



I L L I N O I S V A L L E Y

**WHEELM'N**

*greater peoria's bicycle club*



May 2003

### May Club Meeting

Well, spring has nearly sprung and our thoughts are focusing on the riding season. So, let's all get together to visit and talk about our favorite rides. Maybe it was a tour you took or an organized club ride or maybe just a favorite route you have right around here. This is a good way to learn about rides that you may want to put on your calendar for the year. Even though we all know that no other ride can compare to the No Baloney, it is only one weekend and we have to fill the rest of the year, right!

Mark your calendars for **Wed., May 14th at 7:00 p.m.** We will meet at Fiesta Ranchera; all that talk about riding is sure to burn lots of calories so we'll need to do some carbo-loading, right? See you there!

Greg Durst



### Tour Around the River

When: Sunday, May 25 at 8:00 a.m.  
Where: Banner Grade School parking lot, at the corner of Allen Rd. and Cedar Hills Dr. approx. 1/2 mi. west of Knoxville Ave.

What: A totally self-supported century with an optional shorter (70 mi.+/-) route. This will be the same route as last year with plenty of food and rest stops along the way and a lunch stop in either Lacon or Henry, depending on the route you choose. Maps will be provided, but the route will not be marked. We will stay in a group. If there are any questions, call me at 243-9694, or email at [gpdurst@insightbb.com](mailto:gpdurst@insightbb.com)

### Bike Rodeo

The Peoria Park District is again hosting a Bike Rodeo. This is an event for children to teach them lots of pertinent information about bikes and bicycle safety. They will have several different stations including: bicycle maintenance and proper fit, proper helmet fit, an obstacle course and bicycle registration. Also, a Disney video on bike safety and goodie bags for the children. The first 100 children will receive a free helmet!

Now, here is where you can get involved. The Park District is looking for volunteers to help with the maintenance and fit station. You don't have to be a bike mechanic! They are looking for a few people to do very simple adjustments and help with proper seat height, etc.

The event will be held **Sat., May 3rd** from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the American Red Cross parking lot located at 311 W. John Gwynn Jr. Ave. Peoria, IL.

If you would like to help or have any questions email me or call. Thanks! Greg Durst

### Bikes For Kids is back!

The I.V.W. is again sponsoring this great program that provides bikes to kids that otherwise would not be able to have a bike of their own. This is a joint effort between the Salvation Army, Sheridan Village Merchants Ass'n. and the Wheelm'n. People from around the area bring their used bikes to the

Sheridan Village parking lot and I.V.W. volunteers make the necessary repairs. The following weekend the Salvation Army distributes them to kids who have previously applied for one. Last year 225 kids received a bike! In the history of the program more than 1100 bikes have been given away.

The date is **Saturday, June 14th.** This will take place in the Sheridan Village parking lot. The exact time is yet to be determined but usually it starts about 9:00am and goes to early afternoon.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions call me at 243-9694. This is a great program and an opportunity for the I.V.W. to get some positive publicity.

Thanks,  
Greg Durst

#### New Members

Ronald Dean..... Galesburg

#### Renewing Members

Edith Albright ..... Chillicothe  
Don Eberle ..... E. Peoria  
Chuck Gullette ..... Dunlap  
James & Sue Hooker.....  
.....Chillicothe^  
Jack & Carol Huggins.. E. Peoria  
Robert Muse..... Morton  
Lester Siegrist ..... Washington  
Jim Vaupel ..... Pekin^  
Dorothy Venturi..... Farmington

\* LAB member ^ Advocacy

## Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

Greater Peoria's bicycle club  
Affiliated with the League of  
American Bicyclists and League of  
Illinois Bicyclists

