



EBC Bikewriter

June 2007

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

Notes from the President's Corner By Darlene Wefel

I can't believe that spring is almost over and summer is beginning, which is prime cycling season for all of us. If you've participated in an organized ride this spring, jot down some notes and turn them into an article for the newsletter and earn a chance at the gift certificate supplied by Gilles at the annual banquet.

The Evansville Bicycle Club has been invited/asked to do a ride in conjunction with Elberfeld's Centennial Celebration on June 9th at 8:00 a.m. This will be considered a regular club ride, with no fee. Since the bike club rides through the town weekly the residents and organizers thought it would be nice to have a ride during the festival. There is no SAG Support, or rest stops. There will be a sign in sheet located at a table near the stage located across from the bank. **ALL RIDERS MUST SIGN THE CLUB SIGN IN SHEET and wear a helmet!** The organizers have a couple of gift certificates that will be given to two lucky participants. There will be mileage options a first loop, and a second loop for those who want to do more miles and up to approx. 60 total miles (Club Miles) and sport drinks for those who want it. The route is marked and cue sheets will be provided. This is your own ride. Elberfeld will have lots of other events going on that weekend. Saturday features Kiwanis Walk for Riley Hospital, Birthday Cake Baking Contest, Quilt Show, Remote Control Airplane Display, Car Show, History Area, Food Booths, Entertainment, Parade, Little Miss & Mister Contest, and much more. Bring the entire family and turn this ride into a family event.

The latest up-to-date news about the Bicycle Safety events from last month's newsletter. One of the dates and location has changed. The Make a Difference give away of bicycles has changed to June 27th at IVY Tech on First Avenue in Evansville from 1:00 - 3:30 pm. About 40 - 50 children will be there. Of those children, 9 or 10 will win bikes. The other approx. 115 bikes will be awarded at different schools during the summer. Not all the schools can participate in the event on this day. If you can help with this event, please contact Ann or I.

Thanks to Ron Pendley and Ann Pendley for helping with the Boy Scout's bicycle safety program. Wow! What a great evening! 30+ Boy Scouts listened to us talk about bike safety, and they had lots of fantastic questions. Ron gave them lots of tips on how to prepare their bikes for riding and answered the technical questions about his bike.

Paul Jensin did a wonderful safety presentation to Caze School on May 9th. He spoke with 700 young people via close circuit TV. They were all able to watch the bicycle safety video. Thank you Paul.

The Vanderburgh School Corporation has invited the Club to do bicycle safety programs during their summer session. We need approximately 10 - 12 people to each take 1 to 2 hours out of a day to make a visit to one of the Vanderburgh schools, show a video in a classroom, talk about bicycle safety for 10 minutes give out literature, and answer questions. The school session starts in the middle of June and runs through the July 20th. Please contact me with the dates you can help.

I've been in contact with Chris Hancock the new director of IBC. He is working with us on getting literature for all the bike safety programs we are doing.

Great News! The GPM is off to a fantastic start. Ann has been working very hard to get new sponsors with great success. St. Mary's is sponsoring the GPM again this year. The EBC will be helping with a bicycle rodeo again this year. The date is August 25th so mark your calendar. More details in the July Newsletter.

Hope to see you all out there on the road.

The EBC Newsletter is starting a new feature. Periodically, a member will be in the spotlight. This is a way for us to get to know more about each other. Also, new members will benefit from seeing a picture and getting some background information on members they may meet on rides.

EBC MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT JANET ROBERTSON

This month's spotlight is on Janet Robertson. Janet's been with the club a VERY long time and is as much of a dynamo today as she was when she joined. She's a small woman with a big heart and loves to have fun. She's a pleasure to ride with and keeps you laughing.

Janet is married to Bill Robertson. They live in Morganfield, KY. They have one son Dell, who lives in Oklahoma with his wife and two children, Allie and Jake.

