



WHEELING WHEELMEN  
P.O. BOX 581-D  
WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

# MONTHLY MEANDERS

JULY, 1989



## July Meeting

Wednesday, July 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
FOREST VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

2121 S. Goebbert Rd.  
Arling Hts.

Use field house entrance to cafeteria

Change of meeting due to asbestos removal  
at Wheeling High School.

by Dick Marr

Here will be the answers to all you need to know about gears. Dick will have copies of his book - just off the press - for \$5 instead of \$6.95!

## THE PREZ SEZ

Several articles have come my way which I want to pass on to all of you:

1. Folks On Spokes' (Homewood/Flossmoor) recent newsletter told of the untimely death of a 28 year old woman rider. She was killed from behind by a car coming over a hill. The driver "didn't see her."

2. Blackhawk Bicycle Club (Rockford) said on two occasions a club ride was stopped by a police officer, once to remind them that a STOP sign meant exactly that. The second was a reminder to ride single file on a busy road and two abreast maximum (my emphasis) otherwise.

3. The Daily Herald ran a story where a 16 year old male cyclist had cut off a car by irresponsible cycling. The driver's reaction? He was arrested by police for threatening the boy with a loaded revolver!

What are the messages here? For those aggressive cyclists out there who yell at or back to car drivers (which I felt like doing once or twice before realizing the possible consequences), you are taking your life into your own hands. Firstly, the driver has a 3,500-4,000 lb. car which he can, in a fit of anger, use as a weapon. Secondly, in this crazy world of emotional frenzies, a driver may have a gun, baseball bat, club, etc. to "help" vent his anger towards you. Though it may be harder to do, the best scenario is to swallow your pride, continue cycling, and be satisfied knowing you could ride that driver into the ground if he was on a bike!

The next message? When cycling as a group, we need to pay constant attention to proper, safe riding techniques. For example, "CAR BACK" is a warning to return to single file riding. When you hear it,

1) Yell it loudly enough for the

riders ahead to hear it. 2) Help make room for a cyclist in your immediate riding area to come over to the right side of the road.

Last message- riding close to the center line when coming to the top of a hill (or weaving back and forth in the lane to make the climb easier) is just asking to be somebody's hood ornament!

Enuff said--thanks for listening!  
LET'S RIDE!!!!

-Hans Predel



by Keith Kingbay

Safety is everybody's business, so let's review a few basics to keep us on our bikes and ready for the Harmon Hundred.

Experts agree that most accidents are caused by riding too fast, following too closely or using faulty equipment.

**WATCH YOUR SPEED.** Unfortunately a number of consumer oriented bike magazines seem to feel speed is the primary asset of cycling. Unless you are trained to react at high speeds, you are not safe. I shudder to see friends go downhill at speeds beyond their capability. A small stick, bump or stone can send you sprawling.

**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.** Cyclists riding too close to each other have caused countless accidents, and are responsible for increasing campaigns to mandate helmets. You won't save that much energy by closely following the rider ahead of you unless above average speeds are maintained. Few of us, even the so-called experts, ride at these high speeds. Earlier this week the 50K time trial in the Giro De Italia was covered in just over an hour- in other words, 32mph for an hour. In a time trial such as this (where riders ride against a clock and keep at least 59" away from the next rider) riding close has an effect- not on a touring ride!

**MAINTAIN YOUR GEAR.** I am confident that everyone followed our instruction on making your bike safe. Not even the best cyclist can prevent accidents caused by an unsafe bicycle. Remember, your 30lb. bike is on the road with 4,000 lb. monsters going at high speed.

**RIDE RIGHT.** In my estimation, perhaps the worst offense I see is cycling on the wrong side of the road. PLEASE DON'T DO THAT! You put yourself and your companions in jeopardy. Observations indicate that drivers do not see bicycles on the road well. A car coming over a hill, for example, may see you directly in front of him and, in swerving to miss you, drive into your companions

## F.Y.I.

### HEADSET RADIO POLICY

The board recently voted to ban the use of radio headsets (i.e. Walkmans) on rides. Using headsets makes it difficult to communicate with fellow cyclists (yelling "CAR BACK" for example) or to hear approaching cars and other cyclists. Ride leaders may prohibit someone from riding with the group if he intends to use headsets. Radios without headsets are allowed. When asked about the legal status of headset radios, the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation replied that they believed them to be illegal on bikes just as they are in cars. However, they are checking into this issue and will get back to us.