### President

Greg Durst 243-9694  
gpdurst@insightbb.com

### Vice President

Ron Douglas 637-1748  
rkpdouglas@insightbb.com

### Secretary / Webmaster

Bill Clark 347-4841  
wdclark@mtco.com

### Treasurer

Sheila Gribble 243-7822  
sgribble4@juno.com

### Ride Chairman

Mike Pula 243-9394  
mrpula@hotmail.com

### Social Chair

Bonnie Johnson 682-7771  
bonjon@ix.netcom.com

### Mailing

Celeste Hansen 693-1018  
CELHansen@aol.com

### Database

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

### Advocacy/Government Relations

Eric Hutchison 688-7038

### Editor

Steve Kurt 243-7684  
kurtsj@mtco.com

Submissions, including stories, news,  
images, and/or humor are welcomed.  
Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

### IVW On the Web

<http://www.geocities.com/ivw.geo>

*enter the above as one line; no spaces*

## Kewanee Ride 2003

The weekend of May 16th – 18th, Marge and I will be leading a two day camp and ride out of Johnson-Sauk Trail Park in Kewanee, IL. This is an annual event that is always a real adventure. It is open to all folks who want to ride and can handle at least a 30 – 50 mile ride at a reasonable group pace. It is also open non-campers and those that only want to stay one night.

Here is the general plan. Most people will drive up to Kewanee on Friday night and get a campsite. Marge and I usually go up about noon and try to save several choice sites if we can. Friday we can all have supper together, but our first planned activity is a ride on Sat. We'll leave the park about 9:00 AM so you day riders need to be there ready to roll at that time. You can figure about a one-hour drive from north Peoria to the park, so plan accordingly.

We'll ride about 30-35 miles at an easy pace. All levels of riders are welcome today because this will be a corners & posts ride. If you haven't been on a ride like this, please come up and check it out. We'll have all levels of riders, everyone at their own pace and we'll all stay fairly close together. I also need to warn you to be prepared for a few hill climbs. This route is out in the boonies, so you'll need to either pack a lunch or eat ala Casey's.

After the ride, we'll return to the park to enjoy the afternoon. The park has canoes for rent and some excellent hiking trails. Later in the afternoon we'll have some sort of snack sharing and maybe a beer or two and then do a group supper. I'm sure we will get out more info on that as we get closer to the trip. But it will probably mean you'll need to supply some sort of dish to share with the rest of the hungries on the trip. Day riders are welcome to share their food also. Just remember to bring a camp chair. After supper I'm sure there will be ghost stories and fantastic bike tales around the campfires.

Sunday's ride will also leave the park at 9:00 AM, however it will be a little more challenging than Saturday's ride. For one thing we'll have some new hills to climb and the mileage will be about 50 this time. Our destination will offer a great lunch stop in Bishop Hill, so we don't have to brown bag it today. You should be at least a level 2 rider for this one, there are some good climbs going back to the park.

Hope I've given you an idea of what to expect on this ride. For more information please call me at 309-693-9388.

Bill Semmens

## The Spoken Word of "The Board"

The Board of the IVW met on April 2nd. Greg talked to the Peoria Park District. Seems as though Safety Town never closed after all for the winter months. So, when the timing is right, we'll be back there with our meetings. Greg also got some more information on club insurance. Our current policy is through an agent in Iowa. We are looking at the coverage to see if we could save money and still be covered if we took out a policy through LAB.

It was decided that the Sunday ride from Banner grade school would be a show and go through the end of April. There are still a few riders showing up, but as there are rides starting every nite of the week, the board decided that this would be best. The Salvation Army contacted the club in regards to the Bikes for Kids day. The date has been set for June 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Bike Rodeo sponsored by the Peoria Park District will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we will need help for both of these events. Contact Greg Durst for information on either of these events if you can spare a couple of hours. The club is looking at making a donation to these to help out with safety equipment for the kids. Sheila gave the Treasurer's report. The club is financially secure. The board voted to begin accepting advertising in the newsletter. The cost

and details can be gotten from Steve Kurt.  
Having no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.  
See ya on the road!  
Bill Clark

## RTA NEWS

There will be three of the trolley bike racks installed at the new CITILINK bus terminal upon its completion. The Kellar Branch has been slowed again, this time by an easement to the City of Peoria for the rail spur from Illinois American Water Co. Their board is scheduled to meet 4/18/03 to resolve this issue and Steve Van Winkle says Peoria is going forward with the extension across University St. Bids are expected to be ready in May.

