

ILLINOIS VALLEY **WHEELM'N**



June 2005

greater peoria's bicycle club
Email @ ivwheelmn@yahoo.com

LIB Extra – News from the League of Illinois Bicyclists

LIB Unveils “Complete Streets” Website

Easy way to comment on upcoming roadwork near you

Do you want more bike-friendly roads in and around Peoria? Be a “squeaky wheel” and ask for them! No need to hunt down what roadwork is being planned – simply visit www.bikelib.org/completestreets, answer a few brief questions, and LIB handles it from there.

What is the goal of the Complete Streets website?

To give folks an easy way to speak up for better bicycling and walking conditions, when road projects are being designed. Many of us get frustrated when road construction does not improve conditions, often worsening them. The time to improve the design is early, when it is easier (and cheaper) for the road-building agency. Through this website, you can help show the demand and suggest what should be done.

What do I do?

It's easy – go to the website, look at our maps, click on a road project to learn about it, type in your comments, and click submit.

LIB has filtered lists of upcoming projects down to those early enough in the process and with an appropriate scope of work (widening; reconstruction; shoulder work; some resurfacing projects)

What happens after I submit a survey?

Your responses go to LIB. We add a cover letter explaining the survey, and asking that your comments be considered and added to the official project record. We send it to the head of the appropriate road-building agency and to the elected official in charge of it.

It's our hope that each IVW member takes advantage of this simple opportunity!

Editor's comment: Give it a try. The website is very self explanatory, and it is satisfying to feel that you are having some input on making your street's more bicycle friendly.

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

President

Jerry Allen 263-8637
Jallen@argonautgroup.com

Vice President

Lori Boland
llobo98@yahoo.com

Secretary

Pam Hoehne 694-4828
PAMS@mtco.com

Treasurer

Sheila Gribble
243-7822
sgribble4@juno.com

Ride Chairman

Laurie Wilbur
rcwilbur@att.net

Social Chair

Bonnie Johnson 682-7771
bon1jon2@sbcglobal.net

Mailing

Bonnie Johnson 682-7771
bon1jon2@sbcglobal.net

Database

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

Advocacy/Government Relations

Eric Hutchison 688-7038

Editor

Cora Lynn Green
683-3083
cora_lynn@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Bill Clark
wdclark@mtco.com

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

Keeping his Cool with the Facts

By Mr. Bill

I am stoked. I was so psyched up by the time I got home, that I could hardly type fast enough to get my thoughts on paper. You see, I just got back after 40 plus miles of some of the best riding I've had so far this year, and the only riding in the past week and a half. AND I GOT CUT OFF BY A CAR! What? A car cut him off and he is pumped! Now, I know what your thinking, but I haven't lost it all yet. Let me explain.

Today is May 4th. You know how the weather has been. I've been busy at work and the weather went south and I haven't been on my bike in almost two weeks. But today was different. Sunny with hardly any wind. High in the upper 60's. I left home shortly before 3 pm and got 40 miles in before getting back into Pekin. Superb ride! Approaching a stop sign at Park Ave. and Court St., in Pekin, a car decided he was going to cut me off. I corrected him rather abruptly and informed him I had the same legal rights to be on that street as a motor vehicle, and if he did not know what the Illinois Vehicle Code had to say about that, he should get educated, PRONTO. No cussing. No threats. Just the facts. The guy yelled at me and rolled up his window and I thought, OK. End of story.

I climbed back on my bike and waited for traffic to break and crossed Court and headed into the Pekin Park. He followed. So I stopped and told him if he wanted to discuss this further he should pull up in the parking lot and we would talk. He just yelled that he had 911 on the phone right then. Soooo, I pulled out a water bottle and told him great! I'd just take a little break and wait for the police to show up, which they promptly did. Three of them. Two Pekin squad cars and the chief of the Pekin Park District Police, Tom Conlin. I have met Tom before through working with various groups in the park, and he asked me what had happened. I told him the story. Then the Pekin Officer asked me, and I repeated it. I also inserted that I was fully aware of what the law has to say about the rights of bicyclists to share the road, and motorists like this guy would not intimidate me. The officer agreed with me. He informed me he was going to write a citation to the guy for illegal lane usage. I could have left it there. But I didn't. Neither of us would have benefited from that.