## KUDOS Phyllis!

During the month of June our own Phyllis Harmon has been on the road driving sag for the L.A.W. Pedal For Power ride.

In her absence, I was asked to edit this month's newsletter. Forwarned, as they say, is forarmed. I tried to follow the format as closely as possible. I hope I came close!

So, on that note, let the games begin...

-Ed for a Day



President:	Hans Predel	255-4029
Vice-Pres:	Aaron Tanzer	323-3204
Treasurer:	Andy Dane	271-0808
Safety:	Keith Kingbay	459-8242
Membership:	Geri McPheron	824-5091
Editor:	Phyllis Harmon	537-1268
For check out:		
Bike Books:	Pat Marshall	564-0346
Bike Tools:	Chet Tobolski	362-7794

Wheeling Wheelmen phone 989-7373



# Harmon Happenings

-by Susan McPheron

The Harmon Hundred is 2½ months away, but now is the time to consider what you, as a club member, can do to help in our major fund-raising event. My first year in the club I didn't attend the monthly meetings regularly, but I did show up for the September meeting (which is just days before the Harmon) to sign up to work on the Harmon Hundred. Traditionally the September meeting has the best attendance for that reason. At that point, however, there are only a limited number of work positions left because most of the work and all of the planning is already done. Take the time now to volunteer your time and talents!

Think back to the last invitational you rode, whether it was last week or last year. What stands out most in your mind? The well marked roads? The cue sheets? The patch or tee shirt? The scenery, the friendly people or the food? They're all equally important, but people frequently remember cycling events by the food served. As Food Chairman, I face the challenge of feeding 1500+ hungry cyclists food that is nutritious, fast, easy and fun to eat. IT CAN BE DONE!

Last week Hans and I sat down and discussed the possibility of serving a meal at the High School after the ride. I think it could be done with the help of a caterer, but I will need more volunteers than last year. At the July Board meeting I will present the Food Chairman's budget so I need to know beforehand if we will have enough people to work it.

This is what I envision. We'll need one night one or two weeks prior to the Harmon to do the preparation. We will use a large kitchen such as Wheeling H.S. or Main East H.S. where I work. That night we'll pre-make the Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches plus most of the post-Harmon meal and freeze them until the day before the event. The Saturday before, we'll unload the delivery trucks and separate the sag stop food. Representatives from each sag top and registration area will pick up their allotments. On the day of the ride, I'll need a few "Chefs" to reheat and cook the food at Wheeling H.S., and more volunteers in the cafeteria to serve the food. WHEW!

The bottom line- I'll need about 10-15 people for the preparation night, 10-15 people to unload and sort food Saturday, 5-6 Chefs and 6-12 servers on Harmon Sunday. This adds up to about 42 people. Out of over 400 members, I think we can do it! It'll be a lot of work, but it will also be a lot of FUN! When was the last time you made 1,000 PBJs? If you're interested in helping out on one, two or all of those days, please call me at 259-6475 and leave a message on my machine if I'm not home. Hate answering machines? Call after sundown, I'm usually off my bike by then. Or come to the July meeting and talk to me then.

Last but not least, if you have some baking talents and prefer to work on your own, volunteer to bake cookies! Nothing is as cherished on

a bike ride (or is in as short of supply) as homebaked cookies. We can't have enough, so start baking now, wrap them well and freeze them until September-unless someone gets to them first!

Remember, if you want an invite to the big HARMON HUNDRED BASH after the ride, you have to volunteer to work. Otherwise, No Go! Think about it, pick up the phone or go to the July and August meetings and sign up to help! Talk to you soon.

-Susan McPheron

P.S. Please don't call my mom, Geri McPheron. My family takes enough messages about new members!

## Harmon Note:

-submitted by Hans Predel

Still wondering whether to volunteer to work the Harmon Hundred? The letter below was received with the registration slip. Your efforts to support our club's premier invitational are appreciated. Read on:

*Just wanted to drop (you) a note thanking you once again for your wonderful ride. Every year this is something special to look forward to. Your organization has always been helpful, courteous and fun.*

*Thank you again,  
Gary Oltendorf*



## Bicycle Safety Poster Contest Winners

Springfield, Il- Secretary of State Jim Edgar today announced the winners of the 1989 bicycle safety poster contest. This year's theme was "What Bicycle Safety Means To Me."

