



ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N



November 2004

greater peoria's bicycle club

Email @ iwheelmn@yahoo.com

Social Events Coming Up

IVW Wheelman

Banquet: Date: Saturday,
November 13, 2004

Place: Sky Harbor Restaurant
on Park Rd, Lower Bradley
Park, Peoria

Time: Cocktails at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 6:30 PM Let Bonnie
Johnson know if you are
coming by Nov. 6 by calling
682-7771 or email Bonnie at
IVWheelmn@yahoo.com

Christmas Party: Saturday
December 4th at 6:30 pm the
club's annual Christmas Party
will be held at Larry and Marty
Paustian's house at 144
Oakmoor Drive in East Peoria.
Take Highview South from ICC
(Centennial Drive) or North up
the hill from Main Street. Within
a half-mile of ICC there is a
barn, silo, and farmhouse, now
residences, on the West side of
Highview within the residential
neighborhood. Opposite the
barn (two lots to the North)
take Oakbrook East (away
from the river) to Oakmoor –
third street in. 144 is at the end
of the Cul-de-sac.

We will be serving BBQ, green
beans, chips, and drinks. Bring
a Dessert to share. RSVP
Larry & Marty at 694-3964
before December 1.

Social Events Past A very
big thank you to Sara and Jim
Emmons for a great cook-out
at their house in Lacon. The
weather was superb and the
bike ride was in a beautiful part
of the country. As always,
Jim's brats were the best.
Below is Sara's write up about
the party.

We had 30 people attend the
annual Fall wiener roast ride
including 3 teenagers-Matt
Durst, Matt Emmons and
Rebecca Senneff. We left for a
25 mile bike ride at 4pm and
returned around 6pm to find
that the electricity had gone out
while we were gone. The food
was still warm and the bonfire
was going strong-thanks to
Roger John. We also had a
special visitor little 5 month old
Alexus Egeberg, daughter of
Brian & Sara. Despite no
power for most of the evening,
everyone had a great time.

Thanks, Sarah

New Members

John & Joan Grane....Brimfield

Nels & Linda Calvert & Family
Pekin

Samantha & Andrew
McClintick & Family.....Peoria

Renewing Members

Denise & Randy Cooksey
Peoria[^]

Ron & Paula Douglas..Peoria[^]

Greg & Lori Durst & Family
Dunlap

Coralynn Green.....Peoria^{*}

Conrad Grembowicz...Peoria

Celeste Hansen.....Peoria

James & Sue Hooker
Chillicothe

Jim McIntyre.....E. Peoria

Michelle Brown.....Washington

Larry D. Davis.....Peoria^{*}

Ken & Noreen Mettelmann
Groveland^{^*}

Dan O'Brien.....Peoria

Dennis & Peggy Tresenriter
Groveland

Dave & Kathy Weaver
Princeville

*LAB Member ^Advocacy

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

President

Pam Hoehne 694-4828
PAMS@mtco.com

Vice President

Jerry Allen 263-8637
Jallen@argonautgroup.com

Ride Chairman

Mike Pula 243-9394
mrpula@hotmail.com

Social Chair

Bonnie Johnson 682-7771
bonjon@ix.netcom.com

Mailing

Bonnie Johnson 682-7771
bonjon@ix.netcom.com

Database

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

Advocacy/Government Relations

Eric Hutchison 688-7038

Treasurer

Sheila Gribble
243-7822
sgribble4@juno.com

Editor

Cora Lynn Green
683-3083
cora_lynn@yahoo.com

Secretary / Webmaster

Bill Clark 347-4841
wdclark@mtco.com

IVW affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists and League of Illinois Bicyclists. On the web @<http://geocities.com/ivw.geo> write the above as one line; no spaces

2004 Veloswap

The first ever Chicago VeloSwap will take place on Saturday October 30, 9:00 to 5:00 at The Odeum in Villa Park, Illinois. Veloswap will be overflowing with great bike deals and ways for folks to sell their bike stuff. For more information on what will be included click onto:
<http://www.veloswap.com>

Economical Tour of Scotland

We are a non-profit adventure cycling, trekking and hiking organization located in Wisconsin. We are extending to your club an invitation to any member that would like to join us July 9th-24th, 2005. We have 4-5 open seats. With a total group size of 55. \$1,750 includes air/food transportation from Chicago to Glasgow.

For further information see www.NatureQuestUnlimited.com. Click OurTours and HA9650 for details. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 920-420-5205.

Sincerely, Jim Malek ,Tour Coordinator

More "Grate" News

In the March newsletter, Eric Hutchison, the IVW Government Relations Representative, reported that the Peoria Park District had agreed to replace grates on Grandview Drive that were dangerous to bicycles. These old grates had openings parallel to the direction of travel.

Two weeks ago while bicycling Grandview to check out the beautiful Fall foliage, I realized that these dangerous grates were still there even though the park district was putting in new sidewalks all along the drive. When I called Mike Baietto, superintendent of parks, to find out why those grates were still there after all this time, he explained that they had had trouble getting the new style, safer grates but that they had come in the week before. So the new grates should now be installed along with new sidewalks. So on the next beautiful riding day take a trip to Grandview Drive and check all that out.

