

MONTHLY MEANDERS



WHEELING WHEELMEN

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

March Meeting

Thursday night, 7:30 pm at the Wheeling High School Cafeteria. It's here! It's here! The 1990 biking season officially starts this month! (And there was much rejoicing). Start it off right at this month's meeting. Jerry Goldman will talk about his Wisconsin trips and about short distance touring. Ride leaders, pick up your cue sheets and ride info. Andy Dane will fill you in on last minute details for the St. Patrick's Day invitational. All this and so much more!

Prez Sez

-Hans Predel



The season approaches! You can almost hear those derailleurs shifting, clicking away as you move out into familiar and new territory. I recently got my issue of Bicycling (the buyer's guide) and can't stop drooling over the bike on the cover. I'm also proud to note that in Chicago, the cycling season starts with own own St. Pat's Day invitational. Bring your ATB and join us!

Once again I am forced to bring up the issue of volunteers. I guess the year we fill all the slots without repeatedly asking for volunteers is the year we have no flats, all the groups ride together and the weather is always perfect! Al Bermand and Fran Green are handling this year's banquet, and will be looking for a new place and new ideas. MOST CRITICAL: We still need a chair for the Harmon Hundred!!! We need an organizer to make sure everything runs smoothly and on time. Come on! You (or a committee of 2-3) can do it! We, your board, can't and weren't elected to do it all.

Last note. April is our Birthday!! If everything comes together, mark your calendar for the 1st thursday in April and come out for our birthday party. Cake, coffee and lots of memories. Be there! More details to come.

Area Code Note



Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers listed in this newsletter are in the (708) area code. If your number is in the (312) area code, please be sure to let me in on it when submitting your phone numbers. Thanks! -Igor

Safety Corner



-Jerry Rice

February's had some great cycling days! I was skiing in Iowa on one of them. With the quality of snow at 55°, I should've been cycling. Since this is the start of the cycling season, it's time to brush up on cycling skills as you begin to rebuild your cycling strength.

Obeying the rules of the road is obviously at the top of the list. Most everyone knows them, so FOR NOW I won't repeat them.

Beyond the law, the following will help you be a safer cyclist: 1) Detect cars coming up behind you and ride accordingly. Use a rear view mirror or listen carefully for the sound of motorists. Use these early warnings as a signal to start riding single file. Occasionally glance over your shoulder to check the exact location of a car. (Practice this technique on side streets or empty roads until you can do it comfortably without deviating from riding a straight line. You don't want to start looking over your shoulder and drift farther into the road!)

2) For those who deal with a lot of traffic signal intersections... Rather than riding through intersections pretending not to see cars, make eye contact with as many drivers as possible. Be especially aware of oncoming cars turning left in front of you, cross pattern cars turning right on red, and cars approaching from behind turning right. Eye contact lets the drivers know you are involved in the traffic pattern and shouldn't be ignored. More often than not, this will prevent you from getting cut off. If someone pulls out in a hurry, stare down the next car in line; I'm sure you're all aware of the "yellow light" syndrome.

My last thought for early season riding centers around the motorist. For the most part, they haven't seen cyclists on the road for several months- be extra patient with the blaring horns! Remember, put yourself in the driver's seat. How would you want a cyclist to react to your presence? Aside from pulling off the road and letting you pass (a joke, okay?) you'd want him to ride as close to the right as possible in a stable manner. Remember, St. Pat's Day is only a couple weeks away!

WHEELING BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:	Hans Predel	255-4029
VICE PRES:	Carol/Woyteck	392-0530
TREASURER:	Andy Dane	*271-5718
SAFETY:	Jerry Rice	870-8127
MEMBERSHIP:	Lisa Gerhold	803-3998
EDITOR:	Linda Svrcek	965-8249

FOR CHECK OUT:

BIKE BOOKS:	Roy Erikson	381-5128
*(312) area code; all others are (708)		

WHEELING RIDE/INFO LINE 989-7373



Affiliate

Safe Cycling-Just Do It

-Hans Predel

During our January meeting we discussed ride leader duties and responsibilities. This month we'll review group rider responsibilities.

