



ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N



greater peoria's bicycle club

May, 1999

STRETCH
RICH
STRETCH

Welcome to spring, hopefully! Nice weather seems to be here now. More bike activities are starting to happen and it is time for those that don't ride in the cold to dust off the bike and get ready to ride. The weeknight rides

have started. Tuesday in Dunlap, Tuesday and Thursday at Russell's in Washington, Wednesdays in East Peoria at the Head Start School across from the antique mall on Pleasant Hill Road, and as always the Pancake rides on Saturday and Sunday. Make sure you check the newsletter for times. There is also a ride on Tuesday that starts at the Field Shopping Center in Morton, it begins at 5 p.m. for anyone that would like to join them.

The most popular club ride has a new organizer. Bill Wright has informed me that he will not be able to do the Tuesday rides in Dunlap this year due to other commitments. We will all miss his ride leader abilities and great personality on Tuesdays. Hopefully he will be able to make it to some of the rides this year. Good luck to Bill with all he is doing. Anyone wishing to help Steve Kurt with the Tuesday ride in Dunlap can call Steve at 243-7684. (Ed: see more info in associated story)

The Salvation Army Bikes For Kids will be held on May 15th from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at Bergners in the Sheridan Village Shopping Center. I will be in touch with those that have helped in the past, or you can call me and let me know if you can help this year. For those of you not familiar with this event, bikes are donated to the Salvation Army and Wheelm'n members do minor repairs to make the bikes rideable. The bikes are then given to children in the community who otherwise would not have the experience of owning and

riding a bicycle. It is a very good cause and I'm sure the children that receive the bikes are thrilled and thankful to get one. If you would like to help, call me at 694-4104, you don't have to be a master bike mechanic to help. People are needed to sort the bikes to find those that need only minor repairs, and people are needed to do the repairs. Usually fixing flats, oiling bearings and chains, brake adjustments, and just making them safe to ride, your help is needed. If you can't help all day, any amount of time would be great. Lunch is usually provided.

Helpers for serving dinner at The Interplanetary Ride are still needed. No cooking is involved, just keeping the food table stocked and cleaning. Anyone that would like to help give me a call, it would help the ride out a lot, and you still get to hang out with a bunch of great people.

No one has offered to organize Diane's Ride this year. There is still time, someone needs to jump in and do this. It would be a shame to lose this ride, it has meant a lot over the years. Don't forget: No Baloney June 5th.
Rich

Quiet Hero News

Thank you to the following IVW members who made whole blood or pheresis donations during the months of January, February, and March:

- Rob Alexander
- Ron Anderson
- Nancy Buzan
- Joe Camp
- Bill Clark - 2 donations
- Marcy Grebner - 3 donations
- Don Jacobs
- Bill Semmens
- Larry Wegman - 2 donations
- Brian White

Thanks also to Ron Matuska who phoned recently to tell me that his

donations are apparently not being credited to the IVW Group. I've asked the Red Cross to check this out. Is anyone else donating that I'm not aware of?

If there are other IVW members desiring to be part of our Quiet Hero Group, please contact me. All it takes is your commitment to be a regular donor. Thanks!

Ron Anderson, IVW's Quiet Hero Coordinator 444-2018 or raanders@bitwisesystems.com

Bike Quad Cities

May 29 & 30, 1999. This year the Quad Cities urban tail ride will be an overnight. The departure time is 9:00 am from Town & Country Bowl at Gale and Forrest Hill in Peoria. By 10:30 am we will be in Bettendorf, Iowa at Devil's Glen Park. We'll ride the Duck Creek Parkway across Bettendorf and Davenport, a round trip of 27 miles. Lunch will be a McDonalds on the trail.

We'll load the bikes and drive back to Illinois to set up camp at Illinwek Forrest Preserve on the East bank of the Mississippi River. On Sunday the ride will leave the campground and travel the length of the Ben Butterworth Memorial Parkway into Rock Island Arsenal. There are trails on the Arsenal and civil war era buildings, cemeteries, and a museum. From the Arsenal we can ride over the car/train bridge into downtown Davenport and continue our ride on the River Front Trail through Davenport and out onto Credit Island providing spring flooding doesn't close the causeway. To go all the way is about 35 miles.

All the trails are asphalt, but wider tires are usable at the camp and for some side trips. Maps have been published in previous years newsletters and I'll be carrying some around with me during May. Call me if you plan to come along. Larry Paustian, 694-3947

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

Greater Peoria's bicycle club

Affiliated with the League of
American Bicyclists and League of
Illinois Bicyclists

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

Deadline: 15th of the month

IWV On The WEB

[http://www.gcocities.com/
Colosseum/Ficld/6055/](http://www.gcocities.com/Colosseum/Ficld/6055/)
*enter the above as one line, no
spaces*

Tuesday Dunlap Ride

As you have probably heard, I've accepted the task of being the nominal ride leader for the Tues. night rides from Dunlap. I don't have any expectations of filling Bill Wright's shoes, but at least the rides will continue. I expect we'll still have fast/medium/slow groups, and I hope that the slow group serves as an effective means of introducing folks to road riding, and as a method of increasing their skills and confidence. If people want to contact me about the ride, my home phone is 243-7684; the work phone is 578-3754 (if there are questions about whether or not the ride is canceled due to weather, etc.), and home e-mail is kurtsj@mtco.com Steve Kurt

