



ILLINOIS VALLEY

WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



March 2002

March IVW Meeting

when: 7pm, Wed, 13 March 2002
where: Safety Town on N. Sheridan, Peoria

Our March meeting will be your opportunity to learn about exciting bike tours from other members. Ron and Paula Douglas will be giving a presentation from their recent trip to Hawaii; Eric Hutchison and Sheila Gribble will talk about last year's trip to the U.P. Anyone else who has an adventure to share with the membership please contact Marge Semmens at 693-9388.



Nature Center Hikes

March is the last month for the Wednesday hikes. We will meet at the parking lot of Forest Park Nature Center at 4:30 on March 13, 20, and 27.

Bring a flashlight and sturdy shoes. In the event of snow, we will meet at Donovan's Golf Course (same time) for cross country skiing. Donovan Golf Course is located in Peoria at 5805 N. Knoxville Avenue. We will hike for approximately one and a half hours and then select a restaurant for dinner. If you are interested in dinner only, come to the nature center around 5:45 - 6:00. I hope you will join us
Sheila Gribble

I.V.W. Jerseys

Just a quick reminder that Greg Durst is still seeking people who are interested in purchasing a jersey bearing the IVW logo and text. The jerseys will be made by VO Max, and the cost is \$65. The goal is to get all the orders by March 1st, but the order may not go out for a few days past then. Please contact Greg for further info. 243-9694

Spaghetti Ride Report

by Bill Semmens

Thanks to the work of Carol & Jack Huggins, we had a "No Sweat" spaghetti ride last Sunday. Well, let me re-phrase that, I'm sure Carol & Jack worked up a sweat getting everything ready for us. But the rest of us didn't sweat because we didn't ride. All we did was eat, drink and play with the Huggins' pet goose.

Carol's original plan was to go cross country skiing in a nice February snow. But you know what the winters been like so far. Then when it rained on Sunday, we just skipped the ride and went right to the food. The spaghetti was great. Thanks Carol & Jack for a great evening.

IVW offers the Scouting Merit Badge.

Starting in April, IVW member Mike Pula will lead a series of rides and meetings for Boy Scouts interested in earning the cycling merit badge. The merit badge is an excellent introduction to road cycling for new scouts and riders. Mike is a registered cycling merit badge counselor and has taken several scouts through the program previously. Any Boy Scout is welcome

and if interested should contact Mike @ 243-9394.

National Bike Month Film Fest

by Tim Beeneey

Greetings friends and fellow human powered perambulators: I am writing to you in exile from solitary confinement in an 18 wheeled one person travelling prison to inform you of a gathering of great social importance: On Saturday May 18, 2002 the human powered tribes of the world will converge upon Peoria, IL for the 2nd annual Bike Month Film Fest beginning at the Apollo Fine Arts Theater on Main St. in Downtown Peoria, IL. This occurrence will consist of an evening of short and feature films in which bikes/bicycling will be of prominent foci. Following the film fest there will be an open performance stage and a human powered pub crawl (not necessarily in that order). On Sunday May 19 there will be a Sunday Brunch/Recovery Ride for those who are able or willing to rise and ride.

Bring your unicycles- bicycles- tricycles- quadracycles(the more wheels the merrier)- hpvs-tandems-recumbents- tall bikes- rolling sculpture- mtbs- roadsters- and any other pedal powered human powered handmade home made factory made non motorized contraption that fits your fancy. Get your poetry books, baikus, musical compositions, performance pieces ready and dust off those noise makers. Come to the 2nd annual Bike Month Film Fest in Peoria, IL. For those who feel inspired Inspired by The Kinetic Sculpture Race- Critical Mass- Chicago Bike Winter- World Car Free Day- CicloVia Colombia (especially Bogota- soon to

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 each month

IVW On the Web

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

eo

enter the above as one line; no spaces

to build there will be at least one torch
set available Saturday morning. Bring
parts, supplies and helpful tools.

Inspired by The Kinetic Sculpture
Race- Critical Mass- Chicago Bike
Winter- World Car Free Day- CicloVia
Colombia (especially Bogota- soon to
be the largest car free city in the
world)- C.H.U.N.K. 666- and all those
who understand that the bicycle is
more than a toy and a roof ornament.

