



February 1996

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



FINALLY, A BILL AMERICA CAN LIVE WITH.

WELL, HERE IT IS—THE FIRST OF THE NEW YEAR ALREADY. I guess this is where the rubber meets the road, as they say. Now is the time that all the English Lit. classes I ever have taken will become evident. I'm pretty new to this newsletter stuff. Some people can sit down and write article after article and have a work of art appear before their very eyes. Then there is the other 95% of us who have trouble spelling our own names. Thank God for computer programs with built-in spell check and grammar checkers. My articles may pale in comparison to the tales of my predecessor, as I've not had the opportunity to travel as he does, but I've never been too much of a comparison type of guy. I only hope I can do half the job that George has done in the past. Truthfully though, I'll try to do my best and have some sort of contribution to each month's newsletter, without bringing too much shame to the fine publication that it is.

I just got home from watching 20-plus brave souls take off on the annual New Year's Day Ride. That's right—watch. Some of us are feeling the effects of turning 40-plus. I managed to injure my knee somehow and have been relegated to watching videos of cycling on the tube to maintain my sanity. Hopefully, the doctors will get this thing straightened out before the spring thaw, and I will be able to mount my aluminum steed and careen down the back roads once again.

Charlie and Franny Klees spearheaded this year's ride from their home. There were plenty of stares from passing motorists wondering, I'm sure, what those crazy people were doing. We couldn't have asked for much of a nicer day, for the first of the new year. Cold to the point of challenging, but not the sub-Arctic conditions that we've seen in the past. And, NO SNOW! What a treat not to have to look out for those icy spots. Charlie led the riders on a 10-mile-plus loop that included some of the finer scenery that East Peoria has to offer. There was even a short trip up a section of the trail in East Peoria. The food table was a match for any I've seen in the past. There were salads and sweets, sandwiches and chili, enough to fill the tanks of everyone who participated. Unfortunately, I had to leave for another commitment and by the time I returned, there was little left. But who ever made the fudge has my respect. It was excellent.

As I begin my tenure as club president, I hope to lead by example. Although I still have two chil-

dren at home, and I may not be able to attend every ride, I hope to be as involved as possible, to continue to make the club a fine organization for everyone's enjoyment. A couple of the goals I've set for the club in 1996: first, to make the Wheelm'n more visible. I feel there are a lot of potential members out there, if we could only reach them somehow. I want to let the general public know about the Wheelm'n, who we are, and what we are about. Also, I want to try and get the club linked to some sort of education program, to promote safe riding, especially with children.

Our club functions as the result of the actions of a handful of people. Don't feel intimidated because we are on the board. We always welcome input from everyone in the club. There are a lot of talented people in our club. Feel free to join in the board meetings. Although you are not eligible to vote, the input will help us reach better decisions so we will be able to serve you in the best way. Just call and let me know if you want to attend a board meeting, so I can arrange for enough room and put you on the agenda. If you can't attend a meeting, just jot down a note and send it to me in the mail. I will be more than happy to include your thoughts in our discussions. Or, send your e-mail to me at wdclark@heartland.bradley.edu. There is no need to sign your name if you don't wish to.

Speaking of getting involved in club functions. If you can't participate in any other activities, I'd like to encourage you to stop by the Red Cross office and donate blood. This is the gift that is appreciated 365 days a year. And what healthier blood could you find than that of a cyclist? Wouldn't this be a great way to start the new year? Just mention the club's Quiet Hero Number: 000560, so your name will be added to the list of those who have donated from our club. This list appears in almost every newsletter, courtesy of Ron Anderson. He heads up this worthwhile endeavor and is, in this writer's opinion, one of our greatest "Quiet Heroes" for promoting this behind the scenes. Thanks Ron.

Enough for now. I've rambled on far too long. Remember, now is the time to be tuning up those bikes for the upcoming season. I'll be putting each month's board meeting minutes in my articles to help keep you informed of what's going on. Hope to see you on the road.

