



EBC Bikewriter May 2004

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SADDLE



Last Thursday was our club meeting. The turn out usually matches the food, which means both were good. Several items were brought up the first being an additional morning ride to match the Thursday evening circuit Ride. This was approved and will appear on the May calendar as a Friday morning ride. Your President also made a proposal that was so soundly defeated during discussion that a vote was not taken. He tucked his tail and retreated to a corner to nurse the many wounds received. Dave Heng made a quick update concerning the Henderson organized ride. Rusty Yeager and Gary Gardner agreed to mark the Circuit rides for next month.

I would like to thank all of those that are helping mark and remark routes. This is time consuming job but necessary as roads are paved and marks wear.

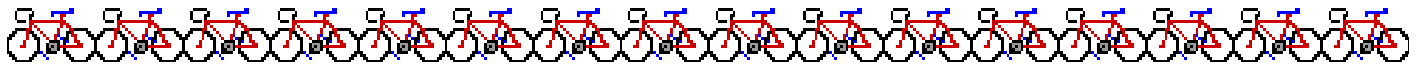
Faye always is looking for articles for the newsletter. They do not have to be long.

For those of you that have been following my wife's trials and tribulations with her husband, you may note that I thought a bribe of a new bike would make up for not securing the rear wheel on her bike last winter. Unfortunately, I sent her out on her first ride with the saddle it came with. Heck, I ride on one just like it and don't have a problem. A week later, I am still in trouble. I replaced the seat twice, and she still won't forgive me.



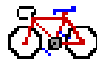
"The best rides are the ones where you bite off much more than you can chew, and live through it."
—Doug Bradbury

"Passing softly through the backcountry creates a fascinating tension. On one hand is the environment, generating powerful swells of energy that course through our psyches. There's something about mountains, deserts, woods, that excites us. Yet, on the other hand, the awesomeness of it all diminishes our importance in the earth's affairs." —Hank Barlow

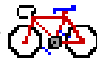


MAY CIRCUIT RIDES

by Dave Ashworth



May will mark the first full month of Thursday night and Friday morning circuit rides. On this ride you will ride 1 to 1.25 hrs on a 2 to 3 mile course. All circuit rides will count as 20 miles. The locations will be Boonville Jr. H. S., Scott School, West Side Christian Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, & Burdette Park.



Directions:



Boonville Jr. H. S. is located 1/2 mile south of Hwy 62 on Hwy 61.



Scott School same location as the Scott School ride. Morning riders may want to park at the church right before the regular ride turns toward Hwy 41 and then ride back to the school to start circuit ride.



West Side Christian Church is located at the corner of Red Bank Road and Upper Mt. Vernon Road. West on the Lloyd to Red Bank Road (O'Charley's/CVS Pharmacy), turn right and go to second stop sign. Parking lot is on your left after crossing Upper Mt. Vernon. To start the ride turn right onto Upper Mt. Vernon in front of the church and go to Diefenbach Road and turn right. The course starts at Diefenbach and Little Schaefer Road.



Burdette Park go west on the Lloyd to Red Bank Road (O'Charley's/CVS Pharmacy), turn left and continue on Red Bank past Broadway and around turn where Red Bank becomes Nurrenbern. Go over Burdette Park hill and park at the BMX Track.



St. Joseph Catholic Church (St. Joe County) is located at St. Joseph, IN. Go west on Hwy 66 (Diamond Ave) and turn right on Hwy 65. Approximately 2.5 miles veer left onto St. Wendel Road (Immediately after fire station on the left). The next stop sign will be St Joseph, about 1 mile.



