

IVBC 2008 RAGBRAI Charter (“Team Tom”)

Greetings again from IVBC RAGBRAI Charter headquarters. All the RAGBRAI Committee members and more are working diligently preparing for your arrival here in Marshalltown, Iowa on July 19 - four weeks from today. The purpose of this document is to give you all the information you will need to prepare for your week long bicycle journey across the state of Iowa. Whether you have ridden RAGBRAI many times or if this is your first time, IVBC wants to do everything we possibly can to ensure you have an enjoyable and safe trip. We’re looking forward to hosting you and hope you are getting excited about you visit. Those that have done RAGBRAI before know what to expect but they also know that this RAGBRAI will be different; each RAGBRAI has it’s own personality and that’s what keeps us coming back. Those that are riding for the first time have probably heard the war stories and might be somewhat apprehensive. Please don’t worry, with the information I’m presenting here and the support of all the other IVBC RAGBRAI Team members you’ll do just fine.

After last year’s RAGBRAI I created a web photo album. I put my photos there and several other team members also contributed. If you are interested in seeing what last year’s RAGBRAI looked like, you can find the album at <http://gallery.mac.com/dabres/100002> Name: ragbrai07 Password: ivbc Hopefully these photos will help get you in the mood and fired up about RAGBRAI XXXVI.

As I said in my note to you a few days ago, the keys to enjoying RAGBRAI are a tuned-up bike and a tuned-up body - you have four weeks to get it done, which should be plenty of time. Safety is also very important. Saturday afternoon in Missouri Valley, please plan on going by and viewing the 13 minute safety video which will be running at the RAGBRAI headquarters - signs will be posted. The room is air conditioned and trust me, by then you will enjoy the cooling break.

The “Tips List” I sent you, attached to the note last week, has a tremendous amount of information; be sure and read through it carefully. Plan on heat and humidity but cool nights. It will probably rain sometime during the week. In case of storms at night, each overnight town will have shelters setup and if needed we will be directed to them.

Speaking of rain and the impact of the recent flooding, please read this note: <http://www.ragbrai.org/>

I have a special request concerning baggage. The limit is 2 bags and even though the “Tips List” I sent you says 50 lb., that should read “soft sided 40 lb”. With a full charter we have to stack the bags all the way to the ceiling in the truck. This makes heavier bags very difficult to handle and hard sided cases will not nestle, taking up too much valuable room. So **please**, two soft sided bags no more than 40 lb.

We will have our traditional Cracker & Cheese Social, Saturday from 4:30 to 6:00. However, we will not be able to have beer & wine this year. We were able to get a nice camping area at a church, and we thought that everyone would agree that not having beer or wine at our social is a small price to pay to have a nice camping spot - unlike camping next to that dusty road in the fairgrounds last year.

Cell phone charging: Burt Clover, longtime RAGBRAIer and club member is devising a contraption that we can hookup to the truck battery (without blowing the fuses) to charge cell phones. There will be a \$2.00 charge for each cell phone charge. (just kidding - there will be no charge - just part of the package - wanted to see if you were paying attention)

For all the riders that purchased their RAGBRAI credentials through IVBC, I have received all the registration materials from the Des Moines Register RAGBRAI Staff and you will receive them (bike tag, wristband, etc.) in the parking lot as we are loading the trucks Saturday morning July 19. Also, we (IVBC) will have a table set up, selling club T-shirts, riding shorts, jerseys, and water bottles (limited sizes).

Once again, welcome and I’m looking forward to another great RAGBRAI. Our charter is full again this year - so, going out, every seat on the two buses is taken and each day our Ryder truck will be very full. So the words of the day are patience, cooperation, flexible, relax, and everything will work out just fine.

We are going to be traveling and camping in very close quarters, please be respectful of other's belongings and space. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at 7:00 a.m. on July 19.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Dana Bresler
 RAGBRAI Ticket Coor.
 Iowa Valley Bicycle Club
 641-753-3114

IVBC RAGBRAI XXXVI Bus & Semi-Truck Loading & Departure Schedule

Departure - Saturday, July 19, Marshalltown Community College north parking lot - 3700 S. Center Str (Hwy 14 - 1/4 mile south of US Hwy 30). Week long parking during RAGBRAI is permitted.

7:00 a.m.	Begin loading (you are responsible for removing your bike pedals - pedal wrenches and people to help will be available). You can tape the pedals to your bike or carry them with you on the bus. Just don't lose them, because you are probably going to need them later :)
7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	Report to registration desk to check in and pick up RAGBRAI charter packet
8:15 a.m.	Board buses and conduct final head count
8:30 a.m.	Depart for RAGBRAI XXXVI starting town - Missouri Valley. Bring snacks and something to drink - pop will be available for purchase on the bus. One potty stop is planned.
11:30 a.m.	Arrival in Missouri Valley - de-bus and remove luggage and place it off to the side near the bus. Upon arrival of the semi-truck please help to quickly unload the bikes. Don't worry about waiting for your bike, just take them as they are handed off the truck, take them a short distance away from the truck, and lay them down, derailleur side up.
4:30 p.m.	IVBC Charter (Team Tom) Cheese and Cracker Social in camp. Meet your fellow IVBC RAGBRAIers and have a little fun - Drawing for door prizes.

Departure from Le Claire - Saturday, July 26

Before 2:00 p.m.	After finishing the ride in Le Claire and wheel-dipping, find IVBC charter buses and trucks. Friday night we will have detailed information on where we will be located. Remove your pedals from your bike and hand it up to the helpers loading the truck.
2:45 p.m.	Start boarding buses and taking head count
3:00 p.m.	The buses and semi will depart promptly
6:00 p.m.	Arrival back in Marshalltown