



EBC Bikewriter

December 2007

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

Happy Holidays

Notes from the President's Corner

By Darlene Wefel

By the time you receive this newsletter, we could have our first snow of the year. If not, we soon will. I'm sure some of you have your trainers out and have been using them. We have been pretty lucky so far this November with mild temperatures on weekends and no rain. What a great combination. Lets keep our fingers crossed for December.

Top of the agenda is Election of Officers for 2008. Several people have stepped forward, but more are needed. The following people have volunteered: I'm willing to do one more year as president if nobody else wants to do it. Jay Vercellotti - Tour/Ride Director, thanks Jay, you've done an outstanding job for three years. Kevin Pendley - Treasurer, Vicky Ashworth - Secretary, Dave Ashworth - Membership, Danny Goodman (new member this year and a great guy to ride with) Newsletter Editor.

The club needs the following positions to be filled. Vice President, Web Master, and GPM Coordinator.

I've been coordinating the GPM for many years, and due to work, family, etc. I will not be able to do it again next year. I will still get all the food for the GPM, and work with the new coordinator on sponsors, and share all the history and information that I have with the new coordinator. Unless someone steps forward, there may not be a GPM in 2008.

We are looking at the possibility to electronically email the newsletter to the members of the EBC. At the banquet there will be an opportunity to update your email address.

Signs, signs, everywhere signs!!! *Share the Road* campaign has placed signs throughout Vanderburgh County, and Jim Bush has started on Warrick County. Last night I attended Newburgh's Town Meeting where Jim presented a proposal to place 14 signs in Newburgh and 12 in Warrick County in close proximity to Newburgh. His plans are to go in Warrick County Commissioners meeting and get permission to place additional signs in Warrick County. This is a start in the right direction to make southern Indiana a bicycle friendly community. We have a long way to go, but we are off to a good start. Other exciting news, Chris Hancock, Executive Director of IBC has been working very hard on behalf of Southwestern Indiana. I'm hoping that he will be able to make it to a club meeting or our banquet to give details on what is in the works for our community.

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If you were not one of the 50+ riders that made it to the Falling Leaves ride on November 10, you missed out on a fantastic day to ride. Tour D' Eville was invited to join the EBC for this ride and there was a great mix of cycling clubs. Everyone sat around after the ride enjoying some great food, conversations, and swapping of stories. Gary Gardner and Opal came to the after-ride gathering. It was great to see Gary and his memory seemed to be pretty good considering his tragic accident a week before. In case you didn't hear, Gary was riding the Ritz long route Saturday the 3rd of Nov. when a large dog came running out of a yard and straight into Gary's front wheel knocking Gary to the ground. Gary's helmet saved his life! Gary had five broken ribs, and a severe concussion. His helmet was smashed where it came in contact with the asphalt. Gary was in the hospital for three days. We are all so very happy that he is recovering.

I've taken my cold weather riding gear out of storage and have them ready for these winter months. I hope to see you out on the road soon.

A Northern Wisconsin Bike Ride by Mary Williams

This summer while I was visiting a friend in northern Wisconsin, I signed up for the annual benefit bike ride sponsored by the Sayner-Star Lake Lions Club. The ride offered routes of 18 miles, 33 miles or 67 miles (more than a century in kilometers). I chose to do the "century" because I was missing my workouts in Evansville and wanted a chance to get in a good ride. It turned out to be perhaps the most strenuous century of any kind I'd ever undertaken. My friend loaned me a good Trek mountain bike (Trek's are made in Wisconsin) with very knobby tires for the ride. What would have been a piece of cake with my Evansville road bike turned out to be quite an ordeal with a heavy-tired mountain bike.

There were around 60 registrants for the ride and about fifteen of us took the century. In this group were three of four guys who had hybrids, a couple who had a tandem and the rest were road bikes. I know I'll never repeat a long ride on a mountain bike!

The event was strictly a small town affair with a lot of friendly people. The \$20 entry fee included a choice of different colored, collared, embroidered jerseys and refreshments (watermelon slices, grapes, candy bars, cookies, Gatorade and water) at four aid stations along the route. There were also about fifteen door prizes of caps, t-shirts, water bottles, etc. I didn't win any.

