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**Illinois Valley Wheelm'n is affiliated with the following non-profit organizations:**



[www.bikepeoria.org](http://www.bikepeoria.org)



[www.rideillinois.org](http://www.rideillinois.org)



[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)

## Opening

Back in April, my goal was to do some tours I have never done before and to explore some new places. I have accomplished that goal when I rode the Peninsula Century Spring Classic in Baileys Harbor, WI in June, the Peninsula Century Fall Challenge in Sister Bay, WI two weeks ago and Prairie Pedal Fundraiser in Decatur, IL last weekend. Both of the Wisconsin rides offer their own picturesque scenery from the opposite coast of the Door Peninsula. On top of that, the food was amazingly good. The Prairies of Macomb County reminded me of Champagne-Urbana area: flat with miles and miles of grassland and cornfield. However, the Rock Spring Conservation Park have paved trails going through the forest-like sections in the park, which reminded me of Peoria's Forest Nature Center except it's paved. Another attraction Decatur offers is Caterpillar's 785 mining truck display which tourists can check out at the Visitor's Center. I knew those machines are huge but until you stand next to one, you really can't comprehend the enormity of them. I would never have seen all those sites if I didn't take the chance to explore.



## A gloomy morning turned into a beautiful day for MITM Ride



Despite a gloomy overcast sky in the early morning of Saturday Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, a crowd of 16 riders gathered at the Rock Island Trailhead off of Pioneer Parkway to begin this year's Meet-In-The-Middle Ride. The group picked up additional participants from Junction City Shopping Center in Peoria Heights, Levee Shopping Districts in E. Peoria and Morton Trailhead on Jefferson St. The ride was to celebrate the opening of the Mackinaw Valley Trail back on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. IVW

member Tim O'Hanlon and a group of local bike enthusiasts contacted the Illinois Department of Natural Resources 9 years ago about creating the Mackinaw Valley Trail. It would offer a safer route for tourists to ride from Peoria to Bloomington-Normal and vice-versa. With the connection, tourists can now get access other trails in the Illinois Trail System throughout the state. Counting members from the McLean County Wheelers, there were around 80 participants in last Saturday's event. Thanks Jim (Coffey) and McLean County Wheelers' Richard Verdery for putting together this ride. Also, thank you everyone who participated and made this year's event a success. For the original article on the opening of Mackinaw Valley Trail, click on the first link below. For photos of the event, click on the second link below.



<http://www.cinewsnow.com/sports/professional/Bicyclists-Celebrate-Mackinaw-Valley-Trail-130912663.html>  
<https://flic.kr/s/aHskEnX5bT>

## 2017 club officers & award nominations

As we are nearing the end of another year, it's time to start thinking who you want as your club officers for next year - president, vice president, treasurer & secretary. You can also nominate yourself. Remember, IVW can only function if there are people leading it. **There will be 2 open positions to fill for next year - President & Rides Chairperson.** As mentioned from the September Monthly Note, I am stepping down as President to relocate wherever the next job opportunity may take me in order to advance my career goal and achieve my personal life

goal. The club is also looking for nominations for the Most Improved Male Rider, Most Improved Female Rider as well as the Hub of the Club award. The HOC historically has been awarded to a club member who went out of their way to represent the club and/or make sure some aspect of the club was extra special. Please include a short paragraph explaining why you nominate that person. You can email all nominations to Jim Coffey ([coffey4415@msn.com](mailto:coffey4415@msn.com)). We will have the election and voting of the awards at the Holiday Dinner.

## **Vintage & Steel Bike Ride moved to next Saturday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>**

Due to the chance of spotty shower today, Steve Kurt is opting to use the rain date of Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> for the ride. Below is the detail of the ride.

This is a chance to ride with fellow vintage & steel bike enthusiasts and perhaps show off the pride of your fleet! It's intended to be a medium speed ride along quiet rural roads north of Peoria, IL, nothing too serious, and no drops. The ride will start & finish at Shore Acres Park, 100 Park Blvd, Chillicothe. Meet in the parking area adjacent to the swimming pool. Distance of the ride will be approx. 41 miles no drop. Mid ride destination and break will be at Tanner's Orchard in Speer as they will serve baked goods, hot cocoa, coffee, water. Plenty of apples and cider will be available but you will want to bring a pannier or a big carradice to carry it home. Fortunately, it's mostly downhill ride home. Contact Steve Kurt for more info. ([kurtsj@mtco.com](mailto:kurtsj@mtco.com))

*Support:* This is an unsupported ride. Bring your own food and water. Be prepared to handle any mechanical issues that might occur.

