



EBC Bikewriter July 2007

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

Notes from the President's Corner

July and August are usually the hottest and driest months of the year here in Southern Indiana, which is pretty scary after a very hot and dry June. About six years ago, Bob and I along with Wayne and Nance Fiester started hosting the Fire Cracker ride and this year is no exception. July 8th we will host this annual ride from the Overlook of the Dam in Newburgh. Check out the Ride Schedule for all the details of this and other rides.

The Evansville Bicycle Club is partnering with St. Mary's again this year to do a bicycle rodeo and child safety day. The rodeo will be at St. Mary's on Washington Avenue on Saturday, August 25 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Again this year, we will need approximately 25 members to help with setting up, checking bikes, doing a safety presentation (video), madding the course, etc. Mark you calendars for this event. Club miles will be given to all volunteers. St. May's has been generous with their support of the GPM, and this is a way of showing our appreciation, and gives our club a chance to show Evansville that we care about the safety of all riders young and old. We will need to wear our club jersey, a hat, and sunscreen is a must. Rusty and I will need 3-4 people to help set the course on Friday evening August 24th and as many members as possible on Saturday. Give me a call or email to sign up.

I recently read an article in July's Bicycling Magazine and it had lots of tips for new riders "5 WAYS YOU CAN FIT INTO THE FAST PACK," something I'll never have to worry about. This article was interesting and brought lots of insight to what a new or visiting rider must feel like while riding with our club. "The faster the pace the whiter your knuckles become. After 90 minutes of riding your bottle is three-quarters full. You hit the mute button when the wheels start spinning. You sprint and then... you don't. Three bike lengths of empty space materialize in front of you after turns." All of this sounds familiar to me. I've seen lots of new riders, seasoned riders, unfamiliar faces, and lots of friends out on our rides this past month, and we need to make visitors and new riders feel welcome. Many riders are very comfortable and confident with their ability to handle any situation that may arise during a ride, and are not intimidated by anyone or anything. This does not hold true for everyone especially new riders. Please let everyone know when you are passing by calling out "on your left," give them room on the road. The general rule is to pass on the left, but if you **MUST** pass on the right make sure the riders in front of you know what you're doing. The last thing we want is to cause an accident.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Wefel, President

Evansville Bicycle Club Members,

The following article was published in the 1994 EBC Newsletter. Anytime you are writing regarding the antics of our beloved EBC Member - Janet Robertson, as I have had the opportunity to do on several occasions since joining the club in 1986, the material you have to work with is almost always "priceless", just like Janet!

Keith Weyer

Lunch Anyone?

by Keith Weyer

Janet Robertson, Gene Brouillard and I were headed east on I-64 with our destination being Lexington, KY and the Horsey Hundred. "Janet the Adventurer" suggested that we might stop in Louisville for a downtown lunch kind of thing. Gene and I agreed. The rest is history!

We tooted into downtown Louisville and searched for a parking space near our restaurant of choice, the "Bristol Grill". Rounding the corner at 6th street we spied an open meter and parked. We exited my car and locked down the bikes on the roof rack. We noted the "No Parking 6-9 a.m. & 3-6 p.m." sign by the curb. It was 1:10 p.m., we had lots of time.

Our very nice lunch was followed by a scenic walking tour of the riverfront park lead by "Janet the Tour Guide." Our stomachs filled, we decided it was time to head east. As we walked around the corner at 6th street Janet and I noticed ... how shall I put it ... an absence!

Gene was strolling down the sidewalk about forty feet in front of Janet and I. I shouted to him, "Gene!" As he looked back I pointed to the parking space where my beloved Corsica use to be. Janet checked the time on the meter at the empty parking space and declared, "Hey, we've still got twenty minutes!" I'm thinking, "Frankly Janet, I don't give a d__n! The vehicle and the bikes are gone!" I asked, "I wonder where my car is? Janet declared, "Who cares about the car, where's my bike!" Janet thought the car had been stolen. I thought no one would steal my Corsica unless they wanted the three bikes. It occurred to us that the car and the 3 bikes were of about equal value!

