



Pedalwheeling

The Newsletter of the Quad Cities Bicycle Club – September 2003

40k Time Trial Champs Crowned Dave Thompson

A short, but brutal thunderstorm may have slowed times, but not enthusiasm as QCBC sponsored the Cordova 40 kilometer time trial. The first 35-40 riders managed to finish before high winds and heavy rain pounded the rest.

A record 97 riders started the flat, out and back course from Cordova to the outskirts of Erie. John Grice of Kewanee and Melinda Thompson of Moline repeated their success in the 20k by winning the club



titles. Paul Deninger of Iowa City also won the overall title again with a 56:34 time. Diane Roanhaus of Franklin, Wisconsin made the long trek down worthwhile by having the fastest women's time with a 1:03:41. Plaques were awarded to the top 10 QCBC men and top 5 women:

Top 10 QCBC Members - Men

1.	John Grice	Kewanee	56:53
2.	John Fletche	Muscatine	1:00:00
3.	Terry Inch	Lynn Center	1:02:10
4.	Tom Waterman	Pleasant Valley	1:04:40
5.	Kentley Loewenstein	Bettendorf	1:04:46
6.	David Thompson	Moline	1:05:24
7.	Don Miller	Moline	1:05:27
8.	Jude Rolsch	Moline	1:06:24
9.	Ray Thompson	Davenport	1:07:19
10.	Kevin Wohlford	Eldridge	1:07:22

Top 5 QCBC Members - Women

1.	Melinda Thompson	Moline	1:14:04
2.	Jean Roeder	Fulton	1:15:55
3.	Margie Millar	Moline	1:18:19
4.	Jo Faris	Davenport	1:22:10
5.	Clara DeCoster	East Moline	1:29:40

Many thanks to the top-notch volunteers who made the event a success: Paulette Arns, Daryl Blackburn, Mike Detsch, Mike VanDaele, Melinda Thompson, Fred Krack, Otto & Heather Breitmeyer and ABR President, Bob Lundberg.

Pictured at left, are 40K QCBC title winners Melinda and John. Photo submitted by Melinda's husband, Dave Thompson. Dave also reported that one of the participants, John Krehbiel of Lake Forest, IL, made an unexpected contribution of \$500 to the QCBC and a \$250 contribution to the Barstow Fire Department. John has participated in the QC Senior Olympics and the QCBC Time Trails for a number of years in addition to races in the Chicago area.

Key Contacts

Officers:

President - Warren Power (563) 391-5466 warrenpower@mchsi.com
 Vice President – Errol McCollum (309) 762-8252 ecmed@netexpress.net
 Recording Secretary – Jane Garrett (563) 441-9115 jag@revealed.net
 Treasurer – Darlene Moritz (563) 386-3499

Club Web Site:

www.qcbc.org

Board Members:

Terry Burke (309) 797-3790	Joe Jamison (309) 755-6801	Jean Kelly (563) 359-9508
Dave Lefever (563) 355-6476	Deb Mathias (309) 787-6547	Karen Nord (563) 326-9113
Tim Phlypo (309) 944-2649	Charlie Sattler (563) 391-3422	Bill Wiebel (309) 755-1859

Key Contacts: A complete listing of Committee Chairperson and Key Contacts is available on the club's web site and in the front of the hard copy Ride Schedule booklet.

Mission Statement: To promote, encourage, and support the safe participation in bicycle riding of all ages and abilities; to anticipate and address the needs and interests of all aspects of bicycling in the Quad Cities Area.

Club Meetings: Are held at 7pm on the third Tuesday of every month during: January, February, March, April, May, September and October at Rivermont Collegiate, 1821 Sunset Dr., Bettendorf, IA. (3 blocks north of K & K Hardware.) Contact Errol McCollum for program information.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter: Deadline is the 10th of the month. Email to: qcbceditor@yahoo.com or send to: Kathy Storm, ATTN: QCBC Newsletter, 2708 Elm Street, Davenport, IA 52803. Free Want Ads are available for members. Commercial ads are available at the following rates: ¼ page - \$25, ½ page \$50 and a full page \$100.

Major Activities of the Club Include: Tailwind Century in May, Criterium Bike Races on Memorial Day, Tour of the Mississippi River (TOMRV) in June, charter bus service on RAGBRAI in July, Du-State-Du Duathlon in August, Heartland Century in September and our Annual Dinner in November.

Benefits of Being a Club Member Include: 12 issues of Pedalwheeling per year, Annual Issue of Ride Schedule and Membership Directory booklet, 10% discount at QC Area Bike Shops, ability to use LAB "Bikes Fly Free" program on selected airlines and discounts on TOMRV and Heartland Century registration fees.

Affiliated With:



www.adventurecycling.org



www.bikeleague.org



www.bikeLIB.org

**From the Headset
Warren Power**

It's hard to believe that summer's almost over, but here we are, it's September and in just three more weeks the summer of 2003 will be history. It's been a really good summer for bicycling here in the Quad Cities. We really haven't had any extended hot stretches. As a matter of fact, we really haven't had many days in the 90's. The rain's also cooperated. I'm only aware of a handful of club rides where the riders actually got rained on. You really can't ask for much nicer summer weather than this in this part of the country.

