



October 1996

# ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



## LaHood scheduled to speak to IVW

CONGRESSMAN RAY LAHOOD will be at our next IVW general meeting to give a preview of the federal transportation budget. The current budget, signed by President Bush in 1991, contained landmark provisions for bicycle and pedestrian projects (ISTEA\*). Some numbers: In the 10-years prior to ISTEA, approximately \$10 million was spent in the United States on bicycle projects. In the six years since ISTEA began, about \$110 million in bicycle projects have been funded in Illinois alone. Local projects benefiting from ISTEA dollars include the East Peoria and Morton trails. So what will the next ISTEA bring? Here's your chance to find out. Congressman LaHood is on the committee drafting the next ISTEA bill.

Also at the meeting: George and Eileen Dudley will present highlights of their recent bike trip to Australia. Promises to be a great armchair tour.

\*ISTEA—Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, activated in 1991, up for renewal in 1997.

**BIKES CHASE STOLEN CARS IN MACOMB.** In a recent article in the Peoria *Journal Star* about Macomb's new Community Based Policing program, Police Chief Steven Williams commented on a unique (and ironic) benefit of cops on bikes, saying "The bike patrol has been incredibly successful in dealing with automobile burglaries and business burglaries."

IVW HELPS BUILD REGIONAL GREENWAYS

**AND TRAILS PLAN.** IVW members recently worked with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to create a Peoria Metro Area Greenways and Trails Plan. This plan, funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, seeks to "create a vision for a regional greenway network that would tie the region together."

Part of this is our local multi-use trails system (Rock Island Trail, etc.). Thanks to input from IVW members, the plan also stresses needs for on-road bike and pedestrian

accommodations (so you can ride to the trail as well as on it). Some highlights:

**Morton.** Delmar Lowry stressed the need for bike access to Lakeland Avenue to provide trail access from northeast Morton residences and to tie together existing Morton Park District facilities. Delmar has also had numerous contacts with the Morton Park District about the Morton/East-Peoria Trail link. Latest word suggests spring '97 construction.

**East Peoria.** Charlie and Franny Klees stressed the bike route potential of existing roadways—roads which also feed the East Peoria Trail—including Fondulac Drive, Highview Road, Pleasant Hill Road, Farmdale Road, and Oakwood Road.

**MORE BIKES ON THE HORIZON—IVW ADVOCACY GOALS.** The Peoria city bicycle map is nearing it's final design stage. By the time you read this, there should be 10,000 copies available for distribution (it's

—continued on page 2



### NEW MEMBERS

Dave Brown ..... Peoria  
 Carol & Jack Huggins ..... East Peoria  
 Aron Reynolds &  
 Kristie Ritterbusch ..... Peoria

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Richard Boudreau ..... Peoria  
 Joe Camp\* ..... Washington  
 Jan & Stan Geisz ..... Washington  
 Jefferson Gilkeson ..... Washington  
 Dick & Jo Hammel ..... Peoria  
 Steve, Marla & Hana Hueser ..... Morton  
 Jim Kamp ..... Tremont  
 Charlie & Franny Klees\* ..... East Peoria  
 Ken & Noreen Mettelmann\* ..... Groveland  
 Steve & Marsha Miller ..... West Peoria  
 Mark, Vicki, Greg &  
 Christopher Padesky ..... Peoria  
 Dick & Dottie Rhodes\* ..... Pekin  
 Lowell, Nicholas &  
 Sarah Schroeder ..... Morton  
 Marc & Carol Squillante\* ..... Peoria  
 Elmer Taliver ..... Peoria  
 Laverne Wilson ..... Washington

\*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  
wdclark@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), 578-  
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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Computer users: Send e-mail to the editor at:

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**Bikewriter@aol.com**

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

**Deadline:** 15th of the month

Newsletter published monthly

*Hutchison—continued from page 1*

been a long and crooked road—keep your fingers crossed). We have also completed a bicycle plan/map for the city of Pekin and much of this was included into their new comprehensive plan. Here's what I see for the coming year:

1. Pass the ISTEAA, please. Our own Congressman Ray LaHood sits on the committee which is drafting the next federal transportation budget. The soon-to-expire budget (called ISTEAA) contained landmark provisions to assist bicycle and pedestrian projects. It's important these features are preserved in the next bill—they face serious opposition from the motorized highway lobby and are up against the general trend for cutting federal budgets. We (IVW) have a unique opportunity to benefit bicycle planning nationwide through contact with Congressman LaHood. It's great timing (election time).
2. Plan in a can that can (do). We are placing a generic version of our Pekin Bicycle plan on the League of Illinois Bicyclist's home page. This plan can serve as a model or template for any local bike plan and much of it can be used verbatim.
3. Ride Mayor, don't just run. On April 1, 1997 Peoria will elect a new mayor and several city councilman. I plan to do a pre-election survey of the

candidates views on bicycle issues. This is the best way to secure commitments for better bicycling from local government.

