

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

March 2011

CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB PRE-SEASON 2011 RIDE SCHEDULE

By Brian Bird

This season, the CCC will offer around two hundred (200) rides of many types, distances, and speeds. Among those rides confirmed to our 2011 schedule are:

▶ **Champagne Ride** last Sunday in March/first Sunday in April: our club's traditional 30-mile ride (12-14 mph pace) to Plaza Del Lago in Wilmette to officially open the 2011 ride season

▶ **Ride to Graue Mill (Oak Brook)** Sunday, April 17: Take a 55-mile bike trip (15-18 mph) west on the Salt Creek Bike Path to Oak Brook's Graue Mill and Fullersburg Nature Preserve Center.

▶ **Dark Lord Ride** Saturday, April 30: This touring ride heads southeast ending at Three Floyds Brewery in Indiana for lunch. 70 miles, 16-20 mph.

▶ **Marktown, Indiana** Tuesday, May 24: A weekday 45-mile social ride to East Chicago, IN to an English-style town setting located less than 20 miles from Chicago's loop.

▶ **Ride to Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve** Sunday, May 1: 70-mile touring ride (16-20 mph) southwest to the forest preserve located next to Argonne National Laboratory.

▶ **Hegwisch** Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, July 16 (social), Saturday, June 25 (faster) Rides highlighting Chicago's Hegwisch neighborhood, including Chicago's only fully-functioning saw mill.

▶ **Bike the Drive x 2** Sunday, May 29: Get up bright and early, then ride Bike the Drive twice (60 miles total) in four hours or less (that's 15+ mph).

▶ **Tinley Woods/Old Plank Trail** Memorial Day (Monday, May 30): Our club's traditional 35-mile ride (14-16 mph pace) for ice cream and pizza, going through several south Chicago suburbs.

▶ **Marktown, Indiana** Saturday, June 4: The weekend version of a 40-mile social ride to East Chicago, IN to see an English-style town setting less than 20 miles from downtown Chicago that very few Chicagoans know about.

▶ **Oak Woods Cemetery and Jackson Park Highlands** Sunday, June 12: A 30-mile social ride (at 12-14 mph pace) through the aforementioned sites and Chicago's Jackson Park neighborhood.

▶ **Studs Lonigan's Neighborhood** Saturday, June 18: Take a 23-mile (12-14 mph pace) ride into the past as we explore the south side neighborhood that inspired Chicago author James Farrell's literary works, including his most famous character, Studs Lonigan.

▶ **Conway Farms (With a Glen)** Saturday, June 25: Go out on a 70-mile touring ride (at 15-20 mph pace) to points northwest such as Conway Farms and the site of old Glenview Naval Air Station.

▶ **McKinley Park Bridgeport Pilsen** Tuesday, June 28: A social weekday ride of 20 miles through the three Chicago neighborhoods. Lunch stop in McKinley Park.

▶ **Digital Scavenger Hunt** Saturday, July 9: our club's popular 20-mile social ride involving searching, photographing, and lunch.

▶ **4th Annual South Lakefront and Boulevard Architectural Tour** Saturday, July 9: a 28-mile social ride (12-14 mph) through the Prairie Avenue Mansion District, Bronzeville, and other nearby locales.

▶ **Chinatown Bridgeport** Sunday, July 31: Our annual 30-mile social ride (at 12-15 mph pace) through the two aforementioned Chicago neighborhoods with a lunch stop somewhere in Chinatown.

▶ **Hyde Park / Kenwood Architectural Tour** Sunday, August 14: Enjoy a 28-mile social ride (at 12-14 mph) through the south Chicago neighborhoods.

▶ **The Pampered Century** Sunday August 21: Our club's annual SAG-supported 100-mile ride at a 15+ mph pace. Route goes to and from Kenosha.

▶ **Louis Sullivan Architectural Tour** Sunday, September 11: A 35-mile docent tour (10-14 mph) describing Louis Sullivan architecture. Open to the first 15 registrants. Wear walking shoes and bring \$\$ for lunch.

Returning are our regularly scheduled series of rides catered to different riding styles, paces, and distances. Among those ride series scheduled for our 2011 calendar are the following:

▶ **Intro to Training Rides (Monday Evenings 6:30pm)** Our weekly fast 30-mile rides (at 18-20 mph pace) designed for cyclists who want to learn how to ride in fast-paced group settings.

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PREZ SEZ

By Justin Sondak



Less than an hour after last month's "blizzard of the decade" ended, I spotted cyclists on Armitage Ave. Two days later, I enjoyed my own ride through an unevenly plowed Humboldt Park. Mr. Bike's Urban Bikers' Tricks & Tips (www.mrbike.com) has invaluable advice for those snow-banked weeks: avoid the alleys, take the lane when necessary, shake your head and stand your ground when impatient drivers honk, and smile and wave when they call you names.

Winter biking isn't everyone's game. But as I write this, the roads are clear, the weather's improved and we're a month away from the Cycling Club's 2011 season kickoff. It's one of the best excuses for pulling the bike out of storage, tuning it up and getting back on the road. In Chicago, March doesn't come with a snow-free guarantee. For those typically clear and chilly weekends, bring a couple of breathable layers; good gloves, socks and shoes; and a sense of humor. You'll find spring is closer than you think.