No Baloney 2004

As has been the case over the past few years, our annual ride was blessed with wonderful weather. Advanced registration was high at nearly 150, but the walk up rider registration was nearly 200 giving us a total of nearly 350 riders for the day. This jump in ridership caused some "supplies" problems, but overall the ride went well thanks to a whole group of volunteers from the club.

There are many individuals to thank. Without those that give of their time and donate food etc, the ride would be much less than it is. I can't name everyone that supported the ride, but there a few folks that really stepped up above and beyond the regular call. Special thanks go out to Steve Kurt for another great route. For those that are not aware some county road closings the Wednesday before the ride left Steve with the opportunity to configure several route changes and revise the maps in less than 24 hours. Greg Durst led a team that marked the routes and then re-marked after the road closings, and to my knowledge he and his team

kept everyone on course with no missing riders.

Bonnie Johnson made certain we had a full array of baked goods and donated food for the rest stops. Bill Clark, Sheldon Schafer, Eric Hutchison, Sheila Gribble, Pam Hoehne, Dirk McGuire (and staff) all headed up the individual rest stops. Jim Degenhart managed to get everyone registered and on the road despite being locked out of the Park. What would a No Baloney ride be without Rob Alexander's chili? And finally, there are those individuals that were just there to do what ever was needed; Steve Grube, Jerry Allen, Bill Semmens, and Ron Jetton. We also want to thank the Peoria Bike Club for its support.

As a club we need to recognize and thank our local bike shops for their support. Russell's, Bellevue Bicycle Shop, Bushwacker, Illinois Cycle and Little Ades. Finally we want to thank our hosts, Jubilee Park, Hanna City Fire Dpt, Christ Orchard, Elmwood school District and the Catholic Church in Princeville.

There were, of course, many others that put in time and donated food and we

appreciate their efforts. And thanks to all the riders that came out and enjoyed our roads and food.



Pedaling to Pluto

A trek across world's largest complete solar system model: Through cornfields and into stores at the 'speed of light'

By Charles Storch
Tribune staff reporter
Published September 14, 2004

PEORIA -- "Meet me at Neptune," said Sheldon Schafer. "Or ride the bus with me to Pluto."

The invitation was intriguing, coming as it did from the curator of the solar system.

The community solar system, that is, a set of sized-to-scale and carefully placed planet models extending as far as 40 miles from the sun, otherwise known as Peoria's Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences.

"It is the largest, complete model of the solar system in the world," said Lakeview's vice president of education and planetarium overseer, the down-to-earth Schafer ("Please call me Sheldon"). But he is planning an even bigger one that should silence any doubters.

And here was Sheldon asking whether I wanted to accompany him on the museum's 10th annual Interplanetary Bicycle Ride, a two-day trip in mid-August. Depending on paths taken, a world traveler might cover up to 16 billion miles of space -- or 125 miles of central Illinois.

The trip would be no sweat for a serious cyclist, but I had not covered any real distance on a bike in decades. I knew this would be a stern test and wasn't sure my stern was up to it.

But a brochure made the ride enticing. Consider the bragging rights, it said. "Who else can say they've cycled to Pluto?" And by pedaling faster than the speed of light (equal to about 7 miles an hour in this model), riders

"will actually return younger than when they started."

Sheldon, I said, I'm in.

As an astronomer and science educator, Sheldon Schafer bristled at popular depictions of the solar system as same-size planets in tight, neat circles about the sun. He wanted to construct a model with planet sizes and distances proportional to space's vast dimensions. He wanted his model to have good-size planets, so the distances would have to be significant.

He knew of other models in cities around the world, but he wanted his to be bigger and more scientifically accurate.

He finally got his opportunity in 1992, 16 years after he joined Lakeview as planetarium director. He proposed a model as a supplement to a big NASA traveling exhibit, and a local foundation gave the museum \$10,000 for the show and model.

Sheldon set his scale by using the planetarium's 36-foot-diameter dome as the sun (later painted on an outer museum wall). A mile in his model equals 126 million miles in space.

He got a local firm to build Plexiglas planets -- ranging in diameter from three-fourths of an inch (Pluto) to nearly 4 feet (Jupiter) -- and an artist, Peoria's Walter Kinsman, to painstakingly paint the spheres.

Sheldon plotted orbital paths, and along each he found an area establishment glad to display a planet on its premises.

Lakeview spokeswoman Kathleen Woith said that over the years some models had to be moved as businesses got tired of them or moved away.

Today, for example, Mercury is in a camera store and Neptune in a car dealership.

Earth, an insignificant 4 inches in diameter, is mounted, trophylike, at a gas station.

For some establishments, the planets have melted into the surroundings. A large, ringed Saturn hovers over the entrance of the Kroger in East Peoria. An assistant manager told me he had worked at the supermarket two years and never knew why it was there.

Some things I know about Sheldon Schafer: Born 56 years ago in Columbus, Ohio; studied astronomy there at Ohio State University; worked at a planetarium in Yonkers, N.Y., while getting a master's degree at Wagner College; between degrees he was a Peace Corps volunteer in India, where he discovered an affinity for science education and for another volunteer, a New Yorker named Mary Ann Tesar, whom he later married.

