Illinois Valley NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1992 MOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1992 MOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1992



6518 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61614



Get ready, get set

IVW Annual Dinner

O'Leary's Banquet Room Saturday, November 14, 1992

6:30 p.m. Cocktails 7:00 p.m. Dinner

The cost? An amazingly low \$4 per member How can we eat this cheaply? Well, because of another successful year! The club is able to contribute \$7 toward each meal (gratuities are included).

Reserve your seat before November 4. Reservation form on page 7!

Door prizes!
Elections!
Awards!
State-of-the-Club Address!
Exclamation Marks!
Other Punctuation!

See October issue for menu.

JERSEYS, POCKETS AND TEES

This is not a tale about cows, kangaroos or golf. Thanks to a lot of effort and diplomacy by Jim Whitmer and friends, a number of IVW members have been getting favorable comments on their nifty looking club jerseys. There have been other comments too, like, "Why didn't you get enough?" and, "How 'bout a T-shirt to match?"

With the encouragement of a few friends I'd like to keep, I've volunteered to organize our next foray into haberdashery. Why not? Look what happened to Harry Truman.

Anyway, just to complicate things, there are some choices. Allan at Good Stuff has informed us that the quality of printing will not be as sharp on a 50/50 blend as it is on the Coolmax, but he will do the best he can. The design will probably have to be slightly modified, too.

		mm.
Coolmax racing jersey	\$40.00	30
50/50 3-pocket jersey w/ zipper	\$10-15	20
50/50 3-pocket jersey w/o zipper	\$10-15	20
50/50 T-shirt	\$10.00	20

The idea is to make any of these items

available, provided we get an up-front order for enough to reach the minimum required quantity.

On the coupon (page 7), please indicate your choice, attach your check and mail it to me or bring it to the annual meeting. The check should be made out to the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, with jersey (or shirt) noted on the memo line.

We'll close the order board shortly after the annual meeting—final date to be determined. No promises yet about Christmas delivery.



How to Vote

So you say you're fed up to here with the candidates? Perot, who didn't quit because he wasn't an "announced" candidate, Clinton, who didn't inhale, Quayle, who watched too much TV, Gore, well, what kind of name is that for a vice-presidential candidate, anyway? And Bush, sure he flew against the Japanese in World War II, but (did anyone notice?) he didn't bring the plane back. They picked

him up out of the ocean. What's that mean? We're all going to have to learn how to swim to remain globally competitive?

Looking for a real alternative to the choices you've been presented with?
One name:

E d d y Merckx. Why?

• Not to point out the obvious, but he's a bicyclist. He's a five-time winner of the Tour de France. In fact, he's won about any race worth

winning.
No wimp factor. Instead, Eddy is the single most competitive candidate on the

planet. Not just a l e a d e r — a dominator. In his racing days, everyone called him "the Cannibal" for gosh sakes. When he spoke, his team

listened; when he climbed, the pack crumbled.

Pat Paulson isn't running.

 Eddy is Belgian. His accent will take the South by storm.

 Instead of belonging to the overvalued service sector, Eddy is an industrialist. He designs high-quality bicycles and builds them in his own country, none of that flimsy Finnish stuff, no siree. Sure, his bicycles have Japanese and Italian parts on them—details, details. What about that paint job?

 The Ike factor. He's not a Republican, he's not a Democrat, he's one of us, he's his own man, a man's man. A man's man who shaves his legs. (Uhh...)

 He met Alexi Grewal, he knew Alexi Grewal, he's no Alexi Grewal.

Pat Paulson isn't running.

 Forget about the first hundred days. This guy owns the Hour Record. And forget about that slimy cheater Moser—Merckx took two years off his career for his record.

 Finally, a president who knows which wine goes with gorp.

 Forget the Great Communicator. Eddy speaks at least three languages.

 No one ever wondered what the "x" stood for in Merckx.

 Note to the press corps: Eddy's Summer White House will be right off the Mediterranean.

 No Vietnam background checks. Eddy's land war was in Europe. Moreover, any

c y c l i s t s worth their Powerbars would fight to get into his draft.

