



March 1996

ILLINOIS VALLEY **WHEELM'N**

greater peoria's bicycle club



Getting our act in gear, minutes at a time...

IVW BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 12. Members present: Bill Clark, president; Brenda Clark, treasurer; Franny Klees, social chair; Eileen Dudley, secretary; Larry Davis, database; Dave Schaufelberger; Tom Parr, ride chair; Eric Hutchison, advocacy.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Eric and Jennifer Hutchison.

Eric reported that the next advocacy meeting will concern maps for Pekin-area streets. The meeting will be February 20 at the Pekin Library.

Franny Klees contacted Larry Bielma with Callender and Co. Insurance for information regarding possible purchase of insurance for the club, to cover us in case of liability on any of our rides. One million dollars worth of coverage can be purchased for \$250.00 annually. Bill Clark suggested that each board member check their own liability insurance with their insurance agents and report at the next meeting. Franny then noted that since all homeowners policies are written the same, there was no need for each person to check with their insurance agent. Bill said he would check it out and report his findings at the next meeting. No decision was made at this time on the question of buying coverage for the club.

Franny reported on the bus trip to the Midwest Consumer Bicycle Show. Thirty-three people have signed up and paid so far, with an additional four possible. We will charter a 38-seater bus for the trip, for a cost of \$596.70. There will be \$2.00 off on the admission to the show. Bike Museum admission is \$1.00. The trip is scheduled for Feb. 24.

Roger John, who could not be at the meeting, called and said he is ordering No Baloney Ride t-shirts for people to wear to the bicycle show to pro-

mote the ride.

Bill reported on a meeting that he attended in Bloomington recently regarding the possibility of various area bike clubs co-operating with each other to plan and organize rides. This was an exploratory meeting and many good ideas were generated by the people present. The next meeting will be in Springfield in May.

Bill Clark asked what we want to do about the design for new club jerseys. It was decided to stay with the same design, but change the colors to brighter ones.

It was decided that out-of-town club rides that our members participate in would be counted as "club miles." These should be Illinois-area rides, and participants would keep track of these miles as a separate category.

We discussed ways of getting our ride flyers to other area rides. Anyone going to an out-of-town ride should take our flyers with them. Eric will make up a calendar of rides and try to get members to commit to taking flyers to these rides.

Bill received a letter from the Peoria Park District regarding the Pimitoui/Rock Island Island Trail. The Park District would like a commitment from the club to help with acquiring the land for the Trail. No decision was taken on this item at this meeting.

Bill also reported on a call from a Charles Cummings regarding a donation from the club for the ICC Police Bike Patrol. Bill moved that we make a contribution of \$200.00 to this project. Franny seconded the motion and motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

—Eileen Dudley



NEW MEMBERS

Lynne Hulvey.....Peoria
Dennis & Carolyn McWethy...E. Peoria
Gregg Steffan.....Peoria
Scott Sutter.....Peoria

RENEWING MEMBERS

John Antram*.....Morton
Gregg & Liz Benning.....Dunlap
Allan Carr*.....Peoria
Charlie, Doug, Tracey &
Kelley Frank.....Lacon
Thomas Griffith.....East Peoria
Carol & Steven Hallock.....Peoria
Emmett Joslin.....Granby, MO
Delmar, Jessica &
Terri Lowry.....Morton
Jan & Ron Matuska*.....Mackinaw
Stephen Meisner.....Peoria
Elizabeth & Harold Maloney.....Morton
Thomas Parr*.....Chillicothe
Melvin Perrill.....Pekin
Steven & Lifa Shaffer*.....Peoria
Gene Short.....Peoria
Gretchen Strauch.....Washburn
Glen, Marty, Fred &
Grace Thompson.....Tremont
Randall, Sarah, Anne &
Susan Townsend.....Pekin
Karen Saltsman*.....Bloomington

*Advocate-level membership

THRILLS, SKILLS AND SPEED II. No matter what I do, I am going to have my Wednesday night Thrills, Skills and Speed ride again this year. The satisfaction I got from watching my co-riders improve during the season last year has me pumped to do it again. Sharree Tate joins the ride as co-leader for the women this year. Sharree is anxious to start riding again after a very busy baby season last year. With Sharree's leadership, I expect to see all the women who were too intimidated to join my group last year because they thought they couldn't "ride fast enough." Steve's rule this year is that no one will get dropped intentionally.

