

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

May 2008

Tales From a RAGBRAI Virgin (Part 1?)

By Alice Kroman

"It's one of those things everyone should do at least once in their life". This is a phrase I often hear uttered in reference to RAGBRAI. For those not in the know, RAGBRAI is short for "Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa." You and 9,999 of your closest friends spend the week crossing Iowa west to east, spending overnights in towns with populations smaller than the #22 Clark bus during rush hour. So, knowing that you only live once, I decided this is the year.

I was first introduced to RAGBRAI by a former co-worker (and fellow club member), Jennifer Richards. We both recently began riding more and were looking for rides outside the city limits. I remember the two of us huddled around a computer gawking at the website and thinking that I don't even enjoy driving through Iowa, why on earth would I want to ride a bicycle across it? How much corn can you look at, anyway? The ultimate turn-off was the bold-faced print staring back at us: **Iowa is NOT flat.** With a hardy laugh at the prospect that I would ever partake in such an event, I closed the window, shook my head at the crazies and returned to the work somebody was paying me to do. Now fast forward a bit. A couple of years ago I did SAGBRAW (a week long ride around Door County). SAGBRAW is a considerably smaller ride of about 2,000 participants. It also happened to fall the week after RAGBRAI. During that week, I came across several people who were fresh from Iowa spreading tales from the road. (Don't these people work?) RAGBRAI began to grow on me. I heard rumors of thick pork chops being consumed at 9 a.m., communal showers, camping in graveyards, and a sundry of other rolling oddities.

Did I mention pork chops at 9 a.m.? As one survivor put it, "I don't know what I'm more ashamed of that I spent \$50 on pork chops, that I ate a pork chop every day, or that I ate a pork chop every day before 9 a.m."

Late last year I asked a group of my regular riding buddies who among them had done RAGBRAI. Among this crowd are veterans of Paris-Brest-Paris, The 5 Boroughs Ride, and TOMRV. I don't think any of them has done less than 4,000 miles a year since the Reagan administration. None of them had done RAGBRAI. None of them wanted to do it alone. All of us wanted to do it at least once in our life. A pact was born. Duane, Brian, Art, Jim and I were at that moment determined to do RAGBRAI. (There may have been alcohol involved in this decision). We opened it up to the club and while a few others showed interested, when push came to shove, it was just us five. So, we entered our names into the hat as the Chicago Cycling Club and hope to have our names drawn in the May 1 lottery.

Eternally optimistic, I have already begun riding in earnest in order to prepare for those hills and we have made reservations with a support service for the week. Should one of us (and therefore the group) be selected through the lottery, I'll continue to update you all on my maiden voyage across Iowa. With any luck, I'll have an answer to the question: How much corn can you look at?



Plaza Del Lago

Next Newsletter Party

The May newsletter party will be Saturday, May 24 at 4:00 p.m. at Jim Adgate's apartment. Jim will provide drinks and appetizers. If you want to bring a dish to pass, that would be good. Please RSVP to Jim at (773) 551-8242 or jadgate@yahoo.com.

Parking is problematic in Lakeview, but it is very accessible by bike, bus and CTA, as well as walking. The CTA bus lines 151, 156, 145, 135, 36, 22 and Red, Brown, and Purple lines all pass within walking distance of Jim's home at 510 W. Belmont (just off Lake Shore Drive, between Broadway and Sheridan). There are bike racks around the corner on Broadway and within a couple of blocks on Belmont at the Merlo Library near the Catholic Church.



Our Apologies

The February newsletter incorrectly listed the Club's individual membership dues as \$23, rather than \$20. Due to this error, some of our members overpaid for their 2008 membership. If you are one of these people, please contact Club Treasurer Alice Kroman at treasurer@chicago cycling club.org to receive your \$3 refund. We apologize for the error and thank you for your understanding.

PREZ SEZ

By Michael Wasserman



The fifth month of the year affords us five unique opportunities to better the club. Won't you please consider lending a hand in any or all of the following activities:

FIRST: The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's annual Bike The Drive is on Sunday, May 25. Our club has again been invited to take part in the post-ride festival, which will take place at Butler Field, in Grant Park at Columbus & Jackson.

The post-ride festival, aside from being a lot of fun has been a terrific way for us to solicit new members and to network with other cycling clubs and entities. We meet and greet other riders, promote club rides and memberships, and sell club merchandise. Volunteers with sunny dispositions are especially welcome. Please let me know if you can spare an hour or two on the event day to help up grow the club.

SECOND: CBF has asked us to again help out with Bike The Drive Advance Registration Packet Pick-Ups. The club is slated to staff the distribution site at the Merchandise Mart on Friday May 23, between 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers who serve for 6 hours prior to the event will receive a complimentary registration!

Packet Pick-up serves the dual (good) purposes of publicizing our clubs existence and activities to the cycling community and helping our friends at the Federation. As it turns out, this is a pretty fun event as well. Again, please contact me at pres@chicagocyclingclub.org if you can lend a hand on this project.

THIRD: The Mayor's Office of Special Events will host the annual Bike to Work Rally on June 13 at Daley Plaza.

