



ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N



December 2004

greater peoria's bicycle club

Email @ ivwheelmn@yahoo.com

3 Things You Must Do

1. Mark December 4 on your calendar for the club's annual Christmas party.
2. Call Larry or Marty Paustian at 694-3964 by December 1 and make a reservation.
3. Arrive at 6:30 P.M. with a dessert to share.

Directions to their house are in the November newsletter.

GITAP-05: Grand Trail, Grand Parks, Grand Time June 12 to 18, 2005

The third Grand Illinois Trail And Parks (GITAP) ride is set to roll in mid-June of 2005. Make plans to be a participant. With new routes, parks, plans, and events, the ride will offer unique explorations of northern Illinois. It's a mid-June, weeklong, supported bicycle tour using much of the Grand Illinois Trail and many of the state parks along the trail. The sponsor is the League of Illinois Bicyclists with support from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The ride features tent camping (motel package available), breakfasts, dinners, T-shirt, nightly meetings, door prizes, 370 to 500 miles, on-pavement alternatives to soft trails, and an optional jersey for sale. Also the Illinois Humanities Council will be piloting a novel after-dinner discussion program.

The ride starts and ends at Joliet Jr. College, then moves to Kankakee, Starved Rock, White Pines, Rock Cut, and Shabbona State Parks. At White Pines a day-off offers varied activities ending with a dinner theater presentation. **Sign-up is first-come, first-served with a limit of 160 riders.**

For more information (and registration form) go to <http://www.bikelib.org/gitap> or contact Chuck Oestreich at oestreich@qconline.com or [309-788-1845](tel:309-788-1845).

House for Rent - We have a house for rent in Dunlap that is right next to the Rock Island trail. It's perfect for someone who likes to run or bike on the trail. It's a small, rustic cottage on a corner lot with lots of wild flowers with a red barn used as

a garage. It's basically a one-bedroom house with 2 very small "extra" rooms that can be used as an office or storage; plus, of course, living room, bathroom and large kitchen. We are looking to rent to a mature person with no children. \$575 per month plus deposit with a signed one-year lease. Roger and Kathy John - runners2@npoint.net or 309-243-9191

New Members

Rich & Rae Jean Kuntz & Family.....Gridley

Renewing Members

Phil & Theresa Burroughs
Peoria
Ron Jetton.....Dunlap*

Bonnie Johnson.....Peoria

Steve Kurt.....Dunlap**

Jewel & Debby Moyers & Family.....Hanna City

Mike & Vicky Stoughton & Family.....Peoria

Sandy & Brandon Velde.....
Peoria
Randy & Marsha Ray...Peoria

*LAB Member ^Advocacy

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

Wheelman Annual Banquet

On the evening of November 13, approximately 30 Wheelman got together at Sky Harbor restaurant for a fun evening of drinks, food and information. President Pam Hoehne led the meeting and each member of the board was introduced and gave a short report. Treasurer, Sheila Gribble, reported that the club now has a total of \$13,787.90 in the bank with \$3,776.30 coming from the No Baloney Ride in September. Advocacy contributions have not yet been spent from this amount including a \$1,000 preliminary contribution to the building of the Kellar Branch of the Rock Island Trail. Bonnie Johnson handed out gift certificates from the various bicycle shops to all ride leaders. Pam announced that beginning Sunday, December 5, there would be a weekly show & go ride at 1:00 P.M. from Banner Grade School on Cedar Hills Drive. Although this will primarily be aimed for Level II, all levels of rider are welcome with the encouragement to bring a biking buddy at your level. Next year the club will begin a weekly ride at a new level called instructional, primarily for beginning bicyclists. Ride leaders will rotate and the ride will emphasize a slightly slower pace and hints for better and safer riding.

The following slate of officers was unanimously elected: Jerry Allen- president, Lori Boland-vice-president, Sheila Gribble-treasurer, Pam Hoehne-secretary, Bonnie Johnson-Social Chairman and Mailing, Laurie Wilbur-Ride Chairman, Larry Davis-Database, Eric Hutchison-Advocacy/Government Relations, Cora Lynn Green-Newsletter Editor and Bill Clark-Webmaster.

After dinner, votes were tallied and the following people will receive plaques: Most Improved Male Rider – Matt Durst, Most Improved Female Rider – Laurie Wilbur, Hub of the Club – Bonnie Johnson. Congratulations!!

