



EBC Bikewriter

May 2007

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

Notes from the President's Corner by Darlene Wefel

Have you seen any of the EBC's postings on local calendars such as the Evansville Courier's web current events, Channel 14, etc. "Come Ride With Us" that's the message we are trying to spread. We want to welcome new riders and pair them up with experienced riders so they are familiar with our routes, get a chance to know who we are, and get comfortable riding. If you see a new face, introduce yourself, point them in Ann Pendley's or my direction. We'll try to pair them up with someone in their level of riding.

Up coming event; May 1st Ann Pendley, Ron Pendley, and I will be doing a bicycle safety and bike-maintenance program for the Newburgh Boy Scouts. It will be held at the Newburgh Presbyterian Church, 642 Hwy 662, Newburgh @ 6:00 p.m. There will be approximately 30 - 40 Boy Scouts, ages 13 - 16. May 15th at Willard Library, Evansville @ 3:30 p.m., we will be doing a bicycle safety program for children ages 6 - 13 and approximately 30 children are expected. June 21, the Make a Difference Foundation will be giving away 150 bikes and helmets at Bosse Field and the bike club has been asked to do a short bike safety program. I do not have a time as of this printing, but anticipate it will be a morning event. I'll post this again in next months news. I'm looking for several club members to help with this project.

Scott Gilles has donated a fantastic gift to be raffled off at the banquet this year. It's a \$500 (FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR) Gilles Cycling & Fitness Gift Card for one lucky EBC member. You can't purchase a raffle ticket, but you can earn one. There are several ways to earn a ticket for the drawing. For every three club meetings you attend, you will earn one ticket. Every 500 club miles you ride will earn you a ticket. Write an article for the newsletter and you will earn you a ticket (max. 2 tickets.) Participate in a club bike safety event or help with a bike club sponsored event will earn you a ticket. Working the GPM will earn you a ticket, and if you attend the banquet, you will earn a ticket. Pretty simple. So lets get out there and ride.

Looking for opinions, suggestions, and ideas on what you would like to see done as a memorial for Sam Wolf who died at the GPM last year. So far, ideas have been all over the place. The GPM organizers have been meeting monthly planning this year's events. If you have any idea, please email them to the club's email address evansvillebicycleclub@gmail.com

Thanks Scott for your continuous support of our club!
Respectfully Submitted

Confessions of a Bike Trail Junkie
by Charlie Miller

The state of Ohio is blessed with a wonderful bike trail system, especially the southwest part of the state where I live. There are hundreds of miles of blacktop paved Rail-to-trails in Ohio and these trails are where I, as an over weight couch potato, first took up riding in 1996. I've been a trail junkie ever since. I do a lot of my early spring "tune-up" riding on the trails near my home. The Little Miami Bike Trail is one of my favorites. Its southern trail head is located just a few miles from my home in Cincinnati, and it follows the Little Miami River north to its headwaters in the beautiful Clifton Gorge area of Yellow Springs Ohio. But the trail does not end there. It continues on through to Springfield Ohio and finds its northern trail head currently located near Buck Creek State Park. If you begin to ride at the southern terminus, you will pass through Xenia, Ohio at about the 50-mile mark.



The city of Xenia labels itself as the "Bicycle Capitol of the Midwest," and with good reason. Upon arriving there the trail will take you into the beautifully restored Xenia Station. The old train station was torn down decades ago with the demise for the Baltimore and Ohio rail yards. But through the determination of local bicycle activist groups, it has been rebuilt to look exactly like the old station. Within the building, you will find a small railroad museum, snack vending machine area, and very clean restrooms. The top floor is dedicated to class rooms, but you can also climb a spiral staircase that will take you up into a central observation platform. If you take the climb, you are rewarded with a wonderful view of the surrounding area. Xenia station is also a focal point where five bike trails converge. The planned Ohio-to-Erie trail will utilize these trails when it is completed. This route will link Cleveland's Lake Erie shore line with the Cincinnati's Ohio River front. That will be close to 400 miles of beautiful trail riding that passes through some of Ohio's most scenic areas. The trail also passes through enough cities and towns to offer many hotels, restaurants, bed-and-breakfasts, and even camping options for anyone who wants to make extended trips.

In my travels, I have sought out and ridden many bike trails in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and even Florida. They are all wonderful. But My Heart lies along the Banks of the Little Miami River in southwest Ohio where it all began for me.

Welcome New Members

Jay Porter

Jim Bush

Lee Ann Gee



Henderson Tri-Fest Ride

by Faye Carter



The annual Tri-Fest bike tour was held on Saturday, May 21 in Henderson, KY. This was held as part of the Tri-Fest festival in downtown Henderson. Proceeds from the bike ride benefit the Red Cross.

The morning was perfect when Charlie and I arrived in Henderson. We started riding around 8:30 with plans to decide which route at the point where they split. I had done one 11-mile ride and one 4-mile ride so far in 2007. Two miles into our ride, a rider flagged down to tell us a lady had a flat ahead and needed help. He said he didn't have time to help and rode on. About a mile on, we came upon two women standing by the road with their mountain bikes. The rear tire was flat on one bike. They didn't have a pump, patch kit or tube with them and didn't have a clue how to use any of them even if they'd had tools.

