



MONTHLY MEANDERS

BOARD BANTER

2018 was a good year for the Wheeling Wheelmen. Our membership stayed at some 250 riders as it has in the past. However, due to a late Spring our total mileage was down. Good participation was again noted on our bakery and weekend rides featuring long distances. The club offered several member get-togethers during the year. In addition to our winter/spring meetings, we enjoyed our picnic, Harmon volunteer appreciation party, Chili ride, and our combined banquet/holiday party. All with good times and lots of laughs.

Our club treasury remains in good shape. As a not-for-profit organization, we donate to several cycling advocacy groups and charities. These include the League of American Bicyclists, Ride Illinois and Wisconsin Bicycle Associations. We also support Chicago Active Transportation, Working Bikes, Toys for Tots Bicycle Ride and other bike related charities. Our specific contributions, along with a financial summary,

will be published in our February 2019 newsletter

The Wheelmen again sponsored two invitational rides. Over 330 folks rode in the St. Patrick's Day ride and the Harmon Hundred had over 500 riders. The threat of rain stopped some riders from showing up for the Harmon, but those who came, enjoyed a nice day. Both rides went very well and we received numerous positive comments from our guests. A big thank you goes out to **Al Gibbs and Dennis Ellertson** and **Erich Massat** for their work and great leadership, along with all of our volunteers, in making these events such a success.

Your board members meet regularly to insure everything is running smoothly. In addition to yours truly, they include **Dave Waycie**, our vice president and ride chair, **Pat Calabrese** secretary, **Johannes Smits** treasurer and manager of our website, **Mitch Rosset** membership and **Pam Kaloustian** publicity. Thankfully, they all have

agreed to stay on another year.

Also, special thanks to **Ella Shields**, who keeps us on track and publishes our monthly newsletter, **Deb Wilson** for locating our meeting place and our Sunday ride parking spot. **Jim Boyer** for coordinating the incoming club mail and providing replies, **Joan Willmeth** for coordinating the holiday party/banquet, **Emily Qualich** keeping track of everyone's mileage and database for our event riders, **Al & Cindy Schneider** for hosting and cooking at our picnic, and **David and Alexis Newman** for hosting the Chili Ride and get together at their home.

Lastly, I want to thank all of our volunteers who serve as ride hosts and those who work on our two invitational rides. We are so blessed to have so many members who continue to step up to make the Wheelmen a great successful club. All the best, have a great holiday and safe New Year.

Joe Beemster, President

Dec 2018/Jan 2019

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Club Officials

Elected Officers

President
 Joe Beemster 847-215-2314
V.P.-Ride Chair
 Dave Waycie 847-845-9663
 dave.waycie@gmail.com

Treasurer
 Johannes Smits 630-935-4074

Secretary
 Patty Blome 847-358-4807

Membership
 Mitch Rosset rrkite99@aol.com

Publicity Chair
 Pam Kaloustian 847-707-0203
 bubbath1@comcast.net

Appointed Officers

Harmon Chairman
 Erich Massat 847-253-5815

Newsletter
 Ella Shields 773-407-4712

St. Pat's Ride
 Al Gibbs alang.bikes@gmail.com

Chairmen

Banquiday
 Joan Willmeth jewsbg@aol.com

Harmon Data Base
 Emily Qualich 847- 821-1009

Mileage Statistician
 Emily Qualich 847- 821-1009
 e.qualich@comcast.net

Newsletter Mailings
 Joe Beemster 847-215-2314

Picnic
 Joe Beemster 847-215-2314

OPEN
Web Page
 Johannes Smits 630-935-4074

Newsletter Policy

We can always use information for the newsletter. I'd love to hear from you. E-mail your ride notes, stories or articles for the newsletter to me by the 10th of the preceding month
 Ella Shields
 eshieldsbike@yahoo.com
 (Please include your name and phone number in case I have any questions)



Don't miss an issue of Monthly Meanders!! Contact Mitch Rosset with your new address or e-mail address at rrkite99@aol.com

FIANL TOP 20 MILES

Through Oct 31, 2018
 260 rides by 154 members
 9,460 max miles

Men:

