

# OnYourLeft!



Past & Upcoming News From the Iowa Valley Bicycle Club

## Message From the President by Kris McKibben

Hello Friends!

I write this a couple of weeks after RAGBRAI. I think that this was one of the best RAGBRAIs that I have ever done. It ranks #2 only behind 1996 which had tailwinds and cooler temps. But wasn't it great? Those of you who participated and it was your first ride, may think that it was easy or a breeze. But those veterans know that some years it can be really a tough ride. I think that the IVBC had some really great people on the charter. Thanks to all who came with us for your first time or repeat trip. I hope that everybody had a chance to renew old acquaintances and make some new friends too. I know that I did. On our bus on the way home, we all related a story or just a line or two that happened to us that we thought was funny or special. That was a neat way to wind up the trip and hear of some of the other's experiences. I remember one lady that I rode out of Rock Rapids with on the first morning. She said that she had been at the Expo on Sat. and some first timers were asking how to "get out of town" in the morning. She said that she didn't know which way but that they should just follow the other bikes. These fellows said that they wanted to be FIRST out in the am. She told them that they had better leave at 3 am then. They told her that they were planning to leave at 6 am, wouldn't that be early enough? I don't think that I will ever forget that one. Other people along the ride, that were from out of state, said that they had a hard time convincing their cycling friends back home to come to Iowa. They like it so well that they just come by themselves. Did you all hear David Potts' story? It's a long one but comes down to he may have met a long lost cousin on the ride. They both are checking family histories back home. Good luck David! The story just gives you goose-bumps to hear it. I asked him to let us know if he finds out anything.

IVBC faired out pretty well on this charter. Thanks to everyone for paying for your pop! Also thanks for the generous tips for the drivers! They were speechless but did indicate that they would be interested again next year. And what can we say about Bill Bucklin? Many of you may never have seen him, but Bill was the guy who roped off our campsites everyday and slept there by himself the night before to guard our spot. He defended our right to a better place in Hampton and got us the grassy, shady school versus the muddy racetrack. A special thanks to you Bill for a job well done. I hope that we can get all the great staff back again next year. And I hope that we can have all of you riders back again next year too! FYI- Profits from RAGBRAI are used to make/ purchase more or better equipment for RAGBRAI. And locally to promote cycling and make improvements to the trail and fund future trail expansion.

Last weekend was our Root River Camp-out in southeastern Minnesota. Four couples, 2 kids and 1 dog made the trip. Friday's weather was beautiful, but Saturday morning it started to rain and rain and rain. It rained ALL day, ALL evening except for about one hour so we could have a campfire, and ALL night. Needless to say, Rushford had a dike break and 2/3 of the town was underwater. We all got home okay on Sunday, soggy but safely. Thanks to those who came, we had good company at least!

September is rapidly approaching and the cycling season will be slowing down. Now is the time to get in those last miles before Tom calls for your total! IVBC has lots of things still going on too. We will be making some improvements on the trail in M'town, still working to promote cycling and pushing forward on the Grimes Farm Trail expansion. Not to mention involvement with the Imagine 7 committees. Look for a busy winter ahead!

Thanks again for a great RAGBRAI, we couldn't have done it without YOU!!!! Kris

### Inside This Issue

Imagine 2001 Report...Page 2

---

IVBC-Imagine 2001 Main St Bridge Project.....Page 2

---

RAGBRAI Wrap-up....Page 3

---

3rd Ave Lane Change..Page 3

---

“Share The Road” License Plates.....Page 3

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Event Calendar.....Back Page

## Ride Right

## Imagine 2001 Committee Report by Terry Briggs

The Imagine 2011 Committee to “Create a Pedestrian and Bicycling Friendly Community” has been meeting regularly and is working hard to meet its goal. While it will take months or several years for its ideas to be implemented, several are on their way. These include:

**Extension of the Grimes Farm trail to connect with the Melbourne trail** - Members, lead by Marty Wymore, have been meeting with the Marshalltown Board of Supervisors. At the Supervisor’s meeting on September 4, Marty presented a resolution asking them to be the signature in the Federal Grant for funding 70% of the project (total cost \$1,476,000). After a public hearing the supervisors unanimously voted to approve moving forward with the grant application. The supervisors were positively influenced by strong representation and comments from prominent community leaders. Speaking in support were Carol Hibbs, Community Y & Pioneering Healthier Communities; Kim Schryver, Imagine 2001; Pat Kramer, Safe Routes to Schools; Mike Stegmann, Marshall County Conservation, Charlie Smith, IVBC, Dieter Butzlaff, Melbourne resident; Sue Martin, Martha Ellen Tye Foundation, and Sheriff Ted Kamachus. There were 10 IVBC members present.

