NEWSLETTER OF THE WHEELING WHEELMEN

Wheeling MONTHLY MEANDERS

RIDE THE ROCKIES

June, 2007

Riding the Rockies is a wasted experience if all you are doing is trying to race from the start to the finish. It is a true bike "tour" and I had more fun this year than last (my first) because, as a group (of 5), we slowed down and really enjoyed the scenery, the cities we passed through and the "experience". Having my brother Al, from Florida with us made this that much more fun because the other four, all from my home northwest of Chicago, got a chance to get to know him and he made a great effort to get to know them. He even asked each one of them to tell their "life story" over dinner at night and I learned a few things about my fellow Illinois riders who I've known for several years.

Ride the Rockies is more than a bike ride; it's the camping, the schools and the crowded bathrooms, port-a-potties, bear warnings, deadlines to get up early, rude car drivers yelling in the middle of the night, rest stops, endless Gatorade, endless bananas and oranges, cold (frost on your rain fly in Steamboat and Leadville), heat, wind, sun, layering up in the morning, carrying those clothes later, snow drifts at the top of the passes and even a bit of rain. We had 40 and 50degree temperature variations during some day's rides. It's mountains with snow on them everywhere you look. It's the Colorado, the Arkansas and Roaring Fork, all swollen with the spring melt rushing down hill when you are going up. You really can't imagine it until you've done it; I'm sure my brother, a first-time RTR rider, will agree that it wasn't exactly

what he expected. It wasn't even what I expected and I did it last year. Whenever you think you seen it all, you get a new surprise!

I can tell you that he was a bit

doubtful about completing this

tour before it started and even more so after a grueling first day of 90+ miles which included a brutally long climb up Rabbit Ears Pass (did anyone get a picture of those ears?). I have to chuckle at the grim face of determination he has on many of the pictures we took. The "short" days we "sold" him as supposed "recovery days" had headwinds there to slow us down and make us work a bit harder than we even wanted to. Well, there was plenty of Advil and Aleve....How in the heck did we do a complete circle and have headwinds every single day? How the heck did Al complete the whole route? The Day 6 22 mile climb took several hours and was truly a test of stamina and resolve. All week, SAG cars were going by every few minutes hauling other cyclists up to the next stop. Many riders walked up some of the hills. More determined riders never gave it serious consideration and kept moving the whole time. I loved the guy with the beer can attached to a wire on his helmet and dangling in front of him on the whole climb; where do these people come up with this stuff! And the guy with the monkey on his back....?

Again; this was not a race just a bunch of friends, new and old, on seven "bike rides" through some of the best country you'll ever see. We saw riders on mountain bikes, dads and sons on tandems, dads and daughters on tandems, couples on tandems, and seemingly comfortable recumbent riders cruising along looking relatively comfortable, kids with moms and/or dads riding together. One guy riding a unicycle up to Independence Pass, then coming back down to do it again. Singing riders, our very own Cindy Trent with her Ipod and speakers bungeed onto her aero bars blasting John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High" and Queens' "Bicycle" song climbing up the hills giving everybody we passed a lift. It was the triumph we all felt when we hoisted our bikes above our heads in front of the signs at the top of the passes for the obligatory pictures. It was the enthusiastic greeting we got at the finish line and the cheerful residents and kids waving to us from the yards along the way. It was the local volunteers scrambling to feed lines of hungry riders breakfast and dinner. It was them running out of food. It was the vendors who were with us multiple days. There were rocky road edges with big dropoffs, narrow sections with a little guard rail between you and the cliff with ore-carrying truck traffic on your left rumbling by, and what Cindy called "butt breaks", when you just couldn't spend another minute on a bike seat.

