



ILLINOIS VALLEY

**WHEELM'N**

*greater peoria's bicycle club*



August 2002

**NO BALONEY**

**RIDE**

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

Jubilee State Historic Site

The No Baloney Ride will again be based out of Jubilee Park on Sept. 21st. It has won awards for its excellent food and we plan on continuing that tradition again this year.

We've had a few volunteers signup already. But we'll need lots more to make this year's ride another big success. We need food stop captains & workers, we need sag drivers and registration people. We need route markers and someone to handle publicity. And, most importantly, we need cooks. Since the big selling point of this ride is food, we need lots of home made goodies.

If you want to chair a committee, would rather be a worker bee or have food to donate, please call or send an E-mail to Bill Semmens @ 309-693-9388 or at [Semmens@MTCO.com](mailto:Semmens@MTCO.com). I'm sure we can find the right job for you.



**Annual Poker Ride & Spaghetti Dinner At Dunlap Park Sept. 10, 2002**

Our annual poker ride and spaghetti dinner will be on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>. The ride will be about 10 miles. All levels of riders are welcome. Those less experienced riders should get started about 5:30 PM with the remainder of the riders starting about 6:00 PM. You will receive a map and will be picking up 4 cards in-route. The fifth card will be picked up on your return to Dunlap. The 5<sup>th</sup> card will also be your raffle ticket, so hold on to it.

When you return to the park you may begin the buffet line, which will consist of salad, Avanti's spaghetti, bread & butter. We should also have watermelon, cookies & drinks.

There will be prizes for winning the best poker hand as well as various door prizes. This ride is always great fun for all. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.50 for kids under 13 years old. You may sign-up with any of the club's week night ride leaders or send your check to : Marge Semmens at 10214 N. Forrest Dr., Peoria, IL. 61615. We need to have a final head count Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, so sign up early! Call Marge at 309-693-9388 for more information or to volunteer to help

### I.V.W. Annual Banquet

The details are still being worked out, but the preliminary info is this:

Date: Saturday, November 9th

Where: Jonathan's in Sunnyland.

Time(s): Socializing can begin at 6pm, and dining will commence at 6:30.

Agenda: In addition to food, drink, and chatting with friends, there will be awards presented to outstanding club members. This also the time of year when board members are nominated and elected, so attendance is encouraged.

Further details will be forthcoming. Contact Sarah Emmons for any questions at 246-2166.

#### **New Members**

Dennis Endicott..... Peoria

#### **Renewing Members**

Tomi Backlund..... Peoria

Richard & Elizabeth Boudreau

& family..... Peoria

William Chaffer ..... Peoria^

David & Margaret Cover

& family..... Peoria Hts.

Stephen Grube..... E. Peoria\*^

Jewel & Debby Moyers

& family..... Hanna City

Robert & Nancy Saville... Lacon

Denny & Peggy Tresenriter .....

..... Groveland

Jim & Ann Wittmer & family

..... Peoria

\* LAB member ^ Advocacy

## Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

Greater Peoria's bicycle club  
Affiliated with the League of  
American Bicyclists and League of  
Illinois Bicyclists

### President

Marge Semmens 693-9388  
semmens@mtco.com

### Vice President

Greg Durst 243-9694  
gpdurst@npoint.net

### Secretary / Webmaster

Bill Clark 347-4841  
wdclark@mtco.com

### Treasurer

Sheila Gribble 243-7822  
sgribble4@juno.com

### Ride Chairman

Mike Pula 243-9394  
mrpula@insightbb.com

### Social/Membership

Carol Huggins 694-1791  
Carolash7@aol.com

### Mailing

Mike Joslin 685-1514

### Database

Larry Davis 691-3060  
DAVIS.LAR@insightbb.com

### Advocacy/Government Relations

Eric Hutchison 688-7038

### Editor

Steve Kurt 243-7684  
kurtsj@mtco.com

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*



## Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail

Marge and I have volunteered to organize another Elroy-Sparta bike tour in August. The dates will be Aug. 16–18. For those of you not familiar with this trail, let me tell you how great it is. The trail is located about a six hour drive from Peoria, in the rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin on an abandoned railroad bed. As you may have guessed, it runs from Elroy to Sparta. The eastern end is about two hours drive northwest of Madison. It runs through the most areas that Wisconsin has to offer and has three very long tunnels. The trail surface is crushed limestone, similar to the Rock Island trail. Marge and I always use our road bikes with their narrow tire and never have any problems getting through. Of course, trail bikes work just as well, also.

