



# EBC Bikewriter

August 2003

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SADDLE

Two years ago in the early Spring Bob Willett talked me into riding RAIN in July. At the time I had yet to complete my first century, so needless to say I was a little concerned. I talked to several others about how to prepare and the information received pointed to one thing. You have to ride, ride, and then ride some more. I prepared for that day and by the date of the ride I felt that I was ready. Then someone dropped the bomb; it was a mass start. I started hearing horror stories of falls and multiple water bottles dropped. I slept very little the night before thinking of the mass start. Once we got to the start my nerves got the best of me and I had to find the one lone porta-potti at the start. The line was long and slow moving. By the time my turn came it was very close to start time. While in there I heard clicking starting on my left and going right on by as everyone started moving. By the time I got out I was alone. I had missed the start and the chase was on.

The next year I promised myself that I would be at the start at 6:00. Once again I was awake most of the night thinking of the start. We loaded up that morning and headed west to Illinois. One problem, though, the exit we were to use was closed. So on to the next exit, unfortunately 10 miles down the road. By the time we got back to the start area, 6:00 was fast approaching. By the time I got all my gear gathered, a touring rider could probably pack their bike faster than I can get ready, it was after 6:00. Once again I had missed the start.

This year I was not going to have it happen again. We left 15 minutes earlier than usual. I managed to take my usual long time to get ready and still arrived 5 minutes before the start. I finally got to hear the instructions from Joe Anderson that this was not a race, ha, ha. The next was that the police car will escort the lead group through Terre Haute at 20 MPH, Please do not pass the car. Then it was time, no gun, no flag waved, just go have a safe ride. It was like starting a no drop ride with 700 other riders. There were no wrecks or water bottles dropped in that first mile that I am aware of. I guess you could say it was anticlimactic. I now, however can say that I actually was a part of the RAIN mass start. The ride was as good as the start. You always wish for a tail wind all the time and this was the day for that wish to come true.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR JULY

Tom Dowd                      Mark McCann  
Wayne Ricketts          Ginny Shrode





## TOUR VOLUNTEERING

Bob Messick

On June 21, I met with fellow EBC member John Norman at Wautoma to again cycle the six day Wisconsin "Northwoods" tour. This being my third year for the tour, I decided to give up one day of riding to volunteer as a site coordinator. The site coordinator title is somewhat self-descriptive in that I acted as school host for one day and coordinated the transportation of participant luggage. All this was in exchange for a tour discount and an opportunity to interact with other volunteers and riders. Fortunately, my volunteer day was set for Thursday in Mellon, WI, which allowed me to ride with John during early stages of the tour from Sunday through Wednesday.

For anyone who may be interested in volunteering similarly, I will outline the duties I performed:

### GENERAL

Assist with registration - an early opportunity to become better acquainted with other staff members and riders.

### THURSDAY MORNING duties included:

Direct the loading of luggage onto a rental truck assigned to either the school gym campers or outdoor campers to allow delivery to a location convenient for unloading and setup when cyclists arrive at the new destination. Luggage must be loaded high and forward in the truck, but riders do the actual loading. (Thank God!).

Remove all message boards and signs placed in school on previous day.

Inspect school for left-over items - "lost and found".

Verify assigned truck has adequate fuel and drive to the next school location following a route not used by cyclists.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON duties included:

Meet with custodian contact at new school to determine placement of tents, school facilities, and facility policies.

Position trucks for easiest unloading and direct early arriving riders to appropriate truck.

Prepare school for rider arrival by placing directional signs to gym, shower, cafeteria, and camping areas.

Set up message boards, directional signs, and Lost and Found.

Help set up evening entertainment

Assist arriving riders who can't find a bathroom when they are standing next to it.

Attend evening staff meeting to transfer keys to next volunteer truck driver.

Be friendly, smile, and have fun, which isn't hard to do when you have a great crew to work with. It's a good way to meet other cyclists. My fellow driver, Tom Pugh, was a research scientist at University of Wisconsin who studies the maximum lifetime of humans using mice. (Enuf said?)

## The First Century by Wayne Fuller

Last June, I decided to do something that I had come close to doing twice before and that was to ride a Century. Marion Brandenberger agreed to meet me for the Wednesday morning Century ride and help me get through my third attempt in riding a hundred miles in a day. I met Marion at the starting point and also there were two more riders going for their first Century, Tom and Kelly Kuchenbrod. The four of us started out while it was still cool. We did what is known as the Touring Route or the City Century. We rode our first part around Ditney Hill. We made our first stop at the Busslers on Morgan Avenue, which was open at that time. We continued south and then turned west and crossed Evansville over to the Dogtown part of the ride. Crossing Highway 41 was not a pleasant experience, but we did manage to get across without being hit. We stopped at the Dogtown Tavern for lunch. After lunch, we rode to the end of Old Henderson Road and turned around for our ride across the city. At this juncture, we had accomplished 80 miles. It was also at this juncture that I noted that the day had gone from partly cloudy and cool to sunny and hot. I also determined, although somewhat later, that drinking lots of ice tea at lunch is not something one should do while trying to complete a Century. I struggled to finish the last 20 miles, but was able to finish. Marion, Kelly, and Tom all got in before me. That was the first Century for Kelly, Tom, and myself. Marion, who is an old hand at riding Centuries, indicated that this our first Century would be our hardest one and that from this point on we would find it easier to do Centuries. I went on to ride six more Centuries before the end of the year. My plan was to ride 10 and become a member of the Century Club, but due to some unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to complete 10 Centuries and fell 3 Centuries short. Although we are at the first of May and I have not ridden a Century yet this year, my goal is to have 10 Centuries done before the end of this year.

## GARAGE SALE RIDE

As cycling enthusiasts we love to ride our bikes we also love to buy accessories. Sometimes we buy so many that we end up with three computers, four helmets, ten water bottle cages and five wheels. So now what? It's time to get rid of that excess stuff, but where? Clean out the garage or basement or maybe both, because we may have the answer. Come to the Garage Sale Ride, on Labor Day, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10AM, at Burdette Park, shelter #19 (at the top of Burdette Hill) bring all of your unwanted accessories, parts or bikes (in good working order) tagged with a price and your name. Put your stuff out on the tables before the ride and then sell, trade or buy with other club members when you're done with the ride. Also enjoy lunch, cold drinks and a great time.

See you there,  
Curt, Cindy & Cory Jones

Evansville Bike Club,

Just a short note about the Stassenfest bike ride.

I know there have been problems with this ride in the past!!! No water, no porta-potties, etc.

This year the newly formed Jasper Cycling Club is "assisting" the somewhat defunct Patoka Valley Cyclists with the ride.

Through the efforts of the JCC, we have much more sponsorship money. The rest stops will be well supplied with food, water, and sport drinks. The rest stops will be staffed by members of the JCC that have done many rides and know about cycling and what makes a great ride.

Yes, it probably will be hot and somewhat hilly, but hey it can't all be perfect. With the Evansville Bike Club's support and participation, we believe this could become one of the best rides in the midwest. It will not be the STRESS&FEST ride anymore.

Thanks,  
Aaron Mundy



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## The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

Membership Application 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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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