

August 1997



# ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N greater peoria's bicycle club



## Algebra for \$20: Is a bicycle less than the sum of its parts?

ONE OF MY FAVORITE CANDID CAMERA STORIES is the one in which a driver guides an engineless car down a long hill into a gas station. The driver complains of a mysterious automotive problem and asks the attendant to check under the hood. In true Candid Camera form, everyone proceeds to have a good laugh at the poor smuck's expense.

*The sad truth is that you have to shell out the bucks to reduce a bicycle's weight without invalidating its nature.*

Ha, ha, chuckle, chuckle, snort.

The mechanic was easily confused: What he thought was a car was simply an oversized soapbox derby racer. In other words, because it no longer had an engine, it was no longer an automobile—it just looked like one.

So, what makes a car a car? Or, to rephrase the question, what can be removed from a car before it is no longer a car?

My 1987 Volkswagen Fox, a vehicle I often refer to as the best German car ever built in Brazil, das Deutschewunderauto, currently wanders down the road with 15 either inoperative or wholly absent components. Among the missing in action are the defroster, the cassette tape player, the gas and temperature gauges, the windshield washer pump and the driver's side visor. Another 11 parts, such as the other visor, the grill and the hubcaps, could easily be removed without reducing the car's ability to function. And other items, including the catalytic converter and the bumpers, could be pulled save for the legal ramifications.

(Not even these potential deletions reach the limits of reasonable automotive deconstructivism. An elderly red Volkswagen Rabbit, which the Fox later replaced, was driven for quite some time without first gear. It was consigned to the junk heap only after a mechanic told my future wife that the bottom of the car was about to rust in half.)

It doesn't take a lot of imagination to realize you can substantially reduce the

weight of a car without greatly reducing its usability. You can do it without spending money and using only a few basic hand tools. Pop off the hubcaps for a couple of pounds. Take out the spare tire and save another 30. Passenger seat? How many seats does one person need? More ambitious than that? Remove the interior and exterior trim, headliner, mats and carpets—even then,

you've only begun to achieve minimal carness.

However, when the subject is a bicycle, parts reduction mania is difficult to sustain. Reflectors are usually the first to go, followed by chainguards and, among the especially fastidious, presta valve caps and crank arm dustcaps. At most, the bike loses half a pound.

The sad truth is that you have to shell out the bucks to reduce a bicycle's weight without invalidating its nature. Still using a saddle with steel rails? Pull it off, but get ready to install another one. Your new saddle might have unobtainium rails, but it's still a saddle and, as such, still a necessity. Got a stamped steel crankset? Go ahead and yank it, but get ready to bolt on a replacement—in your choice of aluminum, hollow cromoly or titanium.

Of course parts can be removed more easily from well-equipped bicycles. The rack and fenders come first. Then the spare tube, tire irons and patch kit (assuming you're ready to walk later on). After those items, the tattered seat bag. Then, the water bottle and cage (the world is three-quarters water, anyway). Ring out the bell. Delete the computer and its attendant battery and wires. Get rid of all accessories and you might lose about five pounds.

Or maybe you think more creatively.

Perhaps you argue that a basic bicycle only needs one speed. In that case, you could remove the front and rear derailleurs, shift levers, one or two chainrings and even a few

chain links. However, in any terrain short of a velodrome, you'll greatly reduce your bike's overall effectiveness by such drivetrain simplification.

Or maybe you suggest removing the back brake. That's a compelling weight loss measure when you consider the front brake does 80 percent of the work. But then again, even a 20 percent loss in effectiveness is a loss, especially downhill at 45 mph.

All of which leads me to believe that those who would reduce a bicycle's efficiency in order to reduce its weight are headed down the path of madness and will eventually arrive at the ultimate in minimalism: a unicycle.