There were riders, another one of our own, Bill, taking pictures behind him, riding with no hands. And Bill hamming it up with a "V" victory sign for the photographers. It was Bill and Kevin, our "Inside People" dead to the world on their air mattresses an hour after the ride for the day. It was Bill and Kevin waiting for us "Camper People"

(Continued on page 6)

August, 2007

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Welcome New Members

Donald & Pat Elliott, Elgin Nicole Vertz, St. Charles Harry Warnaar, Lake in the Hills Ed Gortigan, Schaumburg Paula Berry, Chicago Valerie Kerner, Streamwood

Dwight Dahl, Bloomingdale Matt Flaherty, Palatine

Club Officials

	9 10,120
Elected Officers	
President	
Rich Drapeau	(847)808-1476
V.P./Ride Chair	
Brian Blome	(847)358-4807
& Pat Calabrese	
Treasurer	
Johannes Smits	(630)893-2835
Secretary	
Kevin Moore	(847)577-8490
Membership	
Betsy Burtelow &	(847)541-1325
Jim Boyer	
Publicity Chair	
Sheri Rosenbaum	(847)368-1762
luv2bike80@hotmail.com	
Appointed Officers	
Harmon	
Mary Kay Drapeau	(847)808-1476
Newsletter	
Ella Shields	(773)594-1755
St. Pat's Ride	
Tom & Deb Wilson	(847)632-1412
<u>Chairmen</u>	
Banquet	
Kris Woodcock	(847)520-6932
Harmon Data Base	
Jennie Pfeifer	(847)342-8823
Mileage Statistician	
Joe Irons	(847)359-0551
Newsletter Mailing	
Jennie Pfeifer	(847)342-8823
Picnic	
Al & Cindy Schneider	(847/696-2356
Refreshments	
Frank & Pat Illy	(847)923-5910
Ride Line	
Dan Wiessner	(847)540-9118
Web Page	
Jim Boyer	(847)541-1325

Newsletter Policy

We can always use information for the newsletter. I'd love to hear from you. Send or email your ride notes, stories or articles for the newsletter to me by the 10th of the preceding month

Ella Shields 7516 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL. 60631 eshieldsbike@yahoo.com

(Please include your name and phone number in case I have any questions)



Don't miss an issue of Monthly Meanders!! Call Betsy or Jim with all name, address and phone number changes at (847)541-1325.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting TBA

TOP 20 MILES

Reported through July 5 130 rides by 126 Members totaling 82888 miles.

3853 maximum miles possible per rider.

Men:

1	Kilian	Emanuel	3226
2	Paul	LeFevre	2944
3	Dennis	Creaney	2186
4	Joe	Irons	1965
5	Richard	Drapeau	1932
6	Al	Schneider	1919
7	Leonard	Geis	1694
8	Kevin A.	Moore	1672
9	Jim	Boyer	1628
10	Frank	Illy	1537
11	Brian	Blome	1499
12	C. Brian	Hale	1480
13	Daniel	Wiessner	1446
14	Art	Cunningham	1397
15	Peter	Guzik	1366
16	Frank	Bing	1358
17	Bob	Dominski	1306
18	Tom	Wilson	1304
19	John F.	Korb	1298
20	Len	Fiocca	1258
Women:			
1	Cindy	Schneider	1832
2	Reinhilde		1764
	Mary Ka	y Drapeau	1359
3		y Drapeau Burtelow	1359 1297
3 4	Betsy	y Drapeau Burtelow Rosenbaum	1297
3		Burtelow Rosenbaum	1297 1174
3 4 5	Betsy Sheri Debbie	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson	1297
3 4 5 6	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat	Burtelow Rosenbaum	1297 1174 1162
3 4 5 6 7	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049
3 4 5 6 7 8	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823 807
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat Meg	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent Calabrese Ewen	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent Calabrese Ewen Savio	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823 807 775
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat Meg Virginia	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent Calabrese Ewen Savio	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823 807 775 706
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat Meg Virginia Marianne Chris	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent Calabrese Ewen Savio Kron Wager	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823 807 775 706 701
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat Meg Virginia Marianne	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent Calabrese Ewen Savio	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823 807 775 706 701 619
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Betsy Sheri Debbie Pat Pam Ella Barbara Kris Cindy Pat Meg Virginia Marianne Chris Mary	Burtelow Rosenbaum Wilson Illy Burke Shields Barr Woodcock Trent Calabrese Ewen Savio e Kron Wager Myslis	1297 1174 1162 1122 1049 957 951 856 823 807 775 706 701 619 601