UPCOMING OUT-OF-TOWN RIDES

May 1 & 2 Harmonie Hundred, New Harmony, IN www.nharmony.k12.in.us

May 8 Red Devil Ride, Richland, IN

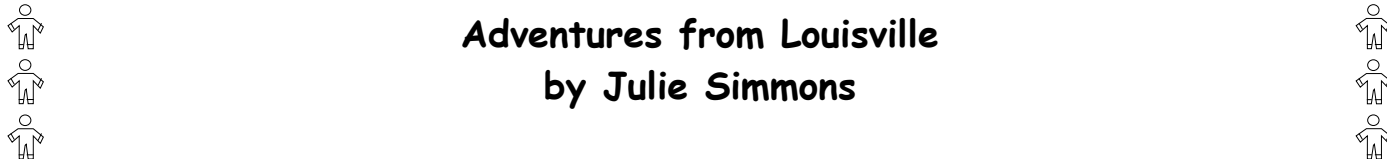
May 22 Little River Tour, Hopkinsville, KY www.youth.saintjohnumc.com

May 29 CRAM, Clarksville, TN www.ridethecram.com

May 29 Horsey Hundred, Georgetown, KY www.bqcyling.org/horsey



Adventures from Louisville by Julie Simmons



My first night ride with the Louisville Bicycle Club consisted of 81 riders. Rusty, I thought of you and what a statistical nightmare it would be to track the miles for all those people. And for the hill-riding fools, I rode on the Indiana side one night after work with the Southern Indiana Wheelman. It was like riding 50 miles of the Hilly Hundred.

I'm having a great time riding in Louisville, but I miss my riding buds in good ole Evansville.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nicolas Scott

Jason Lee

Blair Kyle

Jonathan Avner



"The next three evenings, for it was well into summer, I rode a dozen miles out into the country, where fresh air smelt like cowshit and the land was colored different, was wide open and windier than in streets. Marvelous. It was like a new life starting up, as if till then I'd been tied by a mile-long rope round the ankle to home." —**Alan Sillitoe**, "The Bike"

"Distance measured with a pair of compasses is not precisely the same as when measured with the leg." —**Jerome K. Jerome**, *Three Men on the Bummel*

"Dairy Queen, God, I dream about Dairy Queens." —**Greg LeMond**, when asked what he thinks about during races in Europe.

"The real race is not on the hot, paved roads, the torturous off-road course or the smooth-surfaced velodrome. It is in the electrochemical pathways of your mind."

—**Alexi Grewal**

"Bikes are not a transportation system, never have been and never will be. They're toys."

—**Jay Craycroft**

Those First Spring Rides (ramblings) by Faye Carter

Day 1:

Friday, I ran out of excuses for not getting on my bike. I met up with the Fullers after work on April 16. We parked on the flats by the "meeting" tree at Vandetta. The weather was absolutely perfect for my first ride. It was not too cool, not too hot, just enough wind to be comfortable without causing us to work hard for our ride. We rode from Vandetta to Jewel City and back. I was a happy biker just cruising along enjoying the afternoon of sun in the good company of Kate and Wayne. I figured twelve miles was plenty for my first time on the bike since October. Unfortunately, when I got home, I wished I had thought to stretch a little before the ride. Hamstring cramps. Lesson learned.

Day 2:

Saturday afternoon, after doing housework, car washing etc (every excuse I could think of) I took off on my bike to try for a few miles. I rode out Center Street past Warrior coal and turned on Rose Creek Road. I thought I'd go to Coiltown and back as the out-and-back ride is an flat, easy eighteen miles. It seemed like I was at Coiltown way too quickly. I was just getting into enjoying the afternoon, so I turned and headed for Nebo. I noticed when I turned that riding was not nearly as easy. There was a bit of a cross wind, but nothing too difficult at that time. About two miles out on 502, a German Shephard caught me by surprise. He was right behind my left leg before I knew he was there. I let up on pedaling for a couple of strokes to keep from shoving my calf right into his nose while I grabbed my pepper spray. **BULLSEYE!!!! yike, yike, yike.** Poor baby, I love dogs, but I am attached to my left leg.

A few miles further, I was almost at Nebo when two dogs ran out in the road barking. One looked like a fat, aging, way-too-tall terrier. He didn't last long before the "fat" or "aging" got the best of him, and he gave up. The second dog was a black and tan long-haired dog that looked to be a cross between a Cocker Spaniel and Godzilla. I screamed at him a few times before grabbing the pepper can. Obviously, he had seen a pepper can before. He took off for the side walk when he saw it. Hmmmm, I can't remember spraying him before, but then I tend to shoot first and ID the bodies later.

