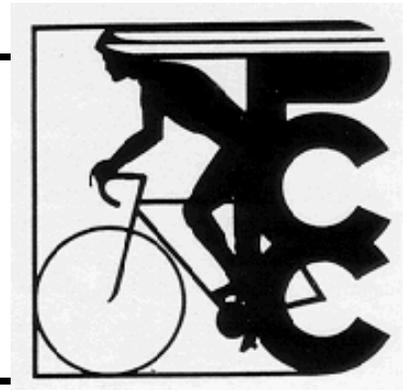


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# *The* Prairie Cyclist

Newsletter of the Prairie Cycle Club, Urbana-Champaign IL  
Volume 42, Number 9  
October 2009

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## **September 20 Board Meeting**

Sue, Brian, Michael, Mike, and Lorrie attended. The meeting was largely devoted to a plans for the the end of season ride

## **End of Season Ride Sunday, October 11**

We've got Homer Lake Park reserved for Sunday, October 11th. Riders meet at Meadowbrook park for a 12:30 pm. departure for the Walnut Hill Shelter (go into the park and bear left until you find the signs and the bicycles !) Lunch & beverages will be provided. Should people wish to opt out of riding, they should plan to be at the shelter by 1:30 pm. to greet riders and eat with group.

This will be a historic ride for PCC. As you remember, the PCC July newsletter reported how the PCC board evaded the Champaign Sheriff deputies during the June 13 local leg of the World Naked Bike Ride. The August newsletter reported the disappointment of the Sheriff deputies awaiting to catch the PCC board repeating the ride on July 10. During the the 11 October ride to Homer Lake, the PCC board will stop and hold a brief ceremony and bury a time capsule at the spot, a mile and a half west of Homer Lake, where the Sheriff's deputies had waited.

## **Cop's Safety Message**

Urbana police officer Skip Frost has seen a lot in his 20 years of policing the streets. Learn what advice he has for bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians.  
[http://www.newsgazette.com/news/local/2009/08/27/campus\\_police\\_driving\\_home\\_safety](http://www.newsgazette.com/news/local/2009/08/27/campus_police_driving_home_safety)

## **Art Gallery Tour**

Twenty-nine persons braved ominous skies and embarked on the first Champaign Urbana Art Gallery Tour on Saturday, September 26. The ride was the brainchild of the art community, and galleries opened their doors and gave tickets for prizes drawn at the end of the ride.

The riders seemed to be primarily bike riders who didn't often get out to art galleries (myself being in that category). So, the challenge is: how can we bring out the art gallery visitors who don't usually get on bikes?

## **Autumn is here**

Granted, when it's downright blustery and in the 50's, it's more than the earlier sunsets saying: Autumn is arriving!

Saturday morning rides from Meadowbrook are now Show-and-Go and start at 9am

You can cheat the seasons, though! call your buddies ahead of time and get on out there early in the evening or later on the weekends as it gets a little cooler and darker.

## **Encycle**

You know about unicycles, now we have the encycle, which looks like a single wheeled Segway.  
<http://www.snotr.com/video/2995>

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## Rides in Nearby Places

Join the Macon County Conservation District at the Prairie Pedal on **Sunday, October 4, 2009!** Bike through the 25 mile, 62 mile, or the family fun ride to support the Macon County Conservation Foundation. [http://www.maconcountyconservation.org/prairie\\_pedal.php](http://www.maconcountyconservation.org/prairie_pedal.php)

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

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

## League of Illinois Bicyclists News

*Rooting for Route 66* - The recent week-long, 375-mile ride from near St. Louis to Chicago promoting the "Route 66 Trail" was a success. Forty cyclists rode at least one day, and 25 did all or most of the ride. Thanks to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Route 66 Trail Executive Committee and a host of others for their support. Public events with mayors and local officials in 25 towns along the way raised support to improve the route while giving a big boost to LIB. One Illinois newspaper thinks the trail deserves even more support to make it a reality.

*Advocating Bike Safety with New Drivers* - LIB has become a corporate sponsor of the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA). This allows LIB to add links to the association's website for our driver education curriculum, advertise in the association's quarterly magazine and participate in the group's regional and state conferences. IHSCDEA supported LIB efforts to produce and distribute the "Share the Road" video for new drivers in 2006.

## Capital City Century – 100 rolling miles!

(From PCC president Susan Jones)

The Capital City Century is put on every year by the Springfield Bicycle Club, and since a group of them come to our ride, I feel like I should go to theirs in solidarity. Then, when I get there, I'm really glad I went because it's always been a well-run FUN ride with enough riders to be fun but not so many that they create traffic jams, with a great bash afterwards.

The terrain isn't that different from ours, but of course they are different houses and soybean fields and the occasional covered bridge. You get to wander well out into the country, with a few rolling up and down grades but nothing even asking for a granny gear. The support is superb, with the local ham radio folks hanging out at assorted corners. It's not only well marked; at important turns you'd get hollered back by the person stationed in a car out there, and they'll supply you with acetaminophen on request. (Yes, my back's doing much better now, especially since Jeff at Champaign Cycle did some serious seat tweaking!)

I'd recommend this ride highly for a "First century" for several reasons. First, the route is a clover, with 20-22 mile loops back to a main rest stop. You can change your mind after the first or second loop if you decide you're not up for the full 100. Second, as previously described, it's a real challenge to miss a turn (but do pay attention to what color arrows you're following!). After the ride there is ample refreshment, and they also make a certificate for you if it's your first century. We averaged a little over 13 mph and left at 8:00, not 7:00 and there was still food left when we got back.

Last but not least, beer's part of the menu at the close of day. Usually there are margaritas too, but the guy's motor broke and I didn't get back in time to make blenders for anybody but the cleanup crew. Consider making the Capital City Century your Big Long Ride event next year!

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## **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 first \$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.



## The League Of American Bicyclists

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

Prairie Cycle Club  
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Address Correction Requested

### PCC Board Members

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