


The McHenry County

PEDALER



The Newsletter of the McHenry County Bicycle Club
Pedaling Together Since 1980

June 2008

2008 MCBC Board of Directors

President

Anne Lunk
(815)455-9239
aanno@mc.net

Vice President

Tom Baer
(815) 479-9945
mrbaer1@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Helen Noskowicz
(815) 728-0184
noskohilde@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Pat DePaepe
(847) 516-2299
pdepaepe@comcast.net

Membership Director

Cathy Cwick
(815) 245-8912
cacwick@yahoo.com

Touring Director

Geoff Mumford
(262) 877-9132
mumfordg@charter.net

To Join or Renew

Send your \$15 check and completed membership form to:

MCBC Membership
P.O. Box 917
Crystal Lake, IL
60039-0917

The updated Event Schedule is available at:

www.mchenrybicycleclub.org

CHANGED YOUR E:MAIL OR HOME ADDRESS?

Help keep MCBC records up-to-date. If you have a change, please contact Cathy Cwick at:

cacwick@yahoo.com

WANTED

Ride leaders for weekdays and weekends.

Call Geoff: [262] 877-9132 or e-mail at

mumfordg@chater.net

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 25

7:00 p.m.

McHenry Township Senior Center
3703 No. Richmond Road
McHenry, IL
Rte 31 Across from the Johnsburg
Water Tower

SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON VACANCY

If you are interested, please call Anne Lunk:

(815) 455-9239

PLASTIC RIDE 2008

This year's Plastic Ride will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 29 and 30. Please make your own hotel reservation at the Best Western in Janesville (608) 756-4511 prior to July 15th.

When making your reservation, please state you are with the **McHenry County Bicycle Club** and use the **Group ID # 1975**. The room rate is \$60.00. Please let me know if you will be making this trip.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

You know you're a real **Bicyclists** when your bicycle(s) are worth more than your automobile.



Database Manager

Cathy Cwick
(815) 245-8912

margen9ec@comcast.net

Mail Coordinator

Andy Lunk
(815) 455-9239

anno@mc.net

Newsletter Editor

Geoffrey Mumford
(262) 877-9132

mumfordg@charter.net

Social Chairperson

Anne Lunk
(815) 455-9239

anno@mc.net

Udder Century Chairperson

Tom Baer
(815) 479-9945

mrbaer1@earthlink.net

Camping Coordinator

Ruth Blair
(815) 943-7884

dorandruth@charter.net

Web Master

Mike Lynch
(847) 639-0717

lynch@cncci.com

Publicity Chairperson

Mary Winkel
(815) 653-0078

tigger@joltmail.com

SUPPORT YOUR

CLUB WEBSITE!

Log on often

And
Tell your
Friends

www.mchenrybicycleclub.org

Madame Prez Sez



Our thanks go to Senator Pamela Altoff for responding to the requests from our riding contingency to make the roads safer for all users. The "Three Foot Law" which she co-sponsored affirms our right to be on the roads which is no small feat in a society that not only love its cars, but has little time and patience for anyone but themselves. Sounds harsh but just read some of the comments at <http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2008/05/09/news/local/doc4823d97af19f9472253715.txt> for an eye opener. It's something to think about.

So what can we do as advocates for bicycling? First we have to walk the talk, be the model for proper riding etiquette, stopping or at least not blowing through stop signs, signaling etc. You know, follow the rules of the road and being courteous as well. We could also use some good PR. We've had some appropriate/positive quotes from both Tom Baer and Geoff Mumford in the local news which is a good start. Rennie Ballagh, George Mann and Mary Winkel all volunteer on the Trail Watch program and give several hours a month to be another set of eyes on our trails. Mary and Bill Winkel have organized the road cleanup for the past several years and doesn't Greenwood Road look good? Sam Wexler promoted benches and signage all around the county. So we are out there as a club doing something for our community. We just need to toot our own contributions and let the public know! More positive exposure can't hurt. The McHenry Chamber has its annual trade fair in April. Having a booth there next year is something to think about and plan for. How about reinstating the bike rodeo for kids where they learn bike safety? If nothing else we could always ride en mass in local festival parades..... well, I might be busy those days. But again, positive exposure for doing something worthwhile. I'd welcome any suggestions on this topic.