Ahead of the trends. Eddy was drinking Perrier before anybody in A merica (except for blue-haired ladies in Reno).

 Eddy's already got a lot of posters made up.
 Every time he won the Tour de

France, he beat Frenchman.

 Citizen-class riders will automatically be moved to category V after six races (with a gentle pat on the head).

Triathletes will have to change into cycling shorts before the bicycle leg of their events.

wine goes with gorp. Supreme Court nominees will have to submit to

VO2 max testing.

Finally, a president

who knows which

· Phil Ligget will be his speech writer.

 Instead of the State of the Union speech, we'll thrill to the State of the Steel-Framed Road Bike speech.

· Pat Paulson isn't running.

· Neither is Pogo.

WANTED:

A rear-rack baby carrier, so we can be even slower up the hills on our tandem. Also, we need a useable baby helmet (18-month-old baby). Call Eileen and George Dudley at 691-7076.

The Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Peoria, IL

PRESIDENT Steve Shaffer	685-4726
VICE PRESIDENT George Dudley	692-7076
TREASURER Steve Weast	446-3413
RIDE COORDINATOR Jim Whitmer	691-7354
SOCIAL Nick Paweski	691-8306
PC CHAIRPERSON Laura Otten	699-1200
EDITOR Samuel Joslin	688-0922
MAILING Steve Grube Terry Threw	699-6956
DATA PROCESSING Bill Semmens	693-9388



a member club of the League of American Wheelmen

The Illinois Vailey Wheelm'n is home to cyclists throughout Central Illinois. Newsletters are distributed each month (except December) through bulk third-class mail. Newsletters are not forwarded, so alert the membership chairperson one month in advance of your move. Membership contributions to the newsletter are welcome—send your articles and personal ads to: Samuel Joslin, 1318 W. MacQueen, Peorla, IL 61604. All contributions must be received (not postmarked) no later than the 15th of the month.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BREAKFAST GET-TOGETHERS/RIDES

For those of you who are not familiar with our winter ride procedure, it works like this:

We name a restaurant to meet at. You go to the restaurant and look around. If you see people you think are in the club, walk up to them and ask, "Are you here for the Wheelm'n Sunday bicycle ride?"

If their answer is "yes," then you have found the group-grab a chair and get

something to eat.

If their answer is "no," or they act like they don't know you, excuse yourself, utter vulgarities under your breath and go back to the lobby. Then wait for someone else to come in you think is in the club and repeat the process.

You'll know if you are the only one who has shown up, if, by 10 a.m. no one has entered whom you know, or the place is empty. If you luck out and find the group, they sometimes ride after breakfast or later in the morning.

Good luck!

-edited from December 1991 IVW newsletter

All get-togethers begin at 8:30 a.m.

November 1 Newell's (East Peoria)

November 8 IT'S A REAL RIDE Steve Grube leads this 50-mile

ride from the Fondulac Park District Building in East Peoria to Hopedale at 9:00 a.m. Moderately

challenging terrain. Call Steve at 699-6956.

November 15 Denny's (Sterling Ave. Pecria)

November 22 Steak 'n Shake (East Peoria)

November 29 Washington Family Restaurant (Washington)

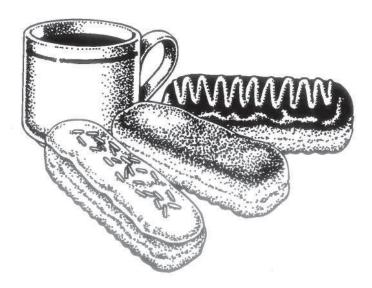
December 6 Dixie Manor (Peoria)

December 13 Steak 'n Shake (Rt. 9, Pekin)

December 20 Cummins Family Restaurant (Knoxville Ave.,

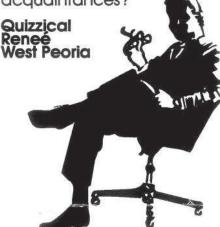
Peoria)

December 27 Happy Holidays!



Dear Dr. Derailleur,

I'm trying to get my
Christmas shopping done
early. I've already bought
handcuffs for Bobby,
Madonna's new book for
great-uncle Roy, and
VCR/TV/Stereo/Television/
Dishwasher remotes (which
also run lawn-sprinkler
systems) for three of my
favorite couch potato(e)
friends. Here's my problem:
What's the best gift for my
more intelligent
acquaintances?



