

Monthly Meanders

THE WHEELING WHEELMEN

APRIL 1992



THIS MONTH'S MEETING...

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1992 7:00PM
WHEELING HIGH SCHOOL

Please join us and our guest speaker
Randy Neufield from the Chicagoland
Bicycle Federation.

Safety Corner

by Dick Sorenson

Bicyclists join cycling clubs primarily for sociability and companionship on the road. Riding with a group is far more enjoyable than riding alone; it is even better if your riding companions also happen to be your friends. Sure, some riders are loners who prefer to ride alone, but that's their choice.

But there are other reasons for joining a club. Bike club members enjoy sharing their knowledge of bikes and cycling, so a club is a good place to learn. You also learn the things no book can teach: Cycling techniques that make the miles fly by, the best local roads for cycling, the favorite lunch (and ice cream stops!), favorite bike shops, tips on touring, and sometimes best of all, encouragement to improve at your own pace. Clubs also promote safe cycling.

And there are the scheduled rides. Joining scheduled rides shows you quickly what other riders have taken years to explore, fine tune and develop to perfection. You could do it yourself, but even an experienced rider in a new area can take a long time (sometimes years) to find the best rides and least trafficked and most pleasant routes to ride. (I'd better stop, with hopes that I'm "preaching to the Choir")

Riding in a group, however, is different from riding alone. The members of the club know and trust each other. (Well, almost, but they usually know who the erratic riders are.) The standards of behavior are high, with riders behaving well to each other for mutual self-protection. There is a lot of "Car up!", "Car back!", "Glass!", "Passing!", verbalizing and other signals and alerts that make the group act as a team. A good group, like a

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Prezsez

by Alan S. Berman

May is National Bicycle month, and to help promote cycling among our youngsters, I would like the Wheeling Wheelmen to create a safety workshop geared for grade school children. We would incorporate basic riding skills with a short ride. If you would like to volunteer for this project that will be held in mid-May call me at (708)541-9248.

The first Winter Banquet was a huge success, with about 18 members showing up for a fabulous Italian dinner. There was plenty of conversation about the great winter rides and forecasts about the very hectic summer riding schedule ahead.

Congratulations to Joan Segedie on being the woman's winter mileage champion. And of course, Ralph did it again. Is anyone going to challenge him for summer mileage?

The Sunday season opener bodes well for the upcoming season. The turnout was terrific, and in spite of 25 m.p.h. headwinds, the weather was super and the route excellent. Ralph did his usual TRIPLE EXPRESS pace with a few other speedsters, and Cal Kutemeier did an excellent job leading the touring pace riders. Hans and Diane Predel were really moving on their rented tandem and seemed to be having a great time. Could there possibly be a tandem of their very own in the near future? Stay tuned!

I saw an number of people riding several abreast, some practically on the double yellow

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The Wheeling Wheelmen Board of Directors

President	Al Berman	541-9248
V.P./Rides	Ralph Pedraja	680-7379
Treasurer	Lotti Dolce	398-3957
Membership	Sandy Holzrichter	516-1817
Safety	Dick Sorenson	593-7945
Secretary	Phyllis Harmon	537-1268
Newsletter	Craig Jorgensen	356-0692
Bike Books	Roy Erikson	381-5128

(All 708 area code)

Club ride hot line and info: (312)989-7373

Ride Notes

by Ralph Pedraja

Enclosed with your newsletter this month is the new 1992 ride schedule. In the schedule this year we have what I call rain dates. These dates are open dates that will be used for rides that were scheduled earlier in the season, that were canceled due to inclement weather. During the cycling season there is no need to call a ride leader to find out if a ride is canceled. That determination is always made by the ride leader at the start of a ride. Ride leaders will always be present at the start of any ride regardless of weather conditions.

This year's schedule has one hundred three weekend rides and thirty-two option rides, which are shorter rides derived from the longer main rides.

This is like a ride within a ride. For example, a one hundred mile ride will have a fifty mile loop with it's own leader. In addition to the weekend rides we will also offer sixty two weekday rides from April to September. I will lead the express group and Charlene Blake will be the touring leader. Starting in May, Kurt Schoenhoff will lead the Thursday rides from Kildeer School. Woyteck Morajko will be leading Wednesday evening rides from his home in Mt. Prospect starting in May at 6:00pm.

The 1992 schedule will offer over two hundred rides for a total of about 10,160 miles. My goal for the 1992 schedule is to allow riders of all categories the opportunity to choose a ride that would best suit their abilities. I want to

remind everyone that this schedule could not have been possible without the special efforts and help that I received from: Hans Predel; Al Berman, Carol Passowic, Woyteck Morajko, and Lotti and Peter Dolce. I also thank all who volunteered to lead a ride. So I urge you to please come out and enjoy the new riding season with us. □

BIG MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD

On March 11, 1992 a meeting was held between the Interagency Bikeway Council (IBC), and representatives of the League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB). Among the items discussed were the establishment of regular meetings between the IBC and the LIB, and the use of funds appropriated by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which was signed into law by President Bush in December.