The riding season is off and running! Several of our riders are on the "D L" and in various stages of healing. You know who you are. We miss you all. Hopefully, you can join us for either a ride, lunch or the July meeting. Working the day of the Udder is not too strenuous (sorry, Tom, Connie and Helen and rest stop leaders). One can make PB &Js sitting down and the camaraderie is awesome. Join us that day! (Beck's Woods still need some help).

See you at the Udder and on the roads,

Anne Lunk

MCBC is a Not-For-Profit Social Club, which donates significant funds from our Invitational to bicycling organizations. MCBC has no employees or otherwise paid or compensated Club Members or Officers.

MCBC 2008 CAMPING TRIPS

Ruth Blair – Camp Coordinator
(815) 943-7884 dorandruth@charter.net

This is the schedule planned for the 2008 MCBC camping trips. Days reserved are for Sunday through Friday, but some campers do extend the days to arrive earlier. You need to reserve the days you can go. It is important that you register at each campground as soon as possible to get included in the MCBC group area. Contact the host for the trip to get more information and to let them know you plan to come.

At least 3 to 4 days of rides are planned starting on Monday. Rides vary in length from 30 to 60 miles. Canoeing/kayaking and hiking are often available. Maps and Cue sheets are provided. Motel listings can be found on the Internet or by calling the Chamber of Commerce for each area.

JUNE 15-20 BOULDER JUNCTION, WI. Host: Pat Kellogg, 815-459-6049, pkellogg@stans.net The campers continue to repeat the trip to this area for the beautiful country roads through the north woods of Wisconsin. Included are rides to Presque Isle, the Indian reservation and paved trail/road around Boulder Junction and Saynor. Make your reservations using the form found on the web site, www.camp-holiday.com Confirmations will be sent in May. CAMP HOLIDAY 715-385-2264

JULY 13-18 DOOR COUNTY, WI. Hosts: Dorwin & Ruth Blair, 815-943-7884, dorandruth@charter.net This annual trip is a favorite of all campers. Rides are planned throughout the peninsula on secondary roads to all communities and points of interest from Sturgeon Bay to Gills Rock and on Washington Island. BAILEYS GROVE CAMPGROUND, 920-839-2559 campnowwi@yahoo.com,

AUG 17-22 SPRING GREEN WI Hosts: Roger & Elaine Foin, 815-678-2132. roger@xjrdesign.com This camping trip has been most enjoyable as rides are often along the Wisconsin River and through the hills on countryside roads. One day of canoeing or kayaking the river is included for those who want. Points of interest include The House on the Rock and tours of the Frank Lloyd Wright estate. The Foin's have reserved 10 sites for the group at WISCONSIN RIVERSIDE RESORT www.wiriverside.com. Please contact the Foin's to get a site instead of the resort as they prefer only one contact for the group. For NON-CAMPERS, Cabins are available, contact the camp grounds directly for reservations.

SEPT 20-23 Lanesboro, MN. Drive to Lanesboro on Saturday, Sept 20. Camp in the town park campground. Ride the 50 mile Root River Pave Trail for 2 days. Hosts: Dorwin and Ruth Blair. dorandruth@charter.net

SEPT 23-27 WILTON, WI County Park. Tuesday, Sept 23, drive to Wilton, WI and set up camp in the county park. Plan to ride the hills of the Amish area in the Kickapoo Valley for 3 or 4 days. Riding the El Roy Sparta trail and canoeing on the Kickapoo River are other options.
(Hosts: The Blair's, see above)

OCT. 5-10 MADISON, WI, DANE COUNTY PARKS Hosts: Andy & Anne Lunk, 815-455-9239, aanno@mc.net This was a new trip for the campers in 2007. Riders requested to repeat the trip. The campground is quite nice and is located near miles of paved trails and roads that are routed for bikes. Madison is rated as one of the best areas for bike riding. Reservations need to be made soon as sites are limited. Ask for a site between 21 and 29 where we hope the group can be together. LAKE FARM PARK UNIT CAMPGROUND (608-246-3896)
Contact Anne Lunk for a brochure and more information.

