



ILLINOIS VALLEY

**WHEELM'N**

*greater peoria's bicycle club*



May 2002

### May Club Meeting

The club meeting is Wed, May 8, 2002 at 7pm at Safety Town on Sheridan Road. Kevin Theime will be our guest speaker for the April meeting. As most of you know, Kevin is the chief mechanic at Russell's Cycle World in Washington. We have invited him to meet with us to talk about bike maintenance. Please come and support your club and learn more about getting your bike ready for lots of miles this summer. After Kevin's presentation, I'm sure he will be available for your questions. So if there is an unusual click or grind you don't think should be coming from your trusty or rusty steed, ask Kevin about it. See you on Wednesday.

### A Spring Breakout ride of grand proportions!

by Bill Semmens

What a great Spring Break Out Ride! We had almost 50 riders show up for Don Eberle's ride on Saturday April 13th. We had all shapes and sizes there. I think Paul Senneff is the youngest at 7 and I know Don Eberle is the oldest at 76 years young (his birthday was the day after our ride). Then there was the rest of us in between some where.

Riding experience ran the gamut also. We had a lot of people new to the club and some where new to riding. Congratulations to those people for their first 25 mile ride for the season. Keep building on those miles and break in your saddles. By the way I asked Don Eberle how many miles he

had in for the season and he said three (for those that don't know Don, that means about 3,000 miles). Sounds like he'll get 10 to 12 in for the year.

Don leads his ride out of Russell's parking lot every Sat. Just check out the schedule list elsewhere in the newsletter.

### Bikes for Kids

We have just confirmed the new date for Bikes for Kids, it will be June 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The location will be the Sheridan Village parking lot. There will be live radio broadcast the entire day and local restaurants will provide food and beverages for the volunteers. Bike shops will provide parts and a mechanic but we need to provide about 10 people with some knowledge of bike repair to the needed repairs and maintenance required for the donated bikes. Anyone with limited skills is also certainly welcome to come out and help as I am sure there will be plenty of jobs to be done. Work stands and tools will also be needed if anyone would like to loan them along with their skills.

The Salvation Army has expressed what a need there is for this program and the great amount of requests for bikes that have gone unfilled in the couple of years since the program has been gone. So, please mark the date on your calendar and give me a call to let me know how and when you would like to help. Thank you in advance from me, the Salvation Army, and all those kids who will soon be out there riding their new bikes!  
Greg Durst 243-9694

### One Funky Ride

May 19 (Sunday), 9:30 am, Minier city park to Funk's Grove nature preserve, 35 miles with longer options; Eric Hutchison, 688-7038.

Funk's Grove is a green oasis of towering trees in the middle of Illinois prairieland. It features several miles of tree-canopied roads and a serene outdoor chapel. Hopefully, our timing will be right for the wildflowers. Last spring, the Virginia Bluebells were everywhere. After visiting the park, we'll lunch stop at McLean. Those wanting to burn off the blueberry pie can add miles on the route back. The route is fairly flat -- if you are comfortable with a 20 mile ride, you'll do fine on the 35. Those wanting an earlier start & longer miles may want to start in Mackinaw (adds ~18 miles round trip, make your own arrangements).

#### New Members

Jerry & Lori Camp & family ..... Peoria  
Deanna & Dick Merriman..... Bartonville  
Ted Tiller ..... Washington

#### Renewing Members

Ronald Dean ..... Galesburg^  
Chuck Gullette ..... Dunlap  
Jack & Carol Huggins..... E. Peoria\*  
Steve Miller..... Peoria  
Harold Moloney ..... Morton  
Kevin Nickerson..... Peoria^  
Allan & Gail Silzer & family ..... Peoria^  
Jim Vaupel ..... Pekin^  
Laverne Wilson & Roger Hagel ..... Washington^

\* 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 each month

### IVW On the Web

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

*enter the above as one line; no spaces*

## BIKE QUAD CITIES

June 1 & 2, 2002

Friday evening we'll set up camp at Fisherman's Corner, a corp. of engineers campground one-half mile north of Illinwek Forrest Preserve State Park on the East bank of the Mississippi River. The campground is on highway 84 just a few miles South of Interstate 80 where it crosses the Mississippi River. You can't miss it – if you're in Iowa, turn around. Travel time is about 1.5 hours, less than 100 miles. Campsites can be reserved on the web, but I'll take my chances, Illinwek is just down the road if Fisherman is full.

On Saturday morning at 9:00am the ride will leave the campground on the trail and travel the length of the Ben Butterworth Memorial Parkway to Cordova (North) and out onto the scenic Mississippi back roads through the small river side towns. Pack a lunch just in case restaurants cannot be found. This area is to become part to the Great Illinois Trail but currently contains some missing sections. Sunday morning we will travel from the campground into Rock Island Arsenal (South) along the riverfronts of a half dozen cities with side trips to any number of the Mississippi Islands. There are trails on the Arsenal and civil war era buildings, cemeteries, and a museum (Helmets are required). 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 each day is about 55 miles, all on pavement. Dinner Saturday night will be at Miss Mamie's Catfish House. This place is cheep and good, but bring your own food if you want.