AUGUST CLUB MEETING

The meeting will be on Thursday, August 2, 7:00 p.m. at Wheeling

High School in room 102. The high school is located on the north side of Hintz Road just west of Elmhurst Road (83) in Wheeling

Fans of H. Potter know Hogwarts Castle, but that's nothing compared to Meg and Ella's Castle Tour in the Czech Republic, cycling through Vienna, Moravia, Bohemia and Prague. Final plans for the Harmon Hundred will also be reviewed

Don't miss out on this great program.

RACES:

Alexian Brothers Tour of Elk Grove

August 11 & 12 9:00 am
View the event along the race course on
Elk Grove Blvd and Tonne Rd. There
will be viewing access in the middle of
Elk Grove Blvd. from Ridge to Victoria
where the start/finish line will be located. 773/868-3010 x 223
www.tourofelkgrove.com

National Championships of Cycling

August 18 & 19 Downers Grove www.sportsgrandprix.com nick@chicagoevents.com 773/868-3010 x 223



To Al & Cindy Schneider for a great job hosting the annual club picnic on July 8. Approximately 55 people enjoyed a scrumptious meal and a good time was had by all.

Visit the web site for pictures.

August All *wear a helmet Ride Riders *bring water Schedule Should: *bring a pump		*have a bike in g *bring a spare tu *arrive early1	oring an ID card carry a cell phone bring \$ for rest stops			
Date	Time	Ride Name	Starting	Directions	Miles	Ride Host
Sat. 8-4	9:00	Waterford Ride	Waterford Factory, WI	I-94 North. Hwy 20 west. Turn L on Jefferson after the bridge in Waterford. After ¾ mi., R on Bakke to 816 W. Bakke.	28/44/70	Ella Shields 773/594-1755
Sun. 8-5	9:00	Loops of Burlington	Eagle Lake Park, WI	I-294 North, exit Hwy 11 West, to Hwy 75 right to Church	63/98	Al & Cindy Schneider
Sun. 8-5	9:00	Hills and Horses	Rose School	I 90 to Rt 59 North; turn right on Penny Road to the school just past Bartlett road.	40	Meg Ewen 630/540-1704
Sat. 8-11	9:00	3 Options Ride	Fox River Forest Preserve	NW on Rt. 14, R on Kelsey, L on River, L on Roberts for 1 mi.	24/31/ 55	Earle Horwitz 847/444-0445
Sat. 8-11	9:00	Cedarburg/ Campbellsport	Covered Bridge Park	I-94 N through Milwaukee turns into 43. Go north on 43 to 60 (Grafton). Go west on 60 to Covered Bridge Road (4 miles) turn right and go to park, on	66 /75/ 102	Al & Cindy Schneider 847/696-2356
Sun. 8-12	9:00	Cedarburg/ West Bend	Covered Bridge Park	see above	67/76	See above
Sun. 8-12	9:00	Honey lake Loop	Kildeer School	Old McHenry Road, just north of Long Grove Shopping District	38	Deb Wilson 847/632-1412
Sun. 8-12	9:00	Paul's Northeast IL Century	Euclid Elementary school	Euclid and Wheeling Road; school is on the corner.	100	Paul LeFevre 847/670-3501
Sat. 8-18	9:00	Fontana Ride	McHenry County College	Rt. 14 one mile past Rt. 176 in Crystal Lake. Meet in the north parking lot.	71	Paul LeFevre 847/670-3501
Sun 8-19	9:00	Island Lake Loop	Kildeer School, Long Grove	Old McHenry Road, just north of Long Grove Shopping District	47	Kevin Moore 847/577-8490
Sat. 8-25	9:00	Sycamore Scamper	McHenry County College	Rt. 14 one mile past Rt. 176 in Crystal Lake. Meet in the north	82	Dave Waycie 847/577-6307
Sun. 8-26	7:00 or 9:00	Club Members: Harmon Pre-Ride	Wilmot High School, Wilmot, WI.	Take I-94 West across the WI state line to Exit 345 (Hwy C). West on Hwy C to the town of Wilmot. Right on Hwy W. Left	25/50 75/100	Rich Drapeau 847/808-1476

