



June 1996

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



Just another brick in the wall

SUNDAY, 6:30 AM. Just woke up—in my tent. Went camping this weekend. Camping and Riding. We (stoker Brenda & I) and two other couples, stayed outside St. Charles, Mo., and rode about 60 miles of the Katy Trail. For those who are unfamiliar, it is alot like our Rock Island Trail, only longer, and somewhat prettier, if you like river scenery.

Although most of our time is spent on the road, we still enjoy doing some trail riding with our family & friends. Its a great way to slow down the pace, and relax.

We rode from the Weldon Springs access area into St. Charles. What a beautiful day. Sunny, warm, and mildly breezy. To our delight, we found the Lewis & Clark reenactment in progress. There was a parade of life & drum corps, a battle between two different regiments going on, and a tent city set up to simulate a late 1700's encampment. We did the tourist bit, checking out the local doctor, silver smith, and sword maker. We talked with a guy who had a teepee set up with all the amenities of home, for the time period. We had a very pleasant conservation, until!!!

Until he had to open his mouth, and let us know that he thought bikes belonged on these sort of trails and not on roadways. One of the ladies in our group muttered, "Oh God, you don't know what you've just done", and began to fade away, as I stepped boldly forward, and defended our honor. I pumped him for more information, and let him bury himself a little more. Then I informed him of who I was, and my connection with the local bicycling movement. I asked him in my most pleasant attitude laden voice if he could please explain his Neanderthal opinion to me. "I've been on roads and camelp up on cyclists, and not been able to pass, because they take up the whole lane. They don't move over. THEY THINK THEY BELONG ON THE ROADWAY."

Well I gave him the definition of roadway, and the definition of vehicle, and pointed out the they legally do belong on the road. I also pointed out that in order to pass a cyclist properly, he should use the same technique that he uses to pass another motor vehicle.

I did have to agree with him though, on one point. It is not only unthoughtful, it is illegal to impede traffic by blocking the roadway. If a car

cannot pass safely beside you because of the road width, then by all means, take up the entire lane. For your saftey, and theirs. But if there is enough room, single up, and let them pass.

People judge us by our actions. If we are to coexist with the motorized traffic, we must learn to be thoughtful of their privileges too. Hopefully, it will give a good impression and set a good example for others to follow. But, by all means, insist that motor traffic respect your rights also.

I just read the Forum in the July issue of *Bicycling Magazine*. A couple got ran off the road on their tandem, by a truck. They got the guys license number, and reported him to the police. The truck driver was cited and fined, in the local courts.

It was a small victory, but a significant one. We enjoy the right to ride on safe roads. We should respect each others rights. If you are involved in an accident on your bicycle, report it to the police. Even a report of a threatening motor vehicle operator will put officers on the lookout for persons of this sort. If enough reports are received, they will be forced to take action. But let us remember, we are vehicle operators too. Subject to the same rules.

CLUB JERSEYS!!! We are taking orders for club jerseys from Good Stuff, the same company that we ordered from before. We elected to stay with the same design and colors due to the popularity of our outstanding logo. We have had several favorable comments about our shirts at out of the area rides. If you want to see a sample of our shirts, check with just about any old timer in the club. They probably have one that they would be happy to let you see. The material is a Coolmax material, much like we had before.

The price will depend on the quantity ordered. Orders will be taken by Bill Clark, by pre-payment only, until July 13. If we order more than 20 jerseys, the cost will be \$50 each. If less than 20 orders are placed, the money will be returned. This is for a three-color, three-pocket jersey with a 4-inch zipper in front. Send your checks payable to IVW, to Bill Clark, 308 Linden (yes, I've moved), Pekin, Ill. 61554, or call 347-4841 for more information. See ya on the road.

—Bill Clark



NEW MEMBERS

Eric Lambdley Peoria
Margaret Moulton East Peoria

RENEWING MEMBERS

Phillip, Sandy & Brian Anton* Peoria
Larry D. Davis Peoria
Ronald Dean* Knoxville
Monica Denbraber Peoria
Russell Goin Peoria
Brent & Deb Graham Brimfield
Christine Kancius & Don, Andy,
Scott & Stephen Sheller Morton
Ken Parker Morton
Travis Portis Peoria
Mike Pula Dunlap
Bill Semmens Peoria
Allan, Gail, Rhett, Seth &
Ty Silzer* Peoria
Bill & Judy Tolliver East Peoria
Steve & Sue Weast Laura
Susan Wilbur Peoria Heights
Jim, Ann, Andy, Mark &
Tim Wittmer* 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.

