



November 1997

# ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



## A bridge too far gone. Or not.



*Many thanks to Jim and Sara Emmons for hosting a fine ride and wiener roast from their home in Lacon, October 12.*

**LATOUR LACON.** Riders were treated to a picture-perfect fall day- 75 degrees, no wind. Jim's routes popped the fall colors to life along rolling river bluff hills and farm country southeast of Lacon.

Early in the ride, Nathan was seen picking up what looked like a snake in the road. This turned out not to be a nature stop, this snake had escaped the tandem's drive train. Bill's quick on-the-road chain repair soon had us spinning and smiling again.

One featured hamlet of the ride was Wilber—a tiny berg which hugs the Chillicothe/Chicago Amtrack line and features a tower and pumping station for an oil pipeline. One road could be called the zoo run for it's amazing variety of farm animals. We provided our own sound effects (did Old MacDonald really have llamas?).

Back at home base, the open fire quickly cooked our dogs and started a fine star-lit evening of good food and good company. This is what it's all about. Tipped helmets to Jim and Sara.

**A BRIDGE TOO FAR?** IVW friends paused for

a photo-op atop my favorite secret bridge during our Hennepin/Princeton bike tour on September 13. We met some new IVW members on the ride—Pat and Dianna O'Connor, Jim Sharp, and Tom Stewart.

The day's featured structure was the old Route 26 bridge, now closed to motor traffic, which crosses the Illinois River at Hennepin. IDOT is now pondering the ultimate fate of this bridge (see related article below). I feel it makes a dandy bike/ped river crossing and decided to show it off a bit with the bike tour.

After crossing the bridge, we ambled our way along Bureau Creek in route to Princeton via Tiskilwa. Had such a great time shooting the hills out of Tiskilwa. I didn't realize we'd lost our bearings a bit. Must have been that cloverleaf interchange in downtown Tiskilwa that tripped me up. A bit of head scratching over the map, a coin toss or two, and a prediction from a prehistoric GPS unit (compass) soon had us flying towards the Homestead Festival at Princeton.

Crossed the Hennepin Canal/Parkway a couple of times and stopped at the old locks at Wyanet. We found Princeton in full festival swing and nearly found ourselves as a featured entry in the parade down main street.

Most of us finished with 48 miles—Jim and Sara Emmons were the distance champs (with 80 miles) because they started from home at Lacon (and returned in time for an

afternoon wedding). Thanks to Patty Sage for providing the photo.

**PSST—HEY MISTER, WANNA BUY A BRIDGE?** IDOT sent us a response to our inquiries about the fate of the Hennepin Bridge. As part of the bridge study, IDOT will be marketing the bridge to new potential owners. Presumably, this would be a government agency or other organization with the financial resources to preserve and maintain the bridge. The bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The reason for considering action on the bridge now (it's been closed to motor traffic since 1989) is because the crumbling deck creates a potential hazard to passing river boats. IDOT has put us on the mailing list to be notified of upcoming public meetings about the bridge—stay tuned.

—Eric Hutchison

### NEW MEMBERS

D. Dean Bentley .....Peoria  
Thomas, Diane, Sonya  
& Raymond Colletti .....Peoria  
Randy Rayburn .....Pekin

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Robert Alexander\* .....Washington  
Rick & Liz Boudreau .....Peoria  
Steve, Marla, Hana &  
Heidi Hueser\* .....Morton  
Ronald Jetton\*† .....Peoria  
Steve Kurt\*† .....Dunlap  
Helen McIntyre .....Peoria  
Mark, Vicki, Greg &  
Christopher Padesky .....Peoria  
Weldon Phelps .....Dunlap  
Aron Reynolds &  
Kristie Ritterbusch .....Peoria  
Russell's Cycle World\* .....Washington  
Todd & Patty Sage\*† .....Henry  
Shawn Stever .....Peoria  
Diane Williams† .....Pekin

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

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

# Time to ditch no-show show and go rides?

**G**osh—Here it is, time for our annual dinner already. I know I have been a little lax in writing articles for the newsletter. Time has flown by this summer. I didn't get in half the mileage this year that I wanted. It seems I spent more time behind the mower than I did behind the handlebars. Sure wish I could have been riding every three days, instead of mowing. But that's Mother Nature for ya.

