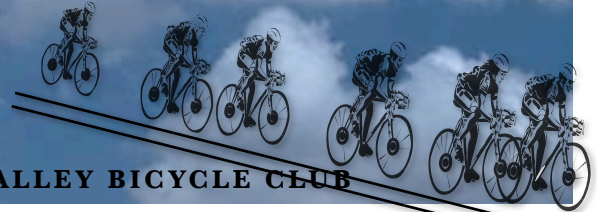


J A N U A R Y / F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 2

ON YOUR LEFT...



A NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB

Mileage Awards-by Tom Kurth

Club Members,

The IVBC is again trying to tabulate the total number of miles ridden by club members during the 2011 season. Our goal is to tally ¼ of a million miles again. I will be doing the mileage collection for 2011 the same as last year. I would like to have all members report their mileage to me by phone(641-752-1148). If no one is home, you may leave a message including your mileage. You may also report mileage by email(stkurth@mchsi.com). We will need to have all mileage reported no later than February 28, 2012.

When reporting mileage please include your mileage, your spouse's mileage and any miles ridden by children whether they are pre-school, grade school, high school, or college age. If some of the riders don't have computers on their bike, you may estimate their mileage. Please remember to estimate high because children ride farther than you may think. Every little bit of miles helps us toward our goal of ¼ of a million club miles.

The club will be giving annual awards again their year. Awards will be presented to the club members with the most male miles, female miles and family miles. Awards are also presented to those riding their first century ever, 5 or more centuries and for riding a double-century. Please include this information about centuries with your mileage report.

Thank you for your help. Please remember to report all mileages by phone(641-752-1148) or by email(stkurth@mchsi.com) no later than February 28, 2012.

RAGBRAI is coming to Marshalltown

Do you want to be part of a fun event? Here is your chance. You can volunteer through IVBC. The community will need the help of several experienced bicyclists, and you can make a valuable contribution. You may call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at the Chamber of Commerce office (641-753-6645) or contact Charles Smith at 641-752-3929. Be a part of the fun!



RAGBRAI--Dana Bresler

This is second call! We currently have 78 riders signed up in our IVBC RAGBRAI Group #40. Roughly 10 more riders and I will be closing out our group. If you want to go with our group and have not registered online yet, do it now. In my previous message, I gave registration instructions. If you need assistance, let me know. Dana Bresler - ivbc@mchsi.com - 641-485-4804

My Y Tri

As many of you know, IVBC has supported the Y program, Partnership for Youth, and worked hard to make the Y Triathlon a huge success, which help funds Partnership for Youth. If you have the time and would like to volunteer for the Y Tri on the morning of February 25, please contact Dana Bresler, Terry Briggs, or Charlie Smith. You should be done by early afternoon. One may also contact Rita Hummel at the Y.

Iowa Bicycle Summit and Expo

Iowa Bicycle Coalition's bicycle summit and expo saw a record number attendance. Saturday tripled last year's number of attendees. Great weather, a record number of exhibitors, and no admission fees brought out a record number. Nearly 1,000 people attended the RAGBRAI Announcement Party. Look for even a bigger number next year.

Economic and Health Benefits of Cycling in Iowa

On Saturday, January 28, the Iowa Bicycle Coalition released a study on the economic and health benefits of cycling in Iowa. The study was done by the University of Northern Iowa at the request of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition. Wisconsin is the only other state to complete such a study. The study revealed that recreational bicyclists generates \$364 million to the Iowa economy and is a health care savings of nearly \$74 million. Each year in Iowa, Iowans pay \$783 million in health care costs that are directly related to obesity. (That averages a cost of \$261 per Iowan every year.) The study did not state the cost of recreational (health) trail in the state per year. You can read a summary of the study on the IVBC website and the entire study on the Iowa Bicycle Coalition website.



Opportunity

2012 will provide our community with several opportunities for growth. The Marshalltown Park and Recreation Department have plans to continue the improvements to Riverview Park and the Zink Trail Head. Also, other projects on the Linn Creek Trail are under development to be completed this summer. With RAGBRAI coming to Marshalltown, now is an excellent opportunity to show the nation all of the great treasures Marshalltown and Marshall County has to offer. Mike Stegmann and the Marshall County Conservation Commission is working hard to ready the Melbourne Trail. Ideas have been discussed with IVBC to plan activities centered around trail usage. There will be opportunities for IVBC members to contribute to the great trail system in our area. Now is the time for IVBC to get our volunteering efforts organized and focus on making Marshall County and Marshalltown a great place to live. We need to demonstrate how good it feels to make the place we live a better community. With your help IVBC will meet the challenge.

Trail Opening Celebration:

Several people have asked about a formal celebration for the new connecting trail, and we can assure you that there WILL be a formal celebration for the trail opening. The date will be May 19 and will be in coordination with the Marshmallo Ride. IVBC will work with the Marshall County Conservation Commission in coordinating the activities. We are hopeful that there will be several events to celebrate the final connection the Melbourne Trail. Get on the Fun Bus!



Earth Day Ride

Saturday, April 21, is Earth Day weekend and the Marshall County Conservation will host several Earth Day activities. It has been suggested the IVBC work with the Conservation Commission to host a bike ride on April 21st as a small fund raiser for trail maintenance. It is early in the riding season, and the weather is always a question, but the idea deserves discussion at a bike club meeting.

American Energy and Infrastructure Act

(Transportation Bill) removed all funding for walking and biking enhancements. That means no funding for Safe Routes to School nor funding for the development of trails. An amendment was offered to restore funding for Safe Routes to School and trail funding but on February 2, the Committee, by a vote of 29 to 27, voted the amendment down. Three Republicans did break rank and voted with the Democrats in support of the amendment.

Your Vote DOES Count !!!

The Iowa Valley Bicycle Club does not endorse candidates, but we do recommend each member study the candidates carefully and vote for the candidate that will best meet our members needs. Both biking and walking need your support, study the issues and VOTE.

Three Feet Bill

It has been said that persistence pays off. Such is the case with Iowa "3 Feet Bill, which has been introduced in the Iowa House of Representatives and now in the Public Safety Committee. The fate of the bill will not be known until May, so let's all hope we will see a "3 Feet Law" by July, and keep Iowa moving forward. The House bill is HF276 and the Senate bill is SF96.

Iowa Valley Bicycle Club

P.O. Box 927

Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

MEETING DATE: The next meeting is Feb. 8 at 7:00 at the Fisher Comm. Center. RAGBRAI meeting will precede it at 6:30 p.m. Everyone interested in bicycling is welcome to attend.

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

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