


# PEDALER



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

July 2008

## 2008 MCBC Board of Directors

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### Touring Director

Geoff Mumford  
(262) 877-9132  
[mumfordg@charter.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:cacwick@yahoo.com)

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## WANTED

Ride leaders for weekdays and weekends.

Call Geoff: (262) 877-9132 or e-mail at

[mumfordg@chater.net](mailto:mumfordg@chater.net)

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## GENERAL MEETING

**August 27  
7:00 p.m.**

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

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## 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming—WOO HOO, what a ride!

Author: Allie Ochs

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## A Note from George Mann

Many thanks to all for the cards of cheer after my surgery. Hope to see you all soon on the roads and trails.

*George Mann*

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**SUPPORT YOUR**

**CLUB WEBSITE!**

**Log on often**

And  
Tell your  
Friends

[www.mchenrybicycleclub.org](http://www.mchenrybicycleclub.org)

Madame Prez Sez



I can hardly believe June is almost over! But the riding has been outstanding these last few weeks. Just my cup of tea, cool, somewhat overcast and a variety of miles available. Those 8:30 starts are a killer though, almost like a job. Good thing we have a dog that has to be out by the crack of dawn. And when the heat does hit, I'll be glad we're finishing before we succumb to its strength draining power.

On those early monthly campouts, we usually begin at 9:00 even though most are milling around their campsite, going over last minute details. We had a great time at Thomson in May, thanks to the Lemke's and perfect weather. That campground is part of the Army Core of Engineers right on the Mississippi River. So if you are 65 or over, it's half price! Such a deal! Connie and Dave arranged an educational outing at the local Dutch wind mill which is in use for grinding local grains. We saw first hand how it was constructed, its operation and some background on its impact on the area. Well worth the stop. Another educational opportunity arose when a bunch of Iowa grad students descended upon our camping turf. They were there into July to study the habits and life cycle of the local turtles which gives us information on the health of the species and our environment. Did you know the heat of the soil determines the sex of the incubating turtles? Besides riding, several of us had our new kayaks, ready to launch into the calmer tributaries of the Ol' Miss. It was all good.

The fun continued up in Boulder Junction last week. It's a distance to travel to the North Woods but again, one gets in touch with the beauty of nature. With optimal weather on our side, we rode the paved ribbon of trails to St Germaine, climbed past the cranberry bogs to Presque Isle and helped support the local Indians by dining at the casino. The kayakers took a day out to glide down the pristine Manitowish River which was a hoot! Besides getting hung up in low water, we encountered several beaver dams. I managed to get a picture of petite, lady-like Kathy Lemke standing on the dam, tearing at and flinging tree branches high into the air. With the help of Chuck and Andy, they broke through so we could continue our voyage. But in the meantime, both Andy and Dick May managed to test the stability of their crafts. I won't elaborate but both could have used another set of clothes. We decided a bilge pump was a necessity. Highlights included spotting an eagle's nest with teenaged eagles giving us the eye as we passed below, a fawn, and beautiful flora and fauna. You should really join us next year.

Lastly, I'm even more thrilled and honored to be a part of this club after seeing a different side of the Udder. I was at registration this year and it ran like a well oiled machine, as did the rest stops. We have little idea the work that goes into the planning and executing of this event. The signs, the cards for pre registration, the food, etc... we sure do one heck of a job. Kudos to Tom for making it look easy and to all who helped out. We done good!  
Until next month

*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](mailto: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.

**JULY 13-18** DOOR COUNTY, WI. Hosts: Dorwin & Ruth Blair, 815-943-7884, [dorandruth@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:campnowwi@yahoo.com),

**AUG 17-22** SPRING GREEN, WI. Hosts: Roger & Elaine Foin, 815-678-2132. [roger@xjrdesign.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mumfordg@charter.net)  
**Sept. 14-19** 6- Day Ride. TRIRI September Escape 2008. [www.triri.org](http://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](mailto:dorandruth@charter.net)