The box culvert across Allen Rd. issue has been shuffled back in priority by the State. We think mostly because of the layoffs (lost on a desk somewhere) but we are trying to get it back on top of the pile as we feel this is an important safety issue.

On May 17 at 6:00 PM there will be an open meeting at One World on Main St., upstairs, to discuss bike parking in Peoria. Immediately following will be the Bicycle Film Festival.

Lastly, The Friends of the Hennepin Trail have set October 5, as the date of HikeMaBika.  
Dirk McGuire

## Opportunity for Peoria area bicyclists

Attention bicyclists - help make sure the Peoria area is becoming more bike-friendly!

All citizens - including cyclists - are invited to speak up on transportation investments in Peoria and elsewhere. Every Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to include public participation in long-range plans and funding decisions. This is a golden opportunity to make

your local officials more aware of the demand for better bicycling.

All MPO's publish an annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP lists all upcoming roadwork (and other transportation investments) over the next 3 or 5 years. There is a public comment period each time. Not many people take advantage of this opportunity, so requests for a bike-friendly road from just a few cyclists can be significant.

All MPO's are required to periodically update their long-range transportation plan, and that plan (by federal law) is required to include a bike/ped element. Some MPO's have separate bikeways/trails plans. All planning is required to include public participation. Having a cyclist perspective is crucial in ensuring a useful and thorough bike section.

Below is the status for your area's MPO, including:

- Contact name and phone number (and website if available);
- This year's TIP comment period;
- Long-range plan (and bikeway plan, if any) update status.

Please take advantage of these opportunities. Call and get yourself on the mailing lists. Glance at the TIP when it comes out, and send in your comments. Make sure the long-range plans include trails, bike-friendly roads, and good policies. Contact LIB (630-978-0583) if you need guidance.

Especially as a cyclist, it's up to you to ask for transportation investments that better serve you.

PEORIA AREA  
Tri-County Regional Planning  
Commission, Hala Ahmed 309-673-  
9796 X222

(www.tricountyrpc.org)  
· TIP comment period in June.  
· Long-range transportation plan update not yet scheduled.  
· Greenways and Trails Plan just finished, but cyclists needed for the G&T Taskforce.

Ed Barsotti, Executive Director  
League of Illinois Bicyclists  
2550 Cheshire Dr.  
Aurora, IL 60504  
630-978-0583  
ed@bikelib.org  
www.bikelib.org  
Learn more about LIB:  
www.bikelib.org/join

## Wandering Wheels - scholarship announcement

Wandering Wheels is providing a \$1,000 scholarship to high school age cyclists who want to cycle coast to coast in the summer of 2003. This will be Wandering Wheels' 60th U.S. crossing. Our original program was 100% youth oriented. Over the years, interest on the part of teens has dwindled. We at Wandering Wheels want to re-ignite youth interest in cycling and are asking for your help.

One, we would like to get the information regarding the 2003 cross country out to as many teens as possible. You can help by word of mouth or by referring young people to our web site (www.wanderingwheels.org).

Two, we feel strongly you, as a club, can help rejuvenate the younger generation's interest in cycling by financially supporting a young person in your area. The amount of good press that comes as a result of a person completing a coast-to-coast ride is significant.

Wandering Wheels is the oldest coast-to-coast cycling club in the U.S. To date nearly 3,000 cyclists have made the journey with us. We really care about our team members and hold an enviable record for successfully getting anyone across who wants to do it.