ALWAYS CALL THE RIDE LINE FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES 847/520-5010

WEEKLY ROAD RIDES					
Day	Time	Ride	Miles	Start/Directions	Ride Host
Saturday	8:00 am	Honey Do Ride	30-58	Grassy Meadow Forest Preserve The F.P. is on Central Rd. 1½ mi. west of Roselle Rd, just north of I-90	Frank Illy 847/923-5910 Brian Hale 847/804-1561
Tuesday & Thursday	9:00 am	Deerfield Bakery Ride	25-45	Willow Stream Park - The park is on Old Checker Rd. a few tenths of a mile west of the bakery. Turn west on old Checker Rd. to parking on the right	Art Cunningham 847/ 963-8746 Earle Horwitz 847/374-1129
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Working Stiff's Ride	18-27	Shamrock Cyclery 344 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove. Park behind shop in Stemple Municipal Lot. Meet in front of shop.	Rich Drapeau 847/808-1476 Jim Boyer 847/541-1325
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Hill and Dale Ride	25-35	Grassy Meadow Forest Preserve See above	Frank & Pat Illy 847/923-5910 Brian Hale 847/804-1561
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Elgin Twilight Rides Flashing taillights recom- mended	20-40	Target Store On Randall Road just south of US 20. Park in SE corner of lot.	Al & Cindy Schneider 847/696-2356
Thursday	6:00 pm	Thursday Night Ride	30 with alter- nates as day- light permits	Kildeer School Old McHenry Road, just north of Long Grove Shopping District	Brian Blome 847/358-4807

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND RIDE BEST KEPT SECRET

What a beautiful ride. Practically traffic free through some of the most gorgeous hill country in the Midwest. Hot, sunny, late spring, no rain. Cindy and Al Schneider were the ride leaders and I was the only other rider.

I found the start in Eagle, WI—thanks to the driving instruction detail about railroad tracks—at 8:59 AM on Sunday, the second day, and was cheerfully greeted and presented with a cue sheet which can be key to riding up ahead or behind, and an area map which helped to figure out where to get a room for the night.

The sweet smelling honeysuckle trees dotted our roads and the LaGrange, WI lunch stop was this foodie's delight. It also happens to be attached to a bicycle shop…how handy is that?

The Kettle Moraine hills were challenging (for me, OK, I'm not a road animal). Al knows the routes so well that he announces bumps and all kinds of other evils ahead of time. The room at the Comfort Inn, Monchango, was handy with thrifty eats at a Taco Bell a few steps away. The Chinese restaurant was closed. The motel has a continental breakfast that got me going along with the apple, banana and orange I'd brought from home and kept chilled in the

room's refrigerator.

The following morning we all met up in Lyons, WI., passed through East Troy where a Memorial Day parade was just underway, to the rest stop outside of town at a large McDonald's Shell Gas combo station I'd never seen the likes of before. I was totally motivated when I heard our lunch stop would be at LaGrange again.

Back in Lyons at the end of 55 miles I packed up, leaving Cindy and Al to debate whether or not to complete the 80 grueling *uber*-hilly miles... Then I drove back up north about 10 miles to East Troy to purchase a flashy hand-made cane and walking stick for my Dad that I'd seen at the McDonald's Shell stop. The parade in town was long over, but folks including Harley riders, families and teens were hanging out eating brats, dogs and fresh sweet corn barbecued in the husk then dipped in butter and listening to Jerry Nickols & the Sticky Fingers Band just to prove that good ol', live, local rock and roll is alive and well in East Troy, WI.