This is the first announcement. More
info will soon follow. Please respond
to this e-mail: bikebus@bigplanet.com
for more info, suggestions, questions,
etc.

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.

Greg Durst, Vice-President

I started riding about five years ago,
just looking for a way to get some
exercise that was at least a little bit
enjoyable. Now I think I ride purely for
the enjoyment...the exercise is just an
added bonus! Most of my first year of
cycling consisted of pedaling from
Dunlap to Alta and back (that was
about as far as I could go) on my \$79
Huffy from Farm & Fleet. A few bikes
and a few miles later, my fondness for
the sport of cycling and my annual
mileage continue to grow every year.

When I'm not riding I can usually be
found working at Caterpillar or
spending time at home with my family.
I have a wife - Lori, son - Matthew,
and the dog - Maggie. Lori and I like
to ride together at Marge's Monday
night ride and whenever else we can.
Matthew, 10, is starting to ride on the
roads with us now, too. And he just
finished a very successful season
racing BMX. Our dog doesn't know

how to ride, yet, but I'll work on that!
The three of us also enjoy mountain
biking. That is always a big part of our
summer trips to Colorado.

As a board member of the I.V.W. I
hope to see the varied ride schedules
for all levels continue. Also, I'm
looking forward to the Wheelm'n being
active socially and in the community. I
am always open to comments and
suggestions in order to keep the
I.V.W. the great bicycle club that it
already is!

Sheila Gribble, Treasurer

I had no idea what I was getting
into when I attended my first IVW
ride in June of 1996. A friend of
mine, Barb Johnson, asked Mike
Joslin and me to come to a
Tuesday night ride. She said it
was a beginners ride and that it
left from Dunlap Elementary, over
by the Rock Island Trail. I
mistakenly assumed that it was a
trail ride. I didn't give it much
thought, just how hard could a
beginners ride be? Another faulty
assumption. Barb had neglected
to tell me that she had ridden
across the United States, dipping
her front wheel in both the Atlantic
and the Pacific within one
summer. So here I come: fat-
knobby tires, no water bottle,
frightened of riding near cars, and
wearing cut off jeans (that was my
biggest mistake). I realize now
that I was a ride leader's
nightmare. I rode just over 20
miles that night - Charlie and
Frannie Klees coaching me all of
the way. Actually, Charlie pushed
me up every hill. Several
members congratulated me for
finishing. I must have looked like
a lost cause.

Four days later I dusted off my
Schwinn Super LeTour and went
on an invitational ride with Barb.
We rode 50 miles that day. I was
hooked. I remember loving the
country side, the wind in my face,
the big sky, and the seasons of
agriculture - planting, growing,
and harvest. Oh - and the
livestock. I love to stop and talk to

the little calves, lambs and colts. It was a long 50 miles for me. I remember flopping down in someone's front yard and resting in the shade of a big tree. They may have been home; I didn't care. In hindsight, I am just glad they didn't call an ambulance.

I rode with the Wheelm'n the rest of that summer. I even went on the Sparta-Elroy ride in Wisconsin. I met the Padesky family on that trip. Vickie and I became friends immediately, talking late into the night. Frannie and Charlie were also great. George and Eileen Dudley shared their wine and cheese. The Amish women pedaled their baked goods and a great time was had by all. Frannie mailed me the membership information and I promptly enlisted.

I rode the rest of that season on my Schwinn. That fall I asked the local bike shops to watch for a decent bike - used, light and with a granny gear. Preferably one that I wasn't going to outgrow (skill-wise) any time soon. It ended up being a Trek 5500. I remember showing up with it on my first New Years Day ride, like a kid with a new bike from Santa. Someone said that I should bring my old bike for short, bad weather rides. I remember replying that "It's just a bike!" But, in fact it has been so much more to me. I have had many great times on that bike. I have made new friends, lost weight and got in shape and even won the "Most Improved Female Rider" award. Thanks to all of you for encouraging and challenging me.

I'll see you on the road,
Sheila Gribble, Treasurer.

for sale

For Sale: Raleigh 600 road bike, 59cm seat tube. Aluminum frame, Shimano 105 crank and rear derailleur. Wellgo R4 SPD pedals. Purchased new Aug 2001 for \$800.
Dick Rhodes, 347-4328,

Pekin.