Thanks for your help! Sue  
Wandering Wheels  
P. O. Box 207  
Upland, Indiana 46989  
765-998-7490  
www.wanderingwheels.org

## *Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Ride Schedule*

**Monday** Bill Clark (347-4841) and John Bremenkamp (444-4851) will co-lead this *level 1* ride out of Morton. Meet at McClallen Park (Soccer Fields at Jackson and Tennessee) at 6:00 **starting May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Distance will be 15 miles early in the season and increase over the summer. The ride will regroup frequently.

**Monday** Lori Durst (243-9694) and Celeste Hansen (693-1018) co-lead this ride for *level 1 riders*. Meet at Dunlap Grade School starting May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The time will shift to 6:00 as daylight permits. Ride distance will be 15 miles early in the season and will lengthen through the summer. The group will ride together and regroup frequently.

**Monday Time Trials** Steve Kurt (243-7684) will once again be leading an individual time trial. These will take place on the *first and third Monday* of the month, and will be conducted from May through August. Meet at Dunlap Grade School at 5:30pm. The time trial route is 10 miles, and you will be timed to see how long it takes you to cover the distance.

**Tuesday** Steve Kurt (243-7684) leads this popular ride for *levels 2 and 3*. Meet at Dunlap Grade School at 5:30. On May 6<sup>th</sup> the time changes to 6:00. Mileage will be 20 early in the season and then increasing. The ride will sometimes break into two groups. One will generally average 16 plus and the other can be faster. Both groups regroup periodically and make certain no riders are left behind.

**Wednesday** Dirk McGuire (699-8484) and Larry Paustian (694-3947) co-lead this ride for *levels 1,2 & 3*. Meet at Pleasant Hill Had Start School (across from the Antique Mall) at 5:30. Ride distance will start in the 20 mile range and increase throughout the season. Average speed will be 13 – 16 and no one will be dropped.

**Wednesday Show and Go for Levels 1 and 2** Meet at Dunlap Grade School at 5:30. The time will shift to 6:00 in June. The ride has no designated leader. Riders in attendance will determine route and distance. Separate ride groups may be formed as needed.

**Thursday** Jim Vaupel (353-6104) leads the ride for *levels 2&3*. Meet at Coal Miners Park (Pekin). Start time will be 5:30. The start time will move to 6:00pm beginning on 1 May. The ride is a fast pace (16-18 plus) and includes pace line riding and some challenging hills. Ride distance is 20 – 40 miles. Jim says they do not try and drop any riders but suggests that all riders carry a picture ID.

**Friday** Jim and Sarah Emmons (246-2166) lead a **Family** ride out of Pearce Center (Chillicothe). **Starting May 9<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30 changing to 6:00 in June. Distance varies depending on the group.

**Saturday Show and Go** meets at Washington Square in Washington at 8:30am all year. Distance varies from 25-60 miles.

**Sunday** Mike Pula (243-9394) leads this “first Sunday of the month” (this means once a month) ride for **levels 1, 2 & 3**. Meet at Jubilee Park (upper section) at 9:00am. First ride is **May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Distance will range between 30 – 60 miles. We may split into groups as needed.

### *Ride Levels*

More details regarding ride levels is available on the web site. Ride leaders can be contacted for specific details about their individual rides.

**Beginner/Family** These rides are a casual pace averaging less than 12 miles per hour and ride as group.

**Level 1** Rides average 12-14 mph and regroups on a regular basis.

**Level 2** Rides average 13-17 mph and regroup occasionally.

**Level 3** Rides average 17 miles per hour and over. Riders may regroup periodically, but should be prepared to ride in pace lines to keep from being dropped.

**Show and Go** Rides have no leaders. The distance and speed is decided upon by the group, but governed by the ride level designated.

## *Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Special Rides*

In addition to the regular weekly schedule of rides, the club has a number of special rides throughout the year. More information on these and other rides, as they are scheduled, can be obtained from the newsletter and the web site. [http://www.geocities.com/ivw\\_geo](http://www.geocities.com/ivw_geo) You can also contact any ride leader.

