



July 1997

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



Bite Back with cycling advocate Eric the H.

ABOUT TO BE BITTEN BY MORE THAN THE BICYCLING BUG?—SOME DOG-GONE ADVICE: I was on a recent ride where someone had an unfortunate leg/jaw encounter with a dog. It dawned on me that while I had pretty good success at avoiding roving rovers, I was fairly ignorant about what to do if I ever actually got bit. Thought I pass along what I learned.

First, a few words about prevention: Even friendly dogs should be kept at a distance from a rolling bicycle (the pavement tends to bite harder than most dogs if Fido gets tangled in your wheels). First, I constantly look and listen for warning signs of loose dogs—scanning yards of approaching farmhouses for those who best be let lie, and keeping an ear tuned for jingling collars (another reason to avoid headsets). When a dog does give chase, I do two things simultaneously—grab my waterbottle and shout "GO HOME" very loud. If the dog has any training at all, it may respond to the voice command (I've found this about 50% successful). I've read that many dogs don't realize that a rolling bicycle contains a human being until they hear a voice. If the shout fails, I've found that a blast in the face (of the dog) with water keeps him beyond wheel-tangle distance until I can get out of his territory. Some folks prefer spray dog repellents, but I had a poor experience with those. (With snapping jaws headed my way, my own jaw dropped when this

tiny little brown stream dripped out of my almighty can of "postman's friend"—I assume the propellant failed because the can was too old). I also do not recommend the Cossack approach—trying to flail Fido with a frame pump. My attempt at this (years ago) resulted in bending my frame pump as I completely missed the dog and nearly did a tornado twist off the saddle. Due to the spectacle I made of myself, the dog did keep his distance—probably as he rolled off the road doubled over in laughter. (It also dawned on me later that if the dog had actually been close enough to hit with the pump, he'd have already been in my wheels or on my leg.) Making a long story short, I prefer to place my trust in my trusty water bottle, thank you very much.

If bark turns to chomp: what now? Prevention is preferred, but what if one of those rare snake in the weeds types does get the drop on you and tooth meets flesh? Bottom line?—get patched and call the cops. Clean and bandage the wound and call the Animal Control authorities, pronto, to report the bite. If you're on a rural ride, the Sheriff's Department is a good place to start. What if it's a stray dog (no owner)? In my experience, stray dogs barely turn their heads when I pass by. Free spirits have no territory to protect. Anyway, reporting the bite accomplishes a number of things: (1) Verifies the dog has had it's shots. I've been told that rabies are rare in the U.S., but even the remote prospect is pretty unsavory. (2) Costs the owner cash. Even if the dog has been vaccinated, it will be confined by Animal Control for 10 days and tested for rabies at the owner's expense (about \$80). You can request a copy of the test report. (3) Prevents others from being bitten. If a dog is reported to have bitten three times, it is put to sleep. This may sound cruel, but unfortunately it's not socially acceptable to properly punish the real culprit—the irresponsible pet owner. Remember— if you keep Fido at a distance with your water bottle, you won't have anything to report or repair. You might want to try a few practice squirts on your favorite riding partner soon to get tuned up.

Car Talkers Praise Bikes. On a recent broadcast of Car Talk on National Public Radio, a caller, Mel, asked if he really needed to take his dealer's advice and replace the timing belt on his aging

automobile. It seems he'd accumulated the 60,000 miles recommended for this service, but it took him 13 years to do it (instead of the normal 3-6 years). The reason was because he does most of his local trips by bicycle. In response, hosts Tom and Ray (alias the Tappet Brothers) replied, "Bless your heart. We should all take a lesson from Mel and get on our bikes. This country is being ruined because of the automobile." (They also recommended he replace the belt). Thanks to IVW member Steve Kurt for submitting this news item. —Eric Hutchison

IVW BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH CONGRESSMAN LAHOOD. Congressman Ray LaHood was honored by the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n for his efforts in passing an environmentally sound ISTEAA* bill at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Morton Community Bikeway held on June 7, 1997, National Trails Day. Recognition proclamation follows. IVW members attending included Morton residents Harold Moloney, Gary Mort, and Ken Parker.

*ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The federal transportation budget up for renewal in 1997. Congressman LaHood is Vice Chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee currently drafting the next ISTEAA bill.