"The winners were chosen from more than 8,000 posters submitted to public libraries throughout the state," said Edgar.

Among those honored during the ceremonies in Springfield were:

6th through 8th grade: Jeff Scruggs of Belleville, first place for his poster "Stay Alive When You Drive;" Kim Harker of Arlington Heights, second place, and Amy Hoak of Burbank, third place.

3rd through 5th grade: Tracey Rausch of Rolling Meadows, first place for her poster, "Be Alert At All Times...Obey Traffic signs;" Alisha Lee Logan of McLeansboro, second, and Kacey Nelson of Peoria, third place.

Kindergarten through second grade: Jason Allen Reynolds of Villa Grove, first place for his poster "Dinosaurs Became Extinct But I Won't By Putting Safety First;" Katie Bray of Chatham, second place and Paul Ford of Green Rock, third place.

May has been designated Bicycle Safety Month. During the awards ceremony, Edgar stressed the need to follow the bicycle rules of the road. "Many accidents could be avoided if bicycle riders and motorists exercised the rules of the road and used common sense," Edgar said.

Edgar also introduced a series of new bicycle safety brochures for people pre-school through adult age. The first in the series is a kids' activity book for 1st time riders.

The second, titled "Bicycling Safe And Easy" is geared for kids riding a bike on the road.

The third is aimed at the 85 million adults who have taken to the roads. Commuting, touring and map information is included, as well as maintenance information.

Copies of the new bike safety literature (or the winning posters) can be obtained by writing to the: Bicycle/Pedestrian Program, 100 West Randolph, 5th floor, Chicago, Il. 60601.

## Across The Miles....

### WHEELING'S TOP 10 LIST (MILEAGE)

WOMEN	
NAME	MILEAGE
Interrante, Gina	433
Wathen, Lucy	362
McPheron, Sue	321
Marshall, Pat	311
McPheron, Geri	273
Passowic, Carol	263
Green-Kelner, Fran	252
Brenner, Bobbie	235
Lewis, Joyce	206
Block, Lori	204

MEN	
NAME	MILEAGE
Erikson, Roy	570
Dane, Andy	524
Van Es, Jack	502
Flanagan, Bob	483
Lorenzen, Bill	476
Morajko, Woyteck	463
Schroeder, Fred	345
Predel, Hans	333
Grant, Jim	322
Tobias, Joe	296



# Schedule

## CODES:

L = LEISURE RIDE. 8-10 mph. Group stays together. Leader, cue sheet  
 T = TOURING RIDE 11-15 mph. Group stays together Leader, cue sheet  
 E = EXPRESS RIDE 15 mph and over. Ride own pace, Cue sheet.

## RIDES

### July 1 CHAIN O' LAKES RIDE

Sat. 8 a.m. 68 miles from Kildeer  
 T School, Long Grove. Bring a bagged lunch for lunch in the park! Hans Predel 255-4029

### July 2 ALGONQUIN RIDE

Sun. 7:30 a.m. 68 miles from Pratt  
 T Wayne Woods. Entrance on west (left) side of Powis Road north of Army Trail Road. Bill Lorenzen 455-3325  
**NOTE NEW STARTING PLACE/MILES!**

### July 2 ALGONQUIN EXPRESS

Sun. 9:30 53 miles from Kildeer  
 E School, Long Grove. Very hilly and fast paced. **THIS RIDE WILL RUN AT EXPRESS PACE ONLY!**  
 Bob Ily, Ed Keys 459-4129

### July 3 DUCK SOUP RIDE

Mon. 8:00 a.m. 30 miles from the  
 T Crabtree Nature Center off Palatine Road, 1/2 mile east of US 14. Moderately hilly. For all you lucky ducks with monday off, this ride is all that it's quacked up to be!  
 Hans and Dianne Predel 255-4029

### July 8 KANE COUNTY RAMBLE

Sat. 9 a.m. 51 miles from Tyler  
 T Creek Forest Preserve, Elgin. State 31, just south of the NW Tollway. Bring bagged lunch. Rich Westrom 634-1168

### July 9 MORRAINE HILLS-FONTANA RIDE

Sun. 8 a.m. 65 miles from Morraire  
 T Hills Park, River Road, McHenry. This ride tours one of the loveliest sections of Wisconsin! Lynn and Al Petty 948-7288