Another annual extravaganza, the Rally features entertainment, speechifying, a complimentary breakfast, and a horde of fellow cyclists, all in a festival setting on the Plaza. As in past years, ours will be the **ONLY** club participating in the festival. Along with Bike the Drive, this is a major public appearance for the club and we have historically had good success recruiting new members here. New for this year, the club will be leading several rides to the rally starting from various points around town. As with Bike the Drive, we are looking for members who can volunteer an hour or two to help promote the club to attendees.

FOURTH: As the ride season is now in full swing, now is an **EXCELLENT** time to invite a friend or two to join you on a club ride. Sure, *you* know how much fun club rides are. Why keep that to yourself? Be our emissary and good will ambassador. Remember, the club motto is "Never ride alone in Chicago!"

FINALLY: This is the year to do it! Let's lead a ride (or lead a ride together). Ride leaders are the club's life blood and core. Corrina and the ride committee have put together many great resources to help new and experienced riders lead great rides. The ride leader training materials are newly updated. The ride library is being revamped. And watch this space for a major announcement of new ride leader appreciation incentives! We can help **EVERYONE** reading this message to organize and execute a most excellent adventure to share with club mates.

Our club was created by a group of cyclists who were willing to offer their time and their talents to make it exist. We continue to exist through the selfless efforts of many other club members just like you. There is nothing heroic or all consuming about leading a ride or volunteering at a festival table. All it takes is a modest amount of time, a willingness to participate and a desire to help in the efforts.

Help us help you help us make this a club that we can all enjoy and a club we can all be proud of.



May Club Meeting

The Chicago Cycling Club invites you to hear DePaul Professor Harry Wray, a cycling enthusiast and author of *Pedal Power: The Quiet Rise of the Bicycle in American Public Life*. The Club meets Tuesday, May 13th, 7 p.m. at the Lincoln-Belmont Library, 1659 W. Melrose Street, Chicago, one block from the #9, 11, and 73 CTA buses and a half-mile walk from the Southport brown line station.

"In an era of steep gas prices, snarled traffic, catastrophic climate change, and a yearning for a higher quality of life, interest in bike-friendly public policies is surging nationwide. A surprising array of political organizations, visionary politicians, and colorful individuals powers this movement and a growing number of bike enthusiasts are taking to the streets. From the night rides of Critical Mass to the dumpster-diving Rat Patrol, this book shows the eccentric side of the bicycling universe even as it illustrates the mainstream efforts of politicians like U.S. Representative Jim Oberstar and plain folks like Biker Mama Jane Healy. Dedicated to the idea that biking is an ongoing act of nondestructive living, *Pedal Power* shows why the dominance of the automobile is yesterday's idea and edges us closer to a more democratic, multimodal transportation system so essential in the age of global warming. The bike, regarded as irrelevant to the 20th century, is making a comeback in the 21st. *Pedal Power* takes us there and suggests that the most compelling thing about riding is that it changes the way people experience the world and, therefore, the way they think."



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

Snailmail: P O Box 1178, Chicago, IL 60690-1178

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General: info@chicagocyclingclub.org

Newsletter: editor@chicagocyclingclub.org

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Telephone: 773.509.8093

Officers

President: Michael Wasserman

Vice President: James Adgate

Treasurer: Alice Kroman

Secretary: Jennifer Richards

Member at Large: Frances Austin,
Steve Grossman

Education: TBD

Newsletter: Justin Sondak,

Tom Grose

Rides: Corina Schusheim

Treasurer's Report

For the Month of March 2008

Beginning Balance	\$5,840.24
Income	205
Expenses	-817.13
Ending Balance 3/31/08	\$5,228.11

STYLE YOUR RIDE



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

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

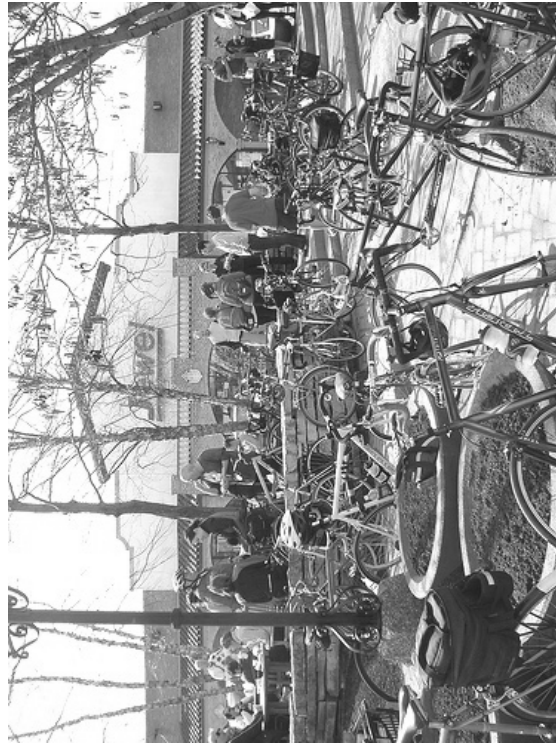
Annual dues: Individual (\$20) Family (multiple individuals at one address \$25)

Do not share my contact information: within the Chicago Cycling Club with other bike-related organizations

Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL FORM TO: CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB, PO BOX 1178 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1178

Chicago Cycling Club Newsletter May 2008



A sea of CCC cycles at Plaza Del Lago,
2008 Champagne Ride

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR **May 2008**

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