1	Scott	Assmann	5217
2	Christian	Munoz	5021
3	Dave	Waycie	4556
4	Paul	LeFevre	4510
5	Nhat	Tran	3813
6	Johannes	Smits	3800
7	Dennis	Ellertson	3696
8	Joe	Beemster	2986
9	Erich	Massat	2873
10	Mitchell	Polonsky	2792
11	Jim	Boyer	2742
12	Kilian	Emanuel	2573
13	Alex	Halamaj	2267
14	Toan	Tran	2252
15	Jorn	Lim	2229
16	Larry	Frank	2152
17	Tom	Wilson	2144
18	Vince	Kelley	2061
19	JV	Villadolid	1904
20	Cletis	Parks III	1700

Women:

1	Emily	Qualich	4701
2	Betsy	Burtelow	1694
3	Debbie	Wilson	1651
4	Ella	Shields	1583
5	Reinhilde	Geis	1435
6	Jeannie	Siewert	1329
7	Jackie	Kelley	1121
8	Cindy	Kessler	1101
9	Marianne	Kron	1091
10	Pam	Kaloustian	1085
11	Lorrie	Heymann	1081
12	Kris	Woodcock	1066
13	Pat	Calabrese	998
14	Paula	Matzek	980
15	Ellen	Heineman	963
16	Carol	Ranachowski	868
17	Sheri	Rosenbaum	775
18	Kathleen	Angus	745
19	Tiffany	Wendt	711
20	Cindy	Trent	580

2018 Ride Hosts

Alex Halamaj	1
Banu Sheehan	1
Betsy Burtelow	3
Bob Dominski	1
Brian Hale	2
Carl Droege	1
Christian Munoz	4
Cindy Kessler	2
Dave Waycie	10
David Newman	4
Deb Wilson	1
Dennis Ellertson	30
Earle Horwitz	3
Ella Shields	2
Ellen Heineman	1
Emily Qualich	10
Erich Massat	5
Eva Waycie	2
Frank Bing	6
Jeff Magnani	1
Jeff Rossi	14
Jim Boyer	2
Joan Willmeth	3
Joe Beemster	11
Johannes Smits	5
Jorn Lim	3
Kilian Emanuel	59
Kris Woodcock	1
Lorrie Heymann	1
Louis Greene	1
Luis Magana	1
Mitch Rosset	3
Pam Burke	1
Pat Calabrese	1
Paul LeFevre	25
Reinhilde Geis	3
Scot Assmann	20
Sheri Rosenbaum	1
Toan Tran	8
Tom Wilson	2
Vince Kelly	2
Total Hosts	41

Show & Go Rides

Day	Time	Ride Name	Miles	Location and Directions	Ride Host
Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday	10:00 AM	Deerfield's Bakery Ride	25-40	Willow Stream Park On Old Checker Rd, a mile west of the bakery. Turn west on Old Checker Rd. to parking on the right.	N/A

Be sure to be on the Yahoo group and/or Facebook for last minute changes

2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership.

Please renew on line as soon as possible so you won't miss a single issue of the Monthly Meanders or the 2019 Ride Schedule. You can also download the application from the website:
wheelmen.com/docs/membership.pdf

Due date for renewals is **March 1, 2019.**

Membership Renewal is now available using either your PayPal account, or by using the following Credit Cards:



Visit our website wheelmen.com to sign up

If you have any questions contact Mitch Rosset at
rrkite99@aol.com

The Chicago Winter Bike Swap is back for 2019!

Sunday, February 10, 2019
 Harper College
 9:30-3:30

\$5 admission for adults

FREE PARKING

chicagowinterbikeswap.com



To David & Alexis Newman for hosting the annual Chili Ride and Dave Waycie for coordinating all the details.

About 35 people enjoyed several types of tasty chili, scrumptious desserts, libations and lively conversations. A great time was had by all.

THANKS

To Joan Willmeth for hosting the Banquiday. Approximately 70 people attended and we celebrated a wonderful cycling season, had a lot of laughs and excellent food.

Also, a big thanks to Joe Beemster for the use of his clubhouse for the gathering and to Johannes Smits for the wonderful slide show.



CLUB JERSEY— CURRENT STYLE

Brian Hale has set up a Wheeling Wheelmen storefront with Voler to order clothing.