Chicago Bike Show

(excerpt from the press release)

With a new emphasis on fun, fitness and the healthy lifestyle bicycling can provide, the Subaru Chicago Bike Show is expected to draw a larger and more diverse audience than ever before. The show already has received overwhelming support from Subaru, its new title sponsor, as well as the City of Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events.

The expanded show will be hosted in Festival Hall A at Navy Pier. This facility will provide exhibitors and attendees an exceptional state-of-the-art exposition center. It is ideally located with 1,800 enclosed parking spaces, and 5,000 additional spaces within walking distance. There also is access to public transportation, taxis and trolley buses. Navy Pier, with its spectacular view of the city, is a good draw for the entire family.

Chicago has become a national leader in bicycle advocacy and aggressively encourages a bicycle friendly policy. The city was named in November as the nation's best big city for bicycling by *Bicycling Magazine*. The 11th annual show was purchased last summer from CABDA by Chicago Sports Media, publishers of *Chicago Athlete* magazine.

Dates and hours for the Subaru Chicago Bike Show are: Friday, March 22: 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 23: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, March 24: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission will be \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 and free for children under 6. On additional note, discount coupons are available at: <http://www.chicagobikeshow.com/coupons.html>

For more information on the Subaru Chicago Bike Show, visit www.chicagobikeshow.com or call the Show's Hotline at (847) 675-0200.



For your leisure reading enjoyment.....

by Steve Kurt

Joe Kurmaski is a bike tourist that has enjoyed unique experiences, and has the literary talent to turn them into entertaining short stories. These were compiled in a book titled "Metal Cowboy", which was published in a hardback edition last year.

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of reading this work, the paperback version is now available! To quote Joe himself: "The paperback edition of "Metal Cowboy," published by Random House imprint, Three Rivers Press, will arrive in stores May 1. There will be some excerpts from my second book at the end of the paperback version as teasers for readers, a hip new cover and some updates to old stories. And of course now that it's in paperback more folks can afford it, give it as graduation gifts, use it as firestarters etc.

"The All Girls Bagpipe Squad" is an excerpt from the next book, "Riding Outside The Lines: More Misadventures With The Metal Cowboy" coming from Random House - Fall 2002. It's title is a play on many things but primarily the fact that all of the stories are from tours outside the United States."

The excerpt mentioned, "The All Girls Bagpipe Squad", has been posted to the IVW web site: <http://www.geocities.com/ivw.geo/bagpipe.html>

In addition to this story providing a taste of his writing style, Joe has a few stories from his first book posted at his website: <http://www.metalcowboy.com/>

"When your bike breaks down, take this as a sign to stick around a while and check out the locals. An

IVW 2002 Ride Information

Thanks to the efforts of several club members the ride schedule for the year already includes a variety of weekly and special rides. There are rides for all levels of ability, and more will be added as the season grows closer. If you have any ride suggestions, please call Mike Pula 243-9394.

Weekly Rides

Monday We hope to have something scheduled before the season begins
Tuesday Dunlap Grade School; Steve Kurt 243-7684; levels 2 & up; 5:30 starting April 9. 20 to 30 miles.
Wednesday Pleasant Hill Mall; Larry Paustian 694-3947 & Dirk McGuire 699-8482;
levels 2&up; 5:30, starts April 10
Thursday Coal Miners Park (Pekin); Jim Vaupel 353-6104; levels 2&up; starts April 11
Friday Pearce Center (Chillicothe); Jim & Sarah Emmons 246-2166; beginners and families; all levels; starts
May 3
Saturday Washington (on the square); no leader; 8:00; levels 3&4; currently riding
Saturday Russels (Washington); Don Eberle 699-2790; 8:30; levels 2&up; currently riding
Sunday Metamora (on the square); Jim & Sarah Emmons 246-2166, levels 2&up
currently riding, will stop at the end of March.

Rating Legend:

Level 1: Beginner, less than 20 miles, less than 15mph, not self sufficient.
Level 2: Intermediate, 20 - 50 miles, 15 to 18 mph, partially self-sufficient.
Level 3: Experienced, 50+ miles, 18+ mph, totally self-sufficient.

