

Rollin'

Newsletter of the Silver Wheels Cycling Club - November, 2009

In This Issue

Oh, Dennis!

Show Me Your...

Known By Pants

Yum, Ho Ho

Niagara, Here We Come

Contest #4

Hi, Meadows

The Light Show

Silver Wheels Mission

To create and provide an environment
for members and guests to:

Ride for exercise and fun

Enjoy the social side of cycling

Improve bicycling skills

Learn more about bicycling and
educate others

Promote bicycling in our area

New High Meadows Trail

Earlier in October the club rode the newly opened trail from High Meadows Park off Ford Road in Elyria. This new trail starts at the High Meadows park which at one time was referred to as Rocket Ship Park because it had a rocket ship climbing thing for kids. After that proved to be rather hazardous for kids the Metroparks removed the once famous rocket ship and converted it to its current status. For the last number of years it has been referred to as High Meadows Park – mainly because it has a high elevation, well above the Black River and it has a nice meadow-like area as a part of the park... ergo, High Meadow.

Continued, page 2



They Were Known By Their Pants

Our most recent contest, *Whose Legs Are Those?*, was a short one with only a few respondees. Maybe it was too hard for most members. But for those who did respond, they did very well in identifying the people whose legs were on display.

We had a tie for naming the people who owned those gorgeous in gams, but

Continued, page 2

Known By Their Pants

both were way off in identifying the location. We knew that would be a really tough job because the bench on which the models were posing is not in Lorain County, it's in a park where we ride to only occasionally.

Okay, who are those people and where are they sitting? The full, uncropped photo below will make it perfectly clear to most of you. From left to right are: Bud Ennis (who was also misidentified as Pat Perkins... we're gonna have to do a leg check on that); in the middle is Mikki Sobczak (also misidentified as Marilyn Torres), and the one on the right is our president Joe Etzler, who was correctly ID'd by all respondents... must be the tights that gave it away.

Their location? This shot was taken on the Lost Weekend Ride in early May as we were heading back from Clyde. We wanted to stop for a lunch at the Invention Restaurant, which is a common practice when going through Milan. But the restaurant is closed (!). Instead, we ate from our bags whatever we had stashed in their while we rested in the sun at Edison Park. Bud, Mikki and Joe were caught on camera sitting so nicely, legs all crossed the same – we knew something would come of the photo.

Our winners are Tom Weber and Joel Edmonds for both correctly guessing the models. They will get a special T-shirt made just for this contest. Check the website for these and other contest results.



New High Meadows Trail

The new trail was developed over the last year by the Metroparks. From the higher elevation it meanders through a wooded area on a winding path through woods on a slowly descending path which opens to a nice bridge that carries you over the Black River. At the end of the bridge is a surprise STOP sign. We're not sure why the sign is there but it must have made sense to someone. Anyway, From the stop sign the trail turns abruptly left and goes under the bridges of I-90. After that, the trail turns right and curves down and around to the parking area of Bur Oak Park.

The slope down from High Meadows is not all that steep. Once winter hits and ice forms on the bridges it might become problematic but few ever use the trails once it becomes that cold. Coming back up that slope is not too big a deal either, although from the bottom it looks much more difficult than it really is – much the same as other hills anywhere.

The new extension to the trail adds about 1 ½ miles to the total distance of the overall trail along the Black River. This brings it to almost six miles from High Meadows down through Bur Oak, along the river up to Day's Dam and then on with the Steel Mill Trail all the way to its current end at Colorado Avenue in Lorain (or is it Sheffield ?).

Regardless the mileage, it makes for an interesting ride.

The club recently rode the total trail during the week of the opening of the new section. We added another dozen miles to the ride and made it an interesting 25-miler, incorporating a bunch of urban Lorain miles to the total. The photo above is of some of the club returning on that ride across the new bridge over the Black River on its way to High Meadows.

To get to High Meadows Park, take Ford Road north off West River Road and follow behind Wal-Mart about a quarter mile to the park entrance. The trail starts at the north east section of the park.

The Light Show

Back by popular demand is **The Light Show**.

The November membership meeting, to be held on **Thursday, November 18 at 7 p.m., at the Carlisle Visitor Center**, will feature a topic we have not had on our docket for a long time: Bike Lights.

Here's how the show works. Members bring their bikes with their lights – headlights, helmet lights, and tail lights. As part of the “show” we take our bikes out into the real darkness at Carlisle and let each member show what their lights look like. We even go one step further, to let the owner of the lights see what they look like! How often do you get to see how you look on a bike? Anyway, as you'll see, it's very revealing. AND you get to see how others look in the dark.

What's the point? The point is that most of us do not have a realistic perspective of how visible we are at night. And this is a chance to see how well or how poorly other members' lights perform under the same conditions. The point is that, if you are going to ride under low light conditions, you should know how visible you are or are not.