We did get in some great rides this summer, though. Stoker Brenda and I, along with our son, went to Wisconsin and did some of the trails. We did one overnighter that was more relaxing than a glass of orange juice with Metamucil. My son and I did a week up north, doing nothing but fishing and bike riding.

Okay. So there was a few barley pops thrown in too. Quite a few. Hey, serious riders need their carbos.

I remember one ride when I ran onto another guy from a bike club up north somewhere. I think it was the Frosty Freewheelers or something like that. His name was just about as Norwegian as you would expect. Sven Gadaire. I believe some one had jumped a border somewhere along the line, though.

Anyhow, Sven and I got to talking about our clubs. I related to him how I had been in charge of Diane's Ride for three years, and was now the president of our club. He commented on how much trouble their club had on holding onto members. (Go figure—when you have four seasons to ride in—June July, August and Winter—it must be hard.)

I told him not to feel like the lone skater on the ice. I recounted how this was the first year I could remember that no one had stepped forward to lead our spring invitational. We got into a really deep skull session, discussing where our clubs were, and in what direction they were headed.

We talked about all the different types of rides that were offered. We talked about the needs of different types of riders. We talked about what's worked in the past, and what hasn't.

And this really set me to thinking. Here we are at the end of the year. I've had several suggestions from people who would like to see less demanding rides offered. I've had suggestions from people who would like to see

other things changed.

I look at some of the show-and-go rides and see perhaps three or four people showing up. Is this what we want our club to become known for?

Then I look at rides such as the one two weeks ago at Jim and Sarah Emmons' house. A 15- to 16-mile, easy-going route. A break from that group that went 20-plus miles. And a weenie roast afterwards. Total count: 40-plus riders.

Or the Wright Rides. Look at how many people show up for these. Average count: 30. Or Eric Hutchison's recent ride. I had to work, and didn't get to go, but from what I hear, they had to close major roads because of the number of riders that showed up. It really got me to looking at things a little differently. Is it time to reorganize? Do we really want to do lots of no-show show-and-go rides? Do we want to do a few quality

rides? Do we have to offer rides every night of the week, or can two or three of us get together and offer a special ride, like the Washington Ride/Food Fest/Pool party?

I have been president for the last two years. Our membership numbers are the same as when I started. Why? If you have an answer, call me. I'll be glad to listen. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome. But I also have some ideas of my own. I hope to offer some different rides next year, rides that will appeal to the whole family. (in the great town of Peoria of course. I've seen enough of Peoria.)

If you want to get involved, now is the time. The positions of president, vice president, social/membership chair and treasurer are up for reelection. (Though not entirely uncontested—Brenda volunteered me to take over the treasurer post. Beings I'm gonna have sooo much more free time now. A plot to spend more time on her bike, I'm thinking.) Even though my term as president of your club is up, I still intend to stay involved. If I don't, there may not be a club to ride with.

I have seen some things that seem to be working well. And I have seen some things that don't seem to be working at all. I believe it's time to concentrate on the things that work. And do away with the things that don't. Like Sven told me. If da cun only du vone ride a munth, make it sumting they will remember! See ya on the road. —Bill Clark





**SO HOW DID EDDY DO IT?** He made a friend of the wind. Some cycling tidbits from an article entitled "Wonders . . .

Air-Cooled" by Phillip Morrison

in the October issue of Scientific American (paraphrased with added notes by me):

- Most racers maintain constant body weight during the Tour despite ingesting the equivalent of eight square meals and two gallons of liquid per day. Note: Two gallons of water weigh 16 pounds.
- The human "engine" which pushes up and down those mountain passes day after day produces, on average, about a kilowatt of muscular power. All that climbing is done despite an "engine" which is fairly inefficient—about 25% of the racer's kilowatt goes towards pushing the bike down the road, the other 75% is

horsepower). Sport utility vehicles produce about 150 times the power of the Tour's mountain racers (and tend to be seen more often these days at soccer matches than on mountain passes).