MCBC 2008 Multi-Day Rides

July 29-30 PLASTIC RIDE. Hosts: Mary Lou and Geoff Mumford, 262-877-9132. mumfordg@charter.net
Sept. 14-19 6- Day Ride. TRIRI September Escape 2008. www.triri.org

All campgrounds have electric hookups and nice washrooms. The group includes those with tents to those with big motor homes and non-campers. Camping groups vary from 15 to 28 people. Check the web site for more information about camping activities. COME JOIN THE FUN! If you want to be added to the MCBC camper's list to receive advance information please let Ruth know dorandruth@charter.net



June 2008 Event Schedule

Rides start promptly at the times indicated. Please allow enough time to get yourself and your bike ready to ride. Bikes should be in good working order. **DON'T FORGET YOUR HELMET!**

Date/Time	Description	Leader Info.	Directions
WEEKLY RIDES			
Sundays 7:00 a.m.	Fast Folly (Road or Mountain Bike Mania?) Join Dean Setzler & CO. for an early FAST ride: great training ride for the animals. Call Dean the day before for details.	Dean Setzler [815] 675-6251 dsetzler@imaxx.net	Intermatic Plaza south parking lot; SR-12 north to Spring Grove, IL
Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.	Northern Illinois: Varied routes to Hebron and Woodstock: 15 to 25 miles round trip at a leisurely pace. (new this year)	Helen Noskowicz [815] 728-0184 Gerri Fitzgerald [815] 344 6491	Keystone Canoe Basin Keystone Rd and Barnard Mill Rd. Richmond, IL
Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.	Northern Illinois: Varied Routes to Hebron, Woodstock and Harvard: 35 to 50 miles round trip.	John and Lydia Waterloo [815] 337 2313 waterloojohn@gmail.com	Keystone Canoe Basin Keystone Rd and Barnard Mill Rd. Richmond, IL
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.	Southern Wisconsin: Varied routes to Twin Lakes and Lake Geneva: 15 to 25 mile round trip at a leisurely pace.	Helen Noskowicz [815] 728-0184 Gerri Fitzgerald [815] 344 6491	Veterans Memorial Park Fellows Rd, Genoa City, WI
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.	Southern Wisconsin: Varied routes to Twin Lakes, Lake Geneva and Fontana: 35 to 50 mile round trip.	Geoff Mumford [262] 877-9132 mumfordg@charter.net	Veterans Memorial Park Fellows Rd, Genoa City, WI
RIDES & EVENTS			
Saturdays	Rides will be announced on our MCBC Event e-mail on the preceding Friday		
June 1 Sunday	Udder Century	MCBC udder@earthlink.com	Donley's Wild West Union, IL
June 8 Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Kettle Moraine Ride	Dick and Jackie Homan	General Store, La Grange, WI
June 29 Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Progressive Lunch Ride	Lunch – Mumfords Dessert - Foins	Ride starts at: 10116 Fox Bluff Lane, Spring Grove, IL (Foins)

The Short Ride Option

Currently the short ride option follows the regular Tuesday and Thursday road ride schedule. We would be glad to have you. Also, if there is any interest in doing weekend trail or road rides, please contact Helen or Steve Noskowicz at noskohilde@yahoo.com or Gerri Fitzgerald at cjfitz1@webtv.net regarding your preferences to day and time.

Non-MCBC Rides

Sunday, June 8. BCLC Ramble, Wilmot IL. www.bikebclc.com

Sunday, June 15-21. Grand IL Trail and Parks (GITTAP) Dixon IL. LIB. www.bikelib.org/gitap

Sunday, June 15. Swedish Days. Burlington IL. Fox Valley Bicycle Club. www.fvbsc.org

Article in: McHenry County Conservation District Landscapes, Summer 2008

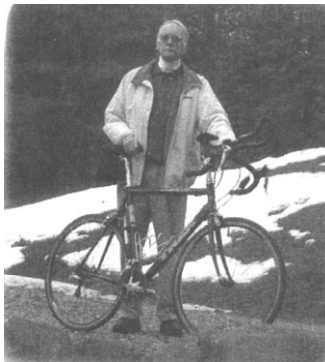
Rennie Ballagh – Prairie Trail Safety Watch Volunteer

The screensaver on Rennie Ballagh's computer says, "Get a life – Ride a bike". It's a sentiment that describes his life-long love of biking, from his childhood treks across the Montreal countryside to his involvement with the Conservation District's Prairie Trail Safety Watch (PTSW). Rennie believes that it isn't enough to just ride his bike along the trails – he is also an advocate of building new trails, improving old trails, and encouraging community involvement. "The rewards of being a "Safety Watcher" are numerous – exercise and fresh air; enjoying the spectacular scenery of McHenry County; keeping the Prairie Trail safe by providing Conservation District Police with extra eyes and ears; aiding accident victims; and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow bikers and my regular PTSW partner, George Mann," said Ballagh. Rennie is an experienced and helpful person you might look to for guidance if you're new to the Safety Watch. He especially likes to mentor new bikers and teach them how to ride more effectively and have more fun along the way.