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347-4841 (5:30—9 p.m.)

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gwdudley@bykerider.win.net

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

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NO BALONEY RIDE (JUNE 1)

Roger John 243-9191

DIANE'S RIDE (AUGUST 24)

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

Parts is such needless sorrow

Guy Van Guy is employed by a wholesale bicycle parts distributor somewhere in the lower 48. He recently returned from Taiwan, where he was checking out the latest Shimano knockoffs. Unfortunately, he's sworn to silence—at least for now...

Lately a movement is afoot in the bicycle industry: standards for bicycle parts.

There have been several meetings with people representing a number of companies in the industry. The beauty of the movement is that it is being held under the auspices of ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials.) ASTM has set standards for virtually everything manufactured in the world. The organization has a documented protocol for establishing and reviewing standards for a wide variety of products. They are the "real deal" when it comes to standards. Their publications hold up under scientific peer review and are generally regarded as the definitive word on testing and materials.

The reason that I am so excited about ASTM and the bicycle industry is that there will be generally accepted standards of performance for forks, handlebars, stems, etc. Such standards will go a long way toward making bicycles safer vehicles. With the current lightweight craze going full tilt, product durability sometimes is sacrificed for lighter components. Now, having an industry that is trying to lighten and improve products is not a bad thing; however, when there are no standards for durability, we face an insidious problem. The bicycle industry has a woeful record for policing itself as far as testing is concerned. Not only is the concept of testing unclear to many component companies, it is willfully ignored by many designers and widget makers.

The usual response to a question about testing is that testing is expensive, or that the testing has already been done. I remember asking a handlebar maker some detailed questions about its supposedly bulletproof

testing program. Yet the person bragging about the program and its details did not understand it. This fact became clear when he said that the amount of load under which his wonder bar was tested was not relevant. I think that I would like to know that my handlebars would support my 180 pounds over several seasons of bumps and jumps. Load is a critical variable when testing a handlebar for time-to-failure.

Companies not only need to know their products, they need to be familiar with the materials out of which they make their gee-whiz gizmos. Material characteristics define how an item will respond to use. Product design obviously enters the mix substantially also; however, for a handlebar, one would not want to utilize a material that exhibited a catastrophic failure mode. Critical link components should meet a minimum standard for product life and ultimate yield strength.

Standards can also help consumers to shop more intelligently, for one can make an informed decision regarding the appropriate use of an item if one knows whether or not the item passes the ASTM standard. As an example, if the standard for stems is a rating matrix that combines type of use and rider weight, one can make a better purchasing decision when comparing products. Maybe the beautifully milled and polished stem that weighs 41 grams is not appropriate for the gear-mashing, 214-pound monster that rides 300 miles off road per week. While the example may be ridiculous, it does put across the point that choosing a product without some additional information—hopefully in the form of a product performance standard—is the same as shopping blind.

Well, I have prattled on about testing and standards. The bicycle industry is finally moving forward with both. I laud them for such a "bold" position. It should have happened years ago. We are not there yet, but we are on the way. The future definitely looks brighter for safe and sane product development.

—Guy Van Guy



WANTED: Riding companions. I will be doing some self-contained touring this summer. Anywhere you want to go? If you don't mind getting wet and the wind blowing in your face, ride with me. This is the way to see the country while chasing that pink rabbit. Call Don Eberle, 699-2790, today.

KIDS PEDAL THE DARNDDEST WAYS.

Over 10,000 people at the Kids Nowadays Festival held April 27 either heard or saw the words IVW (okay, that's an acronym), Russell's and bicycle safety. Using bicycles supplied by Russell's Cycle World, the IVW helped conduct a bicycle safety rodeo designed for young children. (Hats off to Joe Russell for a day full of

Peoria Bike Map.

In related news, from a Peoria Traffic Commission meeting, March 21: Traffic Engineer Jim Baumann stated that Peoria has made requirements for additional width along the Allen Road corridor so there would be space to widen the road in the future, if necessary. Also from the same meeting: Peoria area trail plans are

The next step is for the Pekin Comprehensive Plan Committee to review the proposal. There's a good possibility that the IVW will be invited to help present the plan to the Pekin City Council.

The IVW's plan is timed to help Pekin get the federal dollars which turn plans into pavement. By adopting a detailed

Talking safety, partnering with Pekin, & IDOT puts us on the map

continual seat adjustments.)