We've published a season preview on the front page because we can't keep the excitement to ourselves. Our website - www.chicagocyclingclub.org - will be continuously updated throughout the season as members submit new rides. Every club member is welcome and encouraged to lead a ride. If the idea's there but you need help with a route, drop a line to rides@chicagocyclingclub.org. If you're ready to lead a ride, you can submit to the same email address or online at www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides/rideleader/.

You're limited only by your riding stamina. And, once in a while, by snow.



March Meetings

All Cycling Club members and friends are invited to our March Club Meeting, Tuesday, **March 8 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Lincoln-Belmont Public Library, 1659 West Melrose Street, Chicago. We'll take a trip with George Christensen as he presents his latest bicycle travelogue. George is a bicycle messenger who has biked through six continents, including the entire length of South America. Following the presentation we'll go down the block for dinner and club business at Wishbone, 3300 N Lincoln Avenue. RSVP to info@chicagocyclingclub.org so we can reserve enough space.

All members are invited to our next Club Steering Committee on Monday, **March 28 at 6 p.m.** We'll continue to plan our exciting ride season and discuss other club business at the Loop home of Greg Borzo. RSVP to gborzo@comcast.net for the address.



CCC Pre-Season 2011 Ride Schedule (continued from page 1)

► **Wednesday Evening Training Rides (Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm)** Put into practice what you learned in the Monday evening rides by riding a 25-35 mile route at a faster (19-25 mph) pace.

► **FWEGA (Fourth Wednesday Getting Acquainted Rides)** starting Wednesday, June 22nd: our club's traditional 15-mile social ride series every fourth Wednesday in the month is an easy introduction to club riding and a great way to meet and socialize. Bring \$\$ for the post-ride dinner.

Many more rides will be added throughout the year. To access our club's ride schedule, go to: www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides.

We look forward to seeing you on a ride soon!!!



"Share the Road" License Plate Sign-Up Passes Halfway Point

Over 800 Illinois drivers have already submitted reservations for the state's new "Share the Road" license plates. The League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) invites CCC members to sign up and pass the word so we can start seeing the plates on the road soon. The Secretary of State will begin production after 1,500 reservation forms have been received. The plates will have a one-time \$29 switchover fee, plus an annual incremental fee of \$22. Most of the incremental fee will go to LIB for its various programs to educate motorists and bicyclists on sharing the road.

Go online to: www.bikelib.org for the reservation form and instructions on the two-step purchase process, plus FAQs. Temporary plates had previously been available each year through LIB and the state for National Bicycle Month; but the plates were only valid for April and May. With the new, LIB-proposed plate, Illinois joins 12 other states with permanent, year-round "Share the Road" license plates.



It's Easy to Volunteer!

The Cycling Club is always looking for a few good volunteers to keep the ride calendar, club newsletter, and other programs running smoothly. Just drop us an email:

Lead a ride or help the rides committee:

rides@chicagocyclingclub.org

Help edit, produce & mail the newsletter:

editor@chicagocyclingclub.org

Help organize a club meeting or social event: info@chicagocyclingclub.org

About the Club

Mission

To facilitate recreational bicycling in a non-competitive environment in and around the Chicago area; to promote safe bicycling habits and proper bicycling etiquette; to provide bicyclists an opportunity to network with other bicyclists; to encourage bicycling as a safe and viable alternative to other modes of transportation.

Contact

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Officers

President: Justin Sondak
 Vice President: Julie Hochstadter
 Treasurer: Brian Bird
 Secretary: Jen Welch
 Member at Large: Greg Borzo, Kitty Shanahan
 Rides: Julie Sherman
 Publicity: Anne Alt
 Education: TBD
 Newsletter: Justin Sondak, Tom Grose



JERSEYS
 Sleeveless\$50
 (Men: S - XL)(Women: S - 2X)
 Shortsleeves\$55
 (Men: S - 3X)(Women: S - 2X)
 Longsleeves \$60
 (Men: M - 3X)(Women: M - XL)

WINDBREAKER - \$60
 (Men: M - 3X)(Women: S - 2X)
GLOVES - \$10
 (XS-2X)
SOCKS - \$6
 (S-XL)

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY
 may purchase these items by contacting Duane O’Laughlin merchandise@chicagocyclingclub.org
 773-612-8157
 May not be shipped We will meet you at a club event or ride or you may pick up items by making arrangements to do so in advance.

BECOME A MEMBER FILL OUT THE FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB

I, for myself and for any other minor on whose behalf I sign this membership application, agree that 1) bicycling is a potentially hazardous activity and that accidents can occur from negligence or carelessness; 2) ride leaders’ maps and/or written directions are provided for my convenience only and not to guarantee a safe route or trip; and 3) I voluntarily participate in club events and assume all risks associated with participation therein, including but not limited to injury, falls, contact with other participants, weather, traffic, and road conditions, all such risks being known and appreciated by me.

Name(s) _____ Birthdate(s) _____
 Name(s) _____ Birthdate(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Primary
 phone _____
 Secondary phone _____ E-mail _____
 Emergency contact/phone _____

I obtained this membership application from _____
 I want to receive a paper copy of the members’ directory Yes No the club newsletter Yes No
 I would like to help with the following: ride planning newsletter publicity meetings social events
 Annual dues: Individual (\$20) Family (multiple individuals at one address \$25)
 Do not share my contact information: within the Chicago Cycling Club with other bike-related organizations

Signature _____ Date _____

Chicago Cycling Club Newsletter March 2011



The snow kept on coming.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
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