If any questions as to styles please visit the Voler website for details.

www.voler.com/browse/cat/?cat=All&vm=4&program=full+custom

Orders must be in by midnight January 7, 2019

Products ship on or before February 22, 2019

As far as “styles”... there are five (5) jersey styles and three (3) short styles.

According to VOLER we must have fifteen (15) of any jersey, bottoms or any item. If we don't make minimums “ALL” money is refunded.

If any questions, contact Brian at 847-804-1561 or email: B.hale@halco-products.com

CLUB APPRECIATION NIGHT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 5:00-9:00 P.M.

MIKES Bike Shop will be hosting their Customer Appreciation Night. They will be providing refreshments so come hang out and enjoy an evening with them.

20% Discount during event (bikes, labor and sale items not included).

155 N. Northwest Hwy.

Palatine

847 358-0948

mikesbikeshoppalatine.com



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 6:30 A.M.

Participants will ride their bicycles from Amlings Cycle, 8140 Milwaukee Ave in Niles, 847/692-

4240, to Corcoran's Grill & Pub (1615 N. Wells), about 16 miles one way, to meet a waiting truck from the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. We'll then enjoy a

hot breakfast courtesy of Corcoran's.

Those wishing to join the ride need to pre-register (on line at toyridechicago.com), or stop in at the shop. There is no cost to ride other than bringing a new, unwrapped toy for a child.

If you would like to help out, but don't want to ride your bike, you can drop off a new unwrapped toy at Amlings Cycle.

KEEP MOVING: DESIGNING CHICAGO'S BICYCLE CULTURE

**Design Museum of Chicago
Expo 72, 72 E Randolph, Chicago**

Free and open to the public until March 3rd 2019

Monday–Friday, 10am–7:00pm

Saturday–Sunday, 10am–5:00pm

Closed holidays

Just before the turn of the century, the popularity of the bicycle in America was at an apex and Chicago-based manufacturer's shops were producing the majority of

American-made bicycles.

However, in just a few years the industry was a shell of its former self, as consumer focus shifted to cars, planes, and surviving the Great Depression. Keep Moving explores how bicycle design in Chicago contributed to the early popularity of bicycles in America, their survival through the 20th century, and their resurgence today.

designchicago.org/exhibitions/keep-moving-designing-chicagos-bicycle-culture/#more-998



A TASTE OF BIKE AND BARGE IN EUROPE

I have liked these tours for a lot of reasons. I enjoyed the rhythm. Discovery was always around the corner. It

was relaxing, comfortable, enticing. There was always time for my personal needs: Time to be alone and reflect, wander an interesting neighborhood, watch the water, check my email, or strike up a conversation with a familiar friend or new acquaintance. I loved biking down quiet country backroads that sometimes looked similar to the States and sometimes thoroughly foreign and unfamiliar. I loved all the stops we made to see ancient towns, castles, cathedrals, and objects of art.

We have had five of these experiences in the past ten years. All were different in one way or another and all were very memorable and enjoyable. The first was on a small barge built for touring on the small rivers and canals in Europe. It held 26 passengers and a crew of four plus two guides. This trip along the Mosel River from Eastern France to just before the Rhine in Germany was chartered by the Joliet Bike Club. They had extra spaces to fill so it was opened up to others so Jackie and I joined five from AHBC as well as a group from Elmhurst Bicycle Club to fill it. The Mosel cuts through the Alsace Lorraine area which means steeply sloped banks filled with vineyards and cute little cities with half-timbered buildings lining old town squares.

Our next tour was with the same company on a similar barge. This one departed from Paris and went south starting on the Seine and then entering small canals. We saw Barbizon, the hang out of the impressionist painters, lavish palaces such as Fountain Bleu, and romantic towns full of flower gardens and century's old buildings. We had signed on to this one because we got an offer for the bargain price of \$900 each to fill the barge after a group had cancelled. We were joined by 3 from England, 4 from Australia, 4 from Canada, and 5 from the US. None of knew each other and all had a great time sharing meals, riding experiences, and the daily cocktail hour.

A few years later Paula Matzek and I chartered a barge trip from Bruges Belgium to Amsterdam. This one was on an old familiar barge that had taken us down the Mosel. Belgium and Holland are basically pretty flat in the area of the barge trip. The countryside is charming and pleasant. The cities are totally fascinating. Ella Shields, Kris Woodcock and Pam Burke joined us on that trip.

