



# ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N



greater peoria's bicycle club

January, 2001

## Another Road Trip

Mr. Bill

A couple of years ago, as some of you may recall, I made a trip from Pekin to Indianapolis. I thought I was doing pretty well. A little over 250 miles in the span of 5 days, over some pretty rustic roads. Several friends in the club suggested I do an article for the newsletter. I really didn't want to. I felt that I was sort of "tooting my own horn" so to speak. But a lot of you told me later that they really enjoyed reading it. So when I decided to do another trip and mentioned it to friends who ride, it was suggested several times again that I should do another article. So here goes. Every once in awhile, the words "loaded tour" come up at our house. "Road trip" along with "loaded tour" just sends shivers down my wife's spine. It usually happens when I get to feeling a little restless.

Most marriage counselors would define this as the male need to wander or stray from the nest so to speak. Kind of like a mid-life crisis. Some guys head for the bars and honky-tonks, looking for something they miss from their youth. I guess that would describe me to a point. You see, I didn't really start riding until about 14 or 15 years ago. I mean, sure I pedaled around town on my old 5 speed, but really hitting the road didn't hit me until a friend of mine suggested I buy a bike when I quit smoking and accompany him on a "Pedal to Big Muddy" fund raiser for the MS Society. From that weekend on I was hooked. Since then it has become an addiction. Now, whenever I get the urge to roam, my wife understands. She knows that there is no other woman involved. Just the call of the open road.

And so the latest "road trip" came to be. I have wanted to do a road trip through Wisconsin for a long time, and, as I couldn't afford a trip to Ireland or

Australia, I figured this would be a good place to start. I usually go up to the Chetek area to fish during the summer. This year, because of a trip to Canada with the Boy Scouts and my dad passing away in July, I couldn't manage it. I decided to ride from Chetek back home instead.

I started by contacting the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and obtaining a set of Wisconsin bike maps. Very similar to the Illinois state maps and definitely worth the expense. I spent the next 3 months planning my route, making hotel reservations, and rechecking everything I needed. I had originally planned to take Amtrak from Bloomington to Chicago, then Chicago to Minneapolis, and ride to Chetek. When I found out that I had to roll the bike on in Bloomington, then in Chicago buy a box, partially disassemble the bike and ship it as freight, I decided to find a different way.

On September 7, a friend of mine flew me to Eau Claire in his plane, then I rode from there to Chetek. After spending the weekend visiting with friends at the resort I usually go to, I started home on Sunday.

Sunday, September 10. A cloudless sky and a slight wind from the northwest. Temps in the mid 50's. Just right for riding. After a small detour in Eau Claire because of road construction and accepting some bad directions from a lady when I became slightly "disoriented" on my route, I got my real first taste of Wisconsin's hills. Having still over 60 miles to go, I knew I was almost as high as I could get. Then I saw the sign "Scenic Overlook Next Left." I remember thinking I was going to need oxygen if I went any higher. The legs definitely were not used to this. I finally got to the top and had a nice mostly downhill ride into Arcadia, where I spent my first night. Total for the day, 101.6 miles -- about 20+ miles more

than I had planned. But boy, oh boy, was my head swelled. Doing a century in one day is one thing. But doing it fully loaded is next to being like Greg or Lance in my mind. I slept well that night, even though I was on the southern edge of a storm front that moved through.

Monday, September 11. A few puffy white clouds and lots of sun. That storm front that moved through overnight had dumped over 8 inches of rain. Up North! In Eau Claire! I was well below it. I must have been living right. But with it came a new problem. NO MORE TAILWIND! The front had shifted the wind around to the southwest, at 15-25 mph with gusts of 35 mph right in the face all day. Oh boy!