### July 15 THE TOWNS RIDE

Sat. 6 a.m. 124 miles from Mount  
 E Prospect Train Station, State 83 and US 14, Mt. Prospect. Tour of the Northwest suburbs. Ride through dozens of small towns & villages in our gen'l riding area. Woyteck Morajko 392-0530

### July 16 HUFF 'N PUFF RIDE

Sun. 7:30 a.m. 80 miles from Kildeer  
 T School, Long Grove. Fran Green and Al Berman 541-9248

### July 16 BAHAI RIDE

Sun. 9 a.m. 35 miles from Pottawatomi Woods, Wheeling. This popular ride stops at the beach by the Bahai Temple. Bring lunch or buy it at the beach. Howard and Lois Paul 824-2941

### July 22 AROUND LAKE GENEVA RIDE

Sat. 6 a.m. 115 miles from 615A  
 E Waverly Drive, Elgin (starts

from the Grant's house). Jim Grant 742-0814

### July 22 SILVER LAKES RIDE

Sat. 9 a.m. 45 miles from Airport  
 T east of US 45, Benet Lake, WI Ted Uhlemann 790-1312

### July 23 LOOP OF THE NW BURBS RIDE

Sun. 9 a.m. 37 miles from Thomas  
 L Jr. High School, Thomas and Arlington Heights Roads, Arl. Heights. Tour the Northwest suburban bike trails. Bring a bag lunch. Jerry Rice 870-8127

### July 29 ST. CHARLES RIDE

Sat. 8 a.m. 73 miles from Eisenhower  
 T Elementary School, Jones and Hassel Roads, east lot, Hoffman Estates. Kim Stanley 459-9479

### July 30 INSOMNIA CYCLE RIDE

Sun. 2 a.m. (THAT'S RIGHT, A.M.!!!)  
 T 25-30 miles from Buckingham Fountain, Chicago. **HELMETS, LIGHTS AND RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY!** (Call today). Bright clothes and reflectors are strongly recommended. Call Jerry Rice 870-8127

### July 30 ELMHURST INVITATIONAL

Sun. FOR INFORMATION, SEE INVITATIONALS COLUMN.

## Tues. P.M. Rides

Every Tuesday April 4 to August 29.  
 5:30 p.m. Express pace. Distances range from 20 to 45 miles depending on daylight. If you break down, stay where you are. You will be picked up at the end of the ride. No cue sheet provided. Start from 16 James Court, Hawthorne Woods. Jack Van Es 537-0867

## Wed. P.M. Rides

Every-Wednesday 6:30 p.m. to twilight (except meeting nights).

July 12 from Caldwell Woods, Chicago. Enter first parking lot on west side of Caldwell north of Devon (approx. 1 mile). Al Dargiel 685-7708.

July 19 from Recreation Park, Miner and Douglas, Arlington Heights. Bob Browning 537-3391

July 26 from Barrington High School, Main (Lake-Cook) and Hart in Barrington. Dick Ryan 381-1775

## Thurs. A.M. Rides

9 a.m. moderately paced rides of 20 miles or more. From Dominic's parking lot, northeast corner of Arlington Heights and Lake Cook Rds. in Buffalo Grove. Jack Van Es-537-0867

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: COMPLETE SET SHIMANO DURA-ACE: Front/rear derailleurs, cranks, hubs, brakes, pedals/toe clips. Keith Kingbay 459-8242

FOR SALE: MIYATA ATB- TERRA RUNNER 19" frame, 18 speeds, RARELY USED! \$275. Call Tony (after 4 p.m.) 692-6093

## RIDE NOTES

by Aaron Tanzer

The weather forecast promised a partly sunny day for Saturday, June 3 so Mel Robinson, Jim Grant, Mark Dahl and Kim Stanley showed up to ride the Hebron III century. Though it sure looked like rain, they never questioned their faith in the National Weather Service. The monsoon hit soon after they left Wheeling High School, but they remained optimistic until lightning struck a tree next to them. They finally admitted defeat when they reached Algonquin. Kim, no doubt preparing for an upcoming charity cross country trek, rode (or was it rowed?) back to Wheeling while the others were picked up by car.

