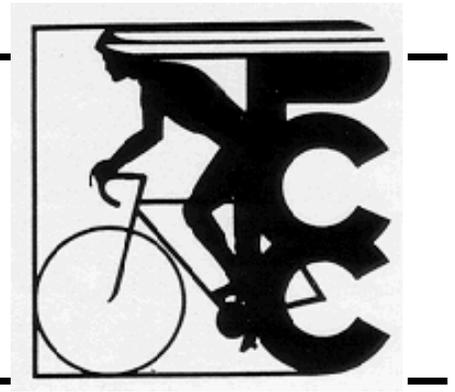

The Prairie Cyclist

Newsletter of the Prairie Cycle Club, Urbana-Champaign IL
Volume 42, Number 4
May 2009



If you have not done so, become a PCC 2009 member. Print the membership form at tinyurl.com/boyctl. Complete and sign the form and mail it to PCC with a check for the dues.

Help !!

PCC is still seeking a publicity chair, who would also serve on the PCC board. Contact our president, Susan Jones, if you are interested in serving as PCC publicity chair.

Even if you're not ready to be on the board, can you help with some of the following little jobs?

- Can you help with planning the Champaign-Urbana Across the Prairie Ride coming this August?
- Could you check with Strawberry Fields and see if, like the last few years, they can provide us with bananas and other munchies for CUAP?
- Or perhaps you'd like to bring brochures to the three bike shops in town.
- Or... is there something you think should be done? Let us know and we'll figure out how to help you do it.
- Or come to the next PCC board meeting on Sunday May 10 at Panera Restaurant on Kirby and Mattis at 7pm (6:30 for those who want to chat and snack beforehand). All PCC members are invited.

Just give a call our president Susan Jones on her cellphone 766-0677. She will get back to you when not at work or riding her bicycle.

Many hands make light work!

Bike to Work Week is ...

... 11-15 May.

Bicyclists in the News!

Cyclists are getting some positive press - as if normal people might want to do it!
http://www.news-gazette.com/news/people/2009/04/05/local_women_talk_to_biking_as_primary_transportation

All Member Welcome Ride- First Thursday of the month... May 7 (and then June 4)

Come on out for social riding and snacks - perhaps dropping in at Houlihan's afterward - at 6:15 at the Assembly Hall Parking Lot on the corner of First and Saint Mary's. Stan Shobe (398-2967 or pcestan@yahoo.com) and Bonnie Kemper (vscbonnie@aol.com) will lead a Level 1 beginner pace and others are welcome to group up and go further and/or faster. This is a chance to see folks you might not usually ride with - maybe bring out that bike you don't usually ride!

Ride of Silence May 20, 2009 7:00 pm

At hundreds of locations world wide and also starting in Champaign at the Assembly Hall parking lot (first and Saint Mary's). Join cyclists worldwide in a silent slow-paced ride in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. Contact Sue Jones (president@prairiecycleclub.org) for more information or if you can make black armbands or have other ideas.

PCC Jersey Order

Please let us know if you're interested in putting together a PCC jersey order - it takes 12 to make it happen.

Champaign Cycle is rebating part of PCC member purchases to PCC

Champaign Cycle supports PCC's efforts to improve cycling opportunities and facilities in the Champaign-Urbana area. Champaign Cycle has agreed to rebate ten percent of the next \$5K of PCC member purchases this year to the club. To help fund us in this way:

1. Let Champaign Cycle enter you in its customer file (listing you as a PCC member).
2. Give Champaign Cycle your name when making a purchase.

For the past 38 years, Champaign Cycle has supported local cycling organizations. Champaign Cycle believes that strong, active cycling clubs make it a better cycling world for all of us. This program gives Champaign Cycle a way to systematize its donation to Prairie Cycle Club and gives you a way to help out our club.

Rides in Nearby Places

On Saturday May 2 sneak down to Arcola: <http://www.prairie.org/events/21394/interpretive-bicycle-tour-arcola-area-fences> As part of a community storytelling initiative, the Illinois Amish Interpretive Center will sponsor an interpretive bicycle tour of fences, in the Arcola area. Folks are invited to explore the different uses and understandings of fences from those who know them best - their owners. Whether the fence is used for decoration, agriculture, boundaries for children or animals, privacy, or as spite fences, no local fence is without significance. For more information, please contact the IAIC at 1.888.45.AMISH.

