

MONTHLY MEANDERS

MARCH, 1985



March Meeting

Wed., March 6 - 7:30 P.M.
Heritage Park, 222 S.Wolf
(S. of Dundee Rd) Wheeling

NEW TIME

PROGRAM: TOGIR

BY JENNY BRUNS

Let's take a look at a carefree biking vacation in northeast Iowa with our own Jenny Bruns. TOGIR (The Other Great Iowa Ride) is for 250 riders who travel for one week, staying nightly in small colleges along the way.

Jenny is one of our strong, young riders. You'll enjoy her slides and enjoy her experiences on the 1984 trip.

Club T-Shirts

A new supply of our club T-shirts will be in shortly. They are yellow with our small green logo shown on our newsletter. On the back is a large logo with Wheeling Wheelmen at the top, bicycle riders in the center and the L.A.W. logo at the bottom. \$6.00 from Howard Paul - at club meetings or phone 824-2941.

Club Jerseys

Wheeling Wheelmen club jerseys can be ordered through Marilyn Mathison, 825-5470. Stock sizes or custom made. They are yellow with a wide green diagonal slash across both front and back. Small club logo is on the front, large logo such as we have on our jackets is on the back. You can also order your name on the front. Marilyn has order forms.

THE PREZ SEZ

Now is the time to take a good look at this year's riding schedule. It is very heartening to me that so many members contributed their ideas and willingness to lead rides.

Study the ride schedule. Check your favorite rides. Come to some of the breakfast rides. Take long rides and medium rides. Test your mettle on the longer rides.

Whatever rides you decide to include in your 1985 plans, I feel that you will profit physically and mentally. Riding dissipates stress. You need to feel good. You participate in the wonders of the great outdoors. Need I say more?

Now that the new schedule is out, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the making of the calendar. And for those of you who couldn't make it to the ride committee meeting, we are looking forward to seeing you at meetings, rides and social activities.

Don't forget to help us with the St. Patrick's Day ride. Just call me at 823-2592 or Bob Klein days at 299-2889 to offer to help out. We'll need many cookies and goodies from your ovens!

Bob Meute

DUE\$ ARE DUE

Renewals continue to roll in. If your haven't sent yours in, now's the time. The sooner we get most of the renewals in we can send out our 1985 Membership List. \$8 for individuals and \$10 for families in case you forgot.

New Members

Welcome this month to Patricia Nuccio of Mt. Prospect and two families: Wayne and Regina Allabastro of Arlington Heights and William and Eileen Butcher of Prairie View.

This brings our 1985 membership to 68 individuals and 52 families, representing 31 new and 89 renewals!

Volunteers

Amazingly members immediately volunteer to fill various needs of the Wheeling Wheelmen. Latest of these volunteers are:

Bob and Betty Vargas who volunteered to take over George and Marilyn Mathison's duties as Refreshment Chairmen. This means bringing the coffee pot and makings to meetings and reminding refreshment volunteer for each month of approaching date. George and Marilyn filled this post for two years, which we very much appreciate.

Jenny Bruns - For two years Marilyn Mathison has been recording secretary. Jenny Bruns, who writes the excellent articles for our newsletter promptly volunteered to take over.

Needed: We could use a patch chairman. On the back of the Ride Schedule are some of the 1985 Bicycle USA patches members can earn. There are also ones for each holiday throughout the year...clever ones! The patch chairman could order patches to have on hand for qualifying events. Rides of 25, 50, 62 or 100 could qualify for the set of 4 Sanctioned patches...or the 4 Century patches in September. Holiday patches qualify for any ride within a week before or after the holiday. Open to anyone?

Needed: Someone preferably in the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove area to serve as tool "librarian". Dick Ryan is buying bicycle repair tools that members can check out to use on their bicycles.

Needed: Dick Ryan is also purchasing a number of excellent bicycling books that members can check out at our monthly meetings. We need someone to serve as librarian.

Call Bob Meute - 823-2592.