**Pedal Peoria** Sheldon Schafer (682-1876) leads his wonderful city rides for *all levels* throughout the summer. The rides are a casual pace and visit a variety of city sights. Check the web site for the full schedule of rides and details.

**Johnson Sauk State Park Overnight Campout** Bill and Marge Semmons (693-9388) will lead the annual campout to Johnson Sauk Park on May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Watch the newsletter for more information.

**Tour de River** Greg Durst (243-9496) leads this ride along the valleys on both sides of the river on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Watch the newsletter and web site for details.

**Interplanetary Ride** Sheldon Shafer (682-1876) organizes this annual ride to celebrate the Lakeview Museum Planetary Model. August 9 & 10. Registration brochures are available on the Web and at all local bike shops.

**Back roads of Bureau County** Mike Pula (243-9394) will lead this 40 – 50 mile ride for levels 2 & 3. On August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Poker Ride** Marge Semmons (693-9388) leads this social ride for all levels on Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**No Baloney Ride** The clubs annual invitational ride that attracts 250 plus riders from throughout the state will be held Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available on the Web and at all local bike shops.

**Fall Wiener Roast Ride** Jim and Sarah Emmons (246-2166) host this **family** ride in late September.

### **Other riding opportunities**

In addition to club sponsored rides there are many organized rides throughout the mid-west that offer great opportunities for riding. The best source for information on these rides is found at <http://mikebentley.com/bike/>. Some of the upcoming rides that are recommended by club members are;

**Ride the Ups and Downs** - Elizabeth, IL, Saturday, May 3; 22/31/46/60 mile routes. Register at Elizabeth High School 7:30 am-9:00 am. \$15 before April 27, \$20 after. For info: Jerry Bausman 815/858-2002 or [bausmana@juno.com](mailto:bausmana@juno.com)

**TGI Spring Bicycle Ride** - Petersburg, IL, Saturday May 3; 12-25-40-62 miles. Registration 8-9AM at Lincoln Land Community College. \$8 per person. Info: Jonathan Reininger @ 217-698-1724 or [jreininger@yahoo.com](mailto:jreininger@yahoo.com), or visit the website at [www.spfldcycling.org](http://www.spfldcycling.org)

**Tour DeWitt** - Little Galilee, June 28. For info: <http://www.clintonareacyclers.org>

**Horsey Hundred** – Lexington, KY May 23-25; <http://www.bgcycling.org/horsey/>

**TOMRV** – Bettendorf, IA June 7-8. Two days of riding along the Mississippi! details at [www.qcbc.org](http://www.qcbc.org)

More information on these and similar rides can be found at the above site.

### **Ride Rules**

- 1) Riders must obey all Illinois Traffic Laws.
- 2) Ride no more than two abreast and single file at intersections and in traffic.
- 3) When riding in a large group, create space to help motorists pass safely.
- 4) Use hand signals and obey all traffic signals.
- 5) Check all intersections for traffic. Avoid “group think”.
- 6) Warn riders of pot holes, dogs, cars and other obstacles.
- 7) Riders are strongly encouraged to wear approved helmets.
- 8) Rides should make certain their bikes are in good working order.
- 9) Riders should carry water and a spare tube for their size of wheel.
- 10) Riders should be prepared for whether conditions. Most rides will take place in all weather.
- 11) Riders should arrive in time to be ready to ride at the start time.

# The Metal Cowboy Returns!

About a year ago, I read the book "Metal Cowboy", by Joe Kurmaskie, and thoroughly enjoyed it. It's a collection of short stories, each of which is a tale of a bike touring event. I thought I'd share the news of Joe's new book, as well as an excerpt. The standard press release is below, so filter out the hype to get an idea of what the stories are like. The excerpt is typical, and represents Joe's work well. I hope you find it as entertaining as I did. -- Steve Kurt

With the first book, Metal Cowboy; Tales From the Road Less Pedaled, we came of age with Joe Kurmaskie AKA The Metal Cowboy. We rode shotgun as he pedaled for the open road and discovered the glorious freakshow that is America off the beaten path. Wind in his face, fresh scrubbed and a bit naive, Joe learned to toss out those maps and notions of normal and just let the ride take him where he needed to go.