The purpose of the ride is to develop confidence in paceline riding, bike handling skills and increasing average speed. This ride is recommended for the experienced cyclist wanting to improve his or her prowess on the bike. Triathletes should find the skills most beneficial to improving their times.

Ride starts Wednesday, April 3, at the Huck's at the corner of Willow Knolls and Allen roads in Peoria. Roll-out is at 5:30 p.m. sharp so get there at least 15 minutes early, ready to pedal. We will return to Huck's by sunset. Please note: The ride will start at 5 p.m. on April 3 only because Daylight Savings Time has not started yet. See ya on the road.

—Steve Shaffer & Sharree Tate

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.

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wclark@heartland.bradley.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

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

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Brenda Clark 346-2141 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)

347-4841 (5:30-9 p.m.)

SECRETARY

Eileen Dudley 692-7076

gw Dudley@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.)

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Charlie & Franny Klees 694-3674 (home)

698-0048 (fax)

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Sue DeDecker 693-2973

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8239 (days) ehutchis@heartland.bradley.edu

NO BALONEY RIDE (JUNE 1)

Roger John 243-9191

DIANE'S RIDE (AUGUST 24)

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

INTERPLANETARY RIDE (JULY 20, 21)

Sheldon Schafer 682-1876 (home)

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

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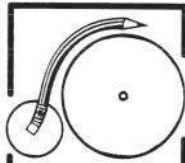
sjoslin@heartland.bradley.edu or

Bikewriter@aol.com

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

FROM P TO SHINING P...

WHEN WRITING RADIO SCRIPTS, THE BEGINNING COPYWRITER IS WELL ADVISED TO AVOID USING WORDS that start with the dangerous letter "P." But if interviewing Michael Stroh about his recent four-month, transcontinental cycling odyssey, get used to using the word "Portland"



**TIRE
TRACTS**

often. After all, Michael's story includes two big P-words, at beginning and end: Portland, Oregon, and Portland, Maine. "It seemed symmetrical, somehow."

After completing graduate school (environmental studies) in Bloomington, Indiana, Michael, 33, set out to fulfill

a longtime desire, to see the United States and Canada from the seat of a bicycle.

He certainly wasn't focused on a record attempt; first, he rolled up 6,000 miles during the crossing instead of the 3,000-3,400 miles typical of a straight-line attempt. Second, he crossed the Continental Divide nine times. "If you ride through Yellowstone, you normally

cross it three times, but I met up with some friends who wanted to do a little daytouring and we were in the area, so..."

Long before he crossed the Continental Divide, Michael headed into British Columbia to ride 350 miles along the Kettle Valley Railway. Eighty to ninety-foot trestles spanning deep gorges and visits with the mostly European tourists along the route made his B.C. trip especially memorable.

Michael used maps from the Adventure Cycling Association (formerly Bikecentennial) in Oregon, Glacier National Park and Yellowstone, and relied on regular road maps for most of the rest of the trip. In Wisconsin, Michael used maps published by the cheese state specifically for cyclists. "Wisconsin had excellent maps."

Advice for those considering a lengthy ride? "Don't overplan, and don't get locked into the I-gotta-be-there-by-X mentality," Stroh said. "Build extra time into the ride. Leave yourself enough time to enjoy the sights."

—Samuel Joslin

Much ado about March...