Ballagh feels passionately about the need to improve existing trails to accommodate not only bike riders, but also hikers, children walking to school, horse riders and snowmobiles. "These "multi-use" trails are the best long-term solution to recreational needs in the face of tight funding options," said Ballagh. In addition to the PTSW, Rennie has been a member of Rails to Trails Conservancy, McHenry County Bike Association and McHenry County Conservation Foundation. Rennie is also actively involved in the Foundation's annual "Pedal Across the Prairie" bike ride held each fall in Glacial Park that raises funds to support conservation.

Rennie is devoted to conservation, especially with regard to land and energy. The house he designed and lives in is a model of energy efficiency, and Rennie is always looking for ways to make it even less wasteful of natural resources. Believe it or not, the house has no central heating. Ingenious design, passive solar features, thermal mass, air-tight entryways, fireplaces and electric panels are utilized along with common sense solutions (efficient windows, insulation, blinds, infrequently used rooms are closed off, sweaters are worn) keep his house warm in winter and cool in summer. Most amazingly, Rennie has not had garbage pick-up for the past 18 years! As a model conservationist, Rennie is a thoughtful consumer and is a master of the three R's – reduce, reuse and recycle.

While you're most likely to meet up with Rennie on the Prairie Trail, you can also find him volunteering at many other Conservation District programs throughout the year, especially behind-the-scenes positions at the Festival of the sugar Maples, Education special events, the Trail of History – wherever he's most needed.



Spring Training in Mallorca

It has always been my dream to cycle in Mallorca, Spain over spring break. This year that dream came true. Jackie and I signed up in October with Adventure Tours at the University of Wisconsin out of Stevens Point. In late February we were informed the trip did not have enough applicants and for the first time in eight years the trip was cancelled. We were both very disappointed. I started searching online and within 24 hours we booked Mallorca cycling.

Last October we bought a Bike Friday tandem, which fits in two hard case Samsonite suitcases. Neither Jackie nor I had ever been to Europe, so needless to say we were both excited. I had even taken an online Spanish course to prepare for the trip. Our flight took us to Madrid and then to Palma, Mallorca. We were picked up at the airport and transported to the town of Alcudia located on the northeast side of Mallorca. The Iberostar hotel was located on the beach. The \$ 120 dollars a person per day included the following: buffet breakfasts, lunch taken with you for the ride, dinner buffet, five guided rides, bike storage, mechanics on duty, bike lock, maps, jersey, and a few other biking items.

We arrived on Friday and proceeded to put my Bike Friday together and recover from jet lag. When we went to dinner we discovered the preferred language was not Spanish but German. 95% of the cyclists were German, so much for the lessons. Saturday morning we met our North American host who's really name was Hajo pronounced Hile. He invited us to ride with his group even thou he was not thrilled when we saw our tandem. We thought we were clipping along at a nice pace for this time of the year. After about 30 minutes of riding, Hajo came back and very bluntly told us we are too slow. Love the German tact. I am not used to being told that but we accepted it and he rerouted us back to the hotel. That was our last ride with Hajo.

The rest of the rides were fantastic. The night before the ride you select a ride leader that is going your speed and distance. You can choose group rides that go between 10 – 25 miles per hour and distances between 40-110 miles. The group rides are rated from racing to pausch (I think the German translation would be slouch). We choose a fun group which is somewhere in between. You can also choose to ride from flat to mountainous. The advantage of having a guide is you do not have to think. Just follow the leader and never pass them.

Dick Homan

Congratulations to Pat Barnes

Pat, an accomplished artist, entered the Northland Area Art League's Fine Art Show. The show was at the Historic Woodstock Opera House. Pat took second place with her watercolor. This was Pat's first show. It goes to say she was shocked and very pleased.