—Bill Clark



NEW MEMBERS

David Lavallee*Peoria
Chris, Renee, Eric &
Marc LofgrenPeoria
Paul & Marie Shafer & Maryanne
Nash-Lowry & Family.....Peoria

RENEWING MEMBERS

Chuck, Cindy, Joseph, Laura &
Sarah BehrensPeoria
Jan, John, Katie &
Thomas Galbreath*Peoria
Rolla P. GodfreyPeoria
Conrad Grembowicz*Peoria
Shirley GusePeoria
Reid & Sheila Hansen*Peoria
Debby & Jewel Moyers.....Hanna City
Jim Vaupel*Pekin
Dorothy VenturiFarmington
Jane & Nick Weede*Peoria

* Advocate-level membership

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

Greater Peoria's bicycle club

Affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists and
League of Illinois Bicyclists

All newsletter phone numbers are 309 area code
unless otherwise indicated.

PRESIDENT

Bill Clark 347-4841

wclark@heartland.bradley.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Russ Goin 691-4610 (day) 693-1686 (evening)

TREASURER

Brenda Clark 346-2141 (8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.)
347-4841 (5:30—9 p.m.)

SECRETARY

Eileen Dudley 692-7076

gdudley@bykerider.win.net

RIDE CHAIR

Tom Parr 274-4290 (7 a.m.—3:30 p.m.)

274-6101 (7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)

SOCIAL/MEMBERSHIP

Charlie & Franny Klees 694-3674 (home)

698-0048 (fax)

MAILING

Sue DeDecker 693-2973

DATABASE

Larry Davis 691-3060

ldavis@heartland.bradley.edu

ADVOCACY/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Eric Hutchison 685-3921 (evenings, weekends), 573-

8239 (days) ehutchis@heartland.bradley.edu

NO BALONEY RIDE

Roger John 243-9191

DIANE'S RIDE

John & Judy Apici 387-6761 JApici@aol.com

INTERPLANETARY RIDE

Sheldon Schafer 682-1876 (home)

686-7000, ext. 4 (work) sls@bradley.bradley.edu

PRAIRIE STATE TANDEM RALLY

George & Eileen Dudley 692-7076

gdudley@bykerider.win.net

Send correspondence to:

IVW Editor,

Samuel Joslin

1318 W. MacQueen

Peoria, IL 61604

Phone: 688-0922

Computer users: Send e-mail to the editor at:

sjoslin@heartland.bradley.edu or

Bikewriter@aol.com

Submissions, including stories, news, images
and/or humor, are welcomed.

ENDS & ODDS...

Attention cyclists! You need to get your \$22 check in for bus trip to the Midwest Bicycle Show in Chicago on February 24. Bus will leave Northpoint Shopping Center at 7 A.M. SHARP! The bike museum is between Navy Pier and Michigan Avenue, so there are many activities to be enjoyed. Make checks payable to IVW and send to Charlie Klees, 515 S. Pleasant Hill, East Peoria, IL 61611. We need your check by February 8 in order to pay reserve your seat. Hope to see you for a great day. Charlie and Franny Klees, 694-3674.

Quiet Hero News. During the last two months of '95, the following IVW members supported the Quiet Hero Blood Donor Program: Ron Anderson, Judy Apici, Ralph Behrens, Bill Clark, Dave Schaufelberger, Jack Welch (two pheresis donations) and Brian White. Total donations from the IVW Quiet Hero group were 54, down nine from '94—our best year ever.

February is Sweetheart Month. Have a heart—give blood. There is no better gift than the gift of life. If you have already given blood, give again. If you have never given, now is the time to start. To make an appointment, contact me at 444-2018. When you donate, remember to use our Quiet Hero number, 000560. —Ron Anderson

THE SPRINGFIELD BICYCLE CLUB is sponsoring its annual TGI Spring ride on April 28, 1996 at 9 a.m. at a new location this year. The ride will start at the community park in Athens, Illinois. Athens is located about 12 miles northwest of Springfield just off Route 29 and is easily acces-

sible from I-55. Advance registration is only \$7 while day of registration is \$9.

Maps, sag service and a food stop in Talulla will be provided. Routes of 33 and 57 miles will be offered and will prove that central Illinois does have some rolling terrain. (There are no T-shirts with this ride.) Contact Micci Bly at (217) 546-5745 or Nancy Jones at (217) 528-4768 for more information.