4. Bikes! Bikes! Bikes! Once the Peoria Bike Map is in our hot little hands, we need to get the good word out. I'd like to run a major promotional event (or events) this spring to promote the map and raise the visibility of bicyclists in our area. This ties in well with our upcoming election. Pro-bike candidates need to know they have pro-bike voters. My first thought is a Peoria city ride to parks and historic sites, possibly with the Peoria Park District and the Peoria Historical Society. I'll be looking for creative and energetic helpers . . . stay tuned.

**BRILLIANT PRODUCTS.** My strategy for effectively riding after dark is to look as much as possible like a road-construction zone. Now I can dress the part. National Safety sells serious lighting products to road construction and emergency crews. They have small strobes which can be attached to belt (or bike) and are visible up to five miles. If you really want attention, they also sell the battery powered lights which are used on road barricades (6-inch diameter lens). For a catalog, contact National Safety, PO Box 999, Charlestown, NH 03603-0999, or call 1 (800) 443-0300.

—Eric Hutchison

# IVW Annual Banquet

## 6 p.m., Saturday, November 9.

### Lariat Club, Glen Avenue, Peoria

Dinner choices: ribeye steak, orange roughy, or chicken

Price: \$7-\$14, depending on the item ordered

Call Franny Klees today at 694-3674

to make your reservation.

# Bill and the Kid go camping

I HAD PLANNED A TRIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY to go camping over a recent weekend. We were to go to Brodhead, Wisconsin, to a campground that we had been at before. Plenty of other activities for the kids. Swimming, miniature golf, canoeing, junk food, etc. And a Bike Trail! Oh Yes! This was not just a camping trip. We had to ride or the whole trip would be a waste. (can you imagine going anywhere without taking a bicycle?) The Sugar River Trail begins at the edge of Brodhead, and runs up to New Glarus. 23.5 miles. This is another converted rail trail, with minimum grade, and great scenery.

As it ended up, only my 9-year-old son and I were able to go. The daughter had other plans, as 15-year-olds will, and the wife decided it would be great to spend the entire weekend, at home, alone. No whining husband or kids. And so, my pride and joy and I loaded up Friday afternoon, and headed North. This was going to be great!

Now the first thing I noticed, was that 9-year-olds have got all the answers to all the wrong questions. And absolutely no idea of what it takes to set up a campsite. They want to go check out the pool or golf course first. It is hard to convince them that those things would be there the next morning. Right now we had to get the tent up before it got dark.

Half way through with getting the tent up, we had to have a fire. Not later, but

NOW! Then it was the mosquitoes, and next it was a soda, and then for help gotta go potty. I GIVE UP! We did manage to get everything done in a order that suited both of us though. And finally settled down to a comfortable night's sleep.

*Now the first thing I noticed, was that 9-year-olds have got all the answers to all the wrong questions. And absolutely no idea of what it takes to set up a campsite.*

Saturday brought sunshine and temps in the low 80s. What a gorgeous day for a ride. We were on a tandem, with a kiddy stoker, so it wouldn't be hard for the little one to keep up. As he was fairly new to the tandeming thing, HE decided since it was so easy to pedal, HE wanted to go to school Monday and be able to brag to his friends

how HE rode 35 miles on a bike. HE wanted leg muscles like his dad's. And I, being the gullable father that I am, consented to his request, and didn't let on as to who was doing most of the work.

Now the first half of the trip went well. He was psyched and ready. But the second half was a different story. It felt like I had a sack of potatoes on the back. He did his best, and did help on some of the uphill. And when we returned, I was the proud parent of a son who had done something he never thought he could. Thirty-five miles is a good ride for anyone, especially 9 years old. He was tired and sore, but proud as a peacock. And you know what? I learned a lot. The last time only he and I went camping together was when he was 5. It dawned on me how fast he was growing, and how short of a time his childhood or his 1001 questions would last. If you have little ones, get them involved in riding. It's a great way to watch them grow. And I never told him how sore my legs were.

