



EBC Bikewriter

April 2003

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SADDLE

It is that time of year again, spring, when thoughts turn to serious time on the bike. I assessed that I had spent a lot of time on my bike last year and now maybe it was time for a new bike. Ignoring the fact that my bike was new last year, I started looking for a way to justify buying another bike. I have noticed that there are ways other than need to justify buying another bike. I decided that guilt would work best on the person I had to convince that this was needed. I started telling her that her bike just wasn't complete without new wheels. Next, I told her that the components needed to be upgraded. Now I could do this by either:

1. Buying her a new bike, which would mean she would have to get used to it all over again, and she really didn't want to do that.
 2. I could put new components on that frame that she was so used to.
- Once she had new components, I told her I had to have a new bike just to keep up. Well anyway it went something like that. I understand that this method has worked for others this year.


This past weekend was a good of biking weather as you can hope for this time of year. Those who have let their bikes gather dust this winter, check the tires, find your helmet, and get your shoes; it is time to ride.

David Ashworth, President

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS FOR MARCH

David Merrick Ben Guillaum



Bike Sebring, Florida - 12 Hour Ultra 2/22/2003

By Bob Willett

Rollled into Florida Saturday night 2/15/03 to visit my parents. It took about twelve hours to drive 850 miles. This got me to thinking, how many miles could I ride a bike in twelve hours? An Ultra-Marathon Cycling Association sanctioned twelve-hour event was happening on February 22 at 6:30 a.m. The event started at the historic Twelve Hours of Sebring Race Track. I had seven days to get ready to try and ride my first double century. I figured I would need a cheery day, mild temperatures, 75 degrees or so, and little wind. I would need to average 18 mph for eleven hours allowing one hour off the bike. But, what we got was low 80s with high humidity and winds picking up to a steady 25-30 mph. I used to think a 20 mph head wind was tough. Wound up with an average of 15.1 mph for 132 miles. Called it quits after ten hours of effort.

I thought I might be able to come up with some kinda outrageous effort on my part, and no one would know the difference, but hell there was another EBC rider there, Steve Gerbig, and he had rode it last year also. He took top honors in his age group, m 55-59, with 160 miles and also 1st last year with 166 miles. Congratulations to Steve Gerbig.


There were nine women who rode the Twelve Hour Ultra. I did tie with three women; the other six out rode me. I also managed to hang in there with the oldest rider, Joseph Belshe, m 80-85, with 132 miles.

High milage woman was Nancy Guth, f 50-54, with 204 miles. High mileage male was Pierre Letournear, m 35-39 with 231 miles. If you enjoy punishment, this is the ride for you. I intend to try it again next year. Maybe I'll do a double century next year in twelve hours.

Ride Information:

fni@tnni.net

863 382 6464



"When man invented the bicycle he reached the peak of his attainments. Here was a machine of precision and balance for the convenience of man. And (unlike subsequent inventions for man's convenience) the more he used it, the fitter his body became. Here, for once, was a product of man's brain that was entirely beneficial to those who used it, and of no harm or irritation to others. Progress should have stopped when man invented the bicycle."

—Elizabeth West, *Hovel in the Hills*

The Bike Tour That Didn't Happen by Wayne Fuller

For our 25th wedding anniversary, Kate and I decided to take the train to New Orleans. We looked into the possibility of taking a bike tour during our stay in New Orleans. We found the Laid Back Tours located on 625 Hagan Avenue. They can be found on the Web at www.laidbacktours.com. Before we left for New Orleans, Louisiana, I contacted Laid Back Tours and talked to Veda, one of the owners. She explained that a two or four-hour bicycle tour was feasible. There also was a full-day bicycle tour. You can have your choice of an upright bicycle or a recumbent bicycle. Each tour is different. The tour can take you through one or more of the historic neighborhoods of New Orleans that would include Faubourg St. John, the French Quarter, the University District, or perhaps the Garden District. Each tour is guided. As you are on the tour, you hear about New Orleans' culture and customs. This sounded like an adventure, so I booked a tour for the day after we arrived in New Orleans.

We drove to Carbondale, Illinois in a blinding snowstorm to catch the train at 2:00 a.m. We rode the train all day, and we reached New Orleans around 4:00 p.m.. We checked into the motel and then went out to eat. The next morning when we got up, I called Laid Back Tours. Veda indicated that the wind was quite fierce, and it was also quite chilly. It was decided to postpone the bike tour for the following day. We spent the day touring the D-Day Museum and walking through part of the French Quarter.

The next morning, the weather continued to be windy and cold. It was decided to postpone the bike tour indefinitely. That day, we went to the aquarium and again visited the French Quarter. On our final day in the French Quarter, I decided that I needed to at least go to the bicycle shop and talk to Veda. The bike shop was located about two miles from the motel, and I walked over to the shop and met Veda and her husband. They are two very nice people. I sat and talked with them for about two hours. They have been doing bike tours for many years in New Orleans. They have a nice selection of both upright and recumbent bicycles from which to choose. Additionally, they indicated that they had a guide for those individuals who wanted to do a "fast-paced tour." Although we were disappointed in not getting to take the bike tour in New Orleans, we made up our mind that on our next visit there, should the weather be better, we would definitely take this tour. It is one way to enjoy the benefits the bicycling while at the same time learning something about part of the country that is so very much different

"The bicycle is the most civilized conveyance known to man. Other forms of transport grow daily more nightmarish. Only the bicycle remains pure in heart."

—Iris Murdoch, *The Red and the Green*.

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Submit all articles to Faye Carter, the Editor, by calling 270 821-2143 or e-mail chiapet@charter.net

The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

Membership Application 2003

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Signature _____

Individual \$12

Family \$20 +

\$1/child

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.

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