The drive from Mount Prospect to the start was 75 easy miles, mostly along 12, just remember you didn't hear it from me.

Donna Ponte

RIDES OF A DIFFERENT FLAVOR
August Wednesday Chicago Area Bike Path/Trail Rides

Date	Time	Miles	Path/Trail	Start	Directions	Comments
8/1	9:00	65	Moraine Hills to Hebron	Moraine Hills State Park	Go north on Rand (US12) to W Liberty (IL176); go left to River Rd.; go to the park entrance on the right; park in	Packed crushed stone, paved and connecting roads
8/8	9:00	54	Fox River Path south-Virgil Gil- man Path	Bennet Park, Geneva	North Ave (IL 64) to St. Charles, south on IL 25 to park on rt. just past Geneva	Paved, packed crushed stone***
8/15	9:00	60	Old School Forest Preserve to Kenosha	Parking Lot D, Old School Forest Preserve	IL 176 to St. Mary's Rd.; south to Forest Preserve on the left. Park in shelter D lot.	Packed crushed stone, paved *** Kilian Emanuel 847/296-7874
8/22	9:00	57	Plank Road Path	Frankfort, IL	I-294 south to I-80 west; US 45 south to Frankfort; turn left at sign to Historic Frank- fort; parking in town on trail	Paved path Kilian Emanuel 847/296-7874
8/29		55 loop	Medley of Trails – Poplar Creek to Ned Brown	Ned Brown F. P., Golf Road Parking Lot	South of Golf Rd. just East of I-290	Paved with connecting roads

*** approved for narrow tires ** wide tires recommended * wide tires required. Bring snacks and plenty of water to drink. Check with Art Cunningham – 847/963-8746 for details

EXCURSION RIDES

August 4 & 5, Schwinn Loops

These two rides start about five miles apart. We are staying at the AmericInn in Burlington, WI..

The Schwinn ride is one of the most popular on the schedule. Richard Schwinn offers a tour of the factory and great SAG support! The route visits Lyons, Lake Geneva, Williams Bay, Fontana, Walworth and Elk Horn.

Loops of Burlington starts at Eagle Lake Park. The 63 mile route climbs some big roller coasters and returns thru Rochester. The Century option works its way through Alpine Valley to Bluff Road and into La-Grange.

August 11 & 12, Cedarburg

We are staying at the Super 8 in Sauk Village. The Cedarburg - Campbellsport ride on Saturday offers 60,70 and 100 miles. The ride features big rolling hills with great over views, tiny towns and goes through the north Saturday: The 71 mile Ella's Escapade, is a

east Kettle Moraine forests.

The Cedarburg - West Bend Ride is 45, 60 or 80 miles. The first section of the ride is south east of West Bend with curving farm roads. The second segment climbs through the north east Kettle Moraine and visits high land farms before returning to the north west side of West Bend. The next portion of the ride loops out west into rolling farm lands with steeples on top of hills. After a stop at Dairy Queen you return, hopefully with a west wind, past tree lined roads, farms, dairies, churches and an old stagecoach stop to the park.

Labor Day Weekend September 1, 2 & 3 Ella's Escapade, Mike& Bill's Adventure & Pretzel Ride

We are staying at the Super 8 in Germantown. We usually have dinner at a great Italian Restaurant in Menominee Falls called Pepino's,

combination of steep short and long flat riding. The ride climbs out of the park and you pedal between the many lakes around Delafield. You then ride through the old Pabst farms and skirt Oconomowoc on the way to Lake La Belle. After riding through lightly rolling farmland and a Gallic township lunch at the Pleasant Hill Tap awaits. The ride back to the park is highlighted by the hills around Monches.

