

Rollin'

Newsletter of Silver Wheels Cycling Club, Inc. June, 2012

Coming Events

Depot Days Saturday, June 2

7 am to 5 pm
Oberlin Depot
Four routes of 25 miles each,
with stops at midway at parks.
Some food provided at Depot.
You can ride as far or as little
as you want.

Trash Pick-Up Mon., June 11 6 p.m.

Drug Mart on Rt. 58
See calendar for details.

One Night Stand Saturday, June 30 - July 1

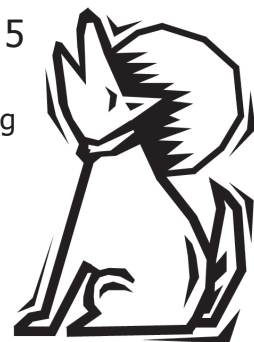
This is your chance to try out
bike camping. Leave Elyria
9 am Saturday, ride to Finley
State Park, make camp. Ride
the area some then do camp-
ing things that night. Next day
ride back. More details on
calendar.

Wednesday Night Chase a Star Rides 5:30 CVS

These evening rides have be-
come extremely popular, with
all levels participating.

Moondog Riders Set a Record

As I was arriving into Oberlin for the May 5 Moon Ride I could see the remnants of the day's sun setting rapidly in the west, its fire ebbing toward a pumpkin color. I felt that soon I would be seeing Sol's cousin, Luna, sporting a similar shade as it rises to greet us on our evening adventure. Tonight was to be the best night of the year to moongaze, as it would be the closest to us all year, and large, too.



The parking lot at CVS was nearly empty when I pulled in. The only other vehicle was a pick-up truck with two mountain bikes in the bed. A young couple was closing up the tailgate and preparing to leave but looked up when I pulled into a spot near them wearing my customary smile and waving a couple sheets of paper at them. As I got out they studied me cautiously then showed interest as I introduced myself and started talking about bikes. The papers in my hand were brochures that I offered to them, along with an invitation to join us. They were polite but showed no excitement when I described our club in more detail. I sensed these late teens/early twenty-somethings were more likely wanting to ride by themselves for now.

Soon familiar cars began pulling in and friends unloaded themselves and their bikes. The usual pre-ride rites began of pumping air, greeting pals, and shuffling off to McD's for relief. Tonight we saw another routine – the attachment of lights as we all prepared for our evening in the dark. Then more cars came and more cars. I thought there must be another ride going on.

No, they were all ours. We ended up with 23 riders heading out. A nice surprise was Darlene Wieland, who held the post of club treasurer for many years. Hope she can make more... and rejoin the club of course. I'm sure this is a record for a night ride.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eva Weber, Membership Chair

Since the time of the May newsletter, we have gained eight more Silver Wheelers. Have you ridden a piece with any of them yet? Here they are:

Mark Destino, Cleveland
Jeff Hobbs, Oberlin
Carol Kerslake, Middleburg Heights
Rob Mendgik, Avon
Steve & Karen Petro, Brecksville
Richard & Betty Powell, Avon Lake

New this year, the Membership Committee has started hosting a "welcome new member" time starting ½ hour prior to each club meeting. We send e-mail invitations to all new members who have joined since the previous club meeting. However, we'd like to invite anyone who has never been to a club meeting to come early also. We'd like to meet you and have you "experience" at least one Silver Wheels club meeting!

BE A BUDDY TO A NEW MEMBER

Eva Weber, Membership Chair

I have paired most of the 2012 Buddy recruits with new members. So, I need more volunteers in the pool! If you're a seasoned member and are willing to mentor a new member, please let me know. A buddy's purpose is to assist a new member in getting acclimated to the club. You'll help them determine the star level they should realistically attempt on their initial rides with the club, tell them about the club, go out on the first couple club rides which they do if possible, introduce them to other members and ride leaders, invite them to a club meeting, and answer their questions as they get acquainted with the club. If you're willing to volunteer for the buddy "pool" in 2012, send your name, the star level you generally ride, and tell me whether or not you are willing to ride a lower level a couple times with a new member. Before I finalize a match, I will send information to you about the new member and ask whether or not you are willing to be a buddy to that new person at this time. If you're willing to volunteer, send me an e-mail at weber.1@osu.edu

Moondogs, cont'd

We left heading north on Main and rode through the center of town, lights ablaze, making a total spectacle of ourselves as those on the sidewalk watched in awe at the extraordinary scene we made. Perhaps they thought we were practicing for the Big Parade or were days early for it.

At Professor and Butternut Ridge we stopped to see how everyone was doing. It is difficult to tell exactly in the dark because you cannot see behind you well at all. Look in your mirror and you see another headlight shining. Maybe lots of headlights. All was well at that stop.

So we rode on, out Garfield all the way to Green Road. There we stopped to do a head count. Since you cannot see everyone in a group that size in the dark we decided to literally do a head count and started out with a 1 and a 2 and a 3 etc. We got all the way to 13 and it stopped. Now I know we Silver Wheelers have our limits but surely we can count beyond 13. Even me. I figured the others in the back (who we could not see from the front) had no idea what was going on. So we tried it again and went all the way to 14. I figured, well, that's only 9 we've lost so far, not bad for one of my rides. We rode on.

In the next few miles we passed 4 or 5 groups that were having bonfires and weenies or s'mores. We yelled at each group, threatening to come over – and each group said to come on in. But we didn't. However, we did decide to have our own bonfire and weenie roast and s'mores later on another night ride. That will happen in July.

One more stop along the way on Becker Road. It so happened that this was next to a cattle barn and the bovine were complaining about all the noise we were making and the bright lights out there. This is also when we decided to take some photos in the dark of all our lights. These are harder to do than just point and shoot. They take a good handful of stupidity, too. So we tried. Probably the best effort was Steve Osmialowski's video.



