

ILLINOIS VALLEY

WHEELMEN

greater peoria's bicycle club



December 2002

IVW Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party will be hosted this year by Bill & Marge Semmens. The festivities will commence at 7:00 P. M., Saturday, December 14th. Bring a dessert or appetizer to share, drinks etc will be provided by the club. Come enjoy your fellow cyclists and families. No bike shorts allowed but dress is casual as always. The address is 10214 N. Forrest Drive, Peoria, Illinois. Call Bill or Marge at 309-693-9388 if you have questions.

Swap meet!

The I.V.W. swap meet is back! January 15, 7p.m. (details on location will be in the next newsletter). Bring all your no longer needed or wanted cycling related items to sell or swap, and maybe find some treasures to buy yourself. Note that the meeting date is a week later than normal due to the holiday. The normal date being the 2nd Wednesday of the month will return for the remainder of the year. See you there!

New Year's Ride

The annual IVW 1st event, ride with food and drink will be held January 1st at the home of Ron and Paula Douglas.

RSVP to: 637-1748 or email: rkpjdouglas@insightbb.com

1:00 pm Arrive at Ron and Paula's if you choose to ride

2:30 pm Non-riders arrive and riders return for food and drink (return earlier if weather is too cold).

(see page 5 for details and map!)

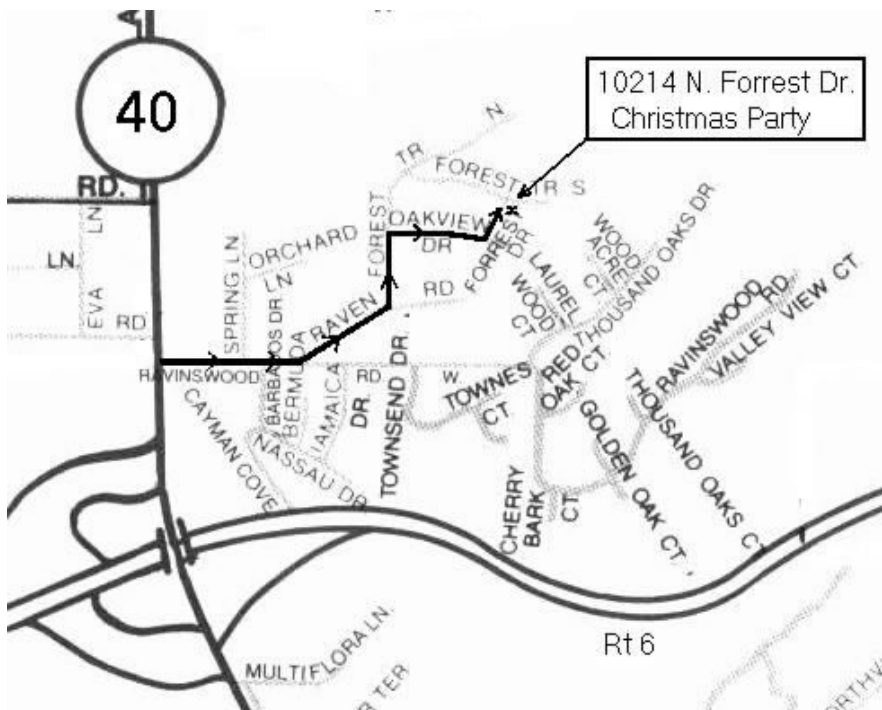
New Members

Cora Lynn Green..... Peoria*
Shawn Parry Peoria
Patricia Wineland..... Peoria^

Renewing Members

Ron Anderson Washington*
Phil & Terry Burroughs..... Peoria
Steve Dags..... Washington^
Larry Davis..... Peoria*
Greg & Lori Durst & family.....
..... Dunlap^
George Ford Bloomington*^
John & Jan Galbreath & family
..... Peoria*^
Sheila Gribble Dunlap
Ron Jetton..... Dunlap*
Steve Kurt..... Dunlap*^
Steve & Sue Mahany ... Dunlap ^
Melanie & John Martin.....
..... Chillicothe*
Richard & Twila Moore.. Dunlap
Tom Voegeli..... 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

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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

Annual Banquet Had a Record Attendance

Well I really don't know if it was a record but we had a great turnout with 38 folks attending the dinner at Club LaCon. Thanks to Sarah Emmons once again for putting this together for us. The new Board members were easily ratified by the membership: Greg Durst as President, Ron Douglas as Vice President, and Bill Clark as Secretary. Other Board positions for next year are Bonnie Johnson as Social; and Celeste Hansen as Mailings. What a great crew we have for our upcoming bike season in 2003.

The awards this year went to three very deserving cyclists. Bill Clark was awarded Hub of the Club for his initiative to take over several duties of the club that were left vacant for various reasons. A BIG THANK YOU to Bill. The most improved female bicyclist award went to Paula Douglas who logged over 2500 miles this year on some tough terrain. Congratulations Paula! The most improved male bicyclist award went to Mike Hutchins. Great job Mike!

Overall it has been a great year thanks to all the support from both the board members and other volunteers. I look forward to 2003 for great riding and good times.

From your former IVW President,
Marge Semmens

RTA NEWS

The RTA met Tuesday, 11-12-02, and discussed the following items. The Tri-County Planning Commission sent their newest employee, Hala Ahmed, to our meeting. She seems to be bright and very interested in her new job. She reports that they are trying to get Ray Lahood and Union Pacific together on the Farmington to Bellevue 24 mile trail R-O-W. Sounds promising.