Sunday: Mike and Bill's 78 mile Adventure is a rolling ride through farmland and the northwest Kettle Moraine. Rest stops are at small towns like Hustiford, Mayfield and Allentown. Along the route are numerous cows, quaint churches and great overviews.

On Labor Day the Pretzel Ride leaves West Bend, about fifteen miles from Germantown. This 51 and 73 mile ride visits the northeast Kettle Moraine and the area north of Dundee. The ride features climbs and descents through the forests and scenic overviews in the farmlands.

Questions on these rides? Call Al & Cindy (Continued on page 6) (Continued from page 1)

in the morning when they got rousted early from their cozy (noisy?) indoor spots. It was some other poor guy so exhausted he just laid down on the carpeting in the entrance hallway, fully dressed, with his helmet gloves and water bottle laying near him, looking for all the world like a gunshot victim, absolutely collapsed after the first day. It was trying to figure out how to get all your stuff back into the one big bag when it somehow got in there when you packed it last. It was filling your water bottle at a drinking fountain and plugging in your phone at a charging station, not worried at all when you walked away. It was the truck bag loaders huffing and puffing as much as we did getting up the hills. It was walking the lines to find your bag buried under three others. There were bikes that cost three times as much as yours and bikes that cost a third of what yours did.

There was riding on Interstate 70 with a guy wearing last year's RTR jersey who (it turned out) wasn't even on the ride. There were the "flamingo" people at the campsites near us three nights with their personal "sherpas". It was storing my bike at the Aspen High School on their plush indoor running track. It was Al trying on a giant cowboy hat at Kemo Sabe in Aspen and having the store clerks ply us with beer and wine. It was seeing the Aspen real estate offices with sales listings for \$25,000,000 and more. It was goofy T Shirts.

There was pulling, drafting, seas of tents and bikes and the shower trucks. There was brushing your teeth with water from the water truck and spitting in the grass. There was the Roaring Fork River cascading along a pastoral bike path near Aspen. There was a fun dinner at the old (1886) Hotel Delaware in Leadville and good Mexican food at Tequila's in Glenwood Springs. It was finding a little Italian place in Rifle with a line

out the door and the locals working their butts off to get us food. It was Fat Tire. We saw and enjoyed the fantastical wood carvings from the Cottonwoods in the park at Craig. We got stuffed up all week from the cottonwood seeds blowing around everywhere. There was a fire burning away up the hillside to our left with the smoke thankfully headed the other way from our route while you wondered "Whose home is getting burned down?" There was white water rafting after the short ride to Glenwood Springs. There was a helicopter sucking thousands of gallons of water out of the Colorado River as we sat in rafts and watched while he waved to us and then dumped the water on a smoking mountain side a few miles away from us.

We saw groups of young super fit riders pass us going twice as fast as us in pace lines; other times our own little pace line passed other riders in the same way. We glided down mountain sides at speeds over 40 mph and climbed the other side at 5-10 mph. It was going so slow up hill that you fought to stay vertical on the bike. It was carving around switchbacks and sharp curves and hoping that you don't get a flat tire like the guy in front of you who had to lock up his brakes and pull off to the side on a big downhill run. It was the volunteers waving their orange flags to caution us about hazards ahead and the ever present reminders and quips left by the mysterious Agent Orange.

It was thanking the Colorado State Troopers who watched over you the whole time and who controlled the traffic as much as possible. It was hoping the ambulance you heard or saw wasn't going to pick up one of our fellow RTR riders and the rumors about the one crash and injury I did hear about. It was passing Renee festooned with flowers on the way up to Independence Pass and seeing her boyfriend's proposal just before the top. It was seeing that she said "YES" the next day. It was yelling "Car Back" or "On

your Left" time after time after time. It was not having the breath on a climb to yell either one. We hustled to finish the downhill into Rifle as the traffic got heavier and heavier and we got up early to get ready to climb to Independence Pass with a compensating lazy celebration at the other end. It was climbing the football bleachers in Leadville with your giant bag (weighing what seemed like at least 95 pounds) and having a 95 pound high school girl ask you if she could help you.

