



# ILLINOIS VALLEY **WHEELM'N**



April 2005

*greater peoria's bicycle club*  
Email @ [ivwheelmn@yahoo.com](mailto:ivwheelmn@yahoo.com)

## **Annual Kewanee Weekend**

Once again, Marge & Bill Semmens will be leading their annual weekend ride out of Johnson-Sauk Trail Park north of Kewanee. The dates will be from Friday May 20th through Sunday May 22nd. Please call us to let us know if you are planning on camping at the park. Our number is 309-693-9388. Day riders are also welcome. The park is located about six miles north of Kewanee, IL on route 78.

Here is the general plan for the weekend:

**FRIDAY** - If you are camping, please try to arrive as early as possible on Friday. All of the good sites fill up quite fast. We'll probably get there about noon and try to hold a few spots for the people we know are coming, however we can't officially save them for anyone. Look for our pop-up camper in the pinewoods (sites 15-25). We'll probably try to have some sort of group supper that night (call for details) followed by a campfire. Don't forget to bring a good camp chair and a roasting sticks.

**SATURDAY** - Our on your own for breakfast, but we usually make a big pot of coffee. The ride will leave the park about 9:00 AM. Day riders should figure about an hour's drive from Peoria and be ready to roll at 9:00. The route will be about 35 miles and includes several stops at the Casey's along the way. You are encouraged to bring a lunch along or enjoy one of Casey's week old sandwiches. The ride is open to all riders who can complete the 35-mile course. We'll probably have a happy hour late in the afternoon followed by some sort of potluck supper for that night (call us for more details).

**SUNDAY** - Again breakfast is on your own and we'll heat up yesterday's coffee. Then we head out for a 40-mile loop over to Bishop Hill about 9:30. This ride will be for level 2 riders and better. We'll do lunch in Bishop Hill and then return back to the campgrounds.

So, plan on joining us for one day, two days or the entire weekend at a great little park just north of Kewanee.

## **Spring Breakout Ride**

Ron Anderson will lead us on our annual Breakout Ride April 9<sup>th</sup>. The ride will start at Russell's in Washington at 9:00 Saturday morning. The ride will be about 20 miles with a meal stop. For those wanting to ride farther and faster, there will be a longer route option. All levels are welcome and in keeping with the social aspect of the ride, no one will be left behind or dropped. The rain date will be Sunday, April 10 same time. Think warm and start your riding season with a great social ride. Want further information? Call Laurie Wilbur 309-446-9367

## **Elroy-Sparta Weekend**

Marge & Bill Semmens are planning a possible trip to Wisconsin to ride the Elroy Sparta Trail June 24-26. So mark it on your calendar. More info in May's newsletter.

## ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

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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

## Bloomington Ride

On Saturday, June 18 the McLean County Wheelers in conjunction with the American Red Cross will be sponsoring a 10, 30 and 60 mile bicycle ride and an optional 3 mile walk. The start will be at Bloomington's Tipton Park, at the corner of College Avenue and Airport Road. If you would like more information or a brochure call (309)662-0500, x58. All bike routes include a delicious post-ride meal of pork chop sandwiches.

### \*\*\*\* ACTION ALERT - Bike legislation in Springfield \*\*\*\*

There are 2 pieces of legislation pending before the Illinois House and Senate that are very important to us as bicyclists. They are:

"Boub" Bill: House Bill 2390 would restore some liability protection for bicyclists on Illinois' local roads and remove a powerful disincentive that has stopped many towns and counties from adding on-road bike lanes, routes, etc. The problem that this bill addresses has been around for several years. We need to make the push to get this problem taken care of once and for all.

Complete Streets: Senate Bill 508 would direct IDOT to better accommodate bikes and pedestrians in their roadway designs, through policy changes and better training. More info and links to the latest status is at <http://www.bikelib.org> You can quickly get your legislators' contact info at <http://www.elections.state.il.us/DLS/Pages/DLSAddressCrit.aspx> Please call their local office and leave a message (even in off-hours).

Your legislator and senator are very interested in hearing your opinion. Give their office a call. They are on Spring break until April 6 so you have time to act. These phone calls have a powerful impact. It's "crunch time" on these bills, so please call today - thanks!

## Earth Day Ride – April 24

Once again Sheldon Shafer has planned many interesting city rides thru out the bicycling season. The first one will celebrate Earth Day by visiting the urban woodlands in Peoria, starting with Lakeview Wilds, through Springdale Cemetery (including the prairie section, Pimetoui trail to the Riverfront trail and back through Glen Oak Park to Lakeview Park. The rides are about 2 hours in length and designed for the casual rider 13-15 miles. Just show up; you don't have to register ahead of time.

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## Friends of the Rock Island Trail (Formerly the RTA) Report

Note the name change as we are operating under this name so we can solicit donations for contributions to ward the Kellar Branch and other future projects. The Friends are a 501© 3 corporation which allows us to accept such donations. We will keep the name RTA for uses that are prohibited to the Friends.

The next date that Peoria has with the Surface Transportation Board is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Letters to the STB would be much appreciated, asking the to allow rail banking and to remove Mr. Brenkman from the rail as he agreed to do back on February 24, 1998.

Attn: Raphael Kedar, Deputy Associate  
Administrator for Policy

U. S. Department of Transportation

Federal Railroad 00 7th Street, Administration

400 7th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20590

Roger John is working with Cilco and the IBEW at the same time on the lighting project for the RIT tunnel. This in an effort not to upset any union groups

Possible fund raising idea- Peoria Brick & Tile can provide pavers for landscape or wall projects where donors names are engraved.