Just because summer's almost over doesn't mean you should hang up your bicycle for the year. Some of the best bicycling weather of the year occurs in September and October. The days are cooler and less humid which is just what the doctor ordered when it comes to bicycling. To help you take advantage of this great weather, in addition to the normal weekly club rides, we've got a few special rides planned over the next couple of months.

We start with the Heartland Century that is being organized by Bill Wiebel on Saturday, September 13. The ride starts at the Illiniwek Forest Preserve just North of Hampton, IL. Even though the ride title infers that the ride is 100 miles, it doesn't have to be. There are rides of 25, 50, and 62 miles in addition to the full 100-mile ride so there's a ride for everyone.

A registration form can be found on page 6 of this

newsletter, on the QCBC web site or you can sign up the morning of the ride.

On Saturday and Sunday, October 4th and 5th we've got our annual Fall Foliage Ride. Deb and Dean Mathias are once again organizing this ride. The ride starts in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. Deb and Dean plan to use the same route as last year, which most riders found very challenging but they also have a flatter option for those that just want a leisure ride. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and the trees will be at their peak colors for the ride. More information on this ride can also be found in the July and August issues of the newsletter or on the QCBC web site.

Kathy and Bill Storm have once again agreed to lead the Fall Night Rides each Tuesday and Thursday evening throughout the month of October. These rides start at 6:30pm at the Eastern Avenue parking lot along the Duck Creek bicycle trail in Davenport. Each evening we'll ride a lap of the trail, which is a total of 23 miles. Most participants ride mountain bicycles and lights are required since we won't get done with the ride until after dark. These rides have been extremely popular over the past few years with up to 25 riders participating.

Also, don't forget that we start the monthly membership meetings this month. Our first meeting will be at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 16th at Rivermont Collegiate School in Bettendorf. See page 4 for program information. Hope to see you there.

**Want Ads Column (Ads run for 2 months)
Check Web Site (qcbc.org) for Additional Items
QCBC Members**

Wanted: 1-3 female roommates at The Shallows in Door County, Sept 4-7, 2003 (or part of this time). The Door County Century is Sunday, September 7 -- it's a great ride in a beautiful area. The cost of the

bike ride is \$34 after July 15 -- there are 34, 64, 75 and 100-mile loops. The cost includes a spaghetti dinner or box lunch besides the usual rest stops, etc. See <http://DoorCountyCentury.tripod.com> about the ride, and contact Kathy Loomis (563) 386-3429 or (563) 349-6274 about the room (2 queen size beds, great resort on the Green Bay side, near Egg Harbor).

**RAGBRAI XXXI – Thank you
Andy and Perm Horst**

Another great RAGBRAI is over. A big thanks goes to everyone who helped load the bikes: Glenn Ackeberg, Deb & Dean Mathias, Joe Van Houtte, Mike & Casey Zugmaier, Bill Carlough, Tony Buck,

Ben Durr and Scott Heming and anyone we may have missed. Also to Scott Miller for his help with registration on Friday.

We have a few unclaimed items that were left at any one campsite or last baggage pick up. If you know the item and want it, let us know.

Thanks and good biking.

**Welcome New QCBC Members!
Charlie Sattler**

Frank Bay Milan, IL 309-372-8981
Don Kincaid Bettendorf, IA 563-332-6544

I want to let all the members know that I have accepted the job of Membership Coordinator. I will

try to make it easy for you to know when your membership expires. If you look at your mailing label you will notice that your expiration date is at the top. When your membership is about to expire, I will under line the expiration date. If I don't hear from you within three weeks I will send out a reminder post card. Please remember to fill out the application in the newsletter and you must sign it.

Membership Count: 8/1/03		
	# of Members	# of Memberships
Individual	411	411
Couple	270	135
Family	380	104
Complimentary	5	5
Life	6	3
Total	1,072	658

RUNNING LATE – NO PROBLEM!

Early Registration for the Heartland Century
Extended until Sept 7

Don't Delay – Fill out the entry form on page 6 and mail it today.

SEE YOU AT THE HEARTLAND!



**QCBC General Meeting
Tuesday, September 16
Rivermont Collegiate
1821 Sunset Dr., Bettendorf
(3 blocks north of K&K
Hardware)**

The first-ever Grand Illinois Trail And Parks (GITAP) ride took place this June. It was a 450 mile, 7-day ride around northern Illinois using much of the Grand Illinois Trail (including the Great River Trail) and staying overnight in Illinois state parks, for the most part. Come and find out about this very successful tour from the tour chairman, Chuck Oestreich.

GITAP Ride – QCBC Members Who Participated in this Ride, June 22 – 28

1st row (l to r) Nancy Roush, Joe Van Houtte, Lynn Hallowell, Jayne Phelps, Chuck Oestreich **2nd row** : Jean Roeder, Scott Nyenhuis, Judie Gulley, Becky Perry. **3rd row**: Doug Daniels, Gordon Brockehurst, Vito Cinotto, Susie Wolf, Walter Lysell , Ron Dean ,Bruce Perry. Please note that the article on this ride appeared in the August issue of the newsletter. Photo courtesy of Scott Nyenhuis.