In the second installment "Riding Outside the Lines: International Incidents and Other Misadventures With The Metal Cowboy" he leads us way out of town. Joe takes more chances and crossed borders with impunity. Any fear and trepidation over where he'll sleep, eat or whose lives he'll pedal through takes a back wheel to carving out friendships, having adventure, finding easy laughter and ultimately, gaining some gritty perspective under distant skies.

## On Yere Bike

By Joe Kurmaskie

Aka The Metal Cowboy

Excerpt opening chapter from "Riding Outside the Lines" (Three Rivers Press, 2003)

I took a place in one of the booths near the door, intent on ordering something warm. A traditional pub; darts, fireplace and a long bar already crowded with Irishmen pouring that dark mother's milk down their throats.

It might have been ten in the morning, if that. Rowdy enough by anyone's standards, on a weekday no less, that I wanted to hang around and see how it ended. But this was only meant as a brief pitstop before pedaling back into the breach.

The rain hadn't really stopped lashing since before breakfast, and the wind, like higher math I so loathed back in school, was a constant. Seeing as I'd volunteered to bicycle around my ancestral homeland, I felt dutybound to offer casual disregard in the face of the harshest weather. Given my pitiful state after less than a week of sloshing about country roads, my relatives, were they still above ground, would certainly have shunned me. Or, at the very least, called me cruel names like plonker and wank before letting me buy them a pint.

I was too cold to shed my blue Gortex shell and pants. When I glanced in the mirror behind the bar the image staring back resembled a bulky blueberry as painted by Keith Haring; practically glowing. Had my rainsuit always been so loud or did the sea of muted jackets surrounding me raise it's reflective properties to clown-like proportions? One of the patrons, about my age, noticed me noticing myself and leaned over.

"What do ya call an Irishman in one of them spiffy rainsuits?"

I shrugged.

"You call him a tourist. We wouldn't be caught dead wearing that shite."

He smiled, a good-natured grin. The rest of the pub must have been listening because the place broke into hearty laughter.

I joined in.

What the hell - it was a good joke even if I happened to be the punchline.

Clearly, my reaction suited them because an open stool appeared and handshakes were exchanged. The comedian's name was Brian and his friends were damn near everyone in the place. When the second round arrived I realized a sip too late that I was participating in my first genuine "session". To leave at this point would have been beyond rude. Having heard that these things could last indefinitely, I ordered a substantial amount of grub, hoping it might

absorb some of that potent beer as we went.

"Ease up, Lad," Brian said as I inhaled a thick bowl of soup and tore at something called a doorstep sandwich. "The potato famine ended years ago." This brought on another round of laughter and more drinks. At least I'd peeled off my blue raingear by then. If I passed out and hit the deck, I'd seem less like rotting fruit without the blueberry suit.

At some point, between stowing my bike and losing much of the feeling in my cheeks, I reviewed the blind spots in my life. Everyone has them. Not obvious shortcomings, but the hidden flaws and conspiring circumstances that duck under the radar until it's usually too late. Growing up in suburbia; the land of Wonderbread, Campbell's Soup and cul de sacs, I harbored a nagging suspicion that my blind spot was somehow tied to a vague feeling of rootlessness. Can anyone really claim a genuine sense of place when said locale is a series of strip malls, golf courses and 7-11s?

A childhood of summer evenings spent floating weightless and womb-like in a backyard pool regulated to the temperature of blood, for a time I cherished my little monocultured world, taking stock, and something close to pleasure in its... sameness. The way the automatic sprinklers popped up from hidden turfbuilder bunkers each day of each month of each year smacked of utter permanence. A manufactured history, but the only one I'd ever occupied. Mine was a community of Tupperware pioneers making damn certain no one would want for anything they couldn't order from a catalog. I was parochial, insulated and restless.