**City Bike routes** – Committee members, led by Bob Peterson, are working on updating a map of bike routes previously adopted – but not fully implemented – by the Marshalltown City Council in 2005. They will then be integrating their updated route map with the City Sidewalk Task force to formulate a combined recommendation to be represented to the City Council.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue conversion** – The proposal to convert North 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from a four lane to a three lane street (one lane in either direction with a center turning lane and buffer zones on either side) has been tabled by the Marshalltown City Council until this coming March. Committee members are working with the Pioneering Healthier Communities coalition to gather public support for the conversion both for public safety and for enhancing wellness in Marshalltown.

**Downtown** – Members are working with the downtown group to see if it would be possible to close several North – South alleys in the downtown area in which bike racks could be placed.

**Complete Streets** – The committee is looking at asking the Marshalltown City Council to adopt a Complete Streets Policy. This would include combining driving, walking and biking plans in any streets that would be updated or added in the city.

Your support of and involvement in the committees is encouraged and welcomed. If you have questions, contact Charlie Smith – 752-3929 or Terry Briggs – 752-9725.

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## IVBC - Imagine 2001 E. Main St. Bridge Project by Charlie Smith

Dear Fellow IVBC members,

IVBC members, in cooperation with the City of Marshalltown, will complete an Imagine 2011 project to keep the water from the East Main Street Bridge from washing mud on to the Linn Creek Recreational Trail. Those of you who ride the trail will be very familiar with the problem.

On Thursday, October 4, IVBC volunteers and the city will place two retaining walls under the East Main Street Bridge to correct the problem. It will be a one-day project with construction management from the city. We are not to worry; I will bring my own clipboard. If you would like to volunteer, please call Dana Bresler at 753-3114 or Terry Briggs at 752-9725. We have a few volunteers already, so don’t delay in calling. It is my understanding that a refreshment committee is being organized as well. Whatever talent you may have, it will be welcomed.

Charlie Smith

**Note:** The Marshall County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, September 4 voted 3-0 to seek funding for a recreational trail connecting the Grimes Farm Trail to the Highway 30/330 Trail. We have a large number of citizens of Marshalltown and Marshall County working to make the area a pedestrian/bike friendly county. Now is the time for all of us to support the movement. Let’s make Marshalltown/Marshall County a great place to live.

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**RAGBRAI XXXV - It's a Wrap** by Dana Bresler

At this point in time, RAGBRAI 2007 is rapidly becoming a fond memory. Kris covered the wrap-up pretty well in her front page message, but I would like to add my expression of appreciation to everyone on this year's ride. We really had a nice group of people on the ride this year. Even though our charter was completely full everyone chipped in around camp and everything went very smooth. Of course it's a big help when we have nice campgrounds, shower bags are filled, water coolers kept full of water & ice, and pop coolers kept full. It's a real scramble to keep enough cold pop (of the right kind) in the coolers. Once again thanks to Bill Bucklin for a super job on the campgrounds and the drivers Jared and Wade for all their hard work.

I hope everyone had a good time and is planning on coming back next year. If you are, I suggest you take advantage of our guaranteed RAGBRAI tickets - our charter gets an allotment of 65 tickets - but remember, registration and money (registration fee & charter fee) must be in to me before March 1. Registration will start after the first of the year.