This has been a very popular program in years past and it should be equally popular this year. This is a chance to see how visible you – or others – are in low light conditions and when car lights shine on you. We will also have a car in the area that will shine its lights on you so you can see how well different materials are for reflecting lights. Bring all your gear to see for yourself how well they perform. You may be amazed at the discrepancy between manufacturer claim and reality. See the difference between a 5 LED headlight and a 1Watt headlight and a 10 Watt headlight and more.

What you learn from this one program could even save your life.

What Is It?

What Else Could It Be?

Here it is, our next contest for Silver Wheelers. The last one seemed to be a bit too hard for y'all so we thought we'd come up with a simpler contest this month.

Here's how it goes: Pictured below is a common tool used in bicycle maintenance. All you have to do is,

A. Name the tool and,

B. Explain how it is used. This is pretty easy of course so the tie-breaker will be to come up with

C. OTHER ways the tool could be used for other chores, not necessarily in bicycle maintenance. These alternate uses could be totally realistic... or not. For example, a screwdriver would be good to use to clean out your ears (that was a segue from our redneck contest).

The winner(s) will be those who have the most correct and “interesting” answers.

The contest will also be posted on our website and you can find out how to respond there as well. Also on the website, under CONTESTS, you will find out what the prize may be (a tool will be involved) and the results of our previous contests. Enter as often as you like. ***The contest ends on November 20.***



The actual size of this tool is about 10” long.

You are more likely to see these in bike shops rather than in the home shop, although Ed Stewart has this in his tool chest. It is one of those things you'd use in a clinch, when nothing else will work. Good luck.

Holiday Banquet 2009

Are you ready for the 12th annual holiday banquet? We had to get out our calendars to double check that number... how could it possibly be twelve years now? For those of us who have been Silver Wheelers that long – and that number is significant – it just seems amazing.

Our 12th Annual Holiday Banquet will be held on Thursday, December 2 at Tom's Contry Place on Stoney Ridge Road in Avon, Ohio. Our festivities will start around 6 p.m. with a social time and dinner will happen around 6:30.

Look for a formal invitation in the mail very soon, if you haven't received it already.

Costs this year will be the same as last year at \$12 a person. We hope to see all Silver Wheels members at the banquet this year.



In our October, 2009 issue of Rollin' we began an item we hope to continue each month, that is, featuring some goings-on from events as submitted in photos from members. We call it "What Goes On In Silver Wheels..." Here is one such photo...

Dennis German, How Sit Thou?

Once Dennie German retired from Ford he knew he had to do something with his life to stay healthy. Soon thereafter he discovered the Silver Wheels Cycling Club and began riding with us. Over the past number of years his miles have been adding up and actually increasing a bit each year.

A couple of years ago he went and upgraded to another bike so he could ride faster, longer, stronger. You know the routine. But he still keeps his hybrid bike around and rides it frequently, especially for trail rides.



On a recent trail ride he brought out his old hybrid and look at what he has been sitting on for quite some time. Maybe it's time for a new saddle, Dennie. Maybe if you asked around someone would give you a newer saddle anyway. Maybe you need to change your investment strategies so you can afford at least a saddle cover.

Does anyone else have embarrassing stories and photos like this? It's easy enough to get them published – we'll print anything... almost. (Our President Joe Etzler still has dominion over a couple of pix of him wearing a skirt, which he refuses to allow eyes to see.)

So Ya Wanna Go To New Yawk?

One of the nice things about having a club that gains national recognition and having a website that welcomes outsiders to take a look is that folks from other areas will take notice. This is good.

Because of all that we recently had a contact from a club, the Niagara Frontier Bike Club. A member from that club contacted us to inquire about coming to our area next summer, sometime in July, and spend a few days riding and enjoying the niceties of greater Lorain County. After a few emails we agreed to get together to pursue their venture further. On Saturday, October 24 a few Silver Wheelers got together with **Tom and Sue Williams** from that club at Matus Winery.



After a nice bit of conversation and comparisons between their club and ours, we agreed to host them when they come here and we talked about going up there next summer also. It looks as though they will be coming here around **July 10-15** or thereabouts and they want to ride with our club at least once that week. Maybe we'll put together some sort of picnic or something too.

And just to get even with them **we promised to come up to their area next summer too**. Tentatively that would be sometime in mid-June, at a time to avoid conflicting with the GOBA-goers so they can partake of both events. Details of this will be revealed soon so you can make plans and organize your vacation schedule. This would be similar to our trip to Niagara Falls about six year ago, with forays to Niagara-On-The-Lake and the Welland Canal. It was one of the more memorable trips the club has ever had. Also there will likely be a group who want to ride from our area up to Niagara, a trip of 250+ miles in three days but one of the nicest routes in the north.

If you want to be in on the planning of this trip contact Joe Etzler or Ed Stewart soon.

Photos wanted for the banquet

If you send your jpeg images to Ed Stewart, he will organize a slideshow using the pix you send. Some editing may occur.

Just email your pix to emsbiker514@gmail.com. Or if you have a lot of large files, burn a CD and we'll get together somehow. Deadline November 20. It would help a lot if you sent them earlier too.