Rider responsibilities start before a ride starts. Arrive well before departure time. Get your bike ready (tires pumped, mirrors adjusted, etc) ahead of time. Sign in early. Confucius say, "he who arrives late, bikes alone."

Bring a spare tube, patch kit and a few basic tools for emergencies. As the season progresses, the rides get longer and it heats up, pack a snack on your rack or you could have a hunger attack (sorry, Igor is in a rap sort of mood this month!). Bring several bottles of water as not all rides have sag stops with water available.

Few basic rules. Ride single file, especially on busy roads. Keep your distance from the cyclist ahead of you. Always signal your intentions to stop or change directions. Pass only on the left and follow all rules of the road.

If you have to leave a ride for any reason, GET WORD TO THE RIDE LEADER!!!

Follow these simple rules and it's happy trails for everyone!

Igor's Corner

Hi everybody! Well, we finally made it to the 1990 bike season. I for one can't wait to get the Trek back out on the road. Let me give you a quick preview on what you can expect in the next couple newsletters...

As we get information on the upcoming Invitationals, we'll include listings along with our own ride schedule. In addition, I hope to include info on longer trips (next month look for Michigan trip info). If you have a trip you'd like to highlight, just send the info c/o Igor's Trip Calendar, P.O. Box 581-D, Wheeling Wheelmen, Wheeling IL. 60090.

After March 31st we will also be putting together the Membership list, so you will be getting your own copy in May.

As it is the club's 20th birthday, I am still looking for stories from the club's past. (Naturally old pictures, cue sheets, patches, etc. you'd like to see again in print would be great.) Okay... that's it until next month! See you on the 18th!



Memorable Memorial Day

-Jim's Janesville Ride

May 26-28. Don't miss this year's 3-Day Janesville ride. New and improved routes, unbeatable scenery and as much fun as we felt safe to put in one weekend! Days 1 and 3 are approx. 100 miles; day 2 is a more leisurely 80 miles. Choose to ride all or part of the trip. Room rates: 1 person/1bed- \$32/night; 2 people/1 bed- \$38/night; 2 people/2 beds-\$42/night. If you're staying both nights, please send money for both. If you're staying just one, be sure to specify which one. Send checks ASAP to Jim Grant, 1439 Todd Farm Drive #8, Elgin, IL 60123. (NOTE NEW ADDRESS)

Cycle Spring Green, WI

-Fran Green & Al Berman

Al and Fran, destined to be dubbed "tour organizers of the 90's" have done it again!! This time join them for a weekend bike trip on June 22-24 in Spring Green, Wisconsin. This area has beautiful, nonglaciated terrain comprised of rolling hills, forests, bluffs and valleys. Stay at the Wildwood, a rustic lodge in a remote area of the valley. \$64/person gets you two nights lodging, two full buffett breakfasts and a sumptuous saturday night dinner.

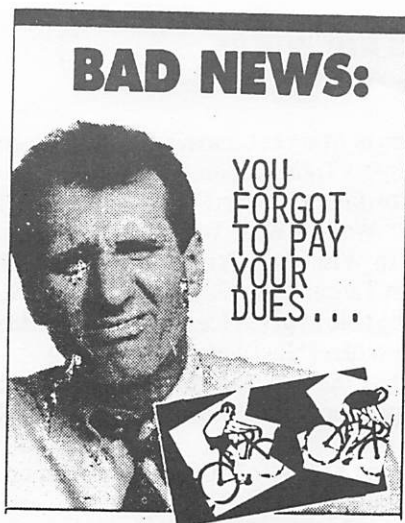


An optional saturday evening activity includes taking in a Shakespeare play by the American Players' Theater in a beautiful outdoor location. If you prefer, spend sat. night bowling. Space is limited, so don't wait to claim your spot! A 50% deposit is due within 30 days (by March 30) and the balance is due 30-60 days before the trip (we'll need to check on this). The maximum number at the lodge is 16 so call today. If more people are interested, we can probably book reservations at other places in the area and possibly eat as a group. There are also two housekeeping cottages on the grounds for extra people (though more costly). Call Alan 541-9248 or 948-0600 or Fran 606-9004 for all the details.

