

PEDALER LITE



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

Jan/Feb 2007

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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.mcbc.us



JANUARY McHenry Bicycle CLUB MEETING

When: Thursday, January 11,
2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: McHenry Township
Senior Building, 3703 N.
Richmond Road (just off Route
31 across from the water tower)

Guest speaker: Mike Behinger
of Lagrange General Store

Topic: Cross country skiing -
review of technique and what's
new in equipment & clothes

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

It's Membership Renewal Time

The time is now to fill out the enclosed application for renewal for this year's membership to McHenry County Bicycle Club. We have a great ride schedule planned for the spring, summer, and fall of 2007. Don't miss out on this season's fun time of biking and other club events. Sign the application inserted in this newsletter, write a check, and mail in your renewal now.



MCBC's Annual Winter Picnic

Mark your 2007 calendars for
our annual Picnic

February 10th

10:00- 4:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center,
2122 Behan Rd. Crystal Lake, IL.

Ski, Hike, Snowshoe!

**POT LUCK Luncheon~
Assemble Udder mailings~
Board Meeting!**

Please bring a dish to pass.
Remember to use crock-pots or plug in
roasters as there is no oven or
microwave.

Plan for the pot luck luncheon around
11:45 ish with the board meeting to
follow.

Coffee and hot chocolate included.

For questions concerning pot luck, call
Anne @ 815-455-9239

*A little work, lots of fun, fellowship
and food!*

Chase the winter blues away!

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SUPPORT YOUR

CLUB WEBSITE!

Log on often

And
Tell your
Friends

www.mchenrybicycleclub.org

HAPPINESS IS ___



Welcome to the Club's 27th year - 2007. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Holiday Season.

I am looking forward to another year as President of MCBC, one of the finest bicycle clubs you would ever want to be a member.

We have two changes in our Membership positions: Anne Lunk took over Social Chairperson and Mike Lynch took over Webmaster.

Plans for the coming year are in progress. The Winter Picnic will be held on Saturday, February 10th at the Prairieview Education Center. We have always had a great turnout for this event, which is a combination pot luck lunch, hike or cross country skiing, General Board Meeting and folding brochures for the Udder Century. I hope to see our new members at this event. The Club has an enthusiastic core of riders who ride most Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends.

Some of the topics we will discuss at the Winter Picnic:

1. We had over one hundred riding events this past year, but unfortunately very few new members rode. What can we do to get our new riders active?
2. It is the 25th Anniversary of the Udder Century this year. The event will be held on Sunday, June 4th. We are looking for ideas on how we can make this a memorable event.
3. How can we combine and improve both the "Pedaler" and Website for members?

Come to the Winter Picnic and let us hear from you.

We will continue to have our bi-monthly Social Meetings hosted by Sam. Ruth has already posted the Camping Schedule for 2007. Our 7-Day Ride in September is in the planning stages. Tom will continue to plan the weekly rides. Other special rides we plan to continue this year are: the Plastic Ride, the Progressive Lunch Ride, Wine Tasting Ride, and the Halloween Ride, which was unfortunately cancelled last year due to inclement weather. Anyone wishing to lead a special ride is more than welcome; let our Ride Director, Tom, know in advance.

We will continue to have hikes on Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends during winter season. The blizzard on December 1st enabled our cross-country skiers to hit the trails and will continue to do so until we are down to bare ground again.

This year I look forward to seeing another successful Udder Century, more new members join in our many riding events, more members ride their first one hundred miles, and fewer casualties.

Happiness is----- the first ride of the New Year!

Geoff Mumford

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.

LIB Extra – from the League of Illinois Bicyclists

Share the Road Videos Sent to Driver Ed Programs

They've gone out to 900 high school Driver Education departments throughout Illinois. Another 900 have been sent to police departments and sheriff's offices all over the state. They've even gone to private driving schools for other drivers.

They come complete with teaching guides, test questions, cover letters from Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Tim Martin and LIB's Ed Barsotti, and an endorsement from the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association.

They're state-of-the-art teaching tools designed to fill an important gap in knowledge about the necessities of driving. That's right. LIB's bicycling safety videos are all about the rights, responsibilities, and awareness of drivers in relationship to bicyclists on the road.