After experiencing three trips on small barges we then opted to try a large vessel which also offered a biking option. This one was along the Danube and included stops in Linz, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest. While on the small barges we rode while the barge moved down river. We then spent the nights tied up in whatever town our destination was. On the large barge (160 passenger's vs 26) we often traveled during the night. This allowed us to cover more territory and see more places. It also allowed the option of having a larger stateroom with a view of the passing scenery. Meals were also fancier but more formal. The downside was that we did not get to know the other passengers as well and we did not have a guide with us every day.

Our last experience was on a boat instead of a barge. It could be described as a large yacht with accommodations for 34 riders. This tour was on the Adriatic Sea along the coast of Croatia. The boat would take us to a new island every day where we biked over hills through mostly deserted landscape with amazing views of the sea. Our tour company did not make e-bikes an option, they made them standard. With a guide at the front and one in the rear, the riders were allowed to go at their own pace. The e-bikes made it easier to help even the slowest riders stay within range. They also made it much more enjoyable for even avid cyclists to tackle a series of hills and even 10% grades. Every day also offered an opportunity to take a dip in the Adriatic which was comfortably warm and incredibly clear. Biking usually consumed about three to four hours a day. After a swim we then usually spent two to four hours motoring to our next port. Every port city or town was totally different from the last. On two nights we got to be on our own to find a restaurant and sample local cuisine as well as totally different ambience.

How do you do one of these tours? You could start shop-

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ping and daydreaming by checking out the websites. tripsite.com is a good place to start. They are not a tour company but a broker for many different tour companies. boatbiketours.com is the company that does the tours we did in France and Belgium. Two of our tours were arranged by bike clubs who chartered a whole boat. VBT also offers many of the same tour options. They generally charge about 50-100% more but also take care of airport transfers, offer a van support, and upgraded meals with free wine and beer. You can do this on your own. It is usually more fun and comforting to do it with at least a few friends. Jim Boyer, Betsy Burtelow and Tom and Deb Wilson did that in France this past summer. For the bike club to do it requires someone to take the initiative and start the planning at least 9-12 months in advance.

Our trips have cost between \$900 and \$1,200 per person for a small barge trip. The Danube big barge cost around \$1,500 per person and the Adriatic boat cost around \$1,800. That includes lodging, most meals, bike rental, and a guide. There is usually an added cost of \$100 -

\$200 for tips and drinks. Airfare to Europe has been running between \$900 and \$1,500 per person.

Some folks fly to the starting city, jump on the barge and then fly home at the end of the week. That keeps the cost down but you would pay the price in jet lag. Many others plan on extra time in the starting and ending cities. We have been to Paris twice and are still captivated by it. It usually costs no more to arrive in one city and leave from another such as Paris/Munich or Brussels/Amsterdam. Costs in these foreign cities usually run us around \$2-300 per day for two of us including sights and local transportation. For many of us Europe is the birthplace of our ancestors. However, it consists of a collection of distinctive foreign countries. And foreign means different. I travel because I like to experience what I cannot do, see, taste, or feel at home. My memory bank is full of stuff that has changed and enriched the person I am. If you feel the urge to try something like this, follow the Nike motto: "just do it"!

Vince Kelley

2019 GRAND ILLINOIS BIKE TOUR

Join us June 9, 2019 through June 14, 2019 for our 17th annual Grand Illinois Bike Tour! Our 2019 loop will tour through beautiful Amish country and east central Illinois. We will start and stop in Tuscola, with overnights in Mattoon (one night), Effingham and Charleston (two nights each). Join us and invite your cycling friends (non-riding volunteers needed too). Registration is open.

Choose among our daily mileage options for a total ranging from 200 to 395 miles. Pick between our camping and motel options, and enjoy evenings filled with good food and fellowship with riders hailing from around the country. Proceeds benefit Ride Illinois and support our mission to make Illinois a better, safer, and more enjoyable place to ride.

Our fully supported tour basics:

- Basic daily route distances between towns range from 45 to 53 miles. Longer route and layover day options are available. Routes are marked and cue sheets are provided.
- Campers will tent in parks and campgrounds, with

showering facilities provided. All breakfasts and dinners (10 meals in total) are included.