Volunteers- What's Missing? "U!"

Okay, Igor accepts the 5-point "bad pun" penalty. The pun may be bad, but the message is an important one. We still need a number of volunteers to get the 1990 season in full gear. Specifically, we're looking for a few people to run the Beginning Touring Series, volunteers for various parts of the Harmon Hundred, and we need a snack coordinator for monthly meetings. Call Hans Predel 255-4029 for more details.





Meet The Board

At last, the profile you've all been waiting for...it's time to MEET THE BOARD! Behind every great organization is a devoted group of leaders. Our club is no exception. The following is a closer look at the five men and women who keep our club moving forward. President Hans Predel, Ride Chairs Carol and Woyteck, Membership Lisa Gerhold and Safety Jerry Rice.

Describe your idea of the ultimate bike trip:

(Woyteck) For a road ride, a trip from Seattle to San Diego. It has everything-scenery and the ultimate challenge. Off road- anywhere in the Rockies.

(Hans) I would love to do a coast to coast tour (3,400 miles+) or a USA perimeter tour (10,200 miles). The thought is staggering!

(Carol) Either Alaska or Africa-off road!

(Jerry) A tour of Upper Penninsula, Michigan or a month tour of New Zealand.

How long have you been riding with Wheeling?

(Lisa) Since spring 1987

(Carol) 1990 will be my 5th year

(Jerry) Since mid 1987

(Hans) Three years

(Woyteck) 1990 will be my 5th year

What's your favorite bike snack?

(Jerry) Dried figs. They're kind of sweet, but they are one of the highest fruits for carbs. Plus they don't get mushy like bananas!

(Carol) Grapes.

(Hans) Oatmeal raisin bran cookies.

(Lisa) Raisins.

(Woyteck) Rare roast beef and cheese

on old world rye!

If you could own any bike, it would be a:

(Hans) Top-end Trek or Cannondale with Campy components (just for prestige- I know it won't make me go faster!)

(Woyteck) A custom-made touring bike such as a Klein.

(Carol) Marlin titanium mountain bike

(Jerry)...a Cannondale tandem might be kind of fun!

Name a few of your goals for 1990...

(Carol) Increase weekly mileage, increase my average speed.

(Jerry) Ride at least 500 club miles, ride at least 1,200 personal miles, ride a century! Lead at least two club rides.

(Woyteck) Complete a 150+ mile ride.

(Lisa) Possibly do a century?????

What kind of bike do you ride?

(Lisa) Bianchi Sport SX, orchid color.

(Hans) Trek 420- blue (to match my eyes) the sport/touring model.

(Woyteck) Blue Schwinn Sierra, black (they wouldn't give me any other color!) or a Cannondale ST700.

(Carol) Schwinn Voyageur, green.

(Jerry) Trek 400, red/black and a Burley duet (tandem), blue.

What are some of the bike tours you've done?

(Carol) Crankit II, Pedal Across WI and Michigan Bicycle Touring, upper penninsula.

(Jerry) BAMMI '88, '89; Ueker's Ride for Performing Arts, '88, '89.

(Hans) Wheeling Kentucky trip. I would like to do another week trip!

(Woyteck) Crankit II, Michigan tour. Crankit was a beautiful and challenging ride through the Northwoods!

Igor thanks the board for participating in this Q & A session! As for Treasurer Andy Dane, he was unavailable for comment. (Does Igor sense a little "Wheeling Gate" here? Hmm... There was that missing 15 feet of handlebar tape.....)