### New Members

Troy's Trailside Velo ..... Morton  
George & David Ford Bloomington  
Michael Kuhns ..... Washington  
William Wilson ..... Peoria

### Renewing Members

Ron Anderson\*^ ..... Washington  
Thomas & Diane Colletti Family ....  
..... Peoria  
Kerry & Stacey Delvecchio Dunlap  
Sheila & Reid Hansen Family^ .....  
..... Peoria  
Jack & Carol Huggins\* East Peoria  
Eric Hutchison^ ..... Peoria  
Roger & Kathy John\*^ ..... Dunlap  
Linda & Samuel Kent ..... Morton  
Steve & Sue Mahany^ ..... Dunlap  
Ron & Jan Matuska\*^ ... Mackinaw  
George Parsons ..... Peoria  
Tom & Carol Romanowski Family^  
..... Peoria  
Bill & Marge Semmens^ ..... Peoria  
Marc Squillante\*^ ..... Peoria  
Dorthy Venturi ..... Farmington

\*LAB Member ^Advocacy



# 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: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

IVW On The WEB

My ride down along the Mississippi on gently rolling roads became a test of faith. I usually average 15-18 mph. Today I managed 12.8 mph. Beautiful scenery, though. There was a touch of fall in the air which, combined with the picture postcard views of the river valley gave me a reason to forget the wind. Even with the slow pace, I enjoyed just being on the road. I stayed in De Soto Monday night at a small resort overlooking the Mighty Mississippi. I went to sleep listening to north- and south-bound freight trains headed for points unknown to reload or deliver their goods. Another great day!

Tuesday, September 12. On down along the Mississippi, through La Crosse, then into Prairie du Chien. On the way, I caught up with another bicycle rider named Tim Montgomery from Minneapolis, MN. He works for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. I was feeling pretty cocky up until this point. I figured Chetek to Pekin — quite a ride, right! Oh no! I had spent weeks preparing for this trip. Just the right bike. Fancy panniers. Rebuilt the wheel hubs and checked the trueness. Made motel reservations.

Well, let me paint a picture of Tim. He decided to hop on his bike and ride to St. Louis. Just for tickles and grins! On an old Fuji (someone stole his good bike) with metal platform pedals (no straps), upright handle bars, and 2 or 3 broken spokes on the rear. There was a handlebar bag and another bag on the front. Everything else was wrapped in a garbage bag fastened to a rack in the rear. And to top it all off, I found out later he didn't stop at St. Louis. He decided to ride to Memphis. Now I am feeling somewhat humbled. You can and should check out his web site at <http://explorer2000.tripod.com>. The pictures and accompanying story are well worth it. (You'll even get to see my picture.) We parted ways in Prairie du Chien. He decided to stop at an outdoor store to do some shopping and to fix the broken spokes.

A route change just past Prairie du Chien brought another reminder that Wisconsin has a couple of hills. I picked up US 18 east and, after crossing the Wisconsin River bridge, started up a hill that lasted just over 5 miles. Not really steep, just long, it reminded me of that pink rabbit on TV. After a few more hills and a lot more miles I finally arrived in Platteville. This was my overnight stop for Tuesday and Wednesday nights. I had planned a day's layover to do

some sight seeing and rest for a day.

Thursday, September 14. Well-rested and back on the road again. I would cross into Illinois today and head for Savanna, my overnight stop. The wind was out of the north at about 15 mph. I would miss the great riding in Wisconsin. The moment I crossed into Illinois, the two foot paved shoulder disappeared. Now I had less than 6 inches of pavement outside of the white line. We really should do something about that. Great views of Old Miss. along the bluffs made up for the hill just north of the Chestnut Mountain Ski area (15% grades are not my strong point.) I've got to admit I walked most of this one. The rest of the ride into Savanna was really sweet, though.

Friday, September 15. Getting closer to home made the miles seem to melt like ice cream on a hot day. Actually, it may have been the tailwind and the lack of hills. I was headed for Kewanee. I planned on staying in a bed-and-breakfast there - Miss Daisy's B&B to be exact. A lovely old house run by a couple originally from the Chicago area who wanted to escape the pace of the big city. I would recommend this place to anyone. After spending the night, I parted with the feeling that I had known these people for a lifetime. They made me feel relaxed and completely at home. Precise directions to the local Dairy Queen put them at the top of my list.

Saturday, September 16. Last day on the road, I left Kewanee around 9:00 AM after a breakfast tailored to the needs of a cyclist. The wind was out of the south at about 10 mph. The local temperature was 43 degrees. The sun was shining bright as I started the beginning of the last leg of my trip. I was anxious to get home. I had been gone for 9 days and missed my stoker and offspring. I knew I was going to miss the road, but not as much as I missed those two. I rode like a person possessed, stopping only once in the last 63 miles. I pulled into Pekin around 2 PM. I used to think the Pekin bridge was a hill. I used to think that Broadway Road along the golf course was a hill. Now I took on both with a newfound strength. I had made the trip safely. I had lived a dream I've had for over 15 years. I had made it home.