—Karl Kohlrus, MWFC19A@prodigy.com

The Aurora Bicycle Club holds its Silver Spring Sixty ride April 28 at 7:30 a.m. Start location is the Beecher Community Center in Yorkville. Choose from 25-, 45- or 62-mile routes. \$15 entry fee includes post-ride spaghetti dinner. Preregistration only by March 30. Call Mike Brackett at (708) 892-1010 for more information.

The Central Illinois Cyclists (Mattoon) has published its final issue. The group is "merging into" the new Eastern Illinois Cycling Club.

The Prairie State Tandem Rally is piggybacking on the IVW's No Baloney Ride over the weekend of May 30, June 1 and 2. Event highlights include a Friday afternoon frozen yogurt ride, Saturday morning mass start and brunch at Wildlife Prairie Park on Sunday. Team fee, including No Baloney registration fee but not the brunch: \$39. Organizers of the event are our very own Eileen and George Dudley. The Holiday Inn Brandywine is offering special PSTR rates: A double room goes for \$57. Riders wishing to stay at the Holiday Inn are encouraged to call 686-8000 as soon as possible. The rate is good until May 1.

Rollin', rollin', rollin', rollin', rollin'...

Every Saturday. Washington Show 'n Go. Leaves from Washington Square. Please park away from square. Show 'n Go rides are recommended for experienced riders only. 8:30 a.m. No leader.

All Sundays in February. Fondulac Park District Building, East Peoria. 11 a.m. start, weather permitting. Call Steve Grube, 699-6956 or Jack Welch, 387-6117.

February breakfast meetings. All locations at 8:30 a.m. February 4: Bob Evans, East Peoria. February 11: Oogies, Peoria. February 18: Bob Evans, East Peoria. February 25: Oogies, Peoria.

Sunday, February 18. Road Riding 101, weather permitting. Lincoln Grade School, Washington, 1 p.m. Ride leader: Rob Alexander, 444-3299.

Rules of the Ride

- 1) Ride no more than two abreast—single file in traffic and at intersections.
- 2) Pass only on the left. Announce your intentions.
- 3) Create space in large groups to help motorists pass safely.
- 4) Maintain a safe distance from the rider ahead of you.
- 5) Check all intersections for traffic. Avoid "group think."
- 6) If you stop, please pull off the road

The IVW strongly recommends that you wear a helmet.

For more information on the IVW ride program, or to volunteer to lead a ride, call Tom Parr at 274-4290 (7 a.m.—3:30 p.m.), 274-6101 (7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)

Where have you gone, ol' John Wineke?



For years, binders containing IVW newsletters and photographs have been passed from editor to editor. During 1996, we'll dip into the archives each month for some insight from the past. This trip down memory lane is not without its hazards. Many newsletters from the 70s no longer exist. With that in mind, the editor invites our veteran members to share their memories. Otherwise, you may end up reading about the Tour de France of 1975. Oh, yes I will...

February 1975. Officers for the year are announced. President—John Wineke; Vice President—Carol Stiles; Secretary/Treasurer—Mary and Bill Overbey; Ride Chairman—Ron Anderson; Bulletin Editor—Diane Ziegler (new member). The club's racing section also announces officers. President—Rich White; Vice President—Jay Manthey; Secretary/Treasurer—Rich Miller. Jay Manthey's trailer committee is close to having the club's trailer completed. The constitution and by-laws are adopted—an important step to incorporation. Single and family memberships are \$3.

February 1981. A swap meet is held prior to the regular monthly meeting. This month's program: a slide preview of GEAR-DOWN, a cycling event scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. Members were to complete the 1981 ride schedule at this meeting. Mileage totals for 1980 were announced. Rolly Defenbaugh: 2,000 miles; Les Siegrist, 2,095; Ron Anderson,

2,291; Rod Myers, 3,150; Ron Matuska, 4,500; Dave Wenzel, 5,023. Oh yes—Don Eberle pedaled 18,359 miles.