- The motel option, available for an additional fee, accommodates approximately 100 riders and sells out early. Nine meals (all breakfasts and four dinners) and evening receptions are included.
- Luggage transportation is provided in separate vehicles for campers and hotelers.
- Emergency SAG, refreshment stops, and t-shirt are included. Expert bike repair, as well as professional massage, are also available every day to hotelers and campers, at the campsites.
- Nightly meetings include ride information, awards, and more.

The ride is limited to 240 riders.

Registration is available online.

rideillinois.org/events/2019-grand-illinois-bike-tour



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1326 N Rand Rd
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
(847) 398-1650

Barrington

234 W Northwest Hwy
Barrington, Illinois 60010
(847) 382-9200
villagecyclesport.com

The **Wheeling Wheelmen Bicycle Club** has an active Yahoo Group available on the Internet. The group works like a bulletin board and allows us to exchange email with other club members without having to know everyone's individual email address. You must subscribe to the group before you can send a message. Follow the instructions required by Yahoo to complete your registration.

NOTE: Due to spam and email address hijacking concerns, subscription to the Yahoo Group is limited to current members of the Wheeling Wheelmen Bicycle Club only. If you have questions about club membership, rides or events, please send an email to: wheeling@wheelmen.com

To Subscribe send an email message to:
wheelingwheelmen-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe send an email message to:
wheelingwheelmen-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To post a message send your message in an email to:
wheelingwheelmen@yahoogroups.com

The group name is: **wheelingwheelmen** and is available at: groups.yahoo.com/group/wheelingwheelmen



**Wheeling
Wheelmen**

P. O. Box 7304
Buffalo Grove, Il.
60089-7304
wheeling@wheelmen.com

**We are on the web
wheelmen.com**

Join us on

facebook

SAVE THE DATE

Club Meeting—Feb 27, 2019

St. Pat's Ride—March 17, 2019

Picnic—July 14, 2019



CLUB DISCOUNTS

The following local shops offer a 10% discount on parts and accessories to all Wheeling Wheelmen with a valid membership card shown at time of purchase.

AMLINGS CYCLE
8140 N Milwaukee Ave.
Niles 847-692-4240
amlingscycle.com

B&G CYCLERY
131 E. Rollins Rd,
Round Lake Beach,
847-740-0007
bgcyclery.com

**BICYCLE CONNECTION
OF SCHAUMBURG**
1226 N Roselle Rd.
Schaumburg
847-882-7728
bikeconnection.com

**GEORGE GARNER
CYCLERY**
1111 Waukegan Rd.
Northbrook 847-272-2100
740 N. Milwaukee Ave,
Libertyville, 847-362-6030
575 Ela Road, Lake Zurich
847-438-9600
georgegarnercyclery.com

MIKES BIKES
155 N Northwest Hwy,
Palatine, 847-358-0948
mikesbikeshoppalatine.com

RUNNER'S HIGH & TRI
121 W. Campbell,
Arlington Hts., 847-670-
9255 runnershigh-n-tri.com

7 MIILE CYCLES
45 Arlington Hts Rd
Elk Grove Village
847-439-3340
7milecycles.com

SPOKES
69 Danada Square E,
Wheaton 630-690-2050
1807 S. Washington, #112
Naperville, 630-961-8222
spokesbikes.com

**TREK BICYCLE STORE –
HIGHLAND PARK**
1925 Skokie Hwy
Highland Park
847-433-8735
trekhp.com

VILLAGE CYCLESPORT
1326 N. Rand Rd.
Arlington Hts.
847-398-1650
234 W. Northwest Hwy
Barrington 847-382-9200
villagecyclesport.com

WHEEL & SPROCKET
1027 Davis Street
Evanston 847-864-7660
wheelandsprocket.com

We support:

- *The League of American Bicyclists
- * Ride Illinois
- *Active Transportation Alliance
- *Buffalo Grove Bike Rodeo
- *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

The League of American Bicyclists promotes cycling through safety and represents us in the decision making process in Washington D.C. A yearly membership is \$35 and should be sent to:

League of American Bicyclists,
1612 K Street, NW, Suite #401
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202-822-1333 Fax: 202/822-1334
E-mail: BikeLeague@aol.com
Web Site: www.bikeleague.org

In addition to government relations, they also organize many great cycling rides and rallies around the country. For information on these events call (800)288-BIKE