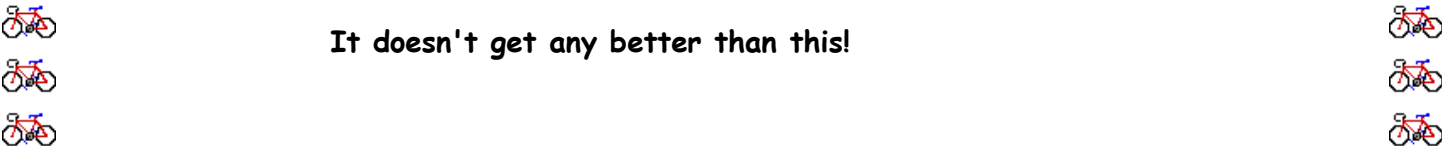
Just after we arrived, a SAG vehicle stopped and offered to take them back to Henderson. The ladies did not want to be taken in by the SAG. They wanted someone to fix their tire for them and the SAG person was not able to do it. Charlie removed the tire, and I got out my Speed Lever tool. Inspection of the tube revealed a crack a small distance below the stem. I asked the lady if she'd put in new tubes this year. She said the tires and tubes were between ten and fifteen years old. I told her the tube was probably dry rotting and cracking from that. I got out two patches and Charlie and I put glue on the whole crack and stuck two patches on trying to cover as much as possible. The tube seemed to hold air. We did give the ladies instructions on patching, replacing it, checking for pinches and airing it. One lady had been talking to her husband on the cell phone, and she told him to buy new tubes for their bikes. They took off to try to complete their 12-mile ride.

Charlie and I stopped at the 5-mile rest stop so Charlie could wash his hands. Before we left, the two ladies rode up. They planned to continue their ride since the tube seemed to be holding air.

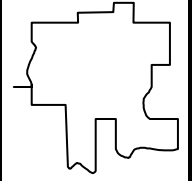
We couldn't have had a better day to ride. We decided to do the 38-mile ride so I wouldn't be totally wiped out at the end. When we got back downtown, we bought sandwiches and headed for the shade. We were seated in time to watch the beginning of the Elvis Impersonator Contest. We really enjoyed that and stayed to watch two of the contestants perform.

The weather was perfect for the ride. It's was a lovely, easy ride with almost no traffic. During the ride, I made the following comment several times:

It doesn't get any better than this!



Tour Director's Corner



Tour Director: Jay Vercellotti

Welcome to the first edition of the Tour Director's Corner. I hope that you will take time each month to check this section for updates that you need to know about. I'm starting this column for two reasons:

First, the ride calendar is overstuffed with information so I've moved all the details for area events to the **Event Information** section below. There you will find street addresses of starting locations, web address, phone numbers, etc. for the area events which are eligible for club mileage. This will free up space on the ride calendar and prevent oddities such as the "supercells" which formed last summer when the text would not fit unless I carved into the space for Monday or Friday.

Secondly, I needed a place to discuss information the club needs to know, such as new times or locations for our regular rides. I'd also like to pick up something that was started a few years back where we publish cue sheets for our rides so that new members can have a good backup to our Dan Henries. They are very good for most of our routes, but you never know when the old steamroller is going to come along and pave over them, or someone with a can of black spray paint is going to pull a misguided prank on us.

First order of business: If you haven't been to the club meetings lately, then you are probably confused about what is going on with the start time and the name of the Sunday afternoon ride. Over the last few years, we have gradually shifted the start time later each month in the spring and earlier each month in the fall. So this year, the Feb. ride was at 2PM, then March was at 3PM, just like last year. The consensus was that was too late for March, so for April we moved it back to 2PM. Here's how it will be now: Sept—Apr start at 2PM and May—Aug start at 3:30PM. That is, until we decide otherwise at some future club meeting.

What was that? Beginner and Intermediate Skills Development Ride? Nothing has changed except the name, and even that has changed again. Ann Pendley has suggested simply calling it "Come Ride With Us!" I have to agree that I like that one better...sorry Darlene. The name is being used for the Sunday afternoon Olmstead route and the Thursday morning circuit rides. The idea is to encourage new riders to show up and we felt that we need a ride that looks like a good choice for someone unfamiliar with the club. We need to help new riders find someone to ride with and to help get them acquainted with the club. Also, if you are a new rider, it is important to be ready to leave 30 minutes early so that you can either ride with some of us slower people who often leave a little early (if that's your style) or just so you have time to find a group that matches your speed. In case you are wondering what a circuit ride is, the calendar blurb says it best, "We will ride one to one and a quarter hours on a two to six mile (or so) course. All Circuit rides will count as 20 miles."

The No Drop Rides have begun. You may have just been thinking, "I thought that No Drop Rides were for the new people?" That is still true, but those are only 6 or 7 times a year. Starting this year, we plan to promote the No Drop Rides through flyers and printed ads, such as in the Courier & Press, and these other rides are once or twice a week. If we can come up with a better name, that may also be changed. We want people to know that these rides are a family event where we ride in a group at a speed that is comfortable for everyone, including the kids. It's the best way to get acquainted with the club and find members who would be good to meet up with at other weekly rides. If you're thinking about joining the club, then definitely be sure to come see us at the next No Drop Ride!

The weekday century is moving to Thursdays. The majority of the people who can't ride on the Saturday century have banded together and requested that it be moved from Wednesday to Thursday. Since I've only found people in favor of this move or who are neutral, and since nobody objected at the club meeting, this change has been made.

Please note that the short Old Dam route is only 27 miles and not 29 miles. The calendars should reflect this from now on.

Last item: Be on the lookout on the web site for route maps. I'll be giving our webmaster some links to routes that I'm putting into <http://www.bikely.com>. This is a mapping service that lets me map the routes and create cue sheets. My goal is to map all of our routes so that new people have an easier time.

See you all out there on the roads!