Here is the general plan. Leave as soon as you can on Friday and drive to the town of Wilton and go to the town park. (We'll make arrangements for car pooling if necessary.) Look or ask for the IVW when you get there and find a place to camp. Get there as early as possible as the park can get quite full. The park has some electricity, water and showers. You're on your own for meals on Friday, but we usually come up with some sort of group thing for those that are there. Marge and I generally get up there early enough for an afternoon ride to check out the Amish farmers.

On Saturday, we'll ride over to Elroy and then up to Camp Douglas for lunch. That's about 27 miles each way. The harder riders generally take the back roads one way to really enjoy the great downhill areas. When we return to camp there is time for swimming or relaxing before a group

supper. We'll do a pot-luck so bring something good to share.

Then on Sunday we all head towards Sparta for lunch and the return trip back to camp. Sunday's ride is about 35 miles round trip. We can usually get back to camp early enough to back up and be home before dark.

If you want to learn more about the ride or want to get your name on the list of people going, call or write Bill or Marge Semmens at 309-693-9388 or [Semmens@MTCO.com](mailto:Semmens@MTCO.com).

## Bureau County Ride

August 25, we will meet at the Pearce Center in Chillicothe at 8:00am to car pool / caravan up to Bureau Junction for the start of the ride. The ride will be for 40 - 50 miles through the small towns of Bureau County over some really nice back roads. There will be an optional 20 -30 miles at the end for those that want to ride farther. The route includes at least two Casey's, and if the group chooses to, we can plan on a meal in Princeton. Near the end of the route, those interested can make a stop at Hornbaker Gardens, one of the largest Hosta/Perennial Nurseries in the midwest.

If you have questions or need directions please call Mike Pula @ 243-9394.

## Last chance to try out the Time Trials!

Have you been meaning to try your hand at time trialing? Wondering how fast you could cover 10 miles if you focused on it? Well, get those tires pumped up, and show up at the Dunlap Grade school at 5:30 on August 5<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> and give it a go! This will be the last times that time trials will be held this year, so don't miss out!

For further details, check the IVW web site under "Rides", or call or e-mail me: Steve Kurt 243-7684, [kurtsj@mtco.com](mailto:kurtsj@mtco.com)

## The news about Alfred

Update on our German bicyclist, Alfred Gunthor, who left Peoria, April 11 – with four saddlebags, a helmet and a bicycle. His mission: to ride across the U.S. – proceeds to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Some of you did get a chance to meet him during the dinner at Jumer's Hotel. Steve Kurt and Greg Durst were gracious and departed with him from Jumer's about noon on April 11. Three months have passed and our friend is very much in high spirits and continues to be an inspiration to those who comes in contact with him.

**April** – found Alfred leaving Illinois – riding East – Northeast. The first week after departure, he encountered some very bad luck having accepted a 'free' night stay in the home of someone who he met while resting at a Casey's in Flat Rock, Michigan. This proved to be quite unfortunate as the acquaintance (with friends) took his bicycle and all his belongings while Alfred was asleep on the sofa. Alfred did wake up during the night – finding what was going on – went to the police station and was able to get everything back except for his camera. Alfred was able to purchase another camera, make some necessary repairs to his bike, and of course – make new 'friends' during a TV / Newspaper interview before departing on his merry way. He left Flat Rock and rode on up into Ontario Canada. During the next two weeks he experienced very cold weather and freezing rain as he biked to Canada / Niagarua Falls / New York / Maine / and Maryland. One night he was an overnight 'guest' in Warsaw, New York, hospital..