*Cue sheet:* Posted to Flickr album along with some photos from the route. (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kurtsj00/albums/72157672267200381>)

## **Regional Bicycle Plan Open House on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>**

Looking for a better way to bike between communities? Wondering how our region can become more bike friendly? Come to the BikeConnect HOI Regional Bicycle Plan Open House from 4pm – 7pm on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Gateway Building, 200 NE Water St. Downtown Peoria. The open house is hosted by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC). After a year-long process, the BikeConnect HOI Steering Committee (yours truly is part of the committee) has identified 1) Recommended bicycle network improvements to connect communities in our region. 2) Recommended action items for strengthening bike transportation in our region. Now, TCRPC is seeking feedback.

**Come See Our Ideas!**  
BIKECONNECT HOI  
**REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN  
OPEN HOUSE**  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 4PM TO 7PM  
GATEWAY BUILDING, DOWNTOWN PEORIA  
200 NE WATER ST, ROOM 201

LOOKING FOR A BETTER WAY TO BIKE BETWEEN COMMUNITIES?  
✓ COME SEE THE MAP OF RECOMMENDED BICYCLE NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS!  
✓ COME SEE THE RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT!

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!**  
COME ANYTIME AND STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE!

© TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT NICK HAYWARD AT 309-673-9330

You will be able to vote on what bicycle projects you think are most important for the region and use our Innovation Board to let us know your thoughts on the recommended action items. You may come at any time and stay as long as you like. For more info about the BikeConnect HOI Open House, please contact Nick Hayward of TCRPC ([nhayward@tricityrpc.org](mailto:nhayward@tricityrpc.org), 309-673-9330). Help spread the word to your friends and colleagues. Thanks and hope to see you there.

*Nick Hayward*

## **End of the Year Holiday Dinner**

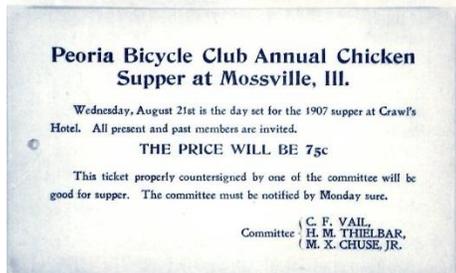
The location of this year's End of the Year Dinner will be voted on during the October Club Meeting on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>. A handful of options were selected last month and Social Chairperson Pam Hoehne has been working on getting some pricing. Come on out to the meeting and give your vote.

## Out of the Box Ride #11: Barb's Birthday Ride, Sat Oct 8<sup>th</sup>

Barb's birthday ride along the Great River Trail is a tradition for the Out of the Box rides and we are very happy to have her back leading the ride after taking last year off! She is especially glad to be sharing the ride and the cake with two other Out of the Box regulars who are celebrating special birthdays. We will enjoy Mississippi River scenery, small towns and parks along the way, and the opportunity to ride on a bike. And the cake will be pretty good too. The trail is paved, and the route will be out and back, so you can travel at your own pace and still join everyone for lunch at the Brothers Family Restaurant. Ride begins at 9:30am at the Riverfront parking lot in Rapids City. Take Rt. 84 exit north from I-80 W. Go a half-mile or so, looking for gas station on your right and then turn left onto 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right at the river, and go 4 or 5 blocks to the lot.

NOTE: we need a minimum number to keep our restaurant reservation and Barb would like to know how much cake to plan for, so please let her know by October 1 if you plan to come. Of course we know plans can change, but it would be very helpful to get an idea of the expected group size! Contact Barb ([bdrake@mtco.com](mailto:bdrake@mtco.com), 309-692-1201) or Larry Trollope ([l.trollope@comcast.net](mailto:l.trollope@comcast.net), 309-397-2130).

## Chicken Run Ride back again



In the 1881, the Peoria Bicycle Club was founded by Fred Patee & Harry Rouse, whose father owned a bicycle store. One activity that the club members participated in back in the day was the annual "Chicken Run", in which bicyclists would ride to a popular restaurant in Mossville for a fried chicken dinner. IVW



resurrected the "Chicken Run" Ride last year which

met with a great turnout. Once again, we

So we are bring it back again in October.

will be riding to Busy Corner in Goodfield for brunch. Tentative starting locations: Hickory Grove Grade School in Dunlap, Junction City Shopping Center in Peoria, Russell's and S. Main St. Shopping Plaza in Morton. We will have more details on routes, date & time next week. Keep an eye on your email inbox.



## Where have you taken your IVW jersey?

Did a recent bike tour with your IVW jersey? Send me a photo of you sporting the club kit (old or new) and a brief description of where it took place. It will included in the November Monthly Note. Below are a few submissions for this month.



Dirk at the start of the Midwest Tandem Rally with Michelle as the photographer.



Dirk and Michelle at the Amish Ride in Arthur, Illinois.



The Meet-In-The-Middle Ride in Mackinaw.



Yours truly taking in the view just south of Ephraim, WI.

**Share your bike adventures** – Participate in a memorable bike tour recently or planning to partake one soon? Send me your stories or photos of your adventures and share it with the club for next edition of the IVW Monthly Note.