Janet had the following information to share with the club about her years with the EBC:

I joined EBC in Oct. 1980, after my son Dell (who was 15 at the time), my husband, Bill and I returned from our first organized bike ride. Dell and I rode 400 miles across Iowa on RAGBRAI with 3,000 other riders. Bill originally planned to drop us at the start and pick us up at the end of the week, however, he decided to stay with us and would meet us at the end of each day's ride. Dell and I rode our 1st Century on RAGBRAI.

When I joined the EBC, there were very few women members. I was the only woman rider on most of the first rides I did with the club. There was only one club ride per week - the Sunday ride. The routes weren't marked with Dan Henrys then. . . which encouraged you to keep up with the group. We didn't start keeping club mileage until 1988.

I started keeping a log of the miles I rode in the fall of 1973. To date, I have ridden over 86,000 miles - biked in 15 states, 2 Canadian Provinces and New Zealand. I've biked week-long rides in Iowa, Vermont, Washington, California, New Zealand, Canadian Rockies, Nova Scotia, Wisconsin, and several TRIRI rides in Indiana.

The largest ride I've been on was the *Hotter 'n Hell Hundred* ride in Texas. It's a one-day ride in August. I've rode it twice, 11,000 riders the first time I did it, and over 16,000 the second time. One of my favorite rides is the *Horsey Hundred* in Georgetown, KY in May.

The bike club has grown and changed a lot since I joined in 1980, and I've made a lot of good friends in the club.



Janet had been known not to ride her new bike if rain was somewhere in the Midwest. We were doing the Poseyville Century on a Saturday and no rain was predicted even though it was cloudy. Halfway between Ft. Branch and Owensville, the prediction proved to be incorrect. The shower was heavy, cold, and very wet. When we got to Owensville, Janet got off her bike, stomped her foot, and said she wasn't going any further. She was going back. She would not go on until we pointed out that she would have to ride back through the rain. That was all it took and luckily that was all of the rain.

Dave Ashworth

On Faye and I's first chili and pie ride in the early nineties, the weather turned cold (about 30 degrees with a wind chill factor probably in the teens and spitting snow). Only five members showed up. They were Mac Jackson, Ron Pendley, Tony Titzer, Jane Buchta, and Janet. While we were discussing whether to ride the 50 mile course I had laid out, Janet threw down the gauntlet and said the men

were not tough enough for the conditions. Naturally we men (with the exception of Mac Jackson) had to accept the challenge. About twelve miles into the ride I talked them into turning back due to getting

chilled. Janet and Jane nearly frostbit their toes and ate their chili and pie with their feet propped up in front of the wood burner. Since then, Janet has been much better equipped for cold weather riding.

Marion Brandenberger

Everyone should know that tent camping is NOT Janet's choice of accommodations, but she really wanted to go on the Nova Scotia ride with her girls, so we all went. One night it rained buckets all night and the next morning when Janet got up she was ankle deep in water inside her tent. Opal and I walked over to check on her and here she was standing ankle deep in water making her bed and not saying a word. Opal and I both knew that inside she was boiling. We did not want to laugh for fear of her getting wicked with us. Needless to say, the rest of the trip when the weather even looked threatening, Janet was in a Bed & Breakfast for the night.

Vicky Ashworth

A couple years ago five of us gals did the Lighthouse Tour in Nova Scotia. Not everyone in the group was a seasoned camper so Janet invited us to her home for an overnight trial run campout. When the tents were all set up we enjoyed a delicious home cooked meal with wine - boy we were really roughing it. We did spend the night tucked in our sleeping bags and tents in Janet's back yard. The next day Janet's husband, Bill confessed he had thought about putting speakers in the trees and in the middle of the night playing animal sounds to see how we would react. The look on Janet's face - I'm glad he didn't - I'm afraid we would be visiting the "widow Janet" in prison for justifiable manslaughter. That is if we hadn't trampled each other running from the beasts of the night.

Linda Clemmer

The Trail Junkie Visits Moonville by Charlie Miller

Each year around the end of April, I try to make a visit to Ohio's Hocking Valley for my annual spring ride on the HockHocking Adena Bikeway. This black-top trail, which runs between the campuses of Hocking College in Nelsonville and Ohio University in Athens, is only 19 miles long. But a visit to this area anytime from the end of March to the end of May is a special treat. That is when God graces this valley with a riotous bouquet of colorful wildflowers. I usually plan a camping weekend for my visit, but this year, it was a one-day event with my daughter Kristy joining me. As we began our trip, Kristy asked me, "Will we be near Moonville?"