**RAGBRAI Pictures:** Check out the Web Gallery at <http://gallery.mac.com/dabres/100002> Name: ragbrai07 Password: ivbc . Currently there are 163 photos in the gallery - if you have some digital photos, please upload them. db

**3rd Ave Lane Change (It's all about safety)** by Bob Peterson

In the past two months the Iowa DOT approached the City of Marshalltown with an offer to repaint the traffic lanes on 3rd Ave from Anson St. to the Iowa River bridge in order to convert this section of 3rd Avenue to a 4 ft "bike" (really a buffer lane) on each side of the street, then two traffic lanes with a turning lane between the two traffic lanes. They did this because the accident rate on this section of road was 3 times greater than on similar roads in the State. Now that overhead traffic lights have been installed the rate is only 2 times the average rate. They offered to furnish the materials and labor at no charge to Marshalltown on a 6 - 15 month trial basis. If we do not like it then, they will return and repaint the lines back to a 4 lane street. Pioneering Healthy Communities favors this improvement. This also fits into the Imagine 7/2011's thinking.

When several of us attended when the city council was considering this matter I thought that it would be really neat to have a bike lane on 3rd Ave but soon realized that this was not about making 3rd Ave bike-able but about SAFETY. So, I, along with the help of Terry Briggs are making "house calls" to the businesses on 3rd Ave and are discovering that most of the businesses from Anson to Church Street are willing to try the trial period. The DOT presented testimony's from several communities who have tried this with initial skepticism but after the trial period they liked and have kept it.

Presently this matter is tabled until next March, however it could be brought up at any time. It would be good to let your council-person know your feelings ASAP. Thanks for your support. bp

**“Share the Road” License Plates** by Dana Bresler

Show your love of cycling and help make the roads safer for everyone. Whether you're a competitive racer, daily commuter or recreational rider, the new Share the Road license plate is the ultimate cycling accessory. Transform your car into a bicycling billboard and remind others to share the road every time you drive.

The Iowa DOT has stepped forward to sponsor their first and only specialty plate. But before the plates can be issued, there must be an advance order of 500 plates in one year from the date of application. As of a few weeks ago we were over 1/4 the way to that goal so we need to act right away. For application and other details see: <http://www.iowabicyclecoalition.org/strplate.htm> db

**The “For What it's Worth” Department** by Dana Bresler

One of the thrills of fall riding in Iowa is being passed by a grain truck doing 60 - 65 mph on a county road - passing just a few feet to you left. The experience is enhanced even more if there is a 15 -20 mph side wind blowing across the road from the riders left. The other day, I heard on WHO radio (our 50,000 watt, clear channel, flagship station in Des Moines) that there are 70 truck loads of corn hauled off of every 350 acres - 5 trucks per acre. So....enjoy your fall riding.

Seriously, it's a busy time - be careful out there! db

IVBC Sept - Dec Calendar			
Date	Time	Event	Place
Sept 22	1:00 p.m.	Oktemberfest Bike Ride (cancelled due to low turn-out)	River View Park, Reunion Hall, Marshalltown
Sept 29	7:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Harvest Ride for Habitat - 60 mile ride (30 miles out and back) Ride from Iowa Falls to Hubbard for a pancake breakfast. See <a href="http://www.bikeiowa.com">www.bikeiowa.com</a> for details	524 Pierce St., Iowa Falls Hardin County Habitat Site
Oct 6	8:00 a.m. Reg 9:30 a.m. Start	Another Dam Bike Ride (ADBR) See <a href="http://www.bikeiow.com">www.bikeiow.com</a> for details	Recreation Center Knoxville, Iowa
Oct 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular IVBC Meeting - All club members & guests are welcome Program: Carol Hibbs, Exec. Dir., Comm.Y - Pioneering Healthier Communities	Fisher Comm Ctr Conf. Rm.A
Oct 13	7:00 a.m.	Dr. Breedlove Memorial Ride 25, 60, 120 mile routes See: <a href="http://www.bikeiowa.com">www.bikeiowa.com</a> for details	Bike World West, 60th and Ashworth, West Des Moines
Oct 14	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	IVBC Birthday Party celebrating the clubs 33 rd birthday, Open House w/cake & ice cream; weather permitting, ride the bike path; Public invited/encouraged to come.	River View Park, (the new) Community Building
Nov 2	6:00 p.m.	IVBC Annual Meeting: Spaghetti dinner, election of officers, Program "YTBD"	UAW Hall, Marshalltown

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