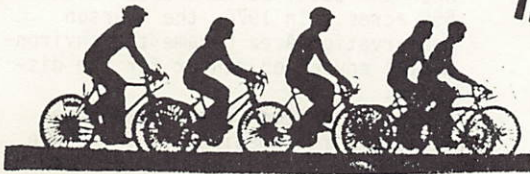


March, 1986



# MONTHLY MEANDERS



## March Meeting

Wed. March 5  
7:30 p.m.

WHEELING HIGH SCHOOL

Elmhurst Rd. (Rt. 83) & Hintz  
Room 191

Southwest side of building  
next to the cafeteria.



PROGRAM: Al and Lynn Petty will present a POTPOURRI OF BICYCLING, presenting a number of bicycling events this active couple has attended.

## The Prez Sez

With the arrival of March, we look forward to a new season, the rebirth of Mother Nature's natural wonders. Sure, we may get bad weather, but the new cycling season is approaching.

It is also time to hold our St. Patrick's Day Invitational. Jerry Goldman would certainly like to hear from you. As chairman, he needs volunteers. BRING OR SEND YOUR COOKIES TO THE MARCH MEETING. IF YOU DON'T BAKE, BUY SOME. WE NEED GOODIES FOR THE INVITATIONAL. I will keep them in my freezer, so please wrap them so that they are ready to freeze.


I would like to thank Joe Tobias and Keith Kingbay for volunteering to be Program Chairpersons. They would welcome your suggestions for future programs.

While contemplating our riding season, let me remind you to read the inserts for ride leaders and group riding which came in your February newsletter. Much of the material also applies to riders in general.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting and invitational.

Bob Meute, President

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

An  Affiliate



by AL PETTY

Have you ever shared bicycling experiences with others? Of course you have. In my travels and experiences I have come across many interesting tales. A few days before the February club meeting, I talked with a couple of people regarding bicycling experiences that were involved with bicycle safety. At that point I thought perhaps it might be interesting to relate experiences of others, regarding safety, to our club members through the safety article.

What I am asking for this month are personal experiences, observations, situations you are concerned about, etc., that involve cycling safety. If you have items that you would like to relate to others, or have me write about, let me know about them by mail or phone. Anything you are willing to contribute could be very helpful to others, especially our newer cyclists. Please mail any items to:

AL PETTY  
389 Lanois Lane  
Deerfield, IL 60015

or phone me at: 948-7288.

Don't be shy; feel free to share. I'd love to hear from you.

While in the State of Vermont a few years ago, I was a bicycle group leader for six high school kids. We were part of a larger group of 40 people. Group leaders had the responsibility to try to cover many points of safety before and during our journey through the state.

One of the situations that came up was the crossing of railroad tracks. Now, railroad tracks don't always cut across roads at right angles. Often they run at diagonal angles, and sometimes almost parallel with the road. Almost all of the time, after slowing down, you should try to cross the rails at right

angles. When the tracks are running diagonally, you need to slow down, check for traffic behind you, then approach the tracks at a right angle, which might mean moving out into the road further to get the correct angle to the tracks. Sometimes you might have to get off your bicycle to cross because of rough road, track grade crossing areas, traffic, and wet conditions.

In Vermont one of my group decided to cross a difficult diagonal track in the busy outskirts of a large town without heeding the safety rules that we covered earlier on crossing railroad tracks. She caught a front wheel in the groove next to the track and went down. The riders following were careful and were able to stop safely and aid the fallen rider. Fortunately, the girl did not fall into the path of a car; there was a lot of traffic on that 4-lane road. Our little girl was scraped up here and there, plus the bicycle received a few "bruises", but she lives to tell the story. A little more caution and she wouldn't have any scars to show! Or, a twist of fate could have led her into a moving car. Perish the thought!

In wet weather those railroad tracks would have been deadly. In this case you must be extra careful and maintain balance with one foot on the ground, or walk your bicycle.

So, watch those railroad crossings!

## Thank You, Jim

Jim Andresen, of ABC Cyclery in Arlington Heights and Schaumburg, presented the program at our February meeting that was both interesting and educational. He covered positioning on a bicycle, fitting the bicycle to the body. This is detailed information much needed by our members.

President:	Bob Meute	823-2592
Vice-Pres:	Jim Grant	506-1269
Treasurer:	Dick Sorenson	593-7945
Membership:	Pat Marshall	564-0346
Safety:	Al Petty	948-7288
Secretary:	Phyllis Harmon	537-1268
Editor:	Phyllis Harmon	537-1268
Program:	Volunteer needed	
Rec.Secy:	Volunteer needed	
For Check-Out:		
Bike Tools:	Bill Butcher	541-7411
Library:	Dick Ryan	381-1775

# Schedule

## Mar. 16 ST. PATRICK'S DAY RIDE

Sun. 11 a.m., 25 miles from Kildeer School on Old McHenry Road in Long Grove. \$2.00 incl. St. Patrick's Day patch. This is our first invitational. Need cookies and volunteers. Jerry Goldman, 695-7964.

## Mar. 22 SPRING RIDE, Elk Grove Village

Sat. 10 a.m., 20 miles from 1st parking lot south of Higgins Road in Busse Woods. George and Marilyn Mathison - 825-5470.

## Mar. 29 RURAL RUSTIC ROUTE, Wheeling

Sat. 10 a.m., 20 miles from Carl Sandburg School on Schoenbeck south of Anthony. Lunch at Long Grove. Cindy Cochrane - 991-9096.