Books, vintage wines and big bags of money (in small denominations) are always favorites of mine, but you can't go wrong with a subscription to the IVW newsletter. It's the best way to get news important to Central Illinois cyclists: club rides, out-of-town rides, advocacy reports, LAW and LIB news and more. Best of all, a subscription costs only \$10 per year. Let's put that in perspective.

Things that cost \$10 or less:

- 1973 issues of The Old Farmer's Almanac
- Broken radio
- Old gum underneath theater chairs
- Your mother's army boots

Things that cost \$10 or more:

- John Brown's body
- My vote
- Restored 1961 Lincoln Continental
- The complete works of Marcel Proust

I think that pretty well sums it up. Spend wisely and stuff somebody's stocking with an IVW membership today.

IVW HELPS FORGE PEORIA GROWTH PLAN— BICYCLE-FRIENDLY STREETS FOR NEW AREAS STRESSED

-Eric Hutchison

RIDDEN MUCH THROUGH THE NORTH SIDE OF PEORIA?

If your answer is no, you are not alone. In the experience of this bicyclist, north Peoria (and most other recent growth areas of town) is an obstacle between me and where I want to go. The common pattern is isolated developments (such as subdivisions with a few streets) connected only by a major (bicycle unfriendly) thoroughfare. We have a chance to change this approach.

SO WHAT'S THE GROWTH PLAN?

The comprehensive growth plan presents a vision of what Peoria will become within the next 10 (or so) years. It will be used by city government to guide future decisions about land use, infrastructure, and budget. I read this as ROADS, TRAILS, DOLLARS, and PRIORITIES It is an opportunity to establish city policies which will clearly put Peoria on the route to "bicycle friendliness."

WHO PUT IT TOGETHER?

The city's Planning Commission with input from (what was intended to be) a wide cross-section of groups within the community. Notably absent from this process was the IVW. Not an intentional oversight—we simply don't have much recognition within city government (yet). Luckily, a public comment period was advertised; that's where we got a chance to offer some influence.

IVW SHOW OF FORCE AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

On three consecutive evenings, IVW members attended public hearings and discussed the needs of bicyclists with the Growth Plan Committee. Requests we presented included:

- Recognize the bicycle as a vehicle and plan for it as such in Peoria's transportation system.
- Design roadways to meet the needs of all users with such features as
 - wide (14' minimum) outside traffic lanes
 - bicycle sensitive traffic signals
 - an expanded network of connecting secondary roads.

I (Eric) also learned a few things in the process about the views we are likely to encounter as we promote bicycling in Peoria:

- The bicycle is used mostly to ride around the neighborhood (on the sidewalk).
- Through traffic on secondary roads (in neighborhoods) is bad. (Bicyclists

- were overlooked as part of "through traffic.")
- Improvements for bicyclists make the most sense in college towns, because more people ride there. (Or, is it more people ride there, because the roads are better—we talked about chickens and eggs a bit.)
- Painted bike lanes definitely enhance bicyclists' safety. (We discussed intersection conflicts and road debris.)

The committee was receptive to our input. These are simply useful comments I picked up during the discussion.

I was also pleased to meet a non-IVW bicyclist at the hearings. Londel Pease is a city staff member who BICYCLE COMMUTES to downtown Peoria. He was glad to see bicyclists attend the hearings and asked about the club. I was happy to provide membership info.

Many thanks to Laura Otten, Brian

Chumbley, and Steve Shaffer for attending the meetings. Steve tells me that by the third night, there was no doubt that we had made an impression.

HOW MUCH POWER DOES THIS THING HAVE?

The plan itself does not have the force of law to mandate change. It needs the support of the city council and the community (you and I) to become reality

At this point, there is no assurance that our proposals will be included in the final Plan. We can all assure they will be by contacting our respective city council members. You need only write a short note asking your council representative to support bicycle-friendly policies in the Peoria Comprehensive Growth Plan.