Final score: 0 flats, 0 broken spokes, 1 dog (who I outran in a heartbeat). NO RAIN! (I didn't even remove the rain suit from my pannier.) And countless memories to tide me over until the next "road trip". *Bill Clark*



**January 10 Swap Meet and January IVW Meeting 7:00 PM.** Meet at Safety Town, 6518 North Sheridan Rd., Peoria. Clean out the garage, basement, etc. and bring your new/used bike junk (OOPS - I mean treasure) to the Swap Meet.

**January 20 Bowling & Pizza Party 5:30 PM.** Washington, IL. Meet at Plaza Lanes located at 1500 W Washington Rd. in Washington—behind the McDonalds—use McDonald's entrance—Bowling Alley is located in the back to the left of McDonald's. **RSVP by calling Sarah Emmons at (309) 246-2166 or email at [tandemx2@joysta.com](mailto:tandemx2@joysta.com)**

**February 14 IVW Meeting 7:00 PM.** Meet at Safety Town, 6518 North Sheridan Rd., Peoria.

## Winter Wednesdays

Our hiking/skiing group will continue to meet at Donovan Golf Course as long as the snow persists. The course is located at 5805 N. Knoxville Rd., directly across from the Ranch House Restaurant. We will meet at 4:30 PM. If you can't get home and get your gear that soon, just come when you can. It won't be too difficult to find us.

The early group will ski clockwise, from the parking lot toward Proctor Hospital. If you arrive late, ski counterclockwise and you're bound to run into us. I am not sure how late we will ski. It will depend on skier enthusiasm and the wind chill factor. Dinner will follow.

Member Jim Vaupel has agreed to give lessons on Wednesday, January 10. If you just received skis for Christmas, this is your big chance to take lessons from a pro!

Should the snow melt before the end of January we'll revert to our previously planned location at the Rock Island Trail. We will meet at the small parking lot in Alta across from Spokes Bicycle Shop. February hikes will meet at Forest Park Nature Center. Remember, if there is enough snow to ski, we will meet at Donovan throughout January and February. Thanks to all of you who have come to the Wednesday hikes. Winter

passes much faster in the company of good friends. Happy New Year, Sheila Gribble, [sgribble4@juno.com](mailto:sgribble4@juno.com)

## Jim-Bob Chili

- 3 - 28 oz. crushed tomatoes
- 6 - 14 oz. beans (pinto, black, kidney)
- 1 large can tomato juice
- 1 Shelby chili mix (less thickening)
- 3 Ancho peppers, powered
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic
- 2 lbs. onion, chopped
- 5 lbs. beef, cut into cubes
- 3 green peppers, chopped
- 3 Anaheim peppers, chopped
- 1 orange habanero, minced

Brown beef cubes, add everything else, bring to a simmer for 2 hours, refrigerate overnight, simmer for 3 hours before serving.



## Ride Schedule

There are some major changes to the ride schedule. All rides except the Sat. AM ride from the Washington square & the Sun. PM ride from Metamora square are over until further notice. The two rides remaining will only go if weather permits. So get the rollers & trainers out or better yet join a spinning class to keep those bicycle legs for spring riding. Ride Chairperson, Bill Semmens.

## ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_ please print clearly 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 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**



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## 3rd Annual Bowling and Pizza Party January 20

Strengthen up those biceps—because the IVW is planning to go bowling on Saturday, January 20. Meet at Plaza Lanes located at 1500 W. Washington Rd., Washington, IL, behind McDonald's. Use McDonald's entrance. The bowling alley is located in the back to the left of McDonald's.

Time: 5:30 PM

Price: \$1.95 each person per game.

They will set up one lane with bumper pads if necessary. After bowling, we will go to Monical's in the Cherry Tree Shopping Center for some pizza and beverages. If you don't like to bowl and just want pizza, meet us at Monical's between 7:15 - 7:30 PM. Please RSVP by calling Sarah Emmons at (309) 246-2166 or e-mail me at [tandemx2@joysta.com](mailto:tandemx2@joysta.com)