If time permits on Sunday afternoon we can pack up and cross the river to Bettendorf, Iowa. At Devil's Glen Park, we'll ride the Duck Creek Parkway across Bettendorf and Davenport, a round trip of 27 miles. Afterwards we will return to Peoria in the late afternoon. Come for some or all of the rides each day.

All the trails are flat and asphalt, but wider tires are usable at the camp and for some side trips onto the Mississippi Islands. Maps have been published in previous years newsletters and I'll be carrying some around with me. Gary Hartzler has moved to Moline and has acted as co-host in previous years. This year we'll tap Gary's knowledge of the back roads for our road riding. Gary's number is 309-762-6753. Call me if you plan to come along. Larry Paustian, 694-3947.

## Kewanee 2002

The weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, Marge and I will be leading a two day camp and ride out of Johnson-Sauk Trail Park in Kewanee, IL. This is an annual event that is always a real adventure. It is open to all folks who want to ride and can handle at least a 30 – 50 mile ride at a reasonable group pace. It is also open non-campers and those that only want to stay one night.

Here is the general plan. Most people will drive up to Kewanee on Friday night and get a campsite. Marge and I usually go up about noon and try to save several choice sites if we can. Friday we can all have supper together, but our first planned activity is a ride on Sat. We'll leave the park about 9:00 AM so you day riders need to be there ready to roll at that time. You can figure about a one-hour drive from north Peoria to the park, so plan accordingly.

We'll ride about 30-35 miles at an easy pace. All levels of riders are welcome today because this will be a corners & posts ride. If you haven't been on a ride like this, please come up and check it out. We'll have all levels of riders, everyone at their own pace and we'll all stay fairly close together. I also need to warn you to be prepared for a few hill climbs. This route is out in the boonies, so you'll need to either pack a lunch or eat ala Casey's.

After the ride, we'll return to the park to enjoy the afternoon. The park has

canoes for rent and some excellent hiking trails. Later in the afternoon we'll have some sort of snack sharing and maybe a beer or two and then do a group supper. I'm sure Marge will get out more info on that as we get closer to the trip. But it will probably mean you'll need to supply some sort of dish to share with the rest of the hungries on the trip. Day riders are welcome to share their food also. Just remember to bring a camp chair. After supper I'm sure there will be ghost stories and fantastic bike tales around the campfires.

Sunday's ride will also leave the park at 9:00 AM, however it will be a little more challenging than Saturday's ride. For one thing we'll have some new hills to climb and the mileage will be about 50 this time. Our destination will offer a great lunch stop in Bishop Hill, so we don't have to brown bag it today. You should be at least a level 2 rider for this one, there are some good climbs going back to the park.

Hope I've given you an idea of what to expect on this ride. For more information please call Marge or me at 309-693-9388.

Bill Semmens



## TOUR AROUND THE RIVER

**WHAT :** A one day self-supported 100 mile ride on scenic back roads in and around the Illinois River Valley. The ride will be challenging. We all know that the river valley provides plenty of hills as well as beautiful scenery. There will be snack stops such as Casey's along the way. Also, we'll ride through small towns. So there will be lunch options if desired. There will also be a 75 mi. option if interested.

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 26, 7:30A.M. sharp! Be there ready to ride at 7:30.

We will be crossing the McCluggage Bridge. Traffic will be light on a Sunday morning, so an early start is important.

**WHERE:** We will meet at Banner Elementary School parking lot. The school is located at the corner of Cedar Hills Drive and Allen Road. Go north out of Peoria on Knoxville Avenue (Rt. 40) to Cedar Hills Dr. Turn west. Go approximately 1 mile. The school is on the south side of the road.

**WHY:** Why not?! Why go out of town to do your century rides when we have some of the best riding in the Midwest right here? So, come on out and enjoy the ride!!!!

Call with any questions at (309)243-9694

See ya' there, Greg Durst

## German cyclist raises money for St. Jude

On April 11th, a German cyclist departed Peoria to begin a tour of the USA. The rider, Alfred Gunthor, of Friedrichshafen, isn't just another cyclist intent on discovering the wonders of this country. Alfred's reason for the ride is to raise donations for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. His home town is Peoria's sister city in Germany, and for that reason, Alfred decided to begin his charity tour in Peoria. The tour will take Alfred first to New York, then across the southern US to the west coast, and then a return to Peoria. Alfred's plan is to return to Peoria on September 11th, the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center.

Mr. Gunthor arrived in Peoria on Monday, April 8th. He was given a tour of the local St. Jude affiliate, in order to meet some of the children that will benefit from his charity ride. His efforts were also recognized at the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening, where Peoria's Mayor Dave Ransburg presented him with a proclamation.

Local companies have provided support for Alfred and his efforts to raise money for St. Jude. Caterpillar, which has a large dealership near Alfred's home town, has assisted in the logistics of the trip. A key person in this support has been Paula Douglas, who in addition to being a Caterpillar employee, is also an IVW member. Jumer's Castle Lodge provided lodging for Alfred, and was the location of a dinner where Alfred was able to meet with some of the IVW members.