Moonville, Ohio was a small mining town nestled deep in the Zaleski State Forest. It grew up in the 1800's amid the iron boom, along the tracks of the Marietta & Cincinnati Rail Line and completely disappeared less than 150 years later. Today, Moonville may show up on a few maps, but that is about all. What keeps Moonville on the map is the haunted Moonville tunnel that still does exist, and of course its two well documented ghosts. We had never been to Moonville before but directions downloaded from the Internet turned out to be very accurate. A long drive down a narrow dirt road and a short walk along a trail through the woods brought us to the rail bed just before the tunnel. We walked through the tunnel and followed the rail bed for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile until we came to Raccoon Creek. Unfortunately it was swelled by spring rains and prevented us from actually entering Moonville. As we walked through the forest I kept thinking what a beautiful rail trail it would make. I'm happy to report in 2006 the Ohio counties of Athens and Vinton purchased the railway. This clears the way for the construction of a 9-mile rail trail connecting the towns of Zaleski and New Marshfield with Moonville right in the middle. Future plans have the trail continuing on to Athens where it will tie into the HockHocking Adena Bikeway.

It was time for Kristy and I to continue our trip, and we soon arrived at Hocking College to begin our bike adventure. HockHocking is the Adena Indian's word for "bottleneck", or "twisted". It is the name they gave to the river the bike trail closely follows. From 1829, to the trail was the tow-path for the Hocking Canal. Portions of the canal still exist along the trail. In 1870 it became the Columbus & Hocking Valley Rail Line. Today, it is one of the most scenic and beautiful bike trails in Ohio. We did not have to ride the trail too far before we were surrounded by wildflowers. White and pink Trillium blanketed the cliffs and hillsides that shoulder the trail. Virginia Bluebells, Wild Geraniums, Squirrel Corn and Phlox also offer their profusion of colors along the way. But then we came upon a sight that was so beautiful all we could do was stop and stare in wonder.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Daryn West

To read a remarkable story of a courageous young lady in NC who was in a freak bicycle accident 6 weeks ago please visit www.reachfortheskye.org. They are looking for support and prayers. This is not an internet hoax, my son Greg knows Skye personally.

Thanks, Linda Clemmer

[Continued from Page 4] The Trail Junkie Visits Moonville

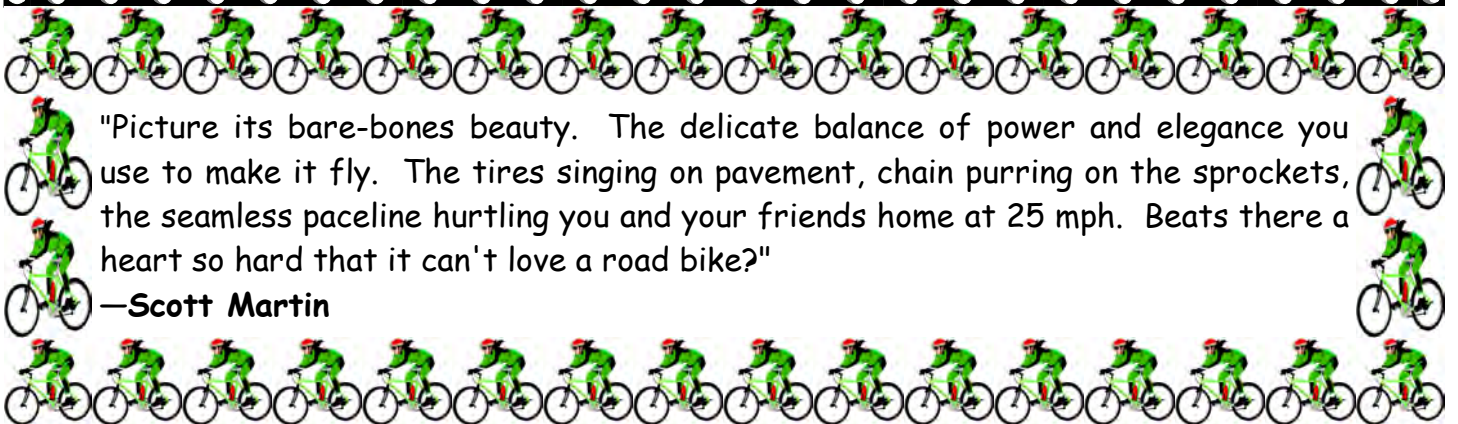
There before us was a blanket of the little blue and white flowers called Blue Eyed Mary displayed in quantities almost too numerous to comprehend. It was spectacular to see.