On 11-09-02 we had a press conference at Allen Rd and the Rock Island Trail to bring attention to the need for a box culvert and road

elevation changes at this intersection. The planning is already done and the funding is in place. Mayor Ransburg was the only politician to show and readily saw the need for this improvement. We should see some movement on this in the near future.

We are working on having a trolley car bike rack prototype built with hopes of enticing CITYLINK into buying some and putting them near their new building and out on their bus routes.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the IVW for the donation to our organization. Our funds are used for mailing and the like. Maybe at some point we'll have enough to have a few bike racks built and put them along the Kellar Branch when it is done. If anyone is interested in joining our group please give me a call.

THANKS Dirk McGuire

Sunday Afternoon Rides from Banner School

Past history has shown that winter Sunday afternoon rides have been popular, so the club has organized another one. It will start from Banner School, which is north of Peoria, at the intersection of Allen and Cedar Hills Drive. The ride will be led by various individuals (see the list on the Ride Schedule). We can always use more volunteers, so please sign up with Mike Pula. Besides, the benefit of being the ride leader is that you get to ride wherever you want!

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 through Friday: rides are suspended till things warm up a bit and the sun decides to come back.

Saturday Washington (on the square); no leader; 8:30; levels 2 & up; currently riding
Saturday Russell's (Washington); Larry Paustian 694-3947; 8:30 departure; levels 2 & up.
Sunday A ride will leave from Banner School at 1pm. See details and schedule below.

Sunday Winter Ride:

All riders welcome. Ride leaders may split the group into two groups. Ride will leave Banner School (Cedar Hills Drive and Allen Road) at 1:00pm each Sunday. Ride distance will be 20-30 miles, depending on the weather. Call the ride leader for information each week.

November 17	Greg Durst	243-9694
November 24	Steve Kurt	243-7684
December 1	Bob Bevil	692-5819
December 8	Greg Durst	243-9694
December 15	Bill & Marge Semmens	693-7388
December 22	Show & Go	
December 29	Mike Pula	243-9394
January 5	Tim O'Hanlin	692-2090
January 12	Ron Douglas	637-1748
January 19	Steve Kurt	243-7684

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:

New Year's Ride. January 1, 2003. Contact Ron or Paula Douglas 637-1748. See page 5 in this issue for details.

Van Buren County Iowa week-end cycling tour

by Ron Douglas



A co-worker mentioned mid week that he heard on his car radio while traveling to his farm near Ft. Madison mention of a bike ride for the following weekend. We did a search on the web and thought it sounded interesting. It was only a 3 hour drive from Peoria so Paula and I drove over on Friday night to camp and participate in both the Sat and Sun rides. What a great weekend. Dave Balfour and his friend Kathy Egan met us and we camped at Lacey-Keosauqua state park. The bathroom and shower facilities were sparkling clean. Many of the Iowa people who do RAGBRAI do this ride. We also met people from St. Louis. How such a great ride could be unknown to those of us in the IVW is hard to imagine. This was the 16th annual ride. We wouldn't be able to do it justice by our own journalistic skills, but suffice it to say we certainly plan on doing it again next year. It is just too good to miss. Here is what a Des Moines Register writer had to say after he participated in the ride a few years ago. You can also gain a better understanding of the area, if you have web access, by going to:

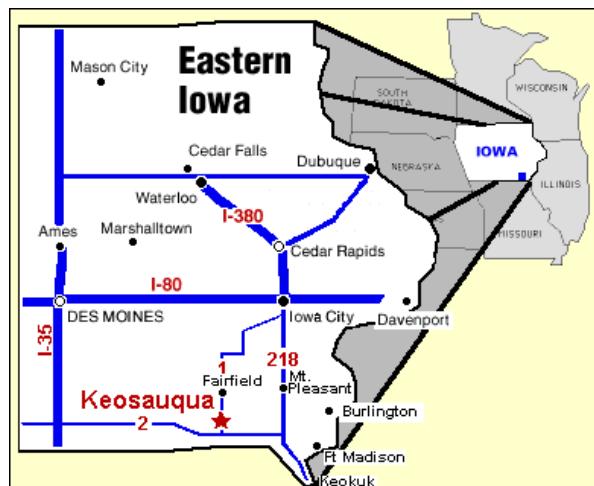
<http://www.800-tourvbc.com/>

It was another wonderful weekend in Van Buren County, that charming little haven in southeast Iowa that doesn't have a single stoplight or fast-food franchise.

As I spent two days riding the county with 400 people on the annual Bike Van Buren, it hit me again how the faster and dizzier life gets elsewhere, the better this place becomes. Not only is the pace slower -- and the citizens here prize that -- but there's also the incredible beauty of the Des Moines River, a quarter-mile or more wide as it meanders 40 miles through the county. One of the prettiest and biggest state parks, Lacey-Keosauqua, is here along the river. There is plenty of fascinating history, since white settlement began in the 1830's here. The Mormon Trek crossed the county in 1846 and '47. You can stay in 100-year-old hotels and inns -- the Hotel Manning and the Mansion Inn in Keosauqua, the Mason House in Bentonsport and some fine B&Bs.

Artists and craftsmakers have been moving in here the last 30 years, and they sell their work in gift shops throughout the county. A significant population of Amish and Mennonites has been building over the same period, and they sell their crafts and baked goods in shops and from stands at the end of their farm driveways.

Put it on your calendar for 2003 and don't miss eating at Alpha's in Ft. Madison on the return. The dates are Aug. 16th and 17th. Plan to go over on Friday the 15th.



Summary of upcoming events:



Dec 14	IVW Christmas party
Jan 1	New Year's Ride (of course)
Dec. till spring?	Sunday afternoon rides at Banner school

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