Make Sure You are Kept Informed.

Have you sent an email to IVWheelmn@yahoo.com and written in the subject line "add me to your list"? If you haven't done that yet, you might miss out on something really important going on in the club. Bonnie Johnson intends to use this email list to let members know about events that didn't get in the newsletter or are happening on short notice. So to stay informed you need to make sure Bonnie has you in the club's email list.

Illinois League of Bicyclist

What would you pay to have your very own lobbyist promoting your interest and concerns for better bicycling? Actually you have one; it is known as the Illinois League of Bicyclists. LIB is the statewide advocacy voice for all Illinois bicyclists, promoting bicycle access, education and

safety. They work with the state legislators to pass laws helping to make our roads more bicycle- friendly. They promote the use of Illinois trails thru sponsored rides such as the one mentioned on the front page. Thru the issuance of maps and guides, they promote use of trails such as the new Illinois Mississippi River Trail.

Get on their website, www.bikelib.org and check out all the ways they are working for you. Then while you are there, click on "join us" and fill out a membership form. At any level you will be helping them be a more effective voice for you.

Rails Trails Advocacy News – NOVEMBER 2004 by Dirk McGuire

Jim Sullivan, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, gave a presentation on how they can provide asset management for non-profit organizations. This group can take care of sending letters to individuals who have donated money for tax deduction purposes. They charge fees depending on what the type of donations (i.e., cash, stocks, property, etc.

The celebration walk was held October 24 on part of the Peoria and part of the Peoria Heights sections of the Kellar Branch railed led by Mayor Ransburg. Television stations 19 and 25 both covered the event but the Journal Star did not.

We had a lengthy discussion about what to do with the funds we have and how to proceed forward. Bonnie Noble explained that the Peoria Park District Foundation can accept funds and designate them to a certain project or area of the donors choosing. She did say that it would be difficult to allocate funds to a project that is out of the PPD domain. The focus of this organization is for trail related interests in the Greater Peoria Area. Bonnie also filled us in on how much funding is in place and how much was lost due to time lapse.

A discussion of combining RTA with Friends of RIT brought us to leaving the RTA a separate branch of FoRIT because of the name Recreational Trails Advocates having a more broad reaching effect.

City Of Peoria failed to rail bank the entire 8.29 miles of the Kellar Branch according to Mike Rucker. It appears that there has been a communication breakdown between COP and PPD. This problem will be corrected in a timely fashion.

Information was received about erosion problems at Jubilee State Park due to equestrian overuse. Speculation was that they would restrict usage. Jason Beverlin confirmed that IDNR has indeed stopped usage by horses and mountain bikes as of November 1st until things dry out. This is common practice.

Construction for the extension of the rail spur has started at the Ameron Cilco property on University Street. The contract is for 75 days.

New Year's Day Ride and Party

The New Year's Day Ride will be hosted by Greg and Lori Durst. The rides will begin at 1:00. There will be two different groups: level begin./1 and level 2/3. The party will be afterwards at 3:30. Come then if you don't want to ride.

Please bring a dish to share according to the directions that follow:

Last names starting with A-H.....appetizer

I-Q.....salad

R-Z.....dessert

We will provide homemade soups, bread, and drinks.

Please r.s.v.p. by phone or email!

Greg, Lori, and Matt Durst

1417 W. Brentwood Drive, Dunlap....route 40 to Lake of the Woods, enter on Woodside Dr., then left on Wonderview, then right on Brentwood. We are the second house on the left.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

TUESDAY DAYTIME RIDE SCHEDULE-- SHOW & GO

Time: 9:30am (note the time change)

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

Distance: 25-35 miles

Contact Laurie Wilbur for more information

(309)446-9367 or email rcwilbur@att.net

THURSDAY DAYTIME BIKE RIDE/*HIKING SCHEDULE

Ride Organizer - Laurie Wilbur (309)446-9367 or email rcwilbur@att.net

Dates: December 2, December 9, December 16

Time: 9:30am (note the time change)

Place: Jubilee College Historical Site, Brimfield, IL

Distance: bike around 25 miles weather permitting

*If the road conditions are snowy or icy, we are going to try some hiking. Bring your hiking shoes!