Northwest Herald, May 9, 2008

Reporter: David Fitzgerald

The League of Illinois Bicyclists is airing "Please Don't Squeeze" educational radio spots to get the word out about the new law through a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"A lot of people didn't know what a safe distance was when passing a bike," said Ed Barsotti, the League's Executive Director. And the old law, he said, didn't offer suggestions. It simply said to pass at a safe distance. "We see the benefit of this law being mostly educational," Barsotti said. "Education of both motorists and cyclists is the key to safety."

State Senator Pamela Althoff, R-McHenry, signed on as a co-sponsor of the legislation in part at the urging of the McHenry County Bicycle Club. Althoff said the law was like others in the state that require motorists to use caution when sharing the road with construction workers or police officers who have stopped a vehicle on the roadside.

Mumford said he hoped that motorists remembered the new law and kept it in mind when driving, especially on June 1. That's when as many as 1,500 bicyclists will take to the roads in McHenry County for the Club's Udder Century Invitational.

Responses from Readers on May 9, 2008:

"Sore spot here. Rt. 14 is not a county/country road. Neither is Rt. 120, Rt. 176, Rt. 173, etc. They are state roads. Ever hear of "Bike Paths?" Your and my tax dollars built them. Use them. They are all over the place. Bicyclists do not belong on state highways. Ever hear of a "stop sign/red light/caution?" Even on the backroad bicyclists are reckless. The 3-foot rule has been around for a long time. Often the bicyclists don't give us the space to get around them safely. **I'm a car, I belong on the highway. You don't. Bike path! Use it.**"

"Another genius law being pushed by Pamela "foes grass" Although. Let's see Pam, **if I give the cyclist 3 feet and it puts me over a double yellow line on a 2 lane road we obviously are breaking another law.** So if I don't have room to pass LEGALLY, I now must follow a bike for miles until I reach a passing zone? How about a cyclist rides on the shoulder when a car is approaching?"

"This law is ridiculous. If you really want to ride a bike find a bike path. That's what they're there for. Riding on a road when there are no bike paths is a lazy excuse. Drive to the bike path! Shouldn't bikers be responsible for obeying speed limits and all other traffic signals? **Why should I be late because a biker couldn't do the posted speed limit?** I will continue to give all bikers on the road dirty looks."

"Great, so when the tour de France is going on, and the world is filled with Lance Armstrong wannabe's wearing goofy skin tight yellow outfits, we will have to allow another 15 minutes for our commute just in case of getting stuck behind a bike."

"Who would have ever thought that after spending so much money on our beautiful, extensive, bike trails throughout Illinois that we would end up making rules that would let bicycles have the same rights as a vehicle on our roads. Given the issues we have with congestion on our roads, this just seems stupid."

Northwest Herald**Reporter: Lauren Levy**

Union – Wilmette resident Dr. Joel Meyer, 47, always has loved cycling, especially after participating in more than 50 triathlons. That's why he plans to participate in his fourth time in the McHenry County Bicycle Club's 26th Annual Udder Century Bike Ride on June 1. It's really well-supported. You get to see people that you haven't seen in awhile, and they feed you, which is really great," Meyer said. "I really enjoy it; it just makes me happy."

Participants in the non-profit Club expect between 1,200 and 1,400 riders this year, Udder Chairman, Tom Baer, said. Riders from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Iowa participate each year. The starting point for this year's ride is at Donley's Wild West Town at 8512 South Union Road, Union, Illinois, Baer said. Routes will be 31, 50, 62, 75 and 100 miles. The Club will supply emergency services and rest stops with food and drinks. After the ride, the Club will serve a pasta dinner at Donley's, which is part of the registration fee.

Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m. on the day of the event, Baer said. But participants can register in advance until May 21 for lower rates. Riders who are 13 years old and older have to pay \$20 by May 21, but they will pay \$27 after that date. Those interested can register online at www.active.com or on the Club's website at www.mchenrybicycleclub.org

The Club will donate the proceeds to the League of American Bicyclists, Illinois Trails Conservancy, League of Illinois Bicyclists, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, McHenry County Conservation District, Wisconsin Nordic Network, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, Baer said. It's giving back to the bicycling community in an area that we know very well," Baer said. "We like to promote bicycle safety and education, which is good not only for the bicyclists, but also for motorists, too."