Cont'd

Moondogs cont'd

Finally we landed back at the parking lot at CVS, still riding the high of the night. We had been watching the moon all along our ride but it never became the centerpiece we had anticipated. Instead, the big thing of the ride had been US. The night had been perfect for riding and we had had a ball. We crept along like a luminous centipede, slithering through the night, keeping goblins and cars at bay, all afraid of approaching our glow.

Along the way we learned a thing or two about riding at night:

- Stronger lights are a lot better to see with (duh!)
- Checking behind you is almost a waste of time because if it's another bike all you see is the light, if no one is back there, you see nothing but black
- Unless you have a really powerful headlight, it is difficult to anticipate what is coming up ahead
- Everyone looks good in the dark.

We'll do it all again. Come join the Moondog Riders. The next ride is Friday, June 8 at 9:30 p.m. from CVS. We ride a casual 20 miles or less. In July we will have a fired up Moondog Ride on Saturday, July 7. We will meet at Karen Paulsen's home and start out at 8 p.m. Afterwards we will have a bonfire and cook some things meant to be eaten. Beverages will be involved.



Many have inquired about the new bike light Ed Stewart and Joe Etzler are using. These amazing lights are the best we have ever seen and much lower in cost than others of similar power also. Here is how to locate them online:

Search - 2400 Lumen CREE XM-L Bike Headlight. The search will show quite a few entries, most all the same supplier. Some use eBay and Amazon services. These cost between \$65 and \$75 shipping included. One model has a helmet adaptor also. Takes about 10 days to arrive.



SOME INTERESTING CLUB STATS

Eva Weber, Membership Chair

After our membership year ended and our membership renewals were completed, I decided it was time to get a better picture of the characters who make up this group called Silver Wheels Cycling Club. Here's a snapshot of what we looked like **as of 3/31/12**. Did you know

44% of our members were female.

63% of our members live in Lorain County.

26% live in Cuyahoga County.

Our remaining members are scattered about in Erie, Huron, Median, Lucas, Summit and Richland Counties.

Not all members provide their age or birthdate on their membership application. Of the 219 members who did provide that info ...

17 % are age 70 and over. President Ed is entering this age group on his birthday this year and already has his birthday ride planned with a 70 mile route. Will you be joining his ride on May 19? I believe **our most senior members (well into their 80's) are Harold Copperman, Tom Cline, and Florence Hughes.** One of those octogenarians has consistently ridden his age in miles on his birthday (Tom Cline) for I'm not sure how many years. I'm awaiting his report from his April birthday this year when he returns from Florida ... Did he make it again? **Our other octogenarians include Bob Dennington, Dave Evans, Bob Forney, John Gallagher and Dale Yearick.** I am not able to provide percentages within age 70 and over group of who has silver hair, who has red hair, who has black hair, or even who has any hair.

66% of our members are in the span of 50 – 69 years of age.

Do the math ... That leaves 14% of our members in the age 49 & under category.

Kate Lazar gets special mention as our youngest member at 8 years of age!

Last statistic ... We still have **19 members who joined the club in 1998**, the founding year of the club. They deserve special mention: Mike Boku-lich, Tom Cline, Bud Ennis, Marge Goelz, Pati Habenicht, Carol Harrison, Ray & Sharon Koepf, Ken Moore, Jeanne Pease, Kathy & John Secrist, David Simon, Ed & Marti Stewart, Naaman & Marilyn Torres, and Steve & Sandy Woosley.

Another Stupid Tee Shirt Contest

On a recent ride it came to some of us that we haven't had a stupid contest for a while – over a year already. So we did some brain storming (*why do brain storm and stupid go together anyway?*) and came up with this one.

Finish this statement: Bicyclists Do It...



All you have to do is complete the sentence as you wish. We'll publish the results next month and **the winner will get a tee shirt.**

How to enter: Send an email to **emsco514@gmail.com**. Include your entry(s) and your name. Only members may enter. In the event of ties the earliest entry wins.

There's a rumor about...



Some rumors are true, others not so much.

One that is true is that a new club website is being worked on. **OH NO!** You say? Yes, it is true. The website committee has been working over the last couple of months, under the guidance of Tia and Tom Andrako to create a new presence on the web for our club.

The goal is to make the site a bit more organized and to clean up some of the glitchy things that seem to irritate us once in a while.... Like a calendar that refuses to open when asked nicely. Other pieces of the site will be given new life also, like our news-group. We will try to make it all come under one administrative structure that is easier to manage and easier to cruise around in. We think you will like its new look also.

When will this happen? Look for an announcement sometime this summer, with a launch for the new site targeted for August.

Why Take Bike Ed? by Ed Stewart

On a ride earlier this year I made a few observations of rider behaviors that were bad and unsafe practices. Here they are and which modules in the new Bike Ed address these problems.

1. Rider rides in opposite lane at crest of a hill. (**Traffic Skills and Group Riding Skills**)
2. Riders in a pack ride too closely in a narrow rumble stripe shoulder. (**Traffic Skills and Group Riding Skills**)
3. Riders separated by a red light, stop then proceed through the red light anyway, (**Vehicular Laws, Group Riding Skills**)
4. Riders in a pack making a left hand turn from the right hand lane of a 3-lane road. (**Traffic Skills, Bike Handling Skills, Group Riding Skills**)
5. At an intersection with a major US highway, riders stop but are motioned to cross by a motorist who has stopped on that highway and blocking traffic behind him; Riders cross the highway (**Traffic Skills, Group Riding Skills**)

The reason we offer Bike Ed classes is so our members can ride smarter, safer, better. Check the website for more information about the new modular bike ed program