Special Rides

Spring Breakout Ride: April 13 (rain date April 14) 8:30; Don Eberle 699-2790; Don is going to lead us from Russels for the official opening of the riding season. All levels of riders are welcome for this special breakfast ride. Expected to be 20 miles in length, riding to Metamora. The ride will include breakfast and a longer route option for those wanting to extend the ride.

Amish Road Apple Ride: April 27th at 9am. Ron Douglas 637-1748(eve) 675-1999(day); 52 miles group ride on the country roads around Macomb. Meet at Kmart parking lot on East side of Macomb IL US-136. Detailed info can be found at <http://www.doctorvision.com/arar2002.htm>

Town Rides; Eric Hutchinson 688-7038 & Sheldon Schafer 682-1876 will once again be leading their town rides throughout the spring and summer. More details will be coming.

Quad Cities Weekend Ride; Larry Paustian 694-3947 will be leading a weekend trip to the Quad Cities on the 1st weekend of June (1st & 2nd). Larry will have more details soon. Larry also is considering a weekend ride on the Hennipen Canal trail.

Invitational Rides

Interplanetary Ride; August 10-11; Sheldon Schafer 682-1876

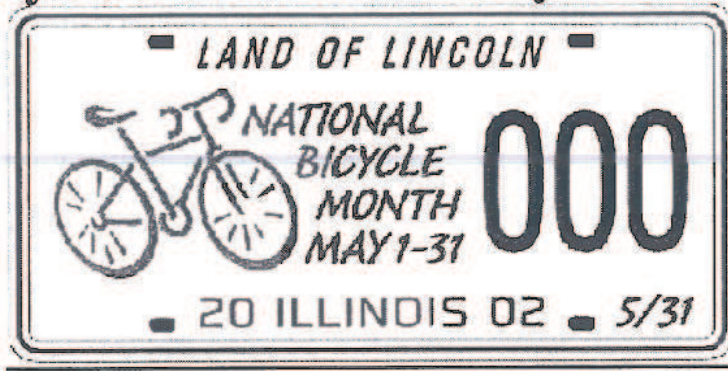
No Baloney Ride; September 21; Bill Semmens 693-9388

Check out other invitational rides at Mike Bentley's web site <http://mikebentley.com/bike/>

Habitat 500 10th Anniversary Ride - www.habitat500.org July 14 through July 20

A 7-day, 500-mile ride to raise money to help low-income families build homes they could not otherwise afford while also raising public awareness of Habitat for Humanity's mission. At least 85% of \$\$ raised is used to build homes & riders designate their local Affiliate to receive \$\$ they raise. This year's ride (10th anniversary) has a Prairie Home Companion theme and is off in search of Lake Wobegone.

May 2002 Is National Bicycle Month



Attention all bicycle enthusiasts! Celebrate National Bicycle Month with a limited edition license plate set. The plates are approved by the Secretary of State's office and you may display them instead of your regular plates during the months of April and May 2002. A sample of this year's plate is pictured above in black and white. The colors are: a white background, orange logo and teal numbers, Land of Lincoln and border. A color picture can be seen on the League of Illinois Bicyclist web site at www.bikelib.org.

The plate sets are numbered from 1 to 200. Priority will be given to those who ordered plates last year. All remaining plate sets are issued on a first-come-first-serve basis. The cost of each plate set is \$25. To order your set, please fill out this form and return it along with your payment and a photocopy of your car's current registration number by no later than March 14, 2002. You may also find an order form on the LIB web page.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE

Name _____

Signature _____

Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

E-Mail _____

Business Name (Only if using as shipping address) _____

Shipping Address (If different than above) (NO P.O. BOXES) _____

Driver's License Number _____

Current Plate Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Make & Model _____ VIN# _____

Without a photocopy of your car's current registration, your application cannot be processed.

Please make your \$25 check or money order payable to League of Illinois Bicyclists.
Mail it, along with this form and a photocopy of your car's current registration to: LIB, c/o Laura Sanborn,
1 So. 110 Normandy Woods Lane, Winfield, IL 60190. Phone: 630-462-5427, FAX: 630-462-5428