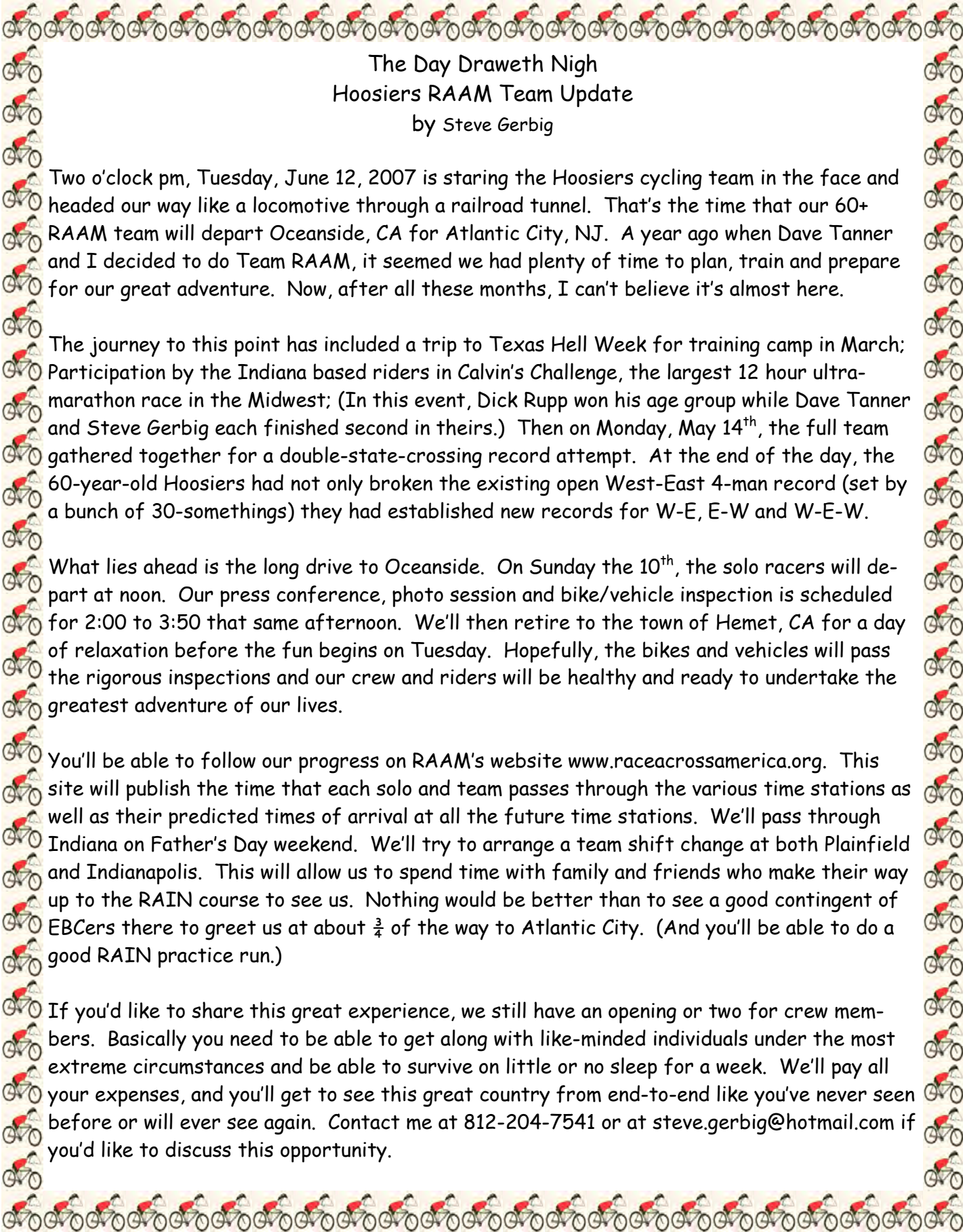
On these rides, I normally go into Athens because sunny, warm, spring days guarantee the Hocking River banks on Ohio University's campus to be lined with coeds sunbathing. But this day was overcast and Kristy's riding limit is about 20 miles, so we turned around early and headed back. The return did offer us one more surprise. A few miles shy of Nelsonville, a friendly little fellow decided to stretch across the blacktop and warm himself. A beautiful young Black Rat snake about 5' in length posed long enough for me to get his picture. But when he started to attract too much human attention, he slithered off the trail and into the woods to find a more private place. Kristy and I headed for home bringing another visit to the Hocking Valley, Moonville, and the HockHocking Adena bikeway to an end for this spring.



