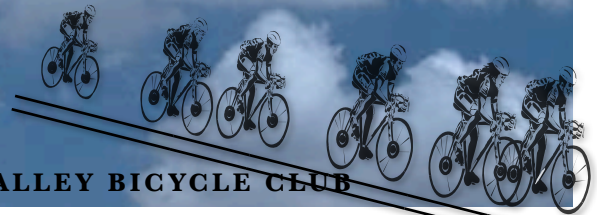


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# ON YOUR LEFT...



A NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB

## Grimes Farm-S75 Connecting Trail

A contract has been let for the Grimes Farm - S 75 Connecting Trail and work should start this Spring. Hopefully, that will mean an end to riding Lincoln Way to get to the Melbourne Trail. We assume there will need to be some minor repair work on the Melbourne Trail, especially, since there will be more traffic on the Trail when the connecting trail is completed. Perhaps a celebration is in order when the trail is completed.

## High Trestle Trail

Iowa is a great state. We can dream big and we can make those dreams come true. The High Trestle Bridge over the Des Moines River between Woodard and Madrid is a marvelous site. The bridge is half a mile long and 13 stories high, and when completed, the architecture of the bridge will represent the region's historical coal mining industry. The Trail is 25 miles long and connects the central Iowa communities of Ankeny, Slater, Sheldahl, Madrid, and Woodard.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will host a Grand Celebration on April 30, 2011. There will be celebrations in all five connecting communities.

## Ride Schedule

The new ride schedule of 2010 met with a great deal of success and IVBC will continue the Class I and Class II ride programs on Saturdays. The Sunday social rides and Tuesday rides failed to attract enough riders to merit their repeat. The Club will follow the same Saturday AM ride format as the 2010 schedule. If you would like to be ride leader for a Saturday AM ride, either Class I or Class II, contact John Eich at [tandenguy59@aol.com](mailto:tandenguy59@aol.com). Don't delay, as dates will be filling up fast.

## Bike to Work Week

IVBC is in need of a Bike to Work Week Coordinator for 2011. The corresponding dates for 2011 are May 16 - 20, and Marshmallo will be on Saturday, May 21. The Club felt Bike to Work Week was quite successful and would like to continue the program. Work on Marshmallo (May 21) has begun, along with a few ideas for Bike to Work Week (May 16-20). Any members wishing to coordinate or work with Marshmallo or Bike to Work Week should contact Tony Etcher at [tonyetcher@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyetcher@yahoo.com) or Dana Bresler.

**New Route for Marshmallo:** Flood waters have destroyed a major bridge on the Chichaqua Valley Trail (Bondurant to Baxter), requiring a new route for the Marshmallo Ride. The Club is currently in the process of examining several different routes for the 2011 Marshmallo. The century ride has become a traditional ride for all of central Iowa, with as many as thirty riders. If you would like to help with the planning or the actual ride, please get in touch with Dana Bresler or Charlie Smith.



## Grinnell Bike Club

We have bike clubs in Grinnell, Nevada, and Marshalltown. If you know of other bike clubs in the area, email me, Charlie Smith at [crsmith@mchsi.com](mailto:crsmith@mchsi.com). Perhaps we can share ride schedules. We like Marshall County, but biking another area might be fun

## Bicycle Safety Bill

Senators Joe Bolkcom, Democrat from Johnson County and William Dotzler, Democrat from Blackhawk County have introduced a bicycle safety bill, S.F. 96. Provisions of the legislation are:

1. Required three foot passing zone
2. Vehicles must use an adjacent travel lane (cannot split the lane with bicycle)
3. Violation requires a fine of \$100 and \$500 if a bicycle is injured, and \$1000 for a fatality along with license revocation.
4. Implements of husbandry are exempt from the law

Currently fifteen states have a bicycle safety bill. Iowa ranks 7th in the nation as bicycle friendly and would most certainly rank much higher should the state enact a bicycle safety law. With the growth of bicycling, both as a recreation and industry, it would seem logical that the legislature would act to pass a bicycle safety bill. The voting alignment should prove most interesting.

## MS 150

The MS 150 Ride is coming to Marshalltown on June 25. The ride has been moved to June to offer riders a chance to train for RAGBRAI. Charlie Smith has volunteered to help with bike security again for 2011. The bikes will be secured within a building at Riverview and an all night vigil will not be necessary. Those want to assist should contact Charlie Smith at [crsmith@mchsi.com](mailto:crsmith@mchsi.com). The MS 150 is early this year--the date has been changed to June 25-26th.



**February 28th--My-Y-Tri** at the Community Y. If you are not a participant, plan to volunteer by contacting Charlie Smith, Terry Briggs, or Dana Bresler. The volunteers can work 7-10:30 or 10:30-1:00 or both shifts. It's a fun day for all.

## RAGBRAI

Our RAGBRAI group (Iowa Valley Bicycle Club #40) is now closed. If you have registered to ride with IVBC, I "must have" your ragbrai waiver, IVBC Charter application, IVBC membership form and fees check in my hands by 2/26. That is two weeks from now (2/12). Over half of you have already sent this material in and I have emailed you a confirmation - you are all set. Charter application, membership form, and instructions can be found at [www.marshalltownbikeclub.com](http://www.marshalltownbikeclub.com) Questions or if you need help, contact me, Dana Bresler, 641-485-4804 or [ivbc@mchsi.com](mailto:ivbc@mchsi.com)



## Events of Interest

•**Iowa Trails Summit** in Waterloo/Cedar Falls on June 16 to the 18. More information can be found at [www.iowadot.gov/iowabikes](http://www.iowadot.gov/iowabikes).

•**Alliance for Biking and Walking** in Davenport, Iowa on April 1-3, 2011.

## F.Y.I.

Check this out

<http://maps.google.com/biking>

Another check this out

<http://www.grist.org/article/2011-02-01-bike-plows-new-fixies-but-well-never-be-as-cool-as-the-danes>



## IVBC Projects

As of the writing of this newsletter, we are not sure what projects the bike club will undertake this summer. We do have several members who are ready to volunteer. We have several projects yet to be completed and others are on going volunteer activities. The March newsletter seems like an excellent time to focus on IVBC projects for the spring and summer. How great it is to think about spring and summer.

**Iowa Valley Bicycle Club**

P.O. Box 927

Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

MEETING DATE: The next monthly meeting is Mar. 9th at 7:00 at the Fisher Community Center. The RAGBRAI planning meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Everyone interested in bicycling is welcome to attend.

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Check our web site <http://marshalltownbikeclub.com>

Check out our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/IowaValleyBicycleClub?ref=ts>