## April 4 APPLE PIE RIDE, Buffalo Gr.

Sat. 10 a.m., 35 miles from parking lot of Buffalo Grove H.S. at Arlington Heights and Dundee Roads. Lunch at Wauconda Apple Orchard. Elliott Kanner 541-9176.

# INVITATIONALS

## PEDAL ACROSS WISCONSIN TOURS

1. June 14-15 WHITEWATER WEEKEND 40-50-75 miles from Genoa City. Overnight at Univ. of Wisc. in Whitewater. Dinner Sat.; Breakfast Sun. Baggage transport and sag wagon. \$38.00
2. June (27) 28-29 DOOR COUNTY WEEK-END 25-50-75-100 miles from Sevastopol H.S. in Institute, Wisc. near Sturgeon Bay. Tenting or sleeping bag space Sevastopol H.S. \$38.00
3. July 25-26-27 ROCK RIVER ADVENTURE From Judson College in Elgin. Fri. overnight at Rockford College dorm; Sat. dorm at Northern Ill. Univ., DeKalb. Dinners Fri. & Sat. Breakfasts Sat. and Sun. Baggage transport and sag. \$75.00
4. Oct. (10) 11-12 NEW GLARUS FALL FANTASY 25-50-75 miles. New Glarus H.S., Wisc. Sat. buffet, Sun. breakfast, Sat. dinner at New Glarus Hotel. \$38.00
5. July 13-19 HEART OF WISCONSIN 1 week - overnights at 4 colleges and 2 h.s.. Johnsburg, Rockford College, New Glarus, Madison, Parteville, Madison, White Water and back to Johnsburg. 6 breakfasts, 5 dinners, maps, cue sheets, baggage transport and sag wagon. \$165.00.  
PEDAL ACROSS WISCONSIN, P.O. Box 305, West Dundee, IL 60118 or phone Jerry Goldman, 695-7964.



Education Center

## Ryerson Conservation Area

by Jenny Grant

The serenity of the winding road encourages me to relax and observe my surroundings. From my bicycle, I see a magnificent deciduous forest on one side of the road which gives way to a mixture of residential homes and forest on the other side. I sense the balance and harmony in man's existence on the land. The forest lends a mysterious feeling as I look into its depths. My ever present desire to discover the natural world is on full alert. As I pedal around a bend on Riverwoods Road, a wooden sign invites me to enter Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area in Deerfield.

I find myself pedalling another winding road whose narrow path cuts through the forest. Several more signs at an intersection indicate I must choose a direction. I opt for the Education Center and turn again. Emerging from the forest in a short distance, I have no doubt that I have made the right decision. A bicycle rack in the parking lot and a stately white home welcome me to the area.

Several brochures in the entrance of the historical home, which is the Education Center provide historical and natural history information. The 500-acre preserve consists of a quality maple-basswood forest with marsh and bottomland along the banks of the Des Plaines River. The area looks much the same as the day white man first arrived on the scene. Potowatomi Chief Mettawa helped the first white settler, Daniel Wright, build his cabin near here in 1834.

In 1928 Edward and Nora Ryerson built a small log cabin on the banks of the Des Plaines River near a spot where two major Indian trails once crossed the river. They purchased land to the north of their cabin in 1939, developed a farm, and built the house which is now the Education Center.

Edward Ryerson was involved in the formation of the Lake County Forest Preserve in 1958 and wanted to see the land preserved in its natural state. He began to donate land to the Forest Preserve, which started

management responsibilities in 1972 when the total current area reached 550 acres. In 1976, the Ryerson Conservation Area became the environmental education center for the district.

The Education Center makes one feel at home immediately. There are binoculars and guidebooks for viewing a variety of wild birds at the feeders. A library has an impressive array of natural history literature. Personnel are available to answer any questions. But the woods beckon and the trails are a source of discovery themselves. Upon my first visit I hiked for over an hour and saw eight deer. Bicycles are not allowed on the trail. They would distract from the natural setting and cause severe trail erosion.

In March, the maple syrup programs demonstrate the age-old rural tradition of collecting sap and boiling it over a wood fire. Five staff members and 40 volunteers also offer many more Adult and School programs. The enthusiasm is catchy and I recently signed up as a volunteer. As spring approaches, make Ryerson Woods your destination for a ride and pedal in for a visit.

## Vice Activities

Jim Grant, Vice-President

I cannot adequately thank all of the volunteer ride leaders for their outstanding contribution to the club. Because of all the cooperation from both old and new members, we have more and better rides this year than ever before. This is a sure sign of a burgeoning club with even more room to grow. There are still a few spaces open, and of course more than one ride can be scheduled in a day-- if you still wish to lead a ride, give me a call - 506-1269.

I will be sending each ride leader a packet shortly with sign up sheets and cue sheets for the ride, if necessary. You should copy 25-30 cue sheets before the ride. See the treasurer at the meeting with your receipt and he will reimburse you for any reasonable copying expense. Send the completed sign up sheet either to me: 1216 S. New Wilke Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60015, or directly to Dick Schaller, 1539 Woodbine Ct., Deerfield, IL 60015, so that he can enter the mileage totals on the computer.

The purpose and theory of our rides is that no one who wishes to participate in club rides be left out, no matter what their bent or interest in cycling. There are a wide variety of rides to cater to all types of riders. I hope to see you all on many of them this year!