MARCH BREAKFAST MEETINGS. All locations at 8:30 a.m. March 3: Oogies, Peoria. March 10: Bob Evans, East Peoria. March 17: Oogies, Peoria. March 24: Bob Evans, East Peoria. March 31: Oogies, Peoria.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10. Mossville Grade School to Track Inn, Chillicothe. 8 a.m. 20 miles. Ride leader: Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17. Road Riding 101. Lincoln Grade School, Washington, 1 p.m. Ride leader: Rob Alexander, 444-3297.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23. Pearch Community Center, Chillicothe. From Peoria, turn left at Dairy Queen. 1 p.m. Ride leader: Dave Schaufelberger, 579-2311.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24. Field Shopping Center, Morton. 30 to 40 miles with stop at Casey's. Weather may shorten ride. 8:30 a.m. Ride leader: Jack Welch, 387-6117.

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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8. Roanoke Spring Trio Ride.

With a distance for everyone: 11, 24 and 62 miles. Postride activities include: the Roanoke Country Fair, carnival rides, food and entertainment. For more information, send a S.A.S.E. to Larry Voyles, Rt. 1, Box 99, Benson, IL 61516, or call 394-2585.

RULES OF THE RIDE

- 1) Ride no more than two abreast—single file in traffic and at intersections.
- 2) Pass only on the left—and 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.)

were now motorists. The road was very crowded and noisy. Sometimes traffic was backed up for miles. Whenever there was a gap in traffic, cars would zoom ahead without looking for pedestrians.

Then one day, not long after that, the pedestrians came to the king with a complaint. "A motorist has struck a child, and killed her.

Do something to protect us from the motorists." So the king decreed that pedestrians would no longer be allowed on or near the Useful Highway, as it was too dangerous. After all, wasn't there a perfectly good bike/ped trail parallel to the road?

And the king decreed another a new tax, which would be used for road widening. "Motorists have been complaining that the Useful Highway is too crowded. Where there was a sidewalk, there shall be new lanes." And he instituted a new tax to pay for the construction.

Now the trail was nearly empty. Occasionally on a weekend, a lone cyclist would ride slowly by. Or a rare pedestrian or two would be seen hiking along. But since the nearly-empty trail was never maintained, and was all messed up from tree roots underneath and storm debris on top, few people used it. During the winter, snow fell on it, and was not plowed away. By now, almost everyone had a car.

Much wrath were the people. "We used to have money for vacations, and music, and food, and the Internet, and for spending at the local shops along the Useful Highway. But now all our money is spent on taxes and on cars. We used to have time for more than working and sleeping. But now, we spend half the day stuck in heavy traffic. We used to be healthy and fit. But now we never walk, and we

never bike, and we're stressed from the heavy traffic. We used to have clean air that was the fame of the world, but now it smells of car exhaust, and visitors from other lands no longer come here. We used to have vibrant thriving shops that sold thousands of things. Books and CDs and food and brightly colored clothing and musical instruments and jewelry and toys and knickknacks and VCRs and Chia Pets and t-shirts that said 'My parents went to Bikepedia and all they got me was this lousy t-shirt' and high-speed modems. But now the only businesses that are left are hospitals, tax collection offices, gas stations, used-car lots, and junkyards."

So the people got together and overthrew their foolish king. "Let us execute him!" cried some. But cooler heads prevailed. "He is not evil, just foolish. He should be punished for his folly, but he does not deserve death." So the people went to a wise old wizard and he told them what to do.

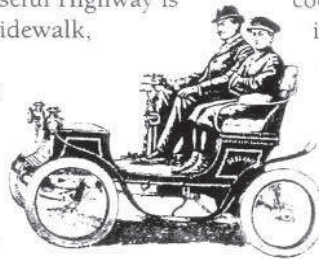
They shipped their foolish king to the far away land of Los Angeles, where he was imprisoned within a freeway interchange, forever unable to escape. He lived there many years, growing fat from discarded half-eaten junk food thrown out of car windows, always trying to find a way across the freeway ramps, always in vain.

And the people elected a new king, a wise one, who restored the sidewalks and allowed pedestrians to use them, allowed bikes back on the Useful Highway, and abolished all the new taxes.

Within a few years, new trees were growing through the old abandoned bike/ped trail. After twenty years, nobody could tell it was ever there.