I was just day-dreaming along when I turned right on Mannitou road. A hawk flew up in front of me and startled me into consciousness. I realized why he hadn't seen me coming sooner when I noticed his roadside dinner of pinto-kitty-carcass cuisine. At least this ride, a circling raptor didn't make me think I was being eyed as a potential meal. All too often, I feel like I am moving slow enough to attract vultures.

The cross wind picked up and kept me awake just trying to keep my bike on the right side of the road. Luckily, I was fully awake when I topped the one little hill on this ride. I met a car on the top that was in my lane. It was lucky for the driver that I was on a bicycle instead of car! He was young (possibly out having his first driving lesson from the elderly passenger). He seemed to have dodged a stationary mailbox on his right side (take a chance hitting a mailbox or hitting a car head-on. . . choices, choices).






The remainder of my ride was uneventful. I will not mention how slow my m.p.h. for the ride was. I guess 37 miles so far this year qualifies me as ready for New Harmony on May 1. Well, not exactly, but I am sure I will think of more excuses to not be ready again this year, and I'll struggle through that first 50-mile ride.







Spring: Must be Time for Bike Tours



By Wayne Fuller








Sometimes, it is difficult to determine when spring has actually arrived. It may be that warm weather lets us know or perhaps the budding of trees. However, a sure sign that spring has arrived is the number of brochures advertising bike tours arriving with great frequency that really lets us know that spring has arrived. The kick-off for bike-tour season for most of us is the Harmonie Hundred, which starts on May 1st. It is two days of very worthwhile riding and may help us to determine if we are really ready to ride a hundred miles over two days.







With no rest in sight, the Richland Fest Bike Tour is the following weekend on Saturday, May the 8th. This tour reportedly is flat, although the two times that I have ridden it, I did not find it to be so flat. For us in the area, it offers our first metric century. Also available is a 30 and 50-mile ride in this tour. These tours both count for club miles for the Evansville Bicycle Club.







On May 15, there are two rides—one is the Peak of Ohio, and the other, the Brown County Hills Challenge. I have not ridden either of these rides and these rides do not count for club miles. However, if you would like to sharpen your hill-climbing skills, then the Brown County Hills Challenge certainly would be recommended.



On May 22, the Little River Bicycle Tour in Hopkinsville, Kentucky will be held. This will be our fourth year going to this bike tour. It is really a great tour, well stocked rest stops with massive piles of homemade cookies, and friendly volunteers. This counts for club miles. You can choose a 20, 40, or 60-mile route. I highly recommend this ride. The following week, Memorial Day Weekend, offers the Cram Ride in Clarksville, Tennessee. This ride also counts as club miles for the Evansville Bicycle Club. We have ridden this ride the past three years. Each year there has been very significant improvements in the ride. Our experience with this ride last year was very positive. Last year, this ride had 800 riders. It does include a Metric Century as well as shorter rides. It has a very good Sag Service as well as company-sponsored rest stops with plenty of food.



The following weekend on June 5th is the Tour de Cave. I have done this ride twice. Last year several members of the Evansville Bicycle Club did this ride. Generally, this ride is hexed by weather, but last year the weather was perfect. This tour takes you through Mammoth Cave National Park. It is quite hilly. It offers a 30, 38, and 68-mile ride. There also are rides of 8 miles and 16 miles for less experienced cyclists or families. This is an exceptionally well-run bike ride. It is run by the Bowling Green League of Bicyclists.



All of these tours offer an opportunity to get away from the routine week-end club rides and see a different part of the country. You get the opportunity to meet new people and perhaps even develop friendships with other cyclists. The majority of these rides support other bicycle clubs and/or community organizations. If mileage is your thing, these rides generally offer a metric century, which certainly would boost your mileage total. Of course, whether you go to any of these bike tours or ride club rides, the important thing is to get out and ride.

EBC Bikewriter

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The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

New Membership and Renewal Application 2004

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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