



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

WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



February 2002

IVW Meeting

Thanks to all who turned out for the IVW "Let's Make A Deal" Swap Meet. There were bargains for every climate from cross country skis to a California Cruiser.

Remember to join us for the next IVW meeting February 13 for a forum on winter training. This will be at Safety Town, on Sheridan Road in Peoria, at 7pm. See you there.

Club Events

Sunday, February 10th

FAMILY MT. BIKE or X-COUNTRY SKI/HIKE & SPAGHETTI ALL YOU CAN EAT DINNER (all Free!)

Hikers bring birding binoculars.

Meet JUBILEE PARK, Main

Entrance..start promptly at 3 PM to 5 PM.Directions:Town of Kickapoo to 150, 4 miles (1st entrance closed) See Big Sign for Park, follow that road around to parking. Look for IVW flag on car.

Dinner at 6pm. Kids' juice, coffee dessert provided..Bring your own Wine/Beverage.

Fireside coffee chat to Brainstorm 2002 events ideas. At Carol & Jack Huggins house, 1101 Fondulac Dr., E. Peoria, IL (ph 309-694-1791)

Directions from Peoria:

Rte 74 So. over bridge 1st Main St. (so.) E. Peoria exit, then 1st immediate left up hill (Fondulac Dr.),(Bob Evans will be on your right as you go up the hill), go over bridge, head North, pass two distinct parking clearings, after 2nd clearing 4th visible house on left..yellow, IVW sign on tree. Park in drive, along road in front.

SUNDAY, FEB. 24TH

FAMILY BOWLING & PIZZA SOCIAL at PLAZA LANES.

1500 Washington Rd., Washington (ph. 444-3059)

\$7.00 Package includes Large Pizza, Pitcher of Soda, Shoe Rental and 2 Full Hrs, Unlimited Bowling.

Call Carol Huggins to reserve your lane or call PLAZA above #. Identify yourself as a member of the IVW Bicycle Club. Such Great fun last year..See you there Feb. 24th!!!

Nature Center Hikes

Tired of sitting on that trainer? Come for a hike! The hills at Forest Park Nature Center will raise your heart rate, keep your legs in shape for spring and burn a few of the calories accumulated over the holidays. Needless to say, the company is great :-). We will meet at 4:30 PM on Wednesdays, February 13, 20 and 27. Bring a flash light and sturdy shoes. February 13, is the night of the monthly IVW meeting at Safety Town. After the hike that Wednesday, we will pick up Subway sandwiches in route to the meeting. In the event of snow, we will meet at the same time at Donovan Golf Course for cross country skiing. Donovan is located in Peoria at 5805 N. Knoxville Avenue. We hike for approximately one and a half hours and then select a restaurant for dinner. If you are only interested in the dinner, come join us around 5:45 - 6:00.

Sheila Gribble

I.V.W. Jerseys

We have now received samples of jerseys for sizing for those that would like to try one on before purchasing. The manufacturer has sent us one each of sizes S through XL in the club cut. These are not the Wheelm'n design they are for sizing only. I will have these with me on the club rides that I am able to make and also at the next monthly meeting. Feel free to call

me anytime to arrange a time to try one on if interested. We must have the minimum number and place our order by the first part of March to keep our spot on the production schedule. The cost is \$65 and a check to the I.V.W. is considered your order. (ed. the jerseys are made by VOMax, who has a web site at www.vomax.com)

Thanks, Greg Durst
(309) 243-9694

Ride Schedule

Saturday: Show 'n Go ride from Washington Square at 8:30am, typically 35 to 40 miles. Level 2 riders and up.

Sunday: Metamora Square at 1pm. Distance varies. Led by Jim and Sarah Emmons. Level 2 riders and up.

New Members

Chris & Marguerite Everts & family..... Peoria

Renewing Members

Ron Anderson*..... Washington
Terry & John Bierre Washington
Rolly Godfrey..... Princeville
Celeste Hansen^..... Peoria
Jack & Carol Huggins* E. Peoria
Fred & Susan Massey Jr. Morton
Rich & Rhonda Morris E. Peoria
Brad Niemcek & Sharon
Murphey^*..... Peoria
Ken Parker..... Morton
Mel Perrill..... Pekin
Ty Rowe..... Creve Coeur
Bill & Marge Semmens ... Peoria
Marc Squillante..... Peoria
Jim Williams..... Washington

* LAB member ^ Advocacy

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

Greater Peoria's bicycle club

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American Bicyclists and League of
Illinois Bicyclists

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Submissions, including stories, news,
images, and/or humor are welcomed.
Deadline: 15th of each month

IVW On the Web

<http://www.geocities.com/ivw.geo>

enter the above as one line; no spaces

The IVW Wants You!

IVW Secretary:

Job Responsibilities: Take minutes at club and board meetings, issue minutes, and general notices. One – two evenings a month.

IVW Webmaster

Job Responsibilities: Update IVW web pages as needed. Coordinate links to various pages of interest to cyclists. If you're interested in learning how, please call me. I'd be happy to show you how it all works. All you need is an Internet connection. The basic software you need is available on the Internet free of charge.

Please contact Chris Hill regarding these opportunities (see list of club officers for phone number and e-mail address).

