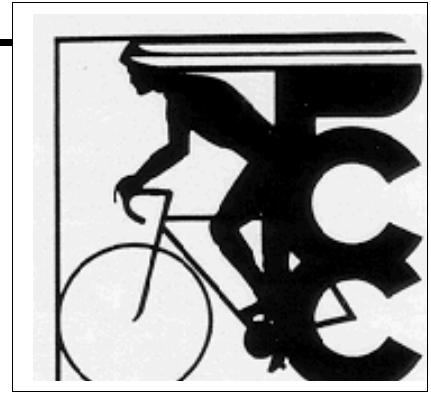


The Prairie Cyclist

Newsletter of the Prairie Cycle Club, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
Vol. 41, No.4
May 2008



JUNE 7: PLAYING IT SAFE – VOLUNTEER NOW!

"Playing It Safe" on Saturday, June 7 10:00 a.m.– 3 p.m.—we need volunteers to help sell helmets, instruct people on proper helmet fit, talk about PCC, bike safety, etc. Contact Babette Hiles (352-0926 or bhiles@uiuc.edu) if you're interested in volunteering or have questions especially for a morning shift. Come be an ambassador for cycling! (Get goodies, too!)

IT'S A WRAP! AND A MAP!

Champaign-Urbana will soon have maps of bicycle routes and a bus with a vinyl wrap and a bright, vivid "share the road" message. Be sure to notice that Prairie Cycle Club is among the sponsors. We contributed \$250 and \$400 respectively for the maps and the wrap. Thank you members, for paying your dues and helping with CUAP – it makes a difference!

NEW MEMBER WELCOME RIDE, MAY 1

New Member Welcome Rides are on the first Thursday of the month. Stan Shobe and Bonnie Kemper lead this very gentle Level 1 ride and there's usually a snack afterwards. Meet at the Assembly Hall parking lot (First & St. Mary's, Champaign), 6:15 p.m.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BIKES' SECOND TIME!

**** BICYCLE FESTIVAL ****

Sunday May 4th, 2008 11:00 to 4:00 PM
Hessel Park, Champaign

NEW! Ongoing "Bike Film Fest" in the CUMTD Bus - practice putting your bicycle on the rack in front!

- 11:00 Free Kid's Bicycle Decorating
- Pre-viewing of Auction Bikes
- Free Bike Repair Demonstrations
- 12:00 Bike Rodeo begins (ongoing)
- 2:00- All-Ages Bicycle Parade Around the Park
- 3:00 - Auction of Used Bikes by The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign

MAY 14-18: BIKE TO WORK WEEK!

It's a week because there should be at least *one* day you can do it – but May 16 is the "official" day (Friday). I've got my general "commuting" blog at <http://bicyclecu.blogspot.com/> and can answer questions about routes and assorted other challenges which can usually be overcome, even without an Xtracycle or a folding bicycle.

MAY 13 – LIVESTRONG DAY

Wear *yellow* and ride strong in solidarity to raise awareness of the fight against cancer.

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING RIDE, MONDAY MAY 12

Monthly Member Meeting Rides are a chance for all our riders to meet each other and experience different rides.

These rides rotate through the weekly rides, during the second week of each month. They offer a pace for all riders, so all members are invited to come by and join the fun.

Meet at Countryside Day School – departure time is 6:00 p.m. (so be there a little early to group up).

Monthly Member Meeting Rides will be on Monday, May 12, Tuesday June 10, Wednesday July 9,

Thursday August 4. The more people come, the more will be going your pace!

RIDE OF SILENCE – WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

TIME: 7:00 pm

WHERE: Assembly Hall Parking Lot (first & St. Mary's – same as last year) and Hundreds of locations world wide – and Join cyclists worldwide in a silent slow-paced ride (max. 12 mph/20 kph) in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways.

- To **HONOR** those who have been injured or killed
- To **RAISE AWARENESS** that we are here
- To ask that we all **SHARE THE ROAD**

From the www.rideofsilence.org website: “There is no brochure, no sponsors, no registration fees and no t-shirt. The ride ... held during Bike Safety month, aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for those who have been killed or injured.” Contact Anthony Chernolis acherolis@gmail.com for more information.

LIB EXTRA – FROM THE LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS BICYCLISTS “Please Don’t Squeeze” Radio Ads

During May, select radio stations will be broadcasting a message to motorists: "Please don't squeeze". The message is part of an IDOT-funded campaign by LIB to inform motorists of a new state law that requires cars and trucks to pass bicyclists

with at least three feet of space. The 30-second spot will be heard on stations in Chicago, other Illinois cities, and **Champaign**. The ad also urges bicyclists to do their part by obeying traffic laws. Listen to the ad at <http://www.bikelib.org>.

This is the second year that LIB, working with IDOT, has conducted a radio public service announcement campaign to promote safe sharing of the roads by both drivers and cyclists.

PLANNING GUIDES FOR TOWNS

LIB is asking 250 Illinois towns to become more bike-friendly. Mayors and other local officials were just sent our newly-developed guide on doing a bike plan, in addition to information on achieving national Bicycle Friendly Community status. LIB is a resource to help your town and local cyclists make it happen! See our bike plan guide at <http://www.bikelib.org>.