Named "Share the Road: Same Road, Same Rules, Same Rights," the seven-minute DVDs were narrated by bike racer Robbie Ventura. The videos were professionally produced and distributed through a grant from IDOT and contributions from LIB members and Illinois bike clubs.

Dean Schott, LIB's Outreach Director, took the reins on this project (or, if you prefer, the handle bars) and brought it to fruition. He noted, "The video is another tool to promote safe bicycling in Illinois. And it's helpful, not only to drivers, but to cyclists as well."

You can take a look at the production by going to www.bikelib.org/video. And – we ask you to call your local high school, to make sure they'll be using it!



2007 MCBC Executive Board

Tom Baer, Marge May, Cathy Cwick, Mary Lou + Geoff Mumford, Sam Wexler

Driver Bicycle Safety Test

(Try a few questions from the teaching material; sent with the new DVD. Answers on Page 4)

2. **What is the safe distance for a driver to pass a bicyclist going in the same direction?**
 - A. One or two feet.
 - B. More than three feet,
 - C. At least 10 feet.
 - D. 15 feet or more
5. **True or False:** Bicyclists have no legal right on the road.
6. **True or False:** Bicyclists should use only designated bike lanes and bike paths.
7. **At a stop sign before proceeding, a driver should:**
 - A. Look for cars coming from the left, right and straight ahead.
 - B. Look for pedestrians on sidewalks.
 - C. Look for bicyclists approaching on the road and the sidewalk.
 - D. All the above
9. **True or False:** Drivers and bicyclists follow different traffic rules.
10. **True or False:** Drivers always have the right of way when bicyclists are on the road.

I have a copy of the DVD for anyone wishing to view it or make it available to any individuals or groups

Geoff Mumford

The Grand Illinois Trail and Park Ride, GITAP-07, will begin June, 17, 2007 and end on Saturday, June 23. It will start and end in Oswego, Illinois. There will be a choice of routes from 315 miles to 565 miles. For more information contact Chuck Oestreich at cestreich@qconline.com. Or call 309 788 1845. There are special package deals for Clubs.

Answers to questions on Driver Safety DVD test

2. **Answer B:** More than three feet is a safe passing distance. Less than three feet, the driver and bicyclist have less space for safe maneuvering. A bicyclist needs the extra space to avoid a potholes, broken glass or storm grates and not be endangered by cars. In less than three feet, a motorist can clip a bicyclist with a mirror. If the driver travels at a fast speed, the distance should be much more than three feet because a vehicle can create wind currents what affect a bicyclist's stability. When approaching younger bicyclists, drivers should allow even more space because children movements are unpredictable.

5. **Answer: False**, State law permits bicyclists to use the road and requires bicyclists to follow all the rules applicable to drivers.

6. **Answer: False**, Bicyclists who ride to school, commute to work, or do errands cannot always reach their destinations if restricted to bike lanes and bike paths. They must use streets to get where they are going.

7. **Answer D**, All the above. Before safely proceeding into an intersection from a stop sign, a driver must be alert to all traffic-cars, bicyclists and pedestrians. Some drivers check only the streets for oncoming cars and fail to check sidewalks for bicyclists and pedestrians. Drivers should stop at the stop lines, not in the crosswalk.

9. **Answer: False**: By State law, drivers and bicyclists must follow the same traffic rules—stopping at stop signs, obeying traffic signals, not exceeding the speed limit, signaling a lane change and maintaining a safe, assured distance between vehicles.

10. **Answer: False**, Drivers and bicyclists share the road equally. Both should take turns according to standard right-of-way rules. These rules apply to all vehicles, bicycles included.

According to the "Rails to Trails"

Illinois has 47 trails for a total distance of 550 miles.

Wisconsin has 76 trails for a total distance of 1534 miles.