In the November Newsletter we reprinted an article from The Chicago Tribune dated September 14, 2004, written about Sheldon Shafer's work establishing a community solar system and the Interplanetary Bicycle Ride. We only had space for part of the article. Here is the continuation of

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

Chicago-born Jim Richerson is president and chief executive of the 41-year-old Lakeview, the largest private museum Downstate. Almost from his arrival there in 2000, he has worked on plans for a downtown museum complex that would house Lakeview and other cultural groups.

Last year, he said, Peoria designated a two-block blighted area near the Illinois River as the site of the planned Central Illinois Regional Museum. Caterpillar Inc., whose headquarters is nearby, is considering a building there for exhibits on its heavy-equipment business.

Richerson said the cultural complex could help revitalize the area. "Quality of life is very important to us," he said.

He expressed confidence that the \$67 million needed will be raised and the complex will open by 2008.

Sheldon's sun will move 5 miles south to the new museum and expand along with the size of a new planetarium dome. So, Sheldon will have to reconstruct his model accordingly.

Sheldon and a student of his at Peoria's Bradley University, where he teaches astronomy part time, have been plotting a new model, using diameters of 50 to 55 feet for the sun.

Such a system would need bigger planets and could stretch as far as 50 miles from Peoria -- depending on where Sheldon situates that ornery Pluto. Its eccentric orbit at time puts it closer to the sun than Neptune.

Some solar system models built after Sheldon's have a larger-scale factor but are not as complete as his.

One in Stockholm extends 186 miles but is missing planets. The University of Maine at Presque Isle's model extends 40 miles along a road; Sheldon's radiates in all directions and is as wide as 55 miles across. Maine's is based on a solar diameter of 49.5 feet, but it has only an arc of the sun, not the full Sol.

"Their sun is lame," Sheldon said. He added that with his new model, "we'll make sure we beat Maine's" in scale factor.

A pause at Uranus, which for today's ride was Princeville, then Sheldon and I rode the final 6 miles to Saturn.

It was midafternoon when we arrived, but night was descending on me. I remember receiving a certificate attesting to my having traveled 5 billion miles -- 40 miles of terra firma.

Sleep and Advil restored me, but I decided not to bike with Sheldon and 14 others as they set out from the museum's sun early Sunday for a 25-mile, roundtrip tour of the inner planets. I followed, sheepishly, in my car as they traversed the near-empty streets of this city of 113,000. They stopped at the business berths of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, then headed for the giant Jupiter at Bradley. We passed mansions on Moss Avenue, built with 19th Century fortunes made in Peoria's liquor distilling heyday, and the Frank Lloyd Wright and Frank Lloyd Wright homes (the latter a commission the great architect, in a huff, refused to complete). They swung across the river into East Peoria, past Cat plants and toward the supermarket Saturn.

I said goodbye to Sheldon, gassed up my car at Earth and headed for Chicago. I longed to feel its gravitational pull.

BODY LOCATION DISTANCE FROM DIAMETER MUSEUM (THE SUN)

1. SUN Lakeview Museum -- 36 ft.
Peoria
2. MERCURY Peoria Camera .25 miles 1.5 in.
Peoria
3. VENUS Brown Printing .5 miles 3.8 in.
Peoria
4. EARTH Beachler's Servicenter .75 miles 4 in.
Peoria
5. MARS The School House 1.2 miles 2.2 in.
Peoria
6. JUPITER Bradley University, Olin Hall 4 miles 3 ft. 9 in.
Peoria
7. SATURN Kroger 8 miles 3 ft. 2 in.
East Peoria
8. URANUS Mineral Springs Park 15 miles 1 ft. 4 in.
Pekin
9. NEPTUNE Roanoke Motors 23 miles 1 ft. 3 in.
Roanoke
10. PLUTO Good's Furniture 40 miles .75 in.
Kewanee

Sunday Banner School Winter Rides

Starting December 4th and continuing through March 27th, there will be a **show & go** ride from Banner School at 1:00 on Sunday afternoons. Banner School is on the corner of Allen road and Cedar Hill Drive (just west of Route 40). In past years the distance has varied depending on the group and weather. When the weather is good the ride has pushed dusk, so lights are recommended especially during the short days of December and January.

Saturday Washington Show & Go Rides

Each Saturday there are show & go rides that leave from Washington Square and Russell's.

The Washington Square ride is for level 3 riders, While the3 Russell's is open to all levels.

Both rides start at 8:30.

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

DECEMBER 4

Christmas Party

JANUARY 1

New Years Day Ride

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

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SHARE THE ROAD...MEMBER TIL:11/27/20

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