Sayner (where the snowmobile was invented) and Star Lake are two tiny neighboring towns about in the middle of Vilas County, situated in the extreme north central part of Wisconsin. In this one county are over 1200 named lakes created by the gouging of the land by the last great glacier from the most recent Ice Age. Most of the county also lies in the Northern Highland State Forest. Because of the pine and birch forests and the multitude of lakes, this area attracts great numbers of tourists and campers.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a very influential department of the state, manages the forest for its lumber, and its pulp wood for making paper products. Recreational use of the land is important to its mission and the forest offers excellent hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, cross-country ski trails and hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails. It goes without saying that bike trails through this area are very scenic.

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[Continued from Page 2] A Northern Wisconsin Bike Ride

My bike ride began at Razorback Ridges about two miles west of Sayner. Razorback Ridges is a large area of rough terrain that hosts mountain bike competitions each summer drawing bikes from nearby states. There are about 30 miles of loops of varying difficulty. In the winter, the same trails provide challenging excursions for cross-country skiers.

Two miles farther west, my bike route took me through the manicured Crystal Lake campground, one of the premier campgrounds of the state. It offers a nature center that provides ranger talks almost every summer evening. Crystal Lake itself is bowl-shaped with fine sandy beaches all around it. The water is extremely clear and no motors are allowed. Its thick ice in winter is visited by vendors with chain saws who cut up blocks to see during the summer months to campers in the area.

The paved bike route continues through the forest past Big Musky Lake and Firefly Lake before heading north to Trout Lake, the second largest in the county and a showcase lake for the DNR, whose northern headquarters is there. Here was undoubtedly the most picturesque leg of my ride. The water lapping at the rocks of the shore and the strong smell of pine trees made for a beautiful memory.

Six miles beyond Trout Lake come the town of Boulder Junction (I love these names!) which calls itself "The Musky Capital of the World." From this point, the bike route makes use of paved backwoods county roads with some hills, but mostly level. It's not unusual to spot deer along these roads.

North of Boulder Junction, the route turned east toward Land o'Lakes (called Ell o'Ell by the natives), a town lying on the state line with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. From there, we turned south through winding roads near Conover, which hosts a popular blueberry festival each year. The last leg turned west to Star Lake, a major center of the huge lumber industry at the beginning of the 20th century. Finally, came my exhausted return to Sayner and again its dedicated paved bike trail through the forest.

As you can probably tell, this ride provided lots of memories, and I'd do it again in a heart beat, but on my road bike! The first portion to Boulder Junction is the prettiest, and it can be done without any trouble on any kind of bike. It's rides like these that make recreational biking very popular in this area. On a hot summer day, it's a wonderful leisure activity to pedal through the cool shade of a forest.



ANNUAL EBC BANQUET UPDATE

Please keep Saturday evening open, January 19, 2008 for our annual EBC banquet to be held again at the Cambridge Golf Club. It is an evening out with our biking friends, a time to relax and have FUN without having to peddle to have FUN. The food was excellent last year and we are having basically the same items this year. There is an open cash bar. The Registration Form will be enclosed in the January EBC Newsletter along with the directions. Hope to see everyone there.

Hope Jenkins, Banquet Coordinator
Vicky Ashworth, Banquet Coordinator

The Trail Junkie on the Great Allegheny Passage
By Charlie Miller

Pittsburgh, Pa is the starting point of a unique bike riding experience; 315 miles later it ends in Washington DC. In between those cities is some of the most fantastic bike trail riding you will ever experience. From Pittsburgh, PA to Cumberland, MD it is called the Great Allegheny Passage Trail. From Cumberland, MD to Washington, DC it follows the C & O Canal Towpath and is known as the Potomac Heritage Trail. No matter what side of the Mason-Dixon Line you chose to ride, this trail will not disappoint you. The vista views and dense woodlands of Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands will seduce you with its beauty as it follows the Youghiogheny River valley. Once you pass through the famous "Big Savage Tunnel" and enter Maryland you will be awed but the scenic wonder of the Cumberland Gap area and Potomac River watershed. I had the pleasure to enjoy riding on the Great Allegheny Passage awhile back when I participated in an annual two day camping/bike ride called "That Dam Ride".