No Baloney 99

No Baloney is now only one month away. The phone has not been ringing off the wall. That must mean that all of the volunteers and hard core chefs are going to call Rich or myself in the next 4 weeks. Cookies, muffins, banana bread, etc. are all things that we will need. So make that call soon, every one that rides will sure thank you for it. Thanks! See you at No Baloney. Dirk - 699-8482

Wednesday East Peoria Rides

The Wednesday Rides in East Peoria have started. We meet at the Headstart School across from the Pleasant Hill Antique Mall at 5:30 p.m. for now. Starting time could change to 6 p.m. later if it would work out better for other riders. We ride with any one of any ability. No one gets left behind. There are some hilly routes and some flat ones, depending on the wind. We have been known to walk up a hill with another rider! Any questions? Call Dirk McGuire 309-699-8482 or Rich Morris 309-694-4104.

Pedal Peoria

Explore the Peoria Area by Bicycle. Sponsored by the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n. All rides are designed for the casual rider, 10 - 15 miles Approximately 1.5 - 2 hours (plus stops), starting at 6 PM. See list in ride calendar. For more Information Call Ride leaders: Eric Hutchison (688-7038) or Sheldon Schafer (682-1876)

Rock Island Trail Extension

TO: Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

From: RTA (Recreational Trail Advocates)
RE: Support for Rock Island Trail Extension
& National Bicycle Month

Recreation Trail Advocates (RTA), a newly formed advocacy group attempting to encourage more commuter use of bicycles and the creation of bicycle friendly greenways, would appreciate the IWV's help on two upcoming events.

The first is Friday May 21, 1999 BIKE TO WORK DAY. We would like to encourage all IWV members to bike to work that day in order to increase awareness that it is National Bicycle Month and encourage others to do so.

The second event is the First Annual Walk/Ride on the KELLAR BRANCH line, on May 22, 1999 starting at 1:00 P.M. The RTA is working to enlist the aid and support of the City of Peoria and the Village of Peoria Heights to convert the KELLAR BRANCH railroad spur to a bicycle/walking trail from Pioneer Park to Grant Street by Komatsu Dresser. The trustees of the Peoria Park District and hopefully Mayor Grieves and members of the Peoria City Council will be walking north from the railroad tracks behind the Peoria Journal Star to Bishop Avenue. At 1:00 P.M. Mayor Carter of Peoria Heights and his Village council members will be walking south down the railroad right-of-way at the intersection of Prospect Road and Marietta Street to Bishop Avenue.

Both groups will meet where the railroad line intersects Bishop Avenue, and there will be a presentation of a golden spike. We would like as many cyclists and/or walkers to join either group by meeting us at the intersection of Bishop and the railroad line, or by pedaling or pushing a mountain bike over the proposed extension to the Rock Island Trail. To start from the Peoria side with the group, meet at 1:00 PM at the railroad tracks behind the Peoria Journal Star. We are trying to get the PJS to be the hosts of the event and have refreshments at the Journal Star office following the walk.

For further information call George M. Burrier, Jr. at 309-698-5512 (W) or 266-5085 (H)

May 1, Parke County Covered Bridge Tour
Rockville, IN. The Parke County Covered Bridge Bike Tour will originate at Billie Creek Village, 1 mile east of Rockville on US 36. Length of tour is 36/38/13 miles with a 10 mile option. \$15 before April 20, includes buffet lunch.

May 2, Sudden Century
Joliet, IL \$12 up to 4/24, then \$15, family rates available. Joliet Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 2758, Joliet, IL 60436. Roger Stoub (708) 614-8958.

May 15-16, Spring Amana Bicycle Ride
TOGIR Tours (319) 344-1379, bike@togir.com

May 20, Pedal Peoria Grandview Ride
Start at Lakeview Museum east parking lot
Highlights: Views from Grandview Drive Prospect Rd., High Point Dr. Linberg's air-mail flight plaque

May 28-30, Horsey Hundred
Georgetown, KY. Beautiful ride in horse country near Lexington. Bluegrass Cycling Club, registration form available on the internet or from Rob Alexander.

May 29 - 30, Bike Quad Cities Trails
Ride on the paved trails in the Quad cities, camping at Illinwek Forrest Preserve. Larry Paustian, 694-3947

June 3, Pedal Peoria History Ride
Start at Illinois Antique Center/Crooked Waters parking lot
Highlights: River front, Springdale Cemetery, Randolph-Roanoke-High Street homes, Giant Oak Park.

June 3-6, BEAR VIII
Bicycling Early Agricultural Roads.