I informed the officer that I would rather him educate the motorist of the law regarding bicyclists rights to the road, and leave it at that. Perhaps he would treat the next cyclist with a little more respect rather than contempt. The officer thought that would be fine, and we all went on our merry way.

I did learn a couple of lessons though. I didn't have any ID with me. Hard to prove who you are if you aren't carrying any credentials. Second, I usually have 2 or 3 of the wallet cards explaining what the Illinois Vehicle Code has to say about the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists that LIB has published with me, just for occasions like this. I didn't have those either. And, lastly, I learned not to overreact. There was a day when I would have threatened the guy. But I've learned that following the law usually benefits everyone. This is one time I'm glad I did.

I just hope the motorist learned the same lesson.

Elroy-Sparta Weekend Friday June 24 – Sunday June 26

Come join us for our return to the Elroy – Sparta Trail ride in Wisconsin. We have not been up there for a while, so Marge and I decided to organize a trip again this season. We hope a lot of folks will join us. If you are not familiar with the trail, it is located in west central Wisconsin and is about a six hour drive from Peoria. The trail itself is an abandoned railroad right-of-way that Wisconsin has converted into a beautiful bike trail. Because the west side of Wisconsin is quite hilly, the railroad dug out three tunnels for the right-of-way. One of the tunnels we'll walk through is almost a mile long. So be sure to pack a flashlight. A waterproof jacket might also be a good idea since the tunnels sometimes still have ice melting in them, even in June. A round

As the riding season progresses, there will be several of us who have experiences like this. I hope all of them end up as this did. Some may not. The best thing you can do is to get information for the police. License plate numbers. Witnesses. Chain of events. Remain calm and don't make any threats. That amounts to assault and that is against the law. I could hear the driver yelling at the officer and I think that made the officer lean more towards siding with me. I just stated the facts, calmly. Most of all don't break the law yourself. Obey the rules of the road. If you don't, it makes us look like the bad guy. And that looks bad for all of us.

Note:

I have some of the wallet cards to share. If anyone wants one, just contact me and I will send some out, or you may be able to still get them thru the LIB website. Drop me a line at wdclark@mtco.com
BC'n ya on the road. Bike Enthusiast,

trip ride each day will be between 30 to 50 miles.

The general plan is for everyone to drive up to Wilton, WI on Friday. Wilton is about in the middle of the trail and has a city park with showers and electricity for camping. Space is limited so try to get there as early as possible. You are on your own for meals that night. I'm not sure what the camping fees are this year, but they usually charge about \$7.00/person/night.

Saturday and Sunday mornings, we'll have a pot of coffee going but you are on your own for breakfast. Sunday the Lions serve pancakes and sausage at the park. It's generally all you care to eat. Or, there are a couple of restaurants within walking distance.

Friends of the Rock Island Trail News

We'll try to leave the park as early as we can each day and ride to one end of the trail for lunch. Both Elroy and Sparta have your typical hamburger and hotdog stands. For those that want to bring a lunch or ride beyond the ends of the trail, have at it.

Saturday we may have some adult beverages followed by a pot-luck supper. Please call so we can coordinate the selections somewhat.

I know you'll have lots of questions, so please call us at 309-693-9388 or E-mail us at Semmens@mtco.com. This ride is open to all ride levels, but try to have a "buddy" to ride with as we will get spread out.

Please call to let us know that you are coming up and then start training!!!!