And they all lived happily ever after.

—Keith Lynch, kfl@access.digex.net



They shipped their foolish king to the far away land of Los Angeles, where he was imprisoned within a freeway interchange, forever unable to escape.

One used tandem, only used for light Gardening...

MARCH 1975. At the March meeting, members explore the wonderful world of bicycle maintenance, courtesy of club experts, Brown's Sporting Goods, Competition Cycle and Illinois Cycle.

MARCH 1981. The club is planning a women's bicycling clinic, free and open to the public at Forest Park Nature Center. Out-of-town riders are starting to turn in preregistrations for the Washington Square Pedal-In. Dave Gardner provided layout services. Diane Ziegler reports riding 5,385 miles in 1980, a mileage total second only to Don Eberle's 18,359.

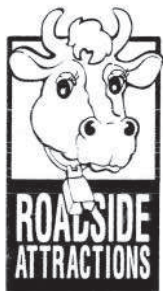
MARCH 1986. Saturday morning time trials are scheduled to begin March 1986. Ron Johnson, manag-

er of Vitesse Cycle Shop is the organizer and official timer. Art and Be Gibson, Todd Calhoun, Tom Hastings, Patricia Davis, Carol Hill, Susan Pilon and Karen Austin are welcomed to the club. To the south, the Springfield Bicycle Club raises individual dues to \$10, the first dues increase for the club since 1971.

MARCH 1991. Dave Gardner is trying to sell his Fastab custom tandem for \$950. Editor Dean Grethey complains that the war in the Gulf, while thankfully over, has left him addicted to CNN. The Tuesday Wright Wrides are starting, along with something called the Thursday W.I.M.P.S. (Women In Motion Pedaling Slowly) Ride.



So many rides, so many weekends...



