



EBC Bikewriter

April 2002

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

I will not be able to assist in the EVSC safety program at this time. Volunteers are needed to help.

Dan Armstrong will be working with Randy Heidorn Security & Safety Director for Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. Dan tries to keep the safety program going, but there needs to be somebody within the corporation that focuses on the project. I spent a lot of time last year contacting different groups, raising money for prizes for a bike rodeo, and we purchased all those coloring books. We put on a rodeo last May with about 25 children participating, many of them were the children of club members. We did give away about 20 helmets at the school programs that we conducted and at the rodeo. My plans are to get involved next fall.

Darlene Wefel, President

NEW YEAR'S DAY RIDE

By Wayne Fuller

This year, New Year's Day fell on a Tuesday; it was the first club ride of the year. The ride was 20 miles plus or minus. We started just off Highway 41 past the I-64 interchange. The ride was an "out and back" cycling to Cynthiana and back. This was the first time that was I was going to cycle to Cynthiana from the east. Last year, I had entered into Cynthiana from the north on the first day of the Harmony 100, and from the south on the second day of the Harmony 100. Those days were much warmer, but also much windier.

I particularly remember the first day I cycled into Cynthiana I saw a sign advertising soft ice cream cones, and told my son, Andy, that we should stop for ice cream. We determined that the ice cream shop must have been closed down for several years, and the only thing really remaining was its sign. On New Year's Day, the weather was 37 degrees and very sunny. It was an easy ride to Cynthiana. The day was much brighter and nicer than the day I cycled the end of the year ride. Over 20 bike club members did the New Year's Day Ride. Everyone was dressed quite warm for the chill.

For me, the New Year's Day Ride was a start of another year of cycling. It was a start to working toward my goals of doubling my club miles and reaching my personal goal of 5,000 miles in a year's time. It was more than making a resolution as it was actually participating in the start of my goals. The ride on New Year's Day symbolized the start of a new year and the start of new goals to work on. Certainly, the ride was quite pleasant, and it was not strenuous. We got to ride through downtown Cynthiana, and, on the way there and back, to ride through Haubstadt.

Since the New Year's Day Ride, I have ridden an additional 980 miles. I am well on my way to reaching my goals of 5,000 miles this year. I also am well on my way to reach my goal of doubling my club miles. I believe that it was a good way to start the new year off right for any goal setting. I believe that other members of the bike club were also out establishing their own personal goals by starting their new year off on the right cycling foot.



Florida Trip

By John Small

Each year after the holidays, we begin to get a bad case of cabin fever and try to find a warm spot to do some bicycling. This year we ended up in south Florida and were blessed with 80-degree days and lots of sunshine. We parked our van at the hotel in North Miami Beach and spent the next three days on two wheels. We mistook the scenic routes on our hotel map for bike routes and attacked them with our urban assault vehicle (UAV) more commonly known as a Rans Screamer. We rode from our hotel through downtown Miami to Key Biscayne and returned via South Beach for a total of 48 miles in heavy traffic and across four causeways. At times, we were on Highway 1 in six lanes of traffic. It was not a ride for the faint of heart. On the next day, we rode directly to South Beach through the "Decco" area and joined up with the other weirdos. We explored parts of town that we would not have seen in the van.

Next, we pressed on to Key West for a week of enjoyment. We rented a house and stayed with three other couples from the Evansville area. They rode their scooters to destinations while Pam and I peddled. We were never far behind in the congested traffic there. We rode the numerous bike routes and took our time to thoroughly enjoy the area. It was great fun to bike Duval Street along with the Harley riders while all of the tourists gawked. We received many comments and thumbs up, even from the motorcycle gang! One evening, we rode the bike path next to the ocean and listened to the waves break only a few feet away. Priceless!

After a wild week, we moved 50 miles north to Marathon on Vaca Key. The island was only 11 miles long, but we rode 130 miles exploring it. An old bridge, extending two miles over the ocean and limited to bikes and walkers, was a super place to ride and enjoy the sunsets.

Our next stop, was the Everglades. There we rode the Shark River loop road. This 15-mile road was limited to bikes and the NPS trolleys. We were the first on it in the morning, and it was a ride that ranks among THE BEST! It was like riding through a zoo. Numerous birds were wading, diving and flying overhead. The water was very clear and we could see the large gars, turtles and diving birds in it. The biggest thrill was watching the alligators up close. At times, we were within a few feet and had to steer around them. One alligator blocked the road, after we had passed, and other bicyclists had to sit and wait their turn before proceeding.

If there is a moral to this story, it is to never leave your bike at home while traveling. It was our major source of enjoyment, and we looked forward to exploring new paths each day. We logged over 300 miles and never used our van after we arrived at our destination.