## July 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
<b>WEEKLY RIDES</b>			
<b>Sundays 7:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Fast Folly (Road or Mountain Bike Mania?)</b> 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 <a href="mailto:dsetzler@imaxx.net">dsetzler@imaxx.net</a>	Intermatic Plaza south parking lot; SR-12 north to Spring Grove, IL
<b>Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Northern Illinois:</b> Varied routes to Hebron and Woodstock: 15 to 25 miles round trip at a leisurely pace. (new this year)	Helen Noskowitz [815] 728-0184 Gerri Fitzgerald [815] 344 6491	Keystone Canoe Basin Keystone Rd and Barnard Mill Rd. Richmond, IL
<b>Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Northern Illinois:</b> Varied Routes to Hebron, Woodstock and Harvard: 35 to 50 miles round trip.	Geoff Mumford [262] 877-9132 <a href="mailto:mumfordg@charter.net">mumfordg@charter.net</a>	Keystone Canoe Basin Keystone Rd and Barnard Mill Rd. Richmond, IL
<b>Thursdays 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Southern Wisconsin:</b> Varied routes to Twin Lakes and Lake Geneva: 15 to 25 mile round trip at a leisurely pace.	Helen Noskowitz [815] 728-0184 Gerri Fitzgerald [815] 344 6491	Veterans Memorial Park Fellows Rd, Genoa City, WI
<b>Thursdays 8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Southern Wisconsin:</b> Varied routes to Twin Lakes, Lake Geneva and Fontana: 35 to 50 mile round trip.	Tom Baer [815] 479-9945 <a href="mailto:mrbaer1@earthlink.net">mrbaer1@earthlink.net</a>	Veterans Memorial Park Fellows Rd, Genoa City, WI
<b>RIDES &amp; EVENTS</b>			
<b>Saturdays</b>	Rides will be announced on our MCBC Event e-mail on the preceding Friday		
<b>7/4 - Friday 8:30 a.m.</b>	Rush Creek to Sharon WI	Geoff Mumford [262] 877-9132 <a href="mailto:mumfordg@charter.net">mumfordg@charter.net</a>	Meet at Rush Creek Park, Harvard IL
<b>7/4 - Friday 9:00 a.m.</b>	Winthrop Harbor to Kenosha, WI Invitational ride MCBC and BCLC	Billie Kocal [847] 838-1626 <a href="mailto:sbkocal@aol.com">sbkocal@aol.com</a>	Meet at the McClory Trail parking area, Winthrop Harbor, IL
<b>7/5 - Saturday 9:00 a.m.</b>	Ride through Kettle Moraine	Dick and Jackie Homan [847]587-6234 <a href="mailto:dickandjackie@mac.com">dickandjackie@mac.com</a>	Meet at the General Store, La Grange WI.
<b>7/29-7/30 - Tuesday 8:30 a.m.</b>	Plastic Ride 2 day ride Harvard to Janesville and back	Geoff Mumford [262] 877-9132 mumfordg@charter.net	Meet at the Methodist Church Parking Lot Rte 14 and W Harrison St Harvard IL

[Continued on Page 7](#)

## UDDER 2008

Dateline Union, IL

Who would ever have thought that Union would experience gridlock early on a Sunday morning? No, it wasn't an appearance by Thomas the Tank Engine at the Railway Museum, but the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Udder Century. Both Rte 20 and South Union Road were backed up as anxious riders were waiting to be guided to parking areas at Donley's. On this momentous day, **1,585** cyclists from 8 states hit the road riding between 31 and 100 miles. What a beautiful day for an Udder.



Above: The author surveying the Udder route on his fuel-efficient Cowasaki, AKA The Uddermobile

The swarm of cyclists tested our MCBC volunteers' resolve as they dealt with the crowds at registration and at all three rest stops. Extra food and drink were purchased to keep all the riders fed and watered. Spot shortages of some items occurred, but most riders were very complimentary of our ride and with the friendliness of our volunteers.

Last year I wondered what we would do with 100 dozen cookies. This year we purchased 120 dozen cookies from Sullivan's. The Cookie Monster must have been riding because all 1,440 cookies were gone in no time. Next year I will have a wood stove at Beck's Woods and will have Connie baking extra cookies so we don't run out!

When the day was over our volunteers, albeit a bit tired, helped us serve and satisfy all our guests in the best way possible. That is why so many cyclists thoroughly enjoyed their day at the Udder and want to come back again next year. OK, the weather helped a bit, but you were the ones who kept everything running smoothly.

I'll finish with this very complimentary comment we received – "You should do this (the Udder) every month"!!!

*Tom Baer*  
*Head Udder*

### Udder Comments

My name is Joan Willmeth. I am a member of the Schaumburg Bike Club. We had sixteen members do your Udder Century. What a great ride, we truly enjoyed it. The route was awesome. Thank you McHenry County Bike Club for a job well done.

Dr Joel Meyer rode for the fourth time in this year's McHenry County Bicycle Club's Udder Century. "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".