- Five-time Tour winner Eddy Merckx, known to be masterful over a full six hours up and down the most daunting Alpine passes, quit exhausted after one hour on a stationary bike in a physiology lab. Note: The lab's stationary bike was in still air. Eddy didn't have his normal

## Facts and figures? Or hot air? You decide.

- Every day of the 22-day Tour de France, each cyclist delivers muscular output more than double that of a marathon runner.

lost as heat. Note: For comparison, compact cars, which many motorists would describe as grossly underpowered for mountain travel, produce about 75 times more energy (75 kilowatts or 100

25 mph self-generated head wind to help dissipate the waste heat. (So take heart you basement riders, and don't forget to turn on the fan.)

—Eric Hutchison

**NOVEMBER SUNDAY RIDES.** Meet at the Peoria courthouse at 11 a.m. Leader: Steve Grube, 699-6956 (Level II.)

**GET YOUR JERSEYS HERE.** [Editor's note: Yes Dirk, I lost the e-mail.] It's that time of year again. Time to take stock of nature's changing ways. Time to install studded tires for winter riding. And, most certainly, time to call Dirk McGuire and order new IVW jerseys for spring. They're constructed with Field Sensor material (which when you think about it, is probably exactly what a Jersey should be constructed with.) Call Dirk today for more information: 699-8482.

**FOR SALE:** Men's white Cannondale road bike, Barb Patterson, 685-8652.

**FOR SALE:** Performance carbon sole cycling shoes. Size 12, worn once. Jack Welch, 387-6117.

**WANTED:** Newsletter editor to replace outgoing (yet strangely introverted) would-be has-been. Job to start after publication of December or December/January edition. Contact Bill Clark at 347-4841 to volunteer.

**TOPS IN ILLINOIS.** The League of Illinois Bicyclists will honor Claudia Washburn, a member of the Prairie Cycling Club (Champaign), as Illinois Bicyclist of the Year at its November board meeting. —Chuck Dold, LIB board member

### 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 an LAB member? (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

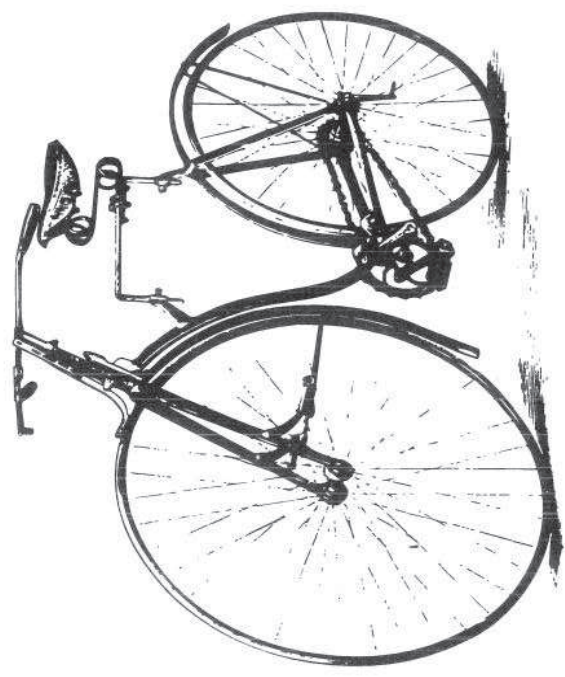
ILLINOIS VALLEY  
**WHEELM'N**

*greater peoria's bicycle club*

# IVW Annual Banquet

6 p.m., Saturday, November 8  
Lariat Club, Glen Avenue, Peoria  
Dinner choices: ribeye steak, orange roughy, or chicken  
Dinner prices range from \$10 to \$18 depending on entree.  
Includes coffee, tea, salad, baked potato, gratuity and taxes.

**Call Franny Klees at 694-3674  
to make your reservation.**



**IT'S COMING!** The New Year's Day ride will be held at the house of Charlie & Franny Klees. The fun gets going at 10 a.m.. Bring a covered dish to share. Call Franny at 694-3674 for more info.

**ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N  
6518 NORTH SHERIDAN RD STE 2  
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**Inside November**  
*President Bill addresses the faithful*