—Mr. Bill



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**For Sale:** Yakima Roof Rack for two bikes, including:

1—SST MKII Rack with key locks . . . . . \$195  
1—pair 48" crossbars . . . 40  
1—set of 4 clips (Y-11) . . 40  
1—Yakima Fairing . . . . 50  
When new . . . . \$325 (+ tax)

Asking price . . . . . \$140

Call Gregg at 243-5206 after 4 p.m. and weekends

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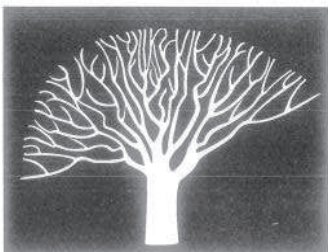
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# Saturday featured a century ride to Pluto

Better late than never—a report on the second annual Interplanetary Bicycle Ride, held July 20–21. The ride was sponsored by United States Cellular and followed the orbits of planetary explorers through Peoria’s Community Solar System Model (the world’s largest). The various sponsors provided some very nice premiums for participants,

including insulated water bottles from US Cellular, Rand McNally Road Atlases from Lou Johnson State Farm Insurance, root beer floats from Good’s Furniture and car washes from Beachler’s Amoco.

Saturday featured a century ride to Pluto and back. Just under 50 of the 165 riders we launched that day made it to the furthest planet, most taking the round trip route, while eight of us took the “Yellow Rocket” (a school bus donated by Laidlaw Transit) for a one-way ride back from the smallest planet. Since Good’s wasn’t open for our 8 a.m. arrival, I carried an extra Pluto in my pocket so that no one would miss the “thrilling” sight before leaving orbit for the 4.5-billion-mile ride back to Jupiter.

We all know that space is cold, especially so far from the Sun, but who would have thought after last year’s 96 degree heat that I’d be wishing that I’d brought my sweater. Of course, the strong “solar wind” coming out of the East didn’t help. Our first stop was at Gary Carey’s house in Osceola, where totem poles were set out for all to view. I expected burned out comet nuclei in this part of space—gigantic faces

carved into logs are difficult to explain by traditional theories on solar system formation. Our thanks also to the members of the Friends of the Rock Island Trail, Peoria Astronomical Society, and Peoria Academy of Sciences for staffing the great rest areas at Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

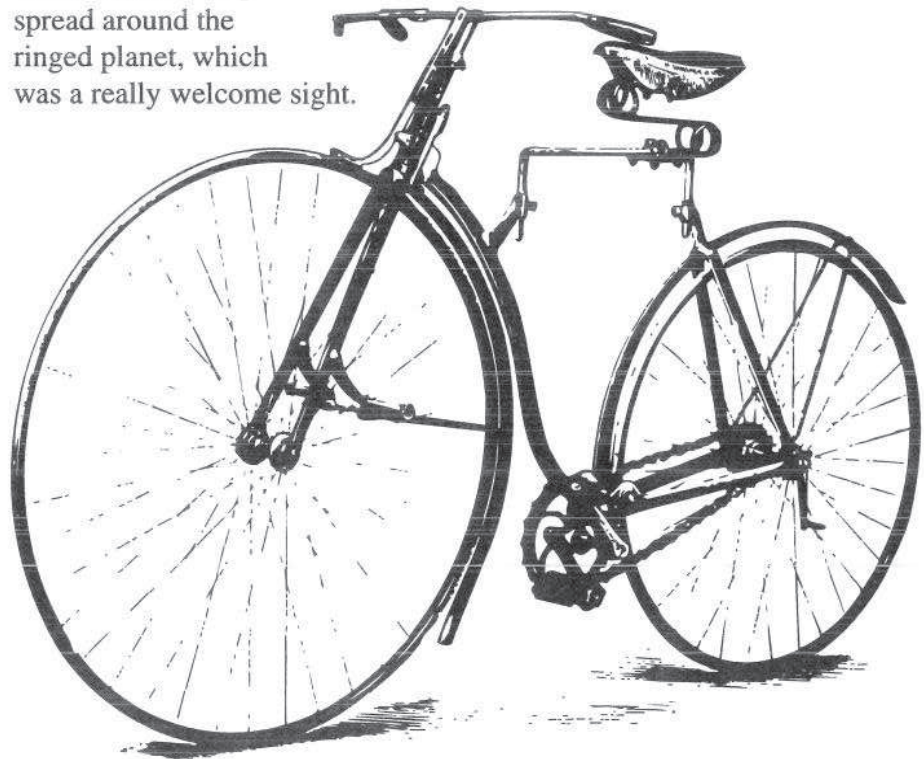
Sunday’s ride was scheduled to start between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. from Lakeview Museum for a tour of the inner solar system. However, when we woke up that morning, it was pouring. What are the odds of two IVW rides being rained on in one summer? About two dozen of the 80 registered riders had shown up by 8 a.m. to pick up their premiums, and a dozen of these decided to brave the vast interplanetary cloud of liquid H<sub>2</sub>O. At Jupiter half of the group decided that a billion miles of water was enough, while six of us finished the trip to Saturn at Illinois Central College. Despite predictions of a small group, the college put out a wonderful rest-stop spread around the ringed planet, which was a really welcome sight.