- MARCH 17**—St. Pat's Day Ride, Wauconda Apple Orchard (847-520-5010), 7 or 34 miles; \$3 registration, day of ride only (9:30–11 am). For information, call Wheeling Wheelmen*, Wayne Segedie, 708-426-4376.
- APRIL 21**—Folks on Spokes Easter Ride, University Park, 24/33/45/65 miles on flat to gently rolling rural roads; \$10 before April 7, then \$15; "Easter Egg" sandwiches, musical entertainment; helmets required; Folks on Spokes Bicycle Club*, P.O. Box 824, Homewood, IL 60430; 708-730-5179.
- APRIL 28**—TGI Spring Ride, Athens (12 miles northwest of Springfield), 33 and 57 somewhat rolling miles, \$7 in advance, day of \$9; Springfield Bicycle Club, Micci Bly, (217)-546-5745 or Nancy Jones, (217)-528-4768.
- APRIL 28**—Silver Springs 60, Yorkville, 25/45/62 miles, flat to rolling terrain; \$15 preregistration only by March 30; spaghetti dinner, T-shirt available; SASE Aurora Bicycle Club*, P.O. Box 972, Aurora, IL 60507, Mike Brackett, 708-892-1010.
- MAY 5**—Sudden Century, 30/40/65/80/100 flat to rolling miles; \$12 before April 26, then \$15, family rates available; raffle prizes, t-shirts; helmets required; Kathi Cassman, Joliet Bicycle Club*, 11709 W. 194th Street, Mokena, IL 60448, 708-479-1059.
- MAY 19**—McLean County Wheelers' 17th Annual Spring Metric, Downs; 50/80/100K, completely new routes; Craig Ryan, McLean County Wheelers*, P.O. Box 947, Bloomington, IL 61702-0947, 309-827-8216.
- JUNE 1** (Saturday)—No Baloney Mountain/Road Ride, Peoria; 26/52/68 miles on-road; off-road trails available in Jubilee State Park, breakfast and lunch, massage option, camping available, \$12 by May 24, then \$15, family discount; Illinois Valley Wheelm'n*, Tom Romanowski, 6215 N. English Oak Drive, Peoria 61615, 309-692-0842.
- JUNE 2**—1996 Udder Century, Union, 31/50/62/100 miles over scenic, rolling rural roads—also new 10-mile "mini-metric"—hike, bike, blade or skate; \$13 by May 15, then \$15; pasta dinner, antique museum entry; McHenry County Bicycle Club*, c/o Ralph Nelson, president, P.O. Box 917, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0917; Linda, 815-477-6858 or 708-442-1188.
- JUNE 8** (Saturday)—C-U Across the Prairie, Champaign County, 15/35/50 flat to rolling miles, T-shirt available, Prairie Cycle Club*, P.O. Box 115, Urbana, IL 61801, Gary Baldwin 217-356-5871 or Tom O'Rourke 217-352-4991.
- JUNE 8 AND 9**—TOMRV (Tour of the Mississippi River Valley), Bettendorf, IA; 105 and 86 miles or 63 and 41 from Preston, IA; overnight at Clarke College in Dubuque; \$43 until March 31, \$48 until April 30, \$53 until May 31 plus accommodations from \$5 up; Quad Cities Bicycle Club, TOMRV-19, c/o Susie LaForce, 2023 E. 45th Street, Davenport, IA 52807, 319-355-5530.
- JUNE 16**—Twenty-Fifth Annual Windy 60, DeKalb, 25/40/63 miles flat to rolling; \$10 by June 8, then \$13 (\$8 without t-shirt); t-shirts, snacks, etc.; DeKalb County Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 192, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-758-1562 or 815-758-8879.
- JUNE 16**—Eighth Annual Boulevard Lakefront Tour, Chicago; 35 mile historical, architectural tour of Chicago's parks, neighborhoods, and lakefront; \$17 members, \$20 nonmembers before 5/31 (includes T-shirt), \$25 after, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation*, 427 S. Dearborn Ave., Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60605-1120, 312-427-3325.
- JULY 4**—Fourth of July Ride, Plainfield, IL, 30/65 miles flat to rolling; \$12 until June 22, then \$15; Barb Moore, Joliet Bicycle Club*, 710 Nicholson, Joliet, IL 60435, 815-726-2257.
- JULY 20-21**—Interplanetary Bicycle Ride, Peoria; Road plus rail-trails 10–100 miles; ride the world's largest (Guinness Record) solar system model; includes breakfast, lunch, showers, \$20 (2 days) until July 12, then \$23. One-day price also available; Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, Sheldon Schaffer, Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake Ave., Peoria 61614-5985, 309-686-700, Ext. 4.
- JULY 21**—Melon Metric XI, Sandwich, IL, 25/31/62/100 miles; water bottles to pre-registrants, T-shirt available; Naperville Bicycle Club*, Jeane Maher 708-357-9000 ext 616.
- AUGUST 3-6**—14th Annual Across Illinois Bike Ride (AIBR), Moline; 27/50 miles; fully supported, indoor/outdoor camping at YMCAs, motels available; optional transportation from the Joliet area; helmets required; 4 days. \$80 before July 1, \$90 after; weekend only \$30 before July 1, \$35 after; Joliet Bicycle Club*, Don Treho, 107 Candlelight, Morris, IL 60450; 815-942-8411 or Joan Irwin, 935 Alma Drive, Wilmington, IL 60481; 815-476-2044.

**Going to an
invitational ride
this spring? Drop a
note or pick up the
phone and call the
editor at 688-0922
when you get back;
let other members
know which rides
were great and
which were
merely ridden.**

Great Chicago show, trails speaker hits town, club supports ICC police...

SMILING CYCLISTS DESCEND ON THE BIKE SHOW. About 40 IVW members spent much of February 24 at the Midwest Consumer Bicycle Show at the Rosemont Convention Center near O'Hare airport. We rode there in style—with refreshments and bicycle videos—in a deluxe charter bus piloted by our own Al Silzer (some of Al's off-bike hours are spent working for Peoria Charter Coach).

And, after a blast of the latest high-tech bike stuff at the show, we took the bus downtown—and back in time—to the Bicycle Museum of America at North Pier. From chariot-wheels to carbon fiber, they had it all.