February 1986. "Great New Year's ride. 8.6 miles to start '86. Twenty-one people pedaled the glory of Peoria Heights and 34 traded lies at the party." Speaker for this month's meeting: Dennis Kruse of Normal, scheduled to give a slide show on his recent trip through Europe. The McLean County Wheelers are rerouting part of their Spring Metric to avoid new construction of the Diamond Star car factory. Ted Gambogi of Morton reports on his trip to Orlando, FL, taking in a bike camp and a triathlon camp. Ted says that Butch Martin, former U.S. Olympic coach "changed my seat height, angle, moved it back and lowered my handlebars—all designed to put more power in my stroke."

February 1991. George Dudley says the Midwest Tandem Rally, scheduled for Oconomowoc, WI, is a great event despite the fact that there's no sleeping on hard ground, packing a soggy tent, or standing in line for a cold shower. Bicycle Fever, the history of bicycling in Peoria has just been published by Ruppman Marketing Services. The IVW map booklet is now available. Eric Hutchison reports the new Robert H. Michel Bridge, to open in October '92, will feature wide shoulders and sidewalks.

New columnist says look for value during 1996.



A new columnist joins the newsletter crew this month. Guy Van Guy is employed by a wholesale bicycle parts distributor somewhere in the lower 48. Guy would prefer to remain anonymous, but sharp newsletter readers will have a hard time forgetting his name. While we can't reveal his true identity, we can share some of the highlights of Guy's life to date: He was born short and waxed tall, he overcame early adversity but graduated from an accredited university anyway, and most importantly, he knows of what he writes. That being written, you may read what he wrote:

1996 will probably be one of the shortest model years in recent history, due to a plethora of bike companies holding excess inventory. Since that is the case, 1995 bikes should be particularly good values. We will probably see 1997s roll out in June and July

of this year. The Taipei Show is one month earlier this year, which further accelerates the season for 1997 and 1996.

With some of the new innovations like the V-brake, cantis as we know them will not be nearly as successful as in 1995 or previous years. Expect to see even more V-brakes in 1997 throughout bike lines.

Speaking of V-brakes, remember to use only Shimano SL levers with V-brakes. This point is most important, since the cable pull and mechanical advantage are radically different than anything else Shimano has done in the past. Using any other lever, Shimano or otherwise, will result in poor braking performance. I do not mean to drone on about the V-brake, but it is quite unique.

—Guy Van Guy

Morton/East Peoria trail—A bridge too far? In February 1994, Governor Jim Edgar announced a \$461,000 federal grant to the Morton Park District to fund the two-mile Morton/East Peoria trail connection. IVW member and Morton resident Delmar Lowry recently checked progress with Gary Watson, Director of the Morton Park District (MPD). Here's what Delmar found out:

Trail Route: The trail will generally follow Route 150 (Jackson Street) into Morton. It will use

crossing; this work has already begun. Spanning the ravine between the trailer park and East Peoria will be more involved—terrain is steep and Route 150 is nearby. This is the main problem causing the delay.

What's next? Director Watson plans to meet with IDOT to address trail design issues. Delmar Lowry (IVW) offered the MPD his help and plans to stay in contact with Director Watson to monitor progress.

Comments: Tipped helmet to Delmar for get-



Trail news ... and a thank-you

the Route 150 underpass to cross I-74.

Trail Progress: Land acquisition has been worked out, but design challenges have delayed progress. There are deep ravines which must be crossed—one on each end of the trailer park which lies along the route. Proposed designs must be coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which plans to upgrade Route 150. MPD Director Watson estimated 1997 for trail construction to get underway.

What about those ravines? Between the trailer park and Morton, the ravine was formerly spanned by a railroad bridge which has since been removed. This bridge passed over another railroad line which ran along the bottom of the ravine. The Morton Park District plans to fill in the ravine to create the trail

ing involved. His continued interest in the trail project (as a cyclist and Morton taxpayer) will speed its completion. By approaching the MPD in a non-threatening way (asking for information and offering help rather than complaining about lack of progress), he's established the personal relationship that makes progress possible. —Eric Hutchison

P.S. On the New Year's Day Ride: Thanks to IVW Social/Membership Directors Charlie & Franny Klees for hosting the club's annual cold-weather extravaganza. Charlie and Franny's door prize added a special treat. Alan Enslow won the lion seatbag—an "unstuffed" animal in which to stuff bike stuff.