President:	Bob Meute	823-2592
Vice-Pres:	Elliott Kanner	541-9176
Treasurer:	Dick Sorenson	593-7945
Safety:	Ken Smith	647-0563
Membership:	Dana Elsesser	437-7047
Rec. Secy:	Jenny Bruns	439-5345
Pool Rides:	Marilyn Mathison	825-5470
Program:	Pat Marshall	564-0346
Library:	Dick Ryan	381-1775
Editor:	Phyllis Harmon	537-1268

WHEELING WHEELMEN
P. O. Box 581-D,
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

An  Affiliate

Robin Redbreast

by Jenny Bruns



Observant cyclists venturing forth on spring rides may catch a glimpse of the American Robin as early as the first few days of March. The most familiar of all birds, *Turdus migratorius* is a chief harbinger of spring. Most robins migrate but they also often winter in the northern states, where they frequent bogs and swamps and are not noticed by the casual observer. The species is the state bird of three states, indicating its popularity. In Europe one may become confused by common names. The European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*, is only distantly related to the American Robin. The closest European relative, *Turdus merula*, has the common name Blackbird.

The American Robin is easily recognized by its dark gray back and brick-red breast. In the male, the head and tail are blackish, in the female paler. Young robins have speckled breasts, characteristic of thrushes. We are all familiar with the sight of robins searching for insects and earthworms on lawns. They are looking for earthworms sticking out of holes, which explains their curious headcocking behavior as they comically rush across lawns. The species' versatility in being able to exploit a wide variety of habitats and food resources explains its wide range in North America and success in the man-altered landscape.

The robin originally nested in forests; they still do and are much shyer than the robins of our backyards. The nest is a moderately well-furnished cup nest of mud reinforced with grass and twigs placed in a tree or on a windowsill. Robin territories frequently overlap. Both sexes threaten intruders by lifting their tails, crouching, and then

making a series of short runs followed by brief pauses.

Robins are fine singers whose caroling fills the spring air. The song is clear and often long continued, made up of 2-3 notes rising and falling in pitch: *Cheer-up, cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily*. Robins are definitely early birds. They sing as soon as they awaken. As a rule, the time of the awakening song is closely related to the time of sunrise so that the first song of the day occurs earlier and earlier as spring progresses. At this time of day, the most vigorous singing occurs. The uplifting sound of a carolling robin leaves one with an overwhelming feeling to break out on a spring jaunt. Robins, like ourselves, may become overanxious about the approach of spring; they may sing on winter days when the sun is warm. The cheerfulness of the song makes the robin our best-loved bird.



SAFETY



Ken Smith
Safety
Chairman

As a bicyclist, you are by far the most communicative driver on the road. Out in the open with no engine you can hear and see so much better than anyone inside a car. There's no hood in front of you. You can come right up to corners at intersections to look right into side streets and also see any bumps in the pavement. Perhaps more importantly, you can feel the road surface through your bicycle.

Since your bicycle is quiet and unenclosed, you can hear all the sounds around you. In traffic it is an important safety factor that you can hear the sounds of motor vehicles. On a quiet street, your ears will often alert you to a vehicle behind you. YOU CAN'T HEAR A BICYCLE. Never pull out into traffic or cross an intersection just because you can't hear anything coming!

EARLIER DAYLIGHT SAVING?

Elliott handed me a clipping from Flower and Garden. Several industry groups are pushing for legislation to start daylight saving time six weeks earlier in spring and extend it one week later in fall. It would increase spring sales for garden businesses but at the same time give us Wednesday night rides in April instead of waiting for May!

Dear Wheeling Wheelmen

Wants Club Info....

Last year I joined a girl friend who challenged me to the Harmon Hundred. I rode it with her, (all 100 miles) and never realized what fun cycling was until then. The scenery was great, let alone the aerobic workout! Since then, I have taken a greater interest in cycling, and wish to obtain information about your club and its activities.

Else Mraz, Palatine

Stop By to Chat....

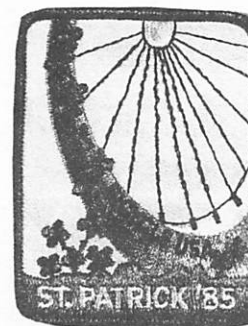
"I am a retired Maintenance Supervisor. I had a need to have something to do. So I started a small bicycle repair business. I have most of the tools, parts and know-how to repair bicycles.

"I would enjoy having bikers stop by to chit-chat or have some repair work done. E. J. Miller, Miller's Service, 1302 3rd Street, Henry, IL 61537. 309/364-2631."

E. J. Miller

So, all you bicycling tourists - Mr. Miller's town is about 30 miles west of Streator, Illinois, on Rt.18 where it T's into Rt. 29 along the Illinois River in Marshall County.

Ed.



St. Patrick's Day patch



Easter patch

BICYCLE USA patches available this spring.