**May** – Alfred started May in Maryland biking on down the east coast to Virginia.. **As of May 7<sup>th</sup>**, Alfred had given **15 Interviews / 1 Radio / and 1 TV**. He had rim and rear tire damage as he left Virginia – riding to Greenville TN. In Greenville he was a guest of four firefighters – Station 16. He said they fed him well and had a 'comfortable' bed for him; trying to fall asleep with the loud noise of the Captain snoring. Riding on from Greenville to Johnson City TN, our friend visited St. Jude Research Hospital where he received a nice tour of the

facility and received his first helicopter ride. He said 'he liked the bicycle a bit better tho --- if you fall it wouldn't hurt as bad.' His tour continues biking on thru TN to Knoxville, Jefferson City, Chattanooga, Collierville, and Memphis – where he did visit the St. Jude Hospital – his ultimate goal. "Unbelievable Paula; Nothing is impossible." He met a family staying at Ronald McDonald House; took a tour; and gave blood following his visit through the hospital. After resting for a day – he was off to Baton Rouge, LA; Mississippi; Texas and into Oklahoma. **4200 miles**

**June** – has been a busy month of riding. In Baton Rouge he met some German bikers – who he has kept in contact with since. He will meet up with them again in California. Biking through parts of Kansas / Oklahoma were very hot, windy, humid (imagine that); finding New Mexico a real delight. Winding roads in New Mexico brought his 2<sup>nd</sup> tire puncture. People have been very gracious to him throughout his endeavor – helping him wherever they can. Alfred got to experience seeing some very 'peculiar' clouds which brought the wind and the rain.. One day it took him 8 hours to bike 46 miles. Sound familiar?? Leaving Colorado to Las Vegas he got to experience his first sandstorm. He politely accepted a ride (which he was pre-determined to do if offered) from a truck driver on to Las Vegas. Arriving in Las Vegas – the temperature was hot, hot, hot – varying from 92 to 122 degrees. He chose to leave Las Vegas during the night – where he said it was a 15 mile downhill which he didn't complain about. Baker, California was his next major stop – which at that point he reached ½ of his planned distance. He visited St. Jude's in Garden Grove, CA – where he met a family from Ohio with a child who had

been at St. Jude's. Today, the child's disease is in remission. Alfred visited with friends in California for a few days – before biking on down to Mexico – for a few days. He continued to meet new friends; receive interviews from local press – taking advantage of celebrating his mission for St. Jude. **41 Newspaper Interviews / 11 TV / Several Radio / 6100 miles..**

**July - 4<sup>th</sup>** – Alfred spent with his family of friends in Sacramento. He received an invitation to speak at the Lions' Club Luncheon – which he delightfully accepted. He plans to head on north to Oregon / Idaho / Montana / and would like to celebrate his 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday in Yellowstone National Park – **on July 29<sup>th</sup>**. He always sends his best regards to everyone!

**Bike for St. Jude** - September 11 – is the due date for Alfred to return to Peoria – having completed the full circle of the U.S. for his support and awareness for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Before arrival in Peoria, he has requested that anyone who would like to meet him (50 + miles out) and ride into Peoria with him – for St. Jude – would be welcome. We would then continue on to Jumer's Hotel for a reception / dinner. Please contact me if you would be interested in the ride; ride & reception – dinner (no cost) ; or just reception-dinner. I will need number counts no later than Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot do the ride or the social event, but would like to make your St. Jude contribution, you may send it to: Sheriann McCoy, Director, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 8835 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL 61615. I will try to keep you updated on our young man as I receive word from him.

Regards. Safe biking.