You can help – just leave a message for your mayor, mentioning the mailing and your support of improving bike conditions in town. Call us to get more involved.

NEW! ILLINOIS BICYCLIST GUIDE

LIB has released an informational pamphlet for those becoming more interested in bicycling. The *Illinois Bicyclist Guide* helps in finding bike maps, clubs, organized rides, and useful tips on riding confidently. Samples of the guide have been sent to clubs, shops, LIB members and more – see it at <http://www.bikelib.org>.

***Bike club members:** LIB's efforts to improve bicycling are supported by over 1000 members – many belonging to clubs that donate. Become an individual member at www.bikelib.org/join*

Featured May Rides In Illinois (there are many more at <http://www.mikebentley.com>)

May 4: Pedal Power Bike Ride, Hessel Park, Champaign IL \$25 (\$80 for team of 4) to support Center for Women in Transition 217-352-7151

May 18: Sangamon River Valley Bike Ride, Monticello, IL \$15 (\$35/family) – 16-43 miles. Lots of PCC folks ride out there – Kirby Road will take you there (or get yourself a map ☺)

May 21: Ride of Silence Champaign-Urbana, IL (corner of First & St. Mary's) – see article

May 25: Bike the Drive Chicago, IL 15/30 miles <http://www.bikethedrive.org> 312-427-3325
btd07registration@biketraffic.org

2008 RIDE SCHEDULE through Aug. 30
See www.prairiecycleclub.org for more info.

MONDAY 6:00 P.M.

Countryside School, corner Kirby & Staley Rd, Champaign. **If you drive there, please park at the easternmost part of the lot (away from the school).**

Moderate Ride: Level 2

Leaders: Anne Robin (356-1107, arobin@uiuc.edu), Jim Witte (356-8085, jim@thunderingbison.com)

Avg. speed 13-15 mph; Distance 15-20 miles; distance, not speed increasing with longer days.

Manic Ride: Level 3 Leader: Jim Pirzyk (898-1750, jim+pcc@pirzyk.org)

Avg. speed: 15-18; distance 20-35 miles. Riders should have pace line riding skills.

Level 4 Show & Go has been known to happen too!

TUESDAY

Tuesday Morning Tour: Level 2/3

Leader: Ed BonDurant (359-1529, bonduran@uiuc.edu)

Hessel Park Pavilion, Kirby Avenue, Champaign.

Time: 10:00 a.m. (March & April); 9:00 a.m. (May); 8:00 a.m. (June) Ride time about 2 hours early in the season; longer as season progresses.

Pedaling for Pleasure: Level 1 **6:30 p.m.**

Ride Leader: Peter Davis (352-7600

peter@champaigncycle.com)

Champaign Cycle, 506 S. Country Fair Dr., Champaign

Emphasis on fun and learning! Speed 10-13 mph, distance 12-15 miles.

WEDNESDAY Long Ride: Level 4+ **5:45 p.m.**

Leader: John Sturmanis (JMS@TMH-LAW.com)

Depart: Burwash Park, corner of Burwash & Prospect, Savoy

Avg. speed 20-22 mph +; 30-50 miles. Often together going out; attacks on return trip, beer afterwards.

THURSDAY

Meadowbrook **Show & Go Rides: 6:00 p.m.**

Women's : Level 3 Leader: **None**

Depart: Meadowbrook Park, Windsor Road, Urbana Time: 6:00 p.m.

Avg. speed 15-17mph at a distance of 20-25 miles (longer as season progresses).

Show & Go: Level 3/4 Leader: **NONE**

Speed avg. 17-19 mph. Longer and faster as season progresses; people may be dropped.

First Thursday New Member Welcome Ride: Level 1 Time: 6:15 p.m.

Leaders: Bonnie Kemper & Stan Shobe

First Thur. each month Assembly Hall, First St. & St. Mary's road (parking lot), Champaign

10-15 miles at 10-12 mph. Beginner's level social ride and the ride leaders will answer questions about cycling and PCC or find an answer for you. Watch for snacks after the ride!

SATURDAY NOTE DIFFERING TIMES!

Meadowbrook Park, Windsor & Vine, Urbana

Saunter: Level 1: Leader: Sue Jones (367-6521)

Time: 9:00 a.m. April-May; 8:00 a.m. June – August

Avg speed 8-12 mph; distances 15-25 miles; destinations such as Tolono, & Philo.

Subgroups may go further and/or faster but leader will offer short option.

Level 3 show and go – Riders who wish a level 3 no-drop option will determine destinations in the parking lot.

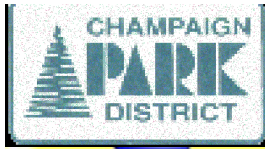
Fitness Ride: Level 3/4 Leader: Rick Francis

(351-7587, rikfrancis@hotmail.com)

Time: 8:00 a.m. Starting in April!!!

Avg. Speed 16-18; distance 40 miles. Ride leader will hold advertised pace through country roads in Champaign County.

Level 4 "show & go" ride, 18-20 + mph. You pick the route! **Time: 9:00 a.m. (April & May); 8:00 a.m. (June, July & August)**



The Prairie Cycle Club is an affiliate of the League of American Bicyclists, the League of Illinois Bicyclists and the Champaign Park District

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