Unsure who to contact? (I was too.) I have a district boundary map and council members names and mailing addresses. Please give me a call. Eric Hutchison 685-3921.

—EН

LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS BICYCLISTS TO MEET

The first meeting of the League of Illinois Bicyclists is planned for Saturday, November 14, in Normal. The meeting, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. will include a training program for working with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and other governmental agencies in allocating ISTEA funds to bicycle projects. The training program is supported by a \$5,000 grant from the Bicycle Federation of America.

—Illinois Bicyclist, Fall, 1992

FORREST HILL / GALE AVENUE UPGRADE PROJECT NARROW LANES STILL ON THE DRAWING BOARD

-Eric Hutchison

As mentioned in the September IVW newsletter, the city is proposing upgrades to these streets between University & Sterling Avenue to handle more MOTOR vehicle traffic. Unless plans change, these streets will end up with five traffic lanes (one center turn lane) all 11-feet wide. This is much too narrow for shared bicyclist/motorist use (14' is the minimum), especially with the planned increased traffic volume. Forrest Hill and Gale avenues form one of the (very) few cross-town routes appropriate for Peoria bicyclists.

We don't have average daily traffic numbers for bicyclists to support our need for these routes. What we do have is a voice with the road planners, if we choose to use it. To date, two letters supporting bicycling have been received by the city engineer on this project (one from yours truly). Here's where to write:

Gene Hewitt, Peoria City Engineer, City Hall, Room 307, 419 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602

If you need more background, refer to your September newsletter or give me a call. Eric Hutchison 685-3921.

LAW—LIB NEWS

The League of American Wheelmen is presently drafting the Bicycle Transportation Equity Act (BikeTEA). Key components of BikeTEA are:

- Bicycle parking at transit stations, bus terminals, ferry terminals and airports.
- Bicycle transport on public transportation.
- Bicycle transport on airlines.

If you have suggestions for such legislation you should send them to:

Allen Greenbery, Director of Government Relations LAW, The National Organization of Bicyclists 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 710 Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 462-8376 (phone) (202) 232-2627 (FAX)

The League of Illinois Bicyclists is joining the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation in new offices:

League of Illinois Bicyclists 343 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1017 Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 427-3325 (phone) (312) 427-4907 (FAX)

The fax number serves as a voice mail/fax/modem communications vehicle for the LIB/CBF project to give cyclists input into metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).

LIB and CBF plan to use this number to coordinate activities throughout the state. The communications center will also be used to keep workers update on new interpretations of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and activities in other areas of the country.

This recent federal legislation provides many opportunities for improving bicycle facilities. However, unless bicyclists act now, the funds will be used for business as usual instead of including the bicycle in the transportation system.

—edited from a letter by Ted Sanders, Region 8 Director, LAW



Join The League of American
Wheelmen, the National Organization of Bicyclists.
Call Samuel Joslin at (309) 688-0922 for a membership blank today.

ROUTE 24 CONSTRUCTION IN PLANNING STAGE—Bill Clark

The Illinois Department of Transportation is currently doing a preliminary study on widening and improving U.S. Route 24 north of the Route 9 junction, between Orchard Mines and Bartonville.

After speaking with Mike McLuckie, the project engineer, I've found out this project will include some widening, some patch and overlay, turn lanes, etc. If you are familiar with this area, you know this road lies along the bottom of the hillside. Several thousand feet of retaining walls will be installed to accommodate this widening. I was told that to put in outside lanes of 14 feet would be asking almost too much. As those of you who live south of the "Big City" know, there are very few direct routes available to safely commute to and from work in this area. I don't know about you, but I'm not touring at 5 a.m. in the morning on my way to work. We deserve a safe, smooth, wide and direct route to commute on. This would complete a needed link between Pekin and Peoria for safe bicycling between these two towns. We also use part of this highway for Diane's Ride. So what's wrong with asking for "almost too much"?

This is in the planning stages now! This is the time to act! Please take a few moments and write to the secretary of transportation in Springfield and send a copy to the district engineer in Peoria. Also, Craig Williams, the Illinois State Bicycle Coordinator, has requested copies be sent to him. He knows the right roads to travel and the right doors to open. Let them

know this road is a viable link, and important to you as a bicyclists.