If you are looking for a trail near you go to <http://www.railtotrails.org/> and click on "Find a Trail"

CARTOON HISTORY

In 1988 when Pat Kellogg was MCBC newsletter editor, the local bike shops would place ads in the newsletter each month. One in particular, Crystal Lake Ski & Bike, would always submit a cartoon drawn by Jan Gunther. Jan was a member of MCBC who was an Ironman contestant, a skier, and enjoyed doing biathalons. Her cartoons are timeless. So, we will be continuing the tradition by featuring one of her cartoons in each issue.

Enjoy....



This years Chicago Bike show will be held on April 14 & 15 at Festival Hall A, Navy Pier, Chicago. The hours are Saturday April 14, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday April 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Activities include: -
- Closeout Corner
 - Kids Corner
 - Indoor track test
 - Daily Seminars
 - Exhibitor Reception
 - Women's Cycling Symposium

MCBC 2007 CAMPING TRIPS
Ruth Blair – camp coordinator
 (815) 943-7884 dorandruth@charter.net

This is the schedule planned for the 2007 MCBC camping trips. Group reservations are being held at several of the campgrounds. Days reserved are for Wednesday through Monday, 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 this fall at each campground to get included in the MCBC group area. You can usually cancel within a time limit at no charge. 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, varying in length from 30 to 60 miles. Canoeing 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.

- MAY 10-14** THOMSON CAUSEWAY RECREATION AREA, IL Hosts: Chuck & Kathy Lemke, 847-223-5394, kclmke@aol.com This campground is located on the Mississippi River in Thomson, IL only a couple of hours away. Rides include the paved Great River Bike Trail as well as country roads. Reserve through the Reserve America website, www.ReserveAmerica.com or at 877-444-6777. See a full view of the campground on the web site. Golden Age Passports are accepted. The hosts suggest reserving early in the Hickory Point Area, sites 112-126.
- JUNE 13-18** 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. CAMP HOLIDAY, 715-385-2264
- JULY 11-16** DOOR COUNTY, WI. Hosts: Dorwin & Ruth Blair, 815-943-7884, dorandruth@charter.net 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. 15-20** SPRING GREEN WI Hosts: Roger & Elaine Foin, 312-751-2767 rfoin@sbcglobal.net This camping trip has been most enjoyable as rides were often along the Wisconsin River and through the hills on countryside roads. One day of canoeing 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. BOB'S RIVERSIDE RESORT, Foins have reserved the sites for the group. Please contact them to get a site instead of the resort. You can get a view of the campground on the web site: bobsriverside.com
- SEPT. 19-26** WILTON, WI county park and LANESBORO, MN. Hosts: Dorwin & Ruth Blair, 815-943-7884, dorandruth@charter.net We will be doing this trip without reservations. Wilton is right on the El Roy-Sparta Trail and we will include some rides in the BIG hills of the Amish countryside. We may continue our trip on to MN and ride the paved 50 mile Root River Trail.
 Contact Blairs if you are interested in this trip.
- OCT. 3-8** MADISON, WI, DANE COUNTY PARKS Hosts: Andy & Anne Lunk, 815-455-9239, aanno@mc.net A new trip for the campers. The campground has been scouted and is located near miles of paved trails and roads that are routed for bikes. Madison is rated as one of the highest areas for bike riding. Reservations need to be made soon after Nov. 1 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 Lunks for a brochure and more information.

All campgrounds have electricity hookups and nice washrooms. The group includes tenters to those with big motor homes. Camping groups vary from 12 to 28 people. If you want to be added to the MCBC camper's list to receive advance information about camping activities please let Ruth know dorandruth@charter.net

MCBC TRAVEL TRIPS

MCBC is planning 2 multi day trips as we have done for several years now. A two day trip with an overnight stay and a 6 to 8 day biking tour are in the planning stage for 2007. Details will be in the next newsletter.

Information will be sent through the e-mail group event listing once dates are firmed up.

If you don't have the e-mail service call Geoff Mumford or Ruth Blair, if you are interested.



BOX 917
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0917

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

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
It's Membership Renewal Time

Future "Save The Dates"
(see past/present/future articles for details)

Jan 11	Club Meeting
Feb 10	Winter Picnic
June 3	Udder Century

Mark your 2007 calendar with the Camping Dates found on the last page inside. Don't forget to make your reservations and let the host know you are coming.