We are planning our annual picnic for sometime in August. Unfortunately we haven't obtained a location yet, so I don't have details on time/date. They will be announced in the August newsletter. I can tell you it will cost \$3/person and we will have one or two rides before the picnic. Bring your family and have fun!

Check the monthly ride schedule!

As the year goes on, we have made numerous additions, subtractions and changes to rides scheduled. This year, like last, August will have many changes due to the PGA tourney at Kemper Lakes, our picnic and conflicts in vacation schedules. Changes this month include rescheduled Huff 'n Puff, postponement of the Small TOWNE ride, etc. so check the newsletter!

Finally, this month's Cracked Helmet Award goes to a woman on the Mr. T's Trees ride. She was riding next to her friend when someone yelled "CAR BACK." She didn't pull into single file, making it hard for the car to pass. When alerted to the problem she said, "Oh gosh! I'm sorry, I didn't hear it. We were having such an engrossing conversation!" (She did pay attention to warnings after that.)

## INVITATIONALS

### July 4 4TH OF JULY INVITATIONAL

Sun. JOLIET BICYCLE CLUB. 35 or 65 miles. Registration 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Call Gina Rigoni, (815) 725-7374; P.O. Box 2758 Joliet, IL. 60436 (Fee \$10)

### July 9 4TH ANNUAL MELON METRIC

Sun. NAPERVILLE BICYCLE CLUB. 31, 62 or 100 miles. Register 6:30 to 10:00 a.m. (\$7 before 7/1, \$8 at door.) Call Brad Grande (312) 357-9000 or c/o Naperville Park District, 320 W. Jackson Ave., Naperville IL 60540

### July 30 METRO METRIC IX

Sun. ELMHURST BICYCLE CLUB. 31, 62 or 100 miles. Register 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. (\$6 before 7/16, \$8 at door). Call Susan Kilgore, 393-6894 or P.O. Box 902 Elmhurst, IL 60126-0902



# Tale Of A Century

MEMORIES OF CENTURIES PAST -by Keith Kingbay

I'm sitting here feeling sorry for myself on a rainy, cloudy, overcast morning.

I arose before sunrise to get an early start, rushed my carbohydrate breakfast and got to the start of the Udder Century. I assembled my bike, changed my clothes and stood in line to pay my entry (fee) when a few drops of rain fell. It had been overcast but I had seen a few streaks of lightning to the west. I got out of line; others stayed, ready to pay and ride. A few more drops and I put my bike back in the trunk and went to the building to get out of the rain & talk to friends. Oodles of people were starting out. After 25 mins., I called it quits. Cars were still coming up the highway as I headed home.

Worse than getting wet is cleaning the bike.

A day like this gives some time for reflection. I especially wanted to do the century (I am always anxious to get the first ride under my belt). Rosetta and I talked about old centuries after I got home and about my first century, ridden before I knew her.

Cycling in 1928 was an entirely different ball game than today. There were only a few hundred adult cyclists in the country. The L.A.W. was basically nonexistent- there were 2 riders who were recognized throughout the country since they vied for the greatest mileage trouphy each year. One was Noble O. Tarbell, who lived in my home town of Kenosha, WI. The other, Leslie Seaward, was known as the "Cycling Fireman of Savannah Georgia." They were annually the top two. I don't recall their annual mileage, which was computed on an honor basis, but I feel confident it was perhaps higher than all but today's top riders.

Bicycles, too, were very different. Most bikes had 28 x 1½" tires, light-weights had 26 x 13/8" tires and racing bikes had the same basic tires as today. They had one big difference though, they had no coasting or braking mechanisms. You stopped by pedaling. Going down long hills was often harder than going up hill. Racers sometimes took tree branches which they dragged behind them to slow down.

Anyway, our racing group was going to make a century ride. Nobel O. Tarbell was to be the road captain. He was a very little, scrawny guy with rimmed glasses. He was married but had no kids. He didn't have time, he was always on the bike. He was confident that in the long run we would poop out. Then, as now, it was a rule that a ride must be completed within 12 hours. There were a couple differences. It was mandatory that you always be within sight of the road captain. You also had to ride safely- a few infractions of the rules and you didn't get credit for the century. Car traffic was almost nonexistent by today's standards, but there were traffic signs. It was easy to ride at truck speeds if one passed only moderately faster than you were riding. Their top speed wasn't much more than you could go for miles of pacing. You'd pass them on a hill, wait for them to slowly pass at the top, and tuck in behind them.