Be sure to mention the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, as providing funding for projects of this type (for bicycle commuting versus recreation). Don't hesitate to request a minimum of 14' outside lanes with at least a 4' paved shoulder.

Write to:

Mr. Kirk Brown Secretary of Transportation Illinois Department of Transportation 2300 South Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62764

And send copies (cc:) to:

Craig Williams
Bicycle Coordinator
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

Dale E. Risinger Illinois Department of Transportation 6035 N. Knoxville Peoria, IL 61614

NOTE: After October 23, the Illinois Department of Transportation office in Peoria, will move to 401 Main Street. Future correspondence should be sent

-BC

1993 SPRING FLORIDA RIDE

St. Augustine and New Smyrna Beach areas March 5-March 14

Wandering Wheels (of Upland, IN) is having another spring tour for the Joliet and Peoria bicycle clubs. We will leave the evening of the 5th and return the afternoon of the 14th.

The trip includes transportation to and from Florida, six or seven days of riding, lodging at campgrounds, two meals a day while riding, and transportation to the Orlando area (if desired) for a day. Bicycles are provided.

Right now, the trip is limited to the first 25 signing up; cost is \$350 this year due to the limited number of passengers on the bus. For more details or other questions, please call Gregg Benning at 243-5206.

The League of Illinois Bicyclists has published its first newsletter titled, fittingly enough, Illinois Bicyclist. Members of the LAW are automatic members of the LIB and in line to receive its newsletter. President Ted Sanders, speaker at the IVW's XXXXX meeting, and also the District 8 LAW representative, says the newsletter will be published quarterly as long as funds are available.

sprinting after a bike, they draft each other working a two-dog paceline . . . they never really snap at me. They just bark and run like crazy . . . They have yet to buy any apparel. As fast as they are, I think they should buy little doggie bottles, jerseys and helmets. And maybe start a club."

The 1993 Chicago Consumer Bicycle Show is coming to St. Charles, IL, Saturday,

whom are racing each other to get to the next porta-potty. There are several IVW members who can defend their attendence at this event.

CIBANEWS, the newsletter of the Central Association Bicycling Indiana (Indianapolis), reports that a new transcontinental record was set this summer-on a 107-year old bicycle. Steve Carter rode from San Francisco to Boston in 33 days, 7 hours, beating the previous highwheeler record by a full five days. Steve spent about 12 hours per day on the bike and moteled it at night. His support team was his wife Carolyn who carried Steve's gear and arranged for accomodations. After the record-setting ride, Steve rode on to Vermont where he was recognized by the Wheelmen during their Silver Anniversary Meet.

Bicycle commuting is up by 4000 miles in Homewood, IL, ground zero for the Folks On Spokes club. The group's Commuter Club reports individual trips are up by 83 to 827 (as of September) and total mileage rests at 16,826-3,600 miles of which were recorded by Tom Derring. Bill Yapp and Bill Yang were close behind with 2,656 and 2.500 commuting miles respectively.

The Springfield (IL) Bicycle Club reports a

record 527 attended

the recent Capital City Century. Here's a breakdown of what distances folks signed up

Century (100 miles) 238 (down from 311 cyclists last year) Metric (62 miles) 137 (up from 120) Quarter (25 miles) 152 (up from 95)

More than a quarter of the riders were from the Springfield club (143). The IVW was the second-best represented club with 17 riders in attendence. The McLean County Wheelers (Bloomington) and Spoon River Wheelmen (Canton, IL) provided 15 and 11 members respectively. Overall, the club reports cyclists came from 99 cities in 8 states to attend the Capital City.

PEOPLE, OJHER PLACES riders Cindey O T H E R

Owsley, editor of the BikeBurlington (Burlington, IA) newsletter, passes this nugget of wisdom along to the prematurely bushytailed: "If you can't tell what time it is without a light, it's too early to get up."