Bill & Marge Semmens

Special In-Town Rides

June 2 – East Peoria Trail & FonDuLac Ride. Starts at Shopko parking lot, E. Peoria 6:00 PM

June 11 – Prairie to Prairie Ride. Start at the Riverfront Visitor Center 10:00 AM Includes 2 prairie restorations inside city plus selected historic sights.

June 23 – Eric's West Peoria Deli Ride. Starts at Loucks School parking lot 6:00 PM. Includes Pettengill-Morrison House, West Peoria, Glen Oak Park, Randolph-Roanoke-High Street homes and much more.



It appears that the city has worked out a deal with Guy Brenkman to give him the old switches if he would move the rail cars; however, he still has not moved the rail cars. The switches are of no use as they are too light for any new track that any one would put in. The new tracks are now across University Street, and the rest of the dirt work is done. The ballast and rail is ready to go down.

The tunnel lighting project is moving along nicely. Roger John reports that the lights will be ordered soon. The group will set up 6 sets and run a test to see how many more are needed to do the job properly.

The manager of the Springdale Cemetery has given us permission to paint logos of runners and bikers on the pathway through the cemetery until formal signage is in place. We will do this on June 14th instead of our regular meeting.

John Bousky reports that a customer has asked him to find a worthy cause to donate a bike to. John gave it to us, and we are going to raffle it off. It is a 58cm Trek 2300 with Ultegra components and is in immaculate condition. The tickets will be \$10 ea. or 3/\$25. Mike Pula is heading this committee. More news to come, but the bike will be on the IVW website soon.

There are new efforts to designate Route 66 as a National Scenic Byway. It would start at Lakeshore Drive and end at the Chain of Rocks Bridge, just north of St. Louis –300 miles long. A February meeting was attended by 50 people representing 12 counties. McLean, Macoupin, and Livingston counties are already in the planning stages of converting Rt. 66 to a bikeway.

By Dirk McGuire, RTA rep

New Members:

Brandon Baker.....Peoria
Ben Brubaker.....Washington
Allen & Laurie Covington.....Peoria
Jesse E. Jackson.....Peoria
Scott Lower & Prema Dua.....Peoria
Mike Morehead.....Gilson
John & Eileen Wikoff.....Peoria
Marilyn Wood.....Peoria

Renewing Members:

Leonard Bobbitt.....E. Peoria*
Clifford Brown & Deborah Hess-Brown
Peoria
David Brown.....Peoria
Jerry & Lori Camp & Family...Peoria
Don Eberle.....E. Peoria
Mike Haedicke.....E. Peoria
Don Jacobs.....Washington
Jim & Ann Kamp.....Tremont
J D & Dena Keenan & Family
Peoria
Mary Reiter.....Washington
Sheldon & Mary Ann Schafer
Peoria^
Les Siegrist.....Washington
Herb & Barb Unkrich.....Edwards
Jack Welch.....Groveland
Roger & Laverne & Brittney Wilson
Washington
Craig Winn.....Peoria
Ronald Zim.....Pekin

*LAB Member ^Advocacy

Get On The Wheelman Email List

If you want to receive the most up to date information on all the cycling activities, you will want to join the email list. Reminders and last minute information often go out that you might not otherwise be aware of. Here's how to join: Send an email to ivwheelmn@yahoo.com with the sentence "add me to the list" in the subject line. If you decide to be taken off the list, you can always send an email asking to be removed. This list is used strictly to inform club members of cycling activities and will not be used to spam people. Notices will be sent via Blind Carbon Copy, so that you don't have to sift through everyone else's email list to get to the message. The address is monitored regularly to respond to any inquiries from members. Please join now!