"Get a bicycle. You will not regret it if you live." — **Mark Twain**, "Taming the Bicycle"

"To ride a bicycle properly is very like a love affair; chiefly it is a matter of faith. Believe you can do it, and the thing is done; doubt, and for the life of you, you cannot." — **H.G. Wells**, *The Wheels of Chance*

Beast Report - It will take two.
by Bob Willett

A little background:

The Beast was attained from the swamps of Florida. The Beast looks a lot like Bullwinkle the Moose with wheels—kinda gawky and clumsy lookin'.

The Beast is starting to look and feel better after being moved to the Mid-West with its open high-ways for wandering. The Beast just wasn't made for swamps or off roading.

The Beast was taken to a local bike repair shop for a diagnosis and TLC. The Beast's bottom bracket had become irritable and quite painful. The repair shop replaced the bearings in the bottom bracket and did a rebuild of the rear hub. They gave the Beast fresh rubber and air for its footing and new brake shoes to control the Beast's speed (which can be immense). The Beast is starting to get that youthful glow back after suffering many years of neglect.

The Beast is now available to be scheduled for club rides. Jesse Niethammer and Bob Willett are the official handlers of the Beast. Jesse will be handling the Beast's ride card for club rides. The ride card is filling quickly, so be sure to get with Jesse. Jesse and Bob have decided anyone who can tame the untamed Beast for 1000 club miles will be certified a Beastmaster. Another option will be to do RAIN on the Beast. Still another opportunity to get Beastmaster status is to ride Greg, Curt and Cindy's Time Trial on the Beast. Time has yet to be determined to qualify.

Beast Handlers
Bob & Jesse

P.S. There may be a small fee for Beast upkeep. Twinkies, cokes etc ? Ride Fee negotiable.

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner of the February Bicycle Loft Dart Throw is Evan James.
Congratulations Evan, you've won a \$25 gift certificate.

Note to riders: You become eligible just by signing the ride sheets!

"If asked to explain why I learned the bicycle, I should say I did it as an act of grace, if not actual religion."
— Frances Willard, *How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle*.

"After your first day of cycling, one dream is inevitable. A memory of motion lingers in the muscles of your legs, and round and round they seem to go. You ride through Dreamland on wonderful dream bicycles that change and grow."
— H.G. Wells, *The Wheels of Chance*.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN - From the Other Side



By Wayne Fuller

In 1998, Andy and I rode the *Great Pumpkin*. Last year Kate, Andy, and I rode the *Great Pumpkin*. In April of this year we became members of the Evansville Bicycle Club. So this year we went from having been participants in the *Great Pumpkin* to becoming volunteers for the *Great Pumpkin*. We have ridden a great many bike tours over the past two years and always have been participants. We had no clue to the work that goes into running a bicycle tour. The three of us volunteered to help Ronnie Lee cook pasta. On Saturday we hooked up the camper and drove to the 4-H center. We set up camp and immediately left for Ronnie Lee's kitchen. Although the directions to his building sounded complicated, it was easily found. When we arrived, water was already on the stoves, although hardly boiling. We had five pots going at the same time. We cooked a hundred pounds of pasta. The pasta went from boiling pots to the strainer for a cool-down, then to plastic bags, then oil doused and into the refrigerator. Over and over again this process went on until a hundred pounds of pasta had been cooked. For this service Ronnie provided a meal, which I must say, was quite excellent. We were told that the pasta was done earlier than usual. That gave us the opportunity, after we left Ronnie's place, to go to the bookstore and then to all bicyclist's dream after the ride—the ice cream shop. We arrived back at the 4-H center and noticed that there were lights on in one of the open buildings where registration was to take place the next morning. We walked down to the building only to find Rusty sorting through what appeared to be thousands of shirts. We offered him assistance, but he declined. It appeared that it was probably a job best left to fewer or more people. We spent a chilly, but comfortable night in the camper. The next morning we were up early and proceeded down to the registration site to see if there was any assistance that we could give. I volunteered to direct traffic into appropriate parking slots. I did this seemingly forever. It appeared because of the coolness of the morning that many people came to do the ride later than usual. I finally got the last few cars to park at around 10:30. Then it was back to the registration site where Andy and Kate were already helping to serve hungry bicyclists. I joined in, becoming the pasta dipper. We worked until about 2:00 and then went to pack up the camper and drove on home. The three of us were tired and somewhat sore from our activities. We also learned a great lesson, and, that is, what it takes to put on a bicycle tour. On the next occasion you are riding and enjoying the hospitality of others who are putting on the tour, I think that it is important to remember that there is a lot of hard work behind the scenes that goes on to make a good ride for everyone. I must say that our experiences prior to becoming members of the Evansville Bicycle Club with the *Great Pumpkin* were very positive. Hopefully, we contributed enough to make the experience for the current group of bicyclists a positive experience as well.