WHEELING/MS 150 TO THE MISSISSIPPI

Final details are still being determined on the Wheeling Wheelmen/MS "Across The State to the Mighty Mississippi" 150-mile tour June 22-23. Riders will overnight at White Pines State Park and ride to Galena --the historic town on the Mississippi-- and return by Amtrac. This is a beautiful ride - so mark your calendars.

SCHEDULE

VERIFY DETAILS WITH LEADER BEFORE ALL SKI ACTIVITIES.

Mar. 2 CROSS COUNTRY SKI Riverwoods
Sat. 10 a.m. Ryerson Conservation Area, Riverwoods Road 1/2 mile. north of Portwine Road. Park in lot at Education Center.
Pat Marshall - 564-0346

Mar. 3 CROSS COUNTRY SKI Palatine
Sun. 10 a.m. Deer Grove entrance from Quentin Road north of Dundee Road. 1st parking lot after left fork in road.
Howard Paul - 824-2941

Mar. 9 CROSS COUNTRY SKI Elk Grove
Sat. 10 a.m. Busse Woods from first parking lot south of Higgins on Arlington Heights Road. George and Marilyn Mathison - 825-5470

Mar. 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY RIDE
Sun. First bike ride of the season (we hope!) Invitational from Kildeer School, Old McHenry Rd. in Long Grove. \$2.00 members, \$2.50 non-members. Incl. St. Patrick's Day patch. Bob Klein-299-2888. Volunteers and home made cookies needed.

Mar. 23 TERRY'S SPRING TUNE UP
Sat. 11 a.m. 26.7 miles from Eisenhower Jr. Hi. in Hoffman Estates One block on Higgins west of Golf Rd. intersection to Jones. N. on Jones to end at Hassell. Sack lunch suggested. Terry Schwerin - 894-1325.

Apr. 13 APPLE PIE RIDE Buffalo Grove
Sat. 10 a.m. - 35 miles from Buffalo Grove H.S., Dundee/Arlington Hts. Rds. Lunch at Wauconda Apple Orchard. George and Marilyn Mathison - 825-5470.



3 PEDAL ACROSS WISCONSIN RIDES

Led by Jerry Goldman, 695-7964 or write Pedal Across Wisconsin, P.O. Box 365, West Dundee, IL 60118.

Each tour is \$35 and includes Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, overnight, transportation of luggage.

- June 8-9 Whitewater Weekend 50-75-100 from Barrington/Crystal Lake/Genoa City. Overnights Univ. of Wisc. dorms.
- June 28-30 Door County Weekend. 25-50-75-100 from Sevastopol H.S. NE of Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
- July 12-14 New Glarus Weekend 25-50-75 from New Glarus H.S.

\$35 fee in advance.

When shopping remember our three dealer members: David Schindler, CC Cycles, Buffalo Grove; Dick Spirek, Bikes Plus, Arlington Hts. and Jim Andresen, ABC Cyclery in Arlington Heights and Schaumburg.

INVITATIONALS

T O S R V ALTERNATIVE - MAY 11-12

by Jim Grant

Each spring TOSRV (Tour of the Scioto River Valley) takes place in Ohio. This ride is a two-day event with 100 miles of riding each day with an overnight stay.

Rather than travel to Ohio for TOSRV, I am leading a local alternative. Although the TOSRV Alternative will mirror its namesake in basic format, it may far rival the Ohio counterpart, for the rural countryside of Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin surpasses Ohio in scenic beauty.

We will leave Frontier Park in Arlington Heights at 6 a.m. on Saturday, May 11. The first day's route will go to Janesville, Wisconsin, via Long Grove, Algonquin, Huntley, Union, Marengo, Belvidere and Beloit. We will stay at the Road Star Inn in Janesville (\$25 for a single, slightly higher for a double) and then return the following day via Elkhorn, Lake Geneva, Genoa City, McHenry and Long Grove.

Everyone will enjoy this beautiful ride. If interested, please contact Jim Grant at 743-3941 or Jenny Bruns at 439-5345.

CHIEF BLACKHAWK OVERNIGHT POWHOW

May 18-19 NWIBC (Northwest Illinois Bicycle Club) will host a 2-day bicycle-camping tour in a very scenic area of the Rock River Valley from Sterling, Ill. to the White Pines State Park and back. The \$22 fee includes food stops, Saturday night hog roast and Sunday breakfast, transportation of luggage and overnight at White Pines State Park.

Write for registration form to CBONPW, Jerry Knox, 3802 Woodlawn Road, Sterling, IL 61081.