"Picture its bare-bones beauty. The delicate balance of power and elegance you use to make it fly. The tires singing on pavement, chain purring on the sprockets, the seamless paceline hurtling you and your friends home at 25 mph. Beats there a heart so hard that it can't love a road bike?"

—Scott Martin





The Day Draweth Nigh Hoosiers RAAM Team Update by Steve Gerbig

Two o'clock pm, Tuesday, June 12, 2007 is staring the Hoosiers cycling team in the face and headed our way like a locomotive through a railroad tunnel. That's the time that our 60+ RAAM team will depart Oceanside, CA for Atlantic City, NJ. A year ago when Dave Tanner and I decided to do Team RAAM, it seemed we had plenty of time to plan, train and prepare for our great adventure. Now, after all these months, I can't believe it's almost here.

The journey to this point has included a trip to Texas Hell Week for training camp in March; Participation by the Indiana based riders in Calvin's Challenge, the largest 12 hour ultra-marathon race in the Midwest; (In this event, Dick Rupp won his age group while Dave Tanner and Steve Gerbig each finished second in theirs.) Then on Monday, May 14th, the full team gathered together for a double-state-crossing record attempt. At the end of the day, the 60-year-old Hoosiers had not only broken the existing open West-East 4-man record (set by a bunch of 30-somethings) they had established new records for W-E, E-W and W-E-W.

What lies ahead is the long drive to Oceanside. On Sunday the 10th, the solo racers will depart at noon. Our press conference, photo session and bike/vehicle inspection is scheduled for 2:00 to 3:50 that same afternoon. We'll then retire to the town of Hemet, CA for a day of relaxation before the fun begins on Tuesday. Hopefully, the bikes and vehicles will pass the rigorous inspections and our crew and riders will be healthy and ready to undertake the greatest adventure of our lives.

You'll be able to follow our progress on RAAM's website www.raceacrossamerica.org. This site will publish the time that each solo and team passes through the various time stations as well as their predicted times of arrival at all the future time stations. We'll pass through Indiana on Father's Day weekend. We'll try to arrange a team shift change at both Plainfield and Indianapolis. This will allow us to spend time with family and friends who make their way up to the RAIN course to see us. Nothing would be better than to see a good contingent of EBCers there to greet us at about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to Atlantic City. (And you'll be able to do a good RAIN practice run.)

If you'd like to share this great experience, we still have an opening or two for crew members. Basically you need to be able to get along with like-minded individuals under the most extreme circumstances and be able to survive on little or no sleep for a week. We'll pay all your expenses, and you'll get to see this great country from end-to-end like you've never seen before or will ever see again. Contact me at 812-204-7541 or at steve.gerbig@hotmail.com if you'd like to discuss this opportunity.

EBC Bikewriter

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The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

New Membership and Renewal Application 2007

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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