Ride Report - Looking For Sweets or Good Deeds
Doug Nelson

Sunday, June 29th Rick DeClerk, Perm & Andy Horst, Jerry Kruse, Dick Morrill, Bob Milligan, Russ Mumm, Bill & Kathy Storm, and ride leader Doug Nelson left Buffalo for a mid paced ride to Wilton and the Candy Kitchen and return. After learning that the Candy Kitchen only opens on Sunday by special request there were some complaints about ride leader not scouting the route. Ride leader informed everyone this is an adventure, not a Grey Line Tour.

We proceeded on our original route with the Horsts using a hillier detour. We all meet outside Wilton

with Perm and Andy meeting friends in Wilton.

The rest of us proceeded to the Durant Maid-Rite for breakfast. On our return, east of Durant, a car with a flat rear tire passed us. The elderly lady driver was oblivious. Between the noise and smell we were not. She finally stopped in a farm lane. All of us thought about stopping, but only the Storms, trailing a few hundred feet behind us did so. Bill talked to the lady while Kathy flagged down a local farmer to help. They changed her tire, calmed her down, with the farmer following her back to town. The rest of us continued back to Buffalo unaware of Bill and Kathy's good deed. I only learned about it by calling Kathy after the ride. If we had it to do over again, I believe we would all have stopped.

What's Past Is Prologue - QCBC Colors
Joe Jamison

Do you remember your school colors? Of course you do. They were important to you. The founders of our club believed so strongly their envisioned organization should have official colors that it was an agenda item of that first meeting in January 1964. However, establishing the colors proved more difficult than they may have imagined at the beginning.

John Hood Jr. suggested purple and yellow. Dale Hallberg followed with blue and white. Rene DeLanghe thought if green and yellow were approved, it might provide leverage for him to

approach Deere and Company for sponsorship. A vote was taken and purple and yellow carried.

The decision for purple and yellow held until the March 1964 meeting when it was reported that purple and yellow were the chosen colors of the Southeast Bicycle Club of Chicago. Starting the process all over again, John Hood Jr. proposed blue and yellow while another person in attendance suggested black and orange. An immediate vote favored Mr. Hood's suggestion.

After all of these considerations, our founders had finally determined our official colors of blue and yellow. That decision has stood the test of time for nearly 40 years.

Fall Foliage Ride – October 4 & 5
Deb & Dean Mathias

If you have not already made your hotel reservations, do so immediately. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Karakahl Country Inn (www.karakahl.com). The rooms will be held until September 3rd. Mention the QCBC for a group rate of \$69.95. Phone Wally at 888-621-1884 or 608-437-5545 to reserve your room.

Check the July or August issues of Pedalwheeling or the web site for more details or contact Dean and Deb Mathias at 309-787-6547 or mathiasdebdean@mcleodusa.net

Please drop us a line if you plan to join us so we can have a head count for dinner Saturday night.

Saturday's ride will start at 9:00 a.m. from the Military Ridge State Park Trail parking lot in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, which is approximately 150 miles from Davenport. We will be riding approximately 34 miles Saturday morning before a lunch stop so you will want to eat breakfast before starting.

We Are Somebody In Illinois – FORC Update
Scott Sharr

The paperwork came in today, July 18th, proclaiming FORC (Friends of Off Road Cycling) legal to do business in Illinois. Now we are somebody in two, count 'em, two states. Thanks again to Karen Nord for doing all of the research and paperwork involved in getting this accomplished.

**Tribute to Kathy Kirschbaum
Ella Hartman**

The bike path along Duck Creek runs for 11.5 miles and connects to the path in Bettendorf. What an asset for riders!

Construction on the path was started in the 1970's between hickory Grove and Division Streets while

Kathy Kirschbaum was mayor. Now a rest and picnic area is proposed at Hickory Grove and Hillandale on a site overlooking the turnaround. It will include benches, receptacles, bike racks and attractive landscaping. If you would like to learn more about this, contact Ella Hartmann, 441-0698. If you would like to contribute, send a check to Kathy Kirschbaum tribute, 2726 Forest Rd., Davenport, Iowa 52803.

Volunteers Needed - QC Marathon – Sept. 28

Warren Power

The Quad Cities Bicycle Club has been asked by the QC Marathon Committee to help with the QC Marathon on Sunday, September 28th. The route of the marathon covers both sides of the river.

Riders will be assigned a 3 – 4 mile section of the route. Riding a mountain or hybrid bike probably works best, as you will be moving slowly. Your job will be to watch for runners that may be getting into medical problems and then providing communications back to the police and medical

personnel who will render assistance. You will not be expected to give any type of medical assistance unless you are certified and choose to do so.

Assignments will start between 7am and 11 am, depending where you are on the route, and will last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. You will be given a t-shirt to wear that will identify you as part of the medical support team. You will also be issued a radio or cell phone that can be used to contact medical personnel.

If you can help out with this important QC area-sporting event, please contact Gary Jones, at (563) 359-5614 or jonesgaryd@johndeere.com.