Also on the agenda was a discussion on bicycle safety, expanding the section on bicycle safety in The Rules of the Road, and including bicycling information in driver education programs.

The LIB is now awaiting results of the meeting. □

If you are submitting a 1992 Harmon Hundred T-shirt and Patch design, make sure to get them to Al Berman no later than May 1st.
Send Completed designs to Al at: 340 Redwing, Deerfield, IL. 60015

TOP TEN WINTER MILES

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1) The Ralphster...587 | Joan Segedie...393 |
| 2) Wayne Segedie...485 | Fran Green...193 |
| 3) Al Berman...357 | Pat Marshall...189 |
| 4) Woyteck Morajko...333 | Lotti Dolce...154 |
| 5) Rick Arnopolin...325 | Chris Schroeder...152 |
| 6) Cal Kutemeier, Bob Savio
and Steve Gustin...296 | Marcia Swider...130 |
| 7) Ed Leidecker...288 | Charlene Blake...104 |
| 8) Steve Rodgers...270 | Virgina Savio...85 |
| 9) Kurt Schoenhoff...262 | Carol Passowic...74 |
| 10) Hans Predel...218 | Lynn Petty...35 |

NEWSLETTER INFO

- 1). Your articles, stories, comments, etc. are welcome. Please send to Craig Jorgensen, 25625 Columbia Bay Drive, Lake Villa, IL 60046.
- 2). The deadline is the 10th of the month preceding (e.g. May 10th for June newsletter)
- 3). All submissions must be typed (double-spaced) to be considered for publication.
- 4) Ads will be run free for one month, for club members only. We do not sell advertising space, or provide mailing service.
- 5). If you change your address: Call Sandy Hozrichter (708) 516-1817.

Safety Corner from pg. 1

school of fish or a flock of birds, are generally attuned to each other's safety and well-being.

On the other hand, there is an inherent danger of riding very close together. And we ride close for several reasons, to talk, to break the wind (Hey don't ride too close to me if I'm breaking wind Dick!...ed.), or simply to let cars share the roadway. There is one basic principle of biking: If your front wheel overlaps the rear wheel ahead of you and they touch, you get dumped immediately. There's no second chance to say "I'm sorry!", 'cause down you go. So for group riding, there are a few special safety rules:

- Ride in a straight line at a constant pace.
- If the person ahead of you is an unsteady or erratic rider, don't ride his/her wheel.
- Clearly signal your intention to overtake, slow down, brake, or turn. In short, act as a team member.
- When approaching danger points, such as cross traffic, shout, "Heads up" to tell those behind you to be alert for danger and act accordingly.
- When there's a rock or other road debris of a pothole to avoid, warn the riders behind you.
- Don't swerve suddenly to the left without looking first.
- Pay constant attention to the movement of riders behind, ahead and along side of you.
- On downhills, each rider must stay a safe distance behind the rider ahead.
- There's always a natural separation of the group on uphill (I wonder why). Needless to say, the disadvantaged riders should hug the right side of the pavement to let the advantaged pass.
- Practice courtesy, consideration and safety.

One final rule: If a rider is breaking a safety rule, endangering himself and/or others, don't be shy, speak up. Let them know they're creating a problem.

New roads, new places, and new traveling companions are a joy to every cyclist. It's not the distance traveled, but the sensations of traveling that we need, and club cycling provides those in abundance. Just so long as the picture changes round every bend in the road, just so long as your legs feel the road and the hills, just so long as an unknown road invites you to come another mile, and just so long as the promise of food, talk, laughter, and rest at the end of the ride are before you, so long shall the joys of club cycling be with you.

P.S. While writing this piece in mid-February, I received the first sign of spring: The first ride brochure of the 1992 season (some

people anticipate Spring's arrival by the sighting of a robin or receiving the Burpee Seed Catalog). □

Pressez from pg. 1

line going up a hill. Remember, those cars coming in the opposite direction don't expect to see you there. I know we have mental lapses sometimes, but I'm sure most of us know about that girl at the last Hilly Hundred who was tragically killed as a result of forgetting about common sense safe riding. Stay towards the right side of the road **ESPECIALLY** going up hills.

I'd like to see more people sending Craig "Rides Re-ridden" articles. It's fun to read about the joy, the pain, and the sometimes humorous side of a particular ride.

Let's close this month with a couple of quotes from our illustrious Ride Chairman:

Q: Ralph, you said this was a 35 mile ride. Why is it so much longer?