As predicted, since ride speeds were in excess of the speed of light (186,000 miles/second), the aging process was reversed in a relativistic effect. All riders returned younger than when they started, although some, feeling their aching muscles, had a few doubts.

From the Wheelm’n, special thanks to Darren and Sue DeDecker and Bill Stevenson for their heroic efforts marking the route, and to George Dudley for coordinating the ride with Lakeview Museum.

(NOTE: After the event I launched the first Interplanetary Motorcycle Ride, and then I left for vacation in Colorado and the Grand Canyon. Although I saw hundreds bicycling throughout the Rocky Mountains, I saw none attempting the Grand Canyon. Maybe the canyon will be the next great cycling challenge; then again, maybe that one is that crazy.)

—Sheldon Schafer



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**—Wilder Waite Grade School parking lot, Alta. 8:30 a.m. 30 miles with a Casey's stop. Sheila Hansen, 693-9807.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6**—Russelltonian, 1 p.m., Russell's Cycle & Fitness, Washington. 26 miles, food stop at 18 miles. Second ride, "Just Cookies" starts at 1:30 p.m. Please bring cookies. Call Joe Russell for more info at 444-2098.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**—Pearce Community Center, Chillicothe, 8:30 a.m. (Peorians: turn left at Dairy Queen). 35-40 miles. Leader: Dave Schaufelberger, 579-2311.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**—Field Shopping Center, Morton. 30-40 miles. Medium-to-fast paced ride. Leader: Steve Hueser, 263-3544.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**—Limestone to Canton Ride, 8:30 a.m. Meets at Limestone High School parking lot. Will stop for snack. 40 miles. Jack Welch, 387-6117.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**—Join Steve and Sue Weast for a 20-30-mile ride along country roads, followed by a weiner roast under the full moon. Meet at 20728 N. Elmore Rd., near Laura at 3 p.m. Bring your own table service and a dish (salad, dessert, etc.) to share. S&S will furnish weiners, buns, soft drinks and cider. BYOB if you prefer something else to drink. Don't want to ride? Come for the weiner roast around 6 p.m. Call Steve or Sue at 639-2323 for directions or more information.