It was the writings of a bunch of wayward comrades - London, Conrad, Steinbeck, Twain and Kerouac - that broke my hermetically sealed (for freshness) world, and all the kings men couldn't put me back together again. For the record, I would have fought them to the death if they'd tried. My outward appearance remained unchanged. I continued to float the pool, swing in the hammock, pedal the streets and skate the rails and curbs after class, but a virus had entered my bloodstream. Go get your MBA's and fast tracks, I'll take the road.

Brian asked if I'd buy the gang a shout and I nodded. God help me, this session was in full swing now.

Those first long distance bicycle adventures were taken out of something close to fear... of growing old before my time, of not seeing and feeling and tasting enough of the world around me before I left it, or worse, grew too jaded to care. A middleclass white boy on the road to find out. Sure, I was a cliché. I wanted to say I'd left my zipcode and then some. Still, long after the other guys turned in their Eurorail Passes, stopped writing that Dutch girl they'd met in France and knocked off the slight British accent, I pedaled on in search of nothing more than moment's like this one; a booth full of Irishmen telling lies and teaching me how to pour a proper pint of Guinness.

Act as if you have faith and faith might just find you.

The road showed me that your place in this world is where you happen to be standing at the moment. Or in my case, teetering.

Someone stepped into the pub and I noticed that it was dark outside. When had that happened? I eased back in the booth and tried to focus on the poor sod asleep at the end of the bar. In Ireland the joke goes that

Alcoholic's Anonymous means a guy who happens to be drinking alone.

"On Yere Bike," the bartender hollered in the direction of this seemingly comatose fellow. To which the scuttered gent stirred, found his footing and wandered for the door.

"That guy's not really going to try to ride a bicycle home, is he?"

This brought such a roar of laughter from my gang in our booth that you'd have thought I'd just goosed each and every one of them.

The expression had caught my attention several times already, but alcohol and other lively conversation had distracted further investigation. I was certainly thrown by it since none of them appeared to be avid cyclists.

"It's a clever way of telling someone to get off their arse and on with their life," Brian explained. "Out the yard, Up your socks, On yere bike. Ours is a country where language is as dear as hard currency."

On Yere Bike... it was the very battle cry I'd been reaching for these many miles in the saddle. My eyes practically filled with grateful tears as I hoisted my glass.

"Gentlemen, On Yere Bike!" I toasted.

While not moved to my level of emotion, these new found friends looked plenty amused as our glasses

touched. Clearly, I was the only one at the table for which the phrase carried untold depth and weight. And in the sober, and thankfully gray light of an Irish morning after, it had only grown more valid as an evocation, a rite, fight song and prayer. Not the sort of thing you'd expect a Tibetan monk to offer up as a mantra, but who could argue with the clarity and simple wisdom of, "get off your arse and on with your life."

Some days I have to coax it from me as a whisper. Other times I belt it out so loud and strong along lonely stretches of road that quail are flushed from the bush. As long as it rings true, I'm sticking by it as my operating instructions.

On Yere Bike!

Joe adds the following note:

Be sure to let folks know that they can register for a chance to win Arkel GT 54 panniers over at [www.metalcowboy.com](http://www.metalcowboy.com), as well as purchase signed copies of my books at a bike club discount from my website or get unsigned copies wherever books are sold. The new book hits shelves May 27.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 VALLEY WHEELM'N, 6518 North Sheridan Rd., Ste 2, Peoria IL 61614-2933

## Summary of upcoming events:



May 3	Bike Rodeo
May 14	IVW club meeting
May 16-18	Johnson-Sauk (a.k.a. Kewanee) ride
May 25	Tour Around the River
June 14	Bikes for Kids

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

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