What a ride we had. There was no way a bunch of teen racers were going to ride at Tarbell's usual pace so we'd ride ahead-almost out of sight- and lay in the grass until he passed. Then we would get back on the bikes, chase him down and pass him, continuing on until we could lie in wait for him again. It must have been the most miserable century he ever rode.

At that time the L.A.W. awarded a century pin if the regulations had been met. A little round pin with the familiar wheel and wings. Subsequent centuries were recognized by a little bar which you attached to the pin. Unfortunately I didn't get my pin- I didn't have the 35¢ they cost. A couple years later the pin was eliminated. It wasn't until a couple hundred centuries later that Will Harmon, Phyllis' husband, presented me with one from his collection.

My rainy day didn't turn out so badly after all. It gave me time to reflect on the glorious times I've had with my bike and all the wonderful friends it's brought me. I still see a couple of the fellows that rode with me on the 1st century- they've gotten older.

It brought me back to memories of Nobel O. Tarbell with his skinny little legs showing below his knickers, his steel rimmed glasses and the double clicker on his cyclometer. I have much to be thankful to Tarbell for.

Many years later I was already married and he was living with his wife in an apartment above some friends. One day there was a terrific argument which ended in his wife giving him an ultimatum- "It's either me or those damn bikes!" He never said another word to her. He took his bikes and personal effects and moved out. Rosetta has never had the nerve to give me that ultimatum, but I know what the answer would be.

I'm sure I'll get my century in in a few weeks. I might not have the thrill of that first century, but God willing I'll have the 35¢ to buy a badge or patch.

Thanks for listening to a young rider tell you a little of the days that have gone by.

## RaceAid

-Dick Sorenson

There are two things which really irritate me when cycling. One is a continually running, dripping nose. The other is sweat running down my forehead into my eyes- it stings with excruciating pain.

I haven't found a cure for the runny nose, but I have found something to divert the flow of sweat away from my eyes. It's an unusual looking sweatband called "RaceAid." "Race Aid" is a poly-vinyl "rain gutter" which is designed to trap perspiration and channel it behind your ears where it can drip without causing problems. It not only seems to keep perspiration out of your eyes, but it also prevents sweat from splattering inside glasses where it can spoil the view.

I've tested mine for three months now with great success. Nary a droplet has stung my eyes so far. It is not uncomfortable to wear, although it may not work with some tight-fitting helmets.

This unique sweatband sells 3 for \$10, and it is advertised in most bicycle magazines.

## Word List

-sent in by Gina Interrante

Balmy	Exhilarate	Racing
Breezy	Forest	Scenery
Country	Fun	Serene
Downhill	Greenery	Stream
Enjoyment	Healthy	Sunny
Excitement	Hilly	Windy
Exercise	Pleasure	

Words appear vertically, forward, backward, diagonally, horizontally.

## Bicycle Puzzler

O Y M L A B P R F C U V E H O C  
 K E D W V E T A R A L I H X E O  
 Q C Z N B G Y W A G K U D X K U  
 M D V X I Y Y X D B T Z C F I N  
 J A I T J W L H X O F I G J D T  
 F K E I F L L S P F T U X E H R  
 O I K R G E I G R E E N E R Y Y  
 R S C Q T P H G M Q C J O N M A  
 E Q R I H S U E E S I C R E X E  
 S T W R U W N M A P F V X W T A  
 T N Y A B T S G X L D E O W B L  
 R I E E Y V B K E G T I Y K A L  
 L S R B E F J Z A N S H C Z M I  
 U O U D U C E B F ! A E Y I A H  
 A R S N T E C J M C L Z D U I N  
 T X A E R S K F B A N J G Q R W  
 U P E B V U E N E R E S H O P O  
 T V L H M S L R Q E N P M I X D  
 A R P J Z O T N E M Y O J N E O  
 Z Y R E N E C S N Y M Y N N U S





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Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056  
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# Fireflies OUR BRIGHT SUMMER FRIENDS

by Dick Sorenson

It's been some time since the WW "Monthly Meanders" has featured an article about the flora and fauna joys of bicycling. We've previously covered such topics as Velcro, tires, dogs, bananas and bumper stickers, but nothing concerning the great outdoors itself.