Which, when you think about it, would be a lot more fun than a car without an engine. —Samuel Joslin

### NEW MEMBERS

Gary Adelman	.....Peoria
Lynne Anderson-Loy	.....Peoria
Tim Lee, Connie Vice, Ryan Lee,	
Austin Vice & Kaylin Vice*	.....East Peoria
LaRae Martin	.....Washington
Roberta Parks	.....Peoria
Frank, Pilar & Camilo Sullivan	.....Metamora
Kathy Weiss	.....Metamora

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Julie & Thomas Coogan	.....Hanna City
David, Margaret & Ross Cover	...Peoria Heights
James P. Gareau*	.....Peoria
Judi & Rick Gentry*	.....Peoria
Robert & Regina Gordon	.....Peoria
Sheila, Mike & Chris Gribble*	.....Dunlap
Roger John & Kathy Jones*†	.....Dunlap
Barbara J. Johnson	.....Peoria
Mike Joslin*	.....Peoria
Richard Morris	.....East Peoria
Mike Pula	.....Dunlap
Tom, Carol & Brian Romanowski	.....Peoria
Bill Semmens	.....Peoria
James, Karen, Alan & Leslie Vonderhaar	...Pekin
Larry Wegman	.....Pekin
Terry Whitehead & Pat O'Bryan*	.....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 Reinholtz 682-0225

#### RIDE 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)

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#### DATABASE

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

**Deadline:** 15th of the month  
Newsletter published monthly

# August Rides

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3.** Meet at Fondulac  
Park Administration building in East  
Peoria at 8 a.m. 30-50 miles. Jack  
Welch, 387-6117. (Level II)

#### 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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10.** Don Eberle's  
Mystery Ride. Meet at Field Shopping  
Center in Morton at 8 a.m. ?? miles.  
Don Eberle, 699-2790. (strong Level II)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17.** Meet at Wilder  
Waite Grade School at 8:30 a.m. for  
leisurely ride to Princeville, then to  
Dunlap for food at the Bicycle Inn.  
Non-riding friends invited to join group  
at restaurant. Also meeting at same time  
and place, a Level II ride. Perhaps  
meeting with the Level I riders at  
Dunlap? Sheldon Schafer, 682-1876.  
(Level I).

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20.** Sheldon  
Schafer revisits Eric Hutchinson's deli  
ride. Meet at Loucks School at 6 p.m.  
for ride to Fedora's Deli. 12 miles.  
Sheldon Schafer, 682-1876.

#### 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.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27.** Show and go from  
Limestone H.S. at 8 a.m. (Level II)

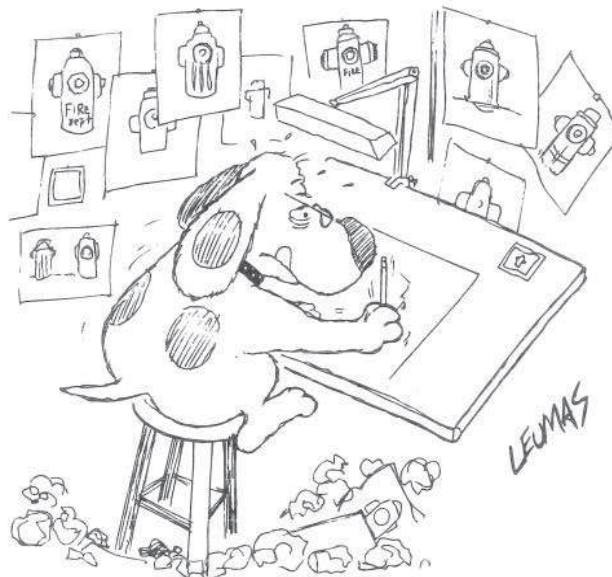
**SUNDAY AUGUST 31.** Show and go from  
ICC tennis courts at 8 a.m. (Level II)

**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)





# QUIET HERO NEWS

Donating blood during the months of April, May, and June were the following IVW Quiet Heroes:

**Ron Anderson • Gregg Benning • Bill Clark (2 donations) • Ardis Diebel (2 donations) • George Dudley • Don Jacobs (2 donations) • Ken Pedigo • Dave Schaufelberger • Bill Semmens • Larry Wegman (6 pheresis donations!) • Brian White**

Representing IVW at the Quiet Hero Appreciation Breakfast at Cater Inn in April were Bill Semmens and Gregg Benning. Thanks fellows!