**Quad Cities Bicycle Club
Annual Awards Dinner
Friday, November 7th, 2003**

Please join us for a special evening at the Abbey Station
3031 Fifth Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois
6:00pm Social Hour – Appetizers, Cash Bar
7:00pm Dinner

Entrées: Pork Loin, Chicken Breast, Salmon or Vegetarian
Awards program following dinner

Special Guest Speaker, Mark Moeller, Waterford Bicycle Company
Dancing with music by Spellbound will conclude the evening

Dinner Reservation Form

Name: _____ Entrée choice: _____

Name: _____ Entrée choice: _____

Cost is \$22.00 per person.

Please make checks payable to: Quad Cities Bicycle Club

Mail check and form to: John Wessel, 333 – 9th Street, Moline, IL 61265

Reservations must be received no later than November 1, 2003. If you have a question, please contact Jewel Bryan at 309-762-4762 or email her at: jewelalizah@hotmail.com

**Ride Report - July 6 – Erie Fling
Sharon Lavell Sub for Mark Valliere**

I was awoken early Sunday by thunder, rain and a nervous pampered pouch, AKA Molly. She has no love for Mother Nature's fireworks nor does she much care for the noise that seems to be part of our nations birthday celebration. Needless to say, this was not a great weekend for her.

Just as I was certain the rain would continue and I would spend Sunday morning with Molly, the sun began to shine. I made my way to CNH still not sure how I would "Lead" the mid paced ride. I was familiar with the route and had quite a few miles logged since April but the last two seasons, my pace has been more leisure then mid.

Fourteen riders gathered: Bob Milligan, Michael and Jordan Zugmaier (tandem), Casey Zugmaier, Rick Meeker, David Round, Bob Payne, Ken Urban, Steve Geering, Rick DeClerk, Bill & Kathy Storm, Gregg

Sprott and Yours Truly. Introductions were made and we rode north on the bike path towards our hilly trek to Erie.

Fortunately several of the riders were familiar with the route so I was quite comfortable in the back of the pack. The last eight miles into Erie were flat but we had a nice side wind to keep things interesting. We took a brief break at Casey's in Erie and on to Hillsdale with a bit of a head wind on Route #2.

Around 11:00 we enjoyed a sit down breakfast at Ma Ma J's in Hillsdale then continued to Port Byron on the new black top. Some more rolling hills and Mother Nature provided a nice shower that lasted until we reached the bike path in Port Byron.

Only twelve miles left and you guessed it...head wind but wasn't bad until after Hampton.

This route was a good hill workout and the wind on the flats kept it challenging. All in all it was a fun ride and we had a great group of people.

**MTBAccess Advocacy Group Formed
Dean Mayne**

Mark Flint has notified me that a group of long-time mountain bike advocates have formed a new advocacy organization, MTBAccess. You can find our website at:<http://www.mtbaccess.com>

The purpose of this organization is to take a vigorous, results-oriented approach to advocacy. It is our conviction that forming MTBA will not splinter or divide the mountain bicycling community; you need to look no further than the environmental movement -- the people who would have us banned from the

very trails we love to ride -- to see the effectiveness of a multi-tiered strategy.

Environmentalists are not accomplishing their goals through a single organization with a single approach. There are a huge variety of environmental organizations, each approaching their mission in a slightly different way. Mountain bike advocacy can benefit from this kind of multi-tiered model too.

We do not see MTBA as a competitor to IMBA, but rather, as a complementary organization taking a different approach to achieve the same goal.

**DOT Trash Pickup – July 14th
Bill & Kathy Storm**

The turnout for the July 14th Trash Pickup was wonderful. 10 QCBC members showed up for this 90 minute activity which requires absolutely no cycling skill at all. It does however; give us the opportunity to stretch muscles we may not have used in awhile.

New to this club activity were Larry & Joy Hanna and Julie & Ken Urban. Larry & Joy came prepared with their own pick up sticks (the wooden poles with the

nail at the end). Julie & Ken are vigilant recyclers and had their van outfitted with numerous buckets to separate recyclables into. Due to the efforts of Ken & Julie, we only had 6 bags of trash to leave the county for pickup. A good 4-5 bags of trash were turned into recyclables.

Returning workers included: Jean Kelly, Karen Nord, Phil Schubbe, Bill & Kathy Storm and Vivian Norton. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a feast of Happy Joe's pizza. Come join us for the last 2003 Trash Pickup on Wednesday, September 24th.

WOW 2003 - May 11th - 15th
Scribe Gail Overbeck

Day 1 - Davenport IA to Ottawa IL - 108 Miles

The riders this year were Gail Overbeck, Karen Green, Pat Bolton and Jan Sears (left to right in photo below). We started the ride on Sunday May 11th, from Duck Creek Recreational Trail, under cloudy skies, cold temperatures and STRONG tailwinds. We crossed at the Arsenal Bridge and followed the Ben Butterworth bike path into East Moline.

After a short stop at Hardees in East Moline, we headed out on Route 6 east. We stopped at the Smoke House in Colona for breakfast then continued on Route 6 east. The temperature reading of 46 degrees at 9:34 AM reinforced that it was indeed cold.