Comment from Jim Ramsey wrote on May 14, 2008 regarding the Udder:

"I for one am participating in this glorious event. Also, given the fact that it's starting at the Wild West Town, I'm going to have a cowboy theme on my ride. Gonna make it my own personal cattle roundup through the streets of Union. Yeee Haww!! Come cheer me on....I'll be the one accompanied with all the cows."

Townships Collect \$50 For Udder Century Ride

Road Commissioner's Report: Helpers reported that last year the Lung Association really abused our roads during their annual bike ride with painting them up, throwing litter on them, and no one was policing it. Due to this ongoing issue with this and other organizations the Township Road Commissioners have created an ordinance and permit fee for organizations who want to use township roads. This ordinance enforces rules that include, but are not limited to, no painting on our pavement, if you put up signs you take them down, and pick up your litter. Four townships are included in this ordinance: Marengo, Dunham, Chemung, and Seneca. Helpers added that after this ordinance was passed the Lung Association was again here marking up Seneca Township Roads. The Marengo Township Road Commissioner caught them and told them they can't do that anymore and explained that they need to obtain a permit, which Helpers explained upset the organization, but they did follow up with purchasing the permit. The ordinance was reviewed by an attorney. Seemann will post the ordinance on our township website and submit it to the Northwest Herald newspaper for publishing. Mathews suggested possibly posting signs on the roads to inform people of this ordinance.

1st CENTURY RIDE

Geoff Mumford	1955	Marge May	1990
Dave Steffen	1959	Dick May	1990
Connie Steffen	1975	Anne Wall	1992
Al Petty	1977	Jack Wall	1992
Jay Marshall	1982	Barb Mahr	1999
Jackie Homan	1982	David Falk	2004
Dick Homan	1982	Craig Kochina	2005
George Mann	1984	Cathy Lemke	2006
Ruth Blair	1985	Chuck Lemke	2006
Pat Kellogg	1985	Mary Winkel	2007
Roger Foin	1986	Mary Lou Mumford	2007
Steve Arnold	1987	Pat DePaepe	2007
Dorwin Blair	1989		

If you would like your name added to the 1st Century Ride List, please contact Geoff Mumford at mumfordg@charter.net

BIKE SHOPS

Bikes Plus, 203 West Northwest Highway, Barrington, Illinois 60010 (847-382-9200)

Trek	Giant
Gary Fisher	Mirraco

Wheel Werks, 115 North Main Street, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 (815-444-6897)

Waterford	Gunnar
Look	Co-Motion
Fuji	Isaac
Orbea	Bike Friday
Salsa	Flat Foot
Surley	Electra

RRB, 629 Williams Street, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147 (262-248-2588)

Scott	Electra
Marin	Argon
Kestrel	Isaac
Ridley	Breezer
Colagno	Biria

Wonder Lake Bicycle, 4308 East Drive, Wonder Lake, Illinois 60097 (815-653-9904)

KHS	Fuji
Freeagent	SE
Sun	

Main Street Bicycles, 52 East Main Street, Carpentersville, Illinois, 60110 (847-783-0362)

Jamis	Raleigh
Redline	Scott
Blue	Waterford

Harry Appleman
A-Enterprises, Inc.

Hebron targets jaywalkers, bicyclists

By REGAN FOSTER - rfoster@nwherald.com

-->HEBRON – Bikers, walkers and rabble-rousers beware: The Hebron police are tightening the reins on ordinance violations this summer.

“We’re trying to get our community straightened out,” Hebron Village President Frank Beatty said Monday. “We’ve got a nice community, and we don’t need these types of [problems] coming through and disrupting our community.”

Dale Eglund, chief of the Hebron police department, could not be reached for comment Monday, but Beatty said eight residents had been ticketed in the past few weeks for walking in the streets. A local law, put in place two years ago, fines pedestrians \$25 the first time they are caught using the streets instead of the sidewalks.

It arose after residents complained that students were walking several abreast, preventing vehicles from passing, Beatty said. While he acknowledged that the sidewalks were in poor condition a dozen years ago, he said about 25,000 feet of village sidewalk had been replaced in the past eight years.

