).
- Offer beginners' rides (perhaps on day after seminar..Sun. afternoon).
- We may link up with the Peoria Park District to help promote & offer input. Prospective site is Safety Town.
- Offer some "fun stuff" at seminar (give aways, contests,...).

Think of this as a grass roots approach to improving bicycling opportunities for all of us. Safe riders encourage motorists to treat bicyclists with respect. A responsible, enthusiastic, and large community of riders will get the attention of those who put your tax dollars to work to plan & maintain roads.

I welcome all input from IVW members to help plan this program and make it a reality. I would like to get our ideas outlined this month.

Eric Hutchison 685-3921.

## FROM THE RIDE COMMITTEE

The ride committee is going to operate the Pedal-In this year, which will be held June 1st. The ride will again start from Wildlife Prairie Park, and will be titled later this spring. Wildlife Prairie Park's theme animal this year is the River Otter, so if any of you members have a catchy theme for the ride, I'm sure the committee would appreciate hearing from you. We all need to start baking cookies (freeze them) for the ride as home-made cookies will be the in thing.

Diane's Ride is scheduled for September 21st, and will need volunteers for its operation. Mark your calender now!

## WEEKDAY RIDE SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY** 8:30 a.m. at Washington Square in Washington. Show and Go with varying distances and speeds. Please park off of the square on side streets and back parking lots.

### FEBRUARY SUNDAY BREAKFAST RIDES

- FEB. 3** Doc's Mt. Hawley Inn, N. Knoxville, Peoria 8:30 a.m.  
**FEB. 10** Pleasant Hill Antique Mall, East Peoria, Il. 8:30 a.m.  
**FEB. 17** Queenwood Family Restaurant (formerly Barb's) at Field Shopping Center, Morton 8:30 a.m.  
**FEB. 24** Ernies Restaurant, Derby St. Pekin, 8:30 a.m.

### MARCH SUNDAY BREAKFAST RIDES

- MAR. 3** Denny's Restaurant, N. Sterling Ave. , Peoria 8:30 a.m.  
**MAR. 10** Newell's Rest. East Peoria, Ill. 8:30 a.m.  
**MAR. 17** Bob Evans Restaurant, Big Hollow Rd., Peoria 8:30 a.m.  
**MAR. 24** American Legion in Delevan, Il. 8:30 a.m.  
**MAR. 31** EASTER SUNDAY SHOW N GO. Morton Field Shopping Center

**SUNDAY'S THROUGHOUT THE WINTER** (or until further notice) **STARTING AT 11:00 A.M. AT GROVELAND GRADE SCHOOL THERE WILL BE A WINTER RIDE.** Usually it is decided at breakfast that day whether they will ride or not.

### NEW 1991 RIDE COMMITTEE IS FORMED

Julie and Bill Semmens (693-9388), Gregg and Liz Benning (243-5206) and Glen and Marty Thompson (685-4571) will head the 1991 Ride committee. Anyone who has suggestions or would like to lead a ride should contact any of these people and give them your name and what you would like to have or lead. Do it soon so you can get a good weekend.

**GET INVOLVED, LEAD A RIDE, IT'S FUN!**

**New Rides • More social rides • Special couples Trips**

## THE NEW 1991 I.V.W. RIDE SEASON LOOKS EXCITING

At the January Monthly Meeting the new ideas of the new ride committee were presented and lookout folks, it promises to be an exciting year for the I.V.W. There will be all sorts of new rides, including; a Sunday afternoon "Smell the roses" ride, a thursday evening "WIMP" ride for the ladies, special "Ride of the Month" weekend rides, and much more. Back again will be the usual Tuesday and Wednesday evening rides, Bill Wright's ride from Pioneer park, the Saturday morning Show-n-Go and other old standby's. The Committee is making a concerted emphasis on making the rides for all types of riders and placing the major emphasis on satisfying the tourist riders. So, get the cleaner and oil out and the bike from the garage and get ready for a little bit of warm weather and the great new 1991 riding season, it'll be here before you know it!

## TIRE TRACKS

For economic advice, I'm more inclined to read Thoreau than any one currently being paid to spout nonsense. For one thing, Thoreau is readable. I still haven't managed to plow through Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*. Secondly, in Thoreau, I found a kindred spirit -- I'm sure he would have been an excellent bicycle rider (had any existed).

In *Walden*, Thoreau demonstrated the economics of two forms of travel - foot and train. He described a theoretical race between himself on foot and his companion on a train. In his example, a train trip to Fitchburg would cost roughly one day's wages. As a result, the train traveler would spend most of the race just earning the money to buy a ticket. Thoreau, on foot, would start immediately, and ultimately, beat the train to Fitchburg. Indeed, extending this argument, Thoreau concluded the pedestrian would win the race regardless of distance.