We stopped for lunch in Sheffield. Most of the day we rode under a cloud cover and winds gusting up to 40 MPH. We arrived in Ottawa where home for the night is the Super 8

Day 2 - Ottawa IL to Hebron IN - 96 miles

We start the day with more great winds, still in an easterly direction, sunny skies and cool temperatures. We take route 23 to route 55 that turns into route 113 into Coal City for breakfast at Ali's. We continue on 113 to old Highway 53 into Wilmington. We go south for a few miles on highway 102 making a quick stop at Ritchey United Methodist Church to remove tights and jackets. We then turn east onto Route 9 and ride into Grant Park where we stop for lunch.

After lunch we head out on Highway 17 that we discover is a short cut for Semi's from Chicago to Interstate 65. The truckers were great and gave us plenty of room. The roads had good surfaces and were plenty flat. We went north on Highway 41 for about 3 miles then turned east onto Route 2 then north on Route 231 into Hebron and the Super 8. Dinner at the Cookery Restaurant & Buffet.



Day 3 - Hebron IN to North Manchester IN - 105 Miles

Another day of good tailwinds. We start out going east on Route 8 to Highway 35 that was a very busy road but had a good shoulder into Knox. The Family Cafe is where we have breakfast. A first for WOW a young family bought our breakfast. Midwest hospitality can't be beat.

After breakfast we continue on Highway 8 to Highway 23 then on to Highway 110. A long 40 miles later without any rest areas or towns we arrive in Mentone the Egg Basket of the Midwest. We have lunch at Teel's Restaurant. Riding through rolling farmland and hardwood forests we arrive in North Manchester. Home for the night is the TreeWay Inn, which happens to be the only Motel in town. Dinner is at the Taco Bell just down the street.

Day 4 - North Manchester IN to Remington IN 100 miles

We start the day by going to visit the North Manchester Covered Bridge built in 1872. Since the wind has died down, we choose to go west with what wind we have, which is a good decision. We followed Route 16 through beautiful rolling hills

with some hardwood forest and great farms. We stopped in Roann to look at the covered bridge, which was constructed in 1877.

We stop at the Denver Tavern for breakfast and hope that the rain, which has started will subside by the time we finish. The town of Denver is on the Adventure Cycling Route and the tavern has a notebook for riders to scribble in. Of course we left our comments for other riders to read.

The rain holds off until we get to Royal Center. We ride the next 22 miles in the rain into Monon where we stop at the Monon Family Restaurant for lunch. As we leave Monon the winds pick up and push us on down the road on Route 231 into Remington where the Super 8 is home. (cont. on page 14)

RAGBRAI 2003 – Memories

**Day 0 & 1—Glenwood to Shenandoah (56.7 miles)
Sharon Harrington – Blue Grass, IA**

Saturday - Glenwood chose a rock and roll theme. Life-sized models/dummies were topped with the likenesses of famous music idols and placed around the downtown area, as the appropriate music played nearby each one. It was an easy walk or ride from our campsite to the various venues containing the Expo, with Greg Lemond, churches, food and beverage stands, and the bike shops. On Saturday afternoon/evening several from the club rode the 18 miles roundtrip to dip their tires in the Missouri River.

Sunday - The Quad City Bicycle Club camping contingent spent the hot, humid night on the flat soccer field at the edge of Glenwood. Though our club campsite is supposed to be a “quiet zone”, that was not the case on Sunday morning. Many of us got up earlier than intended due to the loud voices and clanging tent poles of the inconsiderate as they prepared to leave.

The day’s route took us through the Loess Hills. We have to take the Register’s word that they were there, as you certainly couldn’t see any hills. The humidity was so high that we rode in DENSE fog for hours, until it finally burned off in the mid to late morning. Glasses needed windshield wipers. I have heard that some of the riders that disappeared into the fog ahead of us are still missing.....in the do-do-do-do twilight zone.

Our first pass through town was Silver City. Kellogg’s was passing out free Pop Tarts and boxes of cereal. Just down the street, Team Good Ol’ Boys was handing out bananas from the back of their dusty pickup, the fresh crop driven straight in from their banana farm that morning.

After the fog burned off, it was hot, hot, hot! And humid, humid, humid!! Along the route, we saw a farm with Long Horn Cattle grazing in the pasture. However, they were selling egg sandwiches there. Go figure! We passed through Henderson and Emerson, but I was in a stupefying daze and remember little about those towns.

There was not a cloud in the sky. The last pass through town was Essex. We turned a corner and there was an open fire hydrant. How refreshing it

was to stand under the cold water. I was so comfortable standing in the waterfall that it was hard for my husband to drag me onto the tandem again for the last push into Shenandoah.

At 97° F., Shenandoah was reported to be the hottest town in Iowa today. Pink plastic flamingoes were everywhere for the “Club Shenandoah” theme. Luckily, they didn’t melt. QCBC campers were located in a park, conveniently near showers, churches with food and downtown.

**Day 2 - Shenandoah to Bedford (63.5 miles)
Byron Baxter – Davenport, IA**

Monday revealed some interesting characters in Coin in front of the Gold Coin Tap. They were from bike racing days of long ago. One in a red polka dot jersey covering a large waist line claimed to be Richard Virenque, King of the Valleys. But I detected my son David in disguise. Then there was a blue grass band performing in College Springs. Across the street was a lunch stop with historical items about College Springs which was called Amity until 1875 when another earlier Amity post office in Iowa was discovered.