Two IVW members, Greg Durst and Steve Kurt, were able to escort Alfred as he began his trip on the 11th, leading him north in the direction of Lacon. Despite the significant weight of his loaded bike, Alfred kept a quick pace and great enthusiasm for his trip.

Alfred's plan to cross the country twice entails covering 8000 miles in roughly 5 months. For anyone else, this might seem an enormous task. A look at Alfred's previous charity rides hints that he is likely to achieve his goal. In 2001, to raise money for children with spinal disorders, he covered 5441 miles from Friedrichshafen to the North Cape in 60 days. Anyone who has met Alfred knows that he has great faith in the ability of people take command of their lives and affect the world. As reported in the Peoria Journal Star: "Life is what you make of it. You can do more than you think about. I've proven that to myself several times," he said Tuesday during a tour of Peoria's St. Jude Midwest Affiliate. "You need to be willing to do more than you can."

Donations for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital may be sent to 8835 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL 61615.

Alfred's tour can be followed by going to the web site for the city of Friedrichshafen: <http://www.friedrichshafen.de> At the top of the page is a link titled "US Charity Bike Tour".

**Friedrichshafen**

## 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 Dunlap Grade School; Marge Semmens 693-9388; beginners and anyone else who wants to ride a nice leisurely pace; 5:30 start time, switching to 6pm in June.
- Tuesday Dunlap Grade School; Steve Kurt 243-7684; levels 2 & up; The start time will change from 5:30 to 6pm starting May 7th.
- Wednesday Pleasant Hill Grade School; Larry Paustian 694-3947 & Dirk McGuire 699-8482; levels 2 & up; 5:30, currently riding
- Thursday Coal Miners Park (Pekin); Jim Vaupel 353-6104; levels 2 & up, 25 miles and up. ; The start time will change from 5:30 to 6pm starting May 2nd.
- Friday Pearce Center (Chillicothe); Jim & Sarah Emmons 246-2166; beginners and families; all levels; starts May 3
- Saturday Washington (on the square); no leader; 8:30; levels 2 & up; currently riding
- Saturday Russels (Washington); Don Eberle 699-2790; 8:30; levels 2 & up; currently riding
- Sunday Evan Jones of Illinois Cycle will lead a training ride of 20 - 30 miles starting from the store at 8:00 am. The ride speed and distance will adjust to the group, however, it is generally for level 2 & up. Evan Jones 682-9346.
- Time Trial First and third Mondays of the month. Meet at Dunlap grade school @ 5:30. 10 mile course. Steve Kurt 243-7684; levels 2 & up

### 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**

Kewanee Weekend Ride; May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> ; Marge Semmens 693-9388

One Funky Ride May 19 (Sunday), 9:30 am, Minier city park. Eric Hutchison, 688-7038. 35 miles to visit Funk's Grove nature preserve (sw of Bloomington). Longer route options available. Lunch stop at McLean. Finding Minier: I-155 south from Morton, east (left) at IL122 to Minier. City park on Minier's east side (water & restrooms). Arrive ~9:15, allow 30-40 minutes drive time from Peoria.

Tour around the River: May 26; Greg Durst is going to lead a century ride starting on the Peoria side of the river, then crossing over to the east side and returning via Henry. See details listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Greg Durst 243-9694.

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

Quad Cities Weekend Ride; Larry Paustian 694-3947 will be leading a weekend trip to the Quad Cities on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of June (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>). Details are listed elsewhere in this issue. Larry also is considering a weekend ride on the Hennipen Canal trail.



**For Sale:**

Cannondale F500 mtn. bike, 1998, Shimano components, Headshock frt. suspension, extras, 21 in. frame. Excellent cond. \$500 (309) Greg Durst 243-9694

Yakima Anklebiter roofrack 3 bike rack, holds any size, style bike by the crankarm, leave both wheels on, complete with roundbars and loadtowers. \$150 Greg Durst (309) 243-9694

Specialized Sirrus road bike. Excellent condition and well maintained. Seattube size is 60cm center to top. 14 speeds. Chrome-moly frame. Great as a spare bike or a travel bike, or fine for those who need a basic, reliable bike. Tires and pedals not included. \$275. Steve Kurt 243-7684

Trek 2300, 2000 model, 58cm seat tube, Rolf comps, all Ultegra, Axial Pros. Brian Egeberg. Cell 369-8836, Home 266-8061 Best offer

Cannondale H600 Hybrid, 1994 model. New 32c tires and chain, all LX components. . Brian Egeberg. Cell 369-8836, Home 266-8061 Best offer

**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*

## Summary of upcoming events:

May 3 - 5	Kewanee 2002
May 8	May club meeting
May 19	One Funky Ride
May 26	Tour Around the River
June 1 & 2	Bike Quad Cities
June 15th	Bikes for Kids

Details on these events are in this month's newsletter.

**ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N  
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