Todd Volker, a well known trail advocate and author of The Grand Illinois Trail Book, is working with the Kaskaskia Alliance Trail project. This would be a 15 mile connection from Bureau Junction to LaSalle on the southern part of the former dual track beds of the Rock Island Railroad. It would establish a link between the I & M Canal trail and the Hennepin Canal trail. There are a lot of hoops to jump through.

The rec trail under the Murray Baker bridge will be kept open during the entire bridge construction.

## Grandview Gratings

We recently sent the below letter of thanks to the Peoria Park District for recent upgrade of the drainage gratings on Grandview Drive.

To: Mr. Mike Baietto, Superintendent of Parks

CC: Mr. Timothy Cassidy, Park Board President.

Dear Mr. Baietto:

Thank you for replacing the old hazardous drainage grates on Grandview Drive with modern bicycle-safe grates. The new grates will benefit participants of our 'Pedal Peoria' bicycle rides right away. 'Pedal Peoria' shows residents and visitors the joy of bicycling to our

city's scenic and historic attractions. Grandview Drive is a frequent and favorite highlight. As much as any billboard message, Grandview's

bicycle-safe gratings advertise Peoria's attention to environmentally

friendly transportation.

Thank you for completing this upgrade that improves safety for all

Users and promotes a positive public image for Peoria.

Best regards, Eric Hutchison, Government Relations Rep., IWV.

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### Out-Of-Town Rides

April 17, Folks on Spokes Easter Ride, University Park, IL. [WWW.FolksOnSpokes.Com](http://WWW.FolksOnSpokes.Com)

April 24, Silver Springs 60, Yorkville, IL, [www.fvbsc.org](http://www.fvbsc.org)

May 1, Explore Joliet – Sudden Century, Joliet, IL [www.jolietbicycleclub.org](http://www.jolietbicycleclub.org)

May 7, Ride the Ups and Downs, Elizabeth, IL, Jerry Bausman at [bausmana@juno.com](mailto:bausmana@juno.com)

May 27-29, Horsey Hundred, Lexington, KY [www.bgcycling.org/horsey/](http://www.bgcycling.org/horsey/)

May 29, Bike the Drive, Chicago, IL [www.bikethedrive.org](http://www.bikethedrive.org)

June 5, Udder Century, Union, IL [www.mchenrybicycleclub.org](http://www.mchenrybicycleclub.org)

June 18, Edwardsville, IL Route 66 Bicycle Ride & Festival. Info call 618-692-0070

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### New Members

Judy Blackburn.....Peoria

Dale & Sharon Cook & Family.....Pekin

### Renewing Members

Chris & Marguerite Everts Family...Peoria^

Chuck Gullette.....Dunlap

Patty Isit.....Bartonville

Mike Joslin.....Peoria^

Lou McMurray.....Peoria^

Stephen & Theresa Meismer.....Peoria

Richard & Twila Moore.....Dunlap\*

Brad Niemcek & Sharon Murphy....Peoria^

Jerry & Lori Porter.....Peoria^

Tom & Carol Romanowski Family...Peoria

Patty & Todd Sage.....Chillicothe\*^

Quinton & Barb Smith & Family.....Peoria

Larry Voyles.....Benson

\*LAB Member    ^Advocacy

Join the fun . . .  
The excitement . . .  
The challenge . . .

Of an outstanding two days on wheels

Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12, 2005

TOMRV, the Tour of the Mississippi River Valley, means a Saturday of joining with 1,500 bicyclists on a scenic 106 mile journey from Bettendorf, Iowa, across the Mississippi River into Illinois, Wisconsin and then back into Iowa for an overnight at Clarke and Loras Colleges.

On Sunday, riders take a different 86 mile route along the Mississippi River on the Iowa side. They pass through Iowa's famous Grant Wood scenery back to the start at Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa. On both days, shorter routes are available.

TOMRV also means a colorful t-shirt, the spectacular TOMRV banquet at Clarke College, refreshment stops every 10 - 15 miles, a beautiful and challenging route and the ambience of sharing an early June bicycling weekend with fellow cyclists from all over the Midwest.

For further information and/or an application:

- Visit our club web site at: [www.qcbc.org/tomrv](http://www.qcbc.org/tomrv)
- You may also register online at: [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)
- Or contact Linda Barchman at: [lindabarchman@hotmail.com](mailto:lindabarchman@hotmail.com) or 563-388-8043

You may also clip and mail this form to Linda Barchman to request a hard copy brochure. Mail to: TOMRV 28, c/o Linda Barchman, 2731 Emerald Ct., Davenport, IA 52804

Linda please send a brochure to me at:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Ride Schedule*

**\*\*Note:** *Rides starting in May 2005. Closely view departure dates and times!*

**Monday Morton Level 1** Chris Boehme (382-4027) is the new leader for this ride out of Morton. Meet at McClallen Park (Soccer Fields at Jackson and Tennessee) at 5:30 starting April 4. Distance will be 15 miles early in the season and increase over the summer. The ride will regroup frequently.

## Upcoming Events:

1. April 9 Breakout Ride
2. April 24 Earth Day Ride
3. May 20 – 22 Kewanee Weekend
4. June 11 – 12 TOMRV
5. June 18 - McLean County Wheelers Ride

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