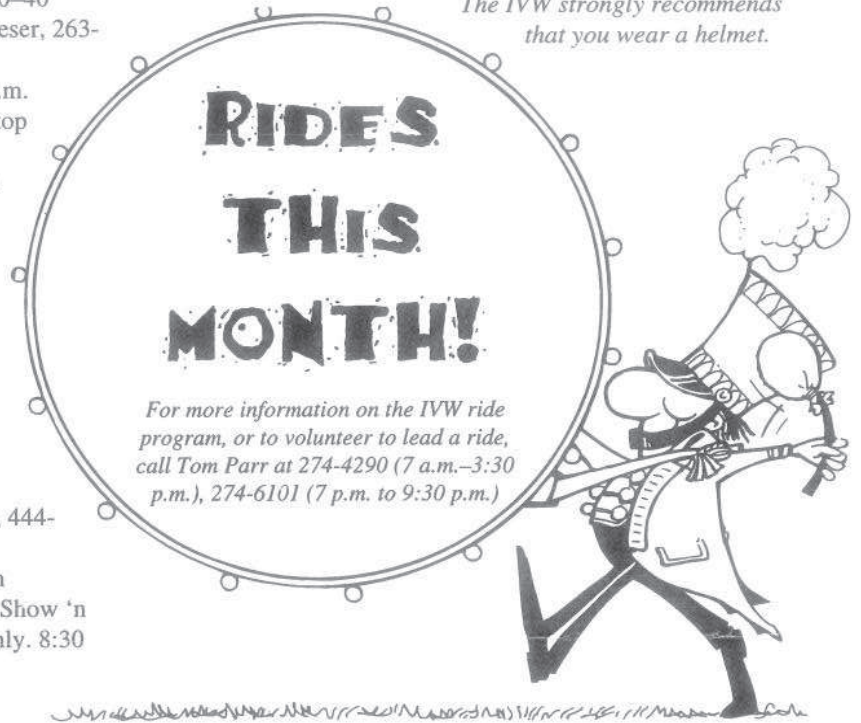
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**—Road Riding 101, 1 p.m. Lincoln Grade School, Washington. Leader: Rob Alexander, 444-3297.

**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 IVW strongly recommends that you wear a helmet.*



## 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

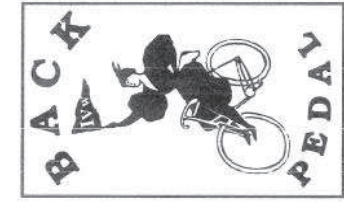
Make check to: ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N, 6518 NORTH SHERIDAN RD STE 2, PEORIA IL 61614-2933

**OCTOBER 1975.** Membership is up to 73. This month's complaint on turnout: "Dwindling down to 10 or 12. Is this normal or should we be doing something else—if so, why isn't someone bitching?"

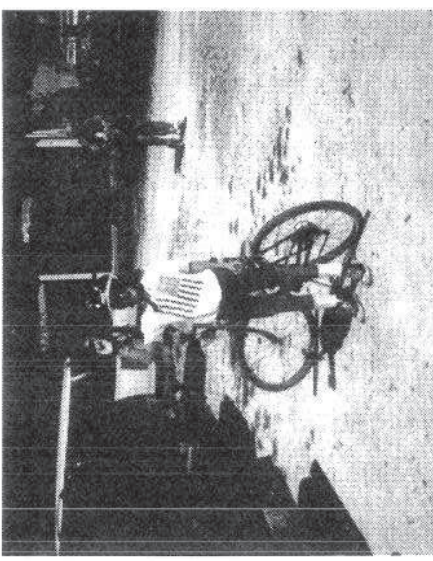
**OCTOBER 1981.** Grace Matuska wins the youngest female rider award at Indiana's Hilly Hundred. IVW Velo Racing Team officers are announced: President, Samuel Joslin; Vice President; Coach Jay Manthey; Secretary, Ken Beckler; Treasurer, Steve Meisner.

**OCTOBER 1986.** Another first: Barbara Johnson completed her first century Diane's Ride in September. Ron Johnson, manager of Vitesse and official timekeeper of the club's Saturday morning time trials, leads the first of three fall bicycle maintenance classes. Data processing is making the job of tracking memberships easier. On the agenda at the club's annual meeting: a vote to make membership good for one year

from date of sign-up as opposed to the current calendar year membership.



**OCTOBER 1991.** Little more than a month after breaking his collarbone on the East Peoria trail, Jack Welch attends a ride attended by three huge warning flares: Hills . . . 50 miles . . . Ken Beckler (leader). It just wouldn't be PACRACC without those ice-cold showers in Lincoln. Dave Glackin asks: "How can the showers be so cold and the shower room so warm?"



**ALWAYS READY TO RIDE:** This is a picture of my grandson, Nicholas Schroeder, taken after we had just finished the 15-mile Diane's Ride. Nicholas is eight years old and lives in Washington, IL. Nicholas and I started riding in July to get ready for the ride. Words can't describe the excitement of preparing for the ride and then the ride itself. The weather was great and everything went perfect. I can tell you it was a special moment of being able to share with my grandson his first official bike ride. My thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who worked on the ride to make it a success.

—Lowell Schroeder

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PEORIA IL 61614-2933**

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WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2207

Meet your congressman...  
See page one for details.