So, here we are in the twentieth century. Could a cyclist win a transcontinental race against a car driver? Sure. The cyclist spends a couple of weeks to pay for the bicycle and takes off. Not only would the driver have to pay for the car, but he/she would also have to work during the trip to pay for gas. Depending on the cost of the bicycle, the cyclist has a good chance of passing even the pedestrian, disproving Thoreau's contention that "the swiftest traveler is he that goes afoot."

Of course, Thoreau didn't count on the American desire to get something for nothing (even if that's impossible). With dealer incentives and the installment plan, the car driver has a better chance. The driver can even charge the gas. Of course, once the race is over, the driver is stuck with the car.

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Winter. We escaped the brunt of it in December. We only had to contend with the failing light. But then came December 22 and the winter solstice. Sure the days got longer, but we switched dance partners and got Miss January. Ice, snow, slush and cold. However, we've had it worse. How many remember the winter of '79 when the temperatures hit 22 degrees below zero (real temperature, not wind chill)?

Roger Welch of CBS would say of that winter "It was so cold, lawyers kept their hands in their own pockets."

Bicycle magazines publish articles on how to dress for the cold. The only problem these articles display is the inability to account for reader ignorance. For instance, these articles always mention the amount of heat a person can lose through his/her head if a hat isn't worn. Unfortunately, the hat isn't discussed in relation to the rest of the clothing decisions. I knew a Sierra Club member who one claimed he could run in the cold, naked, as long as he was wearing a hat.

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As this is written, armies are clashing in the night and around the clock. Before the conflict, it was pointed out that Iraq was armed with weapons supplied by the countries now aligned against it.

Now, French pilots go to fight against French planes in the desert war. But the French have been in this situation before--another way, another irony.

In the months leading to the battle for Dien Bien Phu in 1954, thousands of Viet Mihn porters pushed bicycles loaded with up to 500 lbs. of ammunition and supplies through the jungle to various staging areas. Despite heavy bombing, the French couldn't break the supply lines. The French eventually lost Dien Bien Phu and soon left Indo-China. The bicycles used by the Viet Mihn? You guessed it. Bicycles made by Peugeot.

Sam Joslin

## SOCIAL CHAIR / MEETING NEWS

We've had a number of good suggestions surface on how to improve attendance at our regular monthly meetings. Right now, we're missing the people (or person) to turn these ideas into action.

Here's how things stand: The board has gone ahead and reserved Safety Town on our traditional meeting dates (4th thurs each month). However, the plan for meetings is completely flexible. We can try different locations (one suggestion is at a restaurant), different dates (perhaps link meeting with a regular club ride), or whatever. The next scheduled meeting date is FEB 28; a speaker/program has not been selected. Tentative plans are to have the SWAP MEET in MARCH.

It's basically a clean slate, folks. Eric Hutchison (685-3921) will gladly take suggestions for programs; he will VERY GLADLY help anyone who wishes to set up a meeting schedule.

## NEW NEWSLETTER HELPERS

We've had a great response on the request for volunteers to help staple & bulk mail the newsletter in '91. Gary Hartzler is currently handling the task, but we plan to get more folks involved throughout the year by rotating the job around. Many thanks to all those (in addition to Gary) who volunteered to help out: Bill Clark, George Dudley, Sheila Hansen, Bill Wright.

## PEORIA'S BICYCLING HISTORY

The book BICYCLE FEVER written by Steven Straight has just been published by Ruppman Marketing Services, Inc. in Peoria. This book, complete with rare photos, paints an excellent picture of bicycling in the "Central City" during cycling's early heyday (1800's). In those days, Peoria was a nationally recognized bicycling center complete with 8 cycling clubs, 5 cycle manufacturers, and a 1/2 mile race track (complete with large grandstands) in Lakeview Park. Informative and entertaining, copies are on sale now at Vitesse & Russell's Bike Shops and Junction City Book Store.

## IVW MAP BOOKLETS

Members of the ride committee have completed the first ever two-wheeled guide to the Greater Peoria Area. This humble collection of 9 bicycling route maps offers an assortment of ride lengths and starting locations around the Peoria area. Several maps contain more than one marked route. The map booklets will be sold to IVW members for \$2.00 each, non-members fee is \$3.00. For mail order, send check or M.O. payable to the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, to; Eric Hutchison, 918 W. Wilcox, Peoria, IL 61604. The map booklets are also available at Vitesse Cycle Shop in Peoria Hts. and Russell's Cycle World in Washington, IL.

