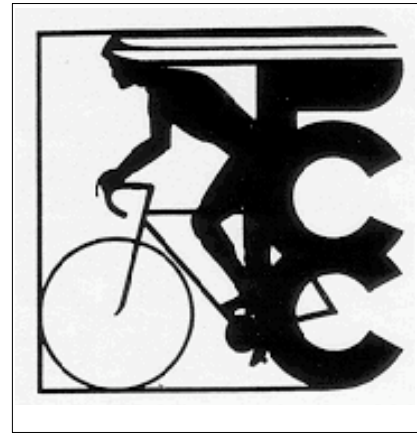


The Prairie Cyclist

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# Prairie Cyclist

Newsletter of the Prairie Cycle Club, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois  
Vol. 40, No.4  
May 2007



## May Events:

May 3: New Member Welcome Ride  
May 3: Urbana Bicycle Plan Public Workshop #1  
May 6: Bike Fest, Hessel Park  
May 14: Member Meeting Ride  
May 14-18: Bike to Work week!  
May 16: Ride of Silence  
May 26: Wind-Aided Ride

Read on!

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME RIDE, MAY 3

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.

## URBANA BICYCLE PLAN Public Workshop #1

The Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study has been contracted by the City of Urbana to complete the Urbana Bicycle Plan. Join us at our first public forum to:

- Map which roads you like to bike on
- Comment on bicycling conditions
- Learn more about the planning process
- Find out how to stay involved

**Thursday, May 3, 2007**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Urbana Middle School Cafetorium  
1201 S Vine, Urbana**

This meeting has a structured agenda.  
Please attend the workshop in its entirety.  
RSVP is requested but not necessary.

### To RSVP or for more information:

Susan Chavarria, CUUATS Transportation Planner  
chavarria@ccrpc.org  
328-3313

## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BIKES' FIRST EVER \*\* BICYCLE FESTIVAL \*\* Sunday May 6th, 2007 1:00 to 4:00 PM Hessel Park, Champaign

**1:00** Free Kid's Bicycle Decorating  
Pre-viewing of Auction Bikes  
Free Bike Repair Lessons  
**2:00** All-Ages Bicycle Parade Around the Park  
**3:00** Kid's Bicycle Safety Rodeo  
Auction of Used Bikes  
By The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign  
(30 bikes, starting bids as low as \$10)

## MAY 14-18: BIKE TO WORK WEEK!

It's a week because there should be at least \*one\* day therein that will work for you to try this – but May 18. I've got my general "commuting" blog at <http://bicyclecu.blogspot.com/> and <http://cubiketowork2007.blogspot.com/> is dedicated to cycling to work.

## MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING RIDE, MAY 14

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. By popular demand, we'll bring back the "dollar for your snack" option, with ride leaders encouraged to contact a board member with other snack options such as smoothies. Monthly Member Meeting Rides will be on Monday, May 14, Tuesday June 12, Wednesday July 11, Thursday August 9. The more people come, the more will be going your pace!

## RIDE OF SILENCE – MAY 16, 2007

DATE: May 16, 2007

TIME: 7:00 pm

WHERE: Assembly Hall Parking Lot (first & St. Mary's) and Hundreds of locations world wide –

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](http://www.rideofsilence.org) website: "There is no brochure, no sponsors, no registration fees and no t-shirt. The ride, which is 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 Sue Jones ([sujones@parkland.edu](mailto:sujones@parkland.edu), 766-0677) or Babette Hiles (352-0926 or [bhiles@uiuc.edu](mailto:bhiles@uiuc.edu)) for more information.

### WIND-AIDED RIDE! MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

It is time for our fourth annual wind ride. Once again we will be meeting at the Espresso Royale (Windsor & Duncan) at 8:00 AM May 26. We will have a bus to take us out a 100 miles against the wind and then we will coast back to town. If you want a shorter ride we will be glad to drop you off anywhere along the way. The cost this year will be \$20. Please contact Pete Nast 352-0305 [peternast@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peternast@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

### JUNE 2: PLAYING IT SAFE – VOLUNTEER NOW!

Playing It Safe" on Saturday, June 2 and the need for 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](mailto:bhiles@uiuc.edu)) if you're interested in volunteering.