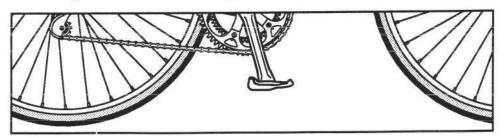
The IVW has received its first official notification of a 1993 event, the Apple Cider Century, scheduled for September 26. The ride brochure mentions registration is limited to 7000 people and that interested cyclists should sign up by July 31. Now if the Apple Cider folks could just get over this last-minute announcement mentality . .

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation has produced a new cycling map of Chicago. This full-color, two-sided map indicates bicycle trails and suggested roads in a seven-county area of northeastern Illinois. Need a copy? Send \$6.95 (\$5 for members of CBF) to: Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, P.O. Box 64396, Chicago, IL 60664-0396.

From Chris "Mighty Dog" Freshwater and the Central Illinois Cyclists (Mattoon): "There's a pair of mutts that I actually enjoy racing with . . . When

February 20 and Sunday, February 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Manufacturers, designers and distributers of everything from bicycles to bicycle bells will be there. Plus, representatives of regional and statewide bicycle organizations (like the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and the League of Illinois Bicyclists) will be in attendence. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children (6-15 years old). Children under six get in free with adult. Look for more details in the January IVW newsletter or call the Chicago Consumer Show Hotline at (312) 777-0974 for a recorded message.

According to the Newswheel, the newsletter of the Quincy (IL) Bicycle Club, RAGBRAI XXI is scheduled for Sunday, July 25 through Saturday, July 31, 1993. RAGBRAI is a week-long ride across Iowa attended by thousands of riders, many of



ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N JERSEY ORDER FORM

> Send check (made to IVW) to: George Dudley 5809 Old Orchard Drive Peoria, IL 61614

May the wind be with you.

ANNUAL IVW DINNER

Please reserve (#)_____ seats at \$4 each for a total cost of \$___.

Make check to Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

and send to:

Nick Paweski, Social Chairperson 504 W. High Street Peoria, Illinois 61606

Make your reservation(s) before November 4. Call (309) 673-0098 for more information.

AWARDS BALLOT

Winners to be announced at annual meeting, November 14.

Most Improved Female

Most Improved Male

Hub of the Club

Send to:

Nick Paweski, Social Chairperson 504 W. High Street Peoria, Illinois 61606

Submit ballot before November 4.

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NAME BIRTHDATE DISCLAIMER: In signing this form, I understand and

STATE ZIP

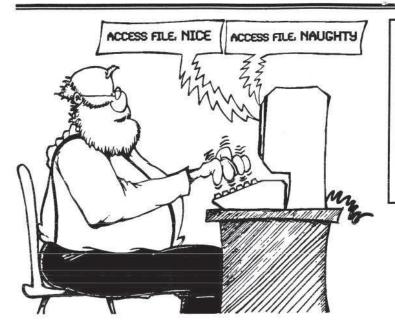
__Individual (\$10) ___ Family (\$12) ___ New ___Renew

Make check to: Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, 6518 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614

DISCLAIMER:
In signing this form,
I understand and
agree to absolve the
officers and members of
the Illinois Valley
Wheelm'n bicycle club of
all blame for any injury,
misadventure, harm, loss or
inconvenience suffered
as a result of taking part in
any activity sponsored or
advertised by said
organization.

PHONE () ____

Applicant Signature



Inside this issue:

How to vote November 3
League of American Wheelmen report
League of Illinois Bicyclists update
Peoria's growth plan—from a cycling
viewpoint
Peoria cross-town route in danger
Route 24 road construction
IVW Jersey ordering info

Coming in January:

- · 1993 IVW mileage log
- Annual meeting report
- Annual questionnaire results
- '92 in review
- · What's ahead for '93
- Report on first meeting of League of Illinois Bicyclists

The IVW Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 14, is the last general meeting of 1992. There are no fourth-Thursday meetings in November or December. General meetings get underway again January 28, 1993.

This issue of the IVW newsletter is the last of 1992. Members will receive the next issue (January) toward the end of December.

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n 6518 North Sheridan Road Peoria, IL 61614

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MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: 10/03/92
MEMBERSHIP -- E X P I R E D
RON & SHELLY ANDERSON
203 LOCUST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571

NOVEMBER MEETING-NOV. 14-6:30 P.M.

Annual Meeting

... at O'Leary's (details inside)