Finally, with the blessing of very mild weather (60 degrees in February?), we also took a stroll on the Chicago's Lakefront Path and along the Magnificent Mile. Tipped helmets to Charlie and Franny Klees for organizing a great day for the IVW.

TRI-COUNTY TO HOST NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED GREENWAYS/TRAILS SPEAKER. At their March 14 kick-off meeting for a regional greenways and trails program, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will host Ed McMahon, director of the American Greenways Program in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. McMahon gave a very informative and inspiring talk at a meeting I attended last year in Springfield. He painted a clear picture of both where we're at in America (auto-dominated/fast food-row approach to urban planning) and where we'd like to be (preserved greenspace with emphasis on human-powered transportation).

This local meeting with Mr. McMahon is well worth your time. March 14, 7 p.m., Fondulac Park District Building, 201 Veteran's Dr., East Peoria.

BIKE PLAN ROLLS INTO PEKIN. At a February 20 meeting, a committee of IVW members met to begin work on a bicycle map/plan for Pekin.

IVW members Glen Thompson, Jim Vaupel, Mel Perrill, Len Bobbitt, Bill Clark, and Judie Noyes are marking their favorite routes on Pekin city maps and suggesting road and trail improvement projects. A compiled document will be given to Dennis Keif, Pekin Director of Public Works.

Mr. Keif has invited the IVW to participate in the revision of Pekin's Comprehensive Plan, the bike map/plan being the focus of that effort. Pekin's upcoming trails projects will also be shown on the IVW plan.

On March 5, Bob Blackwell, Director of Pekin Park District, will update us on Pekin's trail plans. All IVW members are welcome to attend (Pekin

Public Library, 7 p.m.). Give me a call for more details at 685-3921.

IVW SUPPORTS PEORIA TRAIL LINKAGE. In a letter to the Peoria Park District, IVW President Bill Clark offered the club's support for completing the linkage of the Rock Island Trail with downtown Peoria. The Park District is applying for a federal grant to complete the trail segment between Pioneer Parkway and Peoria Heights. In his comments, Bill stressed the need to provide good road/trail connections—so that cyclists can ride to the trail as well as on it.

IVW SUPPORTS ICC BICYCLE POLICE. At the February board meeting, the IVW approved a \$200 donation to the Illinois Central College Security Force. The IVW donation will help send ICC officer Charles Cummins to the International Police-On-Bikes Conference (May '96, Rochester, NY). IVW President Bill Clark will ask ICC to provide news media coverage of the club's donation. Officer Cummins requested the IVW's help after hearing of our donations which sent two Peoria County officers to last year's conference (held in Milwaukee).

IVW Links with Peoria Neighborhood Associations. On January 21, I discussed the Peoria Bicycle Map/Plan with leaders of several Peoria neighborhood associations at a city-sponsored "Neighborhood Showcase" held at Northwoods Mall. Of particular interest to these folks was the bicycle's potential to:

1. Reduce motor traffic noise/congestion in neighborhoods.
2. Promote Peoria's scenic/historic housing areas.
3. Improve the effectiveness of neighborhood watch activity.

I also met Joe O'Connel—a cyclist and potential IVW member—from the city's Neighborhood Division. Joe provided me a map of Peoria's neighborhood associations and a list of current officers. I plan to follow up and discuss the bike plan at some neighborhood association meetings—this will help develop the public support needed to get the Peoria bike map/plan on the fast-track.

TIPPED HELMETS TO PEORIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS. One couple I met, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bannon, were burglarized several years ago at their Armstrong Street home. Rather than flee to one of the Peoria area's collar communities, these folks chose to stay and harness people-power to reclaim and improve their neighborhood. Among their recent successes: Restoration of Armstrong Street's historic brick surface begins this spring. —Eric Hutchison



Pekin Trails information meeting March 5, Pekin Public Library, 7 p.m. All IVW members welcome.

At the February board meeting, the IVW approved a \$200 donation to the Illinois Central College Security Force.

