

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

November 2009

Meandering in Minnesota

By Joe Dickstein

Faced with the impossible dilemma of selecting between the Boulevard Lakefront Tour and the North Shore Century both of which, as you may know, were held on the same day this year, Phyllis and I along with Kitty Shanahan choose to head north for the Annual St. Paul Classic. We heard about this ride from Jim Adgate and Rick Pavia, whose account of his experience ran in the Deraillleur Mailleur last year.

This ride, celebrating its 15th anniversary, attracts more than 6,000 riders each year for a tour around the smaller of the Twin Cities. To make a weekend of it, we drove up on Friday. We were able to get a great deal on a suite in a hotel in the heart of downtown Minneapolis and, while the hotel did want a fee to park, we discovered parking meters in that part of the city do not charge from 6 p.m. Friday until Monday morning (Mayor Daley, take note). The parking gods smiled on us with a spot directly across the street from the hotel's front door. Needless to say, we didn't move the car during our entire stay there.

After fortifying ourselves with a hearty breakfast Saturday morning, we took a route suggested by the hotel concierge that soon intersected with the Grand Rounds Bikeway, a series of interconnecting trails circling the city for about 50 miles. The portion we rode was the Chain of Lakes, southwest of the downtown.



Unlike our own lakefront path where cyclists compete with rollerbladers, runners and walkers, separate parallel paths were available for wheeled and non-wheeled traffic with bicycle traffic moving one-way. Completing a twenty mile trip we returned to our hotel to find the route temporarily blocked off by President Obama's motorcade, our fearless leader in town to push his health care reform.

The afternoon was spent at the Mall of America which we reached by light rail, so we didn't have to give up our great parking space. The mall is pretty much a typical suburban shopping center on steroids with an amusement park in the center. (Like the late lamented Old Chicago for those of us old enough to remember.)

Sunday we woke early for the Classic. The drive to St. Paul was less than 10 miles (finally gave up our parking space).

The ride started on the St. Thomas University campus and followed a counter clockwise loop around the city. The first half followed the Mississippi with rest stops along the river and in a park overlooking downtown St. Paul jointly run by the city and the National Park Service. The second half was on closed city streets, passing several parks, lakes and the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The 30-mile terrain was somewhat hilly but not over challenging. There was also a 15-mile option and riders wanting more distance could complete both loops. (We did not.)

Overall the experience was excellent and we encourage anyone looking for a great urban ride to give it a try. The following week, a similar ride was held in Minneapolis following the Grand Round Bikeway that we rode part of the day before. We hope to get back to try this ride as well.



PREZ SEZ

By Anne Alt



With the ride season winding down, it's time to think about winter festivities. Save the date for the CCC holiday party: **Sunday, December 13** from 4-9 p.m. at Mars Gallery. An Evite will be sent to all club members in a few weeks. Our tradition has been a creative potluck dinner with drinks. This year, we'll have ride leader appreciation awards. If you've led a ride this year but haven't gotten around to sending in your sign-in sheet from the ride, please do it by the end of November. Each ride sign-in sheet gives you one entry in the ride leader appreciation drawing for prizes.

We have two traditional winter rides coming up: the Bagel Ride on Christmas morning and the Weather Be Damned Ride on New Year's Day. Distance will vary, depending on the weather. Both rides are fun excuses to get outside and ride, and they end with hearty lunches.

It's also time to look ahead to next year. Elections are coming up soon, and we're seeking candidates for club leadership. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Candidates for treasurer should have experience as a bookkeeper or accountant. Most other positions simply require an interest in working with other members of the club. Would you like to organize meetings for the club? Do you have a flair for P.R.? Please contact me at pres@chicagocyclingclub.org if you're interested.

If you've got the time and the forecast looks good for tomorrow or the next day, please consider posting a show and go ride. This is an informal type of ride, where the route is not necessarily planned in advance and may be decided at the start.

To schedule a ride, please send an e-mail to the main club list and submit it on the Ride Leader Page (<http://www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides/rideleader/>). Please include the speed range and approximate distance you have in mind, along with your name, contact info and, MOST IMPORTANT, a starting location.

See you on the road!



Author Wanted for Where to Ride Chicago

Here's an exciting opportunity to write a cycling guidebook without any financial risk or worries about layout, printing and distribution. Bicycling Australia is looking for an author to write Where to Ride Chicago as part of our guidebook series.

Where to Ride Chicago will be aimed at recreational cyclists, beginners to enthusiasts. It will contain 40-50 adult rides, each 3-50 miles long, rated according to length and difficulty. Wherever possible, they will include off-road cycling paths (paved and unpaved) and on-road bicycle lanes. Where these do not exist, the rides will feature quiet, safe roads. Some of the rides may be suitable for recreational mountain bikers and 25 short traffic-free kids' rides may also be included.

Each description will feature color maps with data generated by riding with a Magellan GPS unit that will be supplied, along with instructions and technical support.

You'll need a good knowledge of cycling in and around Chicago, and you'll probably need to be part of a cycling group or network of cyclists who can give you their opinions and feedback. You'll need to have previous experience in writing and photography.

Although there's plenty of scope for individual expression through ride selection, words and photos, you'll need to be comfortable working to a pre-determined format, as this book will form part of a growing series of related titles.

You'll be paid an advance and then a monthly royalty for each book sold, once the book is published.

If you are interested or would like further information, see the job description under "Employment Opportunities" at www.bicyclingaustralia.com and email Joanne Anstee at joanne@bicyclingaustralia.com.

Bicycling Australia's founders, Phil and Catie Latz, will be visiting Chicago Dec. 8-10, 2009, to interview potential authors. Established in 1989, Bicycling Australia is Australia's leading publisher of cycling magazines and books.



Back to Nature: Call for Ride Ideas

Would you like to go beyond the usual club rides and do some nature exploration and/or conservation work close to home? Our bike paths and routes lead to amazing places to enjoy nature - along the lake, at North Park Village Nature Center, and in our forest preserves and parks. Some of our parks are prime bird watching sites. Local conservation groups do workdays to plant and care for trees and do habitat restoration in parks, nature preserves and forests. If you're interested in combining cycling with bird watching or conservation workdays, contact me at pres@chicagocyclingclub.org. I'm thinking of scheduling some winter and spring dates if people would like to participate.



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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 General: info@chicagocyclingclub.org
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Officers

President: Anne Alt
 Vice President: Julie Sherman
 Treasurer: Alice Kroman
 Secretary: Michael Wasserman
 Member at Large: Jim Adgate, Art Gilfand
 Education: TBD
 Newsletter: Justin Sondak, Tom Grose
 Rides: Jim Adgate

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

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 November 2009



Phyllis & Joe Dickstein pause with Kitty Shanahan on the St. Paul Classic overlooking the Mississippi.

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