NEW MEMBERS

Matthew BaldwinPeoria
Kelly O'Leary*Peoria
Larry RobbinsPeoria

RENEWING MEMBERS

Phillip, Sandy & Brian Anton* .Peoria
John CageAbingdon
William, Brenda, Jennifer
& Nathan Clark*†Pekin
Steve Dagg*Washington
Larry DavisPeoria
Jim, Sarah, Janel &
Matthew EmmonsLacon
Charlie, Doug, Tracey &
Kelley FrankLacon
Russ Goin*Peoria
Laura Otten Grahek &
Rob Grahek*Washington
Kenneth & Martha Johnson .Edelstein
Brian, Deborah, Annette &
Erin KingWashington
Robert, Marjorie, Steven &
Sarah LaFontEdwards
Ron & Jan Matuska*†Mackinaw
Ken & Rosie ParkerMorton
Jim SharpPekin
Mathew, Deana, Michael &
Morgan TimmPeoria
Jim, Ann, Tim, Andy &
Mark Wittmer†Peoria

*Advocate-level membership
†LAB member

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 in the
309 area code unless otherwise indicated.

PRESIDENT

Bill Clark 347-4841
wdclark@mtco.com

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

Linda Reinholz 682-0225

RISE CHAIR

Jack Welch 387-6117

SOCIAL/MEMBERSHIP

Franny Klees 694-3674 (home)
698-0048 (fax)

EFFECTIVE CYCLING INSTRUCTOR

Charlie Klees 694-3674 (home)
698-0048 (fax)

MAILING

Sue DeDecker 693-2973

DATABASE

Larry Davis 691-3060
ldavis@iaonline.com

ADVOCACY/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Eric Hutchison 685-3921 (evenings,
weekends), 578-8239 (days)
ehutchis@heartland.bradley.edu

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:

Bikewriter@aol.com

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

Deadline: 15th of the month
Newsletter published monthly

July Rides

Show and go rides are determined by weather
and participants. Any ride may need to be
altered due to extremes in weather or road
conditions, and other unforeseen circumstances.

RISE LEADERS: Please schedule your rides
through Jack Welch at 387-6117.

RATING LEGEND

Level I: Beginner, less than 20 miles, less
than 15 mph, not self sufficient

Level II: Intermediate, 20-50 miles, 15-18
mph, partially self-sufficient

Level III: Experienced, 50+ miles, 18+ mph,
totally self-sufficient

FRIDAY, JULY 4. Show and go meets at Hucks
on Willow Knolls (Peoria) at 8:30 a.m., 30-40
miles. (Level II/III)

SUNDAY, JULY 6. Meet at Tremont swimming
pool at 7 a.m. (note time) for 65 mile ride to
Lincoln via Delavan on the way down and
Hopedale on the way back. Glenn Thompson,
925-3343. (Level III)

SUNDAY, JULY 13. Meet at Wilder Waite Grade
School (Peoria) at 9 a.m. for a slow and leisurely
ride to Snyder's in Princeville for brunch via the
Rock Island Trail. Ideal ride for spouses to meet
one another at the destination. Sheldon Schafer,
682-1876. (Level I)

EVERY TUESDAY. Wright Road Ride. Dunlap
Grade School (next to city park), 6 p.m.
Motto of this most popular IVW ride: "You'll
never be left behind." Bill Wright, 685-8549.
(Level I/II/III)

EVERY WEDNESDAY starting May 7. Pleasant
Hill Grade School, East Peoria, 6 p.m., Dirk
McGuire, 699-8482, and Richard Morris,
694-4104. (Level I/II)

EVERY THURSDAY. Wright Trail Ride.
Wilder-Waite Grade School across from the
Rock Island trailhead, 6 p.m. Mountain and
hybrid bikes recommended for this leisurely
tour of trail, gravel and dirt. Bill Wright, 685-
8549. (Level I/II/III)

EVERY SATURDAY. Show and go from square
in Washington, 8:30 a.m., Jack Welch, 387-
6117. (Level II/III)

SUNDAY, JULY 20. Meet at Lower Bradley Park
at 8:30 a.m. 40 miles. Jack Welch, 387-6117.
(Level II/III)

SUNDAY, JULY 27. Show and go from Russell's
parking lot in Washington at 8:30 a.m. Jack
Welch, 387-6117. Level II/III)

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 inter-sections for traffic. Avoid "group
think."
- 6) If you stop, please pull off the road.

VOLUNTEER ON A PLANET NEAR YOU. Sheldon
Schafer could still use a few volunteers for
this month's Interplanetary Ride. He'd
appreciate help distributing Interplanetary
Bicycle Ride flyers at other rides. If anyone
is going to any rides before July 26th, please
call Sheldon at 686-7000 (Lakeview
Museum) or 682-1876 (home) to arrange for
flyers or stop by Lakeview Museum.

DEPOT RENEWED. Part of the Interplanetary
Ride runs along the Rock Island Trail.
George Burrier reports that the Wyoming
depot on the trail has been restored by the
Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Be
sure to stop in.