The college part of the new name came from the local teachers college named Amity which existed from 1857 to 1917. The springs part of the name came from the springs which fed a lake which was a resort complete with high diving towers. It is a marsh with cattails now.

A third stop was in Clarinda at the birth place of Glenn Miller. Without this attraction the official route deviation westward several miles into Clarinda would have been disappointing for me. Finally at Bedford was the Taylor County Museum with a 1904 round barn. It was found in terrible condition several miles away and was taken apart in large sections and then restored. Amish were hired to redo the wood shingle roof. The round shape was chosen to resist tornados.

**DAY 3 – Bedford to Osceola (76.5 miles)
Perm Horst – Blue Grass, IA**

Tuesday - Our overnight was at Bibbins Park in Bedford. We were ready to leave at 7:00am. and headed towards Benton, 20.7 miles to the west. As we headed towards Benton, I’m looking at the biker to my right and wondering why he doesn’t have a (cont. on page 14)

RAGBRAI 2003 – Memories

(cont. from page 13)

helmet on when Andy suddenly said, “I don’t have my helmet on!” We quickly pulled off and started walking back along the shoulder. Andy had left his helmet by our campsite.

7:30am. and we head down the road for Benton, again. I begin to believe that Benton is another ghost town like Dayton from the day before. We reach 23 miles and Benton shows up. Population is now about 40 and a few houses. It was a quarter mile up the road on gravel.

This day was described as roly polly hills and we would agree. One hill after another but it’s nice to be able to get a good run down so you can make it up the next. The temperature is in the low 80’s and the humidity was gone.

In Ringgold County, we pass a Conservation area. Here they have re-introduced prairie chickens back into nature. They have a telescope where you can try to catch a glimpse of them strutting around.

Mt Ayr is our next stop. It is the highest point in Ringgold County with an elevation of 1,268 feet and takes its name from Ayr, Scotland. If you choose, you could take the century loop here. We understood the last 5 miles of the loop was very hilly with headwinds.

We head for Kellerton and more hills. As explained to us by one of the friendly towns people, Kellerton used to be a hub for the railroad with a large hotel, but both are gone now and only a few homes and businesses remain.

We have now entered Decatur County. Again we visit with some town folk. That is always a highlight and find out about the history of the town. Decatur City used to be the original county seat until a fire destroyed the courthouse. It had been a home for a bustling, prosperous stagecoach and train stop but there are only a few homes and park now. After the fire, the county seat was moved to Leon, which is our next stop.

We arrive in Leon and stop at the first church we see. Andy went in for pie, but found out that Sharon Harrington had gotten the last piece. We rested in the shade for a bit and then head for the town square. Here I got a hamburger from the Decatur Cattlemen’s stand and a root beer float from the band boosters.

This last stretch to Osceola is 20 plus miles, north into a headwind. Several stops are made at farms and we find fresh sweet corn and watermelon. Andy has been reading the signs along the way and when he



Dave Lefever relaxes in the campground at New Bedford. Dave rode out to the start of RAGBRAI this year.

saw the one that said “homemade pie” Farm Bureau Booth, north side of square, you know where we stopped in town. I must say the pie was good and they had plenty. By the time we got to the campground in Osceola, we had 82 miles plus and the map said it would be a 76.5-mile day. Osceola is another Iowa town named after an Indian. In this case it was the Florida Seminole Indian Osceola, who was greatly admired by the American pioneers for his courage and integrity.

Day 4 - Osceola to Oskaloosa (76.3 miles) Glen Ackeberg – Lyndon, IL

Wednesday – Has RAGBRAI ever ridden between two overnight towns starting with the same letter? At 5:10am, the slamming of doors on the kybos awakened me from an unusually good night’s sleep. Must have been the below normal temperatures as the overnight low was in the fifties. Breakfast found
(cont. on page 15)

RAGBRAI 2003 – Memories

(cont. from page 14)

Andy & Perm Horst, Virgil (my riding partner) and myself at the local HyVee store. No Chris cakes today.

Next stop was New Virginia, “The only New Virginia in the world,” so says the free medallion the townsfolk were passing out to the riders while bagpipe players made music somewhere off in the distance.

10:30am – we arrived in Lacona. An awesome view of the town from the top of a hill with a long downhill sketched with Lacona sprawled out for all to see. The city park was selling food for a playground project. \$2.000 for a big baked potato. Plenty of shade and a nice green lawn that shaped a natural amphitheater with a stage along side the basketball court.

Lelchem – Dallas – a horde of cheerleaders were positioned at the route intersection yelling cheers to promote the turnoff. A woman sitting along the street in a “true” lawn chair with a sign next to her that read, “What else have I got better to do”. Now this is true RAGBRAI.

Today’s ride has been most scenic. More timber and great views. The cool north wind on our left side acted like a natural air conditioner keeping us cool while we climbed the endless hills.

Attica – A six year old boy on a push scooter goes repeatedly up and down the same hill frequently advertising hard boiled eggs. I decide to check this out and find the stand manned by kids who are displaying a sign “Donachones accspted for are coladge edgacauchons”.