Get yer red-hot State of Illinois bike maps right here...

Maps, maps, glorious maps. A listing of IDOT's available maps of the state, counties, municipalities, as well as which Illinois Bicycle Maps are currently available is now posted on the Illinois Department of Transportation's Web Page at:

<http://www.dot.state.il.us>

Some maps are free, such as the state maps and the bicycle maps; others are available for a small fee.

The bicycle maps for Southernmost, Southwestern and West Central Illinois are now available. If you do not have access to the World Wide Web, you can get the same listing or request the bicycle maps by writing:



Map Sales
IDOT
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

General information about bicycling in Illinois is available by writing:

Illinois Bicycle/Pedestrian Program
IDOT, Room 334
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

—Craig Williams, clwilliams@msn.com

America wants to know. Which is your favorite holiday?

—Casey Pulaski, Springfield

GROUNDHOG DAY, NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. First it's in February, same as my birthday, though my birthday comes later, after we find out whether or not the snow will bury us up to our whatsises.

Of course some people ask me whether having my birthday so close to a national holiday is a problem. You know how it is when a kid is born around Christmas, for example—his or her cheap relatives combine the kid's birthday with Christmas and give one present. Now if you're born in March, you get a real birthday present since nothing's going on anyway. But if you're born near Christmas, say November 18, you're likely to wind up the year with one lousy GI Joe doll, and not the one with the flamethrower, either.

Which makes you think of bread, which makes you hungry, which leads to endless orgies of Roman Meal and Skippy, which leads to the increasing struggle to pedal your lard (and getting larder) butt up the next hill, which leads to an appreciation for granny gears, which gets you in trouble with your grandma, who thinks you're calling her a wimp, whereupon she beats the tar out of you, and you, now tarless and therefore fearing no feathers, stride boldly through the chicken yard, whereupon 12 angry roosters set upon you (they're angry because there's twelve of them and only five hens) and your bluejeans come out looking like fishnet stockings, which is a real shame since Garbo hasn't worn them in what, 45 years, and so they're out of style and your little brother laughs at you because he knows you don't



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BIRTHDAY BOY...

But being born around Groundhog's Day is super. Instead of combining their gifts, my relatives buy me better gifts. Last year, when the typical American birthday boy was likely to get a boxed set of Judith Krantz novels—this according to a recent political poll, I got a first edition of *The Sun Also Rises*.

Of course, great literature gives birth to great thought. Like what else rises along with the sun?

even know how to fish and even if you did you wouldn't because you don't want to pull the hook out of its wobbly jaw (the fish, not your little brother) while looking into its unblinking eyes and try to figure out how to bring this sentence to a close at the same time.

Or not.

—D.D.

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Membership Application

(please print)

Name #1 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #2 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #3 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #4 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #5 _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____

Signature (Name #1) _____ Date _____

(parent or guardian needed if registrant is under 18)

Are you renewing, or is this a new membership? (check one)

Renewing New

If new, how did you find out about the club? _____

Are you a member of the League of American Bicyclists? (check one)

Yes No

Basic membership:

Individual (\$10) \$ _____

Household (\$12) _____

Voluntary advocacy contribution:

(\$5, 10, 15, other) \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

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

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

Bicycling all year 'round!

New Year's ride attracts cold-weather cyclists



TWENTY-FIVE RIDERS, 35 DEGREES. Front row (L to R): Glen Thompson, Franny Klees, Dirk DeDecker, Darren DeDecker, Terry Whitehead, Pat O'Bryan, Sue DeDecker, Denise DeDecker, George Dudley and Jeff Tate. Back row: Gary Hartzler, Steve Grube, Jim Vaupel, Ken Luthy, Bill Stevenson, Charlie Klees, Karen Austin-Joslin, Samuel Joslin, Dave Schaufelberger, (not identified), Alan Enslow, Bev Enslow, Charlie Rodgers, Barb Johnson and Steve Shaffer.

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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 310
Peoria, IL

Your IVW membership expires: 10/03/96

RON ANDERSON
203 LOCUST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2207

February rides...

The year begins. See page 2