TOGIR Tours (319) 344-1379, bike@togir.com

June 4-7, Bourbon, Barns, & Bluegrass Rally

Louisville, KY. League of American Bicyclists, www.bikeleague.org

June 5, No Baloney Ride
Peoria IL. Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

June 12, TOMRV 22
Bettendorf, IA. Tour Of the Mississippi River Valley, Quad Cities Bicycle Club, Susie LaForce (319) 355-5530, helios.augustana.edu:80/qcbe/

June 17, Pedal Peoria Eric's Deli Ride
Start at Loucks School parking lot
Highlights: Pettengill-Morrison House, West Peoria, Glen Oak Park Fedora's Deli

June 18-21, Springs, Spokes, & Saddles Rally
Louisville, KY. League of American Bicyclists, www.bikeleague.org

June 20-26, The Other Great Iowa Ride
Northeast IA. TOGIR Tours, (319) 344-1379

June 27, 30th Annual Swedish Days Ride
Geneva, IL. Fox Valley Bicycle and Ski Club, (630) 584-7353, www.geocities.com/colosseum/3073

July 1, Pedal Peoria Sculpture Ride
Start at Bradley University visitor parking lot
Highlights: Public Sculptures around Peoria, including Sonar Tide, Peace & Harvest, Mother Theresa, Ingersol, various Riverfront Park sculptures by Preston Jackson

July 4, 4th of July Ride

Plainfield, IL. Joliet Bicycle Club, P.O. Box 2758, Joliet, IL 60436. Calvin Jordan (815) 355-1857.

July 15, Pedal Peoria East Peoria Trail Ride
Start at Illinois Antique Center/Crooked Waters parking lot
Highlights: Robert Michel Bridge, East Peoria Trail

August 5, Pedal Peoria East Peoria Fon du Lac Ride

Start at Illinois Antique Center/Crooked Waters parking lot
Highlights: Robert Michel Bridge, views from Fon du Lac Dr.

August 19, Pedal Peoria Garden Ride
Start at Botanical Gardens, Glen Oak Park
Highlights: Luthy Botanical Gardens, selected city gardens (Please let the ride leaders know of any front yard gardens which you think should be included on this ride's route.)

Pancake Rides

Yes, we're still riding (and eating). IWW weekend rides continue on Saturday and/or Sunday morning. We've been meeting at 9 A.M. somewhere within a 20 minute drive of Peoria and riding 30-40 miles. Generally we eat at the turnaround stop. Feel free to give us a ring - Eric Hutchison, 688-7038

Thursday Ride

Meet at Russell's in Washington for a ride around Washington, for beginners and experienced riders. Call Rob: 444-3297, Jim: 444-7658, or beginners Ron or Marilyn: 444-5160

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name #1 _____ Birthdate _____
(please print clearly)

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 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 IAB 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 payable to: ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N, 6518 NORTH SHERIDAN RD. STE 2, PEORIA IL 61614-2933



61613-2461 10

Bikes For Kids
Saturday, May 15, 1999
Bergner's 9:00 A.M.

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

SHARE THE ROAD...MEMBER TIL: 6/21/1999



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

Riding With Mom, Part 1

By Jeffery Gosnell

Most people I know think I'm nuts. They simply think that someone who enjoys a 25-mile commute to work must be insane. I'm sure I'm not alone; probably every Wheelm'n can relate to family and friends asking, "You rode how far?" in shocked disbelief. So it came as no surprise to me that I was having a hard time finding a stoker for the Tour of the Mississippi River Valley (TOMRV). My wife wasn't willing to suffer the hurt of 196 miles in two days; neither were any of my coworkers; neither were any of my friends. All that changed the night of March 19. It was at a birthday party that I was bemoaning to my uncle (an ex-cyclist) that everyone I had asked to ride TOMRV with me said no. Suddenly, I heard my mother's cheerful voice chip in, "I'll do it with you, Jeffery."

I let the comment go, knowing mom was joking. After all, at age 53, she hadn't been on a bike for twenty-five years. But mom's brothers and sisters weren't so forgiving. Jokes and put-downs began to pour out unceasingly. "Sure, Carol, you can ride on his handle bars." "Maybe he could pull you in a cart." "Make sure he takes a shovel so he can bury you along side the rode." I never believed for a minute that my mother was seriously considering TOMRV. Maybe she was. But the more her siblings tormented her the more determined she became. Finally, she told me that I needed to take her to a bike shop on Wednesday.

We let it go the rest of the evening. To me, mom had been goaded, and the issue would be forgotten the next day. But when she called Monday evening to ask when I could take her to the shop, I knew she was serious. A plan developed in my mind. I would take mom to Russell's Cycle & Fitness, put her on a tandem, and break her of this foolish notion. It backfired! She loved it and that day bought a Specialized hybrid to begin riding immediately. After 25 years mom did her first solo ride—3 miles. But it didn't stop there. Mom began riding the stretch of rode next to her house everyday. After two weeks she had ridden a total of 57 miles. But that's still along way from the mileage of TOMRV. The only way for her to do it is by tandem. So April 7th she hauled me back into Russell's, and together we purchased a Burley Duet. Our first ride together was 15 miles in thirty mile per hour winds. She loved it, and I suddenly realized TOMRV was an attainable goal.

So in the next few months expect to see mom and me training on the club rides. She's promised not to embarrass me too much, and I've promised not to be embarrassed. But please, no Oedipus jokes!