Busy – an old-fashioned country store was selling \$1.00 tomato sandwiches. Three huge slices of tomatoes between two slices of bread with a bit of mayo, salt and pepper. Something so simple, yet it was the best sandwich to hit the spot that I have had all week.

Virgil and I crossed the scenic Des Moines River and headed toward the QCBC camp. As usual, Matt & Co. had an ideal site for the QCBC. Wonderful shade, grass and close to the pool.

Day 5 - Oskaloosa to Bloomfield (67.1 miles)
Michael & Casey Zugmaier – Bettendorf, IA

Thursday - 4:30am waking to the song of zippers we prepare to leave, clear skies and 58 degrees, but which direction to head? Lost from the start, we somehow end up on to the route.

“Flat’ roads for 15 miles, or the flattest so far, Kirksville – Pancake time. Fueled up we descend to our first crossing of the Des Moines River into Chillicothe, a picturesque post card of a town. The ‘long grade’ leaving town snakes its way up to where the folks of Eddyville have come to hand out FREE water, Gatorade, and Hostess Pies. Eddyville wasn’t on the route but the town came to greet us anyway. As I always say, “ Came for the pie, stayed for the ride.”

Coming off the ridge top, an ambulance passes, we turn south to see the ambulance has joined a second vehicle stopped atop a short very steep climb. Joe Hartogh, 67, of Cedar Rapids has collapsed of a heart attack and died going up the hill. RAGBRAI XXI has claimed its first victim.

37 miles in, Blakesburg, small town, long food lines, the hit – pie of course, but here Pizza Pie was the hot seller. 9” boxed pizzas selling like hotcakes... or is that a mixed metaphor? On towards Unionville more hills, and something new. Wind from the South. All week as we traveled north, winds greeted us in our face, now we turn and so do the winds. Are tailwinds illegal in Iowa?

Unionville, sunny skies 78 degrees and only 18 miles left. Lunch break, a little pasta salad and a smoothie while kickin’ back on the lawn – “it just doesn’t get any better than this”. Refreshed and on to Paris. Flat roads, just a hint of a head wind and – ‘blink’ – where’s Paris? Paris is closed.

We follow the rollers to Drakesville, ‘Party Central’ for today. Skip the Biergarten, we head to the nearest church. Where else can you find the best pie? At the Methodist Church storefront, the church ladies FORCE us to walk past tables of pie, “ah” the Rhubarb was “exquisite”. 7 miles to go and we’ve “eaten away” another day, it’s back to camp. Oops, spoke to soon, looks like the last few miles will be on gravel rollers into Bloomfield.

At town we’re welcomed through a 25’ phonograph record perched across the street. Camp as usual, for this trip, is next to the city pool and close to everything. Thanks Matt. We settle into camp for (cont. on page 16)

RAGBRAI 2003 – Memories

(cont. from page 15)

the day, check up on “the Tour”, chat with our friends, and say a little prayer for Joe Hartough who rode is last RAGBRAI today, AMEN!

Day 6 Bloomfield to Mt. Pleasant (70 miles)

Kaye LeBeau – Davenport, IA

Friday - One of the best parts of RAGBRAI are the county courthouses. The most dramatic courthouse in Iowa is in Bloomfield. Only saw it shortly this year as we left town. Our breakfast stop was for pancakes at the 14 mile mark. They were sponsored by the Bloomfield Rotary, and having stayed with a Rotarian, wanted to patronize them.

Picturesque Keosauqua and Bentonsport were jammed with riders. Passed the famous Manning Hotel. The scenery into Bonaparte was gorgeous. We crossed a steel truss bridge, which we were told will be replaced, so RAGBRAI was making its last crossing.

It was a struggle to handle the challenging hills, which were a result of passes over the Des Moines River. As usual on RAGBRAI, all sort of dress appears. From guys in tuxes to gals in bikinis. But in Keosauqua, one lady (I use that term loosely), was wearing a thong. It was interesting to hear the spectators say “How in the world can she ride a bike?”

We bought our daily pork chop (now \$6) from the Pork Chop man, who grills on corn cobs. Put it in a baggie and ate it later.

The last town was Salem, and we met Christy Vilsack (the governor’s wife). Talked to her and got a picture. “Let off Steam” was the Mt. Pleasant theme, based on their unique Thresher’s Reunion. The locomotive horns were blowing constantly to add to the reality of their theme.

Our home stay was with a lovely, twice widowed grandmother. We took her to the catholic church for dinner, and were treated to a first on RAGBRAI. They offered beer and wine. Naturally did not have a license, so could not charge, but allowed a “free will offering”. Another great day if it weren’t for the head winds and the hills. Donald Kaul (the co-founder of RAGBRAI) used to say, “RAGBRAI is a lot of fun if it weren’t for the biking.”

Day 7 Mt. Pleasant to Ft. Madison (43 miles)

John Keane – Port St. Lucie, FL

Saturday - I always have mixed emotions about the last day of RAGBRAI. On the one hand I am excited about crossing the finish line and feeling good about the accomplishment. On the other hand, after the ride is finished, I feel a let down and have regrets that the fun and camaraderie have all ended.