What followed was a frantic checking of watches lead by "Janet the Basket Case!" We re-read the sign, "No Parking 3-6 p.m." It hadn't changed. We again looked at our watches, 2:20 p.m. ... Evansville time. Bells are now going off in our heads ... it was 3:20 p.m. in Louisville! We were twenty minutes too late!

After several calls to the police I was finally connected to the city impoundment lot. I asked, "I need to see if you have my car down there?" The gentlemen queried, "What does it look like?" I said, "Blue Corsica with three bikes on top." He declared, "Weeeee've got it!" The way he said it I thought I'd just won a prize on a T.V. game show! Unfortunately, this prize cost us a \$65.00 towing fee, a \$15.00 fine, plus taxi fare. And we didn't even get to see Vanna! The entire ordeal took only 55 minutes but seemed much longer. It just doesn't pay to travel with a North Carolina license plate in Kentucky!



27th Annual Bicycle Safari by Marion Brandenberger

Faye and I left Richland April 19 for our thirteenth time to participate in the Florida Bicycle Safari. We have camped in our pop-up camper the last three times. It took longer to get through Atlanta than usual because traffic was slowed to a crawl due to wrecks on both I75 and the I675 bypass. We took the bypass because we heard traffic reports that I75 was at a stand still. It still took us about an hour a half to get around Atlanta so we camped at a KOA at Forsythe South of Atlanta. We arrived at the Live Oaks, Fla. 4-H Fairground about 1:00 the next day where we would stay the first two days of the ride. My riding buddy, Sam Matchett, arrived shortly after along with his neighbor (Rick) and we all headed to the Dixie Grill for a late lunch.

Day one---This was a loop ride back to Live Oaks. Sam and I rode the 57 mile-middle route option and Rick rode the 36. We all rode together the first 10 miles. We started at about 60 degrees temperature and finished at about 75 degrees. The sun was shining and just a beautiful day for riding. The weather continued to be great all week with starting temperature in the mid 60s and in the mid 70s to low 80s later in the day. This was my first Safari not to get rained on sometime during the tour. We had the usual first day chicken & rice (delicious) cooked in a 60-gallon kettle and green beans and new red potatoes cooked in another 60-gallon kettle along with numerous choices of salads and desert for dinner.