The Useful Highway

So the king decreed that henceforth, all cyclists were to ride on the bike/ped trail.

The following story came through e-mail land the other day, straight from the keyboard of one Keith Lynch, who says he's into "SF, SF cons, the Net, cryorics, Lojban, programming, science, math, history, classical music, warmth, cycling, space exploration and colonization, nanotechnology, archiving information, ham radio, extropians, liberty, and objectivism" and against "big government, psychiatry, tobacco, cold, ice, drunk drivers, drivers who think bikes don't belong on the road, destroying information, and rock music." Those who would like to learn more about Mr. Lynch can refer to his Web page at <http://www.access.digex.net/~kfl/>.



ONCE UPON A TIME, IN THE FAR-AWAY LAND OF BIKEPEDIA, THERE lived a wise king. There was a road, called the Useful Highway, which tied the kingdom together. Motorists and cyclists travelled upon the broad straight road. Pedestrians

walked upon its ample sidewalks. All lived in harmony and were content.

But then the wise king died, and a new king came to power. The new king was not wise at all. He was very foolish. Instead of studying the ways of wisdom, he had skipped school and hung around with his foolish friends. His foolish friends had many foolish ideas about cars being evil.

When the new king came into power, he decreed that cars were too numerous and too dangerous, and that they fouled the clean air of the kingdom, and promoted global warming. He proclaimed that he was going to make life better for cyclists and pedestrians.

He established a new tax, and with this tax he created a bike/ped trail, parallel to the Useful Highway, and seven leagues away from it. This trail would be for hikers and for bikers, he proclaimed.

Motorists met privately with the king, and were very wroth. "Why do we have to pay this tax?" they asked. "We get no benefit." The king said, "Of course you do. Cyclists will all ride on the new trail, leaving more room on the Useful Highway for you motorists." The motorists were pleased.

The trail was built, just as he decreed. But it didn't work well. Cyclists saw that there were many pedestrians upon it, so they continued to use the Useful Highway. Pedestrians did use the trail. Of course their homes and businesses and shops were all on the Useful Highway, so they all had to walk

some of the distance on the old sidewalks. But since there were much fewer of them in any one place on the sidewalks, evil robbers attacked the pedestrians, and nobody saw who did it, and nobody came to their rescue.

To avoid the evil robbers on the sidewalk, and the few fast cyclists on the ped/bike trail, most pedestrians stopped being pedestrians, and became motorists. "Surely, evil robbers can't rob us when we are in cars."

The Useful Highway became much more crowded with all the new motorists. The motorists complained to the king. "You claimed this would make the road better and faster," they said. "But it's slower and more crowded. Why won't those cyclists go where they belong?"

So the king decreed that henceforth, all cyclists were to ride on the bike/ped trail. Anyone caught cycling on the Useful Highway would be locked away in the king's dungeons.

Then one day, not long after that, the pedestrians came to the king with a complaint. "A cyclist has struck a child. She is badly hurt. Do something to protect us from the cyclists." So the king decreed a speed limit. Any cyclist caught riding at more than ten miles per hour on the bike/ped trail would be locked away in the king's dungeons. The king raised taxes to hire policemen to patrol the trail and watch for speeding cyclists.

Cyclists couldn't get to work on time, unless they got up at oh-dark-hundred. They couldn't get home from work in time for dinner. So most cyclists stopped being cyclists, and got cars.

Now the Useful Highway was less useful. Most people who had been cyclists or pedestrians



Much wroth were the people. "We used to have money for vacations, and music, and food, and the Internet, and for spending at the local shops along the Useful Highway."

Picking up after a horse with no name...

I always turn to you with my problems, so here we go. It's the IVW New Year's Day Ride of 1996. You know the one. It's the FIRST ride of the year... the one where you wear your frost-bite like a Red Badge of Courage. It's the real test of who takes their cycling seriously. If you're not there, then you just don't count!

