

NEWS RELEASE – RIDE OF SILENCE

Peoria-area bicyclists will join cyclists nationwide on May 20th for an 8.2 -mile Ride of Silence to mourn those who have been killed or injured while biking and to raise public consciousness of cyclists on the road.

“As the biking season gets underway, it’s important that we share the roads safely,” said Fai Mok, president of the Illinois Valley Wheelm’n Cycling Club, the local endorser. “We would like to be able to say at the end of this year that no local bikers have been killed while heading for work or out for a pleasure ride. Awareness is half the battle. We only want to share the roads we ride on.”

The ride will begin to assemble at 6:30 p.m. sharp near the entrance off Prospect Road to Upper Glen Oak Park in Peoria. Most bikers will wear black armbands, while those who have experienced a bike-motor vehicle accident will wear red. The silent procession will leave promptly at 7 PM, and average no faster than 10 miles per hour down Prospect and Nebraska. All participants must be at least 18 years old (or 10 years old with a responsible parent/guardian) and wear certified helmets.

Last year’s ride drew 150 local bicyclists. Local organizer, Michael Honnold says the goal this year will be 200 cyclists, with the help of Peoria Police Officers to assist the group ride safely through town.

The Ride of Silence was organized in 2003 in Dallas after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was killed by a passing bus mirror on an empty road. Last year riders gathered in more than 300 locations in all 50 states and 18 foreign countries, as far away as Antarctica and New Zealand. The IVW has been organizing a Peoria-based event since 2009.

For more information, cyclists may call Mike Honnold at 309-696-2591 or consult the Wheelm’n website (www.ivwheelmn.org).