Illini Bluffs students guided riders around the rodeo track. And, after the Peoria Medical Society raffled off helmets, IVW members assisted with proper fit and safety tips for new helmet owners.

Charlie Klees was on his feet from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., talking with kids and parents about preventing common bicycle accidents. Also helping out were members Franny Klees, Bill Clark, Rob Alexander, Steve Kurt and myself.

P.S. Charlie Klees is well on his way to becoming central Illinois' first Effective Cycling Instructor (EFI). He plans to complete his training at the League of American Bicyclists National Rally in Dayton.

IVW PLAYS ITS FAVORITE REQUESTS.

Peoria is preparing another round of capital improvement projects. Projects suggested by the IVW included: Allen Road (widen north of Route 6), Northmoor Road (widen), Rock Island Trail (linkage to Detweiller Drive in Pioneer Park area), and completion of the

undergoing preliminary design between Junction City Shopping Center and Springdale Cemetery and between the Michel and McCluggage bridges.



IVW ASSISTS PEKIN OFFICIALS WITH BIKE PLAN. On May 14, IVW members painted a bright future of cycling in the marigold city. We led an "armchair" bike ride of the city (slide show) to illustrate the IVW's action plan for Pekin. This plan was developed over the past few months by the club at the request of Pekin Director of Public Works Dennis Keif.

The action plan included maps of Pekin's most bicycle-friendly routes, Pekin trails projects and a list of suggested road and trail projects to further improve cycling in the Pekin area. It includes a list of suggested policies to make cycling facilitates automatic whenever a roadway is upgraded or a new business or subdivision is built.

Public Works Director Dennis Keif and staff member Jill Ellestad showed strong interest in the IVW's proposals. Going beyond the IVW's plans, Mr. Keif asked for info on bicycle parking policies.

road/trail plan in 1996, Pekin will be well prepared to compete for the bicycle and pedestrian dollars included in the 1997 federal transportation budget.

The IVW team in Pekin: Bill Clark, Len Bobbitt, Judie Noyes, Jim Vaupel, Glen Thompson, Eric Hutchison.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS BICYCLE MAPS AVAILABLE. The official state bicycle map covering the IVW's home turf is now available from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The map, which covers Peoria, Tazewell and Fulton counties and extends westward to the Mississippi River is free.

To get your copy, write to: Map Sales, Illinois Department of Transportation, Room 121, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62764. Ask for Map 4, Spoon River Valley. While you're at it, ask for a copy of the booklet "Bicycle Resources, A Source Guide for Maps, Brouchures, and Bicycle Groups in Illinois," February 1996. It's a great guide to cycling in our prairie state and contains a bonus—photos taken at the 1995 IVW No Baloney Ride featuring Sue and Darren Dedecker, Russ Goin and Karen Saltzman.

—Eric Hutchison

NATIONAL RALLY FAMILY FRIENDLY. The League of American Bicyclists' National Rally, July 3-7, in Dayton, Ohio, features an extensive new children's program to make the event more fun for parents and kids.

The daily activities are planned both to give kids from first to fourth grades a great time and to give parents the chance to ride at their own pace and catch up with friends old and new. Each activity includes a daily instructional period (at 9:30 a.m.) addressing bicycle safety and etiquette. Each destination is close enough that children aged six to ten can complete the ride without difficulty, and each activity will end around 3:00 p.m. Activities include:

- Thursday, July 4: United States Air Force Museum Discovery Tour, including a movie at the museum's IMAX theater.
- Friday, July 5: After their daily safety briefing, children will

bicycle north on the river bikeway to the museum for a tour, including their special "Robobugs" exhibit on robotic bugs; from there, a short ride to Wegerzyn Pond for some fishing, and a picnic lunch with model airplane entertainment.

- Saturday, July 6: Sunwatch 12th Century Indian Village Tour, including lunch and a chance for children to learn Native American crafts.

The League of American Bicyclists is the nation's leading grassroots organization of bicyclists. The League is dedicated to bicycle advocacy, education and recreation. Helmets are required on all League-sponsored rides. For more information on the National Rally, contact the League of American Bicyclists at 190 W. Ostend St., Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21230, call (410) 539-3399, or e-mail Bikevent@aol.com.