SPINERVALS
By Greg Roeder

We have just wrapped up the 2001-02 Spinerval classes. It's hard to believe that this is the third year we have been training with Coach Troy. I'm sure all who participated will agree that spinervals have helped keep the head clear and the body fit over the long winter months. Each week we have been challenged by workouts such as Muscle Breakdown, Uphill Grind, Suffer-O-Rama, and Mental Toughness. This year we added a new Saturday class geared towards beginners, or those that could not make the evening classes. Paul Schuler, who is a local rider and instructs classes at the Y also stopped by to give us a great aerobic workout. The Bicycle Loft would like to thank everyone that has participated in our classes. We hope that this program has helped you meet and surpass your cycling goals, and will help make your spring and summer rides more enjoyable. We hope to see your name on the rider list next year.

★ Kevin Pendley	★ Evan James	★ Michael Benson	★ Gary Gardner	★ Opal Gardner
★ Meagan Powers	★ Eric Powers	★ Dave Heng	★ Randy Silke	★ Greg Roeder
★ Curt Jones	★ Reagen Evans	★ Dave Ashworth	★ Loir Smidt	★ Craig Watson
★ Reagen Evans	★ Sandy James	★ Cinda Alexander	★ Julie Simmons	★ Skip Frasier
★ Jamie Benefiel	★ Darryl Benefiel	★ Matt Effinger	★ Jim English	★ Jesse Niethammer
★ Jim Niethammer	★ Dave Conner	★ Wayne Osborne	★ Bob Willett	★ Travis Young
★ Phalos Young	★ Alice Watson	★ Justin Gatlin	★ Roger McBain	★ Paul Schuler
★ James Mohs	★ Randy Mead	★ Robert Reid	★ Jerry Lutz	★ Cindy Jones
★ Rusty Yeager	★ Harry Clark	★ Ron Pendley	★ Sam Titzer	★ Sam Terrell

★ And a few names I could not make out.



WELCOME
New members for March

Rick & Ann Williams
Valerie & Michael Heath
Joe & Arrik McGinnis
Nick Bohler
Brooke Riester
Ned Wilson

UPCOMING RIDES

- 3/24 Dave Heng's Moon Pie Ride
- 3/29 Evansville to Florida departs
- 3/30 Tour de Tator in Benton, Ky (not a club ride, but free)
- 4/7 Mona Wooten's BBQ Ride
- 4/14 The Gardners' Ride
- 4/20 Lake Barkely Fitness Center Ride
- 4/21 Hope, Janet and Mary's Tour de Fleur
- 4/24 Week-day Club Century @ 8:00 a.m. Plaza Park MS
- 4/25 Bruell's NITE RIDE
- 4/27 Club Century 8:00 a.m. Plaza Park MS

Wednesday night rides will start at Mesker after the time change in April.

March Club Meeting Ride Stats:

Stats were distributed thru March 13, but were reported by members to be missing data for 1/2, 2/2, 3/5 possibly due to being blown away. Rusty pointed out that that no credit can be given if sheets are lost. He prefers that members do not e-mail ride information due to confusion. A separate ride sheet was suggested for latecomers to rides, but the need for all to sign up was stressed due to possible liability.

A suggestion was made to schedule a week-day century for people who work on weekends. These will be scheduled in April and May. Continuation of these rides depends on turnout.

The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

Membership Application 2002

Name _____ Age _____ _____ _____		Release of Liability Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc. is organized for sole purpose of providing it's members with notification of central meeting points and times. Members freely elect to ride together as a group, following a route of choice. In signing this form for myself and/or my family members I understand and agree to absolve EBC, Inc. and it's organizers or sponsors for all blame for any injury misadventure, harm loss or inconvenience suffered as a result of participation in any ride or activity associated with or sponsored by the EBC, Inc. I further understand that I, as an individual am responsible to abide by all traffic laws and regulations governing bicycling and take full responsibility for my actions. Make Checks payable to: Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc. Mail to: Randy Silke 516 Sandalwood Dr. Evansville, IN 47715
Address _____	Individual \$12	
City _____ State _____	Family \$20 +	
Zip _____ Phone _____	\$1/child	
E-mail Address _____		
Signature _____		

President	Darlene Wefel (490-0686)	Membership	Randy Silke (437-9122)
VP	Dave Ashworth (426-2489)	Statistician	Rusty Yeager (402-1787)
Secretary	Bob Messick (842-0072)	Touring	Tony Titzer (490-1397)
Treasuer	Bob Willett (270 836-3546)	Website	Bob Wefel (490-0686)

EBC Bikewriter

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