

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

July 2009



Memorial Day Ride Recap

By Brian Bird

The rain almost completely held off for this year's edition of the Tinley Woods - Old Plank Trail bicycle ride. This year, fifteen ride participants lined up at the start line for what turned out to be a 35-mile bicycle ride on paved trails and roads through Tinley Park, Oak Forest, Matteson, the Cook County Forest Preserve, unincorporated Will County and the village of Frankfort (reverse this order for the return trip).

Weather was cloudy, temps in the 60s, wind still out of the northeast coming off of that big Lake, and always the overhanging threat of rain. Still, the group made great time heading south, then west to Frankfort for a stop at the Frankfort Creamery where various cold dairy confections were consumed (yours truly had the obligatory large Rainbow Cone - the same kind served at that famous shop on 93rd & Western Avenue).

Next was a three-mile meander through the old part of Frankfort to see older, non-McMansion housing with big covered front porches and beautiful gardens.

Then, back from whence we came when the weather started to turn - misty then drizzly but always cloudy and cool. After a short sub-60 second group conference five miles short of the finish point to debate whether to ride to the food stop, it was decided to cut the ride short by 6 miles and go directly to the start site. That was a good decision because there was a heavy rain coming down by the time all of the bikes were stored away onto or in the cars. The group then drove to the Tinley Park residence of CCC member Nick Romo's parents where an indoor picnic lunch awaited the participants (and one particularly drowned rat of a ride leader) in honor of Nick's birthday on May 25. I forgot how old he is now. He can say if he wants to.

A big shout out to the following participants who dared the elements to make this annual ride yet another fun event: Ed L., Turtle, Rick P. Hugh & Jim, the Nickie-Jo-Bruce trifecta, the Voice of the CCC, Take and his DeRosa that makes me envious, Justin S. of the Deraillieur, Jim A. of Ride Schedule fame, and of course Samara-Nick.

A bigger shout out and extreme "Thank You!" to the Romo family for their kindness and hospitality in taking our group into their home. It is great appreciated by all of us.

So unless Nick decides every Memorial Day is his birthday, it's back to the Aurelio's Restaurant lunch buffet after the to-be-scheduled 2010 edition of the Memorial Day Ride.



Open Streets Hits the Streets August 1

On Aug 1, Open Streets will give friends and families the chance to enjoy the streets the way they want: biking, dancing, playing, walking and more!

The free event, organized by Active Transportation Alliance, combines last year's two Sunday Parkways events into one huge eight-mile event. Like last year, Open Streets will span from Logan Square to Little Village, passing through Humboldt Park, North Lawndale and Garfield Park along the way.

There is no event registration, and participants can join in at any point along the route.



PREZ SEZ

By Anne Alt



Several weeks ago, I was watching a feature on Chicago Tonight about the city's parking meter fiasco and had a light bulb moment: this will have a big effect on bikes. If you haven't read the recent postings on the Chainlink forum (www.thechainlink.org), I'm sure that you are scratching your head wondering "what does this have to do with me, my bike and the club?" When we make lunch stops on club rides, there is rarely enough rack space to accommodate all the bikes. We often use parking meters and/or fences as the next best option.

Due to pressure on the new parking meter company to make up for numerous snafus so far, parking meters will be phased out quickly to ensure more accurate metering and reduce the number of erroneously issued parking tickets. All remaining meters in the city are now scheduled to be replaced by pay boxes by year end. Friends have mentioned traveling to various neighborhoods for lunch or shopping to find that all the meters were gone, creating a severe shortage of bike parking. The problem will get a lot worse as the process continues citywide.

When this parking meter deal was rushed through, no one considered the fact that many cyclists shop and dine by bike, supporting neighborhood businesses, thus supporting the city's tax base. They only looked at the direct revenue from the parking meters themselves and neglected to build in funding for new bike racks when they made the deal.

As more stories and letters to the editor appear about car-dependent people doing their shopping in the suburbs to avoid parking hassles, asking for bike racks so that we can help support local businesses is likely to improve the odds that our message will be heard sooner rather than later. It may also improve the survival rate of local small businesses, helping to keep unemployment in check. Supporting our city tax base helps maintain funding for essential city services (pothole patching, parks, emergency services, snow removal, garbage pickup, etc.).

The Active Transportation Alliance has been doing follow-up with the city. In the current financial crunch, there is no money in the general budget to increase purchases/installations of bike racks. Also, because demand for bike racks was already increasing, there has been a shortage of the standard city racks for a while. The compromise is that the City committed to leaving one meter in place for bike parking for every six removed. They are testing various racks that could be mounted to existing meter poles, for installation next year. Also, they will be moving 500-750 underused racks to higher priority locations.

Please call 311 to help prioritize locations for new or relocated racks. Calls to your alderman may result in additional funding for racks, as each alderman has a discretionary fund for special projects in their ward. TIFs create an additional funding source. Make some noise: call your alderman and write letters to the editor, emphasizing that those of us who do much of our shopping and dining by bike are supporting Chicago businesses and the city's tax base. Let's help promote a more sustainable way to keep Chicago working and thriving.



The CCC, Virtually Speaking

By Justin Sondak

The Chicago Cycling Club has joined the world of online social media. As of this writing, 44 Club members have joined The Chainlink, a website for cyclists of all shapes, sizes and biking habits to connect, make friends, share advice, and find rides around Chicago. All are invited to join by visiting www.thechainlink.org and clicking "Sign up." At the site's "events" section, Club ride leaders can promote their events and connect the CCC to more riders.

Highlights from the Chainlink's July ride calendar:

5 - CCC Prez Anne Alt hosts the Digital Photo Scavenger Hunt, which sends competing teams of shutterbugs through Chicago neighborhoods to capture city sights.

11-18 Bicycle Illinois is the only invitational spanning the Land of Lincoln, commencing at the state's southern tip in Cairo and finishing at Chicago's Northerly Island. More info at www.bicyclechicago.com

12 - Lee Diamond's "Ride Like the Devil" tours the sites of the 1893 World's Fair which Erik Larsen covers in his bestselling book Devil in the White City.

18-25 RAGBRAI 2009. You'll need to win a lottery to join this week-long rolling party across the state of Iowa. More info at www.ragbrai.org

(continued on page 3, col. 2)



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.

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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

Portable Quotes

"When man invented the bicycle he reached the peak of his attainments. Here was a machine of precision and balance for the convenience of man."

And (unlike subsequent inventions for man's convenience) the more he used it, the fitter he became. Here for once, was a product of man's brain that was entirely beneficial to those who used it, and of no harm or irritation to others. Progress should have stopped when man invented the bicycle."

- Elizabeth West, *Hovel in the Hills*



The CCC Virtually Speaking (continued from page 2)

25 - Two different rides to the Pierogi Fest in Whiting, IN, starting at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

25-26 The Conservation Foundation's "Chase the Moon Midnight Bike Ride" opens the access roads at Fermilab in Aurora to night riders from 11:30 p.m. - 3:30 a.m. Routes extend to 25 miles, helmets and lights required. More info at www.chasethemoon.com



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.

Open Streets Hits the Streets (continued from page 1)

Take a step off the route at any of the community-run activities. The lively scenes will display each community's flavor with performances, children's games, art activities, workout classes, music and much more. More info at www.activetrans.org/opendstreets.



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 July 2009



Riders on 2nd annual Southside Architectural Tour
in front of Swift Mansion in Kenwood

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
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