## NEW PEORIA - E. PEORIA BRIDGE TO OFFER IMPROVED BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

— Five foot wide shoulders & sidewalks planned. —  
When the new Robert H. Michel Bridge opens in Oct '92, the downtown river crossing will be simpler and safer for Peoria area bicyclists & pedestrians. Our new bridge will feature 5 foot of paved shoulder and 5 foot of raised sidewalk for both east & west bound traffic. Also, unlike the existing Franklin St. Bridge, the bicycle/pedestrian lanes will span the full length from Adams St. (Peoria) to Washington St. (E.Peoria) - with no staircases. In addition, curb cuts for wheelchair access will be provided at each end. More space for auto traffic is planned as well. The Bob Michel will have (4) 12' wide lanes. Vane-type drainage grates will be used at shoulders (bicycle safe).

— No more draw bridge blues.—  
Peoria area travelers can also look forward to no more travel delays due to passing barge traffic (or repairs to the Franklin's tired structure). The new Michel Bridge will be stationary and tall enough to provide adequate head room for Illinois River traffic. This means no bridge-up-breaks for the land-lubbers, but the increased height of the bridge will require us fossil-fuel-free types to "pay the ferryman" a bit more than before. The steepest climb on the Bob Michel will be on the E. Peoria side but is generally less than other area bridges. For those of us who haven't done much riding in Illinois mountains lately (no grade=effort reference), here's a few figures for comparison:

	Max. Grade (rise/run X100%)
Cedar St. Bridge (Peoria)	4.95 %
Rte. 9 bridge (Pekin)	4.85 %
<u>New R.H. Michel Bridge</u>	<u>4.64 %</u>

While the new bridge will be less steep than other nearby Illinois River spans, cyclists must still exercise caution (along with their quadriceps). Single-file riding and generous amounts of braking on descents is always good advice, but especially on bridges. ("Ditching" takes on a whole new perspective).

— Where to get off (&on). —  
Routing and access points to the new bridge are shown in the attached birds-eye-view. On the Peoria side, the Bob Michel will still link up with Wm. Kumpf Blvd., but it will now touch down at Adams St. instead of Washington St. After construction, both Washington & Water St. will pass under the Peoria side of the bridge. To the east bank, the Bob Michel will link up with East Peoria's Washington St. near the industrial spur & the Caterpillar plant. A frontage road will also be added to provide convenient access to river-side sections of Camp St., Washington St., and Cat River Rd. At this time, no dedicated routes are planned to link the new bridge with Peoria area bicycle trails.

The Franklin will have completed over 80 years of "sit-ups" for Peoria area travelers when it rests for good in 1992. IDOT plans to keep the old boy going strong & open to traffic until the new bridge is completed.

Thanks to the following Illinois Dept. of Transportation Employees for providing helpful info & diagrams.  
Charley Barton - District Bureau Chief of Design  
Bruce Funston - Senior Squad Leader  
Alan Randell - Designer.

Eric H.

## ILLINOIS STATE RECOGNITION FOR CYCLISTS' NEEDS

— ILLINOIS BICYCLISTS CAN HELP PROMOTE CAUSE

Editor's note: The following is information from the League of Illinois Bicyclists, a state-wide cycling advocacy group coordinated by the League of American Wheelmen & the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation.

Good news!! The Illinois Interagency Bikeways Council recently completed a study of bicycling needs in the state. The study represents a large step forward for cycling in Illinois. Plans are underway to implement two of the fourteen recommendations: PUBLICATION OF A STATE-WIDE BICYCLE MAP and the CONSIDERATION OF BICYCLE ACCOMMODATIONS IN ALL FUTURE HIGH-WAY PROJECTS.

In order to get more information about these and the Council's other recommendations concerning safety education, rails to trails, and bicycle promotion, WRITE OR CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR. Ask for a copy of the REPORT OF THE INTERAGENCY BIKEWAY COUNCIL WORKING GROUP. This will inform your legislator of your interest in cycling issues and let you know what could be done in Illinois for cyclists.

Let us know if you are interested in advancing the safety and rights of cyclists. We need your ideas.

Yours in cycling,  
Cheryl Longinotti  
Joan DiLeonardi

League of Illinois Bicyclists  
PO Box 64396, Chicago, IL 60664-0396.

Ph:312)-42-PEDAL.

Keith Kingbay, League of American Wheelmen, Illinois Director.

Editor's note: State Legislature Contacts in Peoria Area—  
Senator Karl Hawkinson & Representative David Leitch  
3114 N. University, Peoria. Ph. 685-3900

## Want Ads in the IVW Newsletter

Members may submit want ads in this newsletter free of charge for one month at a time. If you desire longer than one month, please resubmit the ad each month or call the editor. Ads should be bicycle related items, and be sure to include a name, address and phone when submitting your want ad. Submit ads to: Dean Grethey, 1907 Canterbury Apt. D, Washington, IL, 61571 or Phone 444-3360.

## FOR SALE

Like New - Kreidler rollers, \$40.00, call 685-2466, Nick Weede