ARLINGTON 500 BIKE RIDE May 19

That's 500 furlongs - 65 miles with a shorter choice of 35 miles. This is an Arlington Heights Bicycle Association invitational from Frontier Park, Kennicott & Palatine Rds. in Arlington Heights. \$5.00 covers patch, cuesheet, sagstops and lunch for the 65 or 35 mile routes Sunday, May 19. Registration 7-9 a.m. Bob Hinkle - 259-1423

THE T O B R A W TOURS, WISCONSIN

BY ELIDA RECH

KICKAPOO RIVER VALLEY JULY 7-13
DOOR COUNTY PENINSULA JUL. 28-AUG. 3

This past summer I enjoyed a great one week trip. It was run by Mel Welch, who has for many years been associated with SAAGBRAU. This ride was called TOBRAW, The Other

Bicycle Ride Across Wisconsin. It was well organized, there was a sag wagon to carry our luggage and sleeping bags, disabled bikes and bikers. We slept, showered and ate at schools across Wisconsin. It was a bit more challenging than I anticipated or would have liked but I thoroughly enjoyed the week.

The same ride is scheduled again this year on July 7-13. Then July 28 to August 3 Mel is organizing a ride from Milwaukee to Door County and back, which I will be on. The Kickapoo River Valley ride was 485 miles. The Door County ride will be about 450 miles and not as hilly.

See photo on page 4.

For details on either trip, write to Mel Welch, The TOBRAW Tours, 3632 W. Maple St., Milwaukee, WI 53215

So far, Elida Rech, William Wilson, Jr., Al and Lynn Petty, Phyllis Harmon, Elliott Kanner and, we hope, Pat and Bill Marshall are planning to ride the Door County TOBRAW.

375 to 475 miles depending upon how many rides you do sightseeing in Door County. Lodging in high school gyms. Tenting permitted. Six breakfasts and six dinners. \$130.00. Ride starts from Concordia College in Milwaukee. Ed.

TOMRV June 8-9

Tour of the Mississippi River Valley, sponsored by the Quad Cities Bicycle Club, is open to the first 1,000 registrants. From Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa, this is a 2-day tour along the banks of the Mississippi River south to Scott Community College and LeClaire and back. Overnights at colleges. \$3. for camping or in-college sleeping. \$11 for college dorms. Application forms from: Mary Keane, 3405 53rd Street, Moline, IL 61265. Fee \$20 before April 1, \$25 by May 1 and \$30 only up to June 1.

T O G I R - JUNE 22-28

The Other Great Iowa Ride is a 450-mile tour from Davenport, Iowa, with overnights in colleges in Clinton, Dubuque, Fayette, Decorah, Waverly, Mt. Vernon and Davenport. Registration \$65. Meals \$48. Overnights \$4 for camping or sleeping bag space or \$12-\$14 for dorm. TOGIR, 2325 Fulton Ave., Davenport, IA 52803.

L I O N - JULY 13-14 DECORAH, IOWA

Hdq. at Luther College. Choice of loop rides from college. \$30 by March 15, \$35 April 15, \$40 June 15. Incl. Sat. dinner, Sun. breakfast. \$4 camping or sleeping bag. dorm \$9. LION 2325 Fulton, Davenport IA 52803.



Chuck Brenmark on bike path along Lake Shore Drive.

CHICAGO LAKE FRONT BIKE PATH RIDE

Photos from Chuck Brenmark

This is a popular annual event held the first week of November. Ride starts at the Foster Beach parking area at the north end of the Lake Front Bike Path. The scenery through Lincoln Park along Lake Michigan and through Grant Park to McCormick is beautiful! Before heading back north, riders lunch at the Adler Planetarium. There was a very strong south wind to buck but the return ride with the wind was great!



Ruth Ryan and ? pedal along Lake Michigan's shore with Chicago's famous skyline in the background.



Jim and Myra Baum - beautiful biking along Lake Michigan shore.



TOBRAW - THE OTHER BICYCLE RIDE ACROSS WISCONSIN

Photo from Elida Rech

Wheeling Wheelmen among the 300 participants on the TOBRAW Kickapoo Valley Ride: Foreground - Don Derebey and Elida Rech. Back Row: Roger Thauland, Al Petty, Marilyn and George Mathison with Muffin, and Dana Elsesser



PROGRESSIVE DINNER - photo from Elida Rech

Ken and Linda Smith, Lois Paul and Elliott Kanner enjoy delicious fresh fruit salad in the Paul's yard.