### Final tally for NBC



The National Bike Challenge sponsored by People for Bikes wrapped up the year with 45,806 riders participating. Collectively, the group has ridden 25,584,728 miles and saved approximately 4,891,420 pounds of CO2 from May to September. For the state of Illinois, 3,326 riders participated in this year, with 834,051.3 miles ridden, 45,211,29 calories burned, approximately \$88,655 saved in gas and 141,220 lbs of CO2 eliminated from the atmosphere. The Challenge created a fun online cycling community interaction among bicyclists to share advice & tips, scenic riding locations and personal adventures on bikes. It also encouraged countless new riders to use bicycle to improve their health, save money and help the environment. Even though the Challenge is over, you can still log miles year round and keep track of all the metrics. It's a great way to stay motivated during the fall and winter months if you choose to ride. If you didn't do the NBC this year and would like to use it

to keep track of your mileage, go to [www.nationalbikechallenge.org](http://www.nationalbikechallenge.org) and create a free account. You can sync with Strava, MapMyRide or Endomondo to log your mileage or log manually on website if you are low-tech. Use the link below for team sign up instructions.

[http://ivwheelmn.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=4003](http://ivwheelmn.org/wordpress/?page_id=4003)

### Watch out for Caterpillars

No, I am not talking about Big Yellow. I am talking about the fuzzy brown & black band Woolly Bear Caterpillar. I have crossed path with at least one every day that I ride. Try not to ride over them as they are harmless and are weather predictors. Dr. C.H. Curran, curator of insect, did a scientific study back in the 50's to see if there is any

correlation between the average number of the reddish-brown segments and the type of winter for that particular year. You can read more about it through the link.

(<http://www.almanac.com/content/predicting-winter-weather-woolly-bear-caterpillars>)

### **First Friday Nite Ride**

Get Lit and Art Up Your Ride! Taking a tour of Peoria art studios and galleries. Even better on a bike! Celebrate your creative side and your healthy side! Meet up with friends and other riders for a tour of the Peoria art scene! Join in on the creative side by decorating and lighting your bicycle. Stay tuned for opportunities to get with others for decorating and lighting your bike! Please post on Bike Peoria Facebook if you are willing to meet others at a specific place and time to ride together! There will be a slow ride downtown meeting at 9:00pm on October 7<sup>th</sup> for anyone wanting to have a First Friday After-Ride. It will be-hopefully-a large group of well-lit riders creating a rolling visual people powered display of color and sound. Let loose-have fun-make friends-create. Details to come-ideas and suggestion welcome. This is a self-guided and self-motivated event. Put some fun between your legs, get on a bike & ride! This event is being hosted by Bike Peoria. For question, contact BP use this link. <https://www.facebook.com/BikePeoria/>

### **Rick is looking for other early risers**

Rick Gentry is wanting to connect with other early risers to ride 20-30 miles Monday through Saturday morning from 6am to 7:30am on road or mountain bike. The average pace will be 14-17mph. Contact Rick(309-678-4622, [runr927@hotmail.com](mailto:runr927@hotmail.com)) if you are interested.

Thanks for reading the October Monthly Note. If you have any rides, events or announcements you want to share with the club, please email it to me to be posted in the November Monthly Note. Be aware of your surrounding when riding. See you all out on the road.

***Fai Mok** - Illinois Valley Wheelm'n President*

### **Classified Ads**

- **Wanted**, Pam Hoehne is looking to buy a quality good used hybrid bike to fit a person about 5'10" to 6'. The one she shared with her son was stolen. Contact Pam@309-339-9777.
- **Wanted**, Bill Semmens is looking for a kid's stoker kit for his Santana tandem. If you have one that is no longer in use, contact Bill@309-693-9388 or [BSemmen5@comcast.net](mailto:BSemmen5@comcast.net)
- **For Sale**, Blue(1) and Green(1) Bike Fridays American made in Eugene, Oregon. Purchased in 2003 for \$862.30 each. Bikes were used on about 5 airplane vacations. Bikes were ridden about 30 to 40 days. Sale includes all accessories which were all part of the original sales price: 1 air pump, 2 travel hard plastic cases, and 2 under seat accessory bags. Asking price: \$550. Each. One owner and well maintained. Contact SandiorGeorgeBurrier@309-266-5085.
- **Free** pair of pre-owned 26x1.25-1.5" Schrader valve inner tubes. Contact Fai if interested. [faimok534@gmail.com](mailto:faimok534@gmail.com)
- **For Sale**, brand new Sram chain catcher. Install on front derailleur to prevent chain drop between crank and bottom bracket. Price-\$10 Contact Fai if interested. [faimok534@gmail.com](mailto:faimok534@gmail.com)

**Classified Ads** for club members are welcome. If you have something bicycle related items you want to sell or you are looking for a bike related item, email your ad to [faimok534@gmail.com](mailto:faimok534@gmail.com). If the item is sold, please let me know so your ad can be remove from the posting.