Okay, here's my problem. I WAS there! I even rode to Charlie and Franny's to further prove my resolve (or was it some MACHO thing?). Yet there was the proverbial group picture for the IVW newsletter [see last issue—ed.], proof positive that I was there, only to be labeled NOT IDENTIFIED! I was crushed... this will hang over my head all year.

I just don't understand it. Someone could figure out Chuck Rodgers hiding behind that scraggly beard and Samuel Joslin in that ridiculous hat, but there I am in clear view and NOT IDENTIFIED. What's up with this? That someone thinks that guy in the back row is Ken Luthy. Well, I've got news for them... that's JIMMY HOFFA!

Hey, maybe it ain't that bad being non-descript, unknown, a non-entity. But I'll bet the ranch that the first time I screw up in a paceline they'll get my name right! P.S. The reason Kevin Lantz

wasn't in the photo is that he was in the kitchen feeding his face.

—Yours truly, Not Identified

The editor was feeling a bit under the weather today, so he asked me to reply to your heartfelt letter. I've got one suggestion: REPHRASE YOUR LETTER IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION, DAGNABIT.

I can't even figure out what your problem is. I checked the last newsletter and it seems to me that the editor spelled your name, "Not Identified," perfectly.

Yet in some ways, I understand your feelings. Where'd Joslin find a hat that big? And how could we all have missed Jimmy Hoffa? (He seemed like a nice enough guy, even though I don't recall seeing the union label on his rear derailleur.) Most of all, what is it about Kevin Lantz' face that requires it being fed indoors, and are any of his other body parts detachable?

By the way, how big is your ranch? And when did you say you were going to screw up in a paceline? I'm trying to decide which syllable of your name to emphasize.

—D.D.



WE'VE MADE THE PLUNGE—the Aussie tickets are bought and we're going!

The Big Australian Bike Ride that Eileen and I will participate in is an M.S. fund-raising ride. But they do things differently there. If they make a profit on the enrollment money vs.

the expenses, M.S. research benefits. There are also raffles and some other non-mandatory fund raising efforts, including pledges from riders' friends.

That's what this note is all about. If anyone in the IVW would like to see our name in the donor's list, here's the

opportunity. We'll take with us any donations we can encourage people to make, without any arm twisting. So if you'd like in on this, please contact us.

—Team Dudley

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

The March meeting will be held at Leonardo's Pizza, 700 E. War Memorial Dr., March 13 at 6 p.m. Hope to see you there.
 —Charlie & Franny Klees



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

Far out!

Interplanetary Bicycle Ride to be sponsored by United States Cellular.

It's coming July 20 and 21, 1996: the longest and fastest bicycle ride in the solar system, brought to you by the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences, Friends of the Rock Island Trail, the Peoria Astronomical Society and the Peoria Academy of Sciences.

This is your opportunity to follow the orbits of planetary explorers through the "World's Largest Model of the Solar System," Lakeview Museum's Community Solar System—a unique museum exhibit spread across 60 miles of central Illinois.

Because the space between the planets is enormous relative to the sizes of the planets, few models exist which show the true scale of our solar system.

Lakeview's model includes true three-dimensional models of each of

the planets of our solar system. (P.S.: In addition to the planets, there are over 90 unnamed comets of the Kuiper Belt scattered across Germany, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Japan, Ecuador, Chile, and Antarctica. For logistical reasons, the Interplanetary Ride does not include these destinations.)

The Community Solar System is recognized as the world's largest with entries in the 1993–96 editions of the Guinness Book of Records.

Cost: When registered before July 12: \$18 per rider, \$40 family. After July 12, add \$3 per rider.

For a registration form, send a stamped, self addressed envelope to:

Interplanetary Bicycle Ride,
 Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1125 West Lake Avenue,
 Peoria, IL 61614-5985 or e-mail to
sls@bradley.bradley.edu

NOTE: Regular readers of the IVW newsletter will receive a registration form attached to an upcoming edition—in plenty of time to preregister.

Your IVW membership expires: 10/03/96

RON ANDERSON
 203 LOCUST
 WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2207

March rides...

Look for good 'uns on page 2.

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