## FOR SALE

**Bike:** 2004 Trek 5000 size 58 carbon fiber frame, bontrager race wheels, ultegra rd, 105 brakes and fd, includes bontrager hardcase tires and cpu with cadence and speed, 2 carbon fiber water bottle holders. \$950. Call Eric at 840-0121.

**Bike Rack:** Saris Bones 3-bike rack. Assembled, never used. \$75.00. Amy Bradford. 306-3027.

## MOTHER PRAIRIE CHICKEN'S MONTHLY SAFETY TIP

**Don't forget:** 333-8911 is the general non-emergency dispatch number for most situations in Champaign County. Rantoul PD is 892-2103.

And if you MUST get in those breathtaking pacelines (mother prairie chicken knows how you like to go fast and ride closely!), remember:

1. Stay steady and predictable. Don't weave, accelerate quickly, or brake suddenly.
2. Don't overlap your front wheel with anyone's rear wheel.
3. Be prepared to feather your brakes as needed.
4. Pull at a steady pace; don't accelerate at the start of your turn at the front.
5. Close any gaps that develop, but do it smoothly and slowly.
6. Stay close, but not too close, to the bike in front of you - usually about 2-3 feet.
7. When pulling at the front you are the eyes and ears for the group. Use hand signals and verbal commands - loud and clear.
8. When pulling, stop at all intersections, unless it's completely clear that the entire group can get through safely and easily.
9. If the entire group does NOT get through an intersection or other obstacle, then wait (slow down) for everyone to re-group.
10. When in doubt, communicate!

## ***LIB Extra – from the League of Illinois Bicyclists***

Advocacy, rides, and more – for further details, check out LIB’s website, [www.bikelib.org](http://www.bikelib.org)

### **LIB’s “Share the Road” Radio Ads Broadcast Statewide**

During the week of May 7-11, radio listeners on many stations around the state learned about sharing the road with bikes. The LIB-produced radio spots, funded through an IDOT grant, aired during morning and afternoon drive times. Topics addressed in the 30-second dialogue include: obeying traffic laws and showing courtesy, bicyclists’ right to be on the road, not honking the horn at bikes, and waiting until it is safe to pass a bike with *at least* three feet clearance.

### **Three Foot Passing Rule, Other Bills Advance**

Illinois motorists may soon be required to give cyclists at least three feet passing clearance, if Senate Bill 80 continues to move forward in Springfield. The bill, proposed by LIB, calls for the following changes to Illinois’ Vehicle Code:

- 1) Three Foot Passing Clearance – existing law requires that vehicles pass others at a safe distance. SB80 clarifies this with a specific *minimum* clearance for passing bikes.
- 2) Bicycles to Far Right Rule – adds the exception allowing cyclists to “take the lane” where right turns are authorized. Also, clarifies other exceptions.
- 3) Right arm hand signal – allows this *option* to signal a right turn.

On February 28, SB80 passed the Senate Transportation Committee. LIB’s Ed Barsotti testified, along with Senate sponsor Sen. Ed Maloney and House sponsor Rep. Elaine Nekritz. Both Maloney and Nekritz related personal experiences of getting injured by cars that passed too closely. On March 8, the bill passed the Senate unanimously and moved to the House.

Meanwhile, LIB supports two other significant bills that are advancing:

- Senate Bill 314 (Maloney) – calls on IDOT to establish bike and pedestrian facilities as part of their state road projects, with reasonable exceptions.
- House Bill 1382 (Black) – creates the offense of “negligent vehicular homicide” to fill a gap in prosecution between traffic offenses and reckless vehicular homicide.

***Help these bills become law – status and action alerts at [www.bikelib.org](http://www.bikelib.org)***

### **LIB’s new “SWFR” tour Sept. 29 – Oct. 1**

The new “Shawnee Weekend Forest Ride” is a weekend or 3 day fall tour from LIB. Loops of 30, 62, and 100 miles will wind through the hills of the beautiful Shawnee National Forest south of Carbondale. Lodging will be at Touch of Nature Environmental Center located north of Giant City State Park. For details and sign-up, see [www.bikelib.org/swfr](http://www.bikelib.org/swfr)

***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](http://www.bikelib.org/join)



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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