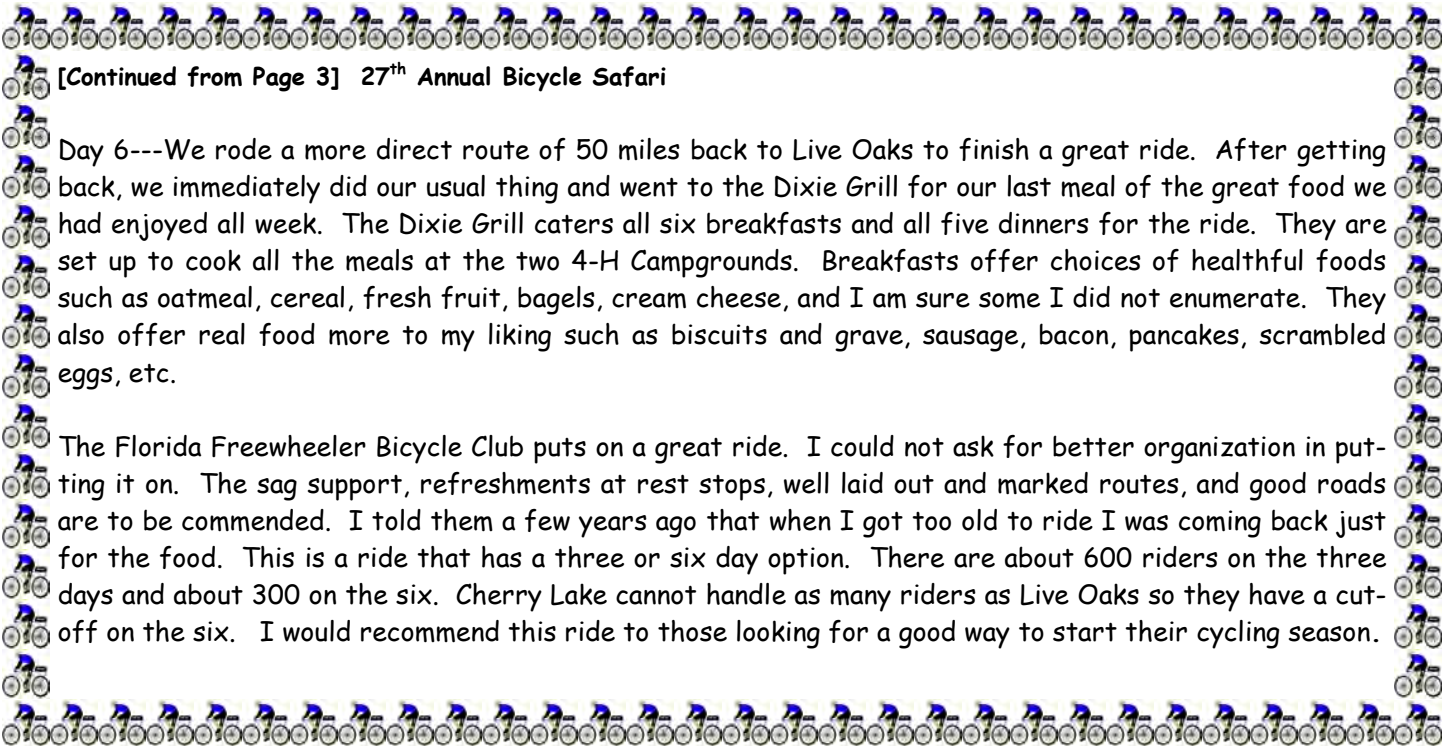
Day two---This was another loop ride. Sam and I rode the 68-mile route and Rick rode 51. The 68 took us through White Springs and Welborn. For dinner we had roast beef and salmon along with vegetable and salads to please anyone's taste and desert.

Day three---I moved the camper and set it up at Cherry Lake 4-H Camp (a project of Eleanor Roosevelt's built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the depression). After setting up the camper and getting Faye comfortable, I rode back to meet Sam and Rick. I rode 26 miles to meet them and ride back in with them. I believe the ride to Cherry Lake was 63 miles but I lost my route map so I am not sure of the mileage. For dinner we had some of the best turkey and dressing I have ever eaten along with all the trimmings.

Day four---Sam and I opted for the century route so we could get another century pin with a flamingo on it. We rode through Boston (Georgia), Barwick, and Quitman on a loop ride back to Cherry Lake. We rode 101 miles. Sam only had about 200 miles riding before the Safari but toughed it out like a trooper. I felt surprisingly good considering I hadn't ridden a century for about two years. For dinner we had jambalaya and all the trimmings.

Day five---Sam decided to ride the 57 miles when we came to the point where the short and long routes separated. He was hurting from the century the day before. He told me when I got back that when he and Rick intersected the day three route, they took a short cut and stopped for ice cream at Pinetta, and made it a 40 mile ride. I rode the 68 route through Clyattville, Lake Park, and Madison. For dinner we had barbeque ribs and all the trimmings followed by the last night sundae bar with a large assortment of toppings so you could make your own perfect sundae.

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[Continued from Page 3] 27th Annual Bicycle Safari

Day 6---We rode a more direct route of 50 miles back to Live Oaks to finish a great ride. After getting back, we immediately did our usual thing and went to the Dixie Grill for our last meal of the great food we had enjoyed all week. The Dixie Grill caters all six breakfasts and all five dinners for the ride. They are set up to cook all the meals at the two 4-H Campgrounds. Breakfasts offer choices of healthful foods such as oatmeal, cereal, fresh fruit, bagels, cream cheese, and I am sure some I did not enumerate. They also offer real food more to my liking such as biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon, pancakes, scrambled eggs, etc.