My riding adventure began on the banks of the Youghiogheny River near where it flows into the Monongahela at Boston, a suburb of Pittsburgh. A little further north of there the Monongahela and the Allegheny Rivers converge in Pittsburgh to form the mighty Ohio. But the "Yough", is one of western Pennsylvania's shining treasures. It is one of the state's two Class V recreational rivers and the Great Allegheny passage trail follows its length all the way to Confluence, PA. The trail quickly became more wooded and scenic as we rode south and left the suburbs behind. This part of the river valley is known as the "Lower Yough". Here the river has white water class III and IV technical rapids. The bike trail is on the side of the river valley at a higher elevation and the views from the trail to the river are spectacular. The Great Allegheny Passage Trail passes through a few more smaller urban areas but once past Connellsville, PA it enters the Ohiopyle State Park region. This is a gorgeous part of the trail. As we rode through a wonderful Hemlock forest, we passed giant trailside rock formations with beautiful blooming wild Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel bushes. How quickly we left the big city behind and entered nature's wonderland. There is nothing like the clean smell of a dense Hemlock forest. This trail is the closest thing one can come to enjoying a single track mountain bike trail from the saddle of a road bike. The river north of Ohiopyle is called the "Middle Yough" and features class I and II rapids. There were many people in kayaks enjoying this relatively calmer stretch of the river. Just before entering the tiny village of Ohiopyle there is an old railroad trestle bridge that crosses over the river valley. The Bridge is so high above the river that the kayaks look like toys on the water.

The town of Ohiopyle is a nice place to stop and visit. There are lots of things to see and do there. At the State Park office there is a scenic overlook of Cucumber Falls which offers a great photo opportunity. There are also a nice variety of eateries, places to rent bikes and kayaks, and several Bed and Breakfasts. For the more brave hearted there are a few white water rafting outfitters too. Visitors to this area should not neglect a short car ride to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's famous house, "Falling Water". Designed and built in the 1930's for the Kaufmann family, Falling Water was the department store magnate's country retreat. The home is built cantilevering over a waterfall on Bear Run River and is considered to be Wright's most famous designed building. Today "Falling Water" is owned and operated by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. After the death of his parents, Edgar Kaufmann Jr. donated the home and all the family's collected art treasures to the Conservancy so that it would be preserved and protected for future generations to enjoy. Falling Water is the only Frank Lloyd Wright house with its originally designed furnishing still intact that is open to the public. The Conservancy offers daily tours.

A large section of the Great Allegheny Passage trail runs through Ohiopyle State park. This part of the river valley is called the "Upper Yough" and the river here features class V technical rapids. The US Olympic team has used this section of river to practice. It is a very wild and turbulent section of river, but at the same time very

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beautiful and majestic. After leaving the State Park, the trail continues into the village of Confluence. That's as far as we went on "That Dam Ride". At the end of the first day's 62 mile excursion, we camped overnight at the Base of Youghiogheny reservoir dam. This is the source of all those great white water rapids on the Youghiogheny River. Everyday "recreational water" is allowed to flow from the reservoir to provide the people who love playing in the white water with they fun. There was food and fun offered in Confluence for the riders of "That Dam Ride". There was also live entertainment in the small village park to cap the first day's festivities.

On day two, we were up early for the return trip to Boston and our cars. This was the most incredible part of the ride. This is where I found, to my delight and surprise, that the first days ride was all up hill! Day one's ride was so beautiful and easy that I didn't notice I was pedaling up a very slight grade all the way. It wasn't a very strenuous ride and seamed fairly level at the time. I should have realized rivers flow down hill. It's only logical the trail would too. The second day's ride was a very pleasant coast for most of the return to Boston. My return was a slow coast because I wanted to enjoy the beautiful Pennsylvania woodlands as long as possible. Most of the other riders were well ahead of me as I poked along, but I was in no hurry. At one point, where I saw an easy access to the river, I stopped my ride and climbed down to the river's edge. The cool, clear water and gravel river bed was too much to resist. I stripped off my riding shoes and socks to wade almost waste high into river. It was a chilling experience. After cooling off, I was back on the bike and entered a fairly secluded part of the trail. I rounded a bend, and to my surprise, found three deer grazing right alongside of the trail. I stopped and watched them for about five minutes. They didn't seem to mind my presence as long as I kept my distance. But then a group of riders approached from the opposite direction. Their noise and commotion was too much for the deer and they leapt into the woods. I don't think the approaching group ever saw the deer even though they got much closer to them then I did. All too soon, I was back at the start of the ride with a wealth of memories and the desire to someday do all 315 miles of this beautiful trail.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Ratcliffe, Vincennes Cathy Dawson, Evansville
Rick Dawson, Dale David Merrick, Evansville
Ken & Joseph Carpenter, Evansville

FROM THE EDITOR

I am passing the position of newsletter editor for 2008 to Danny Goodman. I just wanted to thank everyone for their submissions and help during the last six years. I have enjoyed this position and attempting to do my part as an EBC member. I will miss doing the newsletter, but demands on my time are currently just too great.

Faye Carter

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.

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