Catch a ride... without the thumb.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8—Roanoke Spring Trio. 11/24/62 miles. We have a ride for everyone. 11 miles: Bring the whole family on this one. 24 miles: Short and flat. Metric Century: Enjoy 62 miles of our scenic countryside! Registration: \$5 each/\$12 family. For more information, send S.A.S.E. to: Roanoke Spring Trio, c/o Larry Voyles, Rt. 1 Box 99, Benson, IL 61516. Or call (309) 394-2585.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8—Field Shopping Center, Morton. 8 a.m. Ride leader: Don Eberle, 699-2790.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15—Banner Breakfast Ride. Leaves from Banner Grade School, corner of Allen Road and Cedar Hills Drive at 8 a.m. Ride to breakfast and return; total mileage between 25 and 35 miles. For more info, call Gregg at 243-5206 or Bill at 693-9388.

MONDAY, JUNE 17—Dunlap High School parking lot. 6 p.m. Ride leader: Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22—Field Shopping Center, Morton. 8 a.m. Ride leader: Don Eberle, 699-2790.

MONDAY, JUNE 24—Dunlap High School parking lot. 6 p.m. Ride leader: Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26—Annual Junk Food Ride (JFR). Starts from Lake of the Woods Plaza (on Route 40 between Mossville Road and Cedar Hills Drive) at 6 p.m. Please bring a high-calorie snack (cookies, cake, chips, etc.) to share at Benning's after the ride. Drinks will be provided. Ride at a casual pace (and not on Route 40). Everyone is welcome, including friends, neighbors, children and non-riders). If you cannot make the ride, show up around 7:15 p.m. to sample the goodies. Any questions? Call Gregg or Liz at 243-5206.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29—Banner Breakfast Ride. Leaves from Banner Grade School, corner of Allen Road and Cedar Hills Drive at 8 a.m. Ride to breakfast and return; total mileage between 25 and 35 miles. For more info, call Gregg at 243-5206 or Bill at 693-9388.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 12-14—Elroy-Sparta Trail Ride. When club members pedaled this way ten years ago, everyone had a blast. Well, it's that time of the decade again. Bill Semmens is your cordial host for a road trip and trail ride through west-central Wisconsin. The plan: Drive up Friday, ride Saturday and Sunday, and drive back on Sunday. Call Bill for more details at 693-9388.

EVERY TUESDAY—Wright Road Ride. 6 p.m., Dunlap Grade School (next to picnic shelter in the park). Slow, medium and fast rides—a ride for everyone! Bill Wright, 685-8549.

EVERY WEDNESDAY—Thrills, Skills & Speed II. Huck's at Willow Knolls and Allen roads in Peoria. Experienced riders only! 5:30 p.m. Ride leaders: Steve Shaffer, 685-4726 and Sharree Tate, 692-2316.

EVERY THURSDAY—Wright Trail and Off-Road Ride. 6 p.m., Wilder Waite School (across from the Rock Island Trail in Alta). Bring your mountain or hybrid bike and discover some new ways to get on and off the Rock Island Trail via gravel roads and dirt paths. Great ride for newcomers or friends of the club. Bill Wright, 685-8549.

EVERY THURSDAY—Show & Slow. Russell's Cycle, Washington. 20 miles or so. 6 p.m. Leaders: Rob Alexander, 444-3297 and Jim Raney, 444-7658.

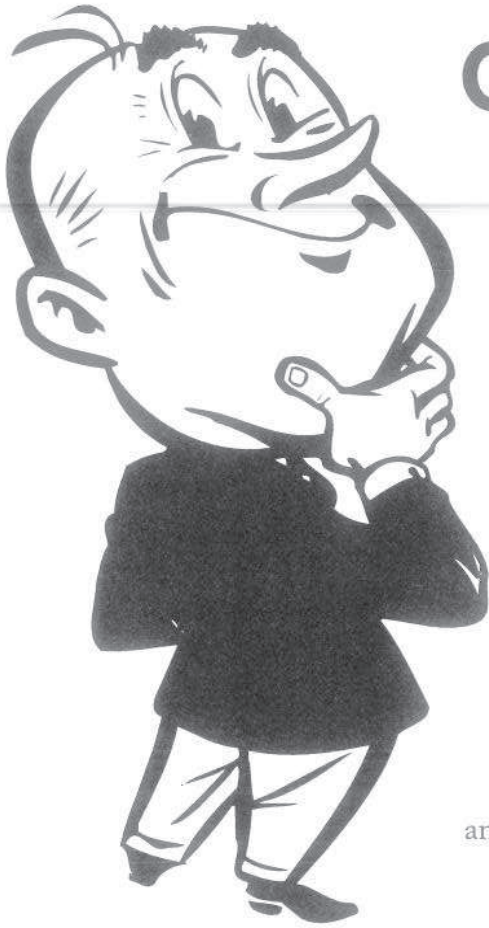
EVERY SATURDAY—Washington Show 'n Go. Leaves from Washington Square. Please park away from square. Show 'n Go rides are recommended for experienced riders only. 8:30 a.m. No leader.