Note to new IVW members. Please consider also joining our group of dedicated blood donors. Simply mention our club number (000560) at the Red Cross Blood Center or your local bloodmobile. Thank you! —Ron Anderson, QH Coordinator



So a German won the Tour de France this year...

Yep, 23 years old. He's a pup.

How'd the Americans do?

Well, the one that always ending up disappointing folks didn't show.

Now Earn, you don't mean Armstrong, do you.

Oh, gosh no. I mean that Tesch boy.

**FOR SALE:** Sidi Revolution Road Shoes Size 43 (approx. size 9-9.5 US) New in box, never worn, black with yellow trim. \$75. Steve Hueser 263-3544

**FOR SALE:** 58 cm c-t-c Specialized Allez Team road frame, lugged steel frame with aluminum fork, includes headset and seatpost, great condition. \$225. Steve Hueser 263-3544.

## THE ARCHITECT WRITES (AND HAVING WRITTEN, RIDES ON).

In a cruel twist of Tuesday Nite Club Ride fate, Bill Wright got a flat early on that dark and stormy evening, but the group rode on at his urging. The pace quickened as the clouds appeared more threatening and gloomy, and Bill did not rejoin the ride (already in progress.) Temporary directions upon the fruited plain were given by George Dudley, and (apparently) no one was dropped and all returned to Dunlap Grade School without further mishap and found our erstwhile Ride Leader safe and sound, awaiting our return. Huzzah!

I'd like to report a successful field trial of the Polar Bottle, which uses a foil layer and air layer construction to keep the contents cool (or hot, depending upon season—yet to be confirmed). The upper 90s weather of the last two weekends has been tempered by the ability of this bottle to keep my water supply much cooler than the uninsulated "control" bottle. I'd recommend these highly, and for less than \$10, they make a swell gift! —Larry Davis

### 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

August 1997

ILLINOIS VALLEY  
**WHEELM'N**

*greater peoria's bicycle club*

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Office of Information and Public Affairs Washington, D.C. 20207  
For Immediate Release

July 1, 1997  
Release # 97-149  
Contact: Jane Francis  
(301) 504-0580 Ext. 1187

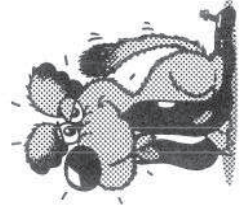
### **CPSC, Shimano Announce Recall of Bicycle Components**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Shimano American Corp. of Irvine, Calif., is voluntarily recalling more than 1 million cranks installed on bicycles in North America. The crank is used to connect the pedal to the frame of the bike. If the crank breaks, the rider's leg can be injured by contact with the broken crank or the rider can lose control of the bike, fall and be injured.

Shimano has received more than 630 reports of cranks breaking in North America resulting in 22 injuries, including cuts and fractures.

The cranks have been installed on more than 200 models of bicycles manufactured since 1994 and sold under at least 49 brand names. Most bicycle manufacturers have sold bicycles that are involved in this recall. The cranks also may have been installed as an upgrade as part of the Altus, Acera and Alivio groups of components. The cranks are numbered FC-CT90, FC-M290 and FC-MC12. These numbers are located on the back or inner side of the right crank arm.

Consumers should check their bicycles' crank assemblies. If they are involved in this recall, consumers should stop using their bicycles immediately and call Shimano at 800-353-4719 to arrange for the free replacement and installation of a new crank assembly at a nearby authorized repair shop. Consumers can also arrange for the free replacement with their bicycle dealers.



**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: 10/03/97

RON ANDERSON  
203 LOCUST  
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2207

**Inside August...**

*Get your wrenches out...*

*The editor's taking apart his bicycle (pg. 1)*