We saw crippled riders that could only use their arms including one amazing guy with <u>only one arm</u> and a hook attached to his prosthesis (no legs) doing this ride. If you ever felt tired or down, you'd pass someone who was struggling far more than yourself and you'd soon realize that you didn't have as much of a challenge as you thought. Many of these folks trained for months and years to do this ride. Some never trained at all. Sometimes you could see riders along the road ahead (and sometimes way above you) stretching for miles.

It was struggling up the grades at Turquoise Lake to hear at the rest stop that most of the riders skipped it. It was enjoying the spectacular view through the trees and across the mirror calm deep blue waters and thinking that they really missed something.

I'm sure you'll remember this experience as I will; a challenge both physical and mental, but one that comes with the great enjoyment of being outdoors for a week out of our little "comfort zones" and into the unbelievably beautiful scenery of the mountains. I can't wait to get all the pictures and bore you all with some of the stories. It sure was a great time!

Dan Wiessner

(other Wheelmen on ride; Kevin Moore, Cindy Trent and Bill Kragh)

(Continued from page 5)

Schneider @ 847/696-2356.

Door County—September 15 & 16

This should provide an excellent opportunity to ride the rural roads of Door County after the summer rush. The routes will mirror many of the roads used on the Door county Century. Rides both days will leave from Sevastopol school just north of Sturgeon Bay. Routes offered will be 50, 75, and 100 on Saturday and shorter route options for Sunday.

A block of rooms are being held at the Sturgeon Bay Super 8 Motel (920/743-9211).

Rooms must be reserved by August 1, 2007. If you have questions, please ask Tom or Deb Wilson, 847/632-1412. If fewer than six people register, the excursion will be canceled.

October 13th & 14th Fall Foliage Ride

This ride is done in conjunction with the Quad Cities Bicycle Club. The rides start and end in Mt Horeb, WI which is about 20 miles west of Madison. Cue sheets are provided both days. These are challenging rides of 50-60 miles with over 4,000 feet of climbing each day. There are also several alternative flatter options. The rides count for club mileage.

We will be staying at the beautiful Karakahl Country Inn with indoor pool. Call 608/437-5545 to reserve your room.

A scrumptious Italian buffet dinner will again be arranged for the combined bike clubs on Saturday night for a very reasonable price! Call Rich or Mary Kay Drapeau 847/808-1476 to be included in the reservation or for more information.

Directions: Take I-90 West to exit 142A in Madison on to 18 West for 25 miles, then 151 Business into Mt. Horeb. Karakahl is on the left



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It's only a few more weeks before our annual invitational day will be here. The ride is Sunday, Sept. 9.

Volunteers are needed to make this day a success. Some of the areas that would appreciate your support are:

registration, parking, setting up at rest stops, working a shift at a rest stop, and route marking.

Contact Mary Kay Drapeu, Harmon Chair, at (847)808-1476 to offer your assistance. Thanks

WHERE DID THAT RIDE GET IT'S NAME?

Ever wonder where a Wheelmen ride got its name? This month we uncover the truth about a ride called Covered Bridges, not to be confused with Bridges of Madison County. The only hot and steamy part is the summer day. Our ride is a very scenic route leaving from Long Grove. So the first covered bridge is when we leave Long Grove via Robert Coffin Dr. Then towards the middle of the ride we head into the Coves subdivision and go through two more covered bridges before heading back. If you haven't taken this ride, be sure to come the next time it is offered.