This year’s Day 7 ride would have been quite easy; it was only 43 miles with few hills, except for a strong headwind. There were several towns, notably New London and Denmark, with food and beverage available and there were the usual roadside vendors such as Mr. Pork Chop, Pastafari and Tender Tom's.

When we arrived in Ft. Madison we were greeted by a cowboy theme with the inference that they were holding a “Rodeo by the River” After celebrating briefly our group headed home. I considered my twenty ninth RAGBRAI to be one of the more difficult but also one of the more enjoyable and I will be back next year.

(Editors Note) And Joe Van Houtte wanted a special “Thank You” made to Bill and Sharon Harrington for giving him and his wife Linda (who experienced car problems while driving Joe’s truck down to Burlington to pick him up after the ride) a ride back to Moline.

Quad Cities Triathlon in Top 50!

Eric Sarno

Once again, I would like to thank the Quad Cities Bicycle Club and all the volunteers for their continued support.

This was the Quad Cities Triathlon’s fourth year in a row. Our numbers this year were the largest ever, approximately 530 registered for our Sprint Distance Triathlon. The overall male and female awards were won by Iowans, who by the way set new course records as well. Participants for this year’s triathlon were

able to purchase a DVD of the race. A preview of the DVD is available on our website at www.qctriathlon.com.

2004 will be our 5th year and we are expecting a full field of about 600 athletes from around the Midwest. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 12th, 2004. This year American Triathlete Magazine selected our event as one of the 50 best triathlon’s in America. No one knows how valuable volunteers and sponsors are more than me, so without the support of the QCBC, our event would not be where it is today! Thank you.

THOMSON CAUSEWAY WEEKEND CAMPOUT III PRICE \$5.00

no sags
no water bottles
no snacks

Saturday October 25
Sunday October 26
54 miles each way

no frills
no maps
no t-shirts

"\$5.00 might sound cheap, but you don't get much."

We will ride the Great River Bike Trail in Illinois from Rock Island's Sunset Park to the Thomson Causeway Park on Saturday and return on Sunday. You can leave your car overnight at Sunset. (Please park in one of the lots along the east side of Sunset Lane). Riders, their families, and guests are welcome to camp at the Thomson Causeway or find indoor accommodations locally. Showers are available for campers. Campers are responsible for paying their own camping fee. Tent sites are \$10. There are also RV sites where tents can be placed for \$14 and \$16. We are allowed (2) tents per site. Most of us will cook out at the campground; however there will probably be plenty of auto transportation to town for those wishing to eat in a restaurant - no guarantees.

Bring your own tent, sleeping bag, camp chair, food, drinks and cooler.

There will probably be more than enough cooler space, so consider sharing with another rider. QCBC will provide a van to carry it all to Thompson... that's all you get! We will load the van from 8:00 AM till 9:00 AM on Saturday.

On the way there are several small towns where you can obtain breakfast, lunch, or whatever you may need. There are many very good roads with low traffic along the way and near Thomson for riders wishing to ride farther.

The idea is simplicity: Ride, camp, ride.

Make checks Payable to QCBC

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
QCBC Member? Yes No

Mail to:

Dave Alftine
1880 Harding Ct.
Bettendorf, IA 52722
(563) 332-8299

Applications must be received by October 18. Participation may be limited by space at Thomson.

Release and Waiver Statement

The Quad Cities Bicycle Club assumes no responsibility for personal injury, damaged equipment, theft or loss taking place on Thomson Causeway Camp out. All cyclists ride at their own risk. Anyone under age 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. A parent or guardian must sign for all applicants under 18. All applications must be signed, and in signing the liability release, the applicant agrees to the above conditions.

Liability Release - Signature Required

Signed: _____ Date: _____

ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO WEAR HELMETS WHEN CYCLING

WOW 2003 - May 11th - 15th
(cont. from page 8)

Day 5 Remington IN to Paxton IL 107 Miles

The winds are out of the Northeast, so it looks like we are heading back into Illinois. Pat has some trouble with her bike so we find a bike shop, which is 16 miles away in Rensselaer. While we wait for her bike we have breakfast at Martin's Restaurant

We take Route 114 out of Rensselaer and head into Illinois. We take many back roads and stair-step our way down to Vip's Restaurant. After lunch we keep heading in a southwesterly direction. After 107 miles we find the Paxton Inn that has two rooms, and a restaurant right next door.

The ride ends with a total of 516 miles, no flat tires, good winds most days and great memories of 5 days of good riding. A big thanks to "sister" Jerry for picking us up.

Cross Country Ski Trip to Norway – February 2004
Kathy Storm & Susie Wolf

Bob Walsh, whom we meet on the Cross Country Ski trip this past February with the Elmhurst Bicycle Club, has invited members of the EBC and QCBC to join him on a Cross Country Ski Trip to Norway next February. Contact Bob at: 40 South Caroline Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014-6108, 815-459-9034 or bobwalshnd@aol.com. If you are at all interested, please contact Bob before September 30th as this trip is filling up fast. It is very affordable and well organized.

Important Notice!

If you are interested in riding with the **Fast** group, please contact Mike Desch for updated information on where the group will be meeting and/or riding to. Mike can be reached at: 309-755-4722 or michaeldeschv@johndeere.com