The Florida Freewheeler Bicycle Club puts on a great ride. I could not ask for better organization in putting it on. The sag support, refreshments at rest stops, well laid out and marked routes, and good roads are to be commended. I told them a few years ago that when I got too old to ride I was coming back just for the food. This is a ride that has a three or six day option. There are about 600 riders on the three days and about 300 on the six. Cherry Lake cannot handle as many riders as Live Oaks so they have a cut-off on the six. I would recommend this ride to those looking for a good way to start their cycling season.

EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

I have some good news to report from the Evansville MPO. At the last meeting, the Policy Committee approved additional funding for design work on the Oak Hill Road widening project to include STRIPED BIKE LANES. This is a change from the previous plan which only had extra-wide travel lanes to accommodate bikes. And, this will be the first project in Evansville to specifically designate lanes for bicycles.

The MPO also reported that a contract was awarded to widen Epworth Road to four lanes between the Lloyd and Telephone Road. No bike lanes are included in the design, but the extra lanes and wider lane widths will make the road safer for cyclists.

In general, the professional staff at the MPO office is bike-friendly, which is quite a change from several years ago. The staff is studying the possibility of striping Franklin Avenue to provide separate bike lanes from the Pigeon Creek Greenway into the west side of Evansville. The plan would also take the bike lanes east from the Greenway eventually connecting with Oak Hill Road and its new bike lanes. Personally, I'm hoping that this idea gains traction so that a similar project could be added on the east side, possibly striping a street like Bellemeade to provide separate bike lanes for bike-commuters and general bike travel.

Finally, the 41 / Lloyd intersection is scheduled for a major renovation in the near future, turning the intersection into a complete cloverleaf. More importantly, the design includes a bike path and overpass through the project to connect Oak Hill Road to the old railroad tracks south of the Lloyd that run along the west side of 41. The Greenway plan calls for that railroad right-of-way to be paved for bikes.

On another front, Ray Irvin (INDOT's Director of Greenways and Bikeways) recently unveiled an aggressive state plan at the Evansville Central Library which would connect the entire state through a network of greenways and bikeways. Of course, much of the timing depends of funding, but it appears as if the State is looking "outside the box" for ways to get bike projects from the drawing board onto pavement.

Are you beginning to see momentum developing?
Greg Meyer

Ride Cincinnati by Charlie Miller

On June 10th my daughter, Kristy, and I participated in a new charity event called "RIDE CINCINNATI". It was a bicycle ride along the banks of the beautiful Ohio River to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research at Cincinnati's Barrett Cancer Center. We rode to honor lost love ones, to give hope to all those currently faced with this horrible disease, and to celebrate in the lives of all the breast cancer survivors. As with any charity event, the purpose was to raise money. In its first year, Ride Cincinnati was a tremendous success. 929 cyclists participated raising nearly \$100,000.00 in rider fees and donations for breast cancer research. Kristy and I are happy to report we raised \$823 toward that goal.

The ride was a simple out-and-back with distances of 10, 25, 40 and 62 miles. It began at Sawyer Point on Cincinnati's River Front, crossed into Kentucky on the "Purple People Bridge", and followed Route 8 along the river to George Clooney's home town of Augusta. The return followed the same route back where a celebration party waited. There was also a special kids' ride where even the youngest cyclist could pedal their training wheels across the bridge and back.

The return celebration at Sawyer Point featured great food, drinks, and ice cream. A live rock band entertained us and there were clowns making animal balloons and painting faces for the kids. It was a wonderful even, and we could not have asked for a better day to ride.

Unlike the MS150 rides, participants were not required to raise a minimum level of donations. There was a straight \$30.00 rider fee. All donations collected above that were collected on a voluntary basis. I invite anyone interested in doing this ride in 2008 to visit the website at www.ridecincinnati.com



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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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