Make-A-Wish Trail Ride

When: July 17, 2005

Where: Rock Island Trail Ride starts at Dunlap City Park

Ride Lengths: 10 miles, 20 miles, 48 miles

Cost: \$25 per person

\$55 per family

Purpose: To raise at least \$5,000 per wish child to be able to grant that child his wish

For more information or registration forms go to www.rideforwishes.com or call (309) 472-1257

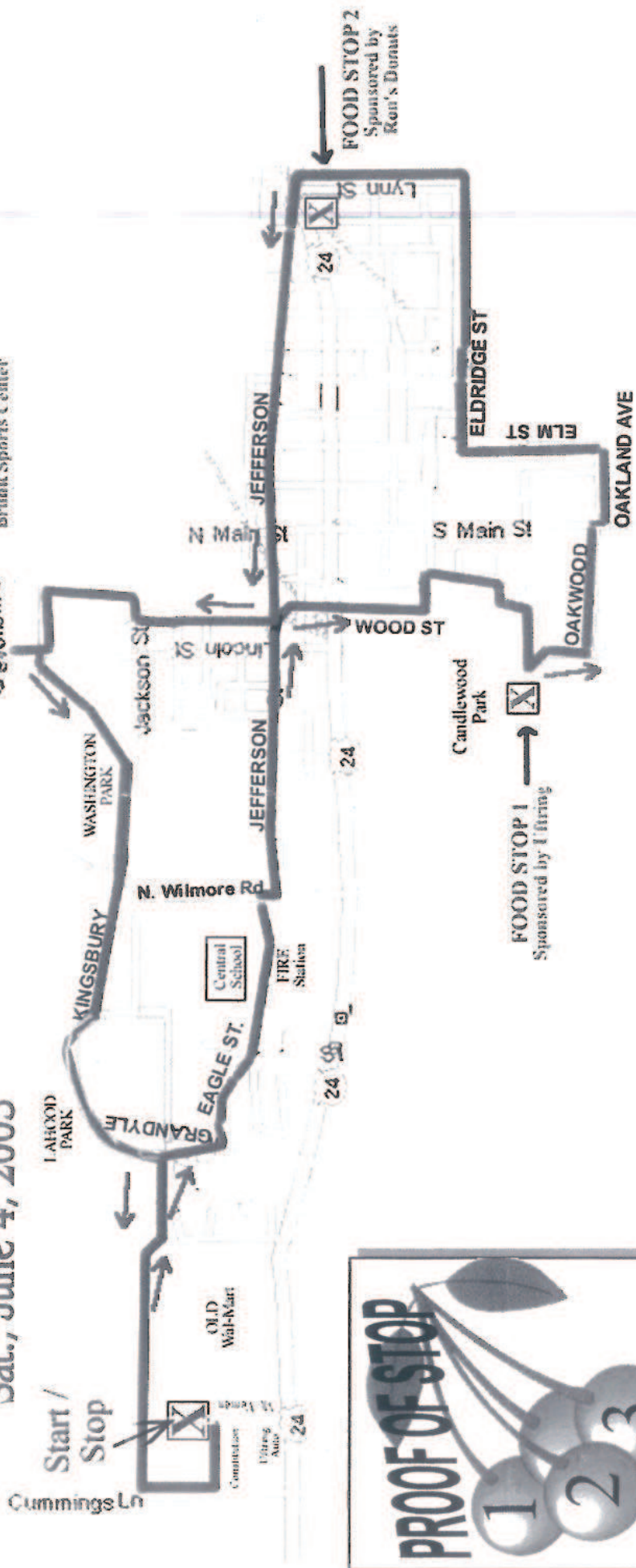
Washington, Illinois
Cherry Festival
 2005

Family Bike Ride

Sat., June 4, 2005

- FEATURES:**
- Parks & Bike Trails
 - Veteran's Memorial Cemetery
 - Snacks & Drinks
 - Prizes

START: 9 AM
LENGTH: 9.5 Miles
STOPS: 3
 (Food & Rest)



PROOF OF STOP

Name: _____
 Phone: _____

DESIGN... COMPLIMENTS OF DESIGNWARE SYSTEMS, INC. 444-3113
 Specializing in PC Networking, Upgrades/Repairs, Signature Web Design & Graphic Design