FOR SALE. Four Mavic MA-2 rims, 700c, 36".
\$15 ea. Two Michelin Comp tires, 700 x 23,
\$10 ea. Two Specialized Transition tires, 700
x 20, \$10 ea. Everything like new. Jack
Welch, 387-6117.

FOR SALE. 1994 Specialized Stumpjumper,
16.5" Prestige steel frame. XT/LX group
w/GripShift. Rear rack, cages & bar ends.
Great condition. \$450. Troy Pritchard, 682-
7172 (hm), 675-2919 (wk).

DEAR DR. DERAILLEUR...

Whenever I go out on a ride with 20 or 30 of my closest friends, I notice that they tend to ride four across, annoying both oncoming and following traffic.

I know that Illinois law limits bicyclists from riding more than two across, but I've never heard of anyone being ticketed for violating that law. Here's my question: Why do you think my friends ride four across? — *Numerical Nancy, Brimfield.*

DEAR NUMERICAL: A simplistic legalist would say that laws are made to be broken. In other words, four-across cyclists are rebelling against the intrusiveness of government regulation in much the same way as the idiots who still ride bicycles against traffic.

While your friends certainly seem to fit

the bill, the ultimate motivation behind much of human behavior—including childbearing, mayoral campaigns and strip mall development—is still a mystery, so I would be the last to contend that your question can be answered quite so easily. Nonetheless, I can provide a few theories.

The first deals with the physics of cycling. In the pack, riders are always in motion, both along the road and in relationship to each other. Because no one cyclist rides next to the same three people throughout the entire ride, each cyclist can accurately claim that they were never riding four across, merely passing, or being passed by, a group of riders. To take this logic to the next level, one could argue that it is, in fact, impossible to ride four across.

In a related theory derived from the field of mathematics, cyclists accused of riding four across will often defend themselves by saying they were really riding two across...in the second of two packs.

Yet while each of these numerical theories have their supporters, particularly among those who otherwise would be branded four-acrossers, neither argument is supported by car drivers or the more reasonable cyclists among us.

A third theory deals with the psychology of the pack. Given other options, no one wants to ride behind a loser—that's just common sense. Of course, once riders rearrange the pack to form a line

perpendicular to the direction of travel, no one looks like a winner to anyone.

Sad to say, some riders realize that they are breaking the rules, inconveniencing, even endangering, others. These riders are the serious gamblers of the human race. They ride convinced that they can always beat the odds, and that the other rider will always pay the price. One could say in such situations that four of a kind beats a full deck.

Yet another theory has been proposed by cynical critics of the school system. Those who find the public schools wanting might say that four-across cyclists graduate from high school, and even college, unable to count above two.

Sad to say, the critics may be right, or at least close to the truth. Seems more than a few riders believe they're more aerodynamic if they battle a headwind side-by-side-by-side-by-side.

Don't downplay the attraction of mystical symbolism, either. Seems some cyclists, emotionally tied as they are to horoscopes, Dungeons and Dragons, and late-night infomercials, seek to emulate their supernatural heroes, including the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, otherwise known as Dumpy, Dimwit, Skinny and Geezer.

Of course, the real reason may be too obvious. Have you ever checked to see whether your friends' handlebars are tied together? —DD



Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Membership Application

(please print)

Name #1 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #2 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #3 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #4 _____ Birthdate _____

E-mail address (print clearly) _____

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

June 1997

I L L I N O I S V A L L E Y

WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

—Greater Peoria's Bicycle Club—
Recognition Award For

The Honorable Ray LaHood

Be it that June 7, 1997 is the official dedication of the Morton Community Bikeway, the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n hereby recognizes The Honorable Ray LaHood:

For his efforts in bringing \$368,000 of Federal ISTEAs funds for the Construction of the Morton Community Bikeway.

For his efforts in bringing \$3.27 million in ISTEAs funds for similar people-friendly transportation projects throughout the Eighteenth Congressional District.

For his support of local citizen participation in transportation planning.

For promoting environmentally beneficial alternative modes of transportation such as bicycle and pedestrian travel.

For his support of ISTEAs Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Enhancement Programs that promote walking, bicycling, historic and scenic preservation.

Therefore be it resolved we hereby recognize The Honorable Ray LaHood for his outstanding leadership on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in working for an environmentally sound ISTEAs bill that addresses the transportation needs of local communities.



**ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N
6518 NORTH SHERIDAN RD STE 2
PEORIA IL 61614-2933**

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

Your IVW membership expires: 4/25/98

LARRY D. DAVIS
6809 FROSTWOOD PKY A-53
PEORIA, IL 61615-2461

Inside July...

*Dr. Derailleur returns...
& he's cranky. (page 3)*