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 IWW strongly recommends that you wear a helmet.

For more information on the IWW 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 to 9:30 p.m.)



Central Illinois multi-club ride.

All Central Illinois bicycle clubs and members are invited to attend a multi-club ride in Lincoln, Illinois Saturday, June 22. The ride, which begins at 8 a.m., leaves from the Lincoln Park District's recreational complex, 1400 Primm Road on the south side of Lincoln. (This is the same place where the PACRACC ride overnights.) The complex—open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.—has ample parking, water/soda/snacks and restrooms. If you ride the longer routes and stay around Lincoln until 1:00 p.m., you can also swim and shower at complex (Adult entry: \$1.75).

Riders will be provided with maps of 30- and 50-mile routes, however, sag and rest stops are not planned. (The routes do pass by area convenience stores.) Otherwise, it's bring-your-own (everything) although there are plenty of places to eat in the city.

This is our first multi-club get-together, so please encourage others to come out! (It's FREE, it's FREE, it's FREE and it'll be FUN.) If you have any questions or need more info, contact: Mark McClure at 217-876-0700.

—Mark & Beth McClure, mcclure@midwest.net

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

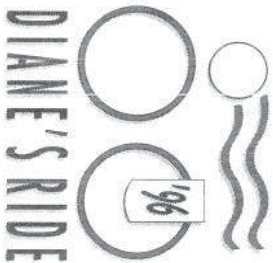
Make check to: ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N, 6518 NORTH SHERIDAN RD STE 2, PEORIA IL 61614-2933

LAST MEETING BEFORE OCTOBER.

Don't miss the June IVW swap meet/polluck. Charlie and Franny Klees will bring the hotdogs and the buns. You bring everything else—including that pile of wonderful old bicycle parts, accessories, etc.—at 6 p.m. to Fondulac Park, top of Springfield Road in East Peoria (next to the ball diamond). For more information call Charlie and Franny at 694-3674.

VOLUNTEER FOR DIANE'S RIDE.

Become a part of bicycling history. Volunteer to take care of a food stop and support the 10th Annual Diane's Ride, August 24, 1996. Remember, it's not just a 10th anniversary ride—it's the ride of the decade! Call John and Judy Apici at 387-6761 or e-mail JApici@aol.com. You'll be glad you helped out...and helped yourself to all the fun.



JUNE 1975. Pedal-In '75 is history: 139 riders signed in for the 50- and 100-mile routes. Four Wednesday

night training races are scheduled on the roads near the Pine Lakes Golf Course south of Washington.

JUNE 1981. Honorary League of American Wheelmen director Phyllis Harmon shows slides of her recent tour of New Zealand at the club's monthly meeting. 161

riders attended the Washington Square Pedal-In, one of the "most successful IVW-sponsored touring events to date." 51 people rode 100 miles, 52 rode 50 miles, 46 rode 25, and 12 rode 10 miles. Les Siegrist and Ron Anderson lead Saturday morning rides from Washington Square.

JUNE 1986. The 12th-annual Pedal-In, a two-day event, includes "the locally

famous Tour of Peoria, a 35-mile trip covering the high points of Western Civilization as interpreted

by natives of Peoria, Illinois." Up north, a new bicycle advocacy group has started up—the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, with 200 individual and corporate members. Closer to home, the Spoon River Wheelmen of Canton, IL, are sponsoring a mountain bike event called "Assault on Mt. Horrible."

JUNE 1991. The 12-foot-wide, 5.3-mile-long East Branch River Trail in East Peoria is open. Gary Weiss leads Thursday rides from the square in Metamora. This month's meeting features a video of the 1986 Race Across America (RAAM). One RAAM participant, Susan Haldeman, holds the 750-mile Paris-Brest-Paris women's record with a time of 54 hours, 40 minutes, set in 1985.

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELMEN
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PEORIA IL 61614-2933

Your IVW membership expires: 10/03/96

RON ANDERSON
203 LOCUST
WASHINGTON, IL
61571-2207

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

June meeting...
Swap meet, polluck, good time...see reverse.