Fireflies have always fascinated me. They make me feel nostalgic. The sight of them always sends my imagination back to summers of my childhood when I caught them in jars and would (auuggghhh!) smear them on my teeshirt to see their minute phosphorescent-like glow.

"What does this have to do with bicycling?" you ask.

Well, I was out biking the other evening and swallowed one. It tasted a bit like chicken. I don't recommend them as gourmet. (admittedly a weak tie-in to cycling).

I don't catch them in jars anymore, but I still wonder about them. And I bet you do too, especially if

you're a confirmed firefly watcher like me.

How in the world can a firefly ever produce light? The scientific explanation goes like this: "Oxygen combines with luciferin in the presence of the enzyme luciferase, and it creates "cold light." Or, in layperson's terms, fireflies have little fluorescent lanterns built into their bodies. I prefer just to think of the firefly's flash as magic. Mysterious. Somewhat beyond the grasp of modern science.

Next, why do they flash? It turns out that their lightshow is a romantic display. Male fireflies flash to find a mate. They fly near the ground in dipping, swooping patterns and flash at the very bottom of their flight. If there's a female around, and she's the least bit interested, and doesn't have a headache, she'll flash back.

Now, they don't immediately get engaged at this point. The male is

rather particular and responds only to a flash about two seconds after his own. And even then, the back-and-forth flashing must be repeated several times. Ultimately, hopefully, the male and female mate. What you've been watching all these years was the firefly mating ritual, backyard variety.

One book I read claims you can attract a crowd of male fireflies by flicking a flashlight on and off at two second intervals, but this seems like a mean trick to me. Maybe even dangerous: who knows what a swarm of disappointed and angry fireflies might do?

So, the next time you're entertained by the fascinating light display of fireflydom in your backyard, you might give our bright summer male friends an assist; play some romantic music on the stereo, set out a few candles and maybe some bordeaux or chardonnay in tiny glasses.

## Owl attacks Iowa boy as he rides bicycle

-sent in by Gina Interrante

**LOWDEN, Ia.** - (AP)- A great horned owl swooped down and scratched the face of a 6-year-old boy riding a bicycle, and doctors fear he may lose his left eye.

Tyler Tharp underwent several hours of surgery at University Hospital in Iowa City after last Friday's attack, and doctors told his family a decision will be made this week whether they can save the eye.

A family friend, Jean Oberholster, said Tyler was riding his bike near his home in Lowden, an eastern Iowa town of 700 people, when the owl struck.

"The owl hit him right in the face and a talon hit him directly in the eye," Oberholster said.

Craig Jackson of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said the attack probably was made by a female owl protecting her young.

Authorities destroyed both owl parents, not knowing which one attacked and fearing a second attack, Jackson said. He also said officials were forced to destroy the offspring. (taking from Iowa paper, May 4, 1989)

## Top 10 List

EXCUSES PEOPLE GIVE FOR NOT SHOWING UP FOR A WW RIDE...

10. Can't find the shorts and cycle jersey that match water bottles, and are just too embarrassed to wear plain sweatpants.
9. Afraid of getting those silly "biking tan lines."
8. Just never could get the hang of reading cue sheets.
7. Throat is too sore to yell "CAR BACK" with feeling.
6. Got those low down "Kildeer School Parking Lot Blues."
5. Holding out until we can ride downhill both ways.
4. Too self-conscious that my bike will NEVER look as clean as Phil's white Trek.
3. Keep having recurring nightmares about "road rash."
2. Don't have enough trail mix in the pantry and the health food store is closed.
1. Learned to ride a bike once, but just forgot how.

## A Big "Thanks"

-from your "Mystery Guest Editor"

Walking (or writing) in someone else's shoes is never easy- especially when those shoes belong to Phyllis Harmon! After doing this newsletter once, I am even more aware of all the work she does for our club each month!

Phyllis gave me two pieces of advice in preparation for getting this out. Try to type on the line, and make sure Aaron and Hans get their articles in on time (for a change...a joke, just a joke!).

Anyway, I would like to thank Phyllis, Hans, Dick, Susan, Keith and Aaron for submitting their material ONE WEEK EARLY so I'd have time to sort all this out.

I hope I came close anyway. My apologies to those who feel unjustly edited (occupational hazard I guess). And, as I am out of time, space, energy and Liquid Paper, I bit you a good strong tail wind, smooth roads and clear skies!

-Ed