Paula Douglas  
637-1748 (Home)  
675-5347 (Work)  
e-mail:  
Douglas\_Paula\_J@cat.com

## 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; 6pm. note: the start time may change during September.
- Tuesday Dunlap Grade School; Steve Kurt 243-7684; levels 2 & up; 6pm. As of Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, start time is 5:30
- Wednesday Pleasant Hill Grade School; Larry Paustian 694-3947 & Dirk McGuire 699-8482; levels 2 & up; 5:30.
- Thursday Coal Miners Park (Pekin); Jim Vaupel 353-6104; levels 2 & up; 6pm. Start time is expected to change to 5:30 on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Friday Pearce Center (Chillicothe); Jim & Sarah Emmons 246-2166; beginners and families; all levels; 6pm.
- Saturday Washington (on the square); no leader; 8:30; levels 2 & up; currently riding
- Saturday Russels (Washington); Don Eberle 699-2790; 7:30; 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. Hey, August is the last month, so be sure to attend!!

### 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**

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

August 1 East Peoria Fon du Lac Ride Start at Illinois Antique Center parking lot. 6pm.

August 11 Tour of the Solar System plus highlights from the History Ride. Start at Lakeview Museum main entrance at 7:00 AM.

August 15 Garden Ride Start at Botanical Gardens, Glen Oak Park. 6pm.

Elroy-Sparta; August 16 - 18 Bill and Marge Semmens 693-9388 will be leading a group up to this popular Wisconsin Trail.

Backroads of Bureau County; August 25 Mike Pula 243-9394 will lead a ride through Princeton and Bureau County. More details to come.

Family Poker Ride; September 10, 6pm. This will replace the regular Tuesday night ride. Distance is approximately 10 to 14 miles. Dunlap Grade School; Marge Semmens 693-9388

Fall wiener roast ride; September 28 Jim and Sarah Emmons will once again lead a ride for all levels to be followed by a wiener roast at their home in Lacon. More details to follow.

### **Invitational Rides**

Here are some invitational rides in the area or those club members have highly recommended. Info on these and many other invitational rides can be found at Mike Bentley's web site: <http://mikebentley.com/bike/>

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

Capital City Century; September 9 Springfield Bicycle Club

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

Hilly Hundred - October 4,5 & 6 Bloomington, IN Billie Lane 317-255-6856

## Road Apple Century September 15

From Dave Balfour, the originator of the Road Apple Ride, comes news of a century ride in the same area. Here's the late-breaking news from Dave:

"I have scheduled the Road Apple Century on September 15th. It is going to start at Lake Argyle and meander around to Plymouth, industry and other points of interest to get the 100 miles."

More details will follow in subsequent weeks

## The newest Hill

No, there are no new bits of terrain where you can battle against gravity. The news is that IVW members Dan and Chris Hill have announced the birth of their son! In a press release from Dan Hill:

" Jason Leander Hill was born Sun. morning July 14 (Bastille Day). Mother and baby are well, though Chris will take a while to recover from the c-section."

## Newsletter available via web or e-mail

Just a quick reminder! If the mail is slow, you can always get the latest newsletter from the IVW website:

<http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/field/6055/newsltr.html>

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter in pdf format, just send me your e-mail address. This is usually available by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

Steve Kurt  
kurtsj@mtco.com

## For Sale

Raleigh 600 road bike. Aluminum frame - 59cm c-c seat tube. Shimano 16 bladed spoke wheels. Shimano 105 crank & rear derailleur. Purchased new Aug. 2001. Asking \$800.  
Dick Rhodes 347-4328, Pekin.

Yakima bike rack (fork mount for top of car), holds two bikes and four wheels. Good condition. \$225.  
Linda Woodruff 685-0691 or 243-5391.

### 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:



August 1	E. Peoria Fon du Lac city ride
August 10-11	Interplanetary Ride
August 15	Garden Ride
August 16-18	Elroy - Sparta
August 25	Backroads of Bureau County
Sept 10	Family Poker Ride
Sept 21	No Baloney Ride
Sept 28	Fall wiener roast ride

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