Ralph: I dunno, must be the hills!

Q: Ralph, I don't even see this road on our map. Are we lost again?

Ralph: You must have the wrong map. I had several older ones in my car?!?!?!?!?

Until next month! □

SPRING GREEN TRIP

Weekend of June 27-28

Sixteen people have signed up for this trip so far. Some of us are going directly from Spring Green to the Gear Rally in River Falls, Wisconsin starting on June 30. This year there will be additional optional loops for those who want to do more miles. If you're interested, send a deposit of \$40.00 per person to Alan Berman, 340 Redwing Drive, Deerfield, IL, 60015 (708) 541-9248 for more information. □

TOUR DE KURT UPDATE

The forty participants signed up for Kurt Schoenhoff's Barrington to Galena ride (Aug. 8-15) must submit their down payments A.S.A.P. to Ron McPheron. The total cost of the trip will be \$200, which will cover the motels and baggage transportation (you are on your own for food). If you are going, a deposit of \$100 **MUST BE RECEIVED** by April 5th, otherwise you will be dropped (*and there is a waiting list, folks*). So don't dally, get that check in the mail to: Ron McPheron, 1806 Azalea Lane, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056 **NOW!** And don't send it to Kurt! □

RIDE PARTNERS WANTED:

Would you be interested in joining a small group of diverse, yet compatible people for a great biking vacation trip? Then join the trip leaving for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia (and possibly Newfoundland). The trip will be at the end of July and into the first part of August, and will last from one to three weeks (you may go for part or all). The trip is limited to 12-15 or so, and since the expenses of camping, food, gas for the SAG, etc. will be shared, the cost will be low (the last trip was about \$100 per person/week). This area is a biking fantasy, so call Lou Muno at (708)392-6938 for more info.

WANTED: Companions to join me for all or part of a 5-6 month Seattle to Boston cross-country bike trip beginning about mid-April. I plan on following the BikeCentennial TransAmerica Trail (Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri), into the Midwest. I don't have a specific plan for the Midwest yet. I will finish on the BikeCentennial Northern Tier trail (Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts).

Will be carrying all my gear on my bike, including tent, sleeping bag, clothes, cooking kit, and small cooking stove. Most nights will be spent in campgrounds or hostels cooking my own food.

If you want more details contact me in Seattle at work (202)562-1187 or my parents, Terry and Karen Zmrhal, have a summary sheet. They can be reached in Arlington Hts. at (708)398-2636.

ST. PAT'S RIDE NIPPY BUT NICE

Two hundred and thirty four riders showed up to ride our annual St. Patrick's day invitational on Sunday, March 15th.

Despite a 9° wind chill factor, the sun was shining brightly (as opposed to last year, when Mother Nature took a HUGE dump on us).

Thanks to all who came out to help, and especially thanks to the Wauconda Apple Orchard for opening up for us!

April 1992 Ride Schedule

CONSULT YOUR ANNUAL SCHEDULE
ENCLOSED IN THIS MONTH'S
NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL'S RIDES!

Tuesday and Thursday weeknight rides begin April 7th, the departure time for both touring and express groups will be 5:30, and will start at Daniel Wright school in Lincolnshire, North of Rte. 22 on Riverwoods road. Touring/Charlene Blake (708)358-4023, Express/Ralph Pedraja (708)680-7379.

RollerBlade Night!!!

Friday, April 24th will be the first Rollerblade night. Starts at 6:00pm from the Busse Woods entrance on Golf Rd., West of Rte. 62 (Algonquin) and east of Rte. 53. Rollerblades may be rented from Bikes Plus at half price for \$5.00/pair. THIS PRICE ONLY GOOD FOR THIS CLUB EVENT. For more info call Ralph at (708)680-7379. Don' faw down.

More PAW Rides!!!

Pedal Across Wisconsin sent their summer ride schedule to us this month, and although there isn't room to run it in it's entirety, here are places, dates and fees. Rides are supported with van, maps, marked roads and snacks. Some fees include hotels, and for some rides they are available as options. For more information, write Pedal Across Wisconsin, PO Box 365, West Dundee, IL. 60118, or call Jerry Goldman at (708)695-7964.

- Whitewater Weekend VIII--June(12) 13-14, \$54.00
- Door County Weekend VIII--June(19) 20-21, \$54.00
- WAFAL V (Wisconsin Amish Farms and Lakes)--July (10) 11-12, \$54.00
- PATSY II (Pedal Across Two States Yourself)-- Sept. 5-6-7, \$145.00
- BACRAC II (Bike Around Countryside-Relax at Country Inn)--Sept.18-19-20, \$94.00
- New Glarus Fall Fantasy VIII--October 9-10-11, \$54.00.