But the street-strolling problem re-emerged this spring once the days started to warm up.

“In the past month and a half, two months, kids are starting to walk back in the street, again,” he said. “The problem we’ve had is a lot of times, they don’t want to move for the cars, and they’re basically betting on cars to hit them.”

Bicycles also are proving a problem, Beatty said

Bicyclists of all ages ignore stop signs, ride four or five deep through intersections, and occasionally use inappropriate language, Beatty said.

The 6-mile Hebron Trail, managed by the McHenry County Conservation District, runs northwest from Church Street in Hebron to the Prairie Trail.

“We haven’t had any problems with bikers along the trail,” conservation district spokeswoman Wendy Kummerer said. “Our Prairie Trail Safety Watch, as well as our uniformed police, do patrol all bike trails.”

Trail rules include stopping at stop signs, yielding to pedestrians, and not riding with excessive speed or aggression, Kummerer said. She added that Hebron officials had not contacted the district for enforcement help along the trail.

Beatty said the village crackdown was a matter of safety for all users, whether on a bicycle, in a car or on foot.

“They abuse that stop sign ... and they abuse the street sign [ordinances] and we’re not going to tolerate it anymore,” Beatty said. “Eventually, somebody’s going to get hurt.”

Comments:

"On the other hand these groups of bicyclists who come 20-30 at a crack and take up the whole lane of traffic, that's different. They need to ride through single file or be ticketed! I see this all over the county these large groups of bikers ride down the roads and take up half or more of the lane on a 2 lane road! The driver of the car has to move over to the oncoming lane of traffic to get around. Then they give you a comment or dirty look after they inconvenienced you! "

FOR SALE

Consider Bike Touring self-contained with pannier equipment:

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| 1 pair of large (blue) Touring Panniers | \$25.00 | used one trip |
| 1 pair of med (black) Touring Panniers | \$20.00 | like new condition |

Blackburn custom front lowrider rack for front wheel to carry small to medium panniers
Excellent way to distribute weight correctly when touring \$20.00

TOPLINE 2 BIKE RACK: Fits on any RV ladder \$28.00 (never used)

Bike Lift Ceiling Mount: (New from Bikes Plus-\$29.99)

- Raise one bike to the ceiling. Engineered to lift heavy bicycles.
- Locking mechanism prevents accidental release. Still boxed with everything included for simple installation and use. Will sell for \$18.00.

Call Dorwin or Ruth Blair at 815-943-7884

Comments from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Our press manager just read that Rails-to-Trails Conservancy would be one of the beneficiaries of this year's Udder Century ride, and I just wanted to say, "Thanks!" We're thrilled by your support and glad your membership recognizes the importance of rail-trails to personal, environmental, and community health. Events such as yours help build support for trails for walking, hiking, and biking, and ensure that RTC will be able to continue expanding the numbers of rail-trail miles across the country. We have more than 15,000 miles now (up from only 250 in 1986 when RTC was founded)!

Another series of events your members might want to know about involves our partnership with the Shimano Coasting Demo Tour. The tour will be in Chicago May 26, Madison, WI May 29, and Des Moines May 31. Coasting bikes might seem a little tame to your folks, but I'm sure they have friends and family that they'd like to get out on a bike! We'll be benefiting from these events and hope to have many friends there. See the full schedule at the Shimano banner on our website: www.railstotrails.org

We very much appreciate your support. Please contact me at any time with questions.

Sincerely,

Andrea Brock



BOX 917
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0917

www.mchenrybicycleclub.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bill and Karen Schmiel, Spring Grove, IL
Michele Zimmerman, Wonder Lake, IL

Patricia Stoffel, Wonder Lake, IL
Eberhard Veit, Crystal Lake, IL

Future "Save the Dates"

(See past/present/future articles for details)

June 1	Udder Century
June 16-20	Camping Boulder Junction, WI
June 25	General Meeting
July 13-18	Camping Door County, WI
July 29-30	Plastic Ride
Aug 17-22	Camping Spring Green, IL
Aug 27	General Meeting
Sept 14-19	TRIRI 6-day ride
Sept 20-23	Camping Lanesboro, MN
Sept 23-27	Camping Wilton, WI
Oct 5-10	Camping Madison, WI
Nov 8	Annual Banquet

Mark your calendar for 2008