INVITATIONALS

Aug. 5, Rotary Ride, Naperville, 20/40/55/82/102 miles, Steve 630-964-5959 paxfer3@aol.com www.napervillesunrise.com

Aug 11-12, Interplanetary Bicycle Ride, Dunlap/Peoria, 12-100 miles \$20, \$24 after 8/1, Sheldon Schafer, 309/686-7000 sschafer@lakeview-museum.org www.lakeview-museum.org/iplanet/iplanet.html

Aug. 12, Windy 60, DeKalb, 20/43/63 miles, 815-758-1562 dekalbwindy60@yahoo.com

Aug 19, Wright Ride, Oak Park, 10/25/50/62 miles, 708-383-1244 gail moran@sbcglobal.net www.oakparkcycleclub.org/wrightride

Aug. 19, Old Mill Century, Oregon, 10/25/50/75/100 miles 815-732-7154

Aug 19, Oswego Chamber Ride, Oswego, 25/50/75/100 miles, \$25, 630-554-3505 info@oswegochamber.org www.oswegochamber.org/pages/bikeride.asp

Aug 26, Bike Psychos Century, Coal City, 30/50/70/100/124 miles \$15 by 8/19 \$20 after, 708-802-1804 century@bikepsychos.org www.bikepsychos.org

Aug 26, Cream City Cycle Club Century, Waterford, WI 35/62/100 miles, \$20 /\$25 day of, 414-299-9398

Pres CreamCityCC@yahoo.com www.creamcitycycleclub.com/century.htm

Wheeling Wheeln	nen Membership Application	
Name:	Spouse's Name:	
Address:	Children's Names:	
City, State, Zip:		Age:
Phone #:	E-mail:	
all the rules of the road, and conduct myself in a manner claims for negligence against the WHEELING WHEELM atted with any WHEELING WHEELMEN activity for my	IEN, its officers and members for all d	
	, ,	
Applicant's Signature (parent's signature if a minor)		



P. O. Box 7304 Buffalo Grove, Il. 60089-7304

Phone: 847-520-5010 Email: wheeling@wheelmen.com

We are on the web wheelmen.com

Club Meeting
August 2



CLUB DISCOUNTS

The following local shops offer a 10% discount on parts and accessories to all Wheeling Wheelmen with a valid membership card shown at time of purchase.

ALBERTO'S CYCLES

1770 First St. Highland Park 847/446-2042

AMLINGS CYCLE & FITNESS

8140 N Milwaukee Ave., Niles 847/692-4240

BICYCLE CONNECTION OF SCHAUMBURG 1226 N Roselle Rd. Schaumburg, 847/882-7728

GEORGE GARNER CYCLERY

111 Waukegan Rd., Northbrook 847/272-2100

LIBERTYVILLE CYCLERY

 $800~\mathrm{N}.$ Milwaukee Ave, Libertyville 847/362-6030

MIKES BIKES

155 N Northwest Hwy, Palatine, 847/358-0948

RUNNER'S HIGH & TRI

121 W. Campbell , Arlington Hts. 847/670-9255

SHAMROCK CYCLERY

344 Old McHenry Rd, Long Grove 847/913-9767

SPOKES

223 Rice Square at Danada Wheaton 630/690-2050 1807 S. Washington, Naperville 630/961-8222

THE CYCLERY

575 Ela Road, Lake Zurich, 847/438-9600

TURIN BICYCLE

1027 Davis Street, Evanston 847/864-7660

VILLAGE CYCLESPORT

63 Park & Shop, Elk Grove Village 847/439-3340 1313 N. Rand Rd, Arlington Hts. 847/398-1650

We support:

- *The League of American Bicyclists
- *The League of Illinois Bicyclists
- *The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation
- *Buffalo Grove Bike Rodeo
- *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin
- * Adventure Cycling

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

The League of American Bicyclists promotes cycling through safety and represents us in the decision making process in Washington D.C. A yearly membership is \$30 for individuals, \$35 for families and should be sent to:

League of American Bicyclists, 1612 K Street, NW, Suite #401 Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202)822-1333 Fax: (202)822-1334

E-mail: BikeLeague@aol.com Web Site: www.bikeleague.org

In addition to government relations, they also organize many great cycling rides and rallies around the country. For information on these events call (800) 288-BIKE