On May 17 the Sangamon River Ride occurs, starting in Monticello - no advance registration, just show up. For more information, <http://www.monticellolions.org/lions-bike-ride.php>

May 30 will be the Tour de Builds (<http://tourdebuilds.eventbrite.com/>) Three routes to accommodate riders of all skill levels, along which riders can see some or all of Habitat for Humanity's 52 homes and a new one under construction in Rantoul.. Finish line party at the ReStore (119 E University, C). Advanced registration April 1-May 15. Individuals: \$10 for the short route, \$15 for the medium route, \$20 for the long route. Families: \$25 for any route. After May 16 through day of event, fees will go up by \$5.

The June 13 Ogden Lions Club Ride (<http://www.ogdenlionsclub.org/>), starts in St. Joseph.

To learn about upcoming supported rides in Illinois, visit <http://www.mikebentley.com/bike/ilrides.htm>

From Saturday August 29 through Thursday September 3, the League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) is sponsoring the 2009 "Route 66 Trail" Ride from Granite City Mo to Chicago. You can choose to participate in a small segment. <http://www.bikelib.org/route66/2009ride/>

For rides all over the nation <http://www.bikeride.com/>

New Governor Brings Hope
(excerpted from a recent League of Illinois Bicyclists flyer)

During his time as Lieutenant Governor, Pat Quinn has been a big supporter of bicycle issues. Quinn's record matches his response to one of our [LIB] 2002 candidate survey questions: "I firmly believe that communities should offer a wide range of transportation options to residents. Federal, state, and local government, in partnership, have the responsibility to establish the appropriate infrastructure, safety and accessibility to allow residents to utilize these options, including bicycling, walking, carpooling, and public transportation." In his role of Governor, we hope to continue to work with Quinn on positive changes.

LIB Seeking New Webmaster

The League of Illinois Bicyclists is seeking a new web designer/webmaster for our www.bikelib.org website, preferably someone who is passionate about bicycling and willing to volunteer or work at a discount. The role includes new design of the site, timely updates, and occasional special project requests. If interested, please contact jessica@bikelib.org and ed@bikelib.org for further details.

World Naked Bike Ride

Thousands of bike riders are shedding their clothes in the hopes that they can get us all to stop and think about the negative effects that cars (and the pollution they create) have on people and the planet. June 13th throughout the northern hemisphere. Should PCC participate? (tinyurl.com/cn63sq)

Save a Stamp

Individuals receiving a post office mailed copy of this newsletter can save both an itsy-bitsy part of a tree and also some of PCC 's postage stamps by emailing the editor (at mjerryfuerst@yahoo.com) that *you will read future newsletters on-line*

What are Level 1 and 4 riders up to ?

Last year several of the Level 2 and 3 riders became concerned and suspicious about how slowly the Level 1 riders and how fast the Level 4 riders were cycling. So recently some level 2 and 3 riders petitioned the PCC board that after each Level 1 and Level 4 ride the participants be tested as suggested at

<http://tinyurl.com/bh7wdz>.

At its last meeting, the PCC board decided that such testing will occur only after (a) Level 1 rides for which the leader determines the average pace had had been more than 15 mph, and (b) Level 4 rides for which the leader determines that the average pace had NOT been between 12 and 25 mph.



The League Of American Bicyclists

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

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Address Correction Requested

PCC Board Members

President:	Susan Jones president@prairiecyclclub.org
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Newsletter:	Michael Fuerst 217-239-5844 mjerryfuerst@yahoo.com
Activities Coordinator:	Brian Barker, barkerbj07@gmail.com or 720-862-5201.
Membership:	Mike Bernon 217-355-9313 mikebernon@hotmail.com
Publicity	Vacant (volunteer needed!!)

The board meets on the third Sunday of the month, usually at Panera at Mattis and Kirby. Everyone is welcome to attend, just to listen in or to bring ideas or feedback.