Meet Your Board Members

Over the next few months, we will be introducing our Board Members through autobiographical essays. This is your opportunity to get to know the folks who spend a lot of their time keeping our club alive. So the next time you see one of these folks, please let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

Chris Hill, Secretary & webmaster

As Dan and I sat comparing bike crash stories over dinner on our first date in 1995, I knew I'd met someone with whom I could share this cycling adventure. I had been cycling in and around the Mississippi River valley since I was a kid. Though I've seen many a RAGBRAI finish in my hometown of Keokuk, Iowa, I regret to say I've never participated in one.

My first serious ride was an 80-mile trek from Mt. Pleasant, IA, to Iowa City, IA, to visit some college friends over summer break 1990. I set out with one water bottle and a screwdriver. About half way there, I flatted. Luckily, another cyclist, Cheesy, happened along and took pity

on me. He drove 30 miles out of his way to the nearest store to get a new tube for me.

The rest of the ride was pretty uneventful. But I'd learned two valuable lessons:

- 1) always be prepared.
- 2) cyclists are really great folks.

After we were married in 1997, Dan patiently taught me the virtues of clipless pedals, cycling downhill, and spinning. I joined the IVW in 1998 and have been planning my summers around organized rides ever since.

This summer, Dan and I will be adding a new component to our cycling adventure. . . a bugger.

Subsequently, I will be resigning as club secretary and Web person as of June 1. If you are interested in either position, please let me know.

Steve Kurt, editor

The Early Years: Naturally, it all started with a tiny bike with training wheels. Somewhere between that bike and the Sears Stingray with the banana seat, I started riding the bike just to see the countryside and to see how far I could ride. 10 speed bikes were becoming popular, and in 9th grade I bought one from Montgomery Wards.

This was fine for a year and many rides, but it was eventually succeeded by a used Sekine. This bike was a true lightweight, and equipped with silk tubular tires, which are still the best tires ever produced. To minimize the wear on the tubulars, I decided to build a set of clincher wheels, guided by the bike books available from the library.

After a year I began to outgrow the Sekine, and decided to build up a bike myself. A Raleigh Gran Sport frame was purchased from the local bike shop, and the rest was gradually purchased from mail order houses. Eventually, a fine general purpose bike emerged. It was very well suited to long rides, and equipped with decent reliable parts. This bike was to serve me well for the next 14 years.

The Years of Little Change: The Raleigh stayed with me after high school, and through my tour in the

Marine Corps, my college years, and initial years working in St. Louis. In that time, I relied heavily on it for transportation and recreation. On this bike, I learned to ride in pacelines, as well as learning tricks like track stands and picking things up off the road while riding. The Raleigh carried me through a number of RAGBRAI's and TOMRV's, and suffered with me up the many beautiful hills surrounding St. Louis. Eventually, though, the Raleigh showed the years of use, and it was time to search for The Next Bike.

The Return of Change: When shopping for a new bike in 1989, I wasn't happy with what was available in the shops. The answer turned out to be a custom frame built by Gordon Borthwick. Equipped with fairly modern quality equipment, it was a joy to ride.

In 1994, I took a job here in Peoria, and was fortunate enough to be able to commute to work by bike. I tried using a used Specialized bike for commuting, but the short wheelbase just wasn't suited to a rear rack for panniers. The rack and panniers fit the Borthwick nicely, so it became the commuting bike. With time, the Borthwick was fitted with an assortment of lights to allow riding after sunset, and fenders to allow riding on wet roads. Commuting gave me a reason to ride every day,

and my annual mileage climbed from a couple of thousand miles to over 4000. The fenders, combined with warmer clothes, led me to ride on wet or cold days in comfort, which also contributed to the increased mileage. Eventually, I was riding almost every weekend of the year.

A few years ago, I came across a neat Italian racing bike from the early 80's. It had all the cool Campagnolo parts that I had lusted after when I was a kid, it was affordable, and it was red! (everyone knows that red Italian bikes are the fastest, right?) And since the Borthwick was weighed down with fenders and rack, I could use a dedicated fast bike. I ended up buying the bike, and a couple of years later, I also bought an unused 1974 Raleigh International like I had seen in the old catalogs. These bikes, in addition to my reluctance to adopt technology developed since the early 80's, have turned me into a spokesman for classic bikes.

In the last couple of years I've also built a fixed gear bike (1 speed, no coasting), which has added another dimension to cycling, and just had a custom touring bike equipped with S&S couplers built. It's perfect for commuting & touring, and is ideal for traveling, since the frame comes apart and can be packed in a case barely bigger than a bike wheel.

Since moving to Peoria, I've had the pleasure of riding with the IVW

and making many good friends. I've led the Tuesday Night ride in Dunlap for the last 3 years, and hopefully taught people that you can go fast on almost any bike. In December, I took over as editor of this newsletter. I'm not a writer, so please feel free to contribute any ride reports, notices of events, etc.

If anyone has any questions regarding bike commuting, bikes from the 70's and 80's, fixed gear bikes, riding at night, or good reasons why you need another bike, please call or write. See you on the road!

for sale

For Sale: 2 pr x-country skis with poles & shoes. One, waxless, woman's about 9-10. One, men's about 10-11. \$35 ea. \$60 for both.
Dick Rhodes, 347-4328, Peokin.

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 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 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

As the smiling faces show, the New Years ride was an enjoyable event! For some, it was fun because they got to join their buddies for a bike ride on a sunny day. For others, it was fun because they stayed indoors to chat, eat, and not lose any extremities to frostbite. Hope to see you there next year!



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

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SHARE THE ROAD..MEMBER TIL:11/27/2002

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