

DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

October 2009

From Bike Touring Around Lake Michigan To....?

By Thomas Berube

This past July myself and fellow CCC member Jim Kreps spent 15 days riding our bikes around Lake Michigan. Sticking as closely as possible to the shoreline roads, with days ranging from 50 to 125 miles, I arrived home after 1,380 riding miles. The overnight stops on our trip were:

- 1) Stevensville, MI
- 2) Muskegon, MI
- 3) Portage Lake, MI
- 4) Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
- 5) Traverse City, MI
- 6) Cross Village, MI
- 7) St. Ignace, MI
- 8) Indian Lake State Park (Manistique, MI)
- 9) Menominee, MI
- 10) Dykesville, WI
- 11) Potawatomi State Park (Sturgeon Bay, WI)
- 12) Potawatomi State Park (After a day spent riding around Door County)
- 13) Sheboygan, WI
- 14) Milwaukee, WI

I could ramble on about how I never realized that there are so many lighthouses around Lake Michigan or beautiful sunsets on the eastern shore but this article is not the standard bicycle trip travelogue. Rather, it is to express my love of traveling by bike and perhaps find a companion or two for a future trip.

I've never had much interest in the standard summer bike trip where I would be sharing the roads with 5,000 of my closest friends, ending the day by standing in line for a shower with the same said group, followed by a night spent camping on a high school lawn.



Nor do I have a lot of interest in guided, supported bike tours where one's luggage goes into yet another vehicle on the road while the bicycle becomes a yuppie sightseeing conveyance rather than a means of transportation. The romance of independent travel by bicycle appeals to me.

Self-supported bike travel appeals to me because not only am I not separated from the sounds, smells and extremes of the road but I am also not insulated from the communities through which I am traveling. I cannot anonymously hide in a huge group of riders nor does a tour operator take care of the necessities and relieve me of the need, and pleasure, of exploring the local businesses.

One of the pleasures of our July trip around Lake Michigan was the many people we conversed with along the way. A couple of guys arriving in a community on bikes laden with tents and other luggage are a curiosity. Everywhere we went people wanted to know where we

were from and where we were going and we shared stories of their travels and information about their communities. This is a pleasure which I have experienced not nearly enough in the past but hope to enjoy more in the coming years. I have a whole list places around the world which I want to tour by bicycle. In no particular order this list includes:

- * Chile and Argentina
- * Eastern Europe (Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary)
- * Japan
- * South Korea
- * The Canadian Maritime Provinces
- * Russia
- * Any trip which I can commence by mounting my bike at home and riding down my street.

Are you interested in independent bicycle travel? Are you in need of a travel companion? Stay in touch. I always enjoy talking travel plans even if the dream trips never come to fruition.



PREZ SEZ

By Anne Alt



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I'd like to thank everyone who came out for the Boulevard Lakefront Tour on September 13. Our new metric century route was a hit with many riders. Many of them had never seen Pullman or the Hotel Florence, so we were able to offer some new experiences, in addition to a slightly different view of Beverly from last year's route. Riders and some volunteers visited a broad range of south side neighborhoods. Still haven't tried the ride? Next year's version promises more new places and adventures. Funds raised by the ride benefit the Active Transportation Alliance, with this year's proceeds helping fund bike, pedestrian and transit-related projects for the next year. A new Chicagoland bike map is in the works. Who knows what new routes and trails might be developed by the time the next edition is printed a few years from now?



It's been a great summer for riding, but the season's not over after Labor Day. There's plenty of good riding weather left before winter. Some of the year's best riding happens in October.

Have you thought about leading a ride this year but haven't done it? There's still time. Whether you're new to ride leading or haven't done one in a while, we'd be happy to have your ride on the schedule.

Please consider posting a "show and go" ride if you've got the time and the forecast looks good for tomorrow or the next day. If you're not familiar with the format, 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 submitting it on the Ride Leader Page (<http://www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides/rideleader/>). Please include the speed range and approximate distance, along with your name and contact info and, MOST IMPORTANT, a starting location.

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Are you thinking about learning more about basic bike maintenance, bike commuting or riding in winter? Our next meeting will feature tech tips to help you with the basics on keeping your bike running well. Future meetings will offer info on bike commuting, shopping by bike, and winter riding. Chicago Bike Winter is another good source for winter riding tips and events. Visit www.bikewinter.org for more details.



Justin Sondak takes a break at Washington Park during the BLT 2009

Next Club Meeting

Join us for the next CCC monthly meeting Tuesday, **October 13, 7pm**, at the Goose Island Brewpub, 1800 North Clybourn, Chicago, We have the Beer Stube room reserved for Effective Cycling Instructor (and club veteran) Jim Kreps to demonstrate some of his "tech tip greatest hits." Jim's advice will help you respond confidently to some of cyclists' most common mechanical issues.



Holiday Party

Mark your calendars! The Chicago Cycling Club's annual holiday party and evening of happiness and merriment returns to Mars Gallery, 1139 West Fulton Market, Chicago, on Sunday, **December 13**. This potluck event and perennial favorite is a fun afternoon in a funky West Loop gallery. Bike parking and street parking are nearby and the Madison and Halsted CTA buses stop a few blocks away. Look for further information in the next newsletter and on the "Meetings" page of the Club website.



Bike Clinic Corner

When lubricating your bike chain, apply the lube on the inside of the chain. That's where the gear sprockets ride.

When fixing a flat tire, carefully check the inside of the tire for debris & objects that may have punctured the tube. Neglecting this check could mean another flat in a few minutes or hours.



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
 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 October 2009



Riders refuel at the Hotel Florence
on the BLT 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB
DERAILLEUR
MAILLEUR  October 2009

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