And he gets upset at having to replace the "You have reached the orbit of Uranus" sign he posts on a trail outside town. "It has been stolen twice," he said.

The Interplanetary Bicycle Ride helps Lakeview attract new audiences and raise funds. Educational and athletic, it is astrophysical fitness.

The first day of the ride, a Saturday, was a tour of the outer planets: Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The route was drawn away from busy roads, so we wouldn't visit the model's planets but hit alternative points in their orbits.

At the stand-in Saturn, in nearby Dunlap, an early-morning chill kept registration down, to 126 riders from the usual 150. Some would cycle to Pluto and back, or 100 miles.

Sheldon, I and 10 others rode with our bikes on a shuttle bus north to Pluto, in Kewanee.

Many doubt little Pluto is a real planet. All I can say is that the sphere in a glass display case at Good's Furniture in Kewanee is not the original Kinsman. That was stolen years ago. Good's put a gumball in its place until Sheldon found out and ordered a replacement.

One of Sheldon's two daughters lent me her mountain bike -- a sturdy mount but too short for me. Other riders sped away, but Sheldon stayed as I fumbled through the gears. We left Kewanee and entered the Kuiper comet belt, hilly back roads along cornfields.

Sheldon suggested we leave the road and take a shortcut, the Rock Island Trail. We rode it nearly to Neptune, a rest and food stop at the historic rail depot in Wyoming.

There, the Peoria Astronomical Society had set up filtered telescopes so we could observe sunspots. Sheldon added some insights on the solar activity.

We had ridden 24 miles. We set off for Uranus, 10 miles away.

Copyright © 2004, Chicago Tribune

The continuation of this article, first written in The Chicago Tribune and reprinted with the approval of the Tribune Companies, will be continued in the December newsletter.

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Ride Schedule

Thursday Daytime Ride Contact Laurie Wilbur (446-9367) for information.

Saturday Show and Go Level 3 ride meets at Washington Square in Washington at **8:30** all year. Distance varies from 25-60 miles.

Saturday Show and Go from Russel's Don Eberle's ride becomes a show & go from November to next spring. Meet at Russels at 8:30 Saturday. Distance ranges from 25-40 miles and includes a meal stop.

Ride Levels

More details regarding ride levels is available on the web site. Ride leaders can be contacted for specific details about their individual rides.

Beginner/Family These rides are a casual pace averaging less than 12 miles per hour and ride as group.

Level 1 Rides average 12-14 mph and regroup on a regular basis.

Level 2 Rides average 13-17 mph and regroup occasionally.

Level 3 Rides average 17 miles per hour and over. Riders may regroup periodically, but should be prepared to ride in pace lines to keep from being dropped.

Show and Go Rides have no leaders. The distance and speed is decided upon by the group, but governed by the ride level designated.

Ride Rules

- 1) Riders must obey all Illinois Traffic Laws.
- 2) Ride no more than two abreast and single file at intersections and in traffic.
- 3) When riding in a large group, create space to help motorists pass safely.
- 4) Use hand signals and obey all traffic signals.
- 5) Check all intersections for traffic. Avoid "group think".
- 6) Warn riders of pot holes, dogs, cars and other obstacles.
- 7) Riders are strongly encouraged to wear approved helmets.
- 8) Rides should make certain their bikes are in good working order.
- 9) Riders should carry water and a spare tube for their size of wheel.
- 10) Riders should be prepared for whether conditions. Most rides will take place in all whether.
- 11) Riders should arrive in time to be ready to ride at the start time.

TUESDAY DAYTIME RIDE SCHEDULE -- SHOW & GO

Time: 9:00am

Place: Dunalp Grade School (park in the back of the lot)

Distance: 25-35 miles

Contact Laurie Wilbur for more information 446-9367 or email rcwilbur@att.net

#2 Date: November 11, 2004

Time: 9:00am

Place: Brimfield Public Library on Route 150, one block from Casey's in Brimfield, IL

Distance: around 35 miles

Ride Leader: Ron Jetton

THURSDAY DAYTIME RIDE SCHEDULE- Ride Organizer Laurie Wilbur 446-9367

#1 Date: November 4, 2004

Time: 9:00am

Place: Brimfield Public Library located on Route 150, one block from Casey's.

Distance: around 35 miles

#3 Date: November 18, 2004

Time: 9:00am

Place: Jubilee College Historical Site

Distance: around 30 miles within the park. Pack a lunch or snack.

Harris Helmet Mirrors

The club has a small supply of Chuck Harris mirrors available for purchase. If interested please call Greg Durst @ 243-9694.

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 + 4 _____
Zip + 4 look-up website: www.usps.com/zip4

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 WHEELM'N, 6518 North Sheridan Rd., Ste 2, Peoria IL 61614-2933

UPCOMING DATES

November 13

Annual Banquet

December 4

Christmas Party

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

PRSR. STD.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Peoria, IL
Permit No. 310

SHARE THE ROAD..MEMBER TIL:11/27/2004
RON ANDERSON
203 LOCUST ST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2207