## **UDDER VOLUNTEERS**

Here's who made this year's Udder so successful:

**Brochure:** Ruth Blair, Joanna Hosteny

**Pre-Registration:** Barb and Steve Arnold, Ken Anderson, Ann Lunk, Mary Winkel

**Day of Registration:** Cathy Cwick, Pat Depaepe, Marge May, Billie and Stan Kocal, Bonnie Mueller, Sam and Charlene Wexler, Susan Solberg, Helen Noskowicz, Gerry Fitzgerald, Jackie Homan, Mary Winkel, Anne Lunk

**Road Signs:** Dean and Sandy Setzler, Andy Littleton, Larry Fetzer, Jay Marshall, Bonnie Mueller, Mary Ann and Chris Carter, Dick Homan

**Garden Prairie:** Marilyn Brierton, Elaine and Roger Foin, Pat Kellogg, Andy Lunk, Jane Mann, Lydia and John Waterloo, Ellen Whiteside, Steve and Debby Edmunds

**Beck's Woods:** Barb and Larry Fetzer, Jim Mather, Howie Litt, Mary Jane and Ed Haldeman, Robert Pustay, Don May. Barb and Larry Fetzer, Jay Marshall, Jack and Ann Wall, Ron Jenczewski, Pete Nagel, Ruth and Dor Blair, Larry and Mrs. Kendall, Dale and Trudy Medendorp, Dick and Arlene Brouillette, Cheryl and Mike Lynch

**Darien:** Chuck and Kathy Lemke, Dave Jeffries, Geoff and Mary Lou Mumford, Connie and Dave Steffen, Al and Stephanie Petty

**Food Coordinators:** Connie Steffen, John Hanfland

**SAG Coordination:** Steve Noskowicz, Dick May

**Maps:** Geoff Mumford

Many thanks for a job well done.

Barb Baer

Tom Baer  
Head Udder

### The Richmond Rest Stop Gets a Face Lift.

In August, 2006 the Rest Stop on the Prairie Path Trail at Broadway in Richmond was dedicated to the McHenry County Bicycle Club. This past Spring the Village planted flowers to give the stop a new look.



### Pre-Udder Ride

23 riders turned out for our Annual Pre-Udder Ride on May 26



Pre-Udder Riders not in the photograph: Helen and Steve Noskowitz, Gerri Fitzgerald, Larry and Barb Fetzer, Jay Marshall, Debbie Edmunds, Bob Pustay

Continued from Page 4

### 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, July 4  
Sunday, July 20  
Sunday, July 27

4<sup>th</sup> of July Ride, Plainfield IL - Joliet Bicycle Club [www.jolietbicycleclub.org](http://www.jolietbicycleclub.org)  
Biking with Beanie, DeKalb, IL - Kish Kiwanis/Kish Valley Bicycle Club.  
[www.kish-kishwanis.com](http://www.kish-kishwanis.com)  
Melon Metric, Plano, IL - Naperville Bicycle Club [www.napervillebikeclub.com](http://www.napervillebikeclub.com)

**GOOD OLE GET TOGETHER  
MCBC & BCLC  
4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY RIDE**

This is a road/paved trail ride at moderate speed. Riders will have the choice of 20 or 30 miles with a brunch stop in Kenosha. Many members know the route, but cue sheets will be provided. Fast riders on their own; social riders will always have company! Helmets are required. Bring a lock and \$.

**Starting Time and Place:** Starting time is 9:00; we will meet at the McClory Trail parking area in Winthrop Harbor.

**Driving Directions:** From 41 turn east onto 173 and continue east to the light at Lewis Ave. Turn left/north on Lewis. Turn right/east on 9<sup>th</sup> St. The parking lot is a short distance. Look for the maintenance tank.

**Threatening Weather:** We will cancel by 7:00 via email or phone us at 847-838-1626.

*Billie Kocal*

**PLASTIC RIDE UPDATE – AUGUST 21-22**

Have you checked your calendar? Do you have your “plastic” card handy? The cut-off date for the group rate is fast approaching. Rooms are being held at \$60.00 (plus taxes) for Tuesday night, August 21, at the Best Western in Janesville. You need to make your reservation by August 7 to get the group rate. Call 608-756-4511 and ask for the bicycle group. Cancellation policy is a 72-hour notice prior to date of reservation.

If you are up to the challenge of riding 2 days back-to-back of 50 to 62 miles and can be available for the mid-week ride, please join the group for a fun trip. A shorter route is possible. A vehicle will be available for support and to carry your overnight bag. The ride will start in Harvard and proceed to Janesville and back. The rooms are quite nice with an indoor pool to enjoy and socialize with everyone after your long day. There is a restaurant/bar on-site. Checks are not accepted.

Please call Connie Steffen at 815-459-3299 to let her know you are registered. Information will be sent out prior to the ride to everyone registered (cue sheets, map and details).

*Ruth Blair*



You have to start somewhere.  
Arlene Brouillette's first bike

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Century Ride List, please contact Geoff Mumford at [mumfordg@charter.net](mailto: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

**Prairie Trail Bike Shop**, 315 Railroad Street, Algonquin, Illinois, 60102 (847-658-1154)

**BRAKE PADS:**

**NOT ALL PADS ARE ALIKE:** the type of brake pads you need depends on the type of wheels you run. For example, if you know you'll be riding in wet weather, you may want to use brake pads made of specifically for those conditions. Also, wheels that have carbon-fiber braking surface require carbon-specific brake pads. If you use a regular pad on carbon wheel, you won't have enough stopping power. Carbon wheels create a higher braking temperature that can melt standard pads, which is unsafe, especially in wet conditions. As a general rule, don't skimp when it comes time to buy new brake pads. High-quality, wheel-appropriate pads are worth the extra cash.

**WEAR IS ROOT OF ALL EVIL:** those grooves you see on your brake pads are there for two reasons: they channel water and grime away from the wheel's braking surface, and act as a wear indicators to let you know when the pad needs to be replaced. Every time you apply your brake, a bit of the brake-pad material wears off. When the grooves are so worn they've become almost invisible, it's time for new ones. If you don't replace worn pads you risk the brake shoe coming in contact with the wheels, metal-on-metal---or metal-on-carbon---affair you don't want to experience. You'll damage your wheel's braking surface and compromise your stopping ability. If your pads are wearing unevenly, replace them, but be sure your brakes are adjusted properly and your wheel is centered, or inconsistent wear will continue to happen.

**PROPER PAD INSTALLATION IS KEY:** The day has arrived. It's time to say good-bye to your old brake pads and hello to new ones. While replacing brake pads isn't rocket science, it's crucial that it be done correctly. If it's not, the obvious will happen: You won't stop. But that's not the worst circumstance. If your pads are misaligned, they could rub against your tire and eventually wear it so much that blows out mid-ride. That's extremely dangerous considering the speed at which you may be traveling. If you're not 100 percent certain you know what you're doing, have a mechanic install your new pads. If you insist on learning to do it yourself, go to [BICYCLING.com/brakepad](http://BICYCLING.com/brakepad). Double-check that when you're finished, the pads touch only the rims, not the tire.

Natascha Grief BICYCLING



Don't forget to check those brake pads, you never know!

Chicago Tribune  
June 21, 2008

## **Bicyclists, Pedestrians Report Attacks; Experts Blaming Feisty Males**

There's a predator lurking in Chicago-area bushes these days. He strikes from behind, when victims are least aware. And the worst part, says ornithologist, Doug Stoltz, he could be almost anywhere.

Nesting season is in full swing for the red-winged blackbird, making the males extremely aggressive. Walk or bike too close to one's nest and expect to hear its high, menacing squawk overhead. Then comes the peck-peck-peck on your head, victims say, or claws rustling your hair.

It happened to Holly Grosso. The business woman was on her cell phone, walking along West Grand Avenue near Rockwell Street on Wednesday, when the bird---dubbed "Hitchcock" by area workers---made its move.

Enough of Grosso's colleagues at the marketing firm, All Terrain, have been struck that they're taking precautions. After Tara Soltow was attacked a second time Wednesday, she had to find a new route home. Clare McDermott never rides near work without her helmet.

"This happens every year," said Stoltz, conservation ornithologist at the Field Museum.

The male red-winged blackbird, about 8 inches long with distinctive red shoulders, becomes fiercely territorial during nesting season, which runs roughly from late May through mid-July. One of the most common birds in North America, it typically nests in marshes, fields and bushes. Beware of these dive-bombing daddies near city parks and large vacant lots, around ponds and especially along the lake front, Stoltz said.

Once male blackbirds become aggressive because of nearby nesting, they usually stay that way for about a month. And when they feel threatened, they've been known to follow targets for up to 100 yards.

Animal Control Supervisor, Andreas Morgen, said the agency occasionally gets calls about aggressive birds.

Hitchcock repeatedly swooped near and squawked at a Tribune reporter and photographer Friday near Grand and Rockwell across from Smith Park. But the bird's favorite targets appeared to be passing bikers, who flailed helplessly as they were pecked and scratched for more than 50 yards along Grand.

Soltow sees potential for danger. "It's making people so they're not being alert when they're biking," Soltow said. "Bikers are going to fall off and maybe get hit by traffic."

Jesse Rendon, a Smith Park Staff Member, said he's been watching for two weeks as bikers fend off Hitchcock while struggling to control their bicycles. One cyclist toppled over onto the sidewalk, he said.

Anyone under the blackbird's radar should stay alert and look directly at the bird, Stoltz said. And when all else fails and dignity is not a factor, McDermott said, the bird will shoo if you bark like a dog.



BOX 917  
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0917

*[www.mchenrybicycleclub.org](http://www.mchenrybicycleclub.org)*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lara Coler, McHenry, IL

James and Sarah Potthast, Woodstock, IL

Cathie and George Wight Sr. Crystal Lake, IL

Larry